



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

THIS ISSUE:

- Celebrating Co-op Month
- Need help with energy bills?
- Explaining power blinks
- Enter your Youth Tour era

OCTOBER
2024

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Everett J Iron Eyes Jr., part of the Wozu team helps local students plant trees on on the Wozu property

REGENERATING THE COMMUNITY:
Seeds of change at Wozu

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS

A few miles north of Cannon Ball on Highway 1806, you'll come across a building nestled amid gardens, animals and recreational activities. This is Wozu.

Wozu, founded in 2021, began with a mission to plant seeds of change in the community of Cannon Ball. Wozu, meaning "to plant or grow," embodies its name by fostering deep connections between its members and nature.

"Wozu is a safe and productive place for community members of all ages to come, unwind and relax," says Davis Fool Bear with the Wozu team.

The beginning

Wozu began as an idea to bring the community together and drive regeneration of culture, social interactions and land. These pillars now stand as Wozu's mission: cultural, land and social regeneration.

Dave Archambault II, the founder and executive director, spent many days on the prairie of what is now Wozu, brainstorming how these three pillars could be integrated back into the community of Cannon Ball. He began working to regenerate the land with the help of local regenerative producers like Gabe Brown and Ray Schmidt Jr. to see how

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the land could return to its most natural state. From there, cover crops were planted, native species were introduced once again and animals were released in the area. Wozu also works in partnership with Pheasants Forever and soil conservation districts to implement these practices.

From the moment the team started working the land, they recognized the need for a dedicated space to store their equipment. This led them to initiate plans for a cold storage shop. During this planning phase, Wozu began to truly flourish. The ideas of what Wozu could be kept evolving, and the team soon recognized they would need a larger space for social and cultural regenerations as well.

The main entrance of the building welcomes visitors to a common area for people to enjoy themselves. The building also includes a conference room, three computer areas, a large kitchen area for classes and an open upstairs for socialization and workshops. Art workshops, exercise classes and movie screenings mostly occupy the upstairs space. The main space is attached to a shop that houses equipment, but also has freezer space, a minnow tank, canned goods, processing equipment and more.

Regenerating the community

Wozu works to create a lasting relationship between the land and the community, the past and the present, animals and sustainability.

“We help people in our community come back to their heritage through working with our buffalo herd, regenerative agriculture, culture of arts and wellness and outdoor stewardship,” Archambault says. “Land regeneration and social regeneration go hand in hand. You cannot do one without the other. If you take care of the land, the land will take care of you and the future generations. If you take care of the animals, the animals will help sustain healthy living.”

On the Wozu property, you may spot one of the 14 buffalo, which have been integrated onto the land to help regenerate the pastures through cell grazing. The buffalo were given to Wozu from the Colorado Parks and Recreation, and they hope to add more to the herd in the future.

Through the study of the buffalo, the Wozu team will be able to see how they work best with the land, ultimately with the goal of restoring the land to its most natural state. With help from the regenerative agriculture community, members worked on building raised garden beds, managing the garden and greenhouse on the Wozu property. A group also planted 39 gardens around the Cannon


Ball community. A group from the community also manages the greenhouses through the summer and even into the winter with the underground greenhouse.

Chickens are also used on the property. Their eggs are collected daily and their manure is used in the garden, which is a fruitful addition to the soil. Everything grown and produced at Wozu is given back to the community. Each Wednesday, community members are welcome to pick up eggs, meat and garden produce.

Another important pillar at Wozu is social regeneration. Wozu has miles of scenic trails open for biking and walking, and cross-country skiing in the winter. They have worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local students to plant 250 fruit trees, ranging from buffalo berries to chokecherries. Since many wild fruits and other vegetables can be found on the trails, Wozu hosts plant identification classes. Other outdoor activities are endless, including kayaking, fishing, archery and many others.

