

# ROUGH RIDER NEWS

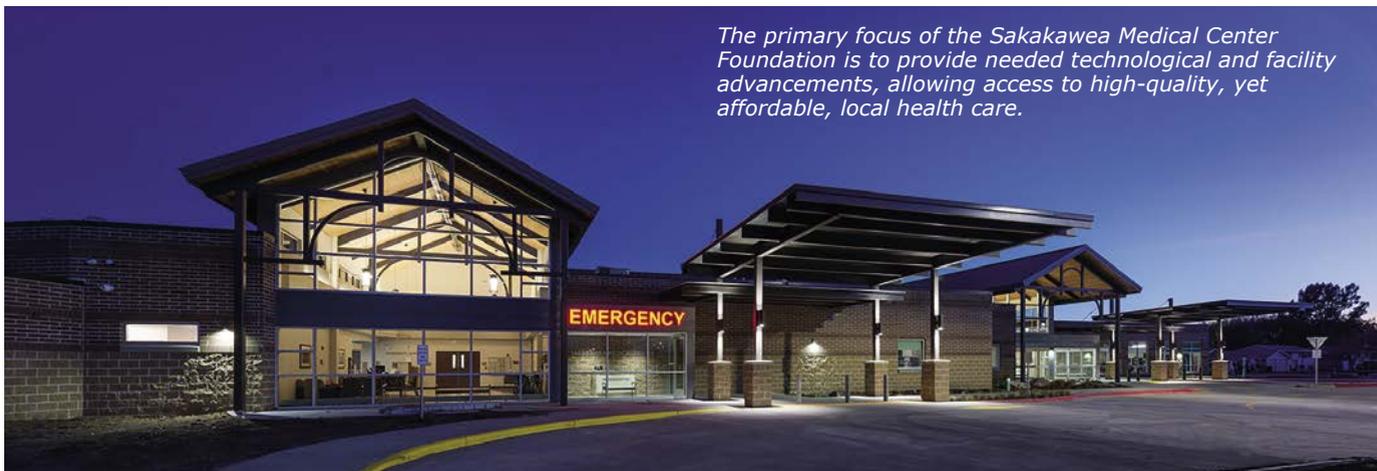
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

FEBRUARY 2022

## Giving Hearts Day

### Giving to those who give back to the community

BY ANNE HANSEN



*The primary focus of the Sakakawea Medical Center Foundation is to provide needed technological and facility advancements, allowing access to high-quality, yet affordable, local health care.*

Each year, North Dakotans reach into their pockets and pledge contributions during a 24-hour event known as Giving Hearts Day.

Giving Hearts Day arose in 2008 with the hope that around Valentine's Day, individuals would not only show affection to the people they love, but to the charities they love, too! Fast-forward to today, and the annual event has become the longest-running day of giving in the country. Giving Hearts Day has helped raise more than \$110 million for more than 550 local nonprofit organizations.

"Giving Hearts Day provides people all across the region an opportunity to experience the joy of giving by supporting their local nonprofits," said Jessica Offerman, operational excellence leader for Giving Hearts Day.

The organization itself is a platform for charities to fund their missions through a community

of donors. To enrich local North Dakota communities, the Giving Hearts Day organization wanted to see all donations stay local.

"All dollars raised on Giving Hearts Day stay with charities in North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota to fund their important missions that improve health and quality of life right here in our communities," Offerman said.

Additionally, the organization reviews all applicants to ensure that each is a valid nonprofit and prepared to run a successful Giving Hearts Day campaign by attending High Impact Institute fundraising trainings.

*Roughrider Electric Cooperative's area includes three local nonprofits that partake in Giving Hearts Day, including the Sakakawea Medical Center Foundation, Badlands Ministries and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.*

## Spotlight on Sakakawea Medical Center Foundation

The Sakakawea Medical Center Foundation (SMCF) was formed to help provide the philanthropic and community resources needed to improve the health and welfare of residents in our service area.

The primary focus is to provide needed technological and facility advancements, allowing access to high-quality, yet affordable, health care near local homes and businesses. The secondary focus is to provide funding for further education of local health care professionals. SMCF is committed to providing community health education and preventive medicine programs.

Contributions to the SMCF are an investment in the future of health care in the Mercer County area.

Also included in Giving Hearts Day is Sakakawea Hospice, a nonprofit providing care for terminally ill patients and their families.

