

JUNE 2023

# RINGER

## Two directors will be elected to a three-year term on the NCC Board during the Annual Meeting on June 20th



**AJ Cvancara**  
Incumbent Candidate for District #3 – Alamo, Wildrose, Mcgregor and Noonan

AJ graduated from Wildrose-Alamo High School. He received an AS degree from Bismarck State College and a BA Degree from Dickinson State University.

AJ is currently farming with his Dad in the Wildrose area. He and his wife Katy have three children, Austyn, Bridger, and Lainy. AJ is currently President of the NCC Board of Directors, Secretary/Treasurer for the Wildrose Fire Protection District and also serves on the Ray Ambulance District Board.

In his spare time, AJ enjoys spending time on the water in the summer & the ice in the winter.

Jim is a retired farmer (20 years) and retired agent for Farmers Union Insurance (15 years). Besides enjoying serving on the NCC Board of Directors, Jim currently is the President of “Northwest Holdings LLC” (a 24-unit apartment complex), Secretary of “Grow Crosby LLC”, which is an investment group who owns “The Guardian Inn” (a 63-unit Hotel) and “The Bypass Bar & Grill”, all located in Crosby. He is a past member of the Divide County School Board, the Divide County Dollars for Scholars Board and Concordia Lutheran Church Council, all of Crosby.

Jim has served as President of the NCC Board and the President of the State Association of Rural Telephone Cooperatives, currently known as BAND.

Jim and his wife, Sandra have five grown children. They enjoy camping, golfing and traveling to visit their children who live between Great Falls, MT, and Iowa City, IA. They reside on their farm located three miles west of Crosby.

Doug is a multi-generational resident of Divide County. He graduated from Divide County High School and received a BS degree in Organizational Administration from Northwestern College in St. Paul, MN.

Doug serves on several boards both locally and regionally including Assembly of God Church, Burke Divide Williams Water, Northwest Rural Water District, Western Area Water Supply Authority, and ND Rural Water Users Association. He is on his third term as a Crosby City Councilman. In the past, Doug served locally and state-wide in Emergency Services.

Doug currently works as a substitute teacher in Divide County School District as well as Grenora and Williston.



**Jim Simonson**  
Incumbent Candidate for District #7 – Crosby



**Doug Anderson**  
Candidate for District #7 – Crosby



**YOU'RE LIVING IN A SMART RURAL COMMUNITY**

**JOIN US**  
at our 2023 Annual Meeting

**REGISTRATION 5:00 TO 6:00**  
All members will receive a registration gift.

**DEMONSTRATION BOOTHS 5:00 TO 6:00**  
Visit one or all of our booths and get signed up to win a SmartTV. Sign up for SmartHub or Notifications & get entered to win a Ring Video Doorbell.

**FUN FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES! 5:00 TO 6:00**  
We will have bouncy houses, VR games, Ray Fire Dept. Truck and prizes including a PlayStation 5 and Hoverboard.

**FREE MEAL 5:00 TO 6:00**  
Shredded beef with sides.

**LIVE MUSIC 5:00 TO 6:00**  
DMJ

**BUSINESS MEETING 6:00**  
Review of Cooperative business from 2022, election of Directors to District #3 and #7 and door prizes.

NCC is proud to be a nationally recognized Smart Rural Community provider.

June 20, 2023 111 Railroad Ave

**NCC**  
MAKING CONNECTIONS





## Virtual & Augmented Reality

### VR vs. AR:

Virtual Reality (VR) has made a big splash in the mainstream in recent years, from the book and movie, “Ready Player One” to Mark Zuckerberg’s pet project, the Metaverse. But rational and intelligent people often get confused when AR (or Augmented Reality) enters the picture.

### Know your technology:

If you play video games—or have seen recent pictures of people playing VR video games—you may already know that VR games require the player to wear a special headset device. That’s because the images they’re seeing within the headset are replacing their entire field of vision with an imagined (or virtual) world—and they’re able to interact with this world as if they were present within it. This conceit isn’t exclusive to gaming—as suggested at the beginning of this article, it’s already being used to create a separate imagined reality called the Metaverse, where people can meet, interact, and shop.

AR, on the other hand doesn’t require a headset—it can be used with a smartphone, tablet, or handheld gaming device. AR works by creating an overlay on the reality you’re used to seeing every day. This can be represented by added details and information, as with the facial filters in Snapchat—or even by making imagined characters appear to be present in the real world, such as the Pokémon Go app.

### Summing up the differences:

The real differences come down to the devices you use and the details of the experience itself:

- AR uses a real-world setting, whereas VR is completely virtual.
- AR users control their presence in the real world, but VR users are controlled by the system and seem to exist in an immersive virtual world.
- VR requires a headset device, but AR can be accessed with just a handheld device.

