



Mor-Gran-Sou Leadman **Jason Jahner** drives a ground rod in a new underground cable enclosure.

October was a busy month for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative line crews in Flasher, Fort Yates and Mandan. In this month's local pages, read how underground cable and a repurposed transformer will increase the reliability of electric service across the co-op's service area — and how employees accomplished these large projects safely.

Strengthening the system

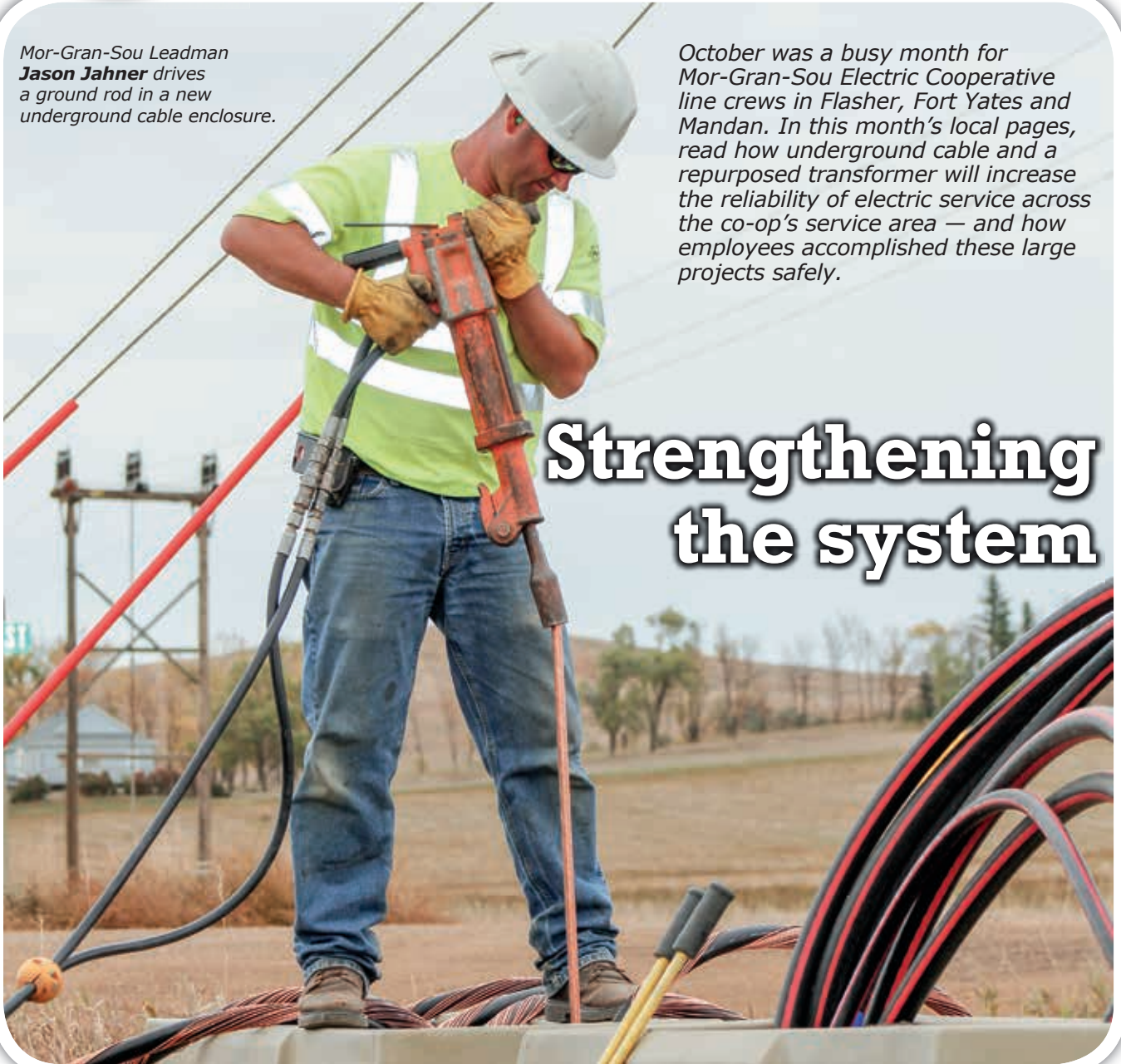


PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVENEY

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- **Apply now for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour**
- **"New" transformer will levelize the load**
- **Meeting minutes and more**



New underground circuits to improve system reliability north and west of Mandan

For the past couple years, during the summers, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members north and west of Mandan have been experiencing an inordinate number of blinks and outages. After working through some easement challenges, Mor-Gran-Sou is installing new underground circuits from our Roughrider Substation to provide more reliable service for our member-owners in that area.

