



# CURRENT



PHOTO BY JILL FRIESZ

## Congratulations, Evan Friesz, and thank you, Eric Friesz

*Eric and Evan Friesz feel strongly about many things, including working on the family farm and serving in the military. Evan, the son of Mor-Gran-Sou members Eric and Jill Friesz, is this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour essay-contest winner and trip recipient. In this month's local pages, learn how Eric's service in the N.D. National Guard was the inspiration behind Evan's essay on helping veterans — and how Evan hopes to follow in his father's footsteps as a farmer and sergeant.*

## What's inside:

- Call your electric cooperative before adding a grain bin or other load
- National Lineman Appreciation Day
- Congratulations, Grant County Coyotes!
- Save the date for the annual meeting
- Meetings minutes, and more



# WHEN SACRIFICE ENDS IN INJUSTICE

## Evan Friesz wants more help for veterans — and earns this year’s Youth Tour trip

STORY BY CARMEN DEVNEY



PHOTO BY LAVYN MUDDER

*This is **Evan Friesz’s** second time being featured in the North Dakota Living magazine. The first was in November 2004, on the cover, along with his dad, **Sgt. Eric Friesz**, who served in the National Guard during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Eric has shared with his son how it can be difficult to transition back into society after returning from a war zone. What helped him was being alone on the farm, and returning to the roots that kept him grounded.*

**S**erving in a branch of the military and fighting for our many freedoms are some of the most important and courageous things a person can do.

Showing our support and

appreciation, and helping veterans transition back into society after their service is over, are some of the most important things that we, the general public, can do.

Evan Friesz, a sophomore at Grant

County High School, was inspired by a veteran he knows well to be patient ... offer help ... and say thank you. He shared some ways we can support our military men and women in an essay he wrote for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, in honor of his dad, Eric Friesz. A farmer and Mor-Gran-Sou member from New Leipzig alongside his wife, Jill, Eric served as a sergeant with the N.D. National Guard’s 141st Engineer Combat Battalion in Iraq from 2003 to 2005.

Evan’s essay qualified him for Mor-Gran-Sou’s annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour contest. His thoughts and effort earned him a free trip to Washington, D.C., where he will see Arlington National Cemetery and several war memorials – and be able to thank more veterans in person. The tour is scheduled for June 9 to 15.

Coordinated and paid for by electric cooperatives across the state and nation, the Youth Tour is an opportunity for 1,500 students to travel to our nation’s capital and watch history come alive as they explore museums, memorials and monuments. Our state’s 16 students will meet other student leaders from nearly every state. In one short week, they will make lasting friendships and be part of a group that has more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life including U.S. senators and chief executive officers.

In the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative value of commitment to community, and with a desire to help support our state’s future leaders, Mor-Gran-Sou has sent one student annually on the trip since 2004.

This year, Evan answered the essay-contest question: “There are approximately 20 million military veterans in the United States today. How shall fellow U.S. citizens honor and look after these veterans, who have served and sacrificed on our behalf? Describe any special



## **“It is very concerning that after everything these men and women have sacrificed, they sometimes end up alone and lost in the very country they were fighting to protect.”**

~ Evan Friesz, sophomore at Grant County High School

connection you may have to a veteran or active-duty member of the military.”

In his essay, he noted countless veterans return home with a variety of disabilities including post-traumatic stress disorder. This is a condition of persistent mental and emotional stress occurring as a result of injury or severe psychological shock, typically involving disturbance of sleep and constant vivid recall of the experience, with dulled responses to others and to the outside world. Without treatment, it can lead to suicide.

“What most people do not understand is that things have changed for [those who served,] and they may not be the same as when they left,” he wrote. “Most people have trouble conforming to society right away, but eventually get back into the groove of things. Others have more trouble with leaving the war behind them. This is especially true for those who were in combat situations.”

While serving in Iraq, Eric and fellow Guardsmen patrolled supply routes, clearing them of improvised

explosive devices (IEDs) and making it more difficult for insurgents to place IEDs. Eric knows firsthand that freedom isn’t free — and he has shared with his son the importance of providing formal counseling for returning veterans and keeping them off the streets.

“We, as civilians, cannot even imagine what they went through; some of them losing comrades who were as close to them as family,” Evan wrote.

Not only do some service men and women return home with internal scars, they may not get the help they need to heal. This injustice is not lost on Evan.

“It is very concerning that after everything these men and women have sacrificed, they sometimes end up alone and lost in the very country that they were fighting to protect,” he said.

