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JULY 2015

NEWS

BREAK AWAY



A 2.8-second catch affirmed **Clay Gerhardt's** second-place finish in the N.D. Junior High Rodeo, along with his partner, **Rosie**. In this month's local pages, learn what this team will experience at the Junior High Nationals, and why the opportunity means a great deal to this young man and his family, who are Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members from northwest of Mandan.

PHOTO BY JUS PHOTOS

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- Meeting minutes and more!



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY



Clay Roper Gerhardt

STATE WINNER, NATIONAL COMPETITOR

Clay Gerhardt learns the joys and pains of rodeo

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

A few points make all the difference in determining who stays and who goes.

Last year, Clay Roper Gerhardt, a seventh-grade participant in the N.D. Junior High Rodeo, missed going to the Junior High Nationals in the Team Roping division by just a few points.

This year, he and his partner, Caydon Roshau, won the same competition. Both teenagers will attend the national competition for the first time as a team June 21 to 28 in De Moines, Iowa.

Clay, the son of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members Lance and Tina Gerhardt, competed in seven state events this year and qualified for nationals in four including Breakaway Roping, Team Roping, Steers Saddlebronc and Steers Bareback.

Clay says his favorite event is team roping. He and his 15-year-old gelding, Toad, are the headers, and Roshau and his horse, Trigger, are the heelers. Together, they stand as state champions in the Team Roping division with 74 points respectively. Clay also placed first in Steers Saddlebronc with 78 points, second in Boys Breakaway Roping with 70 points, and third in Steers Bareback with 64 points.

According to www.nhsra.com/ Jr-High-Division, the “best of the best” junior high rodeo participants from 48 states and provinces that belong to the National High School Rodeo Association qualify for the National Junior High Finals Rodeo. Approximately 1,000 competitors show their talents in a variety of events including Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Goat Tying, Breakaway Roping, Tie-Down Roping, Chute Dogging, Team Roping, Ribbon Roping, and Junior Bull Riding, Bareback Steer Riding and Saddle Bronc Steer Riding. They compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships and prizes.



PHOTO BY J.S. PHOTOS

Riding rough stock is one of Clay Gerhardt's favorite events. Last year in Valley City, Clay rode a bull for five seconds before falling off — and getting hung up. The bull jumped a few times and Clay's hand was freed. As he was leaving the arena, the bull horned him in the butt. Thankfully, the only thing injured was his pride.

At nationals, participants will perform two times in each event in which they qualified. Each individual's best score or fastest time is combined from the two rounds. The top 20 contestants advance to the short round. In between competitions, the youth stay busy with activities including sand volleyball, relay races and more.

Growing up on a ranch northwest of Mandan, Clay and his brother, Cole, spend a lot of time with family and horses: riding in Killdeer and in the Badlands, and participating in youth rodeos. The boys also wrestle and play football.

Lance and Tina agree that Clay is very good at handling horses. He trains and sells colts for extra cash, and has recently started working with other people's horses, training or correcting some undesirable habits.

Clay is taking his two horses, Toad and Rosie, to nationals.

"I just like riding them," he says.

"They know their jobs."

"The horses have taught him a lot," Tina says of the practice and training it has taken for Clay to compete and win at the state level. "If it wasn't for them, he wouldn't be where he is."

The family is thankful for the many folks who have supported them over the years, including Prairie Skies Arena, JD and Sara Bubels, and

the Dan Reis ranch for letting Clay practice in their indoor facilities.

"We are so thankful for all the help and support of businesses, family and friends," Tina says.

Clay says the things he likes best about rodeo are, "making friends and winning buckles." His dad says spending time with the horses is great, too.

Tina says all the hard work has been worth it.

"We have shed quite a few tears. There is good and bad with it," she describes. "You have a lot of very proud and happy moments that make the hard work pay off."

"It was pretty hard last year when he missed it," Lance continues. "This year, he made it."

