

photo by Melanie Krabseth

RINGER

MAY 2021



NCC Annual Meeting SAVE the date!

NCC's upcoming Annual Meeting of members is Tuesday, June 15th in Ray. The Business Meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the NCC warehouse located at 111 Railroad Avenue in Ray. There will not be any food served or kids activities this year. Members are invited to attend in person, but the meeting will also be available online and possibly on TV. More details will be shared in June.



Do it all with Gig Internet

Gigabit Internet may seem impossibly futuristic, like flying cars or robot pets, but it's already here, in our communities. Across North Dakota, local broadband providers are offering Internet speeds of one gigabit, or one million bits, per second — that's one hundred times faster than the average Internet speed in the United States. Gigabit Internet isn't just faster; it's more reliable, has lower latency, and offers matching upload and download speeds. **So what does all of this mean for you?** Consider how much of your life revolves around the Internet: you use it to work, learn, entertain, shop, communicate, bank, and more. With gig, you can do everything you already do online, but faster and with higher quality.

What can you do with Gig?

- **Stream high-quality video.** Whether you're streaming Game of Thrones or your grandson's graduation ceremony, with gigabit Internet, you can expect higher quality video without annoying buffering or lags. But the most exciting improvement in terms of video is that you will be able to stream ultra-high definition 4K video at the same speeds as a typical 1080p stream, despite requiring up to five times as much data.

- **Work from home.** These days, more of us are working from our home offices than ever before. And while gigabit Internet is not essential for working successfully from home, if you rely on collaboration tools or frequently need to transfer large files, gig fast upload speeds will allow you to get more done in less time.

- **Keep in touch.** Speaking of working from home: we've all been on a Zoom or Skype call where someone's video keeps cutting out, making it impossible to make out what they are saying. This isn't just frustrating; it can put a strain on personal and professional relationships that rely on these virtual connections. Gigabit Internet allows for smoother, higher resolution video calls, so you can lead that big meeting or chat with your long-distance friends without interruption.

- **Online game.** With gig, you can work hard AND play hard. Thanks to matching upload and download speeds, the online gamers in your household will never have to worry about losing a game due to a laggy connection again.

- **Explore new, immersive media.** When we say "gaming," we're not just talking about Fortnite and Animal Crossing anymore. Gigabit Internet's faster upload and download speeds will make immersive media, like virtual and augmented reality, more accessible from home.

- **Backup your data.** From family photos to financial documents, there is so much data on our devices that we don't want to lose. Traditionally, backing up that valuable data has required external hard drives which can be damaged or misplaced. Gig Internet makes it more convenient to store your data with cloud backup services, like Google Drive and Microsoft OneDrive, that you can access from anywhere at any time.

- **Support multiple users and devices simultaneously.** Say you want to stream your favorite show while your kids are playing video games upstairs and your spouse is on a video call preparing for a business meeting. Something's got to give, right? Not with gig. Perhaps the most exciting feature of gigabit Internet is the ability to support your entire household, and their devices, all at once. These are just a few of ways that gigabit Internet can make your online life faster, more convenient, and more reliable. But in order to enjoy all these advantages and more, you'll need technology that can support such blazing speeds. Call NCC at 568-3331 for details and one of NCC's tech experts can connect with the right equipment.



National Do-Not-Call Registry:

The National Do-Not-Call Registry has been established to offer you a choice about receiving telemarketing calls at home. Registering will stop most telemarketing calls, but it will not stop calls from certain non-profit and political organizations, and calls from organizations with which you have established a business relationship.

Consumers can register their residential and wireless telephone numbers, on the National Do-Not-Call Registry by telephone or by Internet at no cost. The number will be on the list the day after registration; however, telemarketers have up to 31 days to remove the number from their call lists. If you received an unwanted call after your number was on the National Registry for 31 days, report it to the FTC. You may register up to three numbers at one time if registering on the Internet. If registering via telephone, you can register only one number at a time and you must call from the telephone number you are registering. A number can be removed from the Do-Not-Call Registry at anytime.

