

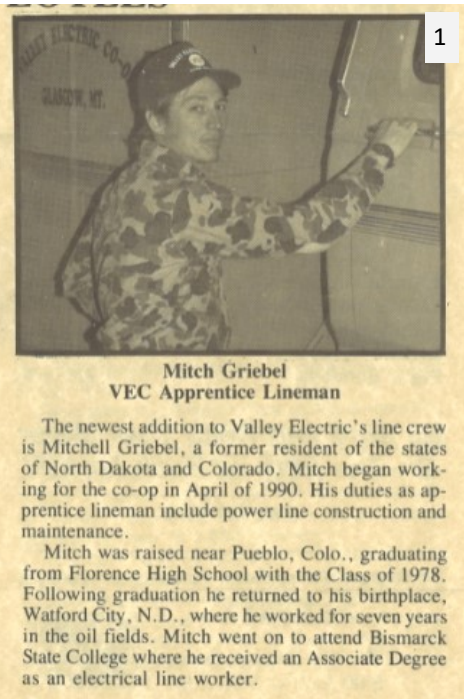


NorVal NEWS



December 2020

NorVal Employees Recognized for Years of Service



With the health and safety of our members in mind, the Board elected not to hold an in person Annual Meeting of the Members this year. In years past, the event gives the Board and Management a chance to recognize the continued dedication of the employees and

Joe's hard work, dedication and leadership is the cornerstone of what makes our cooperative great.

Leila Seyfert, Accounts Payable and Communications Coordinator, was awarded a certificate and pin for fifteen years of dedicated service to the co-op. She started her career July of 2005, as a Work Order and Material Clerk for Northern Electric in Opheim, transitioning to billing, and now in her current role for accounts payable and communications. In addition to creating the content for this newsletter, she is also responsible for the co-ops website, coordinating the Annual Meeting, and is one of the cheerful voices that greets you when you call the office.

Kyle Shipp, began his co-op life in 2010 as an Apprentice Lineman in Opheim. His no-quit attitude, passion for the outdoors, and love for the line life has made his tenure with NorVal great. Kyle earned his Journeyman certification in 2013. He is an asset to our co-op family and his ten year certificate and pin are only a small token of our appreciation for his dedication.

Kirk Capdeville, was awarded his 5 year certificate and pin. He began his co-op career in 2015 as an Apprentice and earned his Journeyman certification through the Merchant's Line Worker Program in 2018. In addition to his Journeyman Lineman role, he is also the newly appointed NorVal Electric Safety Director, ensuring that in all the crew does that safety is their first priority.

In addition, this past year, **Cody Odom** and **Kirk Capdeville**, traveled to Bolivia to energize a village that had never been electrified! They were recognized by Montana Electric Cooperatives' Associations Board of Directors for their Exemplary Service during their annual meeting this October. The honor is awarded to electric cooperative employees who exemplify the cooperative spirit and overcome immense adversity in completing a mission that saves or enriches the lives of others. Their willingness to brave extreme weather, deal with severe time constraints, harsh living and working conditions, governmental challenges and incomplete work site to provide power to the village is a prime example of why these two deserve this recognition and more! Thank you to all of the employees for their dedication to the co-op way of life.



Board to the cooperative. In lieu of the meeting venue, Manager Craig Herbert presented those plaques, certificates and pins at the Employee Meeting in October.

Thirty year veteran of the co-op life, **Mitch Griebel**, was awarded two plaques for his years of service and dedication, one from NorVal's Board and Management, and another from the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association.

Mitch started his cooperative journey in April of 1990 for Valley Electric as an apprentice lineman, earning his Journeyman certification and spending many years on the line crew helping build, retire, and restore power to the 5 county service territory. His current position as the Staking Engineer encompasses a whole host of duties including staking new services, locating primary underground lines, preparing quotes for service upgrades, updating mapping software, coordinating with members for service questions and concerns, and that's just his Monday workload.

Joe Odom was recognized for twenty five years of dedicated service to the co-op. He started his co-op career in March of 1995 as a Journeyman Lineman for Northern Electric in Opheim. Joe demonstrates the cooperative spirit as a volunteer hunters safety instructor, as well as going above and beyond to help out in his community. You'll find him moving snow in winter and mowing yards in summer around the town.