This article was published the same week Clay went to nationals. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative congratulates Clay Roper Gerhardt and Caydon Roshau for winning state titles and earning their way to nationals. If either makes the short go, and we sure hope they do, we'll report in next month's local pages of *North Dakota Living*.

For information on the North Dakota Junior High Rodeo Division, visit <http://ndjhrd.com/>.

For information on the Junior High Division of the National High School Rodeo Association, visit www.nhsra.com/Jr-High-Division. ■

Meet your Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative neighbors

- Lance works at Prairie Supply
- Tina works at the Antique Coin Exchange
- Clay, 13
- Cole, 10



COURTESY PHOTO



Wayne Peltier (left), and Paul Sukut

Message from Basin Electric Power Cooperative

BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GENERAL MANAGER
PAUL SUKUT AND BOARD PRESIDENT WAYNE PELTIER

[Editor's note: Basin Electric Power Cooperative supplies much of the power distributed to Mor-Gran-Sou consumers throughout the tri-county area. We asked Paul Sukut and Wayne Peltier to update our members on what is happening at Basin Electric.]

Our members are our foundation.

You created Basin Electric for a purpose – to provide reliable, low-cost electricity for your homes and businesses. It's what we've done for more than five decades, and it's what the board and employees are solidly focused on doing every day.

As a cooperative, Basin Electric's purpose is greater than megawatts and kilovolts. Basin Electric is the rancher outside of Newell, S.D.; the young family making their home near Brighton, Colo.; the business owner south of Minot. We are member-owned, member-driven. No matter what part each of us plays in the daily operation of the cooperative, the simple fact is, Basin Electric is about people. We exist to serve our members.

Every challenge faced and decision made has been done as a cooperative family. 2014 was no different. It brought the decision to join a regional transmission organization (RTO); a change of leadership; the retirement of long-time employees and addition of new employees; the board approved a new urea facility at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, as well as new transmission and generation. We worked through proposed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations and cyber

and physical security standards, and we continued to plan for a growing membership.

It's a lot, but it's not unlike many other years in Basin Electric's history.

An example is the decision to join an RTO. After years of analysis and evaluation, the members determined that now was the time to join. In late 2015, Basin Electric will become a transmission-owning member of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP).

There will be new terms, new processes, and new concepts and ways of working. Though "new" may be a little uncomfortable at times, nothing about joining SPP will change the fundamental cooperative values that define Basin Electric.

It's a response to a changing world. It's the same with EPA regulations. EPA's proposed 111(b) and 111(d) rules have called for unobtainable limits of carbon dioxide emissions from new and existing facilities.

Basin Electric is engaged in the process and has worked to help shape it. From coordinating an Energy States Coalition to providing comments to the EPA, we want reasonable rules that make sense for our membership and our nation.

Our facilities are relatively young, and we're very proud of their strong operating and safety records. We think it's irresponsible for regulators to pick and choose fuel and technology winners and losers, and it's economically detrimental for our nation.

At the same time we're fighting for

our baseload facilities, we're growing. We need more power and more transmission to move power across our membership. This year's load forecast showed that for the first time in years, most of Basin Electric's membership is growing; however, the Williston Basin continues to experience the most significant growth. By the end of 2014, Williston Basin growth had slowed slightly due to a decline in oil prices, but the overall growth trend continues.

Basin Electric is responding with a new 345-kilovolt transmission line, Antelope Valley Station to Neset, which is under construction; and our board approved another expansion of the Pioneer Generation Station and the Lonesome Creek Station. In addition, Basin Electric executed contracts in 2014 for more wind generation.

At Dakota Gasification Company's Great Plains Synfuels Plant, the board approved the addition of a urea production facility to the ever-growing list of products produced at the plant. This is a huge undertaking, but one that is possible because our cooperative is fundamentally strong. We're strong because we're standing on the shoulders of incredible people – our members and our employees.

We're not a perfect family, but we're family nonetheless. And when our mission is to work for and look out for one another, we can't lose. We are member-owned, member-driven. We are a cooperative.