He shared some things that we can all do to support returning veterans. They include:

- Being patient and helping them through whatever they are going through;
- Thanking them for their

service; and

- Remembering what they have done and why.

“Without the brave men and women who serve our country every day, we would not be the America we are today,” he wrote.

Following in his father’s footsteps, Evan plans to enroll in the N.D. National Guard after graduation. After he serves our country, he hopes to return to the family farm where he helps cut hay, combine, drive truck, work cows, brand calves and help wherever he can.

With a strong work ethic and sense of patriotism, Evan says he is extremely proud of the way his father served our country, and thankful he returned unharmed.

He knows not every veteran has the same good fortune. For those who don’t, Evan hopes society will step up and provide the counseling necessary to help transition these men and women back to jobs, families and lives.

“We have a lot to do before we can actually say we are taking care of our veterans, but I believe that eventually we are going to be able to bring the veteran suicide rate to zero.”

We sure hope you’re right, Evan.

Mor-Gran-Sou congratulates Evan Friesz for earning this year’s Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip. This summer, we’ll visit with him again and learn the highlights. ■

*Annual Meeting*  
2018

# JULY 20, 2018

Fort Yates, N.D.

Prairie Knights Casino & Resort

*Learn about co-op issues; cast your vote and elect three members to serve on the board of directors; and enjoy a hearty meal.*



**Mor-Gran-Sou  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



# Bin there, done that Adding a bin site or other new load?

If so, it pays to plan ahead. Members can save time, money and aggravation by consulting with Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative before locating new grain bins or adding new load.

Members considering a new bin site or added load are encouraged to contact Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. We are available to provide assistance in planning for a safe, reliable environment for everyone. ■

## New or upgraded service

When adding electrical loads, such as bin fans or shop heat, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric encourages members to contact the cooperative first. Representatives will design a service adequately sized for the proposed electrical load. Existing services will be inspected to determine if an upgrade in service is required.

Whether you are adding a new service or expanding an existing service, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric needs to study the effect the added load will have on the cooperative's electric distribution system to determine the co-op's ability to serve that load.

## Bin placement

When placing a primary electric service at a grain bin site, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric adheres to the requirements set forth in the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The NESC specifies the minimum distance between a grain bin and the nearest overhead power line and has two sections that apply to grain handling systems.

Adequate clearance between grain bins and overhead power lines reduces the risk of accidental contact between the power lines and tall farm equipment such as portable grain augers, elevators or grain-probing devices. Also, a grain bin or shop built too close to an overhead power line may mean the bin or power line would need to be relocated, most times at the member's expense.

### GRAIN BIN SAFETY

**DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!**  
FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES

Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.

\*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22kV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.



# National Lineman Appreciation Day: April 9

Electric cooperatives across the state and nation are celebrating National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 9. Linemen build and maintain the electric distribution system that keeps the power flowing to your farm, home or business. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric also has transmission assets.

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is proud to highlight the general foreman, area foreman, leadmen, journeyman linemen, senior engineering technician and engineering technician who maintain more than 3,844 miles of power lines in our service territory.

April 9 (and every day!) is a great time to let our Mor-Gran-Sou line crews know how much you appreciate the hard work they do. One of the most dangerous jobs by nature, their work sometimes involves working on energized high-voltage lines in challenging conditions at all hours — all to provide our member-owners with reliable electric service.



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY



## Have a power outage? CALL US!

Members, if you have a power outage, please CALL US ... do not contact us via a Facebook comment or message, as our page is not monitored 24/7. By calling us, employees will log the call and alert the line crews. Thank you.

**701-597-3301, 701-663-0297  
or 800-750-8212**



PHOTOS BY JILL FRIESZ



# GRANT COUNTY COYOTES MAKE HISTORY WITH STATE TITLE

## ‘One unbelievable experience for the basketball program, school and communities’

BY COACH NICOLE BENTZ

The incredible journey to get to state started last year after our fourth-place finish. We did not graduate any seniors from last year’s team, so we knew the expectations would be high coming into this year.

Things were going well until about mid-December when Taylor Roehl went down with an ankle injury that sidelined her until the end of

January. Camryn Alt also had a lower-leg injury during this time, which kept her out for a couple weeks. Combine that with illness, the Coyotes were struggling to regroup and find themselves. During this time we lost four games, two of which were in overtime.

