



Seth Bercier, owner of D&B Pizza, purchased the business in November 2020, after working at the establishment for over 15 years.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

D&B Pizza: New owner, same great taste

BY BRITTNEE WILSON

Just a jog off Main Street in Rolla is D&B Pizza, a longtime pizzeria with small-town charm and big flavors. Situated in a brick building with a cedar shake awning framing the front windows, the quaint pizzeria has been in business since 1978.

Inside the restaurant, which offers pizza, pasta, wings, salads and appetizers, are the mark of past and present employees' signatures on vintage wooden swinging doors that lead to the kitchen. A sign next to the coffeepot reads "same great taste."

Rolla's beloved D&B Pizza has been a staple in the community for more than 40 years. Doug Mathiason opened the business in 1978, and operated it for nearly 25 years. In 2003, Doug's son, Steve Mathiason, took over the business and operated it until 2020. Today,

Seth Bercier has his turn at the helm after working for D&B over the last 15 years.

A new calling

Growing up in Rolla in the 1990s, an outing to D&B was a special treat for Seth and his family. Seth's first job was slicing pie for D&B under ownership of Steve Mathiason in 2003.

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A tradition for D&B Pizza employees is to leave their mark on the vintage wooden swinging doors leading to the kitchen.

“Growing up, we didn’t have a whole lot of money, so coming here was a real treat,” Seth said. “Then, when I started working here, I was amazed!”

Seth worked at D&B part time throughout his high school and college days. Shortly after Seth graduated from college in 2008, he became a lineworker for a neighboring electric cooperative, while he continued to help Steve on the weekends.

“I told Steve, if you ever want to sell, let me know,” Seth said, in hopes of realizing his dream of being a business owner.

That time came in the fall of 2020. Steve approached Seth about the possibility of selling the business. Seth called it a “a godsend kind of thing.” At that point, he was looking for a change of pace and this opportunity came at the right time, even if it was in the middle of a pandemic. Seth was up for the challenge. He left his lineworker job after 11 years and purchased D&B Pizza in November 2020.

Changing careers can be a scary and stressful time for anyone, let alone in the middle of a pandemic, so this added a whole new level of uncertainty for Seth. On his first day of operations, seven employees called, saying they had contracted COVID-19.

Two weeks later, Seth had fallen ill as well. Luckily, he had a good team behind him.

“Everybody stepped up; they got me through,” he said, praising his employees and calling them a “solid group.” Providing jobs in the community, Seth staffs 18 part-time employees of mostly high school and college students, and one full-time employee. The Northern Plains Electric Cooperative member also credits his wife, Tiffany, their three children and his twin brother.

Changing of hands

It was important to Seth to keep D&B Pizza the same nostalgic place with the same great taste. He did not change recipes or menu items.

“It’s the same D&B as before, just changing of hands,” Seth said.

The longtime menu favorite, “Doug Special,” continues to be the most popular item. It’s a pizza topped with pepperoni, diced ham, homemade sausage, mushrooms, and black and green olives. Although Seth has not changed menu items, he is slowly adding new items.

“I’m trying to keep my mind thinking of new things,” he said.

Just as his predecessor, Seth continues to fuel on-the-go customers with take-and-bake pizzas and pastas. Any day of the week, one can order any flavor of pizza



D&B Pizza, located just south of Main Street in Rolla, has been in business since 1978.

or pasta off the menu as a take-and-bake option. On the weekends, Seth and his team stock a standup cooler for a quick grab-and-go option.

Park yourself by the door at lunchtime on a Friday, and you'll see half the town come through, as D&B offers pizza by the slice every Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"We will go through 10 to 20 large pizzas in just two hours," Seth said. That computes to 80 to 160 slices! To keep up with the large demand, the D&B kitchen is equipped with a pizza oven that has the capacity to cook 12 pizzas at once.

"The community of Rolla has been amazing! And not just Rolla, it's the surrounding towns, also," Seth said. Many regulars travel long distances to visit the establishment.

Open seven days a week, you are likely to exchange a few words with Seth, as he is normally working every day.

"My favorite part of the job is the interaction I get with the customers," Seth said. "I truly enjoy it."

D&B Pizza is not merely a restaurant with great pizza, but a community hub, as a gathering place for countless family outings, get-togethers and celebrations for the last 43 years. Under Seth's leadership, D&B Pizza will be here for many more years to come. ■



The "Doug Special" is D&B Pizza's most popular pizza, topped with pepperoni, diced ham, homemade sausage, mushrooms, and black and green olives.

THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

Lineworker Appreciation Day April 11

You've likely noticed Northern Plains Electric Cooperative's (NPEC) crews working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough. It's an essential, but challenging, job. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day April 11, NPEC shares some interesting facts about electric lineworkers.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. The equipment and tools a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds. That's the same as carrying 6 gallons of water. Lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30- to 120-feet tall. If you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career, because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States.

Lineworkers often work nontraditional hours in difficult conditions. The job requires technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. To become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years). That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, NPEC's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During

severe weather that brings major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Here at NPEC, 23 lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 6,700 miles of power lines across 11 counties. In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking people, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see our lineworkers, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11 and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers. ■

NPEC line personnel, years of service through 2022

Rolla Crew

Brian St. Germaine, foreman	24 years
Chris Schroeder	22 years
Jon Tandeski	13 years

Cando Crew

Randy Thomson, foreman	18 years
Keaten Mikkelsen	4 years
Jordan Omile	2 years
Barry Heisler	26 years
Bob David, tree crew	23 years

Rugby Crew

Stan Pierson, foreman	43 years
Dave Jaeger	16 years

Maddock Crew

Wayne Randle, foreman	39 years
Doyle Schwanke	25 years

Carrington West Crew

Shannon Petersen, foreman	11 years
Jamie Harrington	3 years
Tom Zink	44 years

Carrington East Crew

Josh Cabler, foreman	16 years
Tom Moravec	4 years
Laine Hoyt	1 year

Jamestown Crew

Beau Bredahl, foreman	20 years
Brian Backer	6 years
Jon Sjostrom	18 years

Woodworth/Robinson Crew

Trevor Wick, foreman	25 years
Dustin Peterson	10 years



NPEC lineworkers, north crew (back row, left to right): **Danny Schuchard** (recently retired), **Stan Pierson**, **Brian St. Germaine**, **Bob David**, **Barry Heisler**, **Chris Schroeder** and **Jon Tandeski**. (Front row, left to right): **Jordan Omile**, **Dave Jaeger**, **Doyle Schwanke**, **Keaten Mikkelsen**, **Wayne Randle** and **Randy Thomson**.



NPEC lineworkers, south crew, left to right: **Tom Zink**, **Danny Schuchard** (recently retired), **Trevor Wick**, **Josh Cabler**, **Jon Sjostrom**, **Laine Hoyt**, **Tom Moravec**, **Brian Backer**, **Shannon Petersen**, **Jamie Harrington**, **Dustin Peterson** and **Beau Bredahl**.

Call before you dig!

Planting a tree? Planning construction work? Remember to contact North Dakota One Call first! The first step to any project is safety, and damaging an underground facility while you dig can cause injury or even death.

Numerous utility lines may be buried on your property, ranging from electric and telephone lines to water and sewer lines, but North Dakota One Call will help you locate these lines before your project begins.

Contact North Dakota One Call and utility line owners will locate and mark their lines. These locates do not include any lines you may have installed to your private facilities, such as detached garages, wells or yard lights.

Go online at www.ndonecall.com or call **800-795-0555** or **811**.

It's free, it's simple and it's the law.

The 811 process:

1. NOTIFY

Notify the North Dakota One Call center by calling 811 or making an online request at least two full business days before work begins, excluding weekends and holidays. You'll give the operator information about how to contact you, where you are planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, or go online to www.ndonecall.com to enter this information. Utility companies who have potential facilities in the area of your dig site will be notified about your intent to dig.

2. WAIT

Wait the required amount of time for affected utility operators to respond to your request.

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utility operators have responded to your request and marked underground utilities. Compare the marks to the list of utilities the One Call center notified. You can also view your ticket online and see each utility's response for your dig site.

4. RESPECT

Respect the marks. The marks provided by the affected utilities are your guide for the duration of the project. The marks are valid for 21 calendar days.

If you are unable to maintain the marks during your project, or the project will continue past your request's expiration date, please call 811 or go online to file a RESPOT request.

5. DIG CAREFULLY

Dig carefully around the marks. No mechanical excavating can take place within 24 inches on either side of the marked location of the underground facility. If you plan on digging within that 4-foot-wide area, hand digging is allowed, but please dig carefully and cautiously.



SAVE THE DATE

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative
annual meeting

June 14

*Jamestown, at the North Dakota Farmers
Union headquarters*

- Learn cooperative updates and industry issues, and how they affect your electric service.
- Elect three members to serve on the board of directors.
- Enjoy a free meal and door prizes.
- Two \$1,000 luck-of-the-draw college scholarships will be given out.

