



McKenzie Electric
COOPERATIVE

NOVEMBER 2018

3817 23rd Ave. NE Watford City, ND | Outpost - Killdeer, ND | 701-444-9288 | 800-584-9239

Happy Holidays

OFFICE CLOSED

Veterans Day, Nov. 12

Thanksgiving, Nov. 22 and 23



FOLLOW MCKENZIE ELECTRIC ON FACEBOOK

Become a fan of McKenzie Electric Cooperative on Facebook, and receive updates on power outages, youth opportunities, the annual meeting, *North Dakota Living* stories featuring our member-owners, and much more! Just search McKenzie Electric Cooperative Inc.

www.mckenzieelectric.com

McKenzie Electric Cooperative

Connections

Creative Giving

Custom and regional
artists offer unique gift ideas

BY JESSIE VEEDER SCOFIELD

The holidays are upon us and special gifts are on our list. This season, your best idea might be in the creative hands of your friendly, neighborhood artists. From commissioned sketches of your favorite pets to handmade and hand-painted children's items, these western North Dakota businesses would love to help create that from-the-heart gift.



Skye Harris

Killdeer

Skye Harris Photography

About Skye

I'm a fourth-generation rancher's daughter and make my living raising cattle alongside my parents, brother, sister-in-law and nephew in some of God's prettiest country. I'm inspired daily by nature and my surroundings. Whether working cattle, making hay or any of the other mundane ranch chores, you can always find me with my camera close by.

What inspired you to pursue photography? How did you get started?

My family and friends always told me I had talent, but I never showed anyone my photography until the Long X Arts Foundation asked me to showcase my art in Watford City, so I decided to jump in. I was given a nice camera for a gift and I started taking it everywhere with me to capture the beauty that I see every day, but most people don't get the luxury of experiencing.

How would you describe your style?

Western.

Why have you chosen to stay in western North Dakota as a working artist? What is it about this place that fuels your creativity?

This is where I grew up and my roots run deep. I left for a while during my younger years and hated living so far away, so I moved back to the ranch. This place fuels my creativity through the scenery in my backyard. It's honestly beautiful in every season.

Much of your work is focused on rural living and western lifestyle. You do portrait photography as well. What are some of the photography-

based products you sell?

Most of my work is based on my daily living. It's the view from the back of a trusted horse, the family pride shown every fall at shipping, or the still of the winter mornings in the frosted Badlands. I recently started offering portrait photography because I love capturing moments for people. I don't do many custom photos, but it's something that interests me, so it might be coming. I sell canvas and metal

prints, greeting cards and calendars.

What's your favorite thing about the work that you do? Your favorite subject matter?

I love showcasing my everyday life that a lot of people don't get to see. I have many favorite subjects, but I'd have to say the setting of a branding and all the activity it brings. There's so many moving parts to a successful branding day. The spring is settled in

after a long winter, there's an unspoken coordination between family members and the tradition of neighbors helping neighbors are stories I love to capture.

How can we purchase your work or book you for a photo session?

You can follow me on Facebook at Skye Harris Photography, message me there or email me at sk_harris@hotmail.com.



Sara Schank

Richardton

Art by Sara Jean

About Sara

I live on a ranch in western North Dakota, where we raise cattle and a few horses. My summers are spent working with my young horses and competing in mounted shooting competitions. Fall and winter are dedicated to my artwork.

What inspired you to pursue your art?

Art has been part of my life as long as I can remember. I grew up with a pencil in my hand and always hoped that some day I'd be able to make a living with my artwork.

How would you describe it?

I specialize in graphite drawings of horses, cattle and pets. Almost all of my work is custom ordered from my

clients' photos. When I am caught up on orders, I use that time to create drawings from my own photography.

Your art is commissioned and custom made. What does that mean and what does the process look like for the customer?

