Operation Round Up and Charles Hall team up to help kids
Operation Round Up: 
**Horses help kids heal**

BY KRISTA RAUSCH

When people think about animals helping humans, they often think about dogs helping people with disabilities. But, dogs aren’t the only ones that provide support. There’s a much larger breed of animals helping humans, and these gentle companions aren’t horsing around.

“Horses live in harmony,” says Cherie Sanstead, Harmony Stables. “Their whole existence is based in harmony. There is so much we can learn from the herd that can help us develop better relationships, better communication and better lives overall.”

Thanks to money provided by Capital Electric Cooperative’s (CEC) Operation Round Up program, at-risk children from Charles Hall Youth Services (CHYS) are benefiting from equine learning activities at Harmony Stables.

“The children we serve have been hurt and let down nearly all of their lives. Sometimes, they’re afraid of developing strong relationships,” says Rhonda Styles-Rohde, CHYS. “When they are involved in equine activities, they learn how to develop a healthy relationship with the horse. Our hope is that when they are in the community, they can keep the same principles in mind and develop healthy relationships with people.”

CHYS is a faith-based residential foster care agency that serves at-risk children between the ages of 10 and 19. Equine activities are part of its THRIVE program, which aims to engage youth in the community through physical activity, exposure to the arts and experiential activities. Equine learning allows the children to discover new experiences, challenge themselves and grow through the healing power of horses.

“Our goal is to help these kids thrive in the community,” says Styles-Rohde. “A few years ago, some of the girls went to a horse camp at Providence Ranch Ministries near Bismarck, and they just flourished. It was wonderful for them.”

Those experiences motivated CHYS staff to make equine activities a part of the THRIVE program.

Every week, two private sessions are held at Harmony Stables. Each child chooses a horse to work with, and the experience is tailored to the child. Sanstead says equine learning allows the children to experience the horses in their own way.

“Just like those kids, each horse brings its own gifts, its own lessons and its own personality,” Sanstead says. “There’s some nurturing, some mentoring and there’s a mutual respect. The horse is more than just a tool. You’re building a relationship with that horse. It’s a pretty amazing experience.”

In August, CEC’s Operation Round Up program provided CHYS with $2,400 to provide current underwriting equine activities to the THRIVE program.

Funding for Operation Round Up comes from generous members who elect to round up their bill to the nearest dollar. The resulting funds are put into a charitable trust account used to assist local individuals and nonprofit organizations. To sign up, call CEC at 701-223-1513. 

Youth from CHYS attended horse camp at Providence Ranch Ministries in 2014. Their experiences motivated CHYS staff to make equine activities part of the THRIVE program.
Operation Round Up awards 13 grants

Through the generosity of its member-owners, Capital Electric Cooperative’s (CEC) Operation Round Up program is making big differences out of small change. Participating members voluntarily round up their electric bill to the next whole dollar. Each monthly donation averages 50 cents. That small change raises more than $42,000 each year.

Through the Capital Electric Charitable Trust, the Operation Round Up program provides grants to local people and organizations to help with a variety of needs. CEC thanks its generous members for helping provide $40,500 in grants in 2017. Of that amount, CEC provided $20,400 in grants to the following recipients in August.

- Community Action for backpacks for kids program
- Scottish Rite Speech Therapy for children’s speech therapy
- Child’s Hope Learning Center for kitchen appliances
- Charles Hall Youth Services for a new equine therapy program
- Bis-Man Quota International for classroom sound systems
- Girl Scouts for the Circle of Courage challenge course
- McClusky Park District for a city cemetery project
- Wing Booster Club for Wing Theatre seat cushions
- First Presbyterian Church Child Care for an outdoor classroom
- North Dakota Assistive Technology for assistive devices
- The Village Family Service Center for therapeutic toys
- Two community members for children’s medical expenses

The next application deadline will be Jan. 31. For more information or to apply for a grant, call Wes Engbrecht at 701-223-1513. Grant applications can also be downloaded at www.capitalelec.com/content/operation-round.

