

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

AUGUST 2020

A life remembered in the beauty of rural living



PHOTO BY JANE OPDAHL

What's inside:

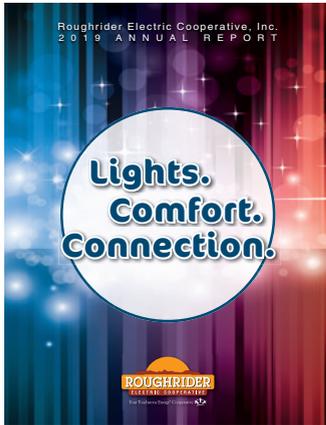
A resident of Zap, Jane Opdahl took this photo on the west edge of town. She captures beautiful moments like this in memory of her son, Koy Opdahl, who passed in 2018 from complications with type 1 diabetes. An "old soul," Koy loved back roads, open spaces, livestock, Corgi dogs, and loyal friends and family. He valued the rural way of life. A strong supporter of cooperatives and rural communities, Jane works as a member relations specialist for North Dakota Farmers Union.

Those missing Koy include parents Kevin and Jane, twin sister Kenzie, and brother Kane.

Thank you, Jane, for sharing your photo and talent, and some of Koy's favorite things.

- **Annual meeting rescheduled**
- **Look up and around ... farm equipment is on the move**
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Annual Meeting rescheduled



Roughrider Electric Cooperative has rescheduled its annual meeting for Friday, Oct. 9, in Beulah.

Look for more information in upcoming issues of *North Dakota Living*.

Mail-in ballots, annual report and other pertinent information regarding our annual meeting will be mailed in September.

Vote by mail 2020 Annual Meeting

Voting by mail is authorized by Roughrider Electric Cooperative's Bylaws, and will be offered to members in connection with the Oct. 9, 2020, annual meeting. Ballots and instructions will be mailed 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 and has been signed by at least 15 members.

Mail-in ballots will be sent to all members. All ballots mailed-in or hand-delivered **must be received by the cooperative no later than 3:30 p.m. Central Time on Monday, Oct. 5, 2020.**

Please note: Members attending the annual meeting in person who have previously voted by mail-in ballot will not be entitled to vote at the annual meeting. Their prior submission will constitute their vote(s) on the items on the ballot.

TO: All Members

FROM: Donald A. Franklund and Travis M. Kupper, Alliance Co-General Managers

SUBJECT: Nomination Process

To comply with Rural Utilities Service requirements, we must provide each member with a summary of the bylaws on the nomination process prior to the nomination of candidates for board positions. The following is the bylaw section on nominations:

SECTION 4. Nominations.

- (a) A Nominating Committee shall be selected by the Board of Directors in time for its first meeting to be held before the annual meeting of members in 2009 and for each annual meeting of members thereafter. The Nominating Committee shall consist of an equal number of members from each of the Cooperative's Districts and a minimum of two members from each district shall be selected. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on the Nominating Committee. The Board of Directors shall establish rules for the conduct of and arrange for the meeting of the Nominating Committee. The Secretary shall notify the members of the Nominating Committee in the manner provided by Article II, Section 4 delivered at least fifteen days before the date set for the Committee meeting. From and after 2009, the Nominating Committee shall meet at least sixty days before the annual meeting of members to nominate at least one qualified candidate for each directorship for which there is a vacancy to be filled by a vote of the members. Upon conclusion of the meeting, the Nominating Committee shall cause a list of nominees for Directors to be posted at the principal office of the Cooperative.
- (b) By petition, any fifteen or more members of the same district acting together may make other nominations for each directorship in that district for which there is a vacancy to be filled by a vote of the members, provided the petition is filed with the Secretary not less than sixty days prior to the annual meeting of members. The Secretary shall cause to be posted such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.
- (c) The Secretary shall cause to be mailed, with the notice of the annual meeting of members, or separately but at least fifteen days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates, specifying separately the nominations made by the Nominating Committee and also the nominations made by petition, if any.
- (d) Unless voting by mail for directorships has been approved, the President, acting as Chairman of the meeting, shall invite additional nominations from the floor and nominations shall not be closed until a reasonable time has passed during which no additional nominations have been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate at any single annual meeting of members.

