

Knowledge is POWER

RURAL DeLIGHT

August 2025 • Volume 85 • Issue 8

News from Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.

PO Box 438 • Mahnomen, MN 56557

www.wildriceelectric.com

Detroit Lakes

Everlee Grimm (Cary & Gary Krogsgaard) U of M Twin Cities/ Sports Mgmt & Journalism

Declan Jessen (Jamey Jessen & Mariah Jessen) UND/Biology & Pre-Med

Andrew Nunn (Shad & Ashley Nunn) NDSU/Theatre & Computer Science

Easton Wahl (Shiloh & Ronica Wahl) Bethel University/Football & Finance

Fertile-Beltrami

Ella Bolstad (Josh & Kari Bolstad) Northland/Radiologic Technology

Gabrielle Mosher (Tyler & Missy Mosher) M-State/Digital Marketing & Business

Easton Petry (Tim & Angie Petry) Northland/Marketing & Management

Carter Zimmer (Chris & Julie Zimmer) M-State/Information Technology

Fosston

Skye Balstad (Sterling & Tessa Balstad) NDSU/Nursing (Pediatric)

Brenna Hoefler (Jake & Stacie Hoefler) UND/Business/Pre-Dentistry

Taylinn Spicer (Chris Spicer)

Reese Wedin (Mike & April Wedin) Free Lutheran Bible College/Bible Ministry

Frazee-Vergas

Lainey Jacobson (Jona & Georgia Jacobson) UND/ Biology-Professional Health Services

Cade Nagel (Travis Nagel & Tiffany Nagel) M-State/PowerSports Technician

Hawley

Dru Dauner (Krista & Steve Dauner) M-State/Radiologic Technology

Rachel Hanna (David & Lesa Hanna) MSUM/Speech Pathology

Ellie Rosing (Anthony & Angela Rosing) Concordia/ Nutrition & Dietetics/Pre PA

Kharm Schweninger (Darrell Haverkamp) MSUM/Social Work

Lake Park-Audubon

Tripp Eiter (Toby Eiter & Kristina Eiter) MSUM/Exercise Science

Kaysa Erickson (Matt & Mandy Erickson) UND/Aerospace Engineering

Paige Vanderplaats (Jeremy & Rachel Vanderplaats) NDSU/Pharmacy

Kennedy Weyer (Mark Rasmussen) Mayville State/ Marketing/Volleyball

Mahnomen

Seth Hlubek (Steve & Lonna Hlubek) M-State/Electrical Technology

Lillian Linden (Desiree Linden & Craig Bower; Ben & Brittany Linden) M-State/ Dental Hygiene

Kayla Slette (Jerome & Casey Slette) UMC/Animal Science

Tyler Schoenborn (Donald & Alicia Schoenborn) U of M Twin Cities/Science & Engineering

Norman County East

Evelyn Kraft (Jim & Tina Kraft) NCTC/Occupational Therapy Assistant

Ulen-Hitterdal

Alissa Anderson (Cris & Jenny Anderson) Concordia/ Pre Med

Ashley Blakeway (Jesse & Dawn Blakeway) M-State/ Nursing

Madison Groth (Ryan & Karen Groth) U of M Crookston/ Horticulture

Shoheng Miao (Robert & Stacy Klemetson) University of Prince Edward Island/Computer Science

Since 2001,

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative
has granted over

\$350,750

in scholarships

This year the Cooperative awarded

\$29,250

in scholarships

to students at

11

local school districts
in our service territory

Scholarship funds
are made possible by
unclaimed
capital credits

Waubun

Cleighton Hoban

(AnneMarye & Jason Hoban)

Concordia/Business Mgmt

Savannah Keezer (Josephine Keezer) M-State/Liberal Arts & Sciences & Natural Resources

Brynn McArthur (Nick & Jessica McArthur) U of M or WE Tribal/Social Work/Psychology

Alexis Pazdernik (Angelia & Nathan Pazdernik) M-State/ Early Childhood Education

Win-E-Mac

Colten Mandt (Kevin Mandt & Anna Mandt) Bemidji

State/Mass Communications

Shelby Mandt (Kevin Mandt & Anna Mandt) MSCTC/Dental Hygiene

Evelyn Ryan (Amanda & Shaun Ryan) Biola University/Engineering

Danielle Winter (Gregory & Vondria Winter) MSUM/ Graphic Design & Art Education



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

AROUND THE CO-OP ...

by **Mike Wade**

June Storm Restoration

In the early hours of June 21, a severe storm moved through North Dakota and into Northwestern Minnesota. High winds snapped limbs and trees which broke poles and overhead lines and knocked out power to thousands of our members. Our linemen responded immediately, working through the night to assess the damage, look for downed poles, and remove power lines over roadways. The Waukon area was especially hard hit, with 21 poles either broken or leaning.

