



CURRENT NEWS



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**Mor-Gran-Sou
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

202 6th Ave. W. – P.O. Box 297
Flasher, N.D. 58535-0297
Phone: 701-597-3301
701-663-0297
Toll-free: 1-800-750-8212
Fax: 701-597-3915

Email: info@morgransou.com

Underground Line Locates

Toll-free: 1-800-795-0555 or 811

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Chair.....Leland "Judge" Barth
Vice Chair.....Casey Wells
Secretary-Treasurer..... Lance Froelich

Directors:

Mark Doll, Vern Frederick,
Chad Harrison,
Jay Larson, Bob J. Leingang

Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Donald A. Franklund
Travis Kupper

www.morgransou.com

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Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is dedicated to providing affordable, reliable energy and services that support and unite our member-owners.

We also aspire to meet the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative core values of integrity, innovation, accountability and commitment to community.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

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Vaping escalates in schools

Local efforts underway to educate families on dangers

In December, *CBS News* published the findings of a large annual survey that revealed twice as many high school students used electronic cigarettes, also known as e-cigarettes, in 2018 compared with 2017.

The Food and Drug Administration has declared that student use of e-cigarettes has reached epidemic proportions. "Vaping" is now the most popular form of nicotine use among teenagers in the United States.

E-cigarettes are a battery-powered device that converts liquid nicotine into a mist, or vapor, that the user inhales. There's no fire, ash or smoke.

Brady Weaver, tobacco prevention coordinator for Custer Health in Morton, Grant and Sioux Counties, says your child may be using nicotine and you may not know it — because Big Tobacco has gotten creative in disguising products.

Use has become difficult to identify, in part, because some of the product designs resemble flash drives, markers, inhalers and oversize lipstick tubes. Parents, would you be able recognize the product and if your child is using?

Maybe not, says Weaver, who says the device that looks like a flash drive actually plugs into a computer and charges so the student can get a fix. These products are also harder to identify because the e-liquid they inhale might smell like gummy bears, cotton candy, peppermint, chocolate or pretty much any scent that could be mistaken for a dessert.

"I've worked in public health for many years, and tobacco use has always been an issue," says Weaver. "The tobacco companies keep coming in and finding ways to get youth to use their products."

In Mor-Gran-Sou's February local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine, read the entire story and learn why vaping is dangerous — and kids are vulnerable.

Also in the FEBRUARY issue of *North Dakota Living*:

■ Crews perform line patrol ■ Happy Valentine's Day! ■ Board highlights

DEADLINES APPROACHING on youth opportunities

For details, read the February local pages of *North Dakota Living*.



Student scholarships

The deadline to apply is Feb. 20. Mor-Gran-Sou takes pride in assisting with the development of rural leadership through our scholarship program. We feel it's important to help finance our local students' educational journeys by offering scholarships to qualifying seniors.

Again this year, \$7,500 in scholarships is available to assist qualifying seniors.

Safety poster coloring contest

The deadline to enter is Feb. 21. Kids, draw a poster that tells our readers how you play and work safe around electricity!

Holiday closing: Presidents Day

In observance of Presidents Day, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday, Feb 18. Line crews will be available in case of an emergency outage.



A downed power line may still be energized, and could cause serious injury or death.

If you see a downed power line, stay clear! Never touch, attempt to move, or drive over downed power lines. And never enter water where a downed line is located.

Immediately report a downed line to Mor-Gran-Sou.

Serve your electric co-op as a director

Annual Meeting scheduled for July 19, 2019

Consider serving as a board director for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Co-op! The initial commitment is a three-year term, with provisions in the bylaws limiting a director to serving six consecutive three-year terms, after which time the director is not eligible for another six consecutive three-year terms until one year has elapsed.

At the annual meeting, the following four board positions will be elected:

- The Grant County position presently held by Vern Frederick;
- The Mandan-Area position presently held by Judge Barth;
- The Morton County position presently held by Jay Larson; and
- The Morton County position presently held by Bonnie Tomac.*

**This position is to serve the remaining two years of a three-year term, as Ms. Tomac resigned effective Dec. 31.*

Under the bylaws and due to the use of a mail-in ballot, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. Instead, the bylaws require the board of directors to appoint a Nominating Committee of five to nine members who geographically represent the co-op. These members will provide a list of qualified and willing candidates to the board for approval and inclusion on the ballot at the board of directors' meeting scheduled for March 27.

The Nominating Committee was appointed by the board, and met for the first time on Jan. 9. Members include Bryce Allen, Mandan; Glenda Gross, Selfridge; Andrew Holle, Mandan; Rhonda Leingang, Solen; Alan Malm, Flasher; Garek Murphy, Fort Yates; Jim Neubauer, Mandan; Shari Striegel, Carson; and Travis Wilkens, New Salem.

For more information, read the February local pages of *North Dakota Living*, contact a Nominating Committee member, or contact Jackie at Mor-Gran-Sou at jmiller@morgransou.com or 800-750-8212.

Bylaws and resolutions for the annual meeting

Under the bylaws, any bylaw amendments or resolutions must be presented to the members in writing in advance of the annual meeting. The board of directors has charged the Nominating Committee with reviewing and advising the board of any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions. Therefore, any proposed bylaw amendments and resolutions should be submitted in writing no later than March 21, 2019, and/or they can be presented in-person at the following in-person meeting of the Nominating Committee:

- March 21 in the Mor-Gran-Sou office board room in Flasher at 7 p.m. CT

If you wish to submit a bylaw amendment or resolution in writing, please forward it to Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attn: Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297, before March 21.

2-1-1 HELPLINE

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Text your zipcode to 898-211 or **Dial 2-1-1** or **701-235-7335** to get connected to help & hope.

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