Thank you to our members and our employees for keeping Basin Electric strong. ■



Bob Harris

Message from Western Area Power Administration

UGP guarantees reliable hydropower to customers, adapts to industry changes

BY SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND
UPPER GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL MANAGER BOB HARRIS

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Western Area Power Administration (Western) supplies a portion of the power distributed to Mor-Gran-Sou consumers throughout the tri-county area. We asked Bob Harris to update our members on what is happening at Western.]

This year is particularly exciting for Upper Great Plains (UGP) as we finish our 2021 Power Marketing Initiative (PMI) long-term power and associated interconnection/facility contracts, and transition our Eastern Interconnection facilities to the Southwest Power Pool (SPP).

The 2021 PMI extended the current marketing plan with changes to a few marketing principles, including the institution of 30-year contract terms and occasional resource pools. The longer contract terms will provide our customers stability in their power portfolios to meet their customers' needs well into the future. The 1-percent resource pools, drawn from existing allocations every 10 years, will ensure the most widespread use of the public hydropower resource.

We completed the 2021 PMI in November 2011, and spent a few years revising and standardizing our power and interconnection/facility contracts to help our customers better understand their allocations and services. I expect Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be offered new contracts in July or August, which will guarantee their member-owners access to clean, renewable, reliable, low-cost hydropower through 2050.

At the end of 2014, we completed our minor firm-power rate adjustment, which modified the drought adder and base rate components with no change to the overall rate. This highlights how responsible system planning and spending, done in partnership with our customers, can support stable rates while maintaining system health and reliability.

That said, the firm power rate is greatly influenced by water conditions.

We are currently expecting a slightly-below-normal water year, according to hydrology reports from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. The drought that is prevalent in much of Western's service territory is not as severe in the Upper Great Plains. Spring rains in April, May and June have erased most of the drought in the Midwest.

Transition to SPP

After more than 20 years of operational studies with the other Integrated System owners, UGP has decided to become a member of SPP starting Oct. 1. The expansion of the SPP and Midcontinent Independent System Operator to the east plus limited ties to the Western Interconnection and Canada markets had effectively isolated the Integrated System from beneficial trading opportunities. By joining SPP, we will be able to continue to provide our more than 300 customers with reliable, low-cost hydropower and related services by giving UGP more access to neighboring generation and transmission facilities.

Transition teams continue to work through the details of the change, which will merge the Eastern Interconnection Balancing Authority into SPP's Balancing Authority, integrated market place and Open Access Transmission Tariff. UGP will retain operation of Western's transmission facilities. Thanks to the diligent work of the transition teams, the change should be transparent to most customers, and have no impact on firm electric service rates or delivery. To prepare us for the SPP Tariff, we are currently finalizing new transmission and ancillary service rates. UGP will still be the transmission operator, responsible for

delivery of its contractual obligation to each customer load.

I am looking forward to working with SPP and starting a new chapter for UGP and Western. Our membership will be the first time any Western region or power marketing administration has become a transmission-owning member of an RTO and fully participated in an organized market. Our customers have been tremendously supportive as we have navigated these changes, and we greatly appreciate their continued collaboration and partnership.

System upgrades near Mor-Gran-Sou

UGP's linemen, electricians, electronic communications craftsmen, meter and relay employees, and others do an outstanding job in keeping the lights on in dangerous environments and sometimes harsh conditions. Of all UGP's accomplishments, our safety record makes me the most proud. Nothing is more important than knowing my employees return home safely each day.

This fall, UGP plans to replace a power transformer and a power circuit breaker, and add oil containment in the Devaul Substation. The equipment has reached the end of its useful life. This work will ensure reliable power delivery and reduce the risk of an environmental spill close to the Heart River.

