



Travis Fritel and his kids, Baerett, 2, and Emberlin, 3, show off Emberlin's 6 pound, 6 ounce catch which won her third place in the Leeds/York Wildlife Club's Kids Fishing Day.

Wildlife club promotes great outdoors

BY BRITTNEE WILSON

Young anglers of all ages were invited to Silver Lake on a Sunday afternoon to enjoy a day on the ice by the Leeds/York Wildlife Club. The annual Kids Ice Fishing Day sponsored by the club is a free event that draws a crowd every February.

Billy Harkness, an active member of the Leeds/York Wildlife Club,

said the club mission is to focus on getting the young kids outside to learn the benefits of the great outdoors and how to be safe.

For those familiar with ice fishing, this is the perfect event for some family bonding. It also gives those families who are not so familiar with the sport to try ice fishing for the first time.

APRIL 2021

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Charlie Wilson enjoys his first time on the ice, thanks to the Leeds/York Wildlife Club.

The club provides everything for a young angler to have a day of fun and learning, including the bait and equipment. They cut the holes as

well as give their guidance.

The 30-degree-plus day brought a record number of 96 kids to the ice. Eight northerns were caught, with the top fish weighing 9 pounds, 6 ounces.

The day was complete with a free lunch, hot chocolate and an awards ceremony. Those who did not catch a fish did not go home empty-handed, as each kid received a free fishing rod.

“It’s not a one-man show, it takes many volunteers,” Harkness said. Volunteers not only included the club members, but many of their family members were there lending a hand in any way they could. Also, many local businesses donated to the cause.

The club is able to put on this free event in part using the money it raises at its annual banquet that draws more than 300 people.

Hunter education

The Leeds/York Wildlife Club teaches a yearly hunter education

course through the North Dakota Game & Fish Department. The free course is open to all ages, 11 and older and is a good course for hunters and non-hunters on gun safety.

A well-rounded group of instructors volunteered their time for the weeklong course. Club member and instructor, Bobbie McGarvey, shares, “Our class is not only about teaching a hunter educational program, but also about sharing stories and starting great memories for future hunters.”

The club encourages parents who have children enrolled in the program to join a class to share their personal experiences. Of course, the textbook knowledge is important, but one can argue the most information retained are the stories told from firsthand experience.

“We are all here because someone started us with hunter education and great memories of hunting,” McGarvey said. ■



Leeds/York Wildlife Club instructors stand by their hunter education class of 2019. Instructors, left to right, are: **Devin Schwanke, Bobbie McGarvey, Kevin Slaubaugh, Billy Harkness and Craig Blomster.**

Attend Northern Plains Electric Cooperative's

2021 ANNUAL MEETING

June 21

Rugby High School
in Rugby

Registration and meal:
5-6 p.m.

Meeting: 6 p.m.

- Learn about cooperative news and activities
- Elect three members to serve on the board of directors
- Enjoy a free meal and entertainment by Mylo Hatzenbuhler
- Door prizes and cash drawings for members
- Two \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships to high school seniors*

**more information on nplains.com*



Interested in running for the board of directors? Petition deadline approaching

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative's (NPEC) annual meeting will be held June 21 at Rugby High School in Rugby.

Due to the bylaw changes passed by the membership at the 2020 annual meeting, the membership voted to dissolve district meetings. Director elections will now take place during the annual meeting.

Nine board members make up the NPEC board of directors that sets policies and makes decisions that guide the cooperative into the future. With the annual meeting just a few short months away, now is the time for members to start thinking about whether they have the time and desire to serve their electric cooperative.

The board meets on the fourth Monday of each month to make decisions regarding budget, policy, rates and other co-op business. Meetings alternate between the Carrington and Cando offices and typically

last a good share of the day. In addition to monthly meetings, NPEC directors often attend meetings and conferences of the statewide association. Directors are compensated for their time.

