



Working together helps ensure the safety of all

From left: Mor-Gran-Sou
linemen **Blake Reis,**
Kale Ohlauser and
Cody Graetz

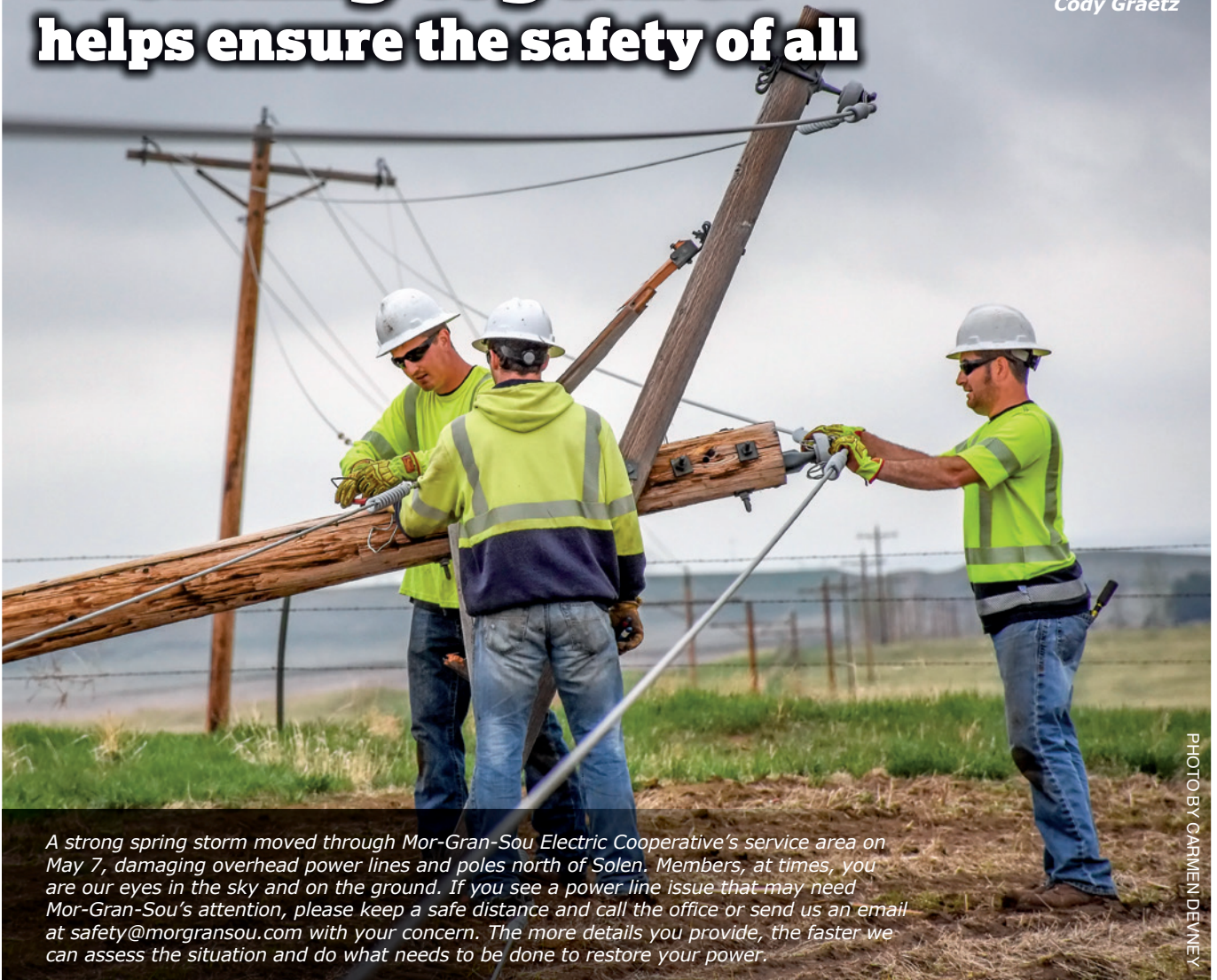


PHOTO BY CARMEN DEWEY

A strong spring storm moved through Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's service area on May 7, damaging overhead power lines and poles north of Solen. Members, at times, you are our eyes in the sky and on the ground. If you see a power line issue that may need Mor-Gran-Sou's attention, please keep a safe distance and call the office or send us an email at safety@morgransou.com with your concern. The more details you provide, the faster we can assess the situation and do what needs to be done to restore your power.

What's inside:

- Lead Linemen Begger heads to Vigilante
- Annual meeting notification
- Idle services to be retired
- Opt into Operation Round Up
- Meetings minutes, and more



Clint Begger accepts position with Vigilante

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



Lead Men **Clint Begger** (snowmobile) and **Gary Fitterer** restoring electric service after the January 2010 storm.

