

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NOVEMBER 2023

The power of science: Center-Stanton High School robotics club



PHOTO BY JODI HINTZ

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Ken Albers practices with the robot team.

The power of science: **Center-Stanton High School robotics club**

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS

Whether through basketball, dance, science club or robotics club, students learn valuable skills through various avenues during their school years. Center-Stanton High School (CSHS) offers a variety of these avenues for its students to become well-rounded assets for the community.

The robotics club is just one extracurricular activity that allows students to work on their teamwork, communication and time management skills. The CSHS robotics club, known as the Crocobots, has participants from multiple activities and grades who work together to build and showcase a robot.

The CSHS robotics club was founded in 2015 and is offered as an extracurricular activity for eighth grade through senior students. The club has three main divisions: engineers, programmers and outreach. Each division focuses on different skills for students to work or expand upon. Ken Albers, a junior at CSHS and member of the robotics club, has been involved in all aspects of the membership.

“Division assignments are based off of what our strengths are or what we want to be involved in,” he says.

The engineer division plans and creates the robot, while the programming division works on the software, enabling a robot to make plans and decisions, and execute tasks. The outreach division raises funds for educational events and the club’s expenses. Albers says some students are a part of multiple divisions, and some are trying new divisions to gain experience.

“Everyone has their place on the team,” Albers says.

The robotics club has grown and sparked interest from various grade levels over the years. The outreach division works to ensure the longevity of the club by hosting events for the younger grades at Center-Stanton Public School and works with local businesses. The outreach division works with local businesses and applies for grants to fund these events for the community youth.

“The goal of the events is to teach younger students about science,” says Jodi Hintz, CSHS robotics club advisor.

The club incorporates science through activities like making ice cream with the younger students. In turn, the robotics club members journal about how they raised the funds and made an impact through the event to receive points at competitions.



PHOTO BY JODI HINTZ

The Crocobots compete at a robotics event.

Learning life skills

School activities lay the groundwork for the young adults’ skills and often career paths. The robotics club is no exception to that. Through the robotics club, students have the opportunity to build upon skills they already possess or try a new skill that interests them.

“This club has helped students get a taste of a new skill they may be interested in pursuing for a future career,” Albers says.

“Some of the skills I see students gain are professionalism and building their problem-solving skills,” Hintz says.

Problem solving begins the first weekend in September, when FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) premiered a video of the game where students will have to fit their robot for the season. Throughout the season, the club will take part in various competitions in which they showcase their robot and skills.

“During the season, students get to see that there is not just one way to solve an issue, but multiple, and decide how they are going to come up with which solution they utilize,” Hintz says.

The skills students learn aren’t just showcased during the robotics competitions and during the season, but also outside of the club’s events. Albers shares how the skills learned from the club have helped students get scholarships and start their journey toward college, possibly even sparking a future career. ■

Manager's Message

Playing it safe online



Travis Kupper

In today's world, most of us don't leave the front door unlocked. We protect our homes, loved ones and valuables from intruders with locks, alarms and other security measures. Cybersecurity is no different. It's the practice of protecting other valuables, such as your identity, banking, health records and other sensitive information, from digital attacks and theft.

In addition to pumpkin spice lattes and crisper air, fall is the time of year we often see a rise in phishing scams. While taking necessary steps to protect our personal information is a year-round practice, Roughrider Electric Cooperative uses this time to share helpful cybersecurity reminders across our team of employees.

Given our increased reliance on internet-connected devices and gadgets, I'd like to share a few cybersecurity tips and let you know how Roughrider Electric is working to boost our own cybersecurity efforts.

According to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency, an agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which is responsible for strengthening cybersecurity and infrastructure protection, these are the four best ways to keep you and your family safe online.

1. **Turn on multi-factor authentication or two-step verification on your accounts.** The additional layer of protection makes it much harder for criminals to access your information. Even if hackers obtain your password, they may be unable to access your accounts if multistep verification is enabled.
2. **Update your software.** This is one of the easiest ways to protect your personal data. When downloading a software update, make sure it's coming straight from the company that created it. Beware of fake popups that request urgent downloads. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.
3. **Think before you click.** Most successful cyberattacks start with a phishing email. Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. Avoid emails (or texts) that look too good to be true, oddly urgent, poorly crafted or include unusual requests.

4. **Use strong passwords.** Use long, unique and complex words or phrases. Consider using a password manager to save time. It works across all devices, protects your identity and notifies you of potential phishing websites.

