

# ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JANUARY 2019

## Partnerships — and the power of human connections — help keep Roughrider strong

This fall, **Brett Silkey** and **Kevin Ripplinger** terminated some 500 MCM underground cable for a Roughrider system upgrade near the Richardton sub.

*3C Construction is a cooperative-owned business that employs linemen who travel across the service areas of Roughrider, Slope and Mor-Gran-Sou, plowing cable and assisting with projects as needed. From larger jobs like plowing miles of cable, to smaller jobs like pole change-outs, cut-overs and terminating, 3C linemen help reduce the time spent on cooperative projects by providing more manpower and equipment. In this month's local pages, learn about 3C Construction and how this partnership benefits Roughrider members.*



## What's inside:

- [safety@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:safety@roughriderelectric.com)
- **Students, apply now for Youth Tour, scholarships**
- **Operation Round Up grants awarded**
- **#WhoPowersYou local nominees**
- **Meeting minutes ... and more**



*One of 3C Construction's specialties is its ability to plow cable relatively quickly with its plow train. Ron Roethlisberger, chief operations officer, hauls the equipment from site to site driving a semi that pulls a triple-axle tractor-trailer. Until you see the plow train in person, you may not realize the enormous size of the equipment — or the extraordinary narrow trench it leaves to lay cable. It performs a labor-intensive job, yet leaves a minimal footprint. Plowing cable for long stretches is an efficient and economical process.*

## **3C Construction: a cooperative partnership that adds a secondary layer of assistance**

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY

**T**he cooperative spirit of people working together for the greater good is as strong today as it was back in the 1940s, when our members pooled their \$5 donations to bring low-cost, dependable electric service to rural North Dakota in our service area. Roughrider Electric Cooperative is your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, and since that time we've worked in partnership with many cooperatives

and businesses to build and maintain more than 5,500 miles of overhead line and 1,800 miles of buried cable that brings power to your homes, farms and businesses.

Partnerships — and the power of human connections — keep Roughrider strong.

In the February 2018 local pages of *North Dakota Living*, we explained our relationship with Innovative Energy Alliance

Cooperative. Established in 2007 with neighboring cooperatives Slope Electric and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, the alliance was created to share management services with the intention of reducing costs and allowing the respective boards of directors to retain local control. KEM Electric Cooperative joined the alliance in 2012. The concept of sharing resources to streamline processes and add efficiencies gained momentum, and over the past 10 years, the alliance has provided substantial savings.

In the March 2018 local pages of *North Dakota Living*, we featured West Dakota Utility Services, or WDUS. Owned by Roughrider, Slope and Mor-Gran-Sou, WDUS is an independent business that services utility vehicles and makes hydraulic repairs. Our members can also contact WDUS for vehicle service including N.D. Department of Transportation certification, or for repairs on welders, engines, crimpers, hydraulic tamps and other utility tools.

In this issue, we'd like to describe our relationship with 3C Construction, LLC, and how their employees are an extension of our manpower and equipment. 3C construction was established in 1996 among West Plains Electric Cooperative and Oliver-Mercer Electric Cooperative (the consolidation that established Roughrider Electric Cooperative), and McKenzie Electric Cooperative. McKenzie, based in Watford City, opted out over time, and Slope and Mor-Gran-Sou joined, based on geography and member needs.

3C Construction employs traveling line crews who help build and maintain the electric distribution and transmission system. They assist

with projects during the construction season to help our linemen meet member requests and contractor deadlines, and assist with power-restoration situations when we need many hands to come together to make lighter work.

For instance, in October Roughrider hired several 3C Construction crews to convert three-phase overhead line to three-phase underground for a system upgrade, both north and south of Richardton. Jason Bentz, manager of operations for Roughrider, says 3C owns a plow train that can install underground cable much faster than if it were trenched.

Ron Roethlisberger, chief operations officer for 3C, explains that if a cooperative had a 14-mile stretch of line to install with a trencher, it would take a tremendous amount of time to dig and set the line, and then return and tamp the trench after the dirt settled. With the plow train, the path is dug relatively quickly, and the cable is set at the same time.

