



NPEC lineworker **Dustin Peterson** provides restoration assistance to Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative after a winter storm left all of their members without power.

PHOTO BY GRADY BAKKEN

Northern Plains Electric provides mutual aid after major storm hits North Dakota

Much of western and north central North Dakota was impacted by a major winter storm April 22-24. The storm left its mark on several electric cooperatives, including Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC).

Icy rains and heavy, wet snow weighed on our electrical infrastructure, resulting in toppled poles, downed distribution and transmission lines and damaged substations in the northern part of our service territory around the St. John, Rolla and Belcourt areas. At the peak of the storm, NPEC had around 1,100 members without power. NPEC brought crews from our other service areas to help restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Dependent on the area, members were without power anywhere from five to 25 hours.

In retrospect, NPEC got off easy. The brunt of the damage was sustained in the northwestern quadrant of the state. The electric cooperatives in these areas had a majority of their membership without power for several

days to weeks.

One of the ways cooperatives differ from other business structures is their adherence to cooperative principles and values that reflect social, political

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NPEC lineworkers **Shannon Petersen** and **Keaten Mikkelsen** (Bobcat) work together to get a pole set on Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative's line.



PHOTO BY NDARE/CALLY PETERSON

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and business concerns. One of those principles, “cooperation among cooperatives,” asserts that cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Joining efforts, electric cooperatives around North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota dispatched over 100 lineworkers to help the restoration and recovery effort. They joined hundreds of contractors and local lineworkers already working in these hard-hit areas.

NPEC sent five lineworkers and resources to aid Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Columbus. These lineworkers worked long hours for 11 days straight, in not-so-ideal conditions. Several

feet of snow blocked access to downed lines, and the wet conditions and mud made it difficult to set poles and get large, specialized trucks and equipment to remote areas.

We want to commend all the lineworkers who volunteered to leave their homes and families to help bring power to those families and businesses in need. We’d especially like to acknowledge our own lineworkers, Dustin Peterson, Shannon Petersen, Jordan Omile, Keaten Mikkelsen and Laine Hoyt.

We would also like to say thank you to our members for the outpouring of kindness, patience and acts of generosity during the restoration process. The kind messages and the meals and treats sent to our crews did not go unnoticed. ■

Feeling the heat

Hot water is one of those comforts we often take for granted. But water heating can amount to 12% of your monthly energy use. You can save with some simple tips. That leaky faucet, for example, can lead to gallons of wasted water, and create a “drain” on your monthly bill. Here are some tips from Northern Plains Electric Cooperative:

- **Lower the temperature.** For most households, a 120-degree setting on your water heater may work fine.
- **Insulate the tank.** Install water heater wrap, also known as water heater blanket, per manufacturer’s instructions.
- **Maintain.** Drain 1 to 2 gallons from the bottom of your water heater each year to reduce sediment buildup.
- **Install heat traps.** Heat traps allow the flow of cold water into the tank, but prevent heated water and unwanted convection to flow from the unit. Most modern water heaters are designed with built-in heat traps. But if your unit is more than 10 years old (and in good condition), installing a heat trap is a viable option. Or install heat traps on hot and cold water lines when it’s time to replace your water heater.
- **Insulate exposed hot water lines.** In addition to insulating the tank itself, consider adding insulation to the first 6 feet of both the hot and cold water pipes connected to the unit.
- **Fix dripping faucets.** You can significantly reduce hot water use by simply repairing leaks in fixtures, such as faucets and shower heads. A leak of one drip per second wastes 1,661 gallons of water and can cost up to \$35 per year.





Business spotlight: Harvest Grill

BY BRITTNEE WILSON

Growing up in rural North Dakota, Sarah Pederson learned to fish and hunt at a young age, taught by her father and uncle, who were avid sportsmen. Following her passion for the outdoors, the Cando native moved to Grand Forks after high school to pursue a degree in wildlife biology. Sarah worked through college, serving at local restaurants, adding bartending to her resume after she turned 21, and later becoming a manager. She relocated to Bismarck a few years later, continuing to work in the restaurant business, and that's where she met Tim.

Tim Pietrowsky, a native of Long Island, N.Y., and the Scranton, Pa., area, worked his whole life in the restaurant business. He first started washing dishes at age 15, then slung pizzas for three years before getting his culinary degree. In 2013, Tim moved to North Dakota to be closer to his brother, who was in the U.S. Air Force, and later found himself a manager at the same restaurant where Sarah worked in Bismarck.

