

THE RINGER

FALL 2019



Cooperatives By the Community, For the Community

October is Co-op month. Doing business with a cooperative means doing business with an entity that shares the same values as most Americans. Cooperatives impact families, neighborhoods, communities and the national economy in very significant ways, providing solutions to some of the nation's toughest challenges. As a customer of a cooperative, you become an owner. Cooperatives are motivated not just by profit, but also by service, to meet our members' needs for affordable and high quality services.



Employee Awards Banquet

Thanking NCC employees and board members for their years of service.



No More Horsing Around

How broadband makes Sandhill Performance Horses more efficient



Group Picture: Back row (L to R) - Bryan Davis, Sheldon Johnson, James Holmen, Blane Zeleny and Jen Bingeman. Front row (L to R) - Terrance Vettleson, Sarah Knox and Linda Magnuson. Not pictured: Sheri Torgerson, Nate Jepsen, and Maggie Albrecht.



Employee Awards Banquet

Congratulations to the following NCC employees and board member for their years of service, who were recognized at the Employee Awards Banquet on August 30th.

30 Year: Linda Magnuson
25 Year: Sheri Torgerson
15 Year: James Holmen
10 Year: Nate Jepsen
5 Year: Sarah Knox
5 Year: Terrance Vettleson
5 Year: Bryan Davis
5 Year: Maggie Albrecht
5 Year: Blane Zeleny
1 Year: Sheldon Johnson
1 Year: Jen Bingeman



Employee News!

Tony Fowler was recently promoted to a Communications Specialist. He began working at NCC in the Construction department in 2015. He will join the group of servicemen who are out in the areas installing video, data and voice services to business and residential customers. Congrats Tony!

No More Horsing Around

How broadband makes Sandhill
Performance Horses more efficient

There's never a dull moment at Sandhill Performance Horses in Epping, ND. With over 100 horses on site, the team is kept busy with breeding, foaling, raising, prepping horses for shows, and everything in-between. For Gene Vandenberg, owner and operator of Sandhill Performance Horses, this has been his livelihood since age 17.

"Now more years than I would like to count," says Gene laughing.

Nonetheless, Gene hasn't let age slow him down from doing what he loves, and with new emerging technology he's even been able to do more of it – enabling him to work smarter and harder.

"Before I had high-speed internet, I would have to get up in the middle of the night every two hours," says Gene. "I would check cows and horses, and I was lucky if I would get four or five hours of sleep a night."

With the use of broadband and new security systems powered by Northwest Communications Co-op (NCC), a rural broadband provider located in Ray, ND, Gene is able to take care of tasks that once required hours in a matter of minutes.

"A lot of time is saved by the cameras," says Gene. "My barns are far enough apart where checking stalls would take 45 minutes or more. Now, I can be done in 10 minutes," says Gene as he



scrolls through his phone showcasing the system.

At NCC, stories like Gene's are a reminder of why quality broadband is crucial to the small businesses of North Dakota. As a part of the Broadband Association of North Dakota, NCC and its fellow member

connected and ahead of the game by pushing the implementation of new broadband technology across the state. BAND members are currently working on installing new fiber lines across the state and offering new services like the camera surveillance Gene uses. All in an effort to enable North Dakotans to work harder and smarter.

For those at NCC, seeing stories such as Gene's and how their service has impacted his work inspires them.

"We were created to build connections, and for people to communicate with the rest of the world," says Jeremy Becker, CEO and General Manager of NCC. "For us to be a part of a story like Gene's... it is something we are extremely proud of."

Learn more about BAND and how you can connect with your local BAND organization, at broadbandnd.com.

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-Gene Vandenberg

Sandhill Performance Horses

organizations across the state are dedicated to providing quality broadband services within their communities.

For decades, BAND has continued to strive towards keeping North Dakota



New Employee at NCC

NCC employees recently welcomed Angie Kupper as the newest Customer Sales & Service Representative. Angie holds a degree from the University of Mary with a Bachelor's degree in nursing and a minor in theology. A native to Ray, she grew up south of Ray and graduated from Ray High School where she and her three sons continue to live. In addition to being a member of the Nesson School Board, Angie spends her free time golfing, running

and attempting to garden! Angie says that she's enjoyed her time working at NCC and everyone has been so kind and welcoming. 'There is a lot to learn as this position is much different than nursing, but I am fully embracing the change of pace and the challenge of expanding my knowledge of the technology and communication world,' stated Angie. We are happy to have Angie here and hope you will also welcome her!



NCC EVENTS

Tuesday, October 22

**Powers Lake Coop Breakfast at the
Senior Citizen Center in PL.**

Serving from 8-9:30am

Thursday, October 31

Happy Halloween!

Stop by the office in Ray for some treats.

8am-5pm

Temporary Disconnect Plan Available

NCC offers a temporary disconnect plan for customers who wish to temporarily discontinue your services, but retain your telephone number, directory listing and email account while you are away for the winter. Monthly service fees are suspended. You must call in the spring when you return to reconnect. Reconnect fees of \$25 per service do apply when service is reconnected. Please call NCC for more information **568-3331**.

New Telephone Listings

Alamo

Dragseth Kelvin: 701-528-4366

Powers Lake

Heiling Brian & Emmy: 701-464-6766

Round Prairie

Delta Air Lines: 701-875-5023

Hering Cody: 701-875-5574

Hertz Williston: 701-875-5142

Tioga

Bugbee Brent: 701-664-3518

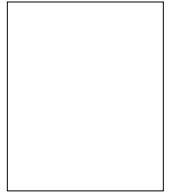
October 2019 FUSC Increase

Effective October 1, 2019, the FCC increased the Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) from 24.4% to 25% for Telephone line charges. This change will be reflected on your November bill as follows: for residential Telephone line service the charge will increase from \$1.59 to \$1.63, single business line will increase from \$2.32 to \$2.38, and multi-line business line will increase from \$2.98 TO \$3.05.

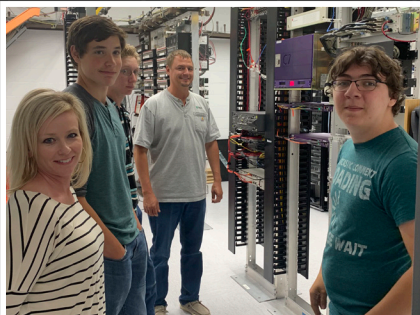




111 W Railroad Ave,
Ray, ND 58849



Summer Events!



Thank you for all your support!