Cultural regeneration includes exploring arts and wellness at Wozu. This pillar explores arts, such as sewing ribbon skirts, making star quilts, beading and drawing. Elders are essential in cultural regeneration, and they are often invited to speak to the youth about various subjects.

“We have the resources and the opportunities to instill deep connections with nature and our community,” Archambault says. “This is just the beginning of what is to come here, and we look forward to what the impact Wozu will have on our community and members.”

Wozu is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day and anyone is welcome to stop by. For further details on events, visit “Wozu” on Facebook or visit www.wozu.net. 



Craft night, just one of the many activities hosted at Wozu.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: Celebrating Cooperative Month



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/CEO

As we celebrate Cooperative Month this October, we reflect on the remarkable strength that comes from working together. This month, we not only honor the cooperative principles that define our service, but also recognize the collaborative spirit that enhances our operations.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is an owner of the Innovative Energy


Alliance Cooperative, which stands as a testament to the power of partnership. Four cooperatives stand together for shared services, as we embrace the cooperative model to streamline operations, share resources and maximize efficiency. This collaborative approach ensures we provide you with the highest quality service, while maintaining our commitment to affordability and reliability.

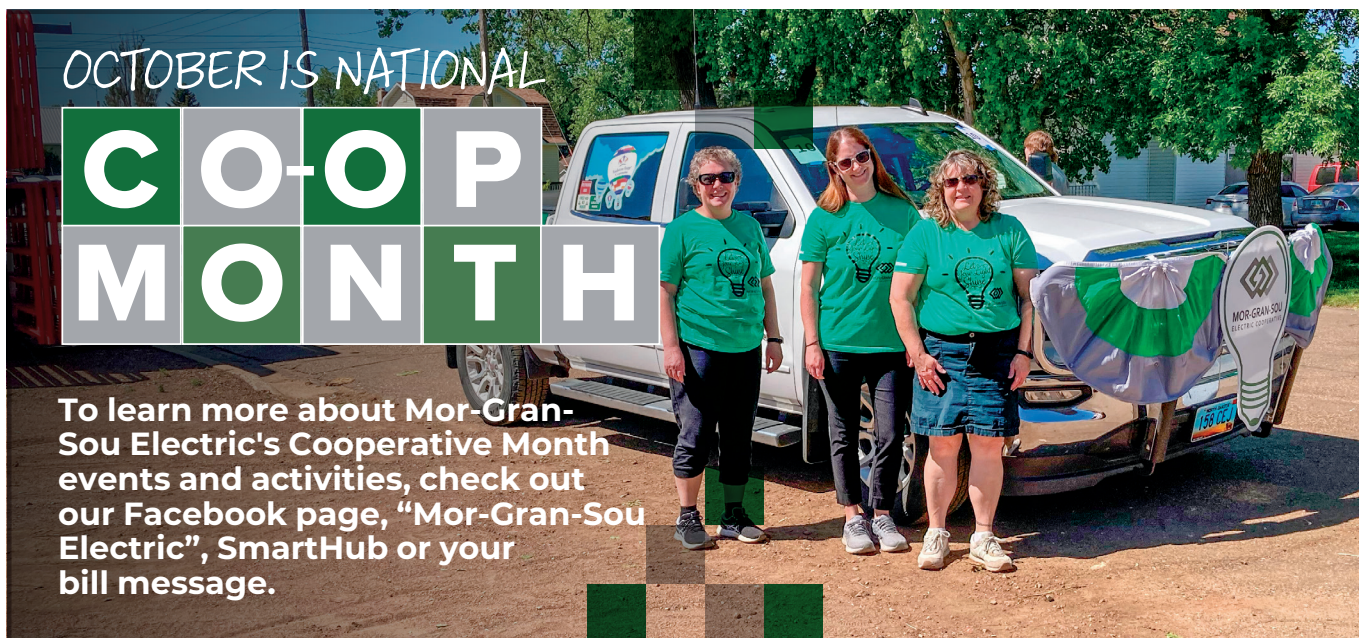
Working together with other cooperatives allows us to leverage collective expertise and innovations that benefit all our members. By combining resources and knowledge, we enhance our ability to address challenges and seize opportunities

more effectively than we could alone. This unity of purpose strengthens our capacity to serve you better and fosters a sense of community that extends beyond our individual cooperatives.