- **To register or remove a number from the Do-Not-Call Registry call 1.888.382.1222,**
- **for TTY call 1.866.290.4236 or register on the Internet at www.donotcall.gov.**
- **Additional information can be obtained at www.donotcall.gov.**

Regarding Businesses: Federal law requires any person making telephone solicitations to residential telephone subscribers to comply with the federal Do-Not-Call rules and regulations set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200 and 16 C.F.R. Part 310, including the requirements of the national Do-Not-Call (DNC) Registry.

Notice About Your Account

Federal law allows us to use information from your current records to market and advise you of new products and services that may satisfy your communications needs, unless you notify us otherwise.

What is this "information?"

It is information called "Customer Proprietary Network Information" or "CPNI" - relating to telecommunications services you receive from NCC.

How can we use this information?

This information can be used to advise you about innovative communications services or new communications technology and products offered by NCC. We DO NOT sell or in any way provide this information to any other company other than the 911 records we are required by law to provide if you are a telephone customer.

Who will be able to use this information?

ONLY Northwest Communications Cooperative and the subsidiary companies of NCC can use this information.

Will NCC protect my information?

YES! You have the right, and we have the duty, under federal law, to protect the confidentiality of this information. Therefore, regardless of whether you consent or not, to allowing us to continue providing you with educational mailings, your account will be treated confidentially.

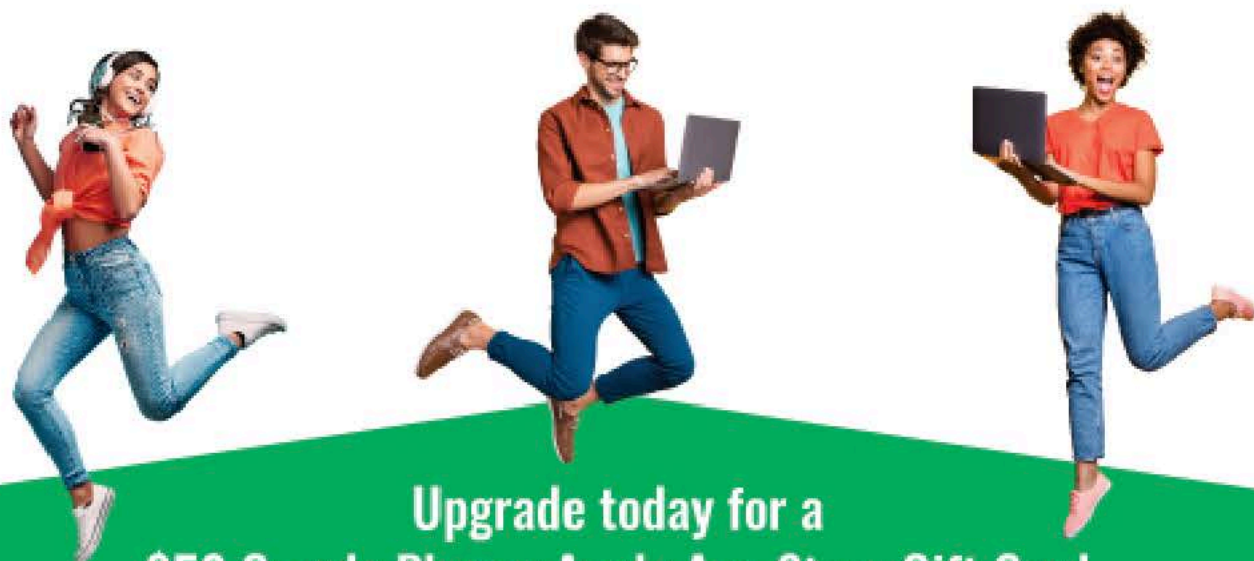
What action is necessary on my part to show consent?

No action on your part is necessary. If you do not contact us within 30 days and indicate that we may not continue providing you with marketing and educational mailings, we will continue to do so.

What if I do not consent?

You can contact us at 568-3331 or email ncc@nccray.com. You will not receive company information from us at that point. You may miss the opportunity to learn of new, innovative service proposals, new packaging that could reduce your monthly bill and other information that keeps you informed of the happenings of NCC.

