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Quilting For You: Bobbie Barnhardt



Roughrider Electric Cooperative member **Bobbie Barnhardt** welcomes customers into her home shop, *Quilting For You*, off Highway 25.

PHOTO BY SAMANTHA YANGNESS

A HEART FOR HELPING AND CREATIVITY: **Bobbie Barnhardt**

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS

As a 6-year-old, Bobbie Barnhardt would sit at her grandmother's kitchen table, watching as her grandmother skillfully cut out shapes for quilts. Her grandmother would ask her to cut out circles of fabric using a soup can, and it was there the seeds of her future were sown. Early lessons in precision, creativity and patience would later inspire her to turn quilting from a cherished hobby into a business.

As a busy mom of three boys, working four part-time jobs and helping run the family auto body shop, Barnhardt thought there had to be a different way to provide for her family in which she could spend more time with her family and help her husband when needed. It was then her longtime passion of quilting began to take shape, transforming a personal hobby into her new business venture.

In the beginning, Barnhardt quilted from her home in Washburn and quickly realized she was going to need more space to host classes and interact with customers.

"I went into Cottingham Insurance one day to do some business and joked, 'Do you have a broom closet I could rent?'" Barnhardt says.

Soon, she was renting an 8x10-foot space from the business until she bought the whole building for her business, Quilting For You. She spent her days helping customers with questions or with their Handi Quilter equipment or materials. Handi Quilter is the brand Barnhardt is certified to sell and service its machines.

In 2021, Barnhardt moved into her shop north of Mandan, where she continues to visit with customers, work on projects and service machines, often via FaceTime, she notes.

Technology has advanced since Barnhardt first began quilting. This includes the longarm sewing machine Barnhardt uses to make her quilting creations. With the longarm machine, she can freehand or use a computer program to stitch.

"It depends on the pattern of the project and what the customer wants," Barnhardt says as she works on a light green quilt with a lamb on it. She says she chose a swirl-like pattern to mimic the lamb's wool.

Barnhardt focuses on edge-to-edge projects at her shop off the highway. Edge-to-edge is a technique where the stitching is the same pattern across the quilt. She says she gets quite a few quilts where the front and the back of the quilt is complete, and she needs to "sandwich" them together, although she is willing to take on anything.

Barnhardt also hosts various classes from beginner to expert levels. These classes are on various projects and



Bobbie Barnhardt works with Handi Quilter and strives to achieve the Handi Quilter HQ Way status each year. She has received it since 2017 by meeting sales, education and service requirements the company sets.

allow people to try out the quilting equipment she has. She says she has had a few high school classes tour her shop. She recalls a recent Center-Stanton High School class she showed around, then sent a quilted pattern with their names designed.

"I am seeing a lot more people taking interest in quilting," Barnhardt notes.

She says she is an open book and is always available for questions and to help others.

Barnhardt offers new and used quilting machines and even allows people to rent, so they can make sure they know what they are getting before they order products from her. She also has a variety of products for quilters to check out by appointment, as she still spends time helping her husband in their auto body shop.

She notes she has a large network of people who can assist if she is unable to assist with a project.

For more information you can follow Barnhardt on her Facebook page, Quilting For You. On Facebook, she posts about upcoming classes and more information on Handi Quilter. Barnhardt can also be contacted at 701-315-0053. ■

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: Reflecting on 2024



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/ CEO

As December unfolds and we approach the end of the year, it's a fitting time to pause and reflect on the past months. This year has been one of growth, challenges and achievements, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support and partnership.

In a year filled with both triumphs and trials, your unwavering trust and engagement have been the cornerstone of our success. Because of you, our dedicated members,

we can continue to provide reliable service and work toward a brighter future. Your involvement in our cooperative, whether through feedback, participation in events or simply being a valued member, makes a significant difference in our journey.

We also want to extend our gratitude to our dedicated team members who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Their commitment and hard work ensure we meet our goals and address your needs with the utmost care and professionalism.

Looking ahead to the new year, we remain committed to serving you with dedication and enthusiasm. May this season bring you joy, peace and time to enjoy with loved ones. Thank you for being an essential part of our cooperative family. Your trust and support mean more to us than words can express.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a bright start to the new year. ■




Brock Swensrud, general foreman works alongside Jordan Braun, journeyman lineworker and Clay Gerhardt seasonal worker to assemble a power pole during a construction project this summer.



2025 SCHOLARSHIPS

DEADLINE: FEB. 1, 2025

*Visit our website for applications
and more detailed information
www.roughriderelectric.com*



Area high school scholarship

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will award nine \$500 scholarships. Each school in our service area chooses one recipient. School representatives from Belfield, Beulah, Center-Stanton, Dickinson High, Dickinson Trinity, Hazen, Richardton-Taylor, South Heart and Dickinson Hope Christian Academy choose a graduating senior to receive the funds. Contact your school counselor for more information.

\$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship

Roughrider Electric will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a student who is already enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program. The student must attend an accredited two- or four-year program, university or vocational/tech school.

Lineworker scholarship from 3C Construction

Roughrider Electric is offering one \$500 scholarship sponsored by 3C Construction LLC. Owned in part by Roughrider Electric, 3C Construction employs lineworkers who travel, plowing cable and assisting with projects as needed. 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.

Luck-of-the-draw scholarship

Roughrider Electric will award three \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting.

High school scholarship outside service area


Roughrider will award one \$500 scholarship.

Mechanic scholarship from West Dakota Utility Services

Roughrider Electric is offering one \$500 scholarship sponsored by West Dakota Utility Services LLC. 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.

