

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JANUARY 2016



## OPERATION ROUND UP Supporting children in Roughrider's service area

### What's Inside:

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- Scholarship opportunities



## OPERATION ROUND UP

# Supporting children in Roughrider's service area

**T**he concept is simple. On every Friday of the school year, children who would otherwise go without nutritious and filling meals get sent home from classes with food in their backpack.

But the work that goes into making this simple program function is anything but. The Great Plains Food Bank delivers a month's supply — a full semitrailer load — of non-perishable snack packs from Fargo. They're unloaded and stored in the basement of Saint John's Lutheran Church. Every Thursday evening, volunteers file into the church

basement to assemble the food packs. Less than an hour later, the packs have been filled and loaded into plastic bins and set by the door to await their pick-up Friday morning. Another legion of volunteer drivers take the bins to the various schools around Dickinson where they are distributed to the children enrolled in the program. All of this skillfully coordinated work is done to ensure no children go hungry while they're away from school. They call it the Dickinson Backpack Program.

"The program is hugely successful and very needed," board member

Kristin Seaks says. Seaks, a school social worker, is the program coordinator and one of the founding volunteers. She says teachers and school officials dreamed of starting the program for years before it got underway in 2014.

Glen Bruhschwein, another volunteer board member for the charity, was another community member who spearheaded the program for the children of Dickinson.

"We talked about (starting the program) a few times, then decided it was time to stop talking and start

doing,” Bruhschwein says.

The food packs contain easy-to-make, ready-to-eat food that requires no special equipment to prepare and eat. The plastic grocery bags that contain the packs hold enough food for a few meals and snacks to get a child through the weekend. Each pack has the same amount of food, regardless of the age of the child receiving it.

“The packs are made so that anyone, even a 5-year-old child with no kitchen experience, can use them and enjoy them,” Bruhschwein says. “That means a lot of pre-packaged food, which is expensive.”

That’s where Operation Round Up comes in.

Operation Round Up is Roughrider Electric Cooperative’s community service program that rounds a member’s bill up to the nearest dollar. The spare change goes into a separate fund and is distributed to worthy causes throughout the area. Each member donates roughly \$6 annually. Donations from cooperative members add up to about \$30,000 a year. The Operation Round Up board of co-op members from across our service territory meets twice a year to review applications and disperse funds.

Thanks to a grant from Operation Round Up, more meal packs are able to be purchased from the Great Plains Food Bank.

“The Dickinson Backpack Program is unique in that we are able to give children food packs every week, thanks to the generous support of our community



and volunteers,” Seaks says. “Many other communities only give packs out every other week or maybe once

a month.”

Would you like to be a part of the worthwhile work of the Operation Round Up foundation? Sign up to see how your small change makes a big difference. Contact us at 1-800-748-5533 or email

[info@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:info@roughriderelectric.com) to enroll. ■

Report from

# THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## NOV. 20, 2015

**When, where and who:** The Board of Directors met in Dickinson on Nov. 20.

**Agenda:** The Board reviewed, added to and approved the meeting agenda.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the Oct. 30, 2015, meeting.

**Co-General Managers' report:** Chris Baumgartner and Don Franklund presented the managers' report. Discussion was had on the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan.

**Capital Budget:** Mr. Bentz directed the Board's attention to a memorandum he provided the Board regarding the 2016 Capital Budget. Mr. Bentz stated that the focus of the Capital Budget for 2016 will

be on providing improved reliability to the Roughrider system.

**Safety report:** The Board reviewed the report of the Safety Operating Committee dated Oct. 15, 2015. The Board also reviewed the agenda for the next safety meeting.

**Upcoming meetings:** The next Board meeting was set for 10 a.m. CT on Dec. 18, 2015, at Roughrider's office in Hazen, North Dakota.

**Other business:** There being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned. ■

## Roughrider Electric Cooperative offers members CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCIES INCENTIVES

**R**oughrider Electric Cooperative is continuing the conservation and energy-efficiency program through 2016. The incentives help you, the member, become more energy efficient.

The program for 2016 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2016 and Dec. 31, 2016. The program for the heat pumps is for new installation or for replacement of a conventional heating system.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative personnel will check the

installation, and get the appropriate documentation and receipts. Once completed and approved, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will send a check directly to the member to help cover the purchase cost.

A maximum dollar amount has been set aside for the incentive program. The program will close when we meet this amount. Roughrider Electric reserves the right to cancel the program without further notice. One rebate allowed per member.

For more information, please contact Brad Quenette, director of member services, at 800-748-5533 or email [bquenette@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:bquenette@roughriderelectric.com).