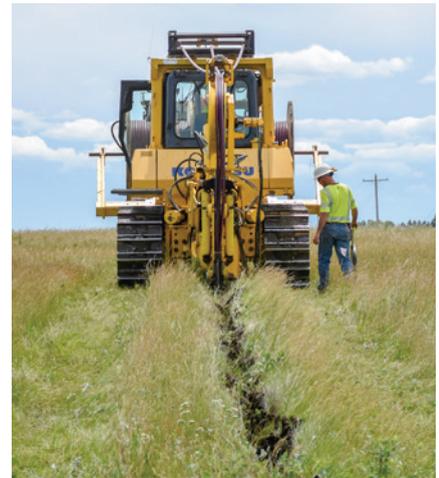
“Per foot, it’s a lot cheaper, and it’s a huge time-saver,” he says.

When Roughrider needs assistance

with larger projects, they go through a bidding process with 3C Construction and other contractors. Sometimes the 3C crews are already scheduled with neighboring cooperatives and unable to assist. Other times, Roethlisberger says they simply can’t be the lowest bid, and Roughrider will hire another contractor. Even though Roughrider is part owner of 3C, the bidding process allows for checks and balances, so the membership can rest assured Roughrider is seeking the best investment for the money spent.

Bentz knows members may ask why the cooperative is a joint owner of 3C Construction, and why hire additional linemen for projects that Roughrider linemen could also complete.

“Time and money,” Bentz simply says. “The plow train is specialized equipment that would be too costly for Roughrider to own, so we hire contractors who have one and can get the job done in a timely and safe manner, so we can move onto the next job. 3C crews can stay on the job and get it done, which allows Roughrider crews to return to other planned projects or respond to an



Foreman **Doug Roethlisberger** walks behind the plow train to make sure the cable is placed as planned. The plow train rumbles along at a steady pace, unless it hits rock and needs to slow down to slice through the barrier.

emergency that would take our crews away from these types of projects.”

Because 3C is a traveling workforce, and the company is owned by three cooperatives, Roughrider has the ability to bring many linemen together relatively quickly.

“Having the ability to call in more crews — and get the jobs done in a timely manner — it’s a partnership that benefits all of our member-owners,” Bentz says. ■

## SAFETY@ROUGH RIDERELECTRIC.COM

Roughrider is an advocate of working safely. In fact, it is our way of life; the culture of your cooperative. We look out for the safety of ourselves and others — before, during and after work.

Did you know that members also play a key role in keeping our system safe? At times, you are our eyes in the sky and on the ground. Should you see a power line issue that may need Roughrider’s attention, please call the office or send us an email at [safety@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:safety@roughriderelectric.com) with your concern. This correspondence should include the description of the location, your name and complete contact information, and a photo if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all!

## Operation Round Up grants awarded

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which electric cooperative members round up their monthly utility bills to the nearest dollar and donate their change to local individuals, groups or charities with a specific need. The money pools and accumulates, and an elected board of seven co-op members reviews the grant applications biannually that have been submitted and determines grant worthiness.

More than 60 percent of Roughrider Electric members participate in this voluntary program, and each tax-deductible contribution averages between \$6 and \$7 per year, per metered account.

While \$6 is a relatively small donation for one person, when combined with the donations of thousands of Roughrider members, the total is significant. It is used to improve the quality of life across Oliver, Mercer, Dunn, Stark and Billings counties. Over the lifetime

of the program, which began in the Roughrider service area in August 2002, more than \$450,000 has been raised and donated locally.

This month, \$21,780 will be awarded in the form of grants to the following recipients:

- Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota, Dickinson Office, for five MedicAlert Scholarships
- Elder Care, for home-delivered meal kits
- English Lutheran Church, for a defibrillator
- Hope Christian Academy, for playground equipment
- Killdeer Saddle Club, for lights and electrical work
- Knife River Care Center, for personal sound amplifiers
- Maah Daah Hey Trail Association, for brochures and two benches for the trail.
- Our Savior's Lutheran Church WELCA, for quilt supplies
- Pick City Park Project, for city playpark equipment
- Sakakawea Medical Center, for 150 stop bleeding kits
- South Heart Senior Citizens, for furniture and a land survey
- Zap Rural Fire Protection District, for turn-out gear

Any person or group in the Roughrider Electric Cooperative service area may apply to receive an Operation Round Up grant.

To request an application or to opt into the program, contact our business office at 1-800-748-5533 or download the form at [www.roughriderelectric.com](http://www.roughriderelectric.com) and click "Your Community" and "Operation Round Up."

