

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NOVEMBER 2021

Answering the call



What's inside:

- **Apply for the Youth Tour!**
- **Meeting minutes and more**

Roughrider Electric Cooperative has assisted two area emergency services with Operation Round Up grants, including one to the Billings County Rural Fire Protection District, with Fryburg Fire Chief Mike Heiser showing some of the new equipment. Read more inside.

PHOTO BY LAIN WUDDER



PHOTOS BY BRAD QUENETTE

Jamison Boehler is one of the volunteers for the Riverdale-Pick City Ambulance Service.

Answering the call

BY LUANN DART

Dedication, toughness, compassion. Those are all traits an emergency services volunteer must possess. They slow the bleeding at accident scenes, administer life-saving care or run toward the fire, rather than away from it.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative has assisted two area emergency services with Operation Round Up grants, one to the Billings County Rural Fire Protection District and another to the Riverdale-Pick City Ambulance Service.

The Billings County Rural Fire Protection District received funding to purchase cutoff saws and chainsaws for the department, which has fire stations in Fryburg, Fairfield and Medora.

“It’s very important, especially with the year that we just had,” Fryburg Fire Chief Mike Heiser said of the grant. “It really helps us to stock equipment on our trucks. I would like to thank Roughrider Electric for donating the money

to us through Operation Round Up. I really do appreciate that to help us stock our equipment.”

“We were able to purchase a lot of items,” said Brianne Skachenko, the squad leader for the Riverdale-Pick City Ambulance Service, who also shared appreciation for the Operation Round Up funds.

When the siren sounds

The Billings County Rural Fire Protection District has had more volunteers step forward this year, as the need became more apparent during the drought, meaning more equipment was needed.

“It started getting dry last year and the guys see it. These are people who live here and more people start responding when you get an active year,” said Heiser, who has served as chief for 14 years. An electrician during the day, he has volunteered as a firefighter for 23 years, following in the

footsteps of his uncle and father who both served as fire chiefs and helped start the fire department in the 1980s.

“We’re on our busiest year Billings County has ever had right now,” he said.

The department has had 97 calls as of October, when it usually averages 35 to 40 calls. More than 95% were fire calls, with three major fires in Billings County that burned a total of approximately 12,000 acres.

“They become thousands of acres real fast,” Heiser said.

The department now has 88 volunteers at all three stations.

“When the pager goes off, all three districts respond,” he said.

“We never will ever turn down volunteers,” he said. “People have lives, and we have a lot of younger members who have kids and leave for weekends in the summer, so you never know who will be around, so you try to take whoever you can get.”

Volunteers range from oilfield workers to farmers and ranchers.

“You have to have a strong work ethic and be willing to give your time,” he said.

Volunteers are asked to attend monthly station meetings where training is offered, along with joint trainings periodically.

“When you have a busy year, everybody is eager to go, fight fire and help out, but when you have a slow year, their interest kind of drifts away, so you have to work to keep them there,” he said.

And answering the call can be personal, he said.

“In small communities and rural areas, most everybody knows everybody,” Heiser said.

“When it’s a fire, everybody wants to get there to help,” he said. “That’s your neighbors, your friends, your family. Accidents are always a little tougher for everybody, especially if you know them. Sometimes it’s a slap in the face, but you come there to do a job. If it was you or your family, you would want somebody to help them, too.”

Saving lives

Christmas came early for the Riverdale-Pick City Ambulance Service, when it received its Operation Round Up funds.

Equipment purchased with the grant included four new adult CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) mannequins and four infant CPR mannequins, all of which give feedback to those practicing compressions; an adult and a child airway mannequin to practice airways and intubation; a training IV arm which shows if an IV has

been placed correctly; a piece to practice injections; a practice bag valve mask; practice oral and nasal airways so actual equipment no longer has to be used during training; and a training AED (automated external defibrillator).

“I’m so excited to start using all of this,” Skachenko said. “It was so fun just to be able to go through and pick what we really needed.” The crew, which meets monthly for training, started using the new training equipment at its October meeting.

The ambulance service covers portions of both McLean and Mercer counties with about 10 volunteers, and needs more to answer the call.

“We desperately need help,” Skachenko said. “When COVID hit, they wanted nothing to do with it, which is completely understandable, but it is hard because pretty much all of our volunteers have full-time jobs.” Serving as an advanced emergency medical technician, she has volunteered for seven years.

“Ambulance work isn’t for everyone,” she said. “For me, it’s like a second calling. It does feel good to be able to help those who are in need.”

She encourages others to consider offering their skills.