**Ground-Source Heat Pumps:**  
Required minimum efficiency

**\$150 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$600**  
CLOSED LOOP: EER >= 14.1 COP >= 3.3  
OPEN LOOP: EER >= 16.2 COP >= 3.6

**Air-Source Heat Pumps:**  
Required minimum efficiency

**\$100 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$400**  
HSPF >= 8.2 EER >= 12 SEER >= 14.5



**RETURN  
APPLICATIONS  
BY  
FEB. 10, 2016**

## Cooperative offers scholarship opportunities

**R**oughrider Electric Cooperative will again offer \$5,000 in college scholarships to area students. The co-op will award eight, \$500 scholarships. Each school in our service area chooses one recipient. School representatives from Belfield, Beulah, Center, Dickinson High, Dickinson Trinity, Hazen, Richardson-Taylor and South Heart choose a graduating senior to receive the funds. Interested in applying? Students should contact their school counselor for deadline information. The schools will then forward each recipient's name to Roughrider Electric Cooperative.

The co-op will also award one, \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from a school outside of our service area. The recipient must have parents who are members of our cooperative.

Roughrider Electric is also offering one, \$1,000

scholarship from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. We award the scholarship to a student already enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program. The student must attend an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. All post-secondary students who have parents that are members of Roughrider Electric Cooperative are eligible to apply.

Students can find the application on our website, [roughriderelectric.com](http://roughriderelectric.com). Forms are also available at our local offices in Hazen and Dickinson.

Fill out our online application or mail paper applications to Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 1038, Dickinson, ND 58601.

Return completed applications to Roughrider Electric Cooperative before Feb. 10, 2016. ■

# winter

## 4 Seasons of Safety

**As we snuggle into our homes during the winter season, Roughrider Electric Cooperative shares some safety tips.**

### Use your space heater safely

Many people turn to space heaters as a convenient source of warmth in winter months. However, space heaters can be dangerous if not used properly.

- Keep the heater at least three feet from flammable items such as curtains, furniture or bedspreads.
- Select a space heater with a guard around the heating element.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Always unplug the heater when it is not in use. Never go to sleep with a space heater still operating.
- Do not use an extension cord or power strip with a space heater.

### Use portable generators safely

During an unexpected power outage, a portable generator can keep us comfortable until power is restored. But if not operated properly, a generator can quickly become dangerous.

What's the first rule? Never, ever use a generator indoors – even with windows open – or in an enclosed area, including an attached garage. Locate the generator where fumes cannot filter into your home through windows or doors – even 15 feet is too close.

- To avoid risk of shock, use your generator only on a dry surface where rain or snow can't leak or puddle underneath.

- For stationary generators that are permanently installed, a licensed electrician will need to install a "transfer switch" that complies with the National Electric Code. The switch safely cuts the electricity to the power lines.
- Shut down the generator and let it cool down before you refuel – gasoline or kerosene spilled on a hot generator could start a fire.

### Other safety precautions

- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately.
- Replace any electrical tool if it causes even small electrical shocks, overheats or gives off smoke or sparks.
- Keep electrical appliances away from wet floors and counters; pay special care to electrical appliances in the bathroom and kitchen.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Use safety closures to child-proof electrical outlets.
- Use electrical extension cords wisely; never overload extension cords or wall sockets.
- Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.
- Finally, having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. And remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family. ■

JUNE 11 to 17, 2016

North Dakota Electric Cooperative  
**YOUTH TOUR**

**HIGH SCHOOL  
SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS**

**WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!**  
**An all-expense-paid trip to WASHINGTON, D.C.**



- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Roughrider Electric Cooperative.
- If you have questions, contact Brad Quenette, Roughrider Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-748-2293 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 29, 2016. Emailed entries should be directed to [bquenette@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:bquenette@roughriderelectric.com), and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Roughrider Electric Cooperative, 800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545-4737.

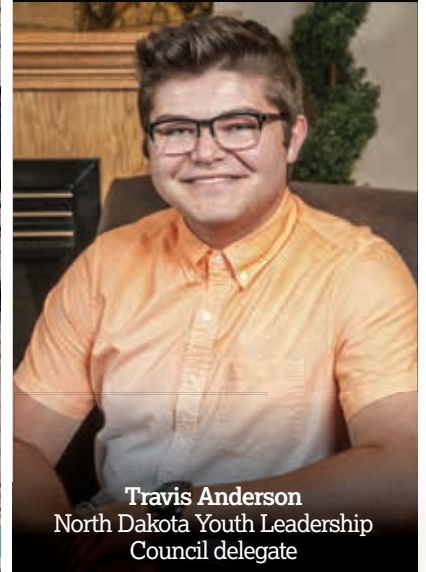
**ESSAY QUESTION:**

*"Pick one of the four Touchstone Energy® core values — innovation, integrity, accountability and commitment to community — and describe how you see this in action at Roughrider Electric Cooperative."*

**TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER  
THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST**

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Roughrider Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