The Nominating Committee appointed by the board consists of **Gordon Ficek**, Dickinson; **Ivo Schoch**, New England; **Alan Kadrmaz**, Dickinson; **Don Buck**, Zap; **David V. Sadowsky**, Dickinson; **Robert Fitterer**, Golden Valley; **John Smith**, Beulah; **Lee Alderin**, Center; **Eric Rosenquist**, Center.

The committee meetings were held Jan. 24 in Dickinson and Feb. 21 in Hazen.

If you have questions concerning nominations, feel free to contact anyone on the Nominating Committee or please call our office for information.

Look up and look around ... Farm equipment is on the move



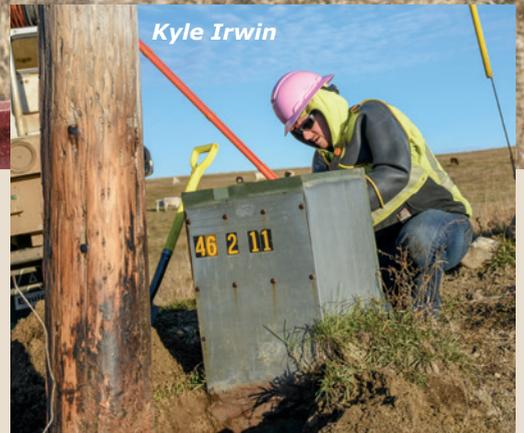
While farmers focus on the ground when sowing and harvesting, looking up is just as important — especially when operating farm equipment near power lines.

For your safety, make sure you have at least 10 feet of clearance between power lines and your combines, grain augers, pickers, balers and front-end loaders.

Keep in mind that uneven ground and shifting soil conditions can put you in harm's way.

Look up and look around when operating equipment. Power lines and poles may be closer than you think.

If you see a power line issue that may need Roughrider's attention, please call the co-op at 800-748-5533. Or, send an email to safety@roughriderelectric.com with location information and a photo, if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all.



Kyle Irwin



Brad Martell



*Andrew McFarland
and Tim Ridl*



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

PHOTOS BY CARMEN DENNEY

Sign up to receive text messages

Innovation is a core value at Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Inc. As advancing technologies become available, we utilize them to benefit our membership.

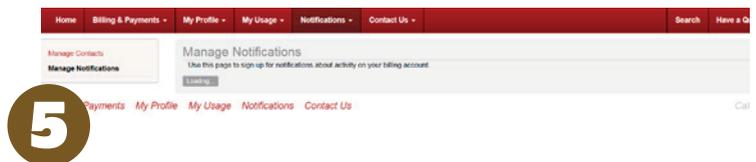
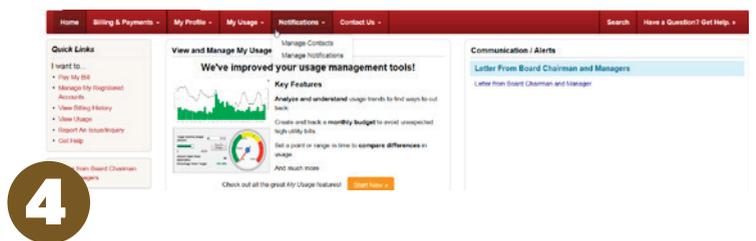
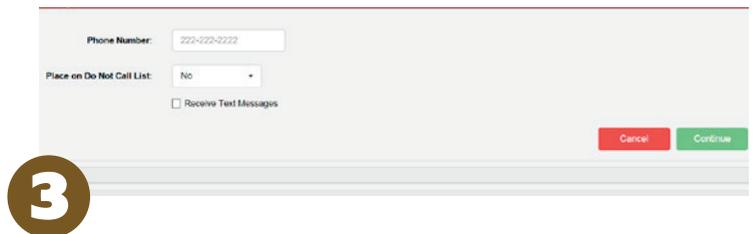
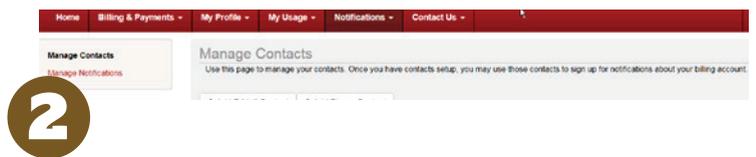
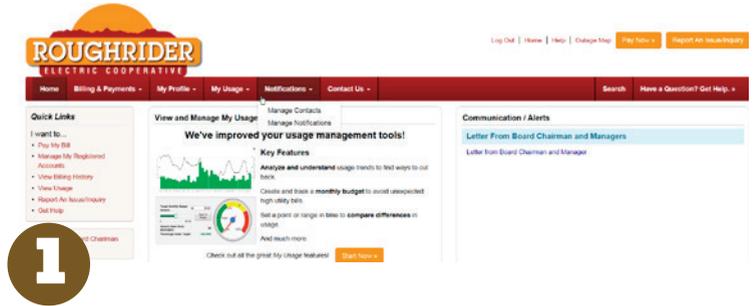
One of the communication tools offered by SmartHub is text messaging. These timely messages would alert our members to billing information, upcoming events and other important notices.