MORE GADGETS, MORE GO!



Upgrade today for a
\$50 Google Play or Apple App Store Gift Card



NEW NCC Tech Tips!

Edition #3: *How to Stream TV*

More and more people are turning to streaming media in addition to traditional cable television. We will walk you through everything you need to know to start streaming or if you're more of a visual learner, watch the latest Tech Tip video. You can find it all here: nccray.com/category/tech-tips

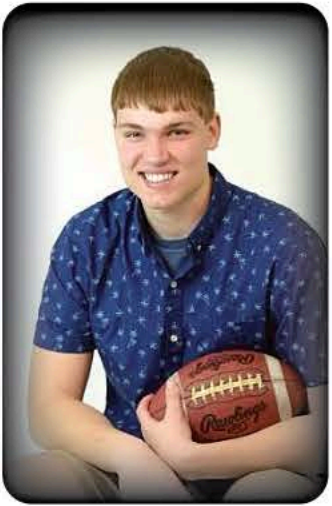
NCC Scholarship Winners



Adeline Norgaard
Tioga High School

2021 Arthur S. Johnson Scholarship:

Adeline Norgaard, daughter of Chris & Jenny Norgaard, is a senior at Tioga High School. She has been actively involved in volleyball, basketball, track, Future Business Leaders of America, Student Council, National Honor Society, Student Government, and the Academic Olympics. During Addie's senior year she served as the FBLA Vice President, the Student Council Vice President, the Letterman's Club President, the Class Vice President, and as volleyball, basketball, and track team captains. She is a four-time National FBLA qualifier and has qualified for both the North Dakota State Science Fair and the International Science & Engineering Fair three times each. Addie has won multiple athletic awards and was on the district all-tournament team for volleyball. She has been on the honor roll since freshman year and has been an active member of her school, community, and church. Addie plans to attend the University of Mary this fall to pursue a degree in business.



Bo Thingvold
Bowbells High School

Bo Thingvold, son of Jon & Celeste Thingvold, is a senior at Bowbells High School. He was actively involved in football, basketball, baseball, speech, Future Business Leaders of America, Student Council, Academic Olympics, Choir, Band, and Luther League. Bo has held the Student Council President position, and has served as an FBLA officer the past three years and as Class President since seventh grade. Bo has received many awards in football, basketball, speech, and FBLA. He has been a Straight A Honor Roll student since seventh grade. He was also selected to the Bronze Academic All-State Team. When not busy with school and extracurricular activities, Bo likes to spend his time on the farm, hunting, fishing, and hanging with friends. He plans to attend Valley City State University in the fall to earn a degree in Agribusiness while competing on the football team.

Bria Smithberg, daughter of Kim Smithberg, is a senior at Divide County High School. She has been actively involved in basketball, volleyball, Future Business Leaders of America, Choir, Band, Future Farmers of American, Dollars for Scholars, National Honor Society, Yearbook, Girls State, Sunday School Teachers Assistant, and has helped with Church Services. She's held leadership positions in basketball, volleyball, FBLA, band, and choir. Bria has served as the local FBLA Chapter Historian and class representative. She has been a State qualifier for choir, a six-time State qualifier for band, and has participated in several honor bands. She has qualified for National FBLA four times, as well as being an "A" Honor Roll student since seventh grade. She is very passionate about her involvement and community service, and has loved working for her sister at The Rooted Home in Crosby. In the fall, Bria plans to attend the University of North Dakota to obtain a Bachelors of Music Degree in Music Education.



Bria Smithberg
Divide County High School



Noah Schroeder
Powers Lake High School

Noah Schroeder, son of Jody & Amy Schroeder, is a senior at Powers Lake High School. He has been involved in basketball, football, track and field, FFA, FBLA, youth group, and SADD. During his senior year he was a starter for the state basketball team, a starter for the football team, state Academic Olympic team, class treasurer, and the treasurer of the local FBLA chapter. Noah is the recipient of All-Region and All-State honors in football, All-District in basketball, as well as being on the Academic All-State Gold Team. He has been an honor student through his entire high school career. Noah plans to attend Minot State University for a degree in chemistry and also play football.