As the extent of the damage became clear, our operations staff prioritized the hardest-hit areas and dispatched line crews to begin restoration work as quickly and safely as possible. This approach allowed us to send our line crews to the areas where they were needed the most to start bringing power back to our members.

The storm caused widespread damage across our service territory. As the damage assessments came in, we reached out to our

pole replacement contractor, Legacy Power Line, who quickly responded with multiple crews and equipment to replace the downed poles at Waukon and other areas.

One of the principles of cooperatives is "Cooperation among Cooperatives". By working together, co-ops strengthen each other and improve services to our members. Nowhere is this principle more evident than during storm recovery efforts. Crews from Cavalier Rural Electric, Itasca-Mantrap Electric, and Red Lake Electric arrived to assist our team, helping us restore power to our members. Their quick action to provide assistance helped lessen the impact of the storm on our members. We extend a heartfelt thanks to these neighboring cooperatives and to Legacy Power Line for their critical assistance.

We are deeply grateful to our linemen and operations team for their dedication and skill to work efficiently and safely during this restoration effort. They worked extremely long hours in chal-

lenging conditions and we thank them for their work restoring power to our members after such a devastating weather event.

Restoring power after a major storm is never easy, but it is a responsibility we take seriously. We thank our members for their patience and understanding as we worked to restore power as safely and quickly as possible.

Honoring Our Retirees

In June, we gathered to celebrate our retired employees who dedicated many years of service to our cooperative. The 2nd annual Retiree Rally was an opportunity to show our appreciation for the hard work and commitment of those who helped build the system we have today. It was a privilege to honor them with a gathering that included fun stories from the past and a healthy dose of laughter. We thank our retirees for their years of dedication and for the example they set for all of us working today to keep the lights on for our members.

Highlights from the Board Room:

The Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on May 27, 2025. During the meeting, the Board was given an overview of the Operation Round Up meeting held May 7, 2025 and heard a presentation on credit card fees.

A quorum of directors was present and the following actions were taken:

- **Approved** the board minutes and financial reports and statements for April 2025

- **Approved** the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Membership to be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at the Shooting Star Event Center

- **Approved** the general retirement of capital credits for the remaining 1999 balance and a portion of the 2000 balance in the approximate amount of \$733,045

- **Approved** ballots in favor of CFC's proposed bylaw amendments and NSCS's unopposed incumbent directors in their director election

- **Approved** a service boundary amendment for a new service in Norman County

- **Approved** the monthly Cooperative policy review

- **Accepted** the management department reports

- **Accepted** the Minnkota Power report

- **Accepted** the MREA report

The August regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2025.



Water & Electricity

- **Keeping electrical devices away from water:**

This includes pools, hot tubs, sinks, and any wet areas.

- **Never touch electrical devices when wet:**

Water conducts electricity, so avoid contact with anything electrical when you or the device are wet.

- **Use GFCIs:**

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) are essential in areas where water and electricity mix, such as bathrooms, kitchens, and outdoor outlets.

June 2025 Storm By the Numbers

1st outage reported at
10:54 pm, Friday, June 20th



All able to be restored by
9:00 pm, Monday June 23rd

5,433

Number of members out
of power at the peak

37%

Percent of membership
out at the peak

Over **5,400** restored
in **two days**



Downed / Damaged Poles **60+**

Splices used on broken wires **800+**

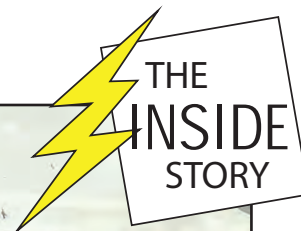
Mutual aid personnel 18

Cavalier Rural Electric Cooperative, **2**

Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative, **2**

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, **4**

Legacy Power Line, Inc., **10**



Meet Our New Journeyman Lineman

Please join us in welcoming Brady Swanson, our newest Journeyman Lineman, to the team at Wild Rice Electric. Brady brings with him five years of experience working as a lineman for the City of Fosston, where he also earned his journeyman license.

A graduate of the MState Electrical Lineworker Technology program and an alumnus of Waubun High School, Brady

is no stranger to our service territory and cooperative. In fact, joining the team marks a return to familiar ground — he completed his 80-hour internship with us back in 2019.

We're excited to have Brady back at Wild Rice Electric and look forward to the skill, dedication, and energy he brings to the crew.

Welcome back, Brady!