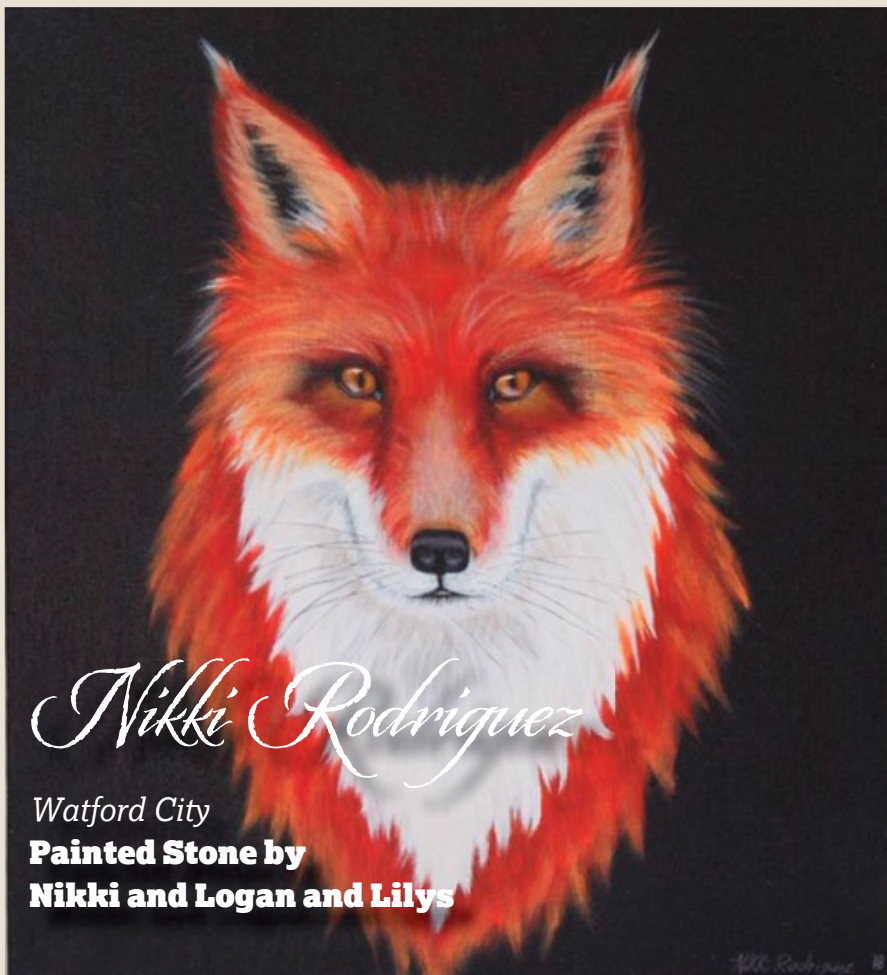
Each of my commissioned pieces is done from my customers' photos and changes can be made so that the artwork turns out exactly how the customer wants. I can work from one favorite image or I can combine several special photos into one drawing. From start to finish, I send my customers photos of the piece progressing so that they can watch it come together.

What's your favorite thing about the work that you do? Your favorite subject matter?

My favorite subject is naturally horses. Pretty much everything I do revolves around them in one way or another. The best part about my work is giving my customers a piece of artwork that is truly special to them.

How can we purchase your work?

Visit www.artbysarajeon.com, on Facebook and Etsy. While the majority of my work is commissioned, I do have several original drawings, prints, 2019 calendars, coffee mugs and coasters available for sale.



About Nikki

My husband and I came to the area almost six years ago after my husband, Tony, retired from the U.S. Army. We purchased our home and have endeavored to become welcome assets to the community. I am a mother to 6-year-old Logan and 3-year-old Lily. My little family truly inspires me every day!

How did you get started? What inspired you to pursue your art?

As a lifelong creative individual, I have always tinkered with various paints, pencils, charcoals, writing, sewing or anything I could express myself with. Having no formal artwork training and experiencing early criticism, I suppressed my natural abilities, literally throwing my work in the trash for years because it was not perfect.

