



photo by Melanie Krabseth

photo by Shannon Scott

# RINGER

FEBRUARY 2019



## 2019 NCC Scholarship Programs:

In support of continuing education for rural youth, Northwest Communications Cooperative (NCC) is proud to sponsor three scholarship programs. To qualify, the applicants' parents or legal guardians must be members of and receiving local exchange telephone service from NCC.

Applications for the following scholarships were sent to the schools previously. Additional applications may be obtained by contacting NCC at 701-568-3331 or 800-245-5884. The scholarship applications are also available on our website at [www.nccray.com](http://www.nccray.com).

**Arthur S. Johnson Scholarship:** For the 34th year, NCC is sponsoring this scholarship which was established in honor of previous manager, Art Johnson, who worked for NCC from 1951 to 1985. NCC will be awarding four (4) \$1,000 scholarships in 2019. These scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors and students in post secondary institutions. Application deadline is March 15, 2019.

**Kenneth Lund, Jr. Scholarship:** For the 17th year, NCC is pleased to sponsor a technology scholarship. This scholarship was established in honor of previous General Mgr. Kenneth Lund, Jr., who worked for NCC from 1969 to 2003. NCC will be awarding two (2) \$1,000 technology scholarships in 2019. These scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors and undergraduate students enrolled in a curriculum studying the telecommunications and/or computer technology field at an accredited technical school or a two or four-year college/university. Application deadline is March 15, 2019.

**The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship:** For the 15th year, NCC is excited to offer students in our local school districts the opportunity to apply for this national scholarship program sponsored by our national affiliate, the

National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA). In 2019, FRS will award thirty (30) \$2,500 scholarships to rural high school seniors. This scholarship is not available to students in post secondary institutions. Local students in our service area will be competing with other rural students in our NTCA region, which includes ND, SD, MN, and WI. Should a student from our service area be selected to receive one of the 30 scholarships, FRS will fund \$2,000 and NCC will fund \$500. The FRS scholarship is not a scholarship based on grade point average. Rather, it is geared toward seniors who are good, solid students, but may not qualify for scholarship programs based solely upon GPA. Some preference may be given to individuals expressing an interest to return to work in a rural area following graduation. Applications must be submitted to NCC by February 27, 2019, so they can be signed by our General Manager and mailed to FRS by March 1, 2019.

**Apply Soon**

**The FRS Staurulakis Family Scholarship:** The FRS is proud to announce the eighth year of four scholarships funded by Manny and Leo Staurulakis, of John Staurulakis, Inc. (JSI) in honor of their parents, John and Chresanthe Staurulakis and to celebrate 50 years of service to the rural telephone industry. In 2019, JSI will award four (4) \$5,000 scholarships to rural high school seniors. This scholarship is not available to students in post secondary institutions. The application used for the above FRS Scholarship will be used for this scholarship. Students with a focus in the science, math, medicine, or engineering will be automatically considered for these Staurulakis Family Scholarships. With the generous addition of the Staurulakis Family Scholarships, the Foundation will offer nearly \$100,000 annually to help rural students attain a higher education. As stated above, applications must be submitted to NCC by February 27, 2019 so they can be signed by our General Manager and mailed to FRS by March 1, 2019.

## New Listings

### NOONAN

Jacobs Morgan & Kayla ..... 925-5188

**CHANGING LIVES.  
MAKING CONNECTIONS.**

## Important Notes

- **Please check** your telephone directory listing, Contact Sheri at NCC with any changes or corrections for the 2019-2020 printed directory.
- **NCC Weather Channel** on Channel 15 on the RF Cable TV system is no longer available for NCC to broadcast. We are broadcasting KX Weather on this channel until we find an alternative. Other weather channel options include:
  - KX Weather is now available again on Channel 350 on the RF Cable TV system and on Channel 9 on the Advanced TV system for fiber customers.
  - The Weather Channel (TWC) which is Channel 9 on the RF Cable TV system and Channel 16 on Advanced TV system, has local weather on the 8s (time slot ends in an 8). NCC was able to include (3) locations, so used Grenora, Lignite and Tioga in an attempt to provide coverage across our service area.
  - Local Weather is broadcast in conjunction with the community announcements on Channel 12 on the Advanced TV system.



