

# ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MAY 2018



## One homeless veteran is one too many

As the daughter and granddaughter of military veterans, **Elizabeth Nolan** has done what she can to support those who serve or have served, by volunteering at a bake sale (shown above), attending military ceremonies, creating posters to welcome home returning troops from deployment and more. Nolan, a junior at Hazen High School, recently shared her thoughts on supporting veterans in an essay contest sponsored by Roughrider Electric Cooperative. Her ideas and time earned her this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. In this month's local pages, Nolan points out the growing issue of homeless veterans — and what we all can do to better support them.

COURTESY PHOTO

## What's inside:

- **Save the date for YOUR annual meeting**
- **Pole testing underway**
- **Roughrider awards student scholarships**
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- **Meetings minutes, and more**

# Elizabeth Nolan earns Youth Tour trip

## ‘Shouldering the responsibility of respecting and taking care of veterans’

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip will be one of Elizabeth Nolan's summer highlights. A junior who excels in history class, she has never been to Washington, D.C. Elizabeth says she is most looking forward to touring the war memorials and Arlington National Cemetery, and seeing firsthand the sacrifice of the men and women who fought for our many freedoms — and lost their own. Pictured here as a young girl, **Elizabeth** (second from right) celebrates her father's retirement from the U.S. Air Force.

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans reports there are 39,471 veterans homeless on any given night in America, and another 1.3 million veterans are at risk for becoming homeless.

As the daughter and granddaughter of military veterans, Elizabeth Nolan has witnessed firsthand some negative effects that military service can have on veterans and their families.

Knowing our service men and women need more help and support — and sensing the general public has become desensitized to the growing issue of homeless veterans — Nolan says it's time for citizens to help those who have risked their lives so they don't end up alone and lost in the very country they were fighting to protect

Nolan, a junior at Hazen High School, says we should say thank you for serving. Stand for the National Anthem, remove head gear and place hands over hearts. Donate to local American Legions, AMVETS chapters, veteran



Roughrider Electric Cooperative sponsors the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip annually to help students who are dependents of our member-owners develop leadership skills. The daughter of Roughrider members Brian and Kimberly Nolan, **Elizabeth Nolan** already has proven leadership skills. Holding roles in local and state chapters for organizations including FBLA and CCLA, Elizabeth says becoming a leader is an individual goal. She will learn more about her own goals while on Roughrider's Youth Tour.

homes and much more. She shared many ways we can support our military men and women in an essay she wrote for Roughrider Electric Cooperative, and it qualified her for Roughrider's annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour contest and trip.



**Elizabeth Nolan** is involved in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), Coal Country Leadership Academy (CCLA), National Honor Society, speech and band. In her free time, she enjoys reading, listening to music and playing her bass clarinet, and spending time with family and friends.

Her thoughts and effort earned her the free trip to Washington, D.C., where she will see Arlington National Cemetery and several war memorials – and be able to thank some veterans in person.

The daughter of Roughrider members Brian and Kimberly Nolan, Elizabeth will travel to Washington, D.C., June 9 to 15 to further develop her knowledge and leadership skills on the 2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Coordinated and paid for by electric cooperatives across the state and nation, the Youth Tour is an opportunity for 1,500 students to travel to our nation’s capital and watch history come alive as they explore museums, memorials and monuments. Our state’s 16 students will meet other student leaders from nearly every state. In one short week, they will make lasting friendships and be part of a group that has more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life.

In the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative value of commitment to community, and with a desire to help support our state’s future leaders, Roughrider Electric Cooperative has been offering the Youth Tour opportunity to one area student annually since 2004.

This year, Elizabeth answered the essay-contest question: “There are approximately 20 million military veterans in the United States today. How shall fellow U.S. citizens honor and look after these veterans, who have served and sacrificed on our behalf? Describe any special connection you may have to a veteran or active-duty

member of the military.”

In her essay, she stated that proper care for the 20 million veterans in America is imperative and should be a priority on local, state and national levels.

“Locally, citizens can encourage businesses to hire military veterans. These former military members are highly skilled, possess a great work ethic, and are dedicated employees,” she wrote.

She stressed the importance of supporting legislation that allows benefits to be available to all military veterans on a national scale.

“The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is a vital agency that provides healthcare programs that help maintain physical and mental wellness for military veterans. Additional benefits provided include disability compensation, health care, low-cost home loans, and military funeral honors,” she wrote.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, Elizabeth says she considers herself fortunate to have experienced military life. Her grandfather, Gerald Knoell, served in the Army National Guard for 26 years. Her father, Brian Nolan, retired from the U.S. Air Force after 23 years of military service. Her family lived in Hawaii for her first five years, before moving from one air base to another. They finally settled at the Minot Air Force Base, where Brian retired.