I was looking for something to

do during the long winter months here in North Dakota, so I began creating again. I started painting on stones I found in my yard and then began painting on onesies and larger canvas. People became interested in my artwork and I started doing commissioned pieces. My first art show was at the Art in the Park in Watford City. It was exciting to speak with people about my artwork. Their interest and love of my work has motivated me to continue to develop my skills. What started as a hobby is beginning to move forward into an actual business that I love.

How has your art evolved and how would you describe it?

Positive affirmation from my clients has only enhanced how I was feeling and inspired me to start building my small business. I began branching out into sewing baby blankets, bib sets

and making flaxseed and rice hot/cold neck packs and therapeutic lavender with flaxseed and rice eye pillows. I was fortunate to begin selling my products and artwork online and at local vendor shows.

Why have you chosen to stay in western North Dakota as a working artist? What is it about this place that fuels your creativity?

North Dakota is definitely one of the most beautiful states I've lived in. The sunrise and sunsets, the wildlife and wide-open spaces are inspiring. There's a rich history here and a bit of an old untamed feel to this area. I plan to take full advantage of all it has to offer while I'm here.

Your art can be commissioned and tailored to the customer. What does that mean and what does the process look like?

I have done a few commissioned paintings where the customer allowed me artistic freedom. Having the freedom to create without limits has given me a chance to see what I am capable of.

What's your favorite thing about the work that you do? Your favorite subject matter or medium to work in?

I am in the process of several projects right now. There is a stack of cut fabrics sitting on my dining table along with a sewing machine, and a box of watercolors, paper, acrylic paints, assorted paint brushes and canvases with sketches. There are notes and ideas sitting neatly on the corner between projects. I think painting with acrylic is my favorite medium, but I love it all!

How can we purchase your work? Etsy

etsy.com/shop/PaintedStonebyNikki
etsy.com/shop/LoganAndLilys

Facebook

facebook.com/PaintedStonebyNikki
or facebook.com/LoganandLilys

Save energy this Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is a great time of year to bring friends and families together. It also means spending time in the kitchen to prepare the traditional Thanksgiving feast.

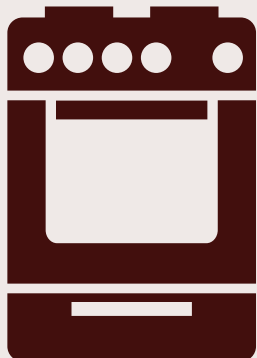
According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, cooking accounts for 2 percent of U.S. residential electricity consumption. If you add the energy associated with refrigeration, freezers, water

heating and dishwashers, the kitchen accounts for about 23 percent of a home's energy consumption.

There are ways to keep the kitchen from gobbling up more energy during the holidays.

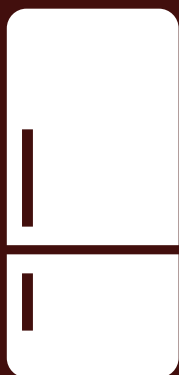
Here are some tips from your local electric cooperative to help keep your energy costs down:

Cooking tips



- Keep the oven door closed. While you may want to check on the progress of a dish you've got cooking in your oven, use the light instead. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, delaying the progress of your dish and, more importantly, costing you more money to get that pot roast perfectly cooked.
- Don't preheat for more than five to eight minutes.
- Clean your burners. If you have an electric range, one great way to keep your stovetop cooking efficiently is to keep the reflectors under your burners grime-free. They can be a pain to clean, but regular maintenance can go a long way. You can also invest in some better reflectors that can decrease your stovetop cooking times, which will save you energy (and money!) over time.
- Cook as much of the meal as possible at the same time to decrease the use of your oven.
- Make contact. Electric stovetops can only transmit heat to pans they are in direct contact with. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update.

Refrigerator, freezer tips



- Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 35-38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees for separate freezers for long-term storage.
- Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight.
- Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder.
- Regularly defrost manual-defrost freezers and refrigerators; frost buildup decreases the energy efficiency of the unit. Don't allow frost to build up more than one-quarter of an inch.
- Ensure appliances are properly maintained and operating.
- Clean refrigerator coils periodically.