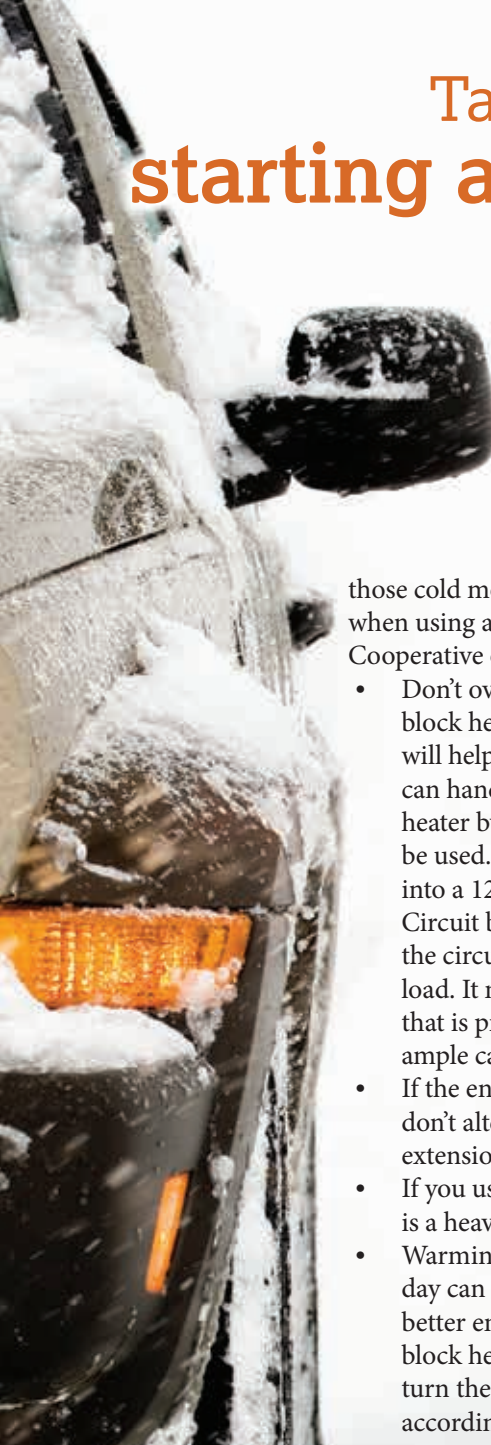
Find out why you should  
write an essay for the  
2016 Youth Tour.  
Visit [www.youtube.com/ndarec](http://www.youtube.com/ndarec)



**Travis Anderson**  
North Dakota Youth Leadership  
Council delegate

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AND VIDEO AT:  
**[www.ndyouthtour.com](http://www.ndyouthtour.com) and [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop)**

# Take the brrrr out of starting a cold vehicle



**W**ill your vehicle start Monday morning when it's 30 degrees below zero? When your vehicle doesn't start due to frigid temperatures, it can be frustrating. That's why most North Dakotans use an engine block heater on their vehicles. Engine block heaters keep your vehicle's motor warm, allowing an easy start on

those cold mornings. But there are some considerations when using an engine block heater. Roughrider Electric Cooperative offers these tips:

- Don't overload a circuit by plugging your engine block heater into just any outlet. A simple formula will help you decide how many watts one circuit can handle. Divide the wattage of the engine block heater by 120 volts to find out how many amps will be used. If you plug a 640-watt engine block heater into a 120-volt outlet, you are using 5.33 amps. Circuit breakers are rated in amps, so make sure the circuit has enough amps to carry the additional load. It might be best to use an exterior outlet that is protected by one circuit breaker and has ample capacity.
- If the engine block heater has a three-prong plug, don't alter it. Always leave the plug intact and attach extension cords correctly.
- If you use an extension cord outdoors, make sure it is a heavy-duty extension cord rated for outdoor use.
- Warming your engine all night and sometimes all day can use a significant amount of electricity. For better energy efficiency, purchase a timer for your block heater. A timer allows you to automatically turn the engine heater to on-and-off intervals according to your specifications. ■

## **Q.** Am I wasting money by keeping my tractor engine block heater plugged in and on all night?

**A.** Leaving engine block heaters on all night does waste money and energy. Agricultural producers can cut energy consumption by using an inexpensive timer to turn the heater on and off. Diesel tractor engines generally require one to three hours of heater operation before cold-weather starts, depending on the temperature (-30 degrees for three hours). Many farmers and ranchers leave heaters plugged in overnight. A 1,000-watt engine heater can cost \$150 a season to use (based on 10 hours per night at 10 cents/kilowatt-hour and a 150-day heating season). Operating that same 1,000-watt heater for only two hours each morning will save \$120 a year, which is more than enough to pay for the cost of the timer.



[www.roughriderelectric.com](http://www.roughriderelectric.com)

### **HAZEN OFFICE**

**701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533**  
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545  
7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box by Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Krause's Super Valu in Hazen or Bronson's Super Valu in Beulah.

### **DICKINSON OFFICE**

**701-483-5111 or 800-627-8470**  
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.  
Dickinson, ND 58602  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Dickinson City Hall, or the north and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

Roger Kudrna, President; Dickinson .....483-8377  
Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah .....873-4371  
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley .....948-2427  
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley .....983-4222  
William Retterath; Center .....794-8729  
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson .....483-8207  
Dan Price; Hensler .....794-3779  
Greg Steckler; Dunn Center .....548-8122  
Callen Schoch; New England .....579-4395

### **MANAGEMENT**

Don Franklund .....Co-General Manager/CEO  
Chris Baumgartner .....Co-General Manager/CEO



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