Are they technological fads or gimmicks—or will they ultimately prove to be as long-lasting as the internet has proven to be? Only time will tell.

### Want to know more? NCC is here to help!

At NCC, we value our role as your trusted advisor when it comes to making the most of our internet services and helping you explore all the great new features our technology has to offer.

**This and all of our other published articles can be read on our blog found at [www.nccray.com/blog](http://www.nccray.com/blog).**



*Garrett Bloms receiving \$2,500  
Scholarship check from Angela Schepp*

### NCC Announces FRS Scholarship Recipient

On May 10, 2023, NCC announced that Garrett Bloms, from Ray has received a \$2,500 scholarship through the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS). Founded in 1994, FRS is the philanthropic arm of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association, of which NCC is a member.

The FRS Scholarship Program awards one-time scholarships to students from rural communities for their first year of college, university, or vocational-technical school. Each student is sponsored by an NTCA member company that may also contribute a portion of the scholarship award. This year FRS awarded a total of \$124,000 for 42 scholarships to students across the country.

“Providing opportunities for young people in rural communities is a core mission for FRS. We are proud to partner with NTCA member companies and generous individuals in the industry to make these scholarships possible each year. Congratulations to Garrett,” said Pam Becker, Executive Director of FRS.

“We could not be more thrilled that a student from our area has been awarded this scholarship. Being selected is not an easy accomplishment. Having received over 1,100 applications, Garrett stood out as one of the top 42 students. NCC congratulates him on his effort and wishes him the best in the future,” said Angela Schepp, Chief Marketing Officer of NCC.





# NCC Scholarship Winners

## 2023 Arthur S. Johnson Scholarship:



**Jule Stenson**  
Divide County  
High School

**Jule Stenson**, daughter of Lee and Tammy Stenson, is a senior at Divide County High School. She has been actively involved in 4H, Band, Basketball, Club Volleyball, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), National FFA Organization (FFA), National Honor Society (NHS), Pep Club, Softball, Speech, Student Council, Volleyball, and Yearbook. Through these extracurricular activities and clubs, she has received many awards and honors. Among other leadership positions, Jule served as the Divide County High School Student Council President and was also President of her local FFA Chapter. She also served as Rodeo Royalty for the White Earth Valley Saddle Club. When she isn't busy with school activities, she enjoys working at the family ranch and competing in open horse shows in the summer. In the fall, Jule plans to attend Williston State College.



**Shelby Knox**  
Ray High School

**Shelby Knox**, daughter of Donald and Sarah Knox, is a senior at Ray High School. She has been involved in volleyball, basketball, softball, FBLA, and student council. She currently serves as FBLA President and Student Council Vice President. During her FBLA career, she qualified for nationals all four years. Shelby has been on the honor roll throughout her junior high and high school years. In the fall, Shelby plans to attend the University of North Dakota for a degree in Kinesiology.



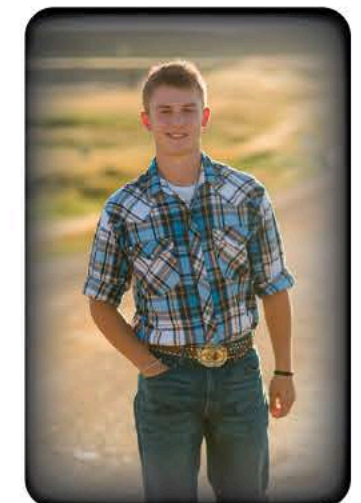
**Brooklyn Fortier**  
Divide County  
High School

**Savanna Fredrickson**, daughter of Nick & Teddi Fredrickson, is a senior at Powers Lake High School. She has been involved in many extracurricular activities including volleyball, basketball, FBLA, SADD, and Academic Olympics. She acted as an officer in both FBLA (Reporter) and SADD (Vice President). She was very successful in her volleyball and basketball careers where she was named as an All District, All Tournament, and All Region Player in both sports. She has sustained a 4.0 throughout high school and has therefore received "high honors" each year. Savanna has also helped lead worship at her church for many years. She was selected to the Academic All State – Bronze Team her senior year. She spends her free time on adventures with her friends or playing basketball. This fall, Savanna plans to attend the University of Mary's Nursing Academy where she will be on an exceled rate to achieve her Bachelors of Nursing Degree in 2.6 years.

**Brooklyn Fortier**, daughter of John and Roxanne Fortier, is a senior at Divide County High School. She is active in school activities such as FFA, FBLA, National Honors Society, band, volleyball, basketball, and track as well as activities outside of school such as 4-H and club volleyball. She has won multiple awards in both volleyball and track. Brooklyn has served as a chapter FFA officer starting her sophomore year as Parliamentarian, Sentinel, and Secretary. She has also won many awards in band, 4-H, FFA, and FBLA, allowing her to attend nationals multiple times in FBLA and once in FFA. Brooklyn is a straight A student and on the "A" honor roll since freshman year. She spends her free time at a local gym to play volleyball or helps her family on the ranch. This fall, Brooklyn plans to attend Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, ND, majoring in Physical Fitness, and play volleyball at college level.



