

# NORTHERN NOTES

News from Northern Plains Electric Cooperative



FEBRUARY 2019

## Attend YOUR district meeting

### District 2

Tuesday, Feb. 19  
Rugby Eagles Club  
Rugby

### District 1

Wednesday, Feb. 20  
North Star Public School  
Cando

### District 3

Thursday, Feb. 21  
Pettibone Community Center  
Pettibone

5:30-6:30 pm - *registration and  
complimentary supper*

6:30-7:30 pm - *meeting and  
director election*

## FEBRUARY 2019 INSIDE

- Giving Hearts Day
- How to prepare for a power outage
- Unclaimed capital credits

## EMPLOYEE NEWS



**Schuchard**

### **Danny Schuchard promoted**

Congratulations to Danny Schuchard on his promotion to operations supervisor. This position directly supervises line and contractor personnel, along with overseeing dispatch and fleet vehicles.

In Schuchard's 29 years with the cooperative, he has gained experience on the line, in dispatch and as an



**Dewald**

assistant operations manager. In his role of assistant operations manager, Schuchard was responsible for the supervision of line and contractor personnel for both Northern Plains and Dakota Valley Electric cooperatives during the cooperative alliance that dissolved in August 2018. He will be continuing this role for Northern Plains, along with his additional job duties in the operations of the cooperative. Danny has done an excellent job and brings a wealth of experience to this position.

### **Ashten Dewald promoted**

In January, Ashten Dewald was promoted to engineering and operations manager. Dewald will be responsible for managing the cooperative's engineering and operations departments.

Dewald joined the cooperative five years ago and has held the position of system engineer for both Northern Plains and Dakota Valley Electric cooperatives during the cooperative alliance that dissolved in August 2018. She has played a major role in improving the operations and maintenance program, conducting engineering studies and developing the cooperative's construction work plan.

# Give back to your community, become a giving heart



# GIVING HEARTS DAY 2019

Once a year in February, thousands of people rally around hundreds of nonprofits in our community. Giving Hearts Day is the largest 24-hour giving event in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. It has become a social movement and wellspring of generosity with people saying, "count me as a giving heart for charity." This year's event will be held on Feb. 14, with more than 570 charitable causes eligible. Last year, \$13.2 million was raised through 63,635 donations.

To view the list of nonprofits in your area or to donate, visit [www.impactgiveback.org](http://www.impactgiveback.org).

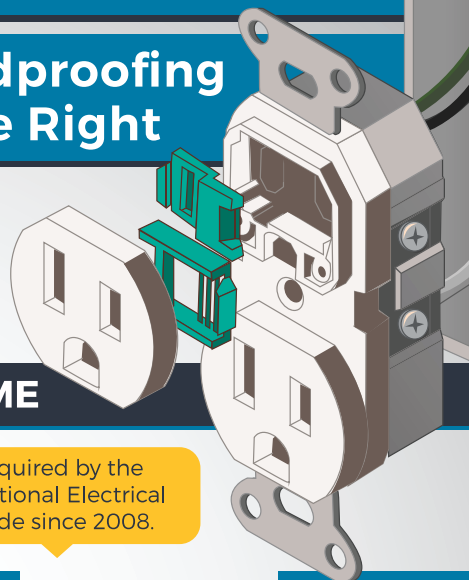


# TAMPER-RESISTANT RECEPTACLES

## Childproofing Done Right



A study by Temple University found that **100%** of all 2-4 year olds were able to remove one type of plastic outlet cap **within 10 seconds**. Properly childproof your outlets by installing **Tamper-Resistant Receptacles**.



## HOW TO PROPERLY CHILDPROOF YOUR HOME

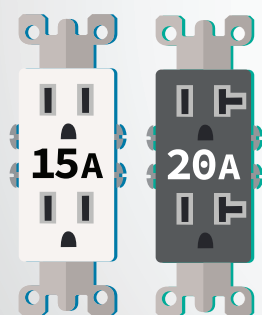
⚡ Tamper-Resistant Receptacles offer a permanent solution to outlet covers.