Cooperative Month is a time to celebrate the unique value of our model, where mutual support and shared goals drive us forward. Your involvement and support are crucial to our success. Together, we create a cooperative environment that prioritizes your needs, values transparency and reinvests in our community.

We invite you to join us in celebrating Cooperative Month by participating in our upcoming events and activities. Experience firsthand how our collaborative efforts enhance our service and demonstrate the true spirit of cooperation.

Thank you for being an essential part of our cooperative family. Your support and engagement make our collective achievements possible and help us build a brighter future for all. 





MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: **Need help with your energy bills?**



Julie Armijo

Chief of Staff/Member
Services Manager

As autumn arrives, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members are faced with cooling temperatures, and even 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.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help low-income

and eligible individuals with assistance when it comes to heating and insulation costs in the winter. 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 home energy assistance, including heating.

Services offered

LIHEAP offers a variety of service assistance. Not only can the program help curb the costs of

your heating and cooling bills, but it also helps households with weatherization services to make homes more energy efficient.

The assistance program may also help with the costs of furnace and chimney cleaning, emergency assistance and for devices to reduce energy costs. Homeowners and renters are eligible to apply for assistance.

Apply for LIHEAP

LIHEAP eligible members can apply from Oct. 1 through May 31, 2025.

Upon applying for LIHEAP, an outreach specialist will enter your home and assist in gathering necessary documentation for the service. From there, an application will be sent to the state for review and the results will be provided within a few weeks.

Check with your local human service office for more information regarding these services.

Applications can be found online at www.applyforhelp.nd.gov or by request at the local human service zone office or Community Options.



Additional resources

Three Rivers Human Service Zone:
Serving Grant, Morton and Sioux counties

Grant County
106 Second Ave. NE
P.O. Box 278, Carson, ND 58529
Phone: 701-622-3706 or 711

Morton County
210 Second Ave. NW, Mandan, ND 58554-3124
Phone: 701-667-3395

Sioux County
105 N. Agency Ave.
P.O. Box B, Fort Yates, ND 58538
Phone: 701-854-3821 or 711

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: **Explaining power blinks**



Gary Fitterer

Manager of Operations

Have you ever arrived home and noticed your microwave clock or your bedside digital clock is blinking? Sometimes, variables out of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's control momentarily disrupt electric power to our members. Those disruptions can be caused by birds, squirrels or foliage, just to name a few.

These brief interruptions of service are known as power blinks. We are committed to

providing continuous, reliable electric service to the homes, farms and businesses we serve and would like to explain power blinks further.


What's a power blink?

Power blinks are a brief service interruption, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on

a power line. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, such as animals contacting an energized power line, tree branches touching a power line, lightning or other similar events.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices such as TripSavers, which act like circuit breakers, are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good, because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric crews are ready to evaluate the issue and make necessary repairs after a power outage.

You can help, too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 800-750-8212. 



DO YOU HAVE AN UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT CHECK FROM MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC?

If so, please call the office at 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 800-750-8212 before cashing the check.



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Safety around substations

The electric grid is a complex system of power plants, transmission lines, substations and distribution lines that transmits electric power from the place where it's generated all the way to members at the end of the line.

When you are outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other electrical equipment Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative uses to send electricity to your home.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric urges members to follow these tips to stay safe around substations:

- **Keep a safe distance:** Always maintain a safe distance from the substation. Substations are fenced for a reason, and only authorized personnel should enter. Teach children never to play near or attempt to enter a substation.
- **Report suspicious activity:** If you notice anyone in an unmarked vehicle or someone not wearing high-visibility clothing tampering with equipment or trying to enter the substation, report it to local authorities and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric immediately. Unauthorized access can be extremely dangerous.
- **Stay clear during storms:** After severe weather, avoid substations, since damaged power lines or equipment could pose significant risks. Wait for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric crews to assess and repair any damage.
- **Do not touch downed power lines:** If you see a downed power line near a substation, assume it is live and dangerous. Stay far away and contact emergency services and Mor-Gran-Sou Electric to report it.