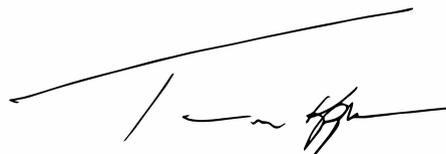
For the young people in your household

Just as you would talk with your children about safety in the physical world, discuss ways to stay safe online. Help them understand the public nature of the internet. Young people need to know what is shared online stays online and is difficult (if not impossible) to take back. Just as you would guard your money or valuables, children need to learn to guard their personal information, especially on social networks. As a parent or guardian, help your children learn about and use the privacy and security settings on social networks and gaming sites.

Keeping electric grid and your data secure

We're doing our share on the cyber front. Part of offering excellent service is keeping that service secure and reliable. For Roughrider Electric, reliability means repairing wear-and-tear, upgrading our equipment to withstand storms and severe weather, and using technology and best practices to keep our system secure from cybersecurity issues. We also work together with co-ops across the country to develop new technologies and infrastructure, learn from each other and keep the grid's network secure.

While we can't stop a storm or predict every disruption, as a co-op, we do everything we can to keep the lights on and our members protected. Because if we all do our part, our interconnected world will be safer and more secure for everyone. ■





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Need help with your heating costs? **LIHEAP can help**

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 make ends meet. Thankfully, there are programs to help members make ends meet.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, also known as LIHEAP, can help low-income and eligible individuals when it comes to heating and insulation costs. Through the N.D. Department of Human Services, human service zone offices and Community Options, individuals can be helped with a variety of services when it comes to heating assistance.

Services offered

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

“For example, if someone lives in a 100-year-old home with outdated windows, LIHEAP can help cover some of the costs for new windows as well as insulation and furnace repairs. These upgrades make the home more energy efficient and reduce their heating costs,” says Shannon Rolandson, outreach officer at Community Options.

The assistance program may also help with the costs of furnace and chimney cleaning, emergency assistance and energy cost-reduction devices.

It is important to remember this program is not only for homeowners, Rolandson says.

“This program not only helps low-income homeowners with energy costs, but renters as well,” she says.

Apply for LIHEAP

LIHEAP eligible members can apply from Oct. 1 through May 31.

“Some individuals can be referred to the program, but anyone is welcomed,” Rolandson says.

Upon applying for LIHEAP, an outreach coordinator will go into your home and assist you in gathering necessary documentation for the service. From there, an application and supporting documents are sent to the state for review. Results may take up to 45 days to review and process.

“This year, the team has been very busy with outreach activities across the state to share information about Community Options programs with our clients and our partnering agencies,” Rolandson says. “We started scheduling appointments to help those who are on a fixed income with their LIHEAP applications in September. Our goal is to share the most information to the most people about the economic assistance programs available.”

Last year, Community Options processed a total of 607 household applications, and 385 were approved for LIHEAP. If you, or someone you know, would like to apply, visit your local human service office for more information.

Applications will be accepted from Oct. 1 through May 31 and can be found online at www.applyforhelp.nd.gov or by request at the local human service zone office or Community Options office. ■

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

Billings/Golden Valley

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

Dunn County

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

Stark County

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

Hettinger County

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

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

McLean County

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

Mercer County

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

Oliver County

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

Safety Starts with ME: Generator safety

Roughrider Electric Cooperative works year-round to keep your electricity flowing and accessible, but sometimes weather conditions hinder lineworkers' response times. The safety of our members and our employees is a top priority at Roughrider Electric, especially during dangerous times. When storms hit our area, Roughrider Electric rushes to your aid as soon as weather conditions allow our lineworkers to travel and make repairs safely.

Our line crews take necessary precautions before they work on downed power lines.

"First, they verify a circuit has been de-energized, and that proper switches are opened and tagged to isolate the circuit from the system. We place ground chains on the circuit – on both sides of workers – to make sure the line cannot be energized while work's being done," says Tyler Phelps, general foreman at Roughrider Electric.

Safety Starts with ME (and YOU)

Even though lineworkers are taking all the safety precautions, they still need help from you to make sure they are safe when generators are in use.

"Roughrider Electric is proud of our outstanding safety record, but sometimes, no matter how many steps we take to keep everyone safe, the very people we are there to help unknowingly put our lives in danger," Phelps says. "Portable generators, widely used when power lines are down, can prove fatal to lineworkers and your neighbors when used improperly."

And Roughrider Electric employees are not the only ones in danger when a portable generator is used improperly. Generator owners themselves may be at risk of electrocution, fire injury, property damage or carbon monoxide poisoning if they do not follow the necessary safety rules.

Portable generators can be very helpful to consumers during outages. But we urge you to follow these safety guidelines when using one:

- **Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use.** This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs. Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect emergency generators to your home.
- **Always plug appliances directly into generators.** Connecting the generator to your home's circuits



or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.