⚡ Built-in shutters prevent foreign objects from being inserted into the outlet.

⚡ Required by the National Electrical Code since 2008.

### ► WHERE TO INSTALL

All **15A - 20A, 125v** and **150v** outlets in the following areas must be tamper resistant:



### ► OTHER WAYS TO KEEP TODDLERS SAFE



Children are continually exploring the world around them. So eliminating risks around your home is important to keep children safe.

Installing tamper-resistant receptacles throughout the home is the first step. Here are some other steps to keeping your toddler safe:

- Conceal cords. Keep wires as bundled and hidden as possible.
- Hide surge protectors, and utilize power strip safety covers.
- Unplug and store electrical devices when not in use. This is particularly important with hair dryers, curlers and electric razors in the bathroom. Store them in a cabinet away from water with a safety lock when they are not in use.
- In the kitchen, bathroom and laundry areas, install ground-fault safety interruptors, which lessen the likelihood of electrical injury if an appliance falls into the sink.



These safety tips brought to you by Northern Plains Electric Cooperative.  
**Because we care.**

# How to prepare for a power outage

**W**inter in North Dakota comes hand-in-hand with wind, snow, ice, extreme cold and the occasional power outage.

In case of a power outage; report the outage as soon as possible by calling 1-800-882-2500, 24 hours a day. You can follow the status of power outages on our website, [www.nplains.com](http://www.nplains.com), by clicking on the outage map in the lower right hand of our homepage. Our team works diligently in winter storms to restore power to our members as fast and as safe as possible. Depending on the storm, it could leave you without power for days. Do your part and follow these steps to ensure your safety and comfort during an outage.



## How to prepare now

- Have multiple flashlights ready with spare batteries. Candles can cause fires.
- Water jugs for drinking and washing.
- Nonperishable food and a manual can opener.
- Keep mobile phones charged. Pick up a cellphone car charger so you can charge the cell in your car if it runs down.
- If you have an automatic garage door opener, learn how to use the manual release to open your garage door manually.
- Fill up your tank if a major storm is predicted. Many gas stations will not be in operation during a power outage.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors with battery backup in central locations on every level of your home.
- Talk to your medical provider about a power outage plan for a medical device powered by electricity and refrigerated medications.

## Stay safe during

- Switch off lights, appliances and electronics. When the power returns, there may be momentary power spikes that can cause damage. Keeping these items plugged into a surge protector helps, but it is still best to unplug these items from the wall completely.
- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so that the water drips from the tap. Know how to shut off water valves in case a pipe bursts.
- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed. The refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will hold the cold temperature for about 48 hours.
- Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Generators, camp stoves or charcoal grills should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows. Never use a gas stovetop or oven to heat your home.
- Close off unneeded rooms. Stuff towels and rags underneath exterior doors to keep the heat in.
- If your budget allows, acquire a portable generator. Don't forget to store enough fuel to run the generator for at least four days. ■





## Operate your generator safely

A backup generator is a smart way to prevent extended power outages from affecting your quality of life. They can give you a peace of mind that your family and home are safe.

Portable or permanently installed standby generators can come in handy during long-term outages. However, if you do not know how to use them properly, they can be dangerous.

Follow these tips to use generators safely.

- Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations on how to use your generator.
- Operate it outdoors in an area with plenty of ventilation. Never run a generator in a home or garage. Generators give off deadly carbon monoxide.

- If installing a permanent generator, it is very important that your generator has the proper transfer switch. This switching device is used to transfer the electric service from the power line to the generator. The switch also separates the generator from the outside utility service. If the transfer switch is not used, voltage from the generator will back feed on the power lines and can endanger the lives of line crews working to restore your power.
- Verify your generator's receptacles and notice what amperage and plug type it requires to interface with the transfer switch.
- Turn the generator on before plugging appliances into it. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit.
- Always plug electrical appliances directly into the generator using the manufacturer's supplied cords or extension cords that are grounded (three-pronged). Inspect the cords to make sure they are fully intact and not damaged. Also ensure the cords are appropriately rated in watts or amps for the intended use. Do not use underrated cords.
- Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated in wet conditions. Protect the generator from these conditions by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure your hands are dry before touching the generator.
- Be sure the generator is turned off and cool before fueling it, to prevent a fire should the tank overflow.
- Keep children and pets away from portable generators. Many generator components are hot enough to burn you during operation.