**Savanna Fredrickson**  
Powers Lake  
High School



**Lucas Olson**  
Ray High School

## 2023 Kenneth Lund Jr. Scholarships:

**Lucas Olson**, son of Ryan Olson and Lisa Olson, attends Ray High School. Lucas was actively involved in basketball and baseball, as well as Academic Olympics and the Science Olympiad. Lucas is also an honor student. During the summer of 2022, Lucas was selected as a finalist for the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Pilgrimage for Youth speech contest in New York City. Outside of school activities, Lucas enjoys going for drives in the country, fishing, hunting, and hanging out with friends. After high school, he plans to attend NDSU to pursue a degree in engineering.

**Riley Pederson**, daughter of Michael and Ronica Pederson, is a senior at Tioga High School. She has been actively involved in many things throughout the community and school. She has participated in choirs at both school and church, and won numerous awards at Regional and State vocal contests, and a four-year award for Northwest International Festival of Music. Riley has held great academic standards and has been on the honor roll all through high school. She has been an active volunteer throughout the community, helping at the Tioga Theater, the Tioga 1st Lutheran Church, and the Tioga Community Halloween Party & Haunted House. Riley plans on attending Williston State College for two years before transferring to the University of North Dakota to major in Civil Engineering and Computer Science for Software Engineering.



**Riley Pederson**  
Tioga High School



## Important Notes

- **The NCC office will be closed** on Tuesday, July 4th in honor of Independence Day. Our after-hours support can be reached at 568-3331. Employees will be on call for any emergency outages. Enjoy a fun and safe holiday!
- **NCC cooperative members** will soon be mailed your annual allocation statement, which provides the total amount of capital credits earned for doing business with NCC. A portion of the margin is allocated annually based on approval by the NCC Board of Directors. Capital credits are not available to members as cash until the NCC Board of Directors authorizes their retirement. As a member, your capital credits continue to accumulate as long as you are subscribing to services with the cooperative. This statement is for your records only, and no further action is required. Please call NCC or view the NCC By-laws online at [nccray.com](http://nccray.com) if you have questions.
- **NCC Summer hours are 8:00a.m. – 4:30p.m.** Our after-hours support is available 24/7 by calling our office line 568-3331, and employees are on call for emergency outages.



- 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!



**NCC is Your Local Provider of Internet, Telephone, TV and Security Monitoring and Surveillance services!**

**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)

**Summer Business Hours:** M-F 8am to 4:30pm  
Our after-hours support is available 24/7 by calling our office line 568-3331, and employees are on-call for emergency outages.

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.



photo by Heidi Holmen

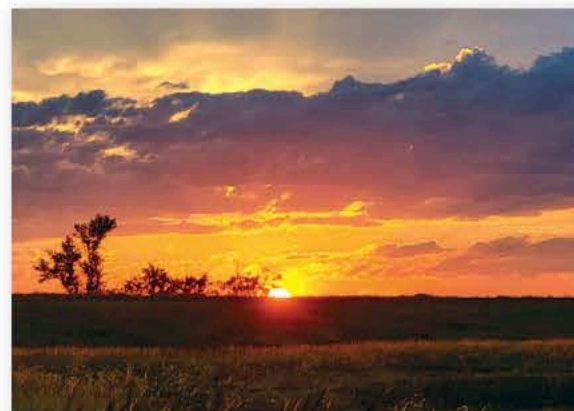


photo by  
Kaela Lucke Rosencrans

### NCC Photo Contest – Deadline October 1st

We are in search of special photographs that depict the beauty of our area for the 2024 NCC Calendar.

#### Requirements:

- Entries must be color photos taken within northwest ND by a person who receives at least one of our services: Internet, Telephone, Security or TV.
- Photos **MUST** be high resolution or we will not be able to use them.
- If emailing your photos, please attach them to an email. If you have photos in a cloud storage, please download the individual photo and send as an attachment in an email.

#### Entering our free photo contest is easy:

- Mail entries (prints) to:  
NCC/Jayne Heier, PO Box 38, Ray, ND 58849
- Or email photo files to: [ncc@nccray.com](mailto:ncc@nccray.com)  
Subject line: Photo Contest 2024

All photos submitted will be showcased on our Facebook page at:

**[www.facebook.com/northwestcommunications](http://www.facebook.com/northwestcommunications).**  
Like our page today!

The 2024 NCC Calendar will be available after Thanksgiving through the first part of 2024. Winners will be announced in the newsletter and on our Facebook page.