

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MARCH 2022



COURTESY OF KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES

The main attraction at the Knife River Indian Villages for tourists is the well-built reconstruction of an earthlodge.

Knife River Indian Villages preserve history

BY ANNE HANSEN

The Missouri River, which stretches alongside Roughrider Electric Cooperative's service territory, has long-supported life throughout the Midwest, and greatly helped the Native Americans, with its rich soil and water resources, as they settled in what is now known as the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site.

The history of the village location was federally recognized as a national historic site in 1974, which allowed the site to be preserved for its rich history and culture.

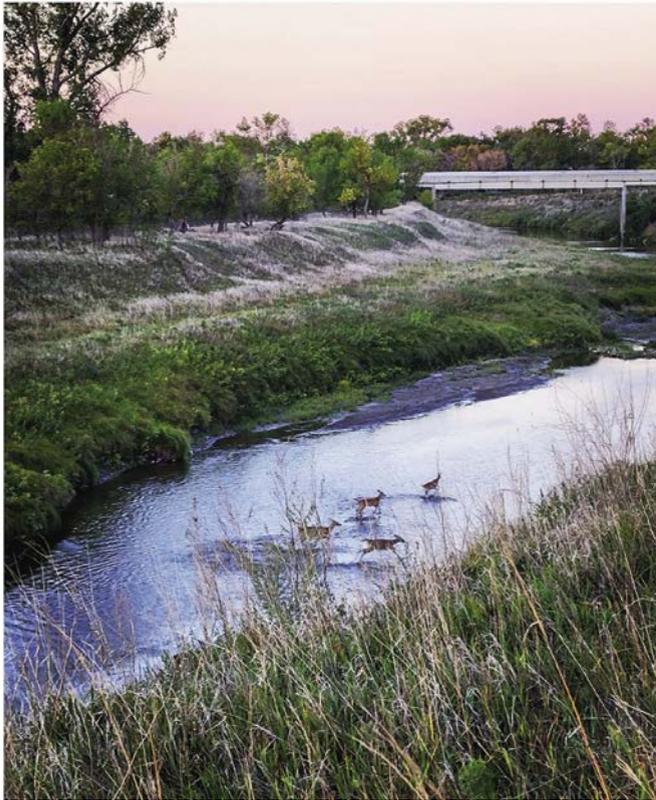
Although the site has been around for over 45 years, many locals have yet to discover the hidden gem located one-half mile outside of Stanton.

The people of Knife River

The Native American tribes of the Mandan, Hidatsa and

What's inside:

- Manager's message: Are you ready to serve?
- Harvest Bowl honorees spotlighted
- Safety starts with ME
- Lineworkers attend conference
- Spring into energy savings



COURTESY OF KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES

Deer cross at the Knife River Indian Villages.

Arikara settled in earthlodges along the Missouri River, and were known as pioneers in agriculture.

The tribes were recorded in history as Lewis and Clark notably stayed in the nearby Fort Mandan in 1804. Being in close proximity allowed the explorers the ability to trade with the local villages. It was during this same time that Lewis and Clark met and hired French trader, Toussaint Charbonneau, along with his wife, Sakakawea.

Nearly 30 years after the villages' encounter with Lewis and Clark, the tribes were exposed to the smallpox epidemic, which killed the majority of the tribes.

"Three tribes together totaled around 20,000 individuals before the first epidemic of smallpox, which resulted in the death of many and the survival of only 7,000 tribe members, and then after the second smallpox epidemic, only 2,000 people remained," noted Angela Bates, interpretation and cultural resources manager, Knife River Indian Villages National Historical Site.

The Mandan and Hidatsa tribes abandoned the villages within the park about this time and relocated to Like-A-Fishhook Village, where the Arikara joined them. The three tribes formed an alliance known as the Three Affiliated Tribes, although each tribe maintains separate traditions and has a separate history.

The tourism destination

Today, over 12,000 people visit the site annually to learn and see the history of the Knife River Indian Villages. The main attraction for tourists is the well-built reconstruction of an earthlodge and the history of how it was built.

"People love the fact that the women owned and built the earthlodges by themselves," Bates said.

While the reconstruction gives a perspective of what an earthlodge would have looked like, tourists can also view the preserved remnants of several settlement sites of the Big Hidatsa Village, the Lower Hidatsa Village and the Awatixa Village, also known as the Sakakawea Village.

"There are interpretive signs at each village site to explain the history of the region and peoples, as well as ranger-led tours," Bates said.

In addition to the tours, the Knife River Indian Villages site hosts many events throughout the year, which can be found on the North Dakota Tourism website and the Knife River Indian Villages Facebook page. ■



COURTESY OF KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES

Visitors center at the Knife River Indian Villages.

Manager's message: Are you ready to serve?



Travis Kupper

In a notable inaugural speech, John F. Kennedy spoke his famous words, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." His words urged Americans to take actions that benefited the greater good. In essence, Kennedy was saying our country thrives when we

all contribute our talents to

the common good. On a smaller scale, I think the same can be said about our co-op, specifically with regard to our board members. Roughrider Electric Cooperative's board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skillsets. Our board is made up of farmers, ranchers, business owners and much more. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our directors live right here in the co-op's service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community, because they provide their perspective on important community issues.