Current Operation Round Up board members are Barb Handy-Marchello, Roger Christianson, Roberta Thorson, Jim McCullough and Neil Ness. Board members are elected annually at the Capital Electric Member Advisory Committee meeting in February.
For years, I’ve fought the urge to act and say things like my dad, but it gets more difficult each year. While I was growing up, Dad was the ultimate energy ninja. He had the uncanny ability to know when you were going to leave the room “for only a second,” then sneak by and shut off your light. It got so bad that you couldn’t spend more than five seconds looking for something in your closet before he would come by and leave you in the dark. He was the precursor to today’s motion sensor technology, except you couldn’t override the delay.

Today, I’m married with a wife, two teens, one tween and a dog in the house, and we are your typical overbooked, multitasking, 21st century family that leaves every light on in the house, usually “for only a second.”

When the kids were young, I would gently remind everyone that turning off the lights when we left the room was important because it helped the environment and would allow us to have more money to “buy toys.” That didn’t work. More recently, I changed the carrot, saying it would allow us to buy them “more shoes and clothes.”

That didn’t work either. So instead, I am now an energy ninja, and according to my kids, I sneak around the house and turn off their lights “when they are using them.”

If you’ve read Capital Electric Cooperatives’s (CEC) local pages in North Dakota Living the last few months, you will know that more than 60 percent of Capital Electric’s power costs are driven simply by the cooperative’s highest collective point of usage during the month, or “peak” of the total membership. So that means if we have an unseasonably hot day on May 31, which in turn sets a cooperative-wide system peak for the month, the majority of CEC’s wholesale power bill will be based on that single May 31 peak, regardless of how much energy we use during the rest of the month. To put it simply, it is more important to the cooperative peak “when” the energy is used rather than how much energy is used.

Our goal is to keep electric rates as low as possible for you, our members, and because wholesale power costs represent about 75 percent of our operating costs, the easiest and most effective way to reduce pressure on CEC’s rates is to reduce our system peak.

I’m guessing that many of you

Be an energy ninja during peak events. Just don't use one during a peak!

BY PAUL FITTERER

Paul Fitterer
are the energy ninja in your house or know who is. The good news is that Capital Electric has a new Peak Time Rebate (PTR) program starting Oct. 1 that is extremely simple to use, costs nothing to participate, and allows you to earn rebates on your electric bill. The PTR program rewards each household for the amount of energy you reduce during peak events, compared to what you normally would have used. Peak time notifications are in the form of texts and/or emails and will typically be called for a few hours at a time and only when there is a high probability of a system peak.

Not long ago, my wife informed me that she was upgrading to what I call a high-octane blender. Of course, as a typical husband, I asked her what was wrong with our current blender, but you can guess how that conversation ended. So, after much discussion with her friends, also viewed by her as “product experts,” she chose, the Ninja® brand blender, advertised as “You need a tool with total crushing power to handle whatever you can throw at it – so you can get back to crushing it in every other aspect of your life.”

While my wife was overjoyed that the rest of her life was going to be easier, my inner energy ninja alarm immediately went on high alert about, of all things, a “Ninja” blender! I quickly informed her that we could head off this potential catastrophe, but she promptly bought it anyway. Sure enough, I pulled the blender right out of the box, turned it over, and my intuition was right. Even when used for one second during a peak hour, the 1,000-watt (1 kilowatt) motor on that baby will put a dent in any peak time rebate that would be earned during that event! I told her that she could buy more shoes and clothes with the rebate money that we saved if she avoided using the blender during peak events, and believe it or not, that worked! Together, our new motto is “Be an energy ninja during a peak event, just don’t use a ninja during it!”

You can visit our web page at www.capitalelec.com for more information on the PTR program and to sign up. In future months, stay tuned for success stories of reduced peaks and rebates earned by our membership. If you have questions about the program, please call Josh or Jared in our Energy Services Department at 701-223-1513.

Tips to reduce electricity usage during a peak event

- Turn off unnecessary lights, inside and outside your house.
- “Pre-cool” your house before the start of an event. Turn your air conditioning down two hours before the event begins, then you can turn it higher or off during the event.
- If your air conditioning is normally set at 70 degrees, bump it to 74 degrees.
- Turn off your air conditioning and use ceiling or floor fans to circulate air.
- Use a gas or charcoal grill to cook instead of your oven.
- Postpone using your electric clothes dryer, your clothes washing machine, and your dishwasher until after the event is over.
- Postpone using any electric appliance that creates heat (hair dryer, coffee machine or microwave).
- Open your refrigerator as little as possible. You could even turn your fridge to a “less cold” setting an hour before the event.
- If you have an electric water heater, do not use hot water during the event, or turn down the temperature setting.
- Turn off your electric hot water heater altogether. (CAUTION: Only do this if you are sure that this will not damage the unit. Contact the manufacturer if you have questions.)
- Turn off TVs, computers, game consoles, cable boxes and home audio/video.
- Turn off pool pumps and other non-essential electric motors.
- Be aware of often overlooked items such as heated dog dishes, heat tape and engine block heaters.