2015 is shaping to be an important year for UGP, and I and the others at UGP greatly appreciate the support from Mor-Gran-Sou and the other Pick-Sloan customers. Together, we will create a successful and relevant future for Western, UGP and its customers. ■



Plan to Attend

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held on Friday, July 17, at Prairie Knights Casino and Resort. The address is 7932 Hwy. 24, Fort Yates.

Please note the meeting schedule:

- 3:30-5:30 p.m. CT – Registration
- 5:30 p.m. CT – Business meeting call to order, election of candidates
- 6:00 p.m. CT – Business meeting recessed; annual meeting banquet served
- 7:00 p.m. CT – Business meeting reconvenes.

We wish to stress that on July 17th, when the meeting is called to order at 5:30 pm CT, no further ballots will be distributed at the registration table. However, meal tickets will be available until 6 p.m. Please plan on being there in time to vote. ■



PHOTO BY GARMEN DENNEY

Mor-Gran-Sou Board Chair **Leland "Judge" Barth** visited with members at last year's annual meeting.



The KX/Co-op Day at the N.D. State Fair will be held July 22 in Minot. If you plan to attend the fair on July 22, please stop by the Flasher office or the Mandan Service Center (2816 37th St. N.W.) and pick up reduced-price tickets for \$1 off gate admission, a free breakfast served near the Commercial II Building on the fairgrounds, \$5 off unlimited-ride wristbands for carnival rides, \$1 off the Ranch Rodeo admission and a free ice cream social at the KX/Co-op tent.

To print your own tickets, go to <http://ndstatefair.com/>. Under "Plan" click on "Coupons and Promotions." Scroll down to KX/Co-op Day July 22 and click on "click here."

SCHEDULE ON JULY 22:

- 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.: Eat a free pancake breakfast on the north side of Commercial Building II.
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Stop by the KX/Co-op tent to visit with different cooperatives and learn about their products and services. Play games, win prizes, and register to win door prizes donated by participating cooperatives.
- 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.: Eat a free ice cream cone served by cooperative volunteers at the KX/Co-op tent.

KX/Co-op Day at the North Dakota State Fair is an annual event sponsored by KXMC-TV in Minot and the North Dakota Coordinating Council for Cooperatives, a group of cooperative associations that joined together to promote and educate people about cooperatives. ■

Friends & Neighbors Day

July 16 from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory
1701 10th Ave. S.W., Mandan

The annual event, sponsored by the Area 4 SCD Cooperative Research Farm, allows the public an opportunity to visit the beautiful USDA campus and learn about the local world-class agriculture and environmental research. USDA employees will offer presentations on their work, tours, children's learning activities, and an afternoon-long barbecue. For more information, call 701.667.3001 or go to www.area4farm.org or www.ars.usda.gov/pa/ngprl. ■

HOW TO SIZE YOUR WATER HEATER



A properly sized water heater will meet your household's hot water needs while operating more efficiently. So, before purchasing a water heater, make sure it's the correct size.

To properly size a storage water heater for your home – including a heat pump water heater with a tank – use the water heater's first hour rating. The first hour rating is the number of gallons of hot water the heater can supply per hour (starting with a tank full of hot water). It depends on the tank capacity, source of heat (burner or element), and the size of the burner or element.

The Energy Guide label lists the first hour rating in the top left corner as "Capacity (first hour rating)." The Federal Trade Commission requires an Energy Guide label on all new conventional storage water heaters but not on heat pump water heaters. Product literature from a manufacturer may also provide the first hour rating. Look for water heater models with a first hour rating that matches within one or two gallons of your peak hour demand

– the daily peak one-hour hot water demand for your home.