“We’re in a very rural area, so if we don’t have our local ambulance service, if you call 911, you’re going to end up waiting a very long time for another service to come get you. If you want to keep a local ambulance service, you need help to make that service run,” she said.

“It is very rewarding, though. It’s hard, but it’s rewarding,” she said. “Just being able to help your community is always a nice feeling.” ■



A sampling of equipment the Riverdale-Pick City Ambulance Service purchased with its Operation Round Up grant.

Operation Round Up empowers members

As a member-owned electric cooperative, Roughrider Electric Cooperative is committed to powering its communities and empowering members to improve their quality of life.

One of the cooperative's successful community service efforts is the Operation Round Up program.

Through the program, members voluntarily "round up" their electric bills to the next whole dollar each month and the change is placed into the Operation Round Up fund. With hundreds of electric cooperative members participating, the pennies quickly add up to dollars.

For example, a member's monthly bill of \$52.73 would round up to \$53, with the extra 27 cents going to the Operation Round Up fund. A member donates

approximately \$6 annually. That pool of money is then granted to a variety of worthy causes throughout Roughrider Electric Cooperative's service area. It totals about \$40,000 per year!

That change changes lives. Donations have helped purchase equipment for fire and ambulance departments, promoted youth activities and community development, and assisted others.

With 8,000 Roughrider Electric Cooperative members, the money raised makes a big difference. The cooperative has distributed \$601,000 since inception in 2002. Worthy charities, needy individuals and service organizations in our service area have all benefited. ■

Who has benefited

ORGANIZATION

Ukrainian Cultural Institute
Zion Lutheran Church
Maah Daah Hey Trail Association

Twin River Saddle Club

Western Wellness Foundation/Best Friends Mentoring
Billings County Rural Fire Department
PAWS-Richardton/Taylor
Pine Room, St. Joseph's Church Dickinson
Camp ReCreation, Richardton
Richardton Park District

Hazen Wrestling Club
Injured Military Wildlife Project of N.D.
New Hradec Catholic Workman Hall
Hazen Senior Citizen Council
St Josephat's Cemetery, Gorham
The Professional Relay for Life Team, Gladstone
Slope Area Rifle and Pistol Club
Association to Meet Emergency Needs
Concordia Lutheran Church, Beulah

Riverdale-Pick City Ambulance Service
Stark County Council on Aging Elder Care
Twin River Saddle Club, Stanton

USAGE

Sign renovation
AED
Trail restoration and self-closing gate
Arena for children learning to ride
Food costs
Cutoff saws and chainsaws
Playground swings
Chest freezer
Camp shirts
Community pool diving board
Wrestling mat
Elk hunt for veteran
Flooring replacement
Handicapped doors
Reburial cost
Chest freezer
Accessible bathroom facility
Accessible door opener
Cabinet and supplies for AED
Training equipment
Home-delivered meal trays
Safety barrier panels

\$40,454
\$601,142

2021 year summary:
Since inception 2002:

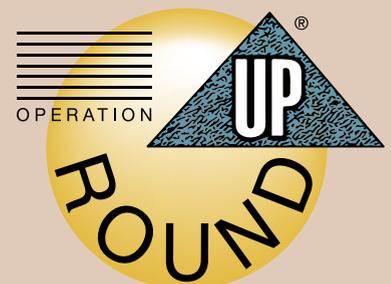
How it works

Operation Round Up grants have helped area fire departments, ambulance squads, schools, non-political projects and other non-political projects.

By just adding up a few cents each month, members can contribute to many worthwhile causes.

By giving a few cents each month, Roughrider Electric Cooperative members are making a big impact. The program is voluntary. Call us, or send an email to info@roughriderelectric.com if you would like to participate in this wonderful program.

An online application can be found at www.roughriderelectric.com/operation-round, along with guidelines. Deadlines to apply for Operation Round Up donations are July 1 and Jan. 1. The foundation board meets twice a year to review applications and disperse funds.



Life hacks for the holidays



Thanksgiving is a favorite holiday, as family and friends reunite to feast and give thanks. The one drawback, however, is that the holiday contributes to an annual increase in energy use, due to a usual drop in temperatures, lights staying on longer, and appliances operating more frequently. Here are some energy-saving tips which can help lower the unwelcome tradition of higher energy bills following a Thanksgiving celebration:

TURKEY TIPS

- How much turkey can you and your guests really eat? Be sure to get the right size bird. A smaller turkey takes less time to cook and saves energy.
- It takes longer to cook the turkey when it is stuffed with dressing, so cooking the dressing separately can actually reduce oven usage.
- Adding side dishes that can be cooked at the same temperature while the turkey is cooking can also reduce oven use. Just make sure to adjust the cooking time to accommodate different temperatures.
- Resist the urge to check on your food as it cooks. Each time you open the oven door, you'll reduce the temperature inside by 25 degrees.