To run for director, members must:

1. Receive NPEC electric service at your primary residential abode and you may only run in the district in which you reside.
2. Obtain a petition from our offices in either Carrington or Cando or call for one to be mailed.
3. Obtain at least 15 signatures from NPEC members.
4. Submit a petition by April 22.
5. Attend the annual meeting.

For more information, call 800-882-2500 or email justask@nplains.com. ■

Remember to #ThankALineworker April 12

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 12, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are the heart of our co-op.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around

holidays, vacations and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is proud to honor the 22 lineworkers and one individual on the tree crew that maintain 6,721 miles of power lines in our service territory.

Northern Plains invites all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. On April 12, you can use #ThanksALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power over lives.

To our heroes in hard hats, thank you for keeping the lights on. ■



Barry Heisler



Beau Bredahl



Bob David



Brian Backer



Brian St. Germaine



Chris Schroeder



Dave Jaeger



Doug Beck



Doyle Schwanke



Dustin Peterson



Jamie Harrington



Jon Sjostrom



Jon Tandeski



Jordan Omlie



Josh Cabler



Keaten Mikkelsen



Randy Thomson



Shannon Petersen



Stan Pierson



Tom Moravec



Tom Zink



Trevor Wick



Wayne Randle

Business spotlight: 281 Gun & Tackle, 281 Spirit Shop

BY BRITTNEE WILSON



Owners **Chad and Jo Staus** of 281 Gun & Tackle/281 Spirit Shop stand in their newly renovated addition, offering more convenience options in Cando.

Chad and Jo Staus, owners of 281 Gun & Tackle and 281 Spirit Shop, are bringing more convenience to Cando. The married couple, who purchased the convenience store in October 2010, decided to celebrate their 10 years in the business by launching a major renovation this winter.

The joint stores carry spirits, fishing tackle, snacks, drinks and more, and went from about 3,000 square feet to 4,500 square feet with the return of gasoline pumps.

In 2016, the Stauses had to make the hard decision to stop selling fuel, as their equipment was meeting the end of its lifespan.

“If we wanted to continue to sell gas, we would have had to replace it all,” Jo said. “It just wasn’t cost-effective for us, being a one-man show.” Now, thanks to a partnership with Kota Co. Fuels, fuel is back.

“It’s a great relationship,” Chad said. “They provide the pumps, and we provide the labor.” Four new gasoline pumps, complete with a canopy, were installed in their lot and they also operate the set of diesel pumps to the south of their store which were previously a part of Arco convenience store before its closure.

The Northern Plains Electric members had to heavy up their electrical load due the addition of a kitchen, office space, two bathrooms and double the space for

their convenience items. With the fully functioning kitchen, they are now able to offer the convenience of “grab-and-go” food options.

What they are most excited about is their ability to carry more bait and tackle options. With Cando located minutes away from great fishing, many were having to travel to either Devils Lake or Bottineau for equipment. The Stauses hopes to fill that void.

The Stauses are firm believers in “shop local.” In their remodel, they kept it as local as possible, hiring local contractors and purchasing materials from local vendors. The business owners are happy to be bringing more shopping opportunities to the area. ■



Extension Cord Safety Tips



Roughly **3,300 home fires** originate in extension cords each year. Extension cords can overheat and cause fires when used improperly, so **keep these important tips in mind** to protect your home and loved ones.

Never plug an extension cord into **another extension cord**.

Make sure extension cords are **properly rated for their intended use**, indoor or outdoor. Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors.

Extension Cord Designations

S: Designed for General Use

W: Rated for Outdoor Use

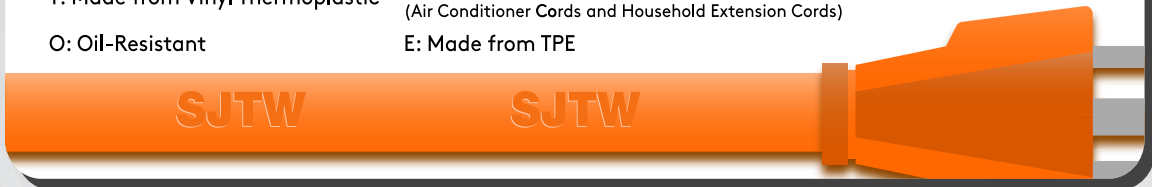
J: Standard 300 Voltage Insulation

T: Made from Vinyl Thermoplastic

P: Parallel Wire Construction (Air Conditioner Cords and Household Extension Cords)

O: Oil-Resistant

E: Made from TPE



Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots. **Never** cut off the ground pin to force a fit, which could lead to electric shock.