Wild Rice Electric Cooperative held its 2nd Annual Retiree Rally. The event honored retired employees, celebrating their years of service and contributions to the organization. Retirees gathered in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere to reconnect, share memories, and enjoy refreshments. The rally reflected the cooperative's ongoing commitment to its extended community and the lasting bonds formed through years of service.

Ads

For Sale

XXXL Sport Pet Design Dog Kennel 48" L x 32" W x 36" H new in box \$275. Bonaire Litter box w/electric air filter \$50. Fuel oil tank used for gasoline \$50. Strawberry Lake area, (612) 278-1967 leave message

New Holland 258 hay rake \$500, good condition. 4-wheel trailer running gear 6 ton would be great to build deer stand on \$300, (218) 686-6592.

1986 Aluma craft Lunker & trailer. 50 HP Evinrude etech low hours, \$8,650, call (218) 847-5047.

Savage model FCNS .300WSM rifle and scope. Clip, 2 lb. trigger, black synthetic stock, blued, Leupold VX3 3.5x10x50mm scope. Very accurate. 110 rds ammo included, various loads. \$825 total, cash only. Call or text (701) 261-6014.

Selling Pastor's Library, complete 23 volume set of The Pulpit Commentary, excellent, \$230. Complete 6 volume set of The Expositor's Bible, some use, \$36. Plus, more full sets too numerous to mention, (218) 329-9196.

Skid Steer attachments, American made heavy duty both new & used, (701) 261-3574.

5500 GPH trash pump w/ hoses. Long range TV antenna w/ amplifier & extension. 6 blade drone w/ case, chargers & controller. 4K, set of tables w/Italian marble tops. 218-668-2585 or 218-401-2574.

4-wheeler tire 7x10x22 new in plastic, \$50, (218) 902-0773.

Farm fresh eggs, \$4 dz, Mahnomen area, (701) 373-5967.

Aluminum floating dock, can be configured as a 32' straight dock or 24' dock w/ 8" L. 8 4'x4' all aluminum platforms fit in aluminum rails on floats. Includes 5 steel post w/ augers to anchor the dock. Can be cut to needed length. Like new-used only a few seasons, \$2,000, (612) 360-0149 lv mess.

To preserve your trophy deer, water-fowl or pheasants call (320) 237-8806.

AKC Chesapeake Bay Retriever Puppies. Good pedigree/ temperaments. Hunting & family companions, (320) 460-0777.

New high lift jack, \$50. 3 large rolls dog kennel fence, \$100. 4 tires 225-55-18, \$50. 2 GM pickup hoods 88-98, \$50 each. 1 600x16 imp tire, \$45, (218) 849-8963.

3 - 2004 Monty Carlo tires & rims 225/60/R16- brand new. 2 - Toyota Tacoma tires & rims 215x70 R15. 4 - Little Dodge pickup tires & rims radial 850 x15 - 6 hole. 3 - 3 wheeler tires & rims 22x11.00 - 8, 3 hole, (218) 846-1004.

Ridged 15 Amp, 13" planner, w/ heavy duty companion table, \$250. 2 - 4.80/4.00-8, wheel borrow tires, \$10 ea. 2 swivel boat seats, \$5 ea. 3 gal marine gas tank, \$20. Galvanized, steel black mail box, \$10. Stihl 015 L, chain saw, offer. John Deere front bumper fits, 300 & 500 series, \$30 Several water hoses, \$5 ea. Hand cutout saw, \$10. 5' wood quilt rack, \$5. Drill press table & fence, \$30. 48" John Deere mulching, attachment & blades, \$100. 50 tan color 12 x 8" land scape blocks on pallet, \$10. 75 tan color half-moon edge bricks on pallet, \$ 10. 20 x 36" top, 36 in" tall, metal welding table, \$25. 4 - 225/45R 17, aluminum rims w/ tires, nice, \$250. Misc: hand held power tools new & used call for details, 218-850-1500, lv mess.

Farm fresh eggs, \$4 dz, Mahnomen area, (701) 373-5967.

John Deere 330 round baler (218) 204-1231.

Canning jars, lots & lots, jelly, pints & quarts, \$10 doz, (218) 846-1014 lv message.

2002 Suzuki Marauder VZ800CC mustang saddle, Memphis shades windshield, roll bars w/ footpegs, saddle bags, new tires, excellent, 8,200 mi, \$2,500, (218) 734-2322.

Aluminum Shore Master Boat Lift 7ft X 19ft, manual winch & heavy green canvas cover. 1980 Sylvan 16 Ft Rodmaster boat w/ 55 HP 2 Stroke Johnson & 1979 EZ Load Trailer. Boat stored indoors. Big Elbow Lake, \$4,500, (218) 850-4027.