The cooperative's Harmon Substation, which normally feeds the affected area, gets its power from a transmission line originating at the Heskett Station north of Mandan. This line is part of what's known as the interconnected and common use system. Since your cooperative doesn't

*Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative partnered with Fischer Contracting to trench and install the underground cable. Fischer Contracting employees **Geoff West** and **Mike Geiger** are padding cable with a layer of dirt so they can install red caution tape.*



*Mor-Gran-Sou employees **Blake Reis**, journeyman lineman, and **Jason Jahner**, leadman, terminate new underground circuits.*

PHOTOS BY CARMEN DENVEY



own this line, there is little we could do to improve its reliability.

Randy Ressler, manager of operations for Mor-Gran-Sou, says the blinks and outages members experienced in that part of the cooperative's service area were out of Mor-Gran-Sou's control, but ultimately the co-op needed to make some changes to serve our member-owners in the most reliable way possible.

"It may have been out of our hands" he says, "but from our members' perspective, they pay their power bill to Mor-Gran-Sou. That's where the buck stops, and that's why we're adding two new heavy underground circuits from our Roughrider Substation to improve service reliability and be responsive to our members' needs."

Ressler anticipates that the new power lines will be energized later this year. ■

The holidays are just around the corner

Gift certificates are available at Mor-Gran-Sou.
Light up someone's holiday season!

How long is your Christmas list? If a certain someone on your list is a member of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative and you need a bright idea on what to buy for Christmas ... why not wrap up a gift certificate he or she can use toward an electric bill?

Call Mor-Gran-Sou
at 701-597-3301, 701-663-0297 or 800-750-8212
and ask for Julie or Jackie.

We can help you "lighten" up the holidays.

LIHEAP provides energy assistance to eligible low-income households



If you need assistance paying your utility bill this winter, you might qualify for energy assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Federally funded and administered by the N.D. Department of Human Services and county social services, LIHEAP provides the following services for eligible

individuals and families:

- heating assistance
- making your home energy efficient
- furnace and chimney cleaning
- emergency assistance
- furnace replacements
- minor repairs, and
- energy cost reduction devices

To date, more than 12,600 low-income households in North Dakota are participating in the state program. Julie Armijo, member services clerk for Mor-Gran-Sou, says a number of members utilized the program.

Applications are accepted from October through May of each heating season. For information related to application for benefits, program eligibility or

an existing case, contact your local County Social Services office. There is no cost to apply, but consumers will have to pay a percentage of some services based on their income.

To read more about the LIHEAP program, view frequently asked questions and apply for energy assistance, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/services/financialhelp/energyassist.html or www.nd.gov/dhs/ and click on "Services and Help," "Public Assistance" and the "Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program."

To ask questions about the LIHEAP program, call 701-328-2065 or email dhseap@nd.gov. ■



Chad Harrison, second from right, taking the Official Oath of Office for his newly elected Tribal Councilman position at the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Inauguration Ceremony. Harrison also serves as a Mor-Gran-Sou board director.

DIRECTOR AND COUNCILMAN

Harrison looks forward to being part of the progress

STORY AND PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

A Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative board director has been elected to serve on the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council. Chad Harrison took the official oath of office Oct. 7 in the McLaughlin High School gymnasium. He will serve a 4-year term on the Council in the at-large position.

The Council consists of 17 members who work together to create and enforce laws and govern the tribe, which spans eight districts and two states.