To estimate your peak hour demand:

- Determine what time of day (morning, noon, evening) you use the most hot water in your home. Keep in mind the number of people living in your home.
- Use the worksheet below to estimate your maximum usage of hot water during this one hour of the day. This is your peak hour demand. Note: The worksheet does not estimate total daily hot water usage. ■

Worksheet for Estimating Peak Hour Demand/First Hour Rating

Use	Average gallons of hot water per usage	Times used during 1 hour	Gallons used in 1 hour
Shower	10	×	=
Shaving (.5 gallon per minute)	2	×	=
Hand dishwashing or food prep (2 gallons per minute)	4	×	=
Automatic dishwasher	6	×	=
Clothes washer	7	×	=
		Total Peak Hour Demand	=

Keep your energy bills out of hot water

You can lower your water heating costs by using less hot water in your home. To conserve hot water, you can fix leaks and install low-flow fixtures.

Fix leaks

You can significantly reduce hot water use by simply repairing leaks in fixtures – faucets and shower heads – or pipes. A leak of one drip per second can cost \$1 per month.

Install low-flow fixtures

For maximum water efficiency, select a shower head with a flow rate of less than 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm). There are two basic types of low-flow shower heads: aerating and laminar-flow. Aerating shower heads mix air with water, forming a misty spray. Laminar-flow shower heads form individual streams of water.

If you have fixtures that pre-date 1992, you might want to replace them if you're not sure of their flow rates. Here's a quick test to determine whether you should replace a shower head:

- Place a bucket – marked in gallon increments – under your shower head.
- Turn on the shower at the normal water pressure you use.
- Time how many seconds it takes to fill the bucket to the one-gallon mark.
- If it takes less than 20 seconds to reach the one-gallon mark, you could benefit from a low-flow shower head.

The aerator – the screw-on tip of a faucet – ultimately determines the maximum flow rate of a faucet. Typically, new kitchen faucets come equipped with aerators that restrict flow rates to 2.2 gpm, while new bathroom faucets have ones that restrict flow rates from 1.5 to 0.5 gpm.

Aerators are inexpensive to replace and they can be one of the most cost-effective water conservation measures. For maximum water efficiency, purchase aerators that have flow rates of no more than 1 gpm. Some aerators even come with shut-off valves that allow you to stop the flow of water without affecting the temperature. When replacing an aerator, bring the one you're replacing to the store with you to ensure a proper fit. ■

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: May 27, 2015

- Approved the April 29, 2015 regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved a work order inventory and a special equipment inventory
- Approved applications for refund of capital credits to estates and those age 80 and over
- Heard Co-General Managers/Chief Executive Officers' update and reports from events attended
- Heard update on Innovative Energy Alliance, LLC (IEA) and reviewed summary from last Board meeting
- Heard updates on all entities of WDUS Holdings, LLC
- Accepted financial report from the Chief Financial Officer
- Approved Operations Manager as signatory for Army Corps of Engineers easement(s)
- Approved release of health insurance group authorization for self-funded health coverage
- Reviewed results from Rural Utilities Service loan fund and accounting review
- Reviewed and discussed senior staff department updates
- Reviewed Mor-Gran-Sou safety committee meeting minutes
- Chose attendees/voting delegate for upcoming meetings
- Accepted director's financial report for April
- Heard reports and held discussion on meetings attended
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

July 17 at Prairie Knights Casino & Resort, Fort Yates, at 2 p.m. CT
 Aug. 26 at the 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 ctemes@morgransou.com, or call 1-800-750-8212 or 597-3301, to confirm the meeting date and location if you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chair Leland "Judge" Barth or Co-General Manager/Chief Executive Officer 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. You can find this form at www.morgransou.com or call the office for a copy.

HEAD WEST FOR LESS!

More than 10 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in North Dakota have joined forces to make vacationing in North Dakota more affordable for families, including Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. This summer, head west to Medora, where electric cooperative members are eligible for a **15-percent discount** in association with:

- Tickets to the Medora Musical
- Lodging at the Bunkhouse Motel, Badlands Motel or Rough Riders Hotel

- A Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Mor-Gran-Sou members, if you travel to beautiful Medora anytime this summer, call 1-800-MEDORA-1 for reservations and use the code **TOUCH2015** to receive your 15-percent savings. Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code **TOUCH2015** at the door. ■



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