“Our program is designed to enhance and expand the existing support system of a family during a very difficult time,” said Vicky Schantz, hospice director. “We provide care wherever a patient calls home and focus on providing emotional, physical and spiritual support.”

Money raised from donations is utilized to purchase necessary equipment to assist families to successfully take care of their loved ones at home.

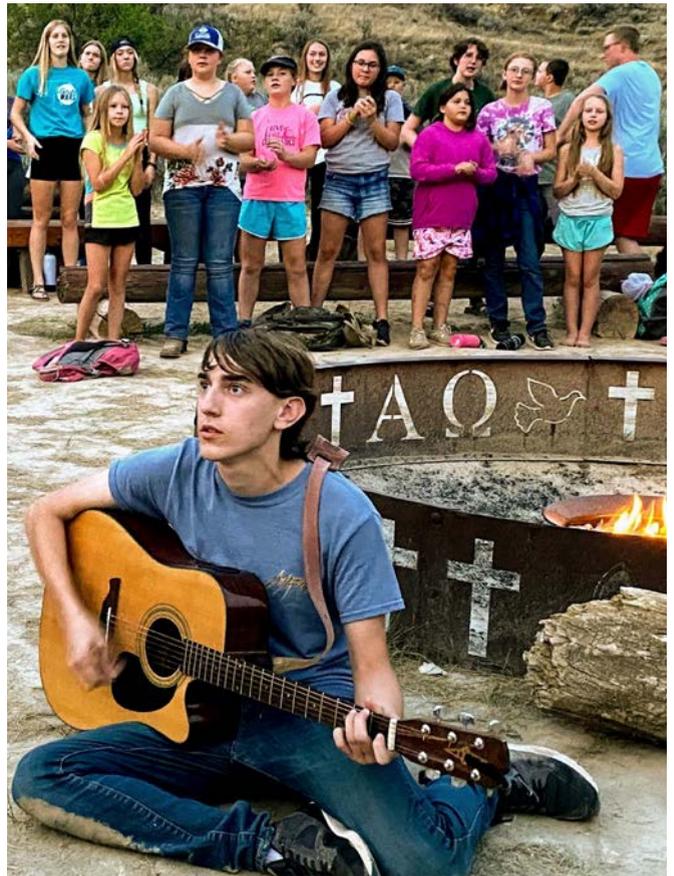
“This can include wheelchairs, mattresses, video monitors, nurse assessment equipment and medications,” Schantz said.

The money also goes to assist with covering the expenses of taking care of patients, as insurance payments only usually cover 75% of the actual cost of providing services.

“No family should have to worry about how to pay for the medical care of a loved one at end of life,” she noted.

## Spotlight on Badlands Ministries

For 94 years, Badlands Ministries has provided a place for people of all ages and denominations to attend a summer camp nestled in the



*Badlands Ministries is focused on creativity, fun, growth in faith, safety, environmental education, trust and new friendships.*

beautiful landscape of the Badlands.

Badlands Ministries is a Christian outdoor ministry and retreat center offering year-round programs for people of all ages, but specializing in summer camps for youth. Campers at Badlands Ministries are placed in small groups with young adult counselors who guide them through each day of activities.

“Our ministry strives to bring our Christian faith to the reality of today’s children and youth, and our summer programs emphasize faith growth, relationship building, love for God’s creation and developing young leaders,” said Brent Seaks, executive director at Badlands Ministries.

For 10 years, Badlands Ministries has been participating in Giving Hearts Day.

“We use the funds to help keep camp affordable to campers,” Seaks said. “We haven’t raised our funds for camp in several years



*The Medora WISH Endowment helps fund "Kids Free" days at the Medora Musical and other activities.*

and are the lowest-cost Christian camp in the nation."

"Our outstanding programming and service opportunities are driven by the gifts of a dedicated and caring staff," Seaks said.

### Spotlight on Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation

Medora is a small town with a rather large history. "To preserve Medora for generations and to connect people to Medora for positive, life-changing experiences" is the mission of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation (TRMF).

It all began in 1986. For Harold Schafer, the beauty and history of Medora and the Badlands was just too much to let disappear with the sands of time. So, he made it his life's work to save it for generations to come. That passion turned into the TRMF as a gift from the Schafer family.

Today, that passion continues to live through various ways. One of those is through the Medora WISH Endowment.

"The Medora WISH Endowment was inspired by the simple, yet powerful, desire of our founder, Harold Schafer, who not only wanted

to provide amazing entertainment for folks in Medora, but to also allow as many people as possible to be inspired by the Badlands," said Randy Hatzenbuhler, president of TRMF.