Operation Round Up is successful because of the generosity of our members. The foundation board, the cooperative board and staff thank you for your participation. ■

## Report from **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **NOVEMBER 30, 2018**

**When, where and who:** The Board of Directors met in Dickinson Nov. 30.

**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. 26, 2018, meeting.

**Co-General Managers' report:** Don Franklund and Travis Kupper presented the Co-General Managers' report. Mr. Kupper provided the Board with a brief update on the capital credit retirement. Roughrider hopes to get these retirement checks sent in mid-December.

**2019 budget:** Mr. Craigmile presented to the Board the finalized proposed budget for 2019. He reviewed with the Board the budget assumptions utilized when creating the 2019 budget.

**Basin Electric Power Cooperative load forecast 2019 update:** A 2019 update on the 2017 load forecast that was prepared by Basin Electric was presented to the Board. Roughrider's numbers have been updated through the year 2050.

**Operations and Construction report:** Mr. Bentz updated the Board on the transmission line Roughrider is working on near Richardton, and anticipates securing the remaining easements needed next week.

**Upcoming meetings:** The next Board meeting was set for 10 a.m. CT on Dec. 21, 2018, at Roughrider's office in Hazen, North Dakota.

**Other business:** The Board entered Executive Session. After exiting Executive Session, and there being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.



# COOPERATIVE OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**R**oughrider Electric Cooperative takes pride in assisting with the development of rural leadership through our scholarship program. We feel it's important to help finance our local students' educational journeys, and are offering \$8,500 in college scholarships to area students.

We will award nine, \$500 scholarships to qualified applicants whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are members of the co-op. School representatives from Belfield, Beulah, Center-Stanton, Dickinson High, Dickinson Hope Christian Academy, Dickinson Trinity, Hazen, Richardton-Taylor and South Heart will select one 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.

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 awarding one \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by 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 are eligible to apply.

**Roughrider is also awarding one \$500 scholarship sponsored by 3C Construction.**

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a lineworker, and who have parents that are members of Roughrider Electric.

**Roughrider is also awarding one \$500 scholarship sponsored by West Dakota Utility Services.**

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a

mechanic, and who have parents that are members of Roughrider Electric.

**Luck of the Draw scholarships**

Roughrider Electric will award three \$500 Luck of the Draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on June 5 in Dickinson. All high school seniors who have parents that are members of Roughrider Electric are eligible for this scholarship. Students must attend our annual meeting with at least one parent, and will be required to RSVP for the meeting. See website listed below for RSVP form.

Students can find the applications 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, 800 Hwy. Dr., Hazen, ND 58545.

Return completed applications to Roughrider Electric Cooperative before Feb. 4, 2019. ■

## Roughrider members earn nominations in #WhoPowersYou contest

Roughrider Electric members Deanne Gierke and Dave Berger submitted nominations for the third-annual #WhoPowersYou contest. Deanne nominated her son, Sean, and Dave nominated friend Mickie McNulty-Eide. The contest honors inspirational people in our communities.

In partnership with the national brand alliance Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, Roughrider shared the #WhoPowersYou contest to recognize special people who power our lives, like community leaders, teachers, first-responders and others who inspire. Nominations were made from Oct. 2 through Nov. 4 online at [www.whopowersyou.com](http://www.whopowersyou.com).

Judges reviewed the nominations and chose the winners based on creativity and impact on the community. The winners (\$5,000 grand prize; \$2,000 second prize; \$1,500 third prize; \$500 honorable mention) were announced the third week of December.

Across the United States, 301 people were nominated for this year's contest. Seven nominees are doing amazing things right here in North Dakota. Sean Gierke and Mickie McNulty-Eide are the two nominees from the Roughrider service area.

While the winners had not been announced at the time of production, Sean and Mickie are certainly winners in our book. Roughrider applauds Sean's determination to build and fund a basketball court to be used by the community — especially at his young age! And Mickie's dedication to serving the community through her vast volunteer efforts ... she has reached so many people through education and training — one of the seven cooperative principles that improves lives across our service area. We are so fortunate to have the honor of highlighting the efforts of these two thoughtful, giving people. Their letters of nomination are below.