There are 833 distribution cooperatives across the United States, and the employees who are the process behind the power are often such a tightknit group, their co-workers become like family. If you are a lineman, you are what we call a brother's keeper — always looking out for the safety of yourself and others while on the job.

There are lots of opportunities within the electric cooperative network, but at the end of the day, there is only one true family. Clint Begger, lead man with Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative in Mandan, is moving with his wife, Jada, and their three children, to southwest Montana to be closer to their families. His last day with Mor-Gran-Sou was March 23.

On April 2, Clint met his new brother's keepers at Vigilante Electric Cooperative. With headquarters in Dillon and service centers in Townsend and Whitehall, Vigilante provides electric service to more than 10,150 meters in some of nature's most beautiful (and challenging) places, including mountains and lakes.



As a lineman, **Clint Begger's** job was in the operations department. His role often crossed into other departments including member services and communications, because he was willing to help. Over the years, Clint has counted ballots during director elections, been featured in safety posters and other printed materials, and appeared in a Christmas commercial for Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Pictured here, he performed a safety demonstration for area children at Morton County Ag Day in 2006.

During his interview with Vigilante, Clint says he talked about some of his restoration experiences during the snow and ice storms that

devastated Mor-Gran-Sou's power system in 2010. He was surprised to learn that Vigilante hasn't lost one pole due to ice freezing on the



power lines — likely because the area doesn't get the strong winds that we do.

A native of Wibaux, Mont., Clint went to college in Powell, Wyo., and earned a business degree in agriculture, along with a farrier certificate. After ranching and competing in rodeos for some time, he was looking for a change. His brother, who works for Montana-Dakota Utilities, recommended the utility industry.

Clint moved to North Dakota and enrolled in the Bismarck State College lineworker program, where he learned the basics of the trade. After he graduated, he applied with Mor-Gran-Sou as summer help in 2003. He says he felt lucky when the co-op kept him on full time.

Clint graduated from the Apprenticeship Training and Safety program in 2006 and earned journeyman lineman status. He was promoted to lead man in April 2012, and worked for Mor-Gran-Sou for 15 years.

"It's tough to leave all this behind; trust me," he says. "It's been a lot of sleepless nights for Jada and I, talking this through. Back in 2002 when I went into the lineman program, this was our goal — to move out to western Montana somewhere. I didn't know it was going to take 15 years for that to happen."

Clint will work out of the Townsend outpost with two men. While he'll help build and maintain Vigilante's distribution system, he'll have additional duties that may require him to sharpen his domestic skills.

"Their foreman told me they do everything from the line work to the staking sheets to mopping the floor to cleaning the toilet," he says with a laugh. "The three of us are it for all of the duties."

Outside of work, Clint's first year will be busy finding or building a home that has land to accommodate

the family's horses. Clint and Jada compete in team-roping, and their daughter, Ella, is involved in junior high rodeo. Clint is the current president of the Mandan Horse and Saddle Club, and the Beggars are members of New Salem Saddle Club. Their children are involved in various sports and activities. The family's move is a collective loss for this community, and a gain for another.

Change is hard, but it can be good. Clint says the job opportunity came at a good time, even if it was 15 years later than expected. The Beggars had outgrown their home and were looking at options. Their oldest daughter hasn't yet started middle school. While they are well-connected to this cooperative and community, Clint says it's the right time to fulfill that initial goal of moving to Montana. That doesn't make it easy.

From the management to the linemen to the support staff in the office, Clint has only positive words to say about the people he worked with at Mor-Gran-Sou.

"They've all been great. I can count on them," he says. "Hopefully I can trust the new guys as much as I trust these guys."

It's especially hard to leave a good boss. Clint says Manager of Operations Randy Ressler is thoughtful, respectful and smart, and he's the kind of boss every lineman wants to work for because he always has their backs.

"He knows how to treat people," he says. "I really respect him, and that's what makes it so tough."

During his last week of work, Clint said he appreciated that Mor-Gran-Sou had given him a good job for the last 15 years, and that he's been treated well.

Clint has treated our members well, too. Over the years, he's done safety demonstrations for area children; volunteered to help restore



Clint Begger

electric service at neighboring cooperatives to reduce outage times; and taught apprentice linemen the safety, skills, and value of being a brother's keeper.

Thanks, Clint. You'll be missed. ■



Clint and Jada Begger, and their children Ella, Gavin and Josie, participated in a video featuring an operations update for the 2017 annual meeting. Clint, one of Mor-Gran-Sou's lead men from Mandan, resigned in March to take a job with Vigilante Electric Cooperative in southwest Montana. With a love of the outdoors, the family is looking forward to riding their horses, camping, skiing, and enjoying Mother Nature with family and friends.