Harrison, who has served as a Sioux County director on the Mor-Gran-Sou board since July 2012, says serving on the Council will be a challenging job because of the size of the reservation. "We have to watch out for each and every district, and try to do what's best for the people

in those districts. Also, we are the ones who maintain the relationships among Standing Rock, the states and the federal government," he explains.

Following in the footsteps of Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault II and Councilman Joe Dunn, who also served as board directors for Mor-Gran-Sou, Harrison says he feels prepared to help move Standing Rock nation forward, in part, due to the education and training he has received as a Mor-Gran-Sou board director.

"The education component from the Mor-Gran-Sou board room to the Council fits together quite well. Dave, Joe and I have visited about how the Mor-Gran-Sou board does a lot to focus on perspective, and the training and education we received really shows through," he says.

Formerly a tribal planner for

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Harrison says he ran for the Council position to offer his skills and give the tribe's voting members a choice in who will help move the tribe into the 21st Century.

"It's a whole new, different way of life due to technology and communications. Some of the problems we face are due to our rural nature, and I'd like to see us do the best we can as far as stepping into the world we live in," he offers.

"I believe in teamwork and doing things together. I would like to see Standing Rock rise to the challenges it faces with one eye on progress, and the other on our rich culture and history," he concludes.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative congratulates Director Harrison in his well-deserved position as councilman for Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. ■

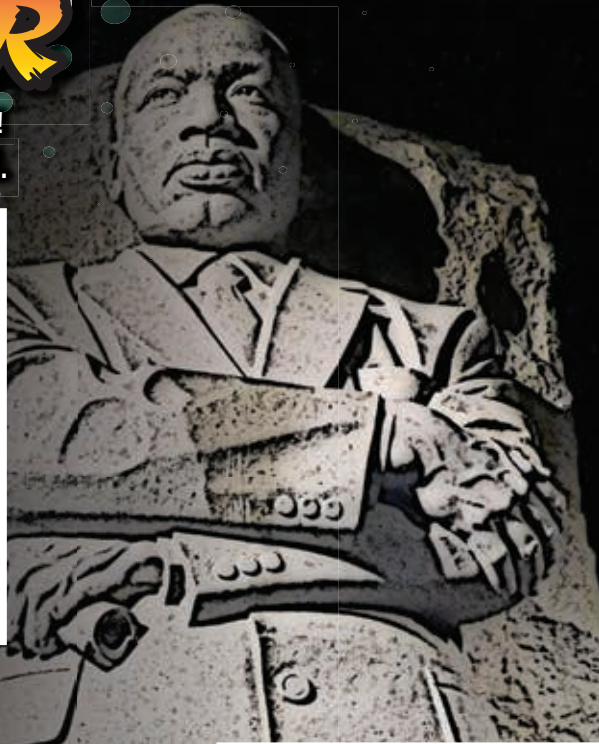


JUNE 11 to 17, 2016

North Dakota Electric Cooperative
YOUTH TOUR

HIGH SCHOOL
 SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!
 An all-expense-paid trip to WASHINGTON, D.C.



- 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.
- If you have questions, contact Jackie Miller, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-597-3301 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 29, 2016. Emailed entries should be directed to jlmliller@morgransou.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 297, Flasher, ND 58535-0297.

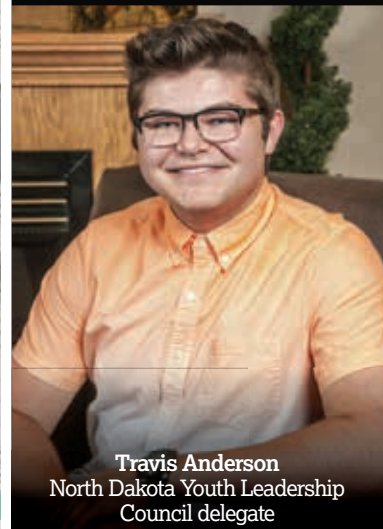
ESSAY QUESTION:

“Pick one of the four Touchstone Energy® core values — innovation, integrity, accountability or commitment to community — and describe how you see this in action at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.”

TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

Click the link below to find out why you should write an essay for the 2016 Youth Tour.
www.youtube.com/ndarec



Travis Anderson
 North Dakota Youth Leadership Council delegate

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
www.ndyouthtour.com and www.youthtour.coop



Repurposed transformer adds reliability, saves money for Mor-Gran-Sou membership

STORY AND PHOTOS CARMEN DEVNEY



Twice the size of the transformer it replaces in McLaughlin, the "new" transformer has a load tap changer that will help levelize the electrical load and increase reliability in the southern part of Mor-Gran-Sou's service area.

Mor-Gran-Sou, as well as Moreau Grand Electric Cooperative out of Timber Lake, S.D. Moreau Grand co-owns the substation and electrical infrastructure within the station.

"This newer transformer includes what is known as a load tap changer, which automatically shifts electrical gears to help maintain a preset voltage," says Randy Ressler, Mor-Gran-Sou's operations manager. "This is something we've needed on our McLaughlin feed for some time."

Moving the heavy transformer more than 250 miles required careful planning and adapting to unexpected challenges. Prior to the move, the transformer was tested, disassembled and drained, and the oil and additional parts were temporarily stored in Flasher.

The trip was scheduled to begin Oct. 12, but blustery winds gusting 60-plus miles an hour — and a destructive fire in Cannonball — delayed the move by a day so damaged power poles could be repaired.

On moving day, a crane was used to lift the transformer onto a semi. It was transported on a gravel road from Squaw Gap north and east to near Arnegard, then east to Watford City, south and east to Killdeer, south to Dickinson, east to Mandan, and then south on Highway 6 to McLaughlin. Based on the slow speed required to move the heavy equipment safely, the trip was split into two days.

How do you move a transformer that weighs 83,000 pounds "undressed," without oil and accessories, from an electric cooperative service area north of Beach to the southern-most part of the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area?

Very slowly and carefully.

The second full week of October, Mor-Gran-Sou initiated a large

transformer move from Squaw Gap, in the McKenzie Electric Cooperative service area, to our McLaughlin Substation west of McLaughlin. The 115/69-kilovolt transformer had become too small for McKenzie's system and was retired. Twice the size of the unit it replaces in McLaughlin, and still in excellent working condition, the transformer is a bargain for



Cooperation and communication were critical in moving the transformer. Mor-Gran-Sou worked with Logistics Planning Services and Electro-Test & Maintenance, Inc. to plan and facilitate the relocation. The cooperative also partnered with the Western Area Power Administration, Montana-Dakota Utilities and Moreau Grand to de-energize part of the McLaughlin Substation. Power was re-routed during the process, to ensure members would have uninterrupted electric service. ■



Fort Yates Area Foreman **Brent Alkire** and General Foreman **Doug Nagel** prepare the parts and pieces needed to be added to the new transformer once placed on the concrete pad. Once "dressed" with all accessories and oil, the new transformer will weigh 130,000 pounds.

Area artist raising funds for International Music Camp

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

A well-known musician in Grant County is making sure kids across the state, nation and beyond will use modern digital grand pianos and recording equipment at International Music Camp.

Lyle Zimmerman, a Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative member and farmer from Carson, is coordinating music concerts and performing with friends to raise money for the camp. Located on the Canada/United States border between Manitoba and North Dakota, the International Music Camp Summer School of Fine Arts offers a variety of cultural study for students and adults. In weekly sessions, students gain concentrated knowledge in their particular area of interest. While the camp name speaks of its foundation in music, International Music Camp also offers one week summer camp programs in dance, creative writing, painting, drawing, theatre and more.

"It's a world-class institution," describes Zimmerman.

Over the years, Zimmerman's son has attended the camp. An accomplished pianist, singer and

songwriter, Zimmerman witnessed a need for major piano upgrades in two venues, and a large shortfall of support equipment. He knows the camp teaches, inspires and enriches the lives of approximately 1,800 boys and girls from junior high to 18 years of age every summer.

"My involvement as a sponsor is to try to provide several digital grand pianos, and whatever miscellaneous stage and sound support equipment we can financially supply, to help provide the best-possible experience and professional performances for many of the world's-finest youth for decades to come," he says.