Dishwasher tips



- Check the manual that came with your dishwasher for the manufacturer's recommendations on water temperature; many have internal heating elements that allow you to set the water heater in your home to a lower temperature (120 degrees).
- Be sure your dishwasher is full (not overloaded) when you run it.
- Avoid using the "rinse hold" on your dishwasher for just a few soiled dishes. It uses three to seven gallons of hot water each use.
- Let your dishes air dry; if you don't have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the control knob after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dishes will dry faster.

JUNE 15-21, 2019

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND

WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by McKenzie Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact John Carns, McKenzie Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-444-9288 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 31, 2019. Emailed entries should be directed to jcarns@mckenzieelectric.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, McKenzie Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 649, Watford City, ND 58854-0649.

TOP 3 REASONS

TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of McKenzie Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

ESSAY QUESTION:

Electric cooperatives are member-owned and controlled. As a future member-owner of your cooperative, describe ways that smart technologies and social media might be used to communicate with young adults. How might they be used to increase awareness and interest in the many career opportunities with electric cooperatives?

**CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
www.ndyouthtour.com**

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

North Dakota Electric Cooperative

YOUTH TOUR

Does McKenzie Electric Cooperative pay taxes?

Yes! Just like our members, McKenzie Electric Cooperative pays taxes each year. As a not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative, McKenzie Electric Cooperative does not pay federal income tax. Cooperatives do pay an “in lieu” property tax to the state of North Dakota instead of a property tax on the poles, lines, substations and other distribution facilities owned by the cooperative. This tax is based on the megawatt hours (80 cents per megawatt) of all retail sales of electricity sold to consumers during a calendar year.

This tax revenue is distributed by the state of North Dakota to counties based on the location of retail sales and the mileage of distribution lines located within each county.

The cooperative also pays a transmission tax based upon the miles of transmission line and the corresponding voltage. Five counties served by McKenzie Electric Cooperative received a total of \$2,164,478 when the cooperative paid its taxes in 2018. The following counties received tax dollars from the cooperative.

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| McKenzie | \$1,694,154 |
| Dunn | \$407,671 |
| Billings | \$39,638 |
| Golden Valley | \$22,892 |
| Mercer | \$123 |

In addition to the “in lieu” tax, McKenzie Electric pays locally assessed real estate taxes on the unimproved value of the land it owns for offices and other facilities. Local counties use the tax revenue for school funding and various social service programs. ■

MEMBER REBATES

MEC is dedicated to saving you money

If you have purchased new appliances or a household heating and cooling system in 2018 or plan to in the future, give us a call! You may be eligible for cash back!

**Household heating and cooling systems - Up to \$600
Appliances - Up to \$50**

We are honored to offer this program to our membership and look forward to saving our members money!

For specification requirements and additional details, please visit our website at www.mckenzieelectric.com or call 701-444-9288.

Make someone's Christmas brighter

As we enter the holiday season, please remember those who may need a little extra support within the communities where we live and work.

For the third consecutive year, McKenzie Electric is teaming up with Dunn County Child Protective Services to provide a brighter Christmas for children within the community. Last year, McKenzie Electric delivered a vehicle full of gifts and necessities donated by employees, directors and members. This holiday season, McKenzie Electric will once again have a giving tree in our lobby with decorative paper tags labeled with needed items. Please stop by, grab a tag and donate to this worthwhile cause.

Stay updated with future opportunities to help by reading your *North Dakota Living* and by following McKenzie Electric Cooperative on Facebook. ■

Need money for college?

McKenzie Electric scholarship application due March 1

The McKenzie Electric Cooperative scholarship program will award two scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. One of these scholarships will be geared toward students with an interest in an electrical-related curriculum at an accredited college, university or technical school. The other \$500 scholarship will go to a student attending any accredited college, university or technical school.

