



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

CURRENT NEWS

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

No power, no toys?

Sports and studies keep Riley Hertz busy at Flasher Public School. After she completes her junior year this month, she will prepare for the trip of a lifetime. In this month's local pages, meet Riley, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour winner, and learn what she appreciates most about electricity.

PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY

MAY ISSUE:

- Electricity makes life 'normal'
- Celebrate cooperatives with FCCU
- Scholarship winners announced
- Safety poster contest winners introduced
- Meeting minutes ... and more!

Hertz appreciates ‘normal’ days thanks to electricity

by Carmen Devney

There are some things textbooks simply can't teach. When Riley Hertz's family lost electric service following the April 2010 snow and ice storm, she learned firsthand some of the many challenges North Dakota's pioneers faced without power.

"It was so much harder than I thought it would be to live without

electricity. It was almost impossible," she admits.

Unlike the hardy pioneers in Morton, Grant and Sioux Counties who didn't experience the convenience of instant light, cold food and warm furnace until Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative started energizing lines in May 1947, Riley missed technology the most.

"I'm always on the Internet or my

cell phone. I wasn't able to charge my phone [without electric service]," she reflects.

A junior at Flasher Public School, Riley wrote and submitted the winning essay for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour contest, which is sponsored by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. Answering the assigned topic, "What would your day be like without electricity?" Riley described what one of her days had been like during the four-day outage.

"I woke with a chill running through my body. The house was 20 degrees colder than the night before. The room was completely dark. I flipped on my light switch and nothing happened. That's when I knew — the electricity had gone out," she wrote.

"Entertainment comes in different methods. Using technology such as the computer to check my email, post on Facebook, write a research paper and get an update on the weather radar is one way to pass the time on a 'normal' day. However, without electricity, my computer remains lifeless. Cell phones may be useful, if I were fortunate enough to own a car charger. They keep us in contact with family members and neighbors who are undergoing the same problem, and of course, the rural electric cooperative. Television is the most common method of entertainment — again fueled by electricity. Obviously, that's not going to happen today," she continued.

At the end of her essay, Riley described the gratitude she felt when linemen restored the power — and indicated she had learned to appreciate how electric service enhances our lives. Riley concluded, "Right after I take a shower, I am going on Facebook to post about my day



At Flasher Public School, Riley likes to design, both with her hands and the computer, and says she hopes to be a photographer when she "grows up."



Riley Hertz (left) was inspired to apply for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour essay contest after her sister, **Bernae**, won last year's contest and recommended the trip and experience.

without electricity. Thank you rural electric cooperative line people! My normal life has returned."

The daughter of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members Reed and Ann Hertz, Riley will learn more about the cooperative business philosophy on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. She will travel to Washington, D.C. June 16-22, along with approximately 1,500 other Youth Tour delegates from across the state and country. While on the trip, Riley will also learn about U.S. government and American history. The North Dakota students will also meet our state's congressional delegation and see sights including the U.S. Capitol, Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian and Mount Vernon.

Riley admits she's nervous to take her first plane ride, but she's confident

she'll have a good time during the Youth Tour. She's received rave reviews from her older sister, Bernae, who wrote an essay during last year's contest and won.

"She said it was probably the best trip of her life. She got to see so many things and meet so many people," Riley relays.

Meeting strangers and becoming fast friends should be no challenge for Riley, who travels across North Dakota for the archery club and FCCLA. When she has time, she also works on the farm at home with her dad, giving cattle shots and cutting hay.

"I like getting dirty," she laughs.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative congratulates Riley for writing a compelling essay about life without electricity and for earning the

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip. After she returns from Washington, D.C., we'll visit with her again and learn the trip's highlights.

Meet your Mor-Gran-Sou neighbors

- Reed Hertz ranches, drives the bus, volunteers as a rural fire fighter, and is opening a bowling alley in Carson
- Ann Hertz works at Flasher Public School and for the ambulance in Carson
- The couple have six children and live northeast of Carson on a farm and ranch

Member spotlight: Flasher Community Credit Union

Story and photos by Carmen Devney

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative continues to celebrate a business model that puts members first, uses innovation to improve, and provides local service while being part of a global network. Throughout 2012, our electric cooperative will join folks around the globe to celebrate the International Year of Cooperatives, a designation given by the United Nations General Assembly.