Created and initially funded by Don and Pat Clement and Michael and Vicki Zaun, this endowment has two priorities, Hatzenbuhler noted.

"We want to help fund 'Kids Free' days at the Medora Musical and other activities and to periodically help cover the expenses related to sponsoring an inspirational trip to Medora for a person or people who could not otherwise experience it for physical, mental or monetary limitations," he said.

During Giving Hearts Day, the funds raised go to the Medora WISH Endowment.

"We are so grateful for the local community members across North Dakota, who not only give to Medora, but to other organizations who are doing great things across the state," Hatzenbuhler said. "We have great supporters of Medora and are so grateful for each one." ■

## How you can make a difference

Although the event takes place on Thursday, Feb. 10, this year, the Giving Hearts Day efforts and funds raised help beyond the day of the event.

If you are interested in donating, you can visit [www.givingheartsday.org](http://www.givingheartsday.org) and click on the donate button. Another way to contribute is to send a check, directly made to the charity of your choice, to the organization by Feb. 10.

"With nearly 500 charities participating, there is an abundance of ways to help. We have the resources for you to maximize your efforts with the charity or charities your heart chooses," said Jessica Offerman, operational excellence leader for Giving Hearts Day.

## Manager's message: Let's connect



**Travis Kupper**

**W**hen we say we live in a "connected" world, most of us think about technology, like our smartphones and other devices and gadgets. But when you're a member of an electric co-op (that's you), there's so much more to being part of our connected co-op community.

As a member of Roughrider Electric Cooperative, you help to power good in our local community through Operation Round Up, sponsorships and other initiatives that help the most vulnerable in our community.

We depend on you, because you power our success. And when Roughrider Electric Cooperative does well, the community thrives, because we're all connected.

We greatly value our connection to you, the members we serve. And we'd like to help you maximize the value you can get from Roughrider Electric Cooperative through a variety of programs, products and services we offer our members. For example, when you download our SmartHub app, you can monitor and manage your home energy use, pay your bill online and access a menu of additional options for potential savings and more.

When you follow Roughrider Electric Cooperative on social media, you can stay up to date on power restoration efforts, tree trimming

planning, co-op director elections, giveaways and more. You'll also see photos of our line crews in action and our employees helping with community service projects – and who doesn't enjoy seeing good things happening in our community!

When you sign up for text alerts, you can receive advance notices on outage and restoration information, billing updates and changes to Roughrider Electric Cooperative event details.

By connecting with us, you can get real-time updates from your co-op. That's why we want to make sure we have your most current contact information on hand. If we can't connect with you on these platforms or in person, you could miss out on potential savings or important information.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative relies on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, and up-to-date contact information from our members helps ensure we can provide the highest level of service you expect and deserve. In addition to the contact information, Roughrider Electric Cooperative also surveys our members to better understand how we can serve you. Please be aware you might be receiving a phone call, or email, asking for you to participate in this survey in the coming months.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative exists to serve our members, and when we're better connected to you and our local community, we're better prepared to answer the call.

To update your contact information or to learn more about co-op products and services that can help you save, visit [www.roughriderelectric.com](http://www.roughriderelectric.com), call 800-748-5533 or stop by our office in Hazen or Dickinson.

We look forward to connecting with you! ■



## Prepare for tax season with SmartHub!

Print copies of your monthly utility bills for your tax records by logging into SmartHub! Visit [www.roughriderelectric.com](http://www.roughriderelectric.com) and click SmartHub to proceed to your billing history. If you have not signed up for SmartHub, you can set up a new, secure account.

Call 800-748-5533 with questions. ■

# Planning to build or upgrade?

BY ANNE HANSEN

**W**hether you are looking to build a new structure or make changes to an existing structure, it is important to contact Roughrider Electric Cooperative in the early planning stages.

“Each year, we help our members with their construction upgrades and new builds,” said Jason Bentz, operations manager at Roughrider Electric Cooperative.

“Projects can range from pasture wells to grain storage, new outbuildings, houses and businesses,” Bentz said. “For projects of all sizes, it is important to contact your local cooperative.”

By doing so, you will be able to confirm the viability of your project.

“Our engineering department can verify whether we can serve additional load in your

area and the availability and cost of equipment and materials,” Bentz said.

Information you will need to share with the cooperative includes the type of upgrade or new build, location, timeline and power requirements.