Elizabeth recalls memories of attending military ceremonies, creating posters to welcome home returning troops from deployment, and getting to know other military families. She is currently a Junior Legion Auxiliary member, and says she finds value in volunteering at the Hazen Memorial Day service every year.

“Seeing as how many millions of amazing men and women have served and sacrificed for American freedoms, all inhabitants of the United States need to shoulder the responsibility of respecting and taking care of these veterans,” she says. “Being a military dependent has helped shape my views on how best to address issues veterans may face after returning home. The number of homeless and at-risk veterans remains high, but with proper support, honor and effort from the hard-working residents of this great nation, those rates could decrease tremendously. With care and respect for veterans in everyone’s hearts, our country could truly become a better place.”

Roughrider Electric Cooperative congratulates Elizabeth Nolan for earning this year’s Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip. This summer, we’ll visit with her again and learn the highlights. ■



*Annual Meeting*  
2018

**HAZEN  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**JUNE 6, 2018**

*This year, the annual report will be mailed to members in a separate mailing; it will not be published in the North Dakota Living local pages. The annual report is scheduled to be mailed the first week in May.*



## Vote by mail at the annual meeting

In 2009 Roughrider Electric Cooperative's board of directors decided to offer the members the option of voting by mail. Ballots and instructions will be mailed out prior to the annual meeting. Under the bylaws, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. A qualified member of Roughrider Electric Cooperative may become a candidate for election by being nominated by the Nominating Committee or by a petition submitted not less than 60 days before the meeting.

Mail-in ballots will only be sent to members upon request. To request a ballot, please contact Steve Hildebrand at 701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533 prior to May 11. You may also contact Steve at [shildebrand@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:shildebrand@roughriderelectric.com).



## Free shuttle bus ride

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will be offering a free shuttle-bus service to the meeting, leaving from the Dickinson main office. If you are interested in riding the bus to Hazen, please contact Debbie Lorz at 701-483-5111 or 800-627-8470. You may also email Debbie at: [dlorz@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:dlorz@roughriderelectric.com).

The deadline to sign up to ride the bus is May 18. ■



PHOTO BY CARMEN DENNEY

Lance Woods with RAM Utilities

## Maintaining the system

To help reinforce the reliability of Roughrider Electric Cooperative's electrical system, approximately 8,000 distribution poles will be tested this spring, says Manager of Operations Jason Bentz.

RAM Utilities, a company with headquarters in Moorhead, Minnesota, will start the testing in the Zap and Beulah areas and then move to the Medora area. Compromised poles will be changed later this year.

Pole testing includes several steps, according to Joel Rovang with RAM Utilities. The first step is a visual inspection of the pole. Next, inspectors excavate to a depth of 6 to 8 inches around the bottom of the pole to check for damage below ground. The pole is then "sounded," which involves hitting it with a hammer at certain points and interpreting those sounds with a trained ear. Boring is also used to inspect poles. A drill is used to take core samples of the pole. Treated

plugs are then placed into the drill holes and the area is wrapped.

"The inspection of a pole is a mix of art and science," Rovang says. "The science is what a person learns about decay, impact damages, loading and how it all fits together to determine the strength versus load ratio of the pole. These are things that can be measured. The art is what a person perceives about that particular pole, which is like no other pole on the system, which may influence its strength."

Typically, Roughrider Electric Cooperative replaces approximately 130 poles a year.

"Pole inspection and regular maintenance are important aspects of our effort to maintain system reliability," Bentz says.

Testing distribution poles is one of many ways Roughrider Electric Cooperative is committed to providing members with safe and reliable electric service. ■

### Report from

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MARCH 23, 2018

**When, where and who:** The Board of Directors met in Dickinson on March 23.

**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 Feb. 23, 2018, meeting as amended.

**Co-General Managers' report:** Don Franklund and Travis Kupper presented the managers' report.

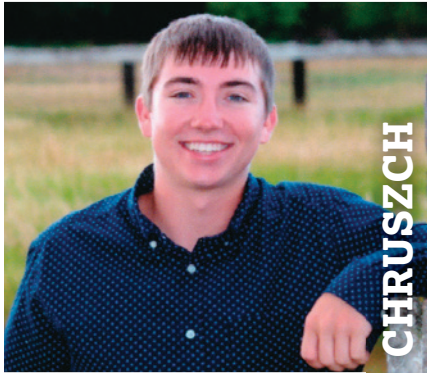
**Safety Coordinator report:** The Board was referred to Mr. Stastny's written report.