Building on the theme, “Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World,” Mor-Gran-Sou featured National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) in last month’s center



Darla Schafer (left), manager, and **Tana Schafer**, teller and loan processor, are the only employees of the Flasher Community Credit Union. “Technology allows us to do what 30 years ago five or more people had to do to keep up,” Schafer explains. “It’s cheaper to pay a computer than employees. For the members, it’s the best way to keep costs down.”



Manager of FCCU for the past 18 years, Schafer says growth attributed to the oil industry in western North Dakota is visible in Flasher. “We have quite a few home loans here [at FCCU]. As far as housing, a lot of people are looking, and values are being reassessed by the cities and counties,” she relays.

pages of *North Dakota Living*.

In this month’s pages, we turn the spotlight on the Flasher Community Credit Union (FCCU) — a financial institution located on Main Street in Flasher. Similar to our electric cooperative, the FCCU is owned by about 850 members who are not investors. Darla Schafer, manager, says any profits made by the credit union after what is required to go into reserves is given back to the members in the form of dividends.

“The dividends we pay are based on the amount of a member’s savings,” explains Schafer.

Founded in 1939 by many of the same folks who established Flasher-area cooperatives including Mor-Gran-Sou, Farmer’s

Union Co-op and the elevator, the FCCU is governed by a board of directors who are elected by the membership at the annual meeting. The five directors who make up the FCCU board of directors are credit union members who serve three-year terms. The current directors are Elwood Barth, Jacklyne Carlson, Jerlyn Gabrielson, Jeff Schick and Margaret Unruh.

The credit union also has a credit committee which reviews loans applications and makes decisions on existing loans such as changing payment dates or possible release of security. The three members who serve on this committee are Maureen Bornhoeft, Vicki Krenz and Jeff Schick.

“Our board of directors and our credit committee are very good about giving up their time and talents to look at what’s needed in our community to keep up with the needs of our members,” Schafer notes.

While banks and credit unions offer similar products and services including savings accounts, checking accounts, money market accounts, individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and certificates of deposit, Schafer says there are some differences. Credit unions are governed by the National Credit Union Association and banks are regulated by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). FCCU is also part of the Credit Union Association of the Dakotas.

“That’s always been one of the benefits — to work cooperatively with the other credit unions which we do on participation loans, deposits and more. We’re able to work together. That’s made a lot of services affordable for us, such as online services,” Schafer describes.

Online services have reduced the credit union’s foot traffic, and made financial transactions fast and convenient for members, she adds.

Members who prefer a personal connection are welcome to stop and visit. Children are also welcome, and can play in the toy room while their parents conduct their business. But Schafer laughs and warns, “Sometimes kids don’t want to leave.”

Encouraging young people to think about savings is one of the credit union’s many goals. Schafer gives classroom presentations, and says the credit union waives the \$25 required to open a savings account for kids.

“If they bring in their piggy bank and it has \$2.95, that’s fine,” she smiles.

For more information on the Flasher Community Credit Union, visit www.flashercreditunion.org or call 701-597-3391.

Mor-Gran-Sou thanks Darla Schafer for helping us show how the credit union is one of many cooperative enterprises to build a better world. Our cooperative will continue to celebrate the International Year of Cooperatives, and highlight more co-ops in future local pages of *North Dakota Living*.



Boehm



Kreidt



Scholes



Ulrich

Mor-Gran-Sou announces scholarship winners

by Jackie Miller

Mor-Gran-Sou is pleased to announce the winners of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative/Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative scholarship awards. To encompass more graduates and because education costs are a concern to our members, Mor-Gran-Sou continues to offer four, \$500 scholarship awards: two of the four scholarships are designated for qualified applicants who plan to attend a certified vocational or technical school.

The scholarship committee met Feb. 22 to choose the 2012 winners. Those receiving a \$500 scholarship this fall include: Brandi Boehm, Mandan; Andrew Kreidt, New Salem; Kayla Scholes, Carson; and Blake Ulrich, Elgin. The applicants were required to list academics, achievements and work experience. They were also asked to describe in essay form how local cooperatives contribute to their communities. Please take a few moments to meet our scholarship recipients.