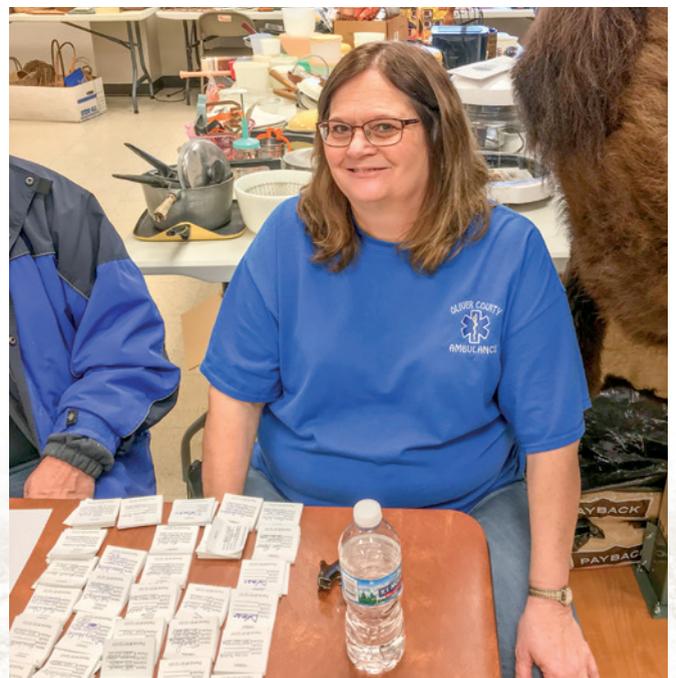
## Mickie McNulty-Eide

BY DAVE BERGER

Mickie McNulty-Eide is the heart and soul of the Oliver County Ambulance squad, as well as its Rock of Gibraltar and the glue that binds it together.

She has served her community as a volunteer emergency medical technician for more than 20 years, giving up countless hours of personal time not only when she's on call, but also during events for community education and service, assisting with emergency medical responder training for local high school students, fundraising, serving in elected squad positions (most notably as squad leader for many years), and participating in ongoing training for biennial state and national recertification of her EMT license.

In addition to serving her community as a volunteer EMT, Mickie serves on the governing board of the Community Club, the primary fundraising organization that provides financial support to ensure people who reside in the city of Center and surrounding Oliver County enjoy high quality of life in a vibrant, healthy community.



Currently serving as secretary/treasurer, Mickie has been a member and/or served on the Community Club's governing board for as long as anyone can remember. Through her work with both organizations, Mickie was instrumental in securing automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for locations throughout the community, including in all Oliver County Sheriff's Department squad cars, the courthouse, the Golden Age Club, the civic center, the high school gymnasium, the public swimming pool and the public golf course. She also coordinates routine maintenance and service of these units, so they are always ready for use.

In her job in the Oliver County Clerk of Courts office, Mickie takes her responsibilities above and beyond the norm. There is no request too large or too small; she follows through with all until the information is located, no matter who made the request.

She treats everyone with respect and dignity. Mickie is a natural mediator, helping to bridge communication gaps and help others grow as people and professionals. Her ears are always open and her shoulder available to all who have problems. They can confide in her with complete confidence of privacy, knowing she will help them in any way she is able. An extremely humble human being, Mickie is quick to deflect praise; instead shining the light on others to ensure they receive credit for their efforts.

In these ways and so many more there isn't space to list, Mickie McNulty-Eide has made Center, N.D., and Oliver County a better place to live, and tirelessly continues to do so. She is an inspiration, coach and mentor to all who know and work with her, and very well-deserving of the "Who Powers You?" award.



## Sean Gierke

BY DEANNE GIERKE

Sean Gierke is a senior at Beulah High School in Mercer County.

This past summer he brainstormed, planned, fundraised and constructed a community basketball court. This was the largest community service project he had tackled.

The original budget was \$7,000. Because of unforeseen expenses, the budget ballooned to \$9,000. After he had exhausted all other fundraising available, he dug into his own pocket to pay for the remaining bills.

This project was very time consuming, with more than 200 hours logged from start to finish. He was there every step! I believe he is very worthy of this honor, for his generosity to our community. ■

COURTESY PHOTOS

**Sean Gierke**  
*brainstormed, planned, fundraised and constructed a community basketball court. After he had exhausted all other fundraising available, he dug into his own pocket to pay for the remaining bills.*

**JUNE 15-21, 2019**

**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 a question, contact Brad Quenette, Roughrider Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-748-2293 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 25, 2019. 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.

## 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.

## ESSAY QUESTION:

*Electric cooperatives are member-owned and controlled. As a future member-owner of your cooperative, describe ways that smart technologies and social media might be used to communicate with young adults. How might they be used to increase awareness and interest in the many career opportunities with electric cooperatives?*

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

**HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS**



## Statement of Non-Discrimination

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally,

program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



[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. – 4:00 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  
7 a.m. – 4 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 west 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-GM/CEO
Travis Kupper	Co-GM/CEO



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