The two hit it off and Sarah enjoyed bringing Tim back to her hometown to visit her family. On one of those trips, a vacant restaurant that had changed hands and names a few times became a topic of conversation between the two. Sarah never thought she would be interested in moving back to her hometown, but the

challenge of being a business owner was enticing. The two, who had worked in the restaurant business since teens, agreed they wanted to pursue more of a direct profit to all their hard work. Plus, being back where Sarah could hunt and fish with her family was a bonus.

In August 2021, the young couple purchased the restaurant in Cando and named it Harvest Grill. The name was an homage to the farming and hunting community and showed respect to the original name of the restaurant that opened in 1970, the Durum House.

With Sarah managing the front of the house and Tim running the show in the back of the house, the two are the perfect team. Together, the couple came up with a menu that was a perfect mixture of Sarah's Midwest roots with Tim's East Coast upbringing. The menu includes local favorites of nachos, burgers and steaks, but also with a flair of East Coast with Tim's vodka sauce, that he learned while slinging pizzas in Pennsylvania, and his mother's homemade meatball recipe.

The menu also includes desserts to satisfy any sweet tooth. Supporting a local baker, the grill showcases the talents of Michelle Gibbens, owner of Harvest Bakehouse LLC. Gibbens comes up with weekly unique creations of cakes and cheesecakes, which usually sell



Sarah Pederson and Tim Pietrowsky, owners of Harvest Grill in Cando, offer a menu with Midwest roots and East Coast flavors.

out within a couple days. Creations like fruity pebble cheesecake, almond joy cheesecake and s'mores cake are among her collection.

"They are to die for!" Sarah said. "People sometimes come in just for the desserts."

Small-town charm

The restaurant, which seats just under 100 people, includes a game room for those ages 21 and over. The game room is just that - a "game room" decorated with big game taxidermy lent from Sarah and her family members. The dining room is decorated with nature photographs from a local artist, a fully stocked bar, a kids' corner to keep little ones entertained and a giant drink exchange board. This chalkboard gives a chance for locals to buy a drink for another, marked on the board and awaiting them until their next visit.

"The town has been fantastic. We wouldn't have gotten off our feet without their support and enthusiasm," Sarah said.

Tim and Sarah try to give back to the community as much as they can. They host banquets and events for local nonprofit organizations on their days off. The Northern Plains Electric Cooperative members

employ nine locals and credit extra help to their family and friends.

"We are super fortunate and grateful to have such a great support system. Friends and family that want to help and are willing to travel long distances just to make sure our business is successful," Sarah said.

Harvest Grill is located just off Highway 281 in Cando. Hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. ■



The meatball platter is among other East Coast-influenced recipes on Harvest Grill's menu.

COURTESY PHOTO

Meter replacement delayed



In the May center pages, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative published that meter replacements would be conducted this summer starting in June for members in the southern part of our service

territory. Due to supply chain issues, our meter order has been delayed until this fall.

Members in the counties of northern Stutsman, northern Kidder, western Griggs, Foster, Wells, Eddy and the Oberon area of Benson are on the list and will be notified by an automated telephone call from a toll-free number when the meter changes are expected to take place in their area.

The meter replacements will be conducted by our contractor, Chapman Metering of Avoca, Iowa. Chapman Metering will be driving white service vans with its company name and our Northern Plains Electric Cooperative name on them. They may have an out-of-state license plate.

Give us a call

To be informed when our meter maintenance program will be in your area, your current telephone number must be on file. To update your information, contact our office, 800-882-2500. ■

Co-op Day at the N.D. State Fair July 27 in Minot



The North Dakota Coordinating Council of Cooperatives (NDCCC) is teaming up with KX News to host KX/Co-op Day at the North Dakota State Fair on Wednesday, July 27. The event will include a free pancake breakfast and ice cream social in the afternoon. Fairgoers can also benefit from coupons for discounted gate admission, carnival rides and rodeo tickets. Those coupons can be picked up at both the Cando and Carrington Northern Plains Electric Cooperative business offices.

Co-op directors and employees from across North Dakota will come together to serve a hot breakfast in the parking lot north of the Commercial II building from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Following the breakfast, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., fairgoers will have the opportunity to play games, register to win door prizes and visit with co-op employees under the KX/Co-op tent in State Fair Park. Fairgoers are also invited to enjoy a cool treat under the tent, with co-ops serving free ice cream sandwiches from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Annual poster contest winners announced

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative hosted its fourth annual safety poster contest asking for members' children to depict "how to stay safe around electricity."

Over 35 children entered their drawings, with a wide variety of scenes showing safety precautions taken at their home or on the farm. The posters were judged by employees, and winning entries are displayed here.

