

From our co-op family to yours, wishing you a wonderful holiday and a joyous new year.

**Northern Plains Electric Cooperative
will be closing at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 23
and Dec. 30 and will be closed
Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.**



DECEMBER 2022

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Celebrating small businesses

BY BRITTNEE WILSON

This past October, in celebration of Co-op Month, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative ran a contest to celebrate the local businesses around our service area. We asked members to write to us about their favorite locally owned business. It was a breath of fresh air, reading all the compliments our members had for their fellow community members and businesses. Ten entries were drawn at random, and those 10 members were gifted a \$50 gift certificate to the business they wrote about.

In continuation of supporting our local businesses, we ask our readers to share in the kindness this holiday by purchasing a gift card to a local business in your area and gift it. It's that simple. It doesn't have to be a large dollar amount, since something small could have a huge effect on your community in more ways than you think. Here are a couple ways your dollar goes further when you shop local.

- **More of your money will be kept in your local economy.** Spending locally ensures your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong – in your community! These taxes are used to boost the community's libraries, schools and infrastructure. Each dollar spent at local independent businesses returns three times more money to the local economy than shopping at a chain retailer.
- **Shopping local creates local jobs.** A small business that does well is likely to hire more people, who then spend more money in the community. When you

shop locally, you help create jobs for teachers, police officers and many other essential professions.

- **Local business owners are more likely to give back to your community.** Local business owners know you, and you know them. Studies have shown local businesses donate to community causes more than twice the rate of chain stores.
- **It makes your community a destination.** The more interesting and unique your community is, the more it will attract new neighbors, visitors and guests. This benefits everyone!

We want to thank those members who submitted their entries and said such nice things about the communities we serve. We enjoyed sharing them with the businesses selected. ■



Co-ops Love Local contest winners

The following 10 members won a \$50 gift card to the listed local business:

Donald Lentz, Rolla.....	Munro Ace Hardware, Rolla
Andrew Deck, Bismarck/Esmond.....	Esmond Cafe, Esmond
Ron Lunde, Cando.....	Neumann Drug, Cando
Linda Butterfield, Maddock.....	Quilt Essential, Devils Lake
Jean Olson, Leeds.....	Tracy's Market, Maddock
Grace Nutz, Carrington.....	Prairie Inn, Carrington
Dennis Swanson, Carrington.....	Garden Gate, Carrington
Lauren Sting, Harvey.....	Marsai's Bean & Boutique, Harvey
Doug and Jackie Wolfe, Harvey.....	Lemer's Ace Hardware, Harvey
Judi Baker, Jamestown.....	Ashling Salon, Jamestown

Northern Plains announces scholarship

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) believes strongly in the future of area students and takes pride in helping develop future leaders. Together with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, we are offering a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2023-24 school year.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is a consumer-owned-and-controlled regional cooperative responsible for supplying wholesale electric power to nine Midwestern states. Each of the 141 electric cooperatives that make up Basin Electric, including NPEC, receives \$1,000 from Basin Electric to award a scholarship to a qualifying dependent of an NPEC member, who will be enrolled as a college freshman or college sophomore for the upcoming school year.

The scholarship program, which is in its 32nd year, recognizes and encourages the academic achievement of students in the region. It also serves as an investment in the economic future of rural areas.

Who is eligible?

To qualify, an applicant's parents or guardians must be members of NPEC. Applicants must be a high school senior or college freshman enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocation/technical school in the fall of 2023.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, an outside appraisal and a written essay.

How do I apply?

Scholarship applications are available for download on the cooperative's website, www.nplains.com/scholarship. Applications are also available by emailing justask@nplains.com or calling the office at 800-882-2500.

Deadline

Scholarship applications must be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2023. ■





Five ways to fight winter chill and save energy

Wondering why your energy bill may go up when the temperature drops? Sustained cold temperatures mean heating systems run more often and for longer periods. Even if your thermostat setting remains the same, when we experience consistent colder weather, your heating system works harder to make up the difference between the outdoor and indoor temperature. And the harder it works, the more electricity you use. That's why home heating typically takes up a big chunk of your winter electric bills, and why your bills often go up the colder it gets.

We can't control the weather, but we can help you manage your energy use during the colder months. Small actions can make a big difference in saving energy and money.

