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Glen Ullin Fire and Rescue recently purchased new extraction equipment.

Stanton Volunteer Fire Department will use Operation Round Up funds to update their equipment.



Zap Rural Fire Protection District will use the funds to reseat their tanker truck.

OPERATION ROUND UP: Powering those who serve us

In rural communities, volunteers power our communities. Volunteer firefighters were many hats, they could be the high school music teacher, volleyball coach or local banker. These community members help ensure safety to our homes, families and businesses during crucial times.

Through Roughrider Electric's Operation Round Up foundation board we are proud to help these essential public servants have the equipment,

technology and training they need to keep us all safe.

Operation Round Up has been a beacon of cooperatives principals for 23 years at Roughrider Electric. Twice a year, Roughrider Electric's Operation Round Up board members, who are also Roughrider Electric members, meet to review and distribute Operation Round Up funds to deserving recipients across our service area. In 2025 Roughrider Electric's Operation Round Up foundation board donated

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funds to 18 recipients totaling \$38,650 going back to communities.

This year, the foundation board gave to several local fire responder organizations including Glen Ullin Fire and Rescue, Stanton Volunteer Fire Department and Zap Rural Fire Protection District.

Glen Ullin Fire and Rescue

The Glen Ullin Fire and Rescue is a volunteer department that covers roughly 400 square miles and has 33 volunteers serving the Glen Ullin community and providing aid to surrounding areas. Through the Operation Round Up foundation board, the Glen Ullin Fire and Rescue was awarded grant funds to purchase a new pair of extraction equipment known as jaws of life. This equipment is one of the most valuable assets to the fire and rescue aside from the volunteers.

"Every minute, every second counts," says Duncan Swart, Glen Ullin Fire and Rescue assistant fire chief & EMT, when talking about emergency situations. "Time and equipment play extreme rolls."

Due to extreme cold temperatures, the department purchased battery powered lifesaving equipment. The previous jaws of life were hydraulically powered, taking extra manpower and time. The new jaws of life the department purchased will have an upgrade in power as well.

"Our old equipment's cutting force was not enough to cut through new vehicles," Swart says. "With new vehicles using steel containing boron it can take 200,000-psi to cut through the vehicle."

The new jaws of life exceed the 200,000-psi threshold ensuring the department is ready for any emergency situation.

"Community is the biggest part of this," says Swart. "Though we all hope and pray that we never get to use them outside of our training, be assured we will be ready, and we will make every second count."

Stanton Volunteer Fire Department

The Stanton Volunteer Fire Department serves the city and surrounding areas of Stanton and received grant funds through the Operation Round Up foundation board to purchase new gear and update tools.

Nicolas Chapman, Stanton City Fire Chief and Stanton Rural Assistant Fire Chief, says the funds will help purchase new bunker gear and update air packs. Currently there are two fire departments that serve Stanton residents, a city and a rural. These two departments will be merging into one department and will have 20 volunteers.

The gear purchased with the grant funds will be to update some of the gear and equipment the

department currently has.

Bunker gear is commonly used for structure fires which burn hot.

"It protects us in the heat, and it is also used for colder temperature situations," Chapman says. "It's made thicker and protects us a lot better."

Some of the other gear the department will purchase is grass line equipment.

"This is gear that isn't going to be super-hot," Chapman says. "It's easier to breathe in."

Grass line gear is used in more of an open fire situation like grass fires. Other gear the department plans to purchase is air tank replacements. Air tanks provide firefighters with a supply of clean, filtered air which allows them to breathe in fire situations.

Being a volunteer fire responder isn't an easy task, but Chapman knows he's helping do good for the community.

"I feel I am doing what is right for the community," Chapman says. "And helping and give back."

Zap Rural Fire Protection District

Serving the rural community of Zap and providing mutual aid to neighboring departments is the Zap Rural Fire Protection District. The fire protection district received grant funds from the Operation Round Up foundation board to refurbish their water tanker.

"The tanker truck is always full of water and ready to respond," says Mike Mohl, Zap Rural Fire Protection District fire chief. "The truck responds to every fire we go to."