Small bunch of cute bantam call ducks, various colors, (218) 935-247, lv message & numbers.

JD 48" snowblower & chains came off JD 425, \$400. 3 pt rear 6' blade w/ leveling wheel, \$400. 3pt Ford series J disc 8', \$700, (218) 280-3699.

1997 Chevy dually 3500 pickup. Full cab, long bed. Runs on 2 cylinders on a good day. Engine is shot, needs a new motor. 4WD does not work. Very rough shape. Great mechanic's project. \$1,650, (218) 686-3838.

3 black lab/german shepherd puppies, \$175 ea, (218) 204-1043.

Wanted

Old outhouse in movable condition. Older Kenmore washing machine in working condition. Twin Valley area or nearby, (701) 318-7189.

Looking for old Winchesters guns, but would be interested in any brand. Please text or call (218) 686-8385.

Rider lawn mower, 13 hp 40". Yearling black angus heifer. Older 4x4 pick-up. Tractor Mechanic, (218) 584-4306.

Older Lund 16 ft deep rowboat. No leaks & trailer, (218) 687-3707 or (218) 277-0190.

Our Ad Policy

- Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

You can submit your ad by mail, email, or drop off in office. Phone ads will not be accepted.

- Email ads to: info@wildriceelectric.com

- Mail ads to:
Wild Rice Electric
Cooperative
PO Box 438
Mahnomen, MN 56557



Wild Rice Electric is active on Facebook...

We share about outages, lineworker action, safety events and all things cooperative.

Follow along: Wild Rice Electric Cooperative.

Nondiscrimination Statement

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identi-

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large

print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at

any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) **Mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) **Fax:** (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) **Email:** program.intake@usda.gov

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender"

Look up for Power Lines

Harvest is one of the busiest times of the year in our region, but no one is ever too busy to be reminded about the importance of electrical safety.

LOCATE AND IDENTIFY	WORK AT A SAFE DISTANCE	LOWER BEFORE YOU GO	STAY AWAY AND STAY CALM
Make sure you, your family and your farm workers know where power lines are located on your property.	It is best to always assume a power line is energized and dangerous. A good rule of thumb is to stay at least 10 feet away from all power lines.	Lowering your equipment to the lowest possible setting is one way to not fall powerless to power lines.	If you ever come in contact with an electric pole, STAY PUT. CALL 9-1-1. If equipment catches fire or becomes unsafe, avoid contact as you exit. Cross your arms, jump clear with both feet together to prevent electrical pathway.



Coop Celebration Day - September 18!

Join us for a day of food, fun, and community as we celebrate over 85 years of service! Wild Rice Electric's Coop Celebration Day will feature games, prizes, EV ride & drives, and a live safety demo by our Operations Team. Mark your calendars for September 18th and stay tuned for more details – you won't want to miss it!



LINE INSPECTION

STAR Energy Services will be conducting inspections, in the following townships: Rosebud, Columbia, Brandsvold, Hagen, Ulen, Walworth, Spring Creek and White Earth, within Wild Rice Electric's service territory.

You may see a vehicle or side-by-side UTV during this time with a STAR Energy Services logo and a Line Inspection decal on it. Please be courteous to the crew as they ensure the safe distribution of your electricity.

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW CALL



BEFORE YOU DIG.

One FREE easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.



PERIODICAL

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App: SmartHub



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Vice Chair Larry Sollie, District 1
Secretary .. Mark Habedank, District 2
Treasurer Dave Hamre, District 1

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District 2: Greg LaVoy & Roger Winter

District 3: Randy Bjornson &
Paula Okeson

President & CEO Mike Wade

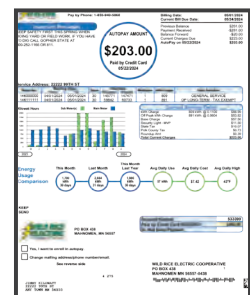
*This Institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

CAPITAL CREDITS RETIREMENTS ARE HERE

To our active members that had service in
the years of 1999 and 2000, be sure to view
your statement in August to see your bill
credit.

If you know of anyone that is a former mem-
ber of the Cooperative, direct them to our
website to see if their name is on the un-
cashed capital credit list.

Visit wildriceelectric.com and click on the Capital Credits link
on the Member Advantage Page or feel free to call our office
at 1-800-244-5709.



CREDIT ON BILL:

Members with an
active account

WILD RICE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. MISSION STATEMENT
Energizing our members' future.