1. The Milk River Ripples (Valley Electric Newsletter) from when Mitch Griebel was hired. 2. Left to Right: Craig Herbert and Mitch Griebel. 3. Joe Odom receives his plaques from the Manager. 4. Leila Seyfert. 5. Left to Right: Craig Herbert and Kyle Shipp 6. Left to Right: Kirk Capdeville and Cody Odom.



Recipe of the Month

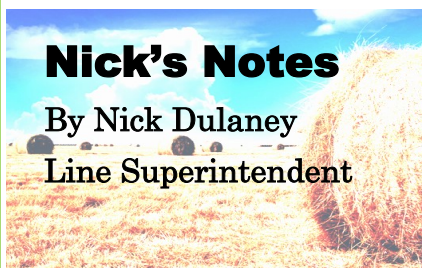
Linzer Tarts

Ingredients

- 1 c. butter, softened
- 1 c. confectioners' sugar
- 1 large egg
- 3 c. all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp salt
- Additional confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 c. Nutella

Directions

In large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg. Combine flour and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Divide dough into thirds. Shape each into a ball, then flatten into a disk. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. On a lightly floured surface, roll one portion of dough into 1/8" thickness. Cut with 2 1/2" cookie cutter. Using floured 1" shaped cookie cutter, cut out center of half of the cookies. Place cookies 1" apart on greased baking sheets. Bake 8-10 minutes until set. Remove to wire rack and cool completely. Sprinkle window cookies with additional confectioners' sugar. Spread 1 tsp. Nutella on the bottom of each solid cookie; place window cookies over filling.



Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney
Line Superintendent

Merry Christmas from our crew to yours!
The irrigation season closed in October. The crews disconnected the irrigation meters in November for the year.

We have been working on the Rorvik line. The crews are just about finished with the re-conductor job Southeast of Nashua.

The Britsch Road job near Vandalia is underway. The conversion from overhead to underground is going to help increase reliability. The underground has been installed and with a little luck and some good weather, the crews should have the retirement portion started soon.

You may see the line crew out and about in December and January as we read all of the meters on the system. This visual check ensures that the meter readings reporting to the office are consistent with the data in the field.

The early rainfall coupled with sunshine this past summer, lead to an explosion of tree growth. The crews will be working on clearing right-of-ways to ensure that we are prepared for the winter months, and get a head start on the ongoing growth for next year.

Year-end projects are being wrapped up paperwork-wise. As we bring the year to a close, our records are being finalized and work orders closed. The record keeping double-check ensures that the updates made in the field are recorded properly through staking sheets, that the material used for each job is fully accounted for, and that the final costs for material and labor are reflected before the work order is closed. Each job we perform in the field, including line extension and retirements require a separate work order for accounting purposes.

Finally, the crews will be performing annual material inventory. In conjunction with the work order reconciliations, the material used for the projects throughout the year, and the reusable items collected, must be accounted for. This physical inventory ensures that there is no discrepancy between the data in our records and that in the warehouse and pole yards.

I wish you and yours a healthy and happy holiday season!



Be Prepared for Winter Storms

When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. Winter storm severity varies depending on where you live, but nearly all Americans are affected by extreme winter storms at some point. NorVal Electric Co-op cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared.

Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving members without power. During extremely low temperatures, this can be dangerous. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself:

- **Stay warm** – Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline, propane, or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel and wood burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.

- **Stay fed** – The CDC recommends having several days' supply of food that does not need to be cooked handy. Crackers, cereal, canned ready-to-eat items like soup and canned pasta can also be great easily stored options. Also, five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.

- **Stay safe** – When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to our office at 406-228-9351 if possible.

Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death. NorVal Electric is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready, too. For more winter safety tips visit www.ready.gov/winter-weather.



The NorVal Electric Office will be closed December 25, 2020 and January 1, 2021. Have a safe and happy holiday!



Connect With Us

- 54091 US Hwy 2 W., Glasgow
 - PO Box 951, Glasgow, MT 59230
 - 406-228-9351
 - www.norval.coop
 - facebook.com/norvalelectric
- This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NorVal Electric Cooperative Directors

District 1	Lee Risa	762-3247
District 2	Sam Gundermann	724-3405
District 3	Rick Molvig <i>Vice Pres.</i>	367-5328
District 4	Chris Christensen	364-2367
District 5	Kurt Breigenzer <i>S/T</i>	228-9465
District 6	Ron Reddig <i>President</i>	392-5257
District 7	Rocky Kittleson	367-5366
District 7	Gary Meyer	526-3600

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