Please sign up for this additional communications tool!

To sign up through SmartHub, follow these steps:

Website instructions at www.roughriderelectric.com:

1. Log onto SmartHub. Find notifications on the black header.
2. Hover over notifications; choose manage contacts. A box will appear. Find your mobile phone number; click edit. If your mobile phone number does not appear, please add it.
3. A “contact settings” window appears. Click the box that says receive text messages. Text Terms and Conditions will appear. Click to agree. You will receive a Verification Code on your phone. Enter Phone Verification Code; click Save Contact. Indicates you will receive Text Messages.
4. **Manage other notifications.** Return to the header; find notifications. Hover over notifications and select manage notifications. A screen will appear with categories for billing and miscellaneous. Click a category; there are many notification types under each category.
5. For each notification type, choose if you would like to be notified by email, text or both. Save your settings. Do this for both categories if you wish.



Cell phone or tablet instructions:

1. Log onto SmartHub. For iPhone: Click more at the bottom of the screen. For Android: Click the three lines at the top left corner. Next click settings; then click contact methods. For tablet: Click settings at the bottom of the screen. Next click contact methods.
2. Find your mobile phone number and click the right arrow.
3. An “add or edit phone contact” window appears. Move the slide to confirm. The colored slide indicates you will receive text messages.
4. Manage other notifications. Return to settings. Select manage notifications. A screen will appear with categories for billing and miscellaneous. Click a category; there are many notification types under each category.
5. Follow step five listed above in website instructions.