- equipment and technology
- Renewable investments and energy mix
- Co-op's role and involvement in economic development

Opportunity to serve

Roughrider Electric Cooperative's board elections will be held June 1. While you don't need to be an expert in electricity or business to be a director, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. We continue to look for individuals who can represent the full gamut of the members we serve. Our board meets on a regular basis, and we offer specialized training opportunities to help board members make informed decisions. Board members gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry, the cooperative business model and local economic development efforts.

Ultimately, our board is the community pulse for the co-op and helps keep us on the right track. We love our community and want to help it thrive. If you share the same commitment and want to contribute to the greater good in a tangible way.

To learn more about Roughrider Electric Cooperative's director election process and 2022 details, please visit www.roughriderelectric.com. ■

What does it mean to serve on the board?

Serving on Roughrider Electric Cooperative's board means you're making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that, in turn, benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. Roughrider Electric Cooperative board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- Budgets
- Co-op goals and direction
- Co-op's community/charitable contributions
- Capital investments and upgrades in

Members receive NDSU Harvest Bowl Award

BY ANNE HANSEN

March is National Agriculture Month, and Roughrider Electric Cooperative salutes our farmers and ranchers who make agriculture one of North Dakota's top industries.

North Dakota State University (NDSU) also acknowledges the agricultural impact on the state and recognizes leading agriculturalists through the NDSU Harvest Bowl.

"The Harvest Bowl is a weekend event, where we are able to recognize agriculture and athletics, and the connection between," said Duane Hauck, NDSU Harvest Bowl chair. The Harvest Bowl recognizes dedicated agriculturalists in all of North Dakota's

53 counties and 10 counties in western Minnesota annually with the naming of County Agriculturalist Honorees.

The County Agriculturalist Honorees are selected through the local NDSU Extension offices.

"Each county agent nominates an individual or couple based on active community leaders, people who are innovative and active in promoting the ag industry, and are highly respected individuals," Hauck said.

Four Roughrider Electric Cooperative members were recognized during the event.

Spotlight: Weston and Teresa Dvorak

Weston and Teresa Dvorak operate an Angus cow-calf ranch and a 999-head permitted feedlot near Manning, where they background their own calves and custom feed calves. They also raise wheat, canola, corn grain, corn silage, oats, barley, alfalfa and millet. In addition, they are co-owners of the Dunn Burgers retail meat business and 6 in 1 Meats, a beef processing facility in New Salem.

They use no-till farming practices, and their feedlot

has a nutrient management plan to best use the manure provided by the feedlot to reduce input costs associated with growing their various crops. They also use a multi-pasture rotational grazing system.

They have been farming for 15 years and have received the Dickinson Area Chamber of Commerce Ag Family of the Year Award. He is a North Dakota Farm Bureau board member and district director, and serves on the North Dakota Beef



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NDSU FOUNDATION.

Weston and Teresa Dvorak

Commission and North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

Spotlight: Bob and Deb Hewson

Bob and Deb Hewson were recognized during the award ceremony for their commitment to their local community and youth programs.

The local Belfield couple has been running a sheep and cow-calf operation as well as raising hay and grain using conventional farming practices for 46 years.

Their passion for agriculture has helped local 4-H youth by providing lambs for 4-H projects, and they donated lambs for use in the Roughrider Livestock 4-H and

FFA judging contest for several years. Both Bob and Deb have served as 4-H leaders.

In addition to ranching,

Bob has been a bus driver for the Billings County, Belfield and South Heart schools for 40 years. Deb is the store

supervisor at Creative Energy in Belfield.

Spotlight: David and Deb Berger

David and Deb Berger have raised cattle, horses and hay near Center for over 45 years.

The Bergers were awarded for their community involvement, which has included being president of the Oliver County Farmers Union, president of the Fit 4 Life Fitness Center, president of the Oliver County park board, and serving on the North Dakota Farmers Union Bylaws Committee, Oliver County fair board, St. Martin's Catholic Church and FFA Alumni.

David recalled the importance placed on him to be a part of the community in

which he lived.

"In the '80s, we were involved in a young couples leadership group through Roughrider Electric, in which we learned how to be involved in the community and develop our leadership skills," he said.

In addition to ranching, David also worked at Minnkota for nearly 40 years and Deb worked as an accounting director of Kist Livestock for over 33 years.

The award meant a lot to the Bergers.

"The biggest thing about being recognized is that someone thinks we have been



David and Deb Berger

doing something positive for our community and knowing that we can make a difference within our own community," David said.

Spotlight: L.J. and Janet Dohrmann

L.J. and Janet Dohrmann have a registered Angus cattle operation on a fifth-generation farm near Taylor.

When Janet married L.J., she brought along her 15 Angus cows, which would slowly transform their Hereford ranch to a registered Angus operation.

"Every cow we have on our place today originated from the first cows we had when we were married," Janet noted.