But the continuous water holding has caused irritation to the interior of 4,300-gallon the tank. The funds will help the department reline and seal the interior of the tank.

"It'll be pressure washed and sandblast and put an epoxy lining on it," Mohl says.

The tanker will also receive another vital addition while in the shop, a larger fill hose. The current fill hose is two and a half inches which takes around 25 minutes to fill the over 4,000-gallon tank. The new hose will be five inches, cutting the fill time in half.

Mohl says tanker trucks are the department's lifeblood. With the vast area the department covers as well as the mutual aid it provides, having a full tank of water ready to response in crucial moments is vital to the Zap Rural Fire Protection District.

"If it wasn't for grant programs like yours, we wouldn't be able to do what we do," Mohl says. ■

Operation Round Up giving in 2025:

ABLE Inc. – Purchase of AEDs
Badlands Ministries – High ropes equipment
Energy Capital Cooperative Child Care – Repairs and upgrades
Glen Ullin Fire and Rescue – Jaws of life replacement
Heartview Foundation Dickinson – Renovate outdoor space for access by patients
Hensler Cemetery – New fencing and plot markers
Hope Christian Academy – Active panel purchase
Hope's Landing WEM – Outdoor table and chair set and clothes dryer
Injured Military Wildlife Project of N.D. – Meat distribution program from hunt
Maah Daah Hey Trail Association – Install five new hitch rails

Marketplace of Ideas/Marketplace for Kids – Assistance for program in Dickinson
Richardton Saddle Club – Renovate and repair water line
Spirit of Wonder – Equipment and training aids
Stanton Volunteer Fire Department – New bunker gear and other needed tools
Stark County Council on Aging Elder Care – Meal trays for home-delivered meals
Taylor Richardton Elementary School (PAWS) – Playground equipment
Women Empowering Women – Supplies for the ROSE program
Zap Rural Fire Protection District – Refurbish tanker

2025 Operation Round Up giving: \$38,650
Operation Round Up giving since 2002 inception: \$762,907



1,800 students.
7 days.
1 unforgettable trip.

Join us on the adventure of a lifetime. On the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, you'll do it all. You'll explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress and get an up-close look at where our country's laws are crafted. You'll stand on the Gettysburg Battlefield, walk the halls of George Washington's iconic 18th-century mansion and witness ceremonies honoring the men and women who fought in uniform for this great nation. For one jam-packed week, you'll be immersed in the cooperative spirit that built and sustains our great nation. And **all expenses are paid** by your local electric cooperative! Yeah, *Youth Tour hits different.*

Learn more at roughriderelectric.com/youth-tour.

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.

Essay question:

As member-owned organizations, electric cooperatives are always seeking new ways to engage their members. What are some ways electric cooperatives can better communicate and connect, especially with students and young adults?

The application deadline is Jan. 16, 2026.

Questions? Please contact Roughrider Electric Cooperative at 701-748-2293 during regular business hours.

Email entries to Roughrider Electric Cooperative at info@roughriderelectric.com or mail hard copy to:
 Roughrider Electric Cooperative
 Youth Tour Essay Contest
 800 Hwy. Drive
 Hazen, ND 58545



MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Co-ops power communities with purpose



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/
CEO

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies, and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces, such as social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is committed to our members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

In October, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the United States are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses. But more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are nonprofit utilities built by the communities they serve. Roughrider Electric's mission has always been to provide you with reliable electric service. We care about your quality of life. And because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond providing electric services, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because our employees live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including Roughrider Electric, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement.

These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities, while remaining true to our purpose.

Open and voluntary membership: Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.

Democratic member control: Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members for the members.

Member economic participation: Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it operates smoothly now and in the future. At Roughrider Electric, this happens through paying your energy bills.

Autonomy and independence: Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.

Education, training and information: Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.

Cooperation among cooperatives: Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other in times of need, because we want other co-ops to thrive.

