

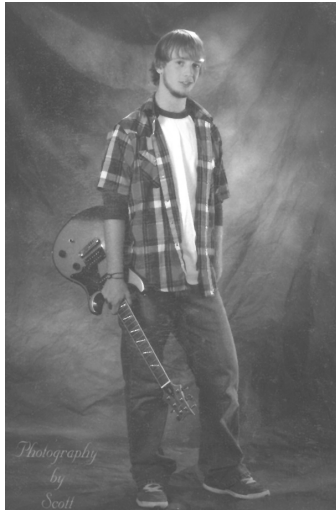
Kuipers Wins Scholarship

Josh Kuipers, this year's Basin Electric scholarship winner, has taken the concept of "do unto others" to a whole new level. The Platte native has spent much of his young adult life ministering to the needs of others, and plans to make it his life's work. For his efforts, he has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric.

Josh is the son of Ken and Donna Kuipers of rural Platte. He is currently a junior at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, where he is majoring in Christian Education and Youth Ministry. He is also working towards a minor in religion, with a concentration on mission service. In addition to his studies, he serves as a dormitory resident assistant, acting as a leader and an example for other students.

Josh's dedication to a life of service shines through in his impressive list of honors and accomplishments. His roster includes being a youth worship leader at his church, and leading Bible study groups in his dormitory. He landed a spot on a "Traveling Praise and Worship" team, which allowed him to lead worship services across several states. He has used his abilities to help the less fortunate by leading services for inmates at a minimum security prison.

An accomplished musician and singer, Josh has been playing in a Christian rock band, which has played at different charitable events and benefit fund-raisers throughout his community. His musical talent on both the trumpet and guitar helped land his band the opportunity to perform at the Sioux Falls Christian rock festival, "LifeLight". Josh continues to share his talent by coordinating the



Josh Kuipers, former Platte Community School and current Northwestern College student, is this year's Basin Electric scholarship winner.

music programs for his church, playing guitar at services, and serving as the sound technician as well.

Josh has put much thought into his long-range plans. During his senior year, he plans to complete an internship with a youth ministry to gain experience in dealing with adolescents. Josh's leadership talents have already taken him to such large cities as Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, New York City, and Seattle. After graduation, he would like to locate in a larger metropolitan area, and

begin a ministry working with troubled youth. Josh says, "I have seen the brokenness and need that exists in the inner cities of our nation. I believe that service towards those around us is a vital part of the well-being of our country."

It's a given that wherever Josh's future leads him, he will continue to lead a life of active leadership and volunteering. For his outstanding achievements, he is the worthy and deserving recipient of this year's scholarship.



Josh's rock band has performed at "Relay for Life" events, fund-raisers for cancer victims, and most notably, Sioux Falls "LifeLight" festival.



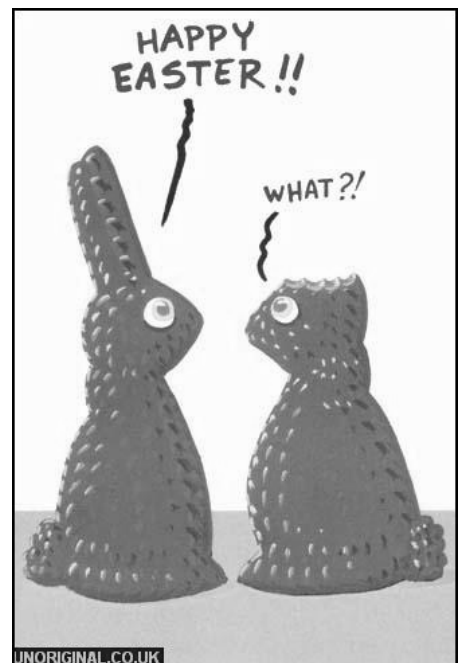
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Co-op **News**

Bald is Beautiful at Basin Elec.

Sixty employees get cueball haircut

It all started with an idea thrown out at a weekly Monday-morning staff meeting.

The husband-wife Basin Electric team of Emily McKay, demonstration coordinator, and Ted Cash, supervisor of media support services, had heard of the St. Baldrick's Foundation over the weekend, and asked if Basin Electric would consider hosting the first-ever St. Baldrick's Foundation event in North Dakota on March 17th—St. Patrick's Day.

St. Baldrick's is the world's largest volunteer-driven fundraising event for childhood cancer research. Thousands of volunteers shave their heads in solidarity of children with cancer, while requesting donations of support from friends and family.

People around the table thought it was a good idea, but... "Would we get anyone besides me to shave their heads?" Ted Cash asked.

Mike Eggl, senior vice president of External Relations and Communications, chimed in. "I'll shave my head."

"Good," Cash said. "Now if we could get three more people, then we'd have five. That would be great."

That was then.

An explosion of willing head-shavers then ensued throughout the Basin Electric family. Nearly 60 people signed up to shave their heads—yes, some women, too—and another five have volunteered to cut off at least 10 inches



of hair, donating their hair to Locks of Love, while raising money for St. Baldrick's.

"I am incredibly pleased with the momentum building over this event," said Ron Harper, Basin Electric CEO and general manager. "The people of Basin Electric are good to the core.

Bern Tolosky, Dakota Gasification Company procurement operations administrator, signed up to forego his salt & pepper ponytail in favor of a bald look. After all, "Bald is the new mullet," Tolosky said. "I figured getting a haircut is painless, and this one is free. It seems that a little humiliation can go a long way toward raising real money for a good cause. My dad died of lung cancer at 77, 13 years ago. Childhood shouldn't be lost to cancer."

Tolosky's original fund-raising goal was \$500. He quickly surpassed that, and has currently raised nearly \$1,200. Basin Electric's total fundraising goal was set at \$10,000. A month before the event, more than \$10,200 had been raised. Many "shavees" hadn't even started fundraising yet.

Participating employees will receive a Basin Electric/St. Baldrick's Foundation bandana, and all shavees will receive ball caps. "Something has to keep these bald heads warm this winter," Harper said.

For more information on the St. Baldrick's Foundation, visit www.stbaldricks.org or call Toll Free 888-899-BALD.

Cooperative.com Staff, 2008-02-20

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