Kindergarten-first grade



1

Aiden van Graan, Wolford



2

Isla Reed, Churchs Ferry



3

Rylee Kollman, Carrington

Second-third grade



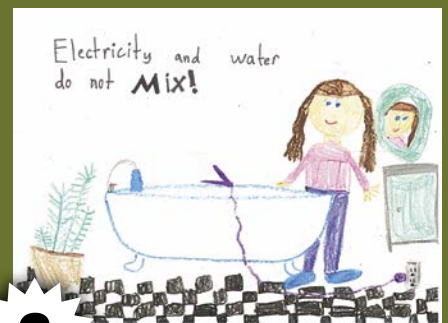
1

Samantha David, Cando



2

Joshua Stegmiller, Jamestown



3

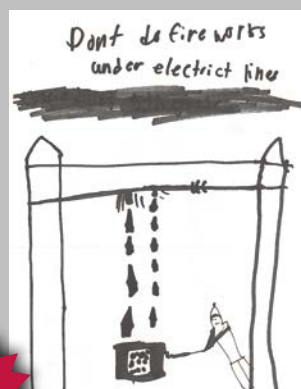
Nora Herman, Minnewaukan

Fourth-sixth grade



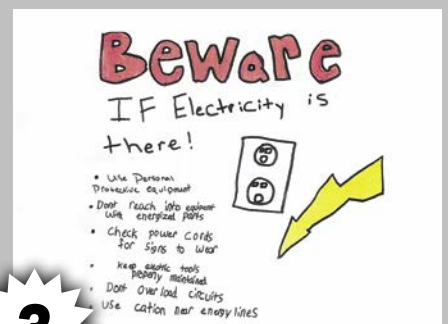
1

Michelle David, Cando



2

Emrie Dilley, Cando



3

Sophie Gable, Cando

Northern Plains Electric paid \$333,470 in taxes this year

Eleven counties served by Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) are the beneficiaries of taxes the cooperative pays yearly.

In 2022, NPEC paid \$333,470 in taxes to the 11 counties in our service area. The tax money comes from the electric distribution tax, which taxes how much electricity we sell. The electric distribution taxes are paid in lieu of property taxes on the cooperative's

overhead and underground power lines. The money is distributed to counties based on electricity sales and miles of power line in each county. This ensures that each county receives a fair share of the taxes.

In addition, NPEC pays property taxes on the headquarters and outpost buildings it owns in Rolla, Cando, Maddock, Rugby, Carrington, Robinson, Woodworth and Jamestown. ■

Kilowatt hours sold:

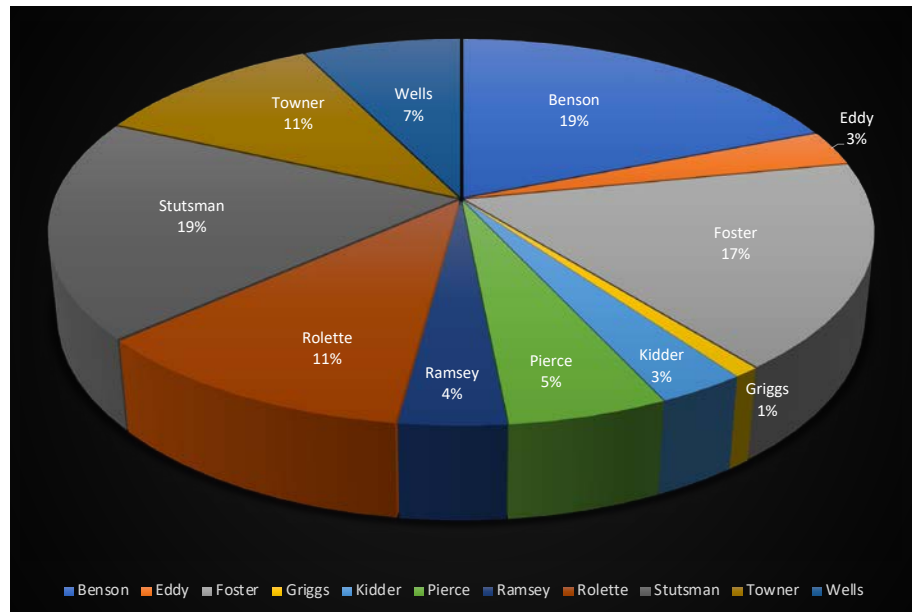
446,436,440

Miles of power line:

6,682

Counties served by NPEC:

Benson, Eddy, Foster, Griggs, Kidder, Pierce, Ramsey, Rolette, Stutsman, Towner and Wells



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

An equal opportunity provider and employer.

CANDO OFFICE:

609 4th Ave.
Cando, ND 58324

CARRINGTON OFFICE:

1515 West Main
Carrington, ND 58421

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