Students can call the Hazen office with questions. Applications can also be filled out online and emailed to bquennette@roughriderelectric.com, or printed and mailed to: Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Attn: Scholarship Committee, 800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545-4737



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

All applicants must have a parent or guardian who is a Roughrider Electric member.

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: Review of 2024



Shawn Olson
Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager

Throughout 2024, Roughrider Electric Cooperative crews worked to improve system reliability by maintaining and upgrading electrical infrastructure, such as poles and substations. Before work begins each year, the engineering staff at the Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative, a cooperative we are member owners of, develops a work plan using historical information and priorities from our operations team.

This year, crews installed underground power lines, rebuilt substations and provided additional power load capacity to rural communities.

One of the projects completed by Roughrider Electric crews was upgrading the Beulah Bay area from single-phase to three-phase power. Installing three-phase power helps Roughrider Electric ensure there is adequate electric services for projected growth in the area.

Roughrider Electric works to ensure a safe and reliable electric service to members. A way to increase safety and reliability has been to convert overhead power lines to underground power lines, especially in high-traffic areas, such as crossings along Highway 1806 and Highway 25, as well as County Road 27. These routes often have large loads traveling to and from the power plant, mine and

other industrial traffic. In 2024, Roughrider Electric installed 450,000 feet of underground power line.

Industries are quickly growing in Roughrider Electric's service area. To accommodate the growth, crews have increased the load capacity to current substations as well as constructed new substations. This summer the Snow substation, west of Manning was completely rebuilt with its capacity almost doubled in size. The Rocky Ridge substation, a newly built substation was brought on line between Marshall and Manning. These substations will help ensure reliability and the opportunity for growth in the area.

The town of Medora is continually expanding, which includes power service Roughrider Electric offers Medora. Roughrider Electric began construction on 12 miles of underground power lines to serve the projected load growth, which includes the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library and other town projects.

Looking into the next few weeks of 2024, you may spot Roughrider Electric line crews conducting annual line inspections. If you see them, feel free to give them a wave or say hello, but keep a safe distance, as they may be working on energized line.

Also, as a friendly reminder, if you see any cooperative equipment that looks unsafe and should be assessed by the cooperative, be sure to give the office a call at 800-748-5533. We hope outages are few and far between this winter, but want to encourage you to report outages by calling the office.

Thank you for your support throughout 2024. We look forward to ensuring safe and reliable electric services for you all in 2025! ■



COMING SOON....

In response to the feedback gathered from our 2024 Member Survey, Roughrider Electric is excited to announce the launch of our print newsletter! Starting in January 2025, members will find a print newsletter included with their bills. These newsletters are designed to keep members informed and connected with what is happening at the cooperative, as well as sharing valuable information with our membership.

ENTER YOUR YOUTH TOUR ERA



JUNE 15-21, 2025

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.

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:

Why is it important to be involved in your community, and how does that prepare you to be a future leader?

The application deadline is Jan. 17, 2025.

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.

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



Learn more at
roughriderelectric.com/youth-tour

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Holiday safety

As the holiday season progresses, we will soon be joining our family and friends to celebrate the final holidays of the year. This time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

“As your local electric cooperative, our team at Roughrider Electric Cooperative cares about your wellbeing,” says Brad Quenette, member services manager. “With that in mind, here are a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.”

Safety first

- Before decorating begins, remember to always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged.
- It is recommended to double check the holiday lights used outside are rated for outdoor use.
- Remember to test your smoke alarms often due to increased cooking and candle enjoyment this time of year.

'Tis the season for savings

- The thermostat is one of the best places for savings, since heating and cooling make up the majority of home energy consumption. Lower the thermostat a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by.
- Decorate with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the



BRAD
MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

most energy-efficient lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

- When cooking this holiday season, remember smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers and slow cookers, consume a fraction of the energy used to heat an oven.

From your friends at Roughrider Electric, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright. ■

Heading south for the winter?

Are you planning on spending the winter in the sun? Be sure to sign up for SmartHub and complete the notification section to receive important cooperative updates, like planned power outages and bill reminders, while you are away!

If you do not have a SmartHub account, set one up by going to www.roughriderelectric.com and select the SmartHub tab at the top of the page. From there, you will be able to sign up as a new user.

Now is a good time to also make sure Roughrider Electric Cooperative has your current contact information. To verify your telephone number or email address, or to share an update, call us at 800-748-5533. You can also update your account information on SmartHub.

Roughrider Electric also has a Facebook page. Please like and follow to stay up to date on timely cooperative and community news. Thank you for staying in touch and helping us keep you informed.



Roughrider Electric board meeting highlights: Sept. 27

The meeting of the board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative was held on Sept. 27 at the cooperative's Dickinson office. The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. MT. A quorum was present. Also attending were co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Operations Manager Shawn Olson, Director of Key Accounts and Member Services Leonard Hibl, Legal Counsel Jennifer Grosz and Board Liaison Connie Hill. Alison Deelstra with National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) was present as a guest.

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

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on the North Dakota Industry Summit, Basin Electric Cooperative's Region 5-6 meeting and more. Several Basin Electric reports and West Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction

updates were available for review. **Action items:** Action items were reviewed and resolved.

Discussion/general information: Deelstra presented a CFC update to the board. The board conducted an annual review of board policy and discussed strategic planning.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report. Olson provided an operations report, which included an update on pole testing, construction projects and promotions. Hibl provided a member services/key accounts update, which included upcoming events. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report for the board. Grosz provided the board with an update on the status of projects.

The meeting concluded with the 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) Dec. 20 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



Happy Holidays!

Our offices will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Jan. 1.



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