



# RINGER

MARCH 2019



## Save the Date - June 19th!

NCC's upcoming Annual Meeting of members is Tuesday, June 19th in Ray. Members of all ages are invited to enjoy an evening of food, entertainment, prizes and a business meeting of members.

## Rural Business Development Grants

**What does this program do?** RBDG is a competitive grant designed to support targeted technical assistance, training and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues.

### Who may apply for this program?

Rural public entities including, but not limited to:

- Towns
- Communities
- State agencies
- Authorities
- Nonprofit Corporations
- Institutions of Higher Ed.
- Federally recognized Tribes
- Rural Cooperatives

More program information and the application forms can be found at [www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants/nd](http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants/nd). **The deadline for receipt of the application is 4:30 PM on March 29, 2019.**

## PICK-IT MARCH MANIA



## Our March Mania Contest is fun and free to participate!

It's college basketball season and NCC is hosting a Pick-It March Mania contest this year starting on March 1st. All customers AND THOSE LIVING IN OUR SERVING AREA are invited to participate in this fun, free online contest. You can sign up by visiting our website [ncc.pickitchallenge.com](http://ncc.pickitchallenge.com), filling out your bracket, and checking in after the big games to see how many points you have. The best part? You can plan NCC March Mania with your friends and neighbors and have the chance to win great prizes, all for free!

**Game matchups will be announced March 17th and the first bracket games start March 21st. Visit [ncc.pickitchallenge.com](http://ncc.pickitchallenge.com)**

## New Employee

**Jayne Heier**  
Customer  
Sales & Service  
Representative



NCC employees recently welcomed Jayme Heier as the newest Customer Sales & Service Representative. She is originally from Watford City and moved to Ray last summer. Jayme attended Cosmetology School and was most recently working in Tioga for Hess Corporation. She and husband, Matt Heier, Principal at Ray School, are in the process of building a house in Ray to reside with their two children, Maddox and Emree.

In her spare time, Jayme enjoys playing with her kids, attending community events, golfing, visiting family and friends back home and getting out to the lake when she can. She says that she's always been very involved, even from a young age where she ran cross country and track, and played volleyball and basketball in addition to being the chapter president and district president for FCCLA in high school in Watford City.

Jayne said that she's enjoying her job and enjoying the challenge. She compliments employees at NCC who have been so welcoming and helpful. Her goal is to provide customers with the best service that she possibly can and is thankful for the opportunity to serve her community and the surrounding communities. We are happy to have Jayme here and hope you will also welcome her!



### Should you drop your landline?

Let our experts help talk  
you through the decision.  
Call 568-3331 today!

## Scholarship Deadline

**Reminder to apply by March 14, 2019**

**Does your student need money for college?** There's still time to apply to the NCC Scholarships. NCC will be awarding (6) \$1,000 scholarships. Applications are easy to fill out. Call 568-3331, email [ncc@nccray.com](mailto:ncc@nccray.com) or download at [www.nccray.com](http://www.nccray.com) today!



*Terek Enget was the lucky winner of the Wireless Charging Pad after Taryn and NCC Director, Elda Titus provided students with information in Powers Lake.*



*Taryn Bergstrom, who has been visiting area schools to provide a scholarship presentation and answer any questions students might have.*



*Troy Donnelly, NCC Director and Trevor Hayes, senior at Ray High School, who won the Wireless Charging Pad.*





*Go Green!*

SmartHub is  
NCC's online  
customer portal.  
[www.nccray.com](http://www.nccray.com)

## 2019 NCC Director Election

### Board of Directors Nominations

The Annual Meeting of Northwest Communications Cooperative (NCC) will be held on Tuesday, June 18th in the warehouse of the cooperative's headquarter location in Ray. Districts 5 & 6 each have one director position open for nominations to serve a three-year term. NCC's seven member Board of Directors represent our service area throughout the year by attending monthly board meetings, serving on state associations, attending community events, and representing NCC on national telecommunication issues. Incumbent Directors for Districts 5 & 6 are:

#### **District #5**

Powers Lake & Columbus  
– Open seat

#### **District #6**

Tioga  
– Lorena Lambrecht, Incumbent Director

Incumbent for District #5, Elda Titus, is retiring from the Board of Directors and has chosen not to seek re-election. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Director for one of the above districts, please refer to the NCC Bylaws. The Bylaws of NCC specifically address the legal aspects of the nominating and election process under Article IV Directors. The Bylaws can be found in the back of the NCC telephone directory or on the NCC website ([www.nccray.com](http://www.nccray.com)).

Please pay specific attention to Section 4. Qualifications to be Nominated, to Become or Remain a Director and Section 5. Nomination and Election of Directors in Article IV. If you are interested in becoming a candidate, please call NCC at 568-3331 or stop at the office in Ray to receive a nomination petition form. Completed petition forms must be returned to NCC by Friday, May 3rd, 2019 for those who are interested in seeking directorship.

## Lifeline Qualifications



Lifeline is a federal program that lowers the monthly cost of phone and internet. Eligible customers will get at least \$9.25/month towards their bill. You can use the Lifeline for either phone or internet, but not both.

### Ways to qualify for the Lifeline discount:

- Based on your income
  - You can get Lifeline if your income is 135% or less than the federal poverty guidelines.
- If you (or someone in your household) participates in one of these federal assistance programs:
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps
  - Medicaid
  - Supplemental Security Income
  - Federal Public Housing Assistance
  - Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
  - Tribal Programs
- Limit One per Household

#### **Apply online at:**

[nationalverifier.service-now.com/lifeline](http://nationalverifier.service-now.com/lifeline)

#### **Or download the paper form at:**

[www.nccray.com](http://www.nccray.com)



[www.nccray.com](http://www.nccray.com)

## New Listings

### EPPING

Covia Corp ..... 859-5143

### GRENORA

Johnson Walter M ..... 694-4714

Nelson Brandon ..... 694-8926

### RAY

Northwest Therapy Services .. 568-8255

### TIOGA

Mccluskey Lori ..... 664-2797

Customer Sales & Service Representatives at NCC have recently been participating in some training activities including ride alongs with the outside technicians. Pictured is Lonny Rasmussen and Sheri Torgerson after installing Telephone, Internet and TV at a customer's home.



## Notes

### How to stop unwanted calls on a landline:

- Install a call-blocking device. Some devices use blacklists to:
  - stop unwanted calls
  - divert calls to voicemail
 Some devices use whitelists of approved numbers.
- Inquire what services NCC offers to its customers.

Report unwanted calls to the Federal Trade Commission at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint)



- **Check your Telephone Directory for any changes:**  
Please check your listing in the NCC Telephone Directory for any errors or changes. Contact Sheri at NCC 568-3331 if you would like any changes for the 2019-2020 directory, which comes out in August. Changes are made more often on the online directory found by visiting the NCC website at [www.nccray.com](http://www.nccray.com).
- **Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10th at 2:00 a.m.** Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour. Also, replacing the batteries in your smoke alarms when you adjust your clocks twice a year is an easy way to ensure that your family is protected.
- **Happy St. Patrick's Day** on Saturday, March 17th!

**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