Only use extension cords that have been **approved by an independent testing laboratory**, such as the ones listed above.

Cord Length and Amperage Limits

25 – 50 Feet Extension Cords

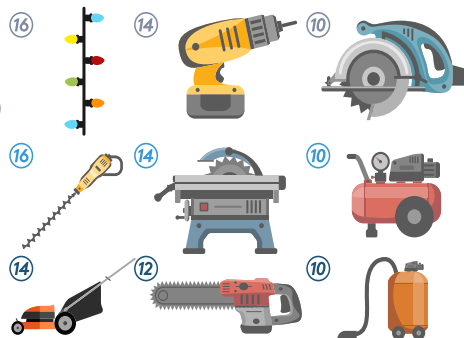
16 Gauge (1–13 Amps)
14 Gauge (14–15 Amps)
12–10 Gauge (16–20 Amps)

100 Feet Extension Cords

16 Gauge (1–10 Amps)
14 Gauge (11–13 Amps)
12 Gauge (14–15 Amps)
10 Gauge (16–20 Amps)

150 Feet Extension Cords

14 Gauge (1–7 Amps)
12 Gauge (8–10 Amps)
10 Gauge (11–15 Amps)



Always use **GFCI protection** when using an extension cord outdoors.

Inspect cords for damage before use. Check for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections. Discard damaged extension cords.

! Extension cords are for **temporary use only**. A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have **too few outlets** to address your needs. Have **additional outlets installed** where you need them.



How did the energy emergency affect Northern Plains members?



On Feb. 16, many members of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative experienced rolling outages. The power outages were a result of a combination of situations that had led to the demand for electricity outpacing the availability of generation resources on the electric grid. Extreme weather throughout a multistate region created energy demands never seen before and generation was constrained due to a lack of natural gas supply along with limited wind generation due to icing and extreme cold.

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is a regional transmission organization (RTO) that balances energy generation with energy usage across 14 states, reaching from the Canadian border south to

parts of New Mexico and Texas. SPP is one of two RTOs that operate in Northern Plains' service territory; Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) is the other RTO in our region. SPP is tasked to manage generation and transmission throughout its footprint to ensure the electric grid remains stable.

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) acts as the transmission operator in the Upper Midwest. WAPA is a federal agency that generates and transmits hydroelectric power and also acts as the grid operator who can control the bulk transmission infrastructure in our area.

When SPP determined on the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 16, that the amount of demand was about to exceed the available generation, it initiated its highest energy emergency declaration. Upon that declaration, SPP directed WAPA to curtail loads and implement controlled service interruptions to help reduce demand and to prevent the failure of the electric grid. As the grid operator, WAPA initiated

substation power interruptions immediately, with no notice and no control provided to many local utilities.

How did the energy emergency affect Northern Plains' members? Approximately 6,800 services had their power interrupted due to load shedding of 14 substations throughout the entire service territory. The outages started at around 7 a.m. in the northern tier of our area and ended in the southern part of the system ending around 10:30 a.m. The majority of our members experienced outages for approximately 45 to 60 minutes in duration. Unfortunately, Northern Plains was unable to provide any advance warning to members.

This was the first time that SPP had to declare an energy emergency for its entire region and to require rolling substation power outages to prevent failure of the electric grid. This was an unprecedented event for the entire region and for all parties involved. Northern Plains appreciates everyone's understanding throughout the entire event. ■



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

An equal opportunity provider and employer.

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