Brandi Boehm plans to attend the University of Mary, Bismarck, and earn a bachelor's degree in agriculture accounting. Her long-term goal is to work as a certified public accountant for Farm Credit Services and own a ranch. Brandi's parents are Nathan and Heather Boehm.

Andrew Kreidt will attend Bismarck State College and pursue a degree in the agricultural industry and technology program. It is Kreidt's hope to become an agronomist and one day return to the family farm. Andrew's parents are George and Mary Kreidt.

Kayla Scholes plans to graduate from Minot State University with a degree in a branch of the educational field. Her ultimate goal is to teach in a school located in rural North Dakota. Kayla's parents are Greg and Karen Scholes.

Blake Ulrich plans to attend Bismarck State College or Dickinson State University and earn a degree in farm and ranch management. After graduation from college, he wants to return to his parent's farm and ranch operation, which he hopes to eventually own. Blake's parents are Rocky and Robin Ulrich.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is honored for the opportunity to play a small part in the education of these young folks. Because of the many accomplished applicants, it took our judges a greater part of the day to decide on the recipients. We thank all those who submitted an application and congratulate our winners. We also express heartfelt congratulations to all the graduates of 2012, and wish you success as you pursue your dreams for a rewarding and bright future.

Mor-Gran-Sou announces candidates seeking board of director positions

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for five Mor-Gran-Sou members vying for one of three board director positions up for reelection in July. In 2012, the three board positions sought include: one for the At-Large position, one for the Morton County position, and one for the Sioux County position.

The board of directors set March 8 as the deadline for receiving members' completed declaration of

candidacy forms. The Nominating Committee met for a final time March 20. At that meeting, the committee declared that the candidates' names received be forwarded to the board of directors for approval. Upon confirmation of eligibility at its regular board meeting on March 28, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors approved the following list of candidates:

At-Large

Mark Doll, New Salem
Dave Kemnitz, Mandan

Morton County

George J. Ferderer, Mandan
Robert Gaebe, New Salem

Sioux County

Chad Harrison, Fort Yates
A full biography of each candidate will appear in Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual report, scheduled to be mailed in late June.

SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Area youth offer ideas on how to celebrate Mor-Gran-Sou's 65th birthday

Mor-Gran-Sou continues to receive a strong message from children in the area as more than 60 posters were received for the annual poster coloring contest. The posters were judged by employees during the March all-employee meeting.

Students were instructed to concentrate on the following topic: *How would you like to help Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative celebrate its 65th birthday?* Many of the students incorporated safety messages within the celebration theme. The judges applauded the students for their thoughtful and artistic efforts.

Mor-Gran-Sou hopes the contest made the students more aware of their responsibility in practicing safety around electricity while enjoying the celebratory mood. We thank all who participated, and wish our young people a great summer. Remember to stay safe when working or playing around electricity!

This year's winners include:

PRE-SCHOOL TO KINDERGARTEN

Julia Rhone,

daughter of Rick and Dawn Rhone

Christiana Goldade,

daughter of Kenneth and

JoAnn Goldade

Javin Friesz,

son of Jade and Sonya Friesz

GRADES ONE TO THREE

Theresa Goldade,

daughter of Kenneth and

JoAnn Goldade

Faith Marion,

daughter of Dave and

Shawna Marion

Kourtney Schaff,

daughter of Marty and Kelly Schaff

GRADES FOUR TO SIX

Peter Goldade,

son of Kenneth and JoAnn Goldade

Joseph Leingang,

son of George and

Rhonda Leingang

Maiya Fleck,

daughter of Bill and Amy Fleck

Winners: preschool through kindergarten



FIRST PLACE:
Julia



SECOND PLACE:
Christiana



THIRD PLACE:
Javin



Theresa



Faith



Kourtney



Peter



Joseph



Maiya

Winners: grades one through three

Winners: grades four through six



FIRST PLACE: Theresa



FIRST PLACE: Peter



SECOND PLACE: Faith



SECOND PLACE: Joseph



THIRD PLACE: Kourtney



THIRD PLACE: Maiya

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: March 28

- Approved the Feb. 29, 2012 Board meeting minutes
- Approved a work order inventory
- Approved retirement applications for capital credits to estates and those age 80 and over
- Heard update on 3C Construction, LLC
- Heard update on refinancing of loan debt
- Reviewed interest savings breakdown from refinancing of loans
- Held the annual Bylaws/Resolutions meeting
- Accepted resignation of Nominating Committee member
- Accepted Nominating Committee's slate of candidates to run for the Board of Directors in 2012
- Approved policy change regarding conflict of interest in Board Governance
- Approved Mor-Gran-Sou/MDU Service Area Agreement and Resolution
- Accepted the 2012 recommended overhead charge
- Heard department updates
- Heard reports on meetings attended
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

