



Photo by Anna Oas

# HAPPY *New* YEAR!

# RINGER

JANUARY 2021



## PLAY OUR FREE PRO FOOTBALL CONTEST

**All NCC customers can play!!**

Sign up at [ncc.pickitchallenge.com](http://ncc.pickitchallenge.com), fill out your bracket, then check in after the big games to see how many points you earned! The best part? You can play NCC's Pro Football Challenge with your friends and neighbors and have the chance to win great prizes, all for free! Game matchups will be announced on approximately January 10 and the first bracket games start January 16.

## NCC Awards Grants to Local Organizations!

NCC and the other Rural ILECs in ND who are members of the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) are given \$2,000 to distribute to community-owned entities, non-profits and other community-based projects. The Wildrose Golf Course was awarded \$2,000 to help towards the cost of replacing their sand greens to artificial turf.

NCC also partnered again this year with CoBank to provide combined grant total of \$20,000. Entities who are a 501(c)(3) charity, school or government organization such as counties or municipalities and their agencies or departments were eligible to apply. The Lignite Community Builders Corporation was awarded \$10,000 to be used towards updates and repairs to their community center. St. Luke's Hospital was awarded \$5,000 to be used towards repairs at the St. Luke's Sunrise Care Center. Ray Public School was awarded \$5,000 to be used towards updating appliances in the Family and Consumer Science Room.

As a local cooperative with small town roots, NCC understands the importance of community. 'At NCC we believe that community is all about making your home a better place,' says Jeremy Becker, NCC GM/CEO. 'We are proud to invest in the communities that invest in us.'

For questions concerning RDFC, please contact Lori Capouch at 701-667-6444 or [lcapouch@ndarec.com](mailto:lcapouch@ndarec.com). For questions concerning CoBank Sharing Success, please contact [sharingsuccess@cobank.com](mailto:sharingsuccess@cobank.com).



*Belinda Moen, St. Luke's Care Center Administrator and Shelley Power, Director of Environmental Services.*



*Ray High School FACS – Katy Cvancara, Family & Consumer Science teacher and students.*

*Lignite Community Builders Corp.: Maureen Chrest, Treasurer Joyce Glaspey, Secretary Deb Nelson, Vice President and Nadine Sandberg, Director.*



## NCC Welcomes New Employee



**Clint Perdue**

NCC has hired Clint Perdue as a Communications Specialist. He holds a degree in Instrumentation and Electronics from Bismarck State College, and was most recently a Senior Automation Technician for Oasis Petroleum. Clint also has past work experience with Hess Corp. He grew up in Ray and graduated from Ray High School. Clint, his wife, Mariah, and daughter, Camryn (2), reside in Ray where they purchased his grandfather's house and keep busy renovating it. He enjoys hunting and is also very active on the Ray Fire Department. We are happy to have Clint here and hope you will also welcome him if you see him out and about in your area!

We are thankful for the many wonderful employees and directors at NCC. Service awards are given on an annual basis in 5-year increments. Those receiving awards in 2020 include:

**30 Years:** *Kelly Heier*

**25 Years:** *Dean Rustad*

**15 Years:** *Angela Schepp*  
*Todd Watterud*

**10 Years:** *Garth Vaagene*  
*Taryn Bergstrom*

**5 Years:** *Axcel Prine*  
*Bryan Benson*  
*Glen Severson*  
*Tony Fowler*  
*John Halseth*  
*Tanya Weflen*

**1 Year:** *Jayme Heier*  
*Leslie Grubb, Director*  
*Angie Kupper*

Congratulations to Terry Vettleson and Zach Essler on the completion of the Line Installer/Repairer Apprenticeship from Telecom Training & Safety. This distinction and accomplishment is also recognized by the Department of Labor. Apprenticeship is an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where individuals can obtain work experience, classroom instruction and a portable, nationally recognized credential. In order to satisfy the program, they each accumulated 8000 OJT (on-the-job training) hours and 576 course-work hours on their own time. NCC greatly appreciates the hard work and dedication Zach and Terry dedicated to the program. NCC is proud of both of you. Keep up the great work.



**Terry Vettleson**



**Zach Essler**

## Pick Up Your Free NCC 2021 Calendar!

Thank you to all who participated in our Photo Contest. We received many, many beautiful pictures. All photos that were submitted to the contest were previously posted on the NCC Facebook page. You can pick up a free calendar at the NCC office in Ray. Congratulations to the winners who have pictures in the 2021 NCC Calendar!

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Brook Blom        | Shelby Knox        |
| Joann Ellis       | Janae Hagen        |
| Jerry Walter      | Alesha Oster       |
| Gina Footh        | Monica Neether     |
| Kyle Ness         | Amy Maupin         |
| Kami Meland       | Kris Vinger        |
| Courtney Olson    | Susan Dixon        |
| Amanda Magnuson   | Melanie Krabseth   |
| Susy Castro       | Gayleen Tangsrud   |
| Leo Walter        | Anna Oas           |
| Kaela Lucke       | Crystal Bagley     |
| Keeli Meland      | Keith Torgeson     |
| Camille McGinnity | Veronica McGinnity |

## Important Notes:

- **Keep your address current** with NCC if you plan to move. You don't want to miss any future capital credit disbursements.
- **NCC Advanced TV and NCC Video rates** and the local broadcast fee will go up the first quarter of 2021 based on the annual programming fee increases from the Cable TV networks and the local networks retransmission agreements.
- **Effective January 1, 2021, the Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) on your bill will increase** as a result of an increase in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) universal service fund contribution factor from 27.1% to 31.8%. The FUSC is calculated in accordance with FCC rules by applying the new contribution factor of 31.8% (0.318) to the charges for interstate services. The federal universal service fund helps to ensure access to affordable communications services in hard-to-serve rural areas of the United States. If you have any questions regarding the FUSC, please contact the FCC at 1-888-225-5322 or email: [fccinfo@fcc.gov](mailto:fccinfo@fcc.gov).

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**Business Hours:** M-F 8am to 5pm.  
**NCC Message Center will take calls outside of these hours.**

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