Here are five easy ways to save this winter:

1. This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.
2. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.
3. Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.
4. When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.
5. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up, beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. And when we all do our part to conserve energy during extreme winter weather, our whole community benefits from putting less pressure on the electric grid. ■

Light the holiday with safety

As you light your holiday with shining stars and shimmering snowmen, be sure to decorate safely. For a happy, and safe, holiday, follow these tips from Northern Plains Electric Cooperative:

Use lights approved for safe use by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.

Before decorating, determine how many outlets are available and where they are located. Plan your displays accordingly.

Never connect more than three strands of incandescent lights together.

Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.

Follow the manufacturer's use and care instructions that accompany electrical decorations.

Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat and cause a fire.

Make sure cords are not pinched in doors, windows or under heavy furniture, which could damage the cord's insulation.

Do not mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.

Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.

Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices.

Keep all extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water.

Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.

Make sure all extension cords and electrical decorations used for outdoor decorating are marked for outdoor use.



Do you have money waiting for you?

The following people have capital credit checks at Northern Plains Electric Cooperative for which we do not have a current address. Please notify us if you have a current address for any of these people, or if you are entitled to the capital credits in the case of an estate. Please contact us by Jan. 31, 2023. Call us at 800-882-2500 and ask for Tami.

2022 UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS

Ask, Daniel Imperial, Neb.
 Bachmeier, Mary A. Sheyenne
 Baker, Donna St. Michael
 Banic, Al Round Rock, Texas
 Bauer, Joyce Bismarck
 Beard, Glenda Carrington
 Belgarde, Clifford E. Belcourt
 Bercier, Frances Belcourt
 Bercier, Wendy Belcourt
 Bisson, Michelle Grand Forks
 Bjork, Amber Minot
 Black, Connie Ft. Totten
 Black Cloud, Ivan Ft. Totten
 Brien, Rochanda Belcourt
 Brunelle, Charles Belcourt
 Calheim, Clifford Jamestown
 Charboneau, Karla Bismarck
 Charbonneau, Robert Sr. Belcourt
 Decoteau, David W. Rolla
 Delong, Kristy L. Belcourt
 Delorme, Debora Belcourt
 Delorme, Kristy Belcourt
 Didier, Cindy Jamestown
 Didier, Rod Jamestown
 Dionne, Jessica M. Belcourt
 Dramstad, Duane Binford
 Dubois, Benjamin Ft. Totten
 Elhard, Diane Jamestown
 Enno, Gladys Belcourt
 Erickson, David L. Maddock
 Feather, Misty B. Bismarck
 Follmer, Paul Bismarck
 Garcia, Angela Ft. Totten
 Gray, Carla Belcourt
 Grant, Billie J. Rolla

Grand, Frank H. Rolla
 Handeland, Amy Belcourt
 Harrington, Gerald Moorhead, Minn.
 Hammer, Richard Jamestown
 Hegvik, Jason Glenfield
 Hoffart, Vicki Monango
 Hogenson, Melfred Kenmare
 Hook, Roxanne A. Ft. Totten
 Houle, Beverly A. Belcourt
 Houle, Francis J. Belcourt
 Icceman, Cora Ft. Totten
 Iverson, James Minot
 Janusz, Tony Aneta
 Jeannotte, Victoria Rolla
 Jones, Leora St. Charles, MO
 Kalstrom, David Glendale, Ariz.
 Keefe, Kevin Hawley, Minn.
 Kelson, Michael Spanish Fork, Utah
 Kenner, Harold Sun Lakes, Ariz.
 Kevin's Construction Belcourt
 King, Kelly Devils Lake
 Klein, Hazel Bremerton, Wash.
 Kleir, David Henderson, Nev.
 Knecht, Elroy H. Cleveland
 Knutson, Merlyn N. III Ft. Totten
 Kutz, Richard Fargo
 Laducer, Mary Belcourt
 Lamfromboise, Larry Belcourt
 Lambert, Dorothy Ft. Totten
 Laverdure, Terry Belcourt
 Malaterr, Kristy Dunseith
 Martin, Dean H. Rolla
 Martin, Earl Belcourt
 Martinez, Misty L. Mandan
 McCloud, Doug Rolla