Basin Electric and subsidiaries scholarship application due March 1

Applicants must be dependents of a McKenzie Electric member or a member themselves for this scholarship. The individual may be a high school senior planning to enroll or someone currently enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

Visit www.mckenzieelectric.com for scholarship applications and instructions. Applicants can also stop in to the McKenzie Electric office and pick up an application. ■

BOARD
OF
DIRECTORS



Monsen



Thompson



Hanna



Kershnik



Wasem



Wahlstrom



Sanford



Tescher



Link

Board report

September 24, 2018

The regular meeting of the McKenzie Electric Board of Directors was held at the Headquarters Building in Watford City, North Dakota. Directors present were: Clayton Monsen, Travis Thompson, Rondee Hanna, Cameron Wahlstrom, Ken Sanford, Chris Link, Tim Wasem, Ray Tescher and Stephan Kershnik. CEO John Skurupey, Attorney Dennis Johnson and staff personnel of McKenzie Electric were also present.

PRELIMINARIES: The agenda for the meeting, minutes of the previous board meeting and minutes of an executive committee meeting were approved by the Board of Directors. Expenses were also approved.

DIRECTOR ISSUES: The Board discussed issues that had come up in their districts since the last board meeting. The Board also discussed right-of-way and the continuous challenges of securing right-of-way for power line construction.

POWER SUPPLY: Director Travis Thompson reported on the recent Upper Missouri board meeting and a Basin Electric board chairman meeting. Director Ray Tescher reported from the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association board meeting indicating the water levels in the dams are very good with production of electricity nearly 40% above average. Ray Tescher was selected as delegate, Cameron Wahlstrom as alternate delegate to the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association annual meeting.

ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS: Director Tim Wasem indicated there was no North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives meeting on which to report. However, there is discussion at the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives level regarding North Dakota's Measure #1, Ethics Commission, Foreign Political Contribution Ban, and Conflicts of Interest Initiative. Proposed Bylaw changes for the Rural Development Finance Corporation were reviewed.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Dennis Johnson reported several items he is working through with MEC staff.

CEO REPORT: CEO John Skurupey reported on several items. The Board and management discussed equity management with regard to future capital credit retirements. Skurupey also reported on the RESCO annual meeting and the Basin Managers meeting.

HUMAN RESOURCES: The Board reviewed the written report noting recent staffing changes. Other administrative issues were shared with the Board.

OFFICE REPORT: Financial and statistical reports for August were reviewed with the Board along with a budget-to-date comparison, the capital projects report and the comparative cash report. The Board approved special capital credit retirements as presented. The Board discussed the megawatt hour tax on electric sales and the significance of the tax dollars being paid by MEC.

ENGINEERING REPORT: Updates were provided on the headquarters building issues which are moving toward resolution. The Board approved budget deviations for line rebuilds and equipment. Updates were provided on system outages, potential new loads, cyber security, substations and line loss. The outage report was reviewed.

OPERATIONS/CONTRACT MANAGEMENT/SAFETY REPORT: Written reports provided updates on projects currently being worked on by MEC contractors and a work order progress report. The 14 leaning transmission poles west of the Cherry Creek Substation caused by the July tornado have been straightened. MEC crews are busy with outages, maintenance projects, work orders, meter changes, conversions, retirements, mowing substation property, tree trimming and high loads. The written safety report was reviewed by the Board.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR: An update was given

on NERC (North American Electric Reliability Corporation) compliance activities. Quarter Two compliance reporting is complete. Several easement issues were discussed with the Board. The Board approved revisions to Policy 101 Disconnections. A report was given on Member Service activities.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting date was set for October 31, 2018 at the Watford City Headquarters building.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. ■



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Director, District 1C, Carlson 675-2373
Upper Missouri Power Cooperative Director
Rondee Hanna, Sec.-Treas.
Director, District 2C, Watford City 675-2516
Cameron Wahlstrom, Director At Large
Director, District 1A, Alexander 770-6631
Tim Wasem, Statewide Director
Director, District 3C, Halliday..... 938-4376
Ken Sanford
Director, District 1B, Watford City 842-2581
Ray Tescher, Midwest Director
Director, District 3A, Beach..... 565-2342
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