Mor-Gran-Sou announces candidates seeking board of director positions

The pursuit to earn a board seat begins for five Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members vying for one of three board director positions up for re-election in July. In 2018, the three board positions sought include: one for the At-Large position, one for the Morton County position, and one for the Sioux County position.

The board of directors set March 7 as the deadline for receiving members' completed declaration of candidacy forms. The Nominating Committee met for a final time on March 14. At that meeting, the committee declared that the candidates' names they received be forwarded to the board of directors for approval. Upon confirmation of eligibility at its regular board meeting on March 21, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors approved the following list of candidates:

At-Large:

Mark Doll, New Salem
Tim L. Kuntz, Mandan

Morton County:

Bonnie Tomac, Mandan

Sioux County:

Chad Harrison, Fort Yates
Marcie Kahl, Solen



A full biography of each candidate will appear in Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's annual report, scheduled to be mailed later this month.

STILL TO COME — Luck of the Draw \$500 scholarships!

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric will award two \$500 Luck of the Draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on July 20 at Prairie Knights Casino and Resort in Fort Yates. All high school seniors who have parents/guardians that are members of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric are eligible for this scholarship. Students must attend our annual meeting with at least one parent, and are required to RSVP for the meeting.

Annual Meeting
2018

JULY 20, 2018

Fort Yates, N.D.
Prairie Knights Pavilion

*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 



Idle services to be retired

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative continues to retire idle services throughout the co-op's service area. What does Mor-Gran-Sou consider to be an idle electrical service?

It is a service that is not making any payment to the cooperative, but continues to receive regular maintenance. Your cooperative's procedure is to post a detailed list (shown below) in our communications material to keep members informed of those idle services that will be retired. This is the second notice of this particular group of idle services to be retired.

Prior to this detailed listing, Mor-Gran-Sou personnel have already contacted, or tried to contact, the property owner and affected property owners based on the information available. If someone comes forward and is willing to pay the line retention fee, we no longer consider it an idle service. However, if no one comes forward, the line is then put on a list and will be retired. The following idle services will be retired at the cooperative's convenience:

Grant County

T133 R85W Section 12 NE 1/4

Morton County

T134 R84W Section 3 NW 1/4

T139 R83W Section 28 SE 1/4

Sioux County

T130 R80W Section 12 SE 1/4

T130 R80W Section 14 NW 1/4

T131 R80W Section 27 NE 1/4

T133 R79W Section 8 NE 1/4

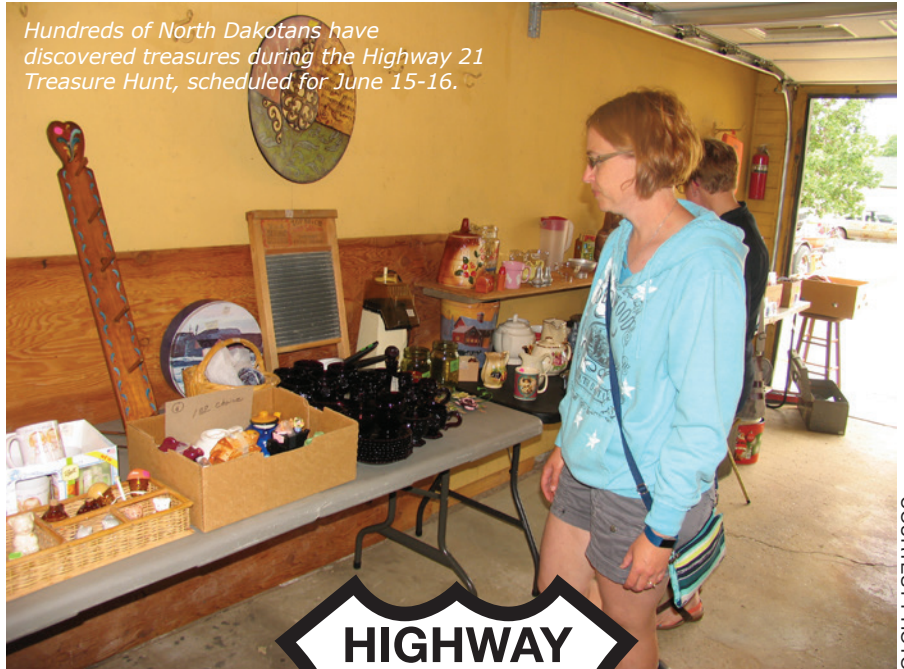
T133 R79W Section 11 SW 1/4

T134 R79W Section 23 SW 1/4

T134 R79W Section 29 SW 1/4

T134 R82W Section 22 SE 1/4 ■

Hundreds of North Dakotans have discovered treasures during the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt, scheduled for June 15-16.



COURTESY PHOTO



June 15-16

Discover some treasures and have some fun during the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt — the state's original 100-mile rummage sale in North Dakota. It will be held Friday and Saturday, June 15 and 16, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT.