May 30 in Mandan in the NDAREC Board Room at 9 a.m. CT

June 27 at the Mor-Gran-Sou Fort Yates Service Center at 9 a.m. CT

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at cternes@morgransou.com; or call 800-750-8212 or 701-597-3301, to confirm the meeting date and location if you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chairman Dave Archambault II or Alliance Co-Manager Donald Franklund at least one week in advance.

Members may obtain a copy of approved board minutes by completing and returning the "Request for Information or Data" form.

Board minutes available to Mor-Gran-Sou members

Each month, Mor-Gran-Sou publishes highlights of the monthly board meeting in the center pages of *North Dakota Living*. This information is presented under the caption "board meeting highlights."

Mor-Gran-Sou reminds members that they do have access to the approved monthly board meeting minutes in their entirety, if they wish to see them. Under present policy, members can request to come to the Mor-Gran-Sou Flasher headquarters office and review the approved minutes or have the approved minutes mailed to them, upon completing a Request for Data form. They can also find the Request for Information or Data form on our website at www.morgransou.com/customer_service/forms_and_applications.

If a member wishes to review the minutes in Flasher, we ask that he/she call before stopping. This courtesy will make the visit more efficient, as the minutes will be readily available upon the interested member's arrival. Members, to request to review the approved monthly board minutes at the office or to obtain a copy by mail, please direct your calls to Manager of Administrative Services Cindy Ternes at 701-597-3301 or 800-750-8212. She will be happy to assist you. For further discussion, please contact Board Chairman Dave Archambault II 701-854-3386.

Save the date!

WHAT: Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual meeting

WHEN: Friday, July 20

WHERE: Prairie Knights Casino and Resort, Fort Yates

WHY: To learn about co-op issues; to cast your vote and elect three members to serve on the board of directors; and eat a hearty meal.



Mor-Gran-Sou WILL BE CLOSED May 28 to honor holiday

Remember to keep "memorial" in Memorial Day, and to observe the day as it should be ... a day where we actively remember our ancestors, our family members, our loved ones, our neighbors and our friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

It is also important to salute those who are now actively serving in the many branches of our military, both overseas and at home. We thank our soldiers for protecting what is precious to all American citizens — OUR FREEDOM.

If anyone from your home is actively serving and is having trouble meeting electric bill expenses, please call Mor-Gran-Sou to work out a suitable payment arrangement.

Mor-Gran-Sou line crews will be available in case of an emergency on Monday, May 28.

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

202 6th Ave. W. - PO Box 297 -

Flasher, ND 58535-0297

Phone: 701-597-3301 - Flasher

701-663-0297 - Mandan

Toll-free: 800-750-8212 Fax: 701-597-3915

UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES

1-800-795-0555 OR 811

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

ChairmanDave Archambault II
 Vice Chairman.....Leland "Judge" Barth
 Secretary-TreasurerPam Geiger
 DirectorsMark Doll, Joe Dunn,
 Vernard Frederick, Robert Gaebe,
 Bob J. Leingang, Casey Wells

MANAGEMENT

Alliance Co-Mgr.Donald A. Franklund
 Alliance Co-Mgr.Clayton O. Hoffman
 Mgr. of Admin. Serv.....Cindy G. Ternes
 Mgr. of Member Serv.....Jackie Miller
 Mgr. of Operations.....Randy Ressler
 Chief of Staff/Line Supt.....Jason Bentz
 Alliance Chief Info. OfficerCharlie Dunbar
 Alliance Chief Fin. OfficerTravis Kupper
 Alliance Human Res. Mgr.....Sienna Sailer
 Alliance Mgr. of Engr. Services.Rob Kelly

www.morgransou.com

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