Please contact us at 1-800-882-2500 for information on installing and using standby or portable generators. ■

## Do you have money waiting for you?

The following people have capital credit checks 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. Information must be received by March 31, 2019. Call us at 1-800-882-2500.

### 2018 UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS

Jasper, Janrose ..... Bismarck  
Agrilience ..... Cooperstown  
Alberts, Amy ..... Fort Totten  
Alberts, Lavonne ..... Fort Totten  
Anderson, Audra ..... Rolla  
Armstrong, Shelley ..... Hansboro  
Arnell, Francisco ..... Belcourt  
Baker, Neil ..... Missoula, Mont.  
Barajas, Abraham ..... Marshalltown, Iowa  
Beachy, Rufus ..... Mylo  
Bear, King R. .... Belcourt  
Brien, Joann ..... Belcourt  
Brenno, Bryon estate ..... Leeds  
Burdick, Lisa ..... Fort Totten  
Cartwright, Sheldon ..... Cando  
Caldwell, Susan ..... Minneapolis, Minn.  
Charboneau, Karen A. .... Devils Lake  
Charboneau, Karla ..... Minot  
Charette, Sylvester ..... Belcourt  
Church Gift of Hope ..... Bottineau  
Cloud, Cassandra ..... Fort Totten  
Clouse, Ardell ..... Rocklake  
Commonwealth  
Properties ..... South Jordan, Utah  
Dauphinais, James ..... Fort Totten  
Decoteau, Francis ..... Belcourt  
Decoteau, Glenn A. Jr. .... Belcourt  
Decoteau, Louis Jr. .... Belcourt  
Diaz, James Frank estate ..... Fort Totten  
Dockter, Mabel ..... Hurdsheld  
Dubois, C.S. Construction ..... Fargo  
Fischer, Ervin ..... Jamestown  
Engberg, Ray ..... Carrington  
First Preston  
Management ..... Spring Lake, Minn.  
Foss, Genevieve ..... Devils Lake  
Frederick, Richard L. .... Belcourt  
Frederick, Stanley ..... Belcourt  
Gable, Larry J. .... Belcourt  
Gibbs, Steven ..... Devils Lake  
Gillespie, Don ..... Glenfield  
Gladue, Tamera M. .... Belcourt  
Gooden, Shelly M. estate ..... Belcourt

Grant, Darrell ..... Devils Lake  
Greybear, Myron Jr. .... Fort Totten  
Griffen, Freddie ..... Belcourt  
Harper, Karen ..... Leeds  
Hoffman, Kimber ..... Stewardson, Ill.  
Hoffmann, Mark ..... Burlington, Wash.  
Holm, Cornwall ..... Cando  
Houle, Beverly ..... Belcourt  
Houle, Ernest F. .... Belcourt  
Jemtrud, Ronald ..... Rugby  
Jones, Lee ..... Thompson  
Kautzman, John E. .... Carrington  
Keltgen, John ..... Sacramento, Calif.  
Kent, Mark ..... Enumclaw, Wash.  
Kinzler, Curt ..... Jamestown  
Kleinsasser, Sandra ..... Fargo  
Klose, David ..... Fargo  
Laducer, Louis ..... Belcourt  
Lagountain, Scott ..... Belcourt  
Lattergrasse, Doris ..... Hillsboro, Ore.  
Lavallie, Lorrie J. .... Belcourt  
Littlewind, Clifford ..... Fort Totten  
Lohnes, Connie ..... Fort Totten  
Martin, Adrienne ..... Devils Lake  
McKay, Ernest P. II. .... Warwick  
McLeod Farming Co. .... Cando  
McMurray, Dean B. .... Casselton  
Meek, Marion ..... Elmira, Ore.  
Mindt, Kevin ..... Fort Totten  
Mittleider, Diane ..... Jamestown