- Peak Time Rebate Program -

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TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Capital 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.

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

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
www.ndyouthtour.com
Capital credit claims

Listed below are names of former Capital Electric Cooperative Inc. members who had capital credit checks mailed to them in June of the year 2011. These checks have been returned to Capital Electric Cooperative by the postal service because they could not locate the members at the address on file. A further search by Capital Electric personnel has not turned up their whereabouts.

If you received electrical service from Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc. any time during the year 1995 and your name is on this list, please contact our office. If you know of the whereabouts of members on this list who received electrical service from Capital Electric Cooperative Inc. any time during the year 1995, please have them contact our office at 701-223-1513.

Please keep in mind that not all of the capital credit amounts are large. However, we desire to get the money due to those who earned it, and clear up our records.

We will redeem capital credits for those members on the following list who notify us prior to Dec. 1, 2017. Notice is hereby given that any of the aforementioned unclaimed capital credits outstanding after Dec. 1, 2017, will be forfeited pursuant to Section 10-15-34.1 and 10-15-23 of the North Dakota Century Code.

FOURTH AND FINAL NOTICE – OCTOBER 2017

Agriliance
Albert, Dorothy
Albin, Terry R.
Anderson, Mark
Bachmeier, Melissa
Baker, Mark A.
Baker, Susan M.
Baumann, Terence T.
Beasley, Pam
Beasley, Scott
Becker, Ted
Beheler, William
Belgarde, Brandie
Benham, Esther R.
Bismarck Msa Ltd. Partnership
Boss, Patrick
Brackett, Brenda
Carter, Kay
Century Associates
Cermak, Troy
Coffey, Lillian A.
Cooper, Kimberly J.
Dakota Trust
Dakota Wood Truss Inc.
Davis, Earl
Davis, Paul C.
Deboer, Bart
Deboer, Sherry
Demery, Melissa
Dillow, Joan L.
Ding, Blane
Dixon, Allan
Dixon, Cherri
Dreimann, Thomas R.
Faber, Tina
Farnsworth, Leita E.
Farnsworth, Scott M.
Feist, Rebecca
Felter, Rachel
Fetch, William
Fischer, Stacey J.
Frank, Victoria
Fricke, Scott
Friesz, Richard
Fritz, Tom
Garage Doors LLC
Garceau, Lavon
Garden, Designs
Geary, Theresa
Gebhardt, Blanche
Gesellchen-OSborn, Michelle
Gillingham, Peggy
Gondors, Nick
Gorham, James
Gr Graphics
Grad, Glen
Gregory, Jon
Hanson, Daryl N.
Hanson, Michael
Hardy, Linda
Hargiss, Sharon K.
Hart, Shari L.
Heit, Michelle
Helgesen, Jennifer
Helenstein, Teresa
Heupel, Jim
Hillestad, Lori E.
Hinninggardt, Tamara M.
Holter, Jenel
Holzer, Joe
Housley, James F.
Housley, Shandra R.
Hurlen, Lisa
Hurlen, Patrick
Jansen-Rossouw, Kristi
Jensen, Debra
Jensen, Michael
Jewett, Gwendolyn
Johnson, Carol L.
Jones, Marty
Julson, Del
Julson, Helen
Jundt, Joel
Jung, Anita
Keller, Nancy Carol.
Keplin, Sharon
Kittle, Daniel K.
Kittle, Vonda L.
Klein, Delmer A.
Klein, Julie
Klein, Lori L.
Kob, Alan
Kob, Roberta
Kram, Leslie
Lafond, David
Lafond, Jennifer
Lammert, Tracy L.
Landgrebe, Jim
Lang, Bradley
Langseth, Randy
Las International
Lee, Robert C.
Lewis, Melanie
Lieber, David
Link, James M.
Lynch, Kathy T.
Maas, Gilbert
Maier, Florence
Martin, Gary C.
Massine, Candace
Maxson, Angela J.
Maxson, John M.
Maychzrak, Clifford
Mcclymont, Mary Rebecca.
Mcclymont, Troy
McT Communications Corp.
Mcvor, Audrey
Mcvor, Shawn
Mckenzie, Gerard
Mckenzie, Susan
Meduna, Kathy
Mertz, Brenda