More information can be found on our website
www.nplains.com.



Vote by mail

Elections will take place at the annual meeting to fill three positions on the board of directors. However, the membership will be mailed ballots prior to the annual meeting as a voting option. Under the bylaws, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting.

A qualified member of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative may become a candidate for election by submitting a petition no later than April 8.

To obtain a petition, members must request forms from our office in either Carrington or Cando or call for more options, 800-882-2500.

Mail-in ballots will be sent to all members approximately the first week in May. ■

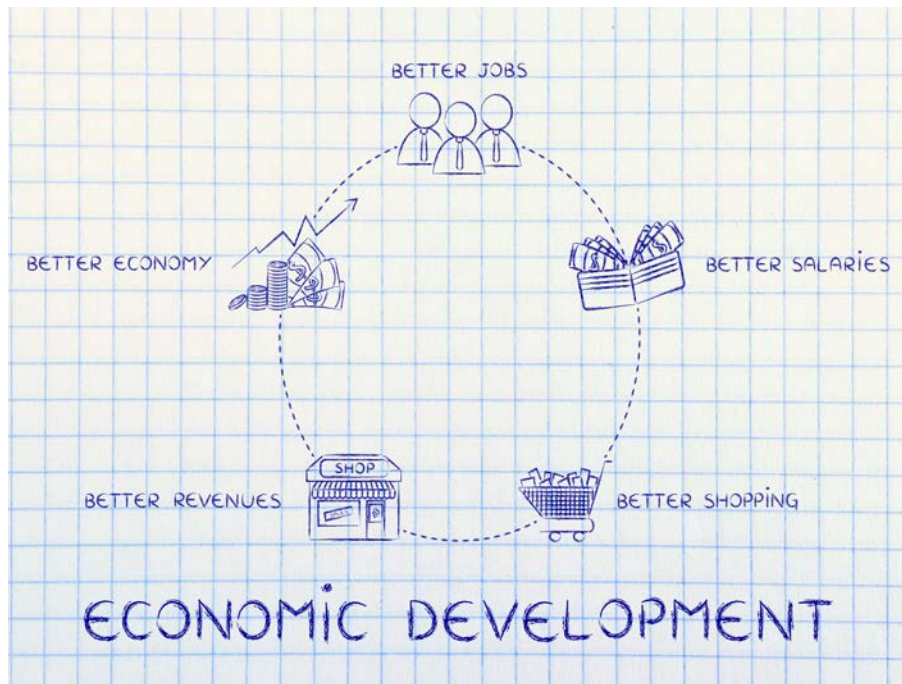


In need of a new service or planning to upgrade?

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative encourages members who are planning to build or make changes to an existing structure to contact us in the early stages of planning before construction.

By contacting our engineering department, our team of experts can verify whether we can serve additional load in your area and the availability and cost of equipment and materials. We encourage early conversations on projects of all sizes, especially due to the global supply chain disruption.

Call our office at 800-882-2500. ■



Northern Plains can provide loans through economic development

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative is helping economic development efforts in the area by administering a revolving loan fund made possible with funds from the U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA). Loans with only 2% interest and minimal administrative fees are available to businesses, nonprofits organizations, and government and tribal entities through the revolving

loan fund.

Eligible applicants can receive a loan amount minimum of \$10,000 and the maximum amount is dependent on funds available. The money was provided by a grant from USDA. And there is no risk to the cooperative. The funds will eventually be paid back to USDA.

The objectives of the revolving loan fund include:

- Help create jobs that will help rural areas.
- Provide financing alternatives for business or community facilities with a an economically or socially desirable purpose.
- Leverage owner equity and other financing sources.
- Promote development of rural communities.

For full details of the revolving loan program, go to our website at www.nplains.com and find the information on our “Economic Development” page under the “Member Services” tab, or contact our business manager, Cheryl Belle, at 800-822-2500. ■

NORTHERN PLAINS

Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

An equal opportunity provider and employer.

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BOARD & MANAGEMENT:

President	Tracy Boe, Mylo
Vice president.....	Curtis Wiesz, Heaton
Secretary/treasurer	Randall Simon, Oberon
Assistant secretary/treasurer.....	Dave Teigen, Rugby
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District 1	Bruce Olsen, Cando
District 3.....	Lori Carlson, Jamestown
District 3.....	Judy Geier, Heaton
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