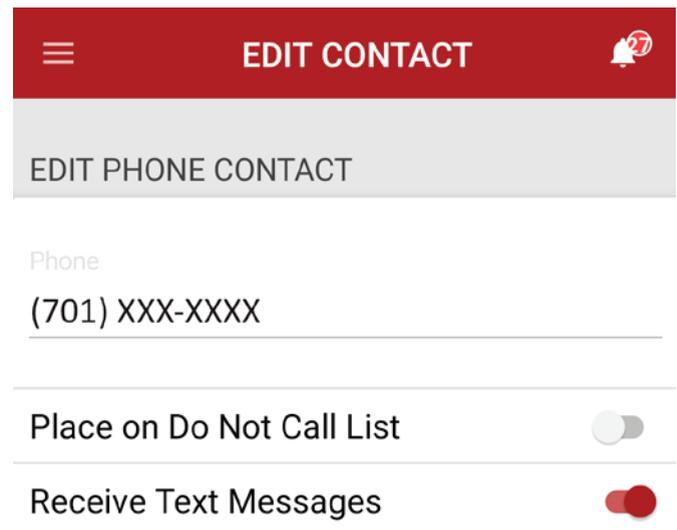
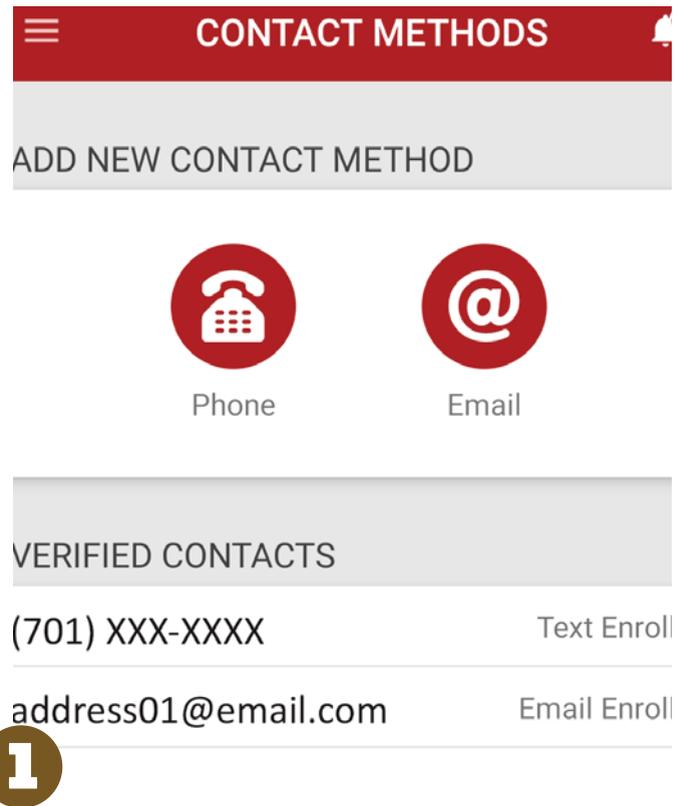
* If you are entering your phone number for the first time, you may need to accept Text Terms and Conditions. Once you accept, a verification code will be sent via text. Enter the code to finalize your enrollment.

Please check your phone plan to ensure your plan has unlimited texting. Some plans bill the recipient for each text message received and we do not want to cause a financial hardship.

You will not be able to reply or text the cooperative. This tool is only set up for Roughrider to send, and not receive, messages.

If you need assistance, we are happy to help! Call Roughrider Electric at 701-748-2293 or 1-800-748-5533 or email your questions to info@roughriderelectric.com. Someone will contact you as soon as possible.

Thank you, members, for giving us another way to communicate with you and keep you up-to-date!



CANCEL

CONTINUE

In your absence

BY SLOANE McCRAY



The effects of COVID-19 upon the world are vast and unexpected. Unemployment, violence, restlessness — the list is inexhaustible.

There have been discussions and debates on this multitude of issues; however, there is one effect that is often overlooked, and it is that which I intend to address: human contact, and the absence of it.

Now, I'll be frank. My summer has been very much as it was last

year. The hot days have been cooled by iced water; the chemical scent of sunscreen warmed by the rough fragrance of straw. My days have been nothing but hours of reading, of writing, of walking unbounded by paved roads or concrete sidewalks.

Living as I do in rural North Dakota, accompanied by three pigs, a dog and clucking Rhode Island Reds, the loneliness I have felt due to the lockdowns has been deferred to a later date. However, that does not change the fact that my summer is not the rule. For many it is the exception, and loneliness remains a plague upon the population.

I have no suggestions to cure it. I don't think there is one. As I said, I don't suffer from such a strong affliction. Loneliness, for me, is a distant problem. But for some that

is not so, and I am aware it is a struggle. It is a total change from the traditional, but I truly believe most will be better for it. I think it will teach many gratitude for what was, and what can be again. One does not need the absence of someone to appreciate a relationship, but I find that it does make every moment spent together all the more tender. That is a lesson lost in the hubbub of modernity, and I earnestly hope it can be taught to everyone, even if it does not soothe the sharp twinge of absence now. ■

Sloane McCray is the winner of Roughrider Electric Cooperative's 2020 Youth Tour essay-writing contest. The daughter of Roughrider members Kim and Kevin Kraft and Loren McCray, Sloane is a junior at Hazen High School.