Mertz, Mary A.
Metzger’s Appliance Warehouse
Monty, David
Monty, Michelle
Morris, Cherie A.
Morris, William R.
Mueller, Jeffery L.
Nelson, Debra
Nilsen, Brandie
Olson, Tim
Patterson, Everett
Peifer, Alan H.
Perkins, Leticia
Perry, Craig
Perry, Jackie
Puklich, Steve
Quenette, Dylan
Rask, Ryan
Rask, Shannon R.
Raunig, Clare
Raunig, Harold S.
Reich, Richard A.
Reiswig, Sandi
Richardson, John W.
Richter, Michelle R.
Ridl, Ervin L.
Rivard, Darcie A.
Rivard, Perry L.
Robinson, Dean
Roessler, Eleanor
Rolling Hills Arena
Rosemore, Linda
Sacco, Carmen
Sackman, David K.
Sackman, Patricia
Samuelson, Melissa
Sanders, Patrick A.
Sandwich, Eugene N.
Sandwich, Joanne E.
Saunders, Richard
Schaef-er-Hansel, Randi
Schafer, Shannon
Schantz, Tina
Schlaby, Greg
Schmidt, Don M.
Schmidt, Kathy
Schneider, Chuck
Schneider, Lori
Schnoor, Robert Lee.
Schnoor, Ronda Joy.
Schoebinger, Trina J.
Schumacher, Jennifer L.
Sharp, Michael T.
Simonson, Kristie
Skorheim, Nancy
Smith, Sherri
Snyder, Dan
Sova, Barry
Sova, Elizabeth
Stadel, Edwin
Stadel, Ila F.
Stanishawski, Edwin
Stein, Rick
Strang, Bobbette
Strang, Michael
Sutton, Renee
Svidsuen, Gabriela
Swanson, Daniel
Tangen, Randy D.
Thermo-Cool Products Inc
Thompson, Betty C.
Thompson, Ron
Throshon, Julie
Timothy, Lee S.
Tompkins, L.A.
Tully, John P.
Vandenburch, Keith A.
Vogel, Craig A.
Wagner, Tonya
Ward, Jessica
Weber, Lori
Weber, Steve
White, Rita M.
Wierson, Joy
Wilson, Renee
Wittena, Jennifer
Wold, Monte D.
Wolfe, Irene
Wyne, John E.
Zimmer, Marvin

www.capitalelec.com
Board minute excerpts
Aug. 25, 2017

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Capital Electric Cooperative Inc. (CEC) was held Friday, Aug. 25, 2017, at co-op headquarters in Bismarck, pursuant to due notice to all directors. All of the directors were present at that time.

Financial review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Olson and Wrangham reviewed the July 2017 check register and expenditures. They reported that all checks were in order. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve July expenditures in the amount of $3,903,959.55.

Business department report: The business manager presented the financial and statistical report to the board. The total kilowatt-hour sales for July 2017 was over budget by 5.1 percent. The actual monthly electric condition of the cooperative was above budget by 5.4 percent. The total margin for July 2017 was $105,476, in comparison to the budgeted margin of $152,716, above budget by $47,240.

CEC began billing 42 new services in July, bringing our active services to 20,012 versus 19,538 at this time last year, or a net increase of 474 over the last 12 months.

The business manager reviewed the comparison of actual-to-budgeted expenses, cash flow statement and monthly power cost for July 2017. Accounts receivable balances as of Aug. 24, 2017, were also reviewed.

2016 CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA): The KRTA was reviewed, including discussion ratios that highlight aspects of our Cooperative that merit specific attention as higher or lower than our peers or nationwide.

2017 North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) office managers and accountants meeting: The business manager reported on rates and how external factors are influencing rate structures throughout our industry, which was discussed at the meeting held in early August in Grand Forks. The consultant was based in Minnesota, so it was interesting to hear the experience of cooperatives who have very mature load control programs and what their next steps are planned to be.