- **Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords.** Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.
- **Ensure your generator is properly grounded.**
- **Never overload a generator.** A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.
- **Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.**
- **Keep the generator dry.** Operate it on a dry surface under an open structure.
- **Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.**
- **Never fuel a generator while it is operating.**
- **Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.** Never cut corners when it comes to safety.

"Help us to protect the well-being and safety of your family during outages, and safeguard those who come to your aid during emergency situations. When we work together for safety and the good of our communities, we all benefit," Phelps says. ■

National Apprenticeship Week

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is celebrating National Apprenticeship Week Nov. 13 to 19 in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor. Apprenticeships provide demand-driven education, allowing apprentices to earn while they learn – helping to close the gap between the skills job creators seek and jobs seekers need.

National Apprenticeship Week provides an opportunity to spotlight how apprenticeships can help employees grow in knowledge and skill to succeed in today's workplace. In exchange, these employees have the opportunity to learn from veteran employees and mentors and earn wages and benefits that sustain families. Those family members work, go to school, purchase goods from area businesses, volunteer in our communities, and ultimately sustain our smaller towns and improve our quality of life.

Roughrider Electric is proud to highlight apprentice lineworkers Colton Walters and Conner Kuntz. We thank all the apprentices out there who are helping electric cooperatives provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service. ■



SCHOLARSHIP

High school students!

Be on the lookout for scholarship information to be released soon on our social media, roughriderelectric.com and future publications of *North Dakota Living*.

APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME



WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

- An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., paid for by Roughrider Electric Cooperative.
- A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world class museums, learning about electric cooperatives and meeting elected officials.
- Developing lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!



JUNE 15 TO 21, 2024

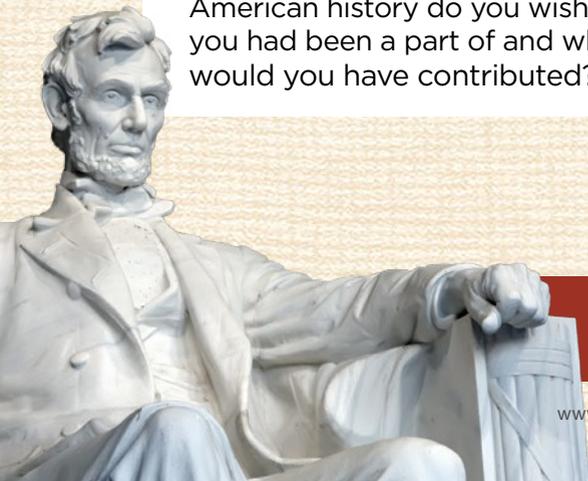
AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

ESSAY QUESTION

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?

HOW TO APPLY

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school, and you and your parents or guardian must be served by Roughrider Electric Cooperative.
- 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? Call Brad at 701-748-2293 during regular business hours.
- **The deadline is Jan. 19, 2024.**



LEARN MORE AT
ROUGHRIDERELECTRIC.COM/YOUTH-TOUR

Roughrider Electric Board Meeting Minutes Highlights: August 25, 2023.

The August meeting of the board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative was held on Aug. 25 at Roughrider Electric's Hazen office. President Greg Steckler called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Roughrider Electric's General Counsel Jennifer Grosz was designated as the meeting recorder. Board quorum was met. Also present were Roughrider's Co-general managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Alex Craigmile, Director of Key Accounts Leonard Hibl and Board Liaison Connie Hill. The meeting commenced with the board reviewing Roughrider Electric's mission statement.

Consent agenda: An addition was made to the consent agenda. The agenda was approved as amended. The July 28 meeting minutes were also approved. Capital credit estate retirements, proposed member applications and cancellations were presented and approved.

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates from Upper Missouri Power Cooperative and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives managers

meeting, RESCO and other topics. The report also included an update from West Dakota Utility Services (WDUS), 3C Construction and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Action items: The board unanimously carried a few board policy changes. They also appointed voting delegates to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and RESCO meetings.

Department reports: Craigmile reviewed the June financial reports in the CFO report. Olson provided the operations report, which included inquiries Roughrider Electric has received, pole testing completion and a July outage report. Hibl presented the member services report, which included events Roughrider Electric participated in during July. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar and Grosz provided reports, which were also reviewed.

Upcoming meetings and events were shared in the administration section.

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

Next meeting date: The next meeting date was set for Sept. 29 at Roughrider Electric's office in Dickinson. ■



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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HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Roughrider Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Friday, Nov. 10, in observance of Veterans Day, and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Line crews will be available in case of an emergency or power outage. We thank all veterans and members of the military for their service and sacrifice!