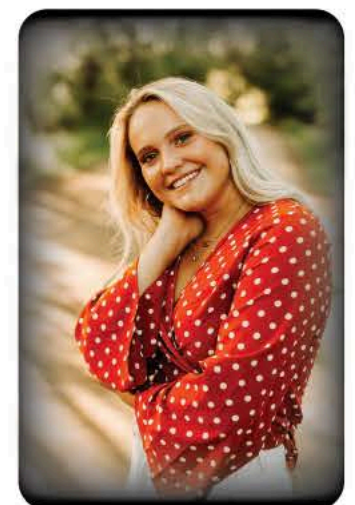


Karter Longie
Tioga High School

2021 Kenneth Lund Jr. Scholarships:

Karter Longie, son of Cary & Becky Longie, is a senior at Tioga High School. He is involved in football, basketball, golf, baseball, Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, Student Council, band, drama, and Academic Olympics. Karter was selected as an all-conference football player as a senior. He served leadership roles as president of the local Future Business Leaders of America chapter, National Honor Society, and Student Council. Karter also served as class president every year of high school. He qualified for and attended the national FBLA conference each of the last three years, placing 10th nationally in the LifeSmarts event as a junior. He has been an honor student throughout high school, and has been very active in the community through church and youth sports programs. He is currently a sports broadcaster with KTGO Radio and plans to attend the Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in Broadcasting/Sports Media & Communications.

Sydney Larson, daughter of Carrie Pederson and Thomas Larson, is a senior at Ray High School. She has been actively involved in volleyball, softball, Future Business Leaders of America, Student Council, HOBY, and choir. Sydney has served as her FBLA chapter vice president, and class vice president. She is a 4-time national qualifier of FBLA and has been on the honor roll numerous times. Sydney has won All District team (2), All tournament team, and All Region team for volleyball. She has been very active in her school and community throughout high school. Sydney plans to attend Bismarck State College to pursue a major in graphic design.



Sydney Larson
Ray High School



Equipment Return Box



These drop boxes are now available for your convenience to drop off equipment that you need to return to NCC. These boxes are for equipment only. Please do not leave payments in them.

Members can find one of these drop boxes at the Central Office in every exchange with the exception of Round Prairie and Epping due to their rural locations.

NCC Takes Action for Customers Against Robocalls:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is now requiring Voice Providers, such as NCC, to take additional steps against illegal robocalls, which are unwanted automated telephone calls that deliver a recorded message. We have a new calling feature that will be automatically activated on all NCC landline telephone lines, if you subscribe to one, sometime the first part of June. It will automatically block any incoming call with a Risk level of 4 or above. Any incoming call with a Risk level of 3 or below will be allowed. But, for customers with Caller ID, calls with a Risk level of 2 or 3 will be labeled 'Potential Spam' and will show the originating phone number so you will be able to make the decision to answer or not. This feature will be listed on your NCC bill as 'Robocall Calling Feature' but there will be no charge for it. You can opt-out of this calling feature any time by calling our office at 568-3331 or emailing us at ncc@nccray.com.



If you plan to begin any project that involves digging, such as building a patio, putting up a fence, or planting bushes and trees, remember to call 811 before work begins. **Every digging job requires a call to 811 to have underground utility lines marked.**



In some cases, lines are buried close to the surface and could easily be damaged by even shallow digging, resulting in service interruptions to your neighborhood. When you call, simply tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you'll be doing.

The affected local utilities will send a locator to your property, free of charge. Then you'll know what's below and be able to dig safely. As one of your local service providers, NCC thanks you in advance for your cooperation!

Non-Discrimination Statement:

Northwest Communications Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Happy Mother's Day!
Sunday, May 9th

NCC Summer Hours: Beginning on Monday, May 3rd through Friday, October 1st, NCC's regular hours of operation will be 8:00am – 4:30pm. As always, our after hours support is available outside of normal business hours by calling our office line 568-3331, and employees are on call 24/7 for emergency outages.

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

www.nccray.com 701-568-3331