Report from **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **JUNE 26, 2020**

When, where and who: The Board of Directors met in Dickinson at Astoria Hotel on June 26.

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 May 22, 2020, and June 10, 2020, meetings.

Co-General Managers' report: Don Franklund and Travis Kupper presented the managers' report. Mr. Kupper provided the Board with a status of Roughrider's current operations. The Co-General Managers are endeavoring to comply with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, N.D. Department of Health and OSHA guidelines.

Set 2020 Annual Meeting date and location: The Board discussed details pertaining to the annual meeting, including the date, time and location. The Board discussed

whether to live-stream the meeting, and the consensus was to live-stream the meeting.

Operations and Construction report: Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report. Crews have been performing a lot of maintenance, and within the last week there were six new service requests. Oil is coming back on, and two new service requests for oil were received.

Upcoming meetings: The next Board meeting was set for 9 a.m. MT on July 31, 2020, at Astoria Hotel & Event Center, Dickinson, North Dakota.

Other business: The Board entered into Executive Session to discuss strategic business planning and factors affecting it. Upon exiting Executive Session, and there being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned. ■

Don't put **safety** on autopilot.

Global Positioning System (GPS) technology provides farmers with real-time, accurate location data about a field. But while GPS can help the driver plant straight rows and maximize potential, it can also give a false sense of security. Roughrider Electric Cooperative reminds our members not to put safety on autopilot.

When farmers enter the field using GPS, they do an outside round and set the borders and boundaries of the field. Then, they set the angle and straight line, so they know the direction the GPS will take.

If there is a slough, rock pile, fence post or power pole in the middle of the field, they still need to manually drive around the hazard and set a boundary for it, if the system allows. Once set, less focus may be needed on steering — but drivers still need to be aware of navigation issues.

Farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions, says Roughrider Working Foreman Shawn Olson. “When drivers set their GPS, that tractor is basically driving itself — and it doesn’t always account for structures in their field. Because the tractor is programmed, drivers may not be paying as much attention as they did years ago. When they rely on technology, it’s a lot easier to hit something that is in their field.



PHOTO BY CARMEN DENEVY

Unfortunately, that’s a lot of power poles,” he says.

“Too often, people say they didn’t see the power pole because they were playing a game on their smartphone or reading the newspaper,” Olson continues. “Advanced technology like GPS is great when it works. But it doesn’t eliminate the need to stay alert to possible hazards and changing conditions.”

Olson encourages members to evaluate their fields regularly, looking for low-hanging lines when entering a field, turning in end rows, leaving the field and driving back to the farm.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for Roughrider Electric linemen to

de-energize the line.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

To report system damage that is not in need of immediate repair, call Roughrider Electric Cooperative at 1-800-748-5533 or email safety@roughriderelectric.com. If you send an email, please include the location, your name and contact information, and a photo if possible.

Members, your safety matters. Working together helps ensure the safety of all! ■

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	290-3836

MANAGEMENT

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



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facebook.com/RoughriderElectric

HOLIDAY CLOSING: MONDAY, SEPT. 7

In observance of the Labor Day holiday in September, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7. Line crews will be available to respond to emergencies and power outages by calling 800-748-5533. Please do not contact Roughrider on Facebook Messenger with outage information; it is not monitored 24/7. Call the 800 number to log your specific information with dispatch, and you will receive assistance as quickly and safely as possible.



Spend the day in Medora — and save

In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, more than 10 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in North Dakota have joined forces to make vacationing in North Dakota more affordable for families, including Roughrider Electric Cooperative. This summer, head west to Medora, where electric cooperative members are eligible for a 15-percent discount off the following reservations:

- ✓ Pitchfork steak fondue
- ✓ Tickets to the Medora Musical
- ✓ Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- ✓ Badlands Motel
- ✓ Elkhorn Quarters
- ✓ Rough Riders Hotel

Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code **Touch2020** at the door.

Roughrider members, if you are traveling to beautiful Medora this summer, call 1-800-MEDORA-1 to provide the discount code **Touch2020**, make reservations and receive your savings.