**Operations and Construction report:** Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report.

**Members Services/Key Accounts report:** Mr. Hibl referred the Board to his written report. He also provided the Board with a brief update on the upcoming meeting with the irrigation meters.

**Upcoming meetings:** The next Board meeting was set for 10 a.m. CT on April 27, 2018, 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.



**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**Your community is proud  
of your accomplishments.**

# Roughrider Electric Cooperative scholarship winners announced

As part of our commitment to community and area youth, Roughrider Electric Cooperative is pleased to award several scholarships for the 2017-18 school year.

The Roughrider Electric Cooperative scholarship program is designed to encourage and recognize the academic achievements of the members of Roughrider Electric Cooperative and/or their dependent children. This recognition is in the form of scholarships.

Roughrider Electric awarded nine \$500 scholarships this year. One graduating senior from each of the high schools within our service area is chosen by his or her school to receive these funds. These schools include: Belfield, Beulah, Center-Stanton, Dickinson High, Dickinson Trinity, Hazen, Richardton-Taylor, South Heart and Hope Christian.

Roughrider Electric also awarded one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from a high school outside of our service area, but whose parents are members of our cooperative.

The following graduating seniors each received a scholarship award of \$500:

- Belfield High School, **Caleb Chruszch**, son of Bob and Corinne
- Beulah High School, **Torie Horning**, daughter of Travis and Heidi
- Center-Stanton High School, **Dawson Bohrer**, son of Robert and Wendy
- Dickinson High School, **Dawson Duthchak**, son of Rick and Lana
- Hazen High School, **Haley Sailer**, daughter of Travis and Debbie
- Richardton-Taylor High School, **Benjermin Bohn**, son of Scott and Jonila
- South Heart High School, **Ashlyn Privratsky**, daughter of John and Sonya
- Dickinson Trinity High School, **Jaret Hibbs**, son of Nate and Gail
- Hope Christian Academy, **Kaisha Hammond**, daughter of Karla
- At Large: Mohall High School, **Aaron Voigt**, son of Robby and Loayne

## Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship

Each year, Basin Electric Power Cooperative provides \$1,000 to Roughrider Electric Cooperative to be awarded as a scholarship to a qualified candidate. Roughrider Electric is pleased to be able to offer this \$1,000 scholarship. This recipient, Monica Zent, was picked from all the qualified applications received. She attended Dickinson High School and is the daughter of Gene and Tania.

*Roughrider Electric Cooperative assists in developing leadership in our service area by helping worthy scholarship recipients obtain a higher education. This scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the achievements of the members and their dependent children. We are proud to bring this program to the cooperative members and we have high expectations for its success. Scholarship information and applications will be available in December from high school counselors and on Roughrider Electric's website.*

*Congratulations to all scholarship recipients. ■*





## Students see chemistry in action at Dakota Gas lab

*Editor's note: This story originally appeared on Basin Electric's blog, Live Wire. Roughrider thanks Basin Electric and writer Lindsey DeKrey for sharing this neat area update.*

Dakota Gas' Great Plains Synfuels Plant chemistry laboratory employees recently gave a tour to students from Beulah High School's Advanced Placement (AP) chemistry class.

The idea to bring the class to the laboratory first came about when Teacher Melanee Pulver toured Dakota Gas as part of the Lignite Energy Council's Teachers Seminar. "As a chemistry major, I was quite excited and in awe to see the plant," Pulver says.

Following the teacher's seminar, Pulver took a course to start an AP Chemistry program at Beulah High School.

Pulver says the course emphasized a lot of the processes and reactions that she had learned about during her tour of Dakota Gas. "After speaking with the instructor, he indicated that AP would be very excited to know

that students would be able to see these things taking place in the real world," Pulver says. "When we got to the topic of thermochemistry in class, I thought it would be a great time to bring the students out."

Dakota Gas Laboratory Superintendent Amy Garman says they enjoy entertaining groups from the community. "We welcome any opportunity to promote science. Not everyone understands what Dakota Gas is about, so when visitors come, it's a treat to be able to show them our products and the diversity of our plant," Garman says.

Pulver says she was excited for the students to see that what they are learning has real-world applications. "The students were absolutely amazed by the technology in the lab that they lack in the classroom. Everything they do in the classroom manually was automated in the Dakota Gas chemistry lab. They were impressed by both the employees and the processes," Pulver says. "I also have a few students who are now considering chemistry as an option for a career path." ■



[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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