Concern for community: All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

As we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of co-op membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people and the local communities we're proud to serve. ■



ELECTRIC CO-OPS PROVIDE POWER WITH PURPOSE.



MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES:

LIHEAP is here to help



Brad Quenette
Member Services
Manager

As the fall weather arrives, Roughrider Electric Cooperative members will be faced with colder temperatures in the coming months. For some, anticipation of the winter months causes stress and anxiety as they wonder how to ensure a warm home. Thankfully, there are programs to help members. Through the N.D.

Department of Human Services (NDDHS), the Low Income Home Energy

Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help low-income and eligible individuals when it comes to heating and insulation costs in the winter. Individuals can obtain home energy assistance with a variety of services, including home heating.

costs of furnace and chimney cleaning, emergency assistance and energy cost-reduction devices. Homeowners and renters are eligible to apply for assistance.

Apply for LIHEAP

Upon applying for LIHEAP, an outreach specialist from NDDHS will visit your home and assist in gathering necessary documentation for the service. From there, an application will be sent to the state for review, and the results will be provided within a week or two.

Check with your local human service office for more information regarding these services.

Applications are now being accepted year-round and can be found online at applyforhelp.nd.gov or by request at the local human service zone office. ■

Services offered

LIHEAP offers a variety of service assistance. Not only can the program help curb the costs of your heating and cooling bill, but it also helps households with weatherization services, making homes more energy efficient.

The assistance program may also help with the

Scan the QR code or reach out to your local human service zone office for more information and to apply.



Additional resources:

Roughrider North Human Service Zone: Serving Billings, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger and Stark counties

Billings/Golden Valley office

67 First St. SE, P.O. Box 279, Beach, ND 58621
Phone: 701-872-4121

Dunn County office

205 Owens St., Manning, ND 58642
Phone: 701-573-5385

Stark County office

664 12th St. W., Dickinson, ND 58601
Phone: 701-456-7675

Hettinger County office

309 Millionaire Ave., Mott, ND 58646
Phone: 701-824-3276

Dakota Central Human Service Zone: Serving McLean, Mercer, Oliver and Sheridan counties

McLean County office

712 Fifth Ave., P.O. Box 70, Washburn, ND 58577
Phone: 701-462-3581

Mercer and Oliver County office

P.O. Box 70, Washburn, ND 58577
Phone: 701-462-3581

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: **Powering together**



Shawn Olson

*Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager*

Every October, electric cooperatives across the country celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. As an electric cooperative, we are guided by the seven cooperative principles. One of those principles is cooperation among cooperatives, which is something we do every day.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative and three neighboring electric

cooperatives are proud owners of the Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative (IEA), Maintenance Solutions Cooperative (MSC), West Dakota Utilities Services (WDUS) and 3C Construction. You have probably read about these strategic partnerships in the past, but we would like to highlight the partnerships that help us ensure safe, reliable electric services for our members.

Each day, employees at Roughrider Electric collaborate with employees of IEA, which provides various services and support to the cooperative. On the operations side, we work closely with IEA's engineering department to analyze, update and plan for system maintenance and expansion. We also work with the information technology team to ensure secure, efficient and reliable operation of all computing systems, hardware and software at our cooperative. Other departments within IEA include managerial, employee services, finance and accounting as well as others.

But it doesn't stop there. We also partner with MSC, which is a dedicated team delivering comprehensive maintenance and technical solutions. MSC's experienced team builds and maintains our metering systems within substations, ensuring these critical components operate smoothly and efficiently. MSC also verifies meters on our system, ensuring accuracy and integrity of metering equipment.

When our fleet of vehicles and equipment needs attention, WDUS certified technicians, who specialize in a variety of services, are here to keep us running. From N.D. Department of Transportation inspection certifications to utility vehicle repair and maintenance, WDUS's multi-faceted repair shop ensures our cooperative vehicles are always ready.

When we need additional hands to complete a project or repair storm damage, 3C Construction, a construction contractor, is ready to assist our cooperative. Its crews provide reliable solutions for plowing underground cable and for outage restoration efforts. By providing additional manpower and advanced equipment, 3C Construction helps reduce project time and ensures efficient operations to help us continue powering our communities.