McGath, Gregory Devils Lake
 McGregor, Sharlene Cando
 McLellan, Thomas Rugby
 Miller, Jerome Jamestown
 Miller, Greg Gold Canyon, Ariz.
 Miller, Tom G. Carrington
 Moline, Donna Willow City
 Morrow, Shannon P. Monroe, Wash.
 Mutschler, Fred Spiritwood Lake
 Pedroza, Jacqueline B. Belcourt
 Peterson, Donald Granville
 Peterson, Tony D. Maddock
 Pogge, Jack Greenwood Village, Colo.
 Poitra, Adel Belcourt
 Poitra, Diane M. Belle Fourche, S.D.
 Price, Mel Amberg, Wisc.
 Questell, Michael Rolla
 Radtke, Bryan Jamestown
 Rainbow, Tanya Devils Lake
 Rice, Orville Egeland
 Roemmich, Chad Spiritwood
 Selzler, Terry Rugby
 Selner, Russ M. Osceola, Ind.
 Semmens, Christopher Carrington
 Stoddard, Earl Carrington
 Tolson, Dian Eagle Bend, Minn.
 Tomahawk, Hope Ft. Totten
 Tuenge, Karen K. Buckeye, Ariz.
 Vallie, Lynda K. Rolla
 Vega, Jose Quebradillas, Puerto Rico
 Walen, Doris W Cooperstown
 Wangler, Freddie Casselton
 Weissner, Ted Mandan
 Whitetail, Tioga Ft. Totten
 Wiesenburger, Wilbert Carrington

Wayne Randle retires after 40-plus years of service

BY BRITTNEE WILSON



Wayne Randle, a longtime Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) line crew foreman and journeyman, retired from the co-op in October. Randle began his electric cooperative career as summertime help for Baker Electric Cooperative in 1981. He was hired back for a second summer, before landing a full-time position in 1983.

Roots run deep

Randle was raised in Baker, a small town in central Benson County. Some would call Baker the birthplace of electrification for rural North Dakota. In 1937, a group of Baker residents formed Baker Electric Cooperative, the first electric cooperative in the state.

When it came to building the electrical lines in the late 1930s, many were hired to help, including Randle's father, who was a lineworker at that time.

"Back then, you had to hand dig the holes for the poles and if you didn't get your six holes a day, they'd fire you," chuckled Randle, as he remembered stories from his father.

Although Baker Electric moved its headquarters to Cando in 1941, the co-op still had a warehouse in Baker for outpost lineworkers.

A sibling of four, Randle grew up in a home attached to his parents' business, a general store. His mom ran the

store with help from Randle and his siblings. They would often visit with the lineworkers who would stop in for a pop or ice cream and tell stories of their days.

"I remember seeing the yellow Baker trucks and thought that'd be a cool job," Randle said.

The stories left a lasting impression on Randle and in the early 1980s, he attended lineworker school in Bismarck. He was hired by Baker Electric right out of school as a temp. Once he became full time, he was sent to work with the Maddock crew, where he stayed his entire employment, working on the same lines his dad had built.

In 1996, Randle was named foreman of the Maddock outpost, just a year before Baker Electric joined with Tri-County Electric to form Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC).

The first year at NPEC proved to be difficult, with record cold and snowfall. An ice and snowstorm ravaged the service area April 4-6, 1997, and caused over \$3 million in damage, downing over 1,000 poles and causing outages to 8,000 accounts. Record flooding also plagued the area. But weather disasters did not rattle Randle, who was calm and cool. He was always ready to help those in need, whether it was a cooperative member or a fellow lineworker.

When asked, Randle could not pinpoint his favorite part of being a lineworker.



“I like the variety of the job. Not every day was the same. I fixed lights one day and poles the next,” he said.

“I will miss meeting with the members and just working with the guys,” he added.

Looking forward

Randle joins his wife of 38 years, Diane, in retirement. They enjoy gardening together in the summer, canning

in the fall and have plans to spend more time with their two children, Bryan and Kimberly, and their families this winter. Randle will also fill his time with hunting and fishing.

From all at NPEC, we thank Wayne for his years of dedication and service to the cooperative and wish him the best in retirement. ■

NORTHERN PLAINS Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

An equal opportunity provider and employer.

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