HOSTING

- Turn down the thermostat, whether it's manual or programmable. With all the heat from your kitchen and a house full of people, your home will stay plenty warm.
- If you are hosting a large gathering, use a cooler stocked with ice to hold drinks. You'll free space in your refrigerator and prevent cold air from escaping from frequent door openings.

AFTER THE FEAST

- Don't wash dishes by hand because an Energy Star-certified dishwasher uses less than half as much energy as washing dishes by hand and uses less water.
- Let the leftovers cool before placing them in the fridge, because your refrigerator has to work harder to cool them.

LIGHTING OPTIONS

- Get in the habit of turning off every light except in occupied rooms. In most cases, lighting can be turned off in outdoor areas or the garage. Make the switch to more energy-efficient lighting options, such as LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy, and last 25 times longer on average, compared to incandescent lighting.



JUNE 19 TO 24, 2022



WASHINGTON, D.C.

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 any questions, please contact Brad Quenette, Roughrider Electric, at 800-748-5533 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Dec. 10, 2021. You can email entries to Brad Quenette at bquenette@roughriderelectric.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 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:

If you were asked to help promote your cooperative's annual membership meeting, what ideas do you have for increasing attendance among young member-owners and students? Please provide specific examples for unique communications strategies, scheduling and special activities for member-owners and their families.



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
www.roughriderelectric.com/youth-tour

Roughrider Electric Cooperative offers members CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCIES INCENTIVES

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is continuing the conservation and energy-efficiency program. The incentives help you, the member, become more energy efficient.

The program for 2021 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2021, and Dec. 31, 2021. 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.

**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

Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEPT. 24, 2021

When, where and who: The board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative met at the Stark County Veterans Pavilion Sept. 24.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the Aug, 27 meeting.

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

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

Roughrider has an extensive amount of transmission line and substations. Because of this, it has to put together a maintenance manual. This will include minimum standards for transmission lines, and if there's an event where FEMA is involved, FEMA will assist in rebuilding it to the standard set forth in the plan. This manual is in development and will be presented to the board at a future meeting.

2022 load forecast: The board reviewed the 2022 load forecast, which Basin Electric Power Cooperative prepared for Roughrider. The load forecast details annual energy sales, annual energy

requirements, annual number of consumers, seasonal peak demand, annual system energy requirements and annual system peak demand comparison. The forecast's modeling is for the years 2022-2050. The board adopted and approved the forecast.

Board member reports: Attendees at meetings over the past month reported to the board concerning matters of importance discussed at the following meetings:

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Region 5-6 - Arnold Kainz and Greg Steckler attended this meeting virtually. They reported on the various presentations they attended.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative annual meeting - This meeting is scheduled for Nov. 9-11.

Operations report: The board was directed to Jason Bentz's written report. He updated the board on the storm which came through earlier that week, stating that there were numerous lightning strikes experienced on Roughrider's system.

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

Holiday closings

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day, and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25 and 26, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Line crews will be available in the case of an emergency or power outage.

We thank all veterans and members of the military for their service and sacrifice!

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. 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; Henler..... 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





Become a fan of Roughrider Electric Cooperative to learn timely co-op news!

[facebook.com/RoughriderElectric](https://www.facebook.com/RoughriderElectric)
twitter.com/RoughriderCoop



3 cool things about LEDs

Sure, LED lightbulbs are highly efficient, but they offer benefits far beyond lower energy bills.

Have you made the switch to high-efficiency LED bulbs? You may know that LEDs use a lot less energy than standard bulbs, but are you aware of all the other benefits they bring to the table? When you install LEDs in your home, you'll...

1. Forget how to change a lightbulb

High-quality LED bulbs last 25,000 hours or more. At an average of five hours a day, 365 days a year, they can last for at least 14 years. You may find yourself having to look at the instructions on the package the next time you need to change one out.

2. See your home in a whole new light

Color rendering index (CRI) measures how well a lightbulb displays colors compared to sunlight. Incandescent bulbs set the standard with a score of 100. The latest LED products have a CRI of up to 90, making the light in your home look vivid and natural.

3. Improve your options

Bulbs emit light in different tones, ranging from cool to warm. Warm (yellowish) light is great for your family room, while cool (bluish) light is better for performing tasks, such as in a workroom. LEDs cover the entire color range, so they can be used anywhere in your home or outdoors.