In partnership with Camp Directors Christine and Tim Baumann, Zimmerman invites the public to support International Music Camp by attending benefit concerts in which the net proceeds will be used to purchase such equipment.

The current event schedule presented by Zimmerman and seasoned volunteer artists include:

Nov. 7: Classic Country at 7 p.m. at Mandan High auditorium, Mandan;

Dec. 12 and 13: Christmas Show, 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday,

Legacy High School Auditorium, Bismarck; and

Feb. 12: Valentines Show at 7 p.m. at Mandan High School auditorium, Mandan.

All show prices are \$10 and additional donations will be accepted at the door. Tickets are available at Dan's Supermarket in Mandan, Eckroth Music, Jacobsen Music and Nightlife Music. Additional shows are pending. Communities across the state can contact Zimmerman at 701-426-6373 if they would like an event scheduled in their city. Event projects will run through May 31, 2016.

Donations can also be mailed to:
N.D. Post #45 American Legion (IMC-Piano Project)
P.O. Box 161
Carson, ND 58529-9587

For those who hold a 501(c)(3) status, donations must be sent direct to International Music Camp. Please note the donation is intended for the piano project on the payment.

To learn more about International Music Camp, visit <http://internationalmusiccamp.com/> or call 701-838-8472. ■

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: Sept. 30, 2015

- Approved the Aug. 26, 2015 regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved a work order inventory and a special equipment inventory
- Approved capital credits refunds to estates, and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed Basin Electric Power Cooperative's petition against the Clean Power Plan
- Heard update on Mor-Gran-Sou's 2016 budget, planning, preparation and process
- Reviewed director's compensation policy and made no changes
- Reviewed and confirmed the director meeting attendance guide, and schedule for Mor-Gran-Sou directors to attend the Basin Electric local Board meetings in 2016
- Set 2016 Mor-Gran-Sou Board meeting dates, times and locations

- Discussed options for 2016 Mor-Gran-Sou strategic planning
- Approved voting ballot for CoBank
- Approved 2015 bad debt write-off
- Approved attendance and voting delegates/alternates for upcoming meetings
- Heard Co-General Managers/Chief Executive Officers' update and reports from events attended
- Heard update on Innovative Energy Alliance, LLC (IEA)
- Heard updates on all entities of WDUS Holdings, LLC
- Reviewed and discussed senior staff department updates
- Reviewed safety meeting minutes
- Reviewed and accepted director's and attorney's financial report for August
- Heard director reports and held discussion on meetings attended
- Held Executive Session

Upcoming regular board meeting dates:

- Nov. 23 in the NDAREC board room in Mandan at 10:30 a.m. CT
- Dec. 21 in the NDAREC board room in Mandan at 10:30 a.m. CT

Members are welcome to attend board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at cternes@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 contact the office for a copy.



Comfort Inn & Suites opens in Mandan

A new hotel is open in the Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative service area. Comfort® Inn & Suites opened June 30 in

north Mandan. It features 86 guest rooms and four meeting rooms. General Manager Maria Walen says amenities include:

- Data ports in desk stands in individual rooms;
- High electrical outlets so guests don't have to bend;
- Showers with barn-door, glass-style sliding doors;
- A hot complimentary breakfast in the morning;
- Guest receptions Monday through Thursday with a free glass of wine or beer and appetizers; and
- Two patios (one smoking and one non-smoking) with fire pits and grills.

Comfort® Inn & Suites is located at 1516 27th St. N.W., Mandan. For reservations, call 800-228-5150. ■



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

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair..... Leland "Judge" Barth
Vice Chair..... Casey Wells
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger
Directors Mark Doll,
Vernard Frederick, Lance Froelich,
Chad Harrison, Bob J. Leingang,
Bonnie Tomac

MANAGEMENT

Co-General Mgr./CEO..... Chris Baumgartner
Co-General Mgr./CEO..... Donald A. Franklund

www.morgransou.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

In observance of the holidays in November,
Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be closed:
Wednesday, Nov. 11 for Veterans Day
Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, for Thanksgiving
The directors and staff of Mor-Gran-Sou ask you to keep our military
in mind as we celebrate the holidays.

Members: Line crews will be available in case of an electrical emergency outage.