“If you are unsure of this information, work with an electrician that can contact us,” Bentz said.

This year, planning ahead is especially important due to the global supply chain disruptions, Bentz noted.

“We want to ensure your building project or upgrade goes as smoothly as possible, and that is why it is important to call us in the early stages,” he said.

## Building new?

Are you planning to build a new structure on your property? Follow these tips to achieve energy efficiency:

- **Location matters.** If possible, carefully consider where you build your shop or barn. Consider drainage, sun exposure and how the building may affect your neighbors.
- **Start with a sustainable design plan.** A sustainable design plan, according to the U.S. General Services Administration,

includes the ability to use environmentally preferable products; protect and conserve water; enhance indoor environmental quality; and optimize operational and maintenance practices.

- **Choose efficient building methods.** Pole barns offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption.

## Make energy-efficient upgrades

Follow these tips to make energy-efficient upgrades to an existing structure:

- Replace indoor lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs.
- Ensure your existing structure has adequate insulation levels.
- Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient, and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.
- Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. In colder climates, trees act as a windbreak. In warmer climates, trees have a natural cooling

effect that can reduce temperatures in your metal building 3 to 6 degrees.

- Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Typically, there is a 2-degree temperature increase for every 1-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter, and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it will also help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, which will keep harmful bacteria from building and keep insects at bay. ■



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Mark your calendars for the 2022 annual meeting

**Roughrider Electric Cooperative will hold its annual meeting Wednesday, June 1, in Hazen. Look for more information in upcoming issues of *North Dakota Living*.**

## **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 that 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 Twist, Manning; Robert Fitterer, Golden Valley; Randy Becker, Beulah; Lee Alderin, Center; and Clay Price, Washburn.

The committee meetings are scheduled for January 21 and February 23 via conference call.

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

# WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

## Help us help you

As a member of Roughrider Electric Cooperative, we value your opinion and would like to hear how we can better serve you!

This year, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will be completing a member satisfaction survey. Participate by visiting: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022RoughriderElectric](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022RoughriderElectric). Share your feedback with us in this quick, 10-minute survey and help us continue to make Roughrider Electric Cooperative even better!

In addition, you might also receive a random telephone survey performed by Odney Advertising. If you receive a call from Odney Advertising on behalf of Roughrider Electric Cooperative, please take time to answer the questionnaire. Thank you in advance!

## HOLIDAY CLOSING



In observance of  
**Presidents Day,**  
Roughrider Electric  
Cooperative will be  
closed on Feb. 21.

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



### HOW MUCH ELECTRICITY DOES AN AMERICAN HOME USE?

In 2020, the average annual electricity consumption for a U.S. residential utility customer was

**10,715 kWh**  
or an average of about

**893 kWh**  
per month.

### WHAT CAN I DO WITH 1 KWH?

*(based on U.S. average electric rates)*

**89** slices of  
bread toasted

**12** pots of  
coffee brewed

**276** charges  
for your cellphone

**18** hours of  
refrigerator use

**3** loads  
in the washer

**20** hours  
on your laptop

# Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS DEC. 17, 2021

**When, where and who:** The board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative met at the Hazen headquarters on Dec. 17, 2021.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the Nov. 19, 2021, meeting.

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

**Co-general managers' report:** Travis Kupper presented the co-general managers' report.

**2022 budget:** Alex Craigmile presented the proposed 2022 budget and it was approved by the board.

**Board member reports:** Attendees at meetings over the past month reported to the board.

**Operations report:** The board was directed to Jason Bentz's written report. He updated the board on maintenance underway on transmission lines, pole changes and an outage report.

**Upcoming meetings:** The next board meeting was set for 9 a.m. MT on Jan. 28 at the Roughrider Hazen office.

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

## Help us with safety at Roughrider Electric

**R**oughrider Electric Cooperative is an advocate of working safely. In fact, it is our way of life; the culture of your cooperative. We look out for the safety of ourselves and others – before, during and after work. Did you know members also play a key role in keeping our system safe? At times, you are our eyes in the sky and on the ground.

Should you see a power line issue that may need Roughrider Electric Cooperative's attention, please call the office or send us an email at [safety@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:safety@roughriderelectric.com)



with your concern. This correspondence should include the description of the location, your name and complete contact information, and a photo if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all! ■

[www.roughriderelectric.com](http://www.roughriderelectric.com)

**HAZEN OFFICE**

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533  
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545  
7:00 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; 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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