

photo by
Don Ellis



RINGER

FEBRUARY 2020



CHANGING LIVES.
MAKING CONNECTIONS.

2020 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 NCC.

Applications for the following scholarships are sent to area schools and colleges/universities. 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.

Arthur S. Johnson Scholarship:

For the 35th 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 2020. These scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors and students in post secondary institutions. Application deadline is March 13, 2020.

Kenneth Lund, Jr. Scholarship:

For the 18th 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 13, 2020.

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship:

For the 16th 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, NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association. In 2020, 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 online to FRS by March 6, 2020.

The FRS Staurulakis Family Scholarship:

The FRS is proud to announce the 9th 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 2020 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 online to FRS by March 6, 2020.

Apply Soon

Advanced TV Changes

NCC has added the following channels:

- CourtTV Mystery - Channel 81
- Justice - Channel 82
- Laff - Channel 83
- FSN + - Channel 380
- mtvU - Channel 246
- NickMusic - Channel 248
- BEK Sports Plus + East - Channel 457
- SEC - Channel 401

Other Changes:

- OWN moved to Channel 84
- OWN HD moved to Channel 384
- Sundance moved to Channel 233
- Stingray Music channels were added to any customer with Basic or Expanded Basic Pkg.
- WGN will move from Channel 3 in the Economy package to Channel 80 in the Basic package effective February 3, 2020.
- AWE and AWE HD removed March 1, 2020.

An updated channel line-up brochure is on our website at www.nccray.com/residential/video-television. Scroll down to click on 'Packages, Pricing & Channel Lineup.'



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

NCC is pleased to announce the winners of the NCC Pick-It Bowl Challenge college football contest. Out of over 130 participants in our area, John Sheldon from Epping earned the most points in the contest. He was awarded a \$100 gift certificate. Lyann Olson from Bowbells came in second place and won a \$75 gift certificate, and Ryan Bendixson from our Zahl exchange placed third and received a \$50 gift certificate. Diane Thompson from Ray was drawn randomly from all participants as the winner of a FitBit watch.

Contest participants were invited to choose 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 contest ended when LSU won the national championship game on January 13th.

The Crosby Country Club, the Ray High School Math Department, and Lil Ranchers Daycare, were each awarded \$5,000 through the Sharing Success grant program!

NCC GM/CEO, Jeremy Becker said, "We are very pleased with the number of applications submitted for these grants; all which are very worthy of support. On behalf of our cooperative members, we are pleased to support the efforts of these community projects."

CoBank is a national cooperative bank serving vital industries across rural America. This is a shared grant in which NCC matches what CoBank awards. Entities who can apply must be a 501c3 charity, school or government organization.

Lil Ranchers Daycare in Powers Lake plans to use the funds towards backyard playground updates.

The Crosby Country Club will make improvements to the 9-hole golfcourse, replace the clubhouse deck and hook up water.

Michelle Dolan, Math Teacher at Ray High School will purchase chromebooks for classroom and other uses.

Past recipients include Columbus Rural Fire Department, Tioga Public School District, Ray Fire Department, Bowbells Senior Citizens, Grenora Public School, Crosby Kids Daycare, City of Flaxton, Tioga Medical Center and Upper Missouri Ministries.

CoBank Grants



Lil Ranchers Daycare providers and Leslie Grubb, NCC Director.

Important Notes

- **Enjoy Internet speeds up to 1 gig/sec. at a much lower monthly price!** Residential: \$199/mo. or \$221/mo. Internet Only; Business: \$299/mo. or \$321/mo. Internet Only. NCC has invested millions of dollars upgrading to an ultra-reliable and fast fiber network to bring the latest technology and fastest speeds to our members. The 1 Gig plan includes download speeds up to 1,000 Mbps. It completes a high-speed Internet portfolio of plans that also feature 25x25; 50x50; 150x150 and 300x300 plans. Call today!
- If you would like your physical address on the NCC monthly bill statement, please call 568-3331 or email ncc@nccray.com. Note: After you notify us, you should see the change on the next statement you receive.
- We still have large wall and smaller **2020 NCC Calendars** in our office. They are free of charge. Please stop in the Ray office to get yours!

Report Trouble: 611

Email: 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

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 or download the app