Heading into the District 9 tourney, the Coyotes were seeded number two. We faced Shiloh in

the Championship game and lost, putting us as the second seed in the Region 5 tourney. We were able to defeat Garrison and Underwood, both in the first and second rounds of the region.

This put us up against Shiloh once again for the Championship of Region 5. The game was a battle the entire way. With about 3 1/2 minutes to go, we were down by six. At this point something clicked, and we went on a 6-0 run to put the game into overtime. We outscored them 9-0, winning the Region 5



***Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative congratulates all those who worked together in the cooperative spirit to earn this championship title. We thank Coach Bentz for sharing her thoughts, and Jill Friesz with the Grant County News for supplying these fun photos.***

The start to our championship was slow, but coming out the second half we started to put things together and beat the Cowboys for our first-ever State Championship in Grant County Girls Basketball history.

The journey to get this championship was full of bumps in the road, but this group of girls

played with more heart, composure, self-confidence, determination, desire, and just the “will to win” than I can ever remember.

What an accomplishment for a school our size! This has been an unbelievable experience for the basketball program, school and communities. ■

championship.

Entering state this year, we were seeded number five and faced the defending state champions, the Kindred Vikings. Our team had a great start and a lot of momentum throughout the game to be able to pick the first round win. Our next opponent was the number-one seeded Medina/Pingree-Buchanan Thunder. This team had a lot of size, so we knew it would be a “tall” task to beat them. We came out on top again, moving us into the championship game against Killdeer.



# MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## board meeting highlights



### Meeting date: Feb. 21, 2018

- Approved the Jan. 31, 2018, regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved two work order inventories
- Approved capital credit refunds to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed and accepted the January financial report
- Reviewed and accepted the director's and attorney's expense report for January
- Heard the second Nominating Committee meeting report
- Received status update from several visiting Mor-Gran-Sou Nominating Committee members
- Moved June Board meeting date to June 20
- Approved participating with Basin Electric Power Cooperative on donation for the Bismarck Larks youth event
- Heard Operation Round Up update
- Approved director attendance for various meetings
- Heard the Co-General Managers/CEOs update, and reports on several meetings attended
- Heard reports from various meetings/training the directors attended
- Reviewed department reports
- Held Executive Session

### Upcoming regular board meeting date:

April 25 in the NDAREC board room in Mandan at 9 a.m. CT  
 May 30 in the Mor-Gran-Sou Board room in Flasher 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 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.

## Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative hires Alex Craigmile as chief financial officer

Alex Craigmile has returned to the Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative family. Formerly the business manager at KEM Electric Cooperative, he is now the chief financial officer for the alliance. He is filling the position vacated by Travis Kupper, who was promoted to co-general manager and chief executive officer. Craigmile's first day with the alliance was March 5.

Established in 2008, the alliance is a professional management and services company that provides support for four electric cooperatives in North Dakota including KEM, Mor-Gran-Sou, Roughrider and Slope Electric Cooperatives, as well as the WDUS Holdings, LLC family including 3C Construction, West Dakota Utility Services and other subsidiaries.

Craigmile holds an accounting degree from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. He worked at the state tax department in Bismarck before being hired by KEM in June 2010 as an accounting clerk. He was promoted in 2014 to assistant office manager. In that role, he oversaw the general ledger and accounting, approved checks, made payments, assisted with billing, and answered members' questions. He was promoted to office manager in 2015.

After six years with KEM, Craigmile resigned to accept a job with National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) in Mandan. He installed billing software for NISC

for 18 months before joining the alliance. In total, he has more than seven years of cooperative experience.

Travis Kupper, co-general manager and chief executive officer of the alliance, says Craigmile is a good fit because he understands the cooperative family and relationships within the alliance.

"We are excited to have Alex working for our four cooperatives. He has a diverse background, in having worked for a distribution cooperative and an information technology company that both exist to serve the member-owners," Kupper says. "Alex already understands the values and needs of our cooperatives, and his focus as chief financial officer will remain on the memberships."

Craigmile says he is thankful for the opportunity to return to his distribution roots under the umbrella of Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative. "I am truly looking forward to coming back to the alliance family. I enjoyed my time with NISC, but when this opportunity presented itself, I truly felt that it was the right move for me and my family," he says.

Alex and his wife, Mallory, live in Bismarck with their three daughters. ■



Alex Craigmile



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#### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

#### MANAGEMENT

Co-GM/CEO..... Donald A. Franklund  
 Co-GM/CEO..... Travis Kupper

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