**Thank you ALL participants  
and CONGRATULATIONS  
to all the NCC Pick-It  
Bowl Challenge Winners!**

Out of over 100 participants in our area, Brian Ledahl from Zahl earned the most points in the contest. He was awarded a \$100 gift certificate. Zach Verlinde from Noonan came in 2nd place and won a \$75 gift certificate, and Jackie Lee from our Round Prairie exchange finished in third and received a \$50 gift certificate. Heather Kippen was drawn randomly from all participants and won a Roomba robot vacuum.

Contest participants were invited to pick who they predicted to win the NCAA football bowl games and earned points for each game they picked correctly. The contest was conducted online and sponsored by NCC.

The Bowl Challenge contest ended when Clemson dominated Alabama 44-16.

*NCC is obligated to provide access to 911 service during a power outage. Below is information on battery backup power for fiber customers.*

### Backup Power for Home Phone Service during Power Outages:

A backup power supply (battery) is required for your digital voice service to be in service in the event of a power outage. A backup battery, such as what NCC has provided and installed, will allow regular corded land line phones to work during a power outage and to maintain the ability to connect to 911 emergency services. When a power outage occurs, you should ensure that you have one corded single-line touchtone phone connected directly to the Wi-Fi gateway or your in-home wiring (wall jack) and the gateway connected directly to the Battery Back Unit. If you connect a cordless phone, it will not function without a separate battery backup, and not all cordless phones are so equipped.

## Battery Backup

### What Your Battery Can-and Can't-Do for You:

Our backup battery allows you to continue to use your home voice service during a power outage. Without a backup battery, you will not be able to make any calls, including emergency calls to 911. Our backup battery does not provide power to any service other than voice. Home security systems, medical monitoring devices and other equipment will not run on a home phone backup battery.

### Purchase and Replacement Options:

NCC provides battery back up for up to eight hours at no extra charge. Backup battery replacements are available directly from NCC. Additional battery backup that provides 24 hours of standby power can be purchased and installed by NCC for an additional cost. Please call NCC for more details. If you have any questions on how to request and obtain a replacement unit as well as instruction on the installation of the replacement unit, please call 701-568-3331.

### Expected Backup Power Duration:

The battery backup is expected to last up to 8 hours in the event of a power outage depending upon battery age, usage, and environment. The estimated life expectancy for the battery is 2-4 years depending on power outage frequency and environment.

### Instructions for Proper Care and Use of Your Battery:

Please follow the instructions included with your battery for proper use, storage, and care. Batteries should be stored in locations under normal room temperatures.

You should periodically remove and test your battery to verify both operation of the backup battery and its condition. The battery backup unit can be tested by unplugging it from the power outlet. If it is working correctly, the Optical Network Terminal will remain powered and regular corded land line phones will still work in the house. Make sure to plug the unit back in at the end of testing.

Battery backup units will display a battery light when the battery needs to be replaced. Please refer to the battery backup unit's instruction manual for details on the warning indicator lights and the battery replacement procedure. NCC does not supply any warranty on the battery backup unit.

**Report Trouble: 611**

**Email:** [ncc@nccray.com](mailto:ncc@nccray.com)

**Ph:** 701-568-3331 or 800-245-5884

**Directory Assistance: 411**

**Call Before You Dig: 811**

**Newsletter Editor:** Angela Schepp

**Design:** [lori@leutzgraphics.com](mailto:lori@leutzgraphics.com)

**Business Hours:** M-F 8am to 5pm.

**NCC Message Center will take calls outside of these hours.**

**Make a payment anytime by using Secure Pay 1-888-816-8068 or SmartHub [www.nccray.com](http://www.nccray.com) or download the app**