Property tax update: The state has not released the discount percentage. It will not be the 12 percent discount we received in the past. It is expected that we will receive a 5-7 percent discount instead. The adjustment to our accrual based on that range would exceed $20,000.

Estate retirements: Following review of the financial condition of the cooperative and recommendation by management, it was moved, seconded and carried to authorize payment of capital credits to the following deceased members’ estates:

- Roger Rychlik $1,781.12
- Alan Hausauer $2,380.68
- Cynthia Schmitt $28.18
- Jon Barnes $9.90
- Raymond Hoffman $2,382.84
- Valerie Breen $650.37
- Dale Ehrlich $481.68
- Faye Hardy $210.01
- Jay Schultz $2,638.87
- Robert Yeager $251.11
- Robert Henschel $200.32
- Anna Burgard $249.57
- Alice Grimstad $490.78
- Phyllis Mueller $7.10
- Total $11,761.53

Engineering and operations report: The manager reviewed the written report and outage report from the engineering and operations department. We completed 36 work orders this month, adding 42 new consumers to the system. HDR continues to work on our four-year work plan.

We are working on next year’s capital budget.

We are working on the SCADA connections and programming for the Horizon II substation.

We met with representatives from Verizon on Aug. 23 regarding grid-wide metering.

The proposal presented by the Bismarck special assessment task force and the potential effect of an increase in sales tax on the cooperative were reviewed.

Energy services department: Schaffner reviewed the energy services report.

Eight service orders were completed in July and we continue to collect subscription for peak time rebates and load control programs.

The U.S. Department of Energy policy is going into effect for large-scale residential water heaters. Our Westinghouse water heaters will either be lock box controlled or commercial series. Jared Nygaard and Josh Schaffner completed the test to become certified pump and pitless unit installers. Jared will be attending geothermal training on a new heat pump unit that can satisfy all heating, cooling and domestic hot water needs with one machine. We are working on REAP grants for the solar wells and for the service light replacement program.

ERC loans: There were no loans for board approval this month.

Communications, public relations and IT department: The manager reviewed topics of interest.


United Tribes update: Both $5,000 grants from CoBank and Basin have been approved. We expect the project on the north side of campus and the work on the south side that completes the loop to be done as part of this grant.

PTR update: We are getting a good response for the Peak Time Rebate program. We will be launching the program on Oct. 1.

Safety report: There were no lost-time accidents in July.

Steve Homes, safety instructor from NDAREC, was at our shop on Aug. 1 to conduct an onsite field visit. He found everything in order. After the field visit, Homes and Jeff Tweten tested our bucket trucks with their dielectric equipment. All of our bucket trucks passed the test.

Without objection, the safety report was approved.

Policies: The following policies were reviewed:

- Policy No. IV-2 – Service Calls – Labor and Equipment Charges. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve this policy as revised during.
- Policy No. IV-3 – Sale of Material. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve this policy as revised.
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative: Olson was selected as delegate and Patrie was selected as alternate to the Basin annual meeting.

The 2018 annual meeting shall be held on June 12.

Wage and salary: It was moved, seconded and carried to authorize the salary increase for non-union employees.

Annual meeting: The 2018 annual meeting shall be held on June 12.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the meeting, without objection, the regular meeting was adjourned.

NDAREC report: There was no NDAREC meeting this month.

The NDAREC directors met July 6-7 and Fitterer highlighted key topics. NDAREC will proceed to establish a 501(c)(3) to fund rural development work done by NDAREC should federal funding be eliminated.

Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) board: It was moved, seconded and carried to cast our ballot for Bradley J. Schardin.

Delegates and alternates were appointed as follows:

- National Rural Electric Cooperative Association – Delegate Charles and alternate Hilken.
- CFC – Delegate Olson and alternate Patrie.
- NDAREC – Voting director delegate Vilhauer and alternate Wrangham.
- National Information Solutions Cooperative – Delegate Hollenbeck and alternate Patrie.
- Federated – Delegate Patrie and alternate Wrangham.
- CoBank Board: It was moved, seconded and carried to cast the CFC ballot for Daniel T. Kelley.

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Office phone: 701-223-1513
Toll-free: 888-223-1513
Pay-By-Phone: 1-877-853-5928
DAY—NIGHT—WEEKEND TROUBLE CALL: 223-1513

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