CODY
LEAD LINEWORKER

“Substations are crucial in ensuring reliable power to our members,” says Cody Graetz, lead lineworker. “Keeping in mind the risks they pose when outdoors helps members take a part in ensuring electric services can continue to flow to homes and businesses in our community.”

Remember if you see anything suspicious around any electric equipment, please call local authorities or our office as soon as possible at 701-597-3301, 800-750-8212 or 701-663-0297.



ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION SAFETY TIPS

➤➤➤ *Keep a safe distance.*

➤➤➤ *Report suspicious activity.*

➤➤➤ *Stay clear during storms.*

ENTER YOUR YOUTH TOUR ERA



FIRED UP @ GETTYSBURG!



HONORING HEROES @ WWI MEMORIAL



JUNE 15-21, 2025

1,800 students.
7 days.
1 unforgettable trip.

Join us on the adventure of a lifetime. On the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, you'll do it all. You'll explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress and get an up-close look at where our country's laws are crafted. You'll stand on the Gettysburg Battlefield, walk the halls of George Washington's iconic 18th-century mansion and witness ceremonies honoring the men and women who fought in uniform for this great nation. For one jam-packed week, you'll be immersed in the cooperative spirit that built and sustains our great nation. And **all expenses are paid** by your local electric cooperative!

Yeah, Youth Tour hits different.

To enter the essay-writing contest:

- You must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.

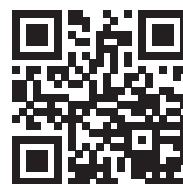
Essay question:

Why is it important to be involved in your community, and how does that prepare you to be a future leader?

The application deadline is Jan. 17, 2025.

Email entries to Julie Armijo at jarmijo@morgransou.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND, 58535-0297.

Questions? Please contact Julie Armijo, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 1-800-750-8212 during regular business hours.



Learn more at
ndyouthtour.com



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS July 31

The board of directors meeting of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was held on July 31 at the Mandan Service Center in Mandan. Chair Steve Tomac called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. A quorum was present. Also present were Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Manager of Operations Gary Fitterer, Member Services Manager Julie Armijo, Interim General Counsel Andrew Fergel and Executive Assistant Connie Hill.

Consent agenda: Additions were proposed to the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved as amended.

Strategic agenda: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on the Basin Electric Power Cooperative summer managers meeting, Guy Wire Marking Committee meeting, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission initial ruling and more. Several Basin Electric reports, and West Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction

updates were available for review.

Action items: Action items were discussed and resolved.

Executive session: The board entered an executive session.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report. Fitterer reviewed the operations report, which included updates on the 2024 construction season. Armijo reviewed her member service report with the board, which included an IVR payment update and annual meeting recap. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report for the board. Fergel provided a general counsel report.

Discussion/general information: No additional items were brought to the board for discussion.

The meeting concluded with the adjournment.

Secretary-Treasurer Geiger certified the accuracy of the minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 10 a.m. Oct. 30 in Mandan.

HAPPY COOPERATIVE MONTH!

PROUDLY BUILT, LED AND SHAPED BY OUR MEMBERS.



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Email us: info@morgransou.com
UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 OR 811

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair.....Steve Tomac
Vice Chair.....Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer.....Pam Geiger
Directors.....Mark Doll, Rodney Froelich,
Bob J. Leingang, Ryan Petrick,
Kathy Tokach, Casey Wells

MANAGEMENT

Co-GM/CEOTravis Kupper
Co-GM/CEOJason Bentz

www.morgransou.com

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