Mittleider, Troy ..... Jamestown  
Morin, Claudia ..... Belcourt  
Morin, Vicky ..... Dunseith  
Nadeau, Barbara ..... Belcourt  
Nadeau, Dale ..... Belcourt  
Nadeau, Linda M. .... Belcourt  
Nelson, Ordis ..... Cando  
Olson, Scott ..... Bismarck  
Olson, Wesley ..... Medina  
Poitra, Harold ..... Belcourt  
Poitra, Joyce ..... Belcourt  
Putnam, Darlene B. .... Devils Lake  
River of Life Fellowship ..... Jamestown  
Sandven Brothers ..... Leeds  
Schumacher, Dustin ..... Wahpeton  
Smith, Ballard J. .... Battle Creek, Iowa  
Smith, Rose ..... Belcourt  
Spottedbird, Kenda ..... Fort Totten  
Spotted Horse III, Philip ..... Fort Totten  
Stone, Steven ..... Fort Totten  
Strandkowski, Chuck ..... Jamestown  
St. Claire, Willard ..... Belcourt  
Thunder, Brian ..... Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Tufte, Dennis ..... Devils Lake  
Vivier, Michael ..... Rolla  
Vondal, Christine ..... Belcourt  
Weed, Russell ..... Minnewauken  
Wessells, Wade ..... Spokane, Wash.  
Wilkie, Edward D. Sr. .... Belcourt  
Youngbear, Joyce ..... Fort Totten





*Shortly after the sunrise on the cold morning of Dec. 28, two bright sun dogs appeared on each side of the sun. Sun dogs usually appear just after sunrise when sunlight hits clouds of ice crystals and the ice acts as prisms. Photograph taken on the outskirts of Cando.*