"What started as a rather simple idea 17 years ago has grown to an event that attracts visitors from across the state, out of state and Canada," said Luann Dart, the event's coordinator.

During the event, communities along Highway 21 in southwestern North Dakota host citywide rummage sales including Flasher, Carson, Heil, Elgin, New Leipzig, Mott, Regent and New England. There will be approximately 100

rummage sales along the route. Rural residents host sales, too, so watch for signs along the route for additional sales.

Listings for each community's sales will be available at certain locations in that community, such as restaurants or gas stations. Listings are also posted on the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt Facebook page or at www.elginnorthdakota.com just prior to the sale.

"Hundreds of people have discovered the treasures along Highway 21 during the annual Highway 21 Treasure Hunt," Dart said. "We encourage everyone to plan to attend the 2018 event."

For more information, contact Luann Dart at 701-584-2172. ■



STAY AWAY, STAY SAFE

Members, if you see downed or damaged electrical infrastructure, do not assume it is de-energized and safe to approach. Keep a safe distance and call Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative at 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 1-800-750-8212.



*From left: Mor-Gran-Sou linemen
Brady Zachmann, Cody Maher
and Gary Fitterer*



Do YOU wish participate in the Operation Round Up program?

Opt in today!

Although in its infancy stage, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is now offering Operation Round Up to its members. Operation Round Up is a program in which Mor-Gran-Sou members can voluntarily choose to round up their monthly utility bills to the next dollar and donate their pennies to the newly formed Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation, Inc.

The Foundation Board, who are also Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative members, include: Linda Mindt, Linda Urlacher, Serena Weinhandl, Chad Wild and Cherie Zenker. They will meet throughout the year and disburse funds in the form of grants to non-profit corporations, organizations or agencies. All of the money raised by members stays in their local communities. Mor-Gran-Sou is making this request on behalf of the Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation, Inc., which will be the sole beneficiary of the funds. The board will disburse the funds equitably throughout the Mor-Gran-Sou service area as practical.

On average, participating members donate about \$6 a year. For example, if a member wishes to participate in Operation Round Up and his or her monthly electric

bill is \$89.64, the amount would be “rounded up” to the next whole dollar, \$90. In this example, the member would contribute an extra 36 cents to Operation Round Up. The most a member would ever contribute a month is 99 cents. The donation will be tax-deductible, and members who participate will receive a summary on their last billing statement of the year.

Mor-Gran-Sou does not receive monetary or in-kind reimbursement from the Operation Round Up Charitable Foundation. All rounded-up funds flow directly into the Mor-Gran-Sou Charitable Foundation, Inc., and are overseen by the board of directors. Mor-Gran-Sou personnel will administer the program as a complimentary service to the foundation.

We understand it will take some time to grow this charitable program, and we are excited to get started. Members, if you have any questions, please call the office at 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 1-800-750-8212. To opt in, fill out the form below and return to the cooperative to participate in the Operation Round Up program. Every member’s small donation adds up to make a big difference.

I wish to participate in Operation Round Up at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc.

- Yes, I agree that Mor-Gran-Sou, through the Operation Round Up program, has my permission to round up my monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. I understand I have the option to opt out with a 30-day written notice to the cooperative.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Account Number(s): _____

If you wish, you can email the form to jarmijo@morgransou.com or jlmler@morgransou.com, or mail the form to:

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 297
Flasher, ND 58535

 Signature

MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: April 25, 2018

- Approved the March 21, 2018 regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved a work order inventory and a special equipment inventory
- Approved capital credit refunds to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed and accepted the March financial report
- Reviewed and accepted the attorney and directors' expense reports for March
- Heard and accepted 2017 Audit report
- Approved and signed CoBank Incumbency Certificate
- Assigned voting delegate for WRT annual meeting
- Approved 2018 overheard charge
- Heard the Co-General Managers/CEOs' update, and reports on several meetings attended
- Heard department reports
- Heard reports from various meetings/training the directors attended
- Held Executive Sessions

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

June 20 in the NDAREC board room in Mandan at 9 a.m. CT

July 20 at Prairie Knights Casino & Resort in Room # 805 near Fort Yates at 3 p.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.

Fifteen 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
- A Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- Lodging at the Elkhorn Quarters, Badlands Motel or Rough Riders Hotel
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

HEAD WEST FOR LESS!

Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code TOUCH2018 at the door.

Mor-Gran-Sou members, if you travel to beautiful Medora anytime this summer, call 1-800-MEDORA-1 for reservations and use the code TOUCH2018 to receive your 15-percent savings.



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..... 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

www.morgransou.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Mor-Gran-Sou will be closed to honor the July 4th holiday

Mor-Gran-Sou line crews will be available in case of an emergency outage on Wednesday, July 4.

Happy Father's Day
June 17