They artificially inseminate the cows and embryo transplant, then turn the cows

out to pasture with the bulls. They have a production sale the second Saturday in March and sell yearling Angus bulls. The Dohrmanns have been in the business for 38 years.

In addition, they also managed the North Dakota bull test program in Dickinson for 14 years, which they transitioned out of as they began doing videography for RFD TV.

In response to their recent recognition, Janet noted, "It feels good to be acknowledged, and



L.J. and Janet Dohrmann

good to bring the ag to the community."

Safety Starts with ME



Electricity is a powerful resource and is the backbone of our daily lives. Although it powers our lives, it has become so commonplace that people sometimes forget the importance of using it safely. But no one makes electrical safety more of a priority than your local Touchstone Energy® cooperative, Roughrider

Electric Cooperative.

“Safety is embraced as a core value at Roughrider Electric,” said Jason Bentz, operations manager. Roughrider Electric Cooperative’s actions and decisions reflect a commitment to safety at all levels of the cooperative and our employees help our members create a safe work environment and system.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative’s employees are the experts who practice safety and rely on it every day.

“It is important to tap into their knowledge with these tools and tips to reduce preventable accidents and help keep every co-op member safe in and around their homes,” Bentz said.

That is why Roughrider Electric Cooperative is launching a new safety campaign – Safety Starts with ME – which will highlight what each of our employees does to help keep our members safe.

And how can you help? If you see something that you think is unsafe, say something and let us know.

Keep informed on safety measures by reading about them in *North Dakota Living*, on Facebook, Instagram or our website. ■



A phone survey may await you!

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will be completing a random residential telephone member satisfaction survey. Performed by Odney Advertising and Ironwood Insights, this survey will take place in March. If you receive a call from Odney Advertising or Ironwood Insights, on behalf of Roughrider Electric Cooperative, please take time to answer the questionnaire.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes. By participating in the 2022 member satisfaction survey, Roughrider Electric Cooperative receives better insight into how we can better serve you, the member-owner.

Lineworkers attend AT&S Conference



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRAD QUENETTE

The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) hosted its 58th annual REC Apprenticeship Training and Safety (AT&S) Conference Jan. 12-14 in Bismarck. The conference is sponsored by the NDAREC AT&S program, with cooperation from the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship.

The conference drew representatives of NDAREC member-cooperatives, Bismarck State College lineworker students and electric industry personnel for classroom sessions, equipment evaluations and award ceremonies. Training topics included N.D. Department of Transportation updates, protective grounding, lineworker safety and tool training, transformers connections, conducting a thorough accident investigation, and more.

“Participants increase their knowledge and skills of the trade by attending the AT&S Conference and, in turn, improve the safety, resilience and reliability of the electrical system, which directly impacts the quality of life for our members,” said Christina Roemmich, director of safety services for NDAREC. ■

Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS JAN. 28

When, where and who: The board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative met at the Hazen headquarters on Jan. 28.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the Dec. 17, 2021, and a special board meeting on Dec. 30, 2021.

Capital credit estate retirements: A list of capital credit estate retirements was provided to the board.

Co-general managers' report: Travis Kupper presented the co-general managers' report.

Audit: Alex Craigmile presented proposed letter to have Brady Martz audit Roughrider Electric Cooperative.

Board member reports: Attendees at meetings over the past month reported to the board.

Operations report: The board was directed to Jason Bentz's written report. He updated the board on maintenance underway on transmission lines, pole changes and an outage report.

Upcoming meetings: The next board meeting was set for 9 a.m. MT Feb. 25 at the Stark County Veterans Pavilion in Dickinson.

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

www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CT 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. MT 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 290-3836

MANAGEMENT

Don Franklund Co-GM/CEO
Travis Kupper Co-GM/CEO



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Spring into energy savings

We'll soon be celebrating the first day of spring. With the start of a new season comes a fresh opportunity to find ways to save energy and money.

Here are a few simple tips to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of your home as warmer temperatures arrive:

1. Service your air conditioner.

Easy maintenance, such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters, can lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15%. Use the first day of spring as a reminder to check your air conditioner's evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually to ensure the system is performing at optimal levels.

2. Open windows. Opening windows creates a breeze to naturally cool your home without using air conditioners. This is an ideal tactic in spring when temperatures are mild.

3. Use ceiling fans. Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees. This

can help lower your electricity bills without sacrificing overall comfort.

4. Cook outside. On warmer days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of an indoor oven.

5. Caulk air leaks. Using low-cost caulk to seal cracks and openings in your home keeps warm air out – and cash in your wallet.

6. Set the thermostat. On warm days, setting a programmable thermostat to a higher setting when you are not at home can help reduce your energy costs by approximately 10%.

7. Seal ducts. Air loss through ducts can lead to high electricity costs, accounting for nearly 30% of a cooling system's energy consumption. Sealing and insulating ducts can go a long way toward lowering your electricity bills.

8. Switch on bathroom fans. Bathroom fans remove heat and humidity from your home, improving comfort. ■