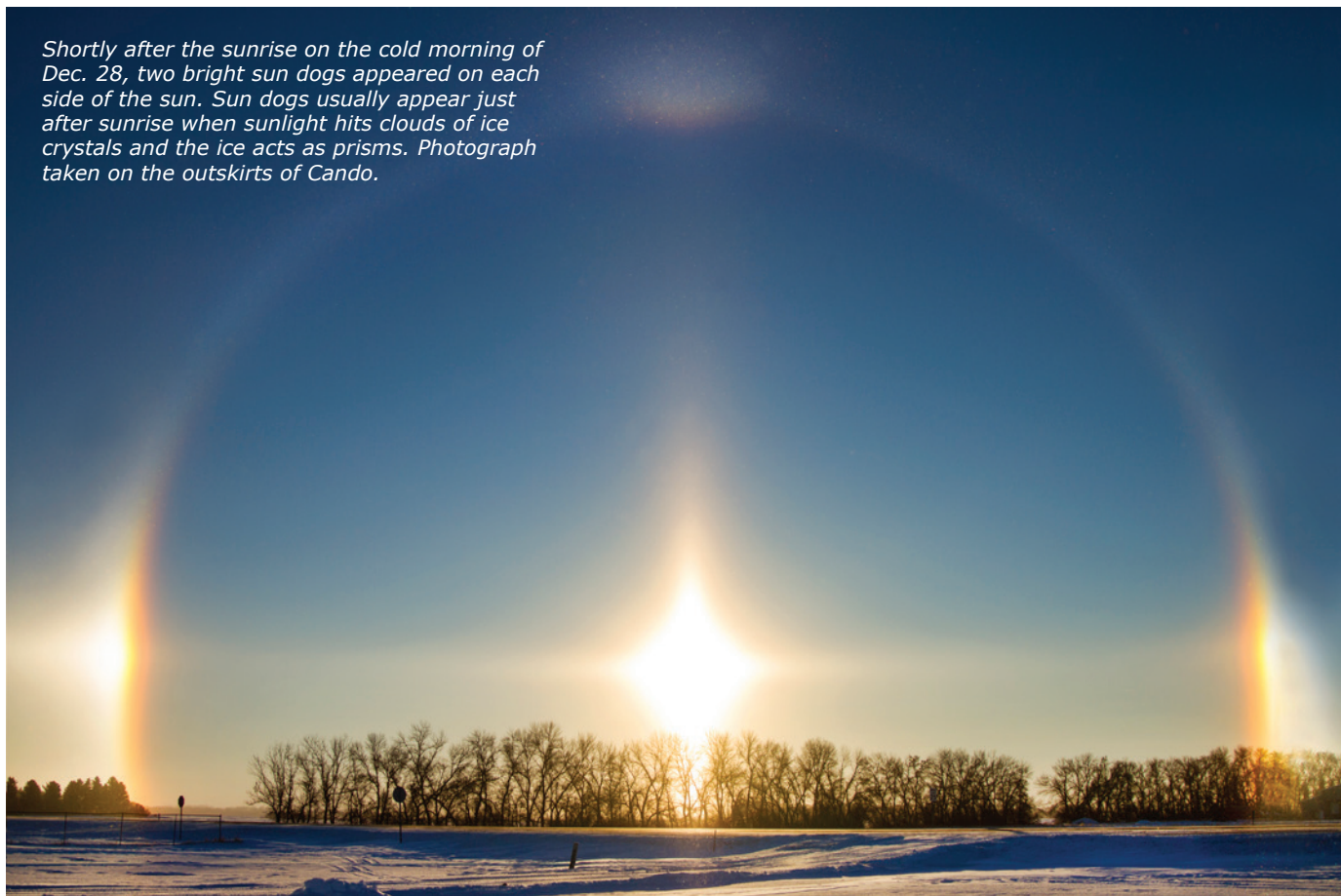


PHOTO BY BRITTNEE WILSON

## Solar numbers are in!

**T**he shared solar project with Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative, powering the Northern Plains Carrington office, saved \$983.95 in 2018. The CO<sub>2</sub> offset equals to more than 6,700 pounds of coal.

“The output of the system in 2018 was the best we’ve seen since production started in 2015, although payback of the system is in the 25- to 30-year range,” said Seth Syverson, Northern Plains general manager. “The solar project has proven to be a good informational tool to help address members’ questions on overall costs versus benefits.”

### Maintenance

Total energy generation mostly depends on sunny days. Lower numbers have been attributed to equipment failure, broken panels as well as cloudy months. When reviewing the chart, you will notice a lower energy output in April and May of 2017; there was an inverter failure that caused the max production to top out at 4 kilowatts. This was fixed in June 2017.

Visit our website to view solar generation in real-time: [www.nplains.com](http://www.nplains.com). ■

## Total energy generated [KWH]

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	\$ saved
2018	398	593	765	1113	1015	1051	1142	1004	757	584	266	257	8945	\$983.95
2017	276	538	723	759	905	1016	1208	1011	760	721	426	332	8675	\$954.25
2016	325	484	831	821	975	1104	991	1042	730	536	440	248	8527	\$937.97

# ATTENTION KIDS!

## ENTER OUR POSTER CONTEST!

Northern Plains is sponsoring a safety poster contest for children in kindergarten to sixth grade. The purpose of the safety poster contest is to make children aware of the dangers of electricity. At Northern Plains, safety always comes first, and we are dedicated to doing our part to teach children how to be safe around electricity. Winners will be announced on our Facebook page and featured in the Northern Plains local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine. So grab your art supplies and be creative!

### RULES

- Posters must be on white, 8.5x11 paper.
- Posters must depict the theme, "How to stay safe around electricity."
- Print the child's name, school grade, address, age and parents' names on the back of the poster.

- Child must be a dependent of a current Northern Plains member.
- Entries must be submitted to a Northern Plains office (Cando or Carrington) or mailed to: Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 608, Cando, ND 58324 by deadline of 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 18.

### ENTRY CATEGORIES

- Kindergarten and first grade
- Second to third grade
- Fourth to sixth grade

### PRIZES (For each category)

- First prize: \$20
- Second prize: \$15
- Third prize: \$10

**NORTHERN  
PLAINS** Electric Cooperative

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

#### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

[www.nplains.com](http://www.nplains.com)

[justask@nplains.com](mailto:justask@nplains.com)

800-882-2500

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