Through these partnerships, we can better serve you with cost savings, while maintaining quality of service to our members. By working together, sharing resources and supporting one another, we build a stronger cooperative. During National Co-op Month, we are proud to celebrate what we have accomplished and with whom we have accomplished it! ■



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Generator safety

The safety of our members and our employees is a top priority at Roughrider Electric Cooperative, especially during uncertain situations. When storms impact our area, Roughrider Electric employees work safely and diligently to restore electric services as soon as weather conditions allow.

When line crews are working on impacted infrastructure, such as downed power lines, they take necessary precautions to ensure their safety. First, they verify a circuit has been de-energized and proper switches are opened and tagged to isolate the circuit from the system. Then, they place grounding straps on the circuit, on both sides of the lineworkers, to make sure the power line cannot be energized while work is being completed.

“Our team works to ensure a safe working environment during every job,” says Bruce Buchert, electric technician/meter technician. “But members can also assist in keeping everyone safe.”

Portable generators, which are widely used during an outage, can prove fatal to both line crews and members when used improperly.

Although portable generators can be helpful during outages, we urge you to follow these safety guidelines:

- **Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use.** A generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a household outlet can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes into contact with the line, even if the line seems de-energized. Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect generators to your home.
- **Plug appliances or equipment directly into generators.** Turn off appliances or equipment before plugging them into the generator or turning off the generator.
- **Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords.** Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs.



- **Never overload a generator.** A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.
- **Keep the generator dry.** Operate it on a dry surface under an open structure.
- **Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.**
- **Never refuel a generator while it is operating.** Turn the generator off and allow it to cool before refueling.
- **Carefully read the manufacturer's instructions.** Follow the manufacturer's instructions to ensure safe operation.

Rest assured when a storm hits our area, Roughrider Electric crews are ready to safely restore power to homes and business, but we need your help to remain safe. When we work together for safety and the good of our communities, we all benefit. ■

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows.



Roughrider Electric board meeting highlights July 21

The meeting of the board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative was held on July 21 at the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Medora. The meeting was called to order at 12:41 p.m. MT. A quorum was present. Also attending were co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, CFO Alex Craigmile, Chief of Staff/Operations Manager Shawn Olson, Director of Key Accounts and Member Services Leonard Hibl, Legal Counsel Jennifer Grosz and Board Liaison Connie Hill.

Consent agenda: Amendments were proposed to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended.

Strategic items: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on the North Dakota managers meeting, Western Area Power Administration and more. Several additional Basin Electric Power Cooperative reports and board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report. Olson provided an operations report, which included an update on projects. Hibl provided a report, which included an annual meeting recap and community activities. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a report, which included enhanced security protocols. Grosz provided an update on the status of projects.

Action items: The board reviewed and resolved various items, including board policies and upcoming meeting delegates.

Discussion/general information: Nicholas Disanti and Omar Abdallah from the Cooperative Finance Cooperation presented the cost-of-service study. The board also discussed other items.

The meeting concluded with adjournment. Secretary Troy Sailer certified the accuracy of the minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting is 10 a.m. CT (9 a.m. MT) Oct. 31 in Hazen. ■



www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:00 a.m. – 3:30 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 800-748-5533
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 the west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Greg Steckler, President, Dunn Center 548-8122
Roger Kudrna, Vice President, Dickinson 483-8377
Troy Sailer, Secretary, Golden Valley 948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer, Golden Valley 983-4222
Jesse Flath, Hazen 880-0386
Darell Herman, Beulah 873-4371
Arnold Kainz, Dickinson 483-8207
Dan Price, Hensler 794-3779
Callen Schoch, New England 290-3836

MANAGEMENT

Travis Kupper Co-GM/CEO
Jason Bentz Co-GM/CEO

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Stay up to date on cooperative information by ensuring your contact information is current.

Update your contact information simply by:

✱ **Logging into your SmartHub account**

☎ **Calling us at 800-748-5533**



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