



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

LACREEK ELECTRIC
SEPTEMBER 2022 VOL. 23 NO. 5

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



This year's sunflower crop is expected to be bountiful as market forces have driven up demand and prices

Sensational Sunflowers

Sunflower market blooms

Pages 8-9

Everyone's welcome in the Chislic Circle

Pages 12-13

Power of Preparation



Josh Fanning
General Manager

With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation.

While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your

emergency plans.

- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

Caring for vulnerable family members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

Keeping four-legged family members safe

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

At Lacreek

Electric, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

Find Your Account Number: It's Worth \$140!

A member's account number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your account number, call the office before **September 12, 2022**, and you will receive a \$140 credit on your next month's billing.



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LACREEK ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 018-912)

Board of Directors

Wade Risse – President
Brent Ireland – Vice President
Scott Larson – Secretary
Tom Schlack – Treasurer
Clarence Allen – Troy Kuxhaus
Cole Lange – Clifford Lafferty
Scott Larson – Neal Livermont
Marion Schultz – Jerry Sharp
Connie Whirlwind Horse – Donovan Young Man

Management Staff

Josh Fanning – General Manager
Sherry Bakley – Work Order/Staff Assistant
Tracie Hahn – Office Manager
Anna Haynes – Finance Manager
Mike Pisha – Operations Manager
Ashley Turgeon – Administrative Assistant
Jessica Cook – Member Services/IT

Office Personnel

Amy Pisha – Right of Way Specialist
Kasi Harris – Accountant II
Terri Gregg – Member Service/
Billing Specialist
Katrina Fish – Member Service/Billing Specialist
Lisa Jensen – Member Service Representative

Operations Personnel

Line Foreman: Jesse Byerley
Journeyman Linemen:
Jordon Bakley – Dane Claussen – Lonny Lesmeister
– Garrett Metzinger
– Ryan Pettit – Aaron Risse – Damon Wangerin
Apprentice Linemen:
Les Cuny – Kody Hagen – Matthew Kruid
– Trace Scott
Journeyman Electrician: Roy Guptill
Warehouse Man: Cody Larson
Maintenance Man: Justin Smokov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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June 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. was held in the office of the Cooperative, located in the Town of Martin, South Dakota, on June 21, 2022, beginning at 4 p.m.

The meeting was then called to order by President Wade Risse and the following directors were present: Clarence Allen, Jerry Sharp, Connie Whirlwind Horse, Marion Schultz, Tom Schlack, Cole Lange, Scott Larson, Troy Kuxhaus, Donovan Young Man, Brent Ireland, and Clifford Lafferty. Also present: General Manager Josh Fanning, Administrative Assistant Ashley Turgeon, Finance Manager Anna Haynes, Line Foreman Jesse Byerley, Office Manager Tracie Hahn, Work Order/Staff Assistant Sherry Bakley, Member Services/IT Jessica Cook, and Attorney Robert Schaub. Attending via WebEx was Neal Livermont. Absent was Operations Manager, Mike Pisha.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Risse.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve Administrative Assistant Ashley Turgeon to record the board minutes.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the May 2022 Board Minutes.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Board Resolution for CoBank to authorize the following Officers: Wade Risse, President; Tom Schlack, Treasurer; and General Manager, Josh Fanning, to sign for loan documents.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve a Resolution authorizing Josh Fanning, General Manager, and Wade Risse, President to execute RUS Form 595 Financial Requirement and Expenditure Statement.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the checks and disbursements for May and the checks ran from number 77699 to 77780 along with the electronic checks which ran from 3887 to 3918. (Marion

“chairman”, Neal, and Cole) The June Check Audit Committee will be (Cliff “chairman”, Troy, and Clarence). A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the list of new members.

Jessica reported on the proceeds to the Victim’s Fund, the Line Patrol Charity Ride, and load control. The Economic Development Committee moved to go forward with a donation contingent on CoBank’s match towards Lacreek Electric Youth and Community Support, Inc.

Jesse reported on work in progress, storm restoration efforts, and equipment. Linemen Garrett, Kody, Matt, Les, Damon, and Tee volunteered to assist West Central Electric. The crew left early Monday the 13th and returned on Thursday the 16th. Jesse gave the safety report.

Tom reported on the Rushmore Board meeting he attended. Marion reported on the Rushmore Annual meeting he attended.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Operating Report for April that was presented by Finance Manager Anna Haynes.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the April Analysis of Investments that was presented by Finance Manager Anna Haynes.

Josh reported on the many praises we received for our lineman who assisted on the West Central Storm Job. Discussed the RST TUC meeting, Net-Zero Energy Platform, Large Power New Connect and SPP possibility of rolling blackouts June 21-24.

Discussion was held on the Federated Board of Directors Position, with no one planning to run at this time.

Other information included various Thank You Notes for our storm help efforts, scholarship, Charity Ride Golf Tournament, Bennett County 4-H Club, and the Bennett County High School Practice Rodeo.

No further business was brought before the board and the meeting was adjourned. Next Board Meeting – July 19, 2022, at 4 p.m.

Take safety precautions during harvest season

Harvest season brings long, grueling hours in the field, which can make workers weary and prone to neglect safety precautions that can prevent serious or fatal electrical injuries. Every year, an average of 62 farmworkers are electrocuted in the U.S., and many more are injured by shocks.

Farm operators, their family members and farm employees are urged to beware of overhead power lines, to keep farm equipment safely away and to know what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines.

The increasing size of farm equipment, particularly grain tanks on combines that have become higher with extensions, allows operators to come perilously close to overhead power lines over entrances to fields. It is vital to keep equipment safely away from these lines. Maintain a minimum 10-foot radius around electric lines.

Portable augers are the No. 1 cause of electrocution on the farm. Augers being maneuvered by hand around bin sites have caused the deaths of many farmworkers who became the path to ground for electricity when the top of the auger touched overhead power lines. Always retract or lower augers when moving or transporting.

Other equipment commonly involved in power line accidents includes oversized wagons, large combines and other tall equipment.

Harvest is the most likely period for farm-related injury accidents and fatalities. Combines and other equipment loaded onto trailers can contact power lines and cause electrocutions, as can raising the bed of a truck to unload. That's exactly how a 53-year-old Michigan truck driver was tragically killed when he raised the bed of his semitrailer truck while parked beneath a power line at the edge of a field. He was attempting to clean out the bed, and when he touched the truck bed, he became the path to ground for the electricity.

Follow these safety measures:

- Use a spotter when moving tall loads near power lines.
- Inspect farm equipment for transport height and determine clearance with any power lines under which the equipment must pass.
- Make sure everyone knows what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines. These accidents are survivable if the right actions are taken.

STUDENTS LEARN HOW POWER IS PRODUCED

A group of high school students recently gathered together to take a trip and learn how electricity is produced and how it is used to power their homes, farms, appliances and local businesses.

The students traveled to Bismarck, N.D., to tour the power generation facilities of Basin Electric, which supplies electricity across nine states and is one of the largest power producers in the country.

To see a video of this event and learn more about how electric cooperatives serve our members, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



Don't Mess With a Transformer Box



Beware of the green box

Cambrie Koistinen

Cambrie, age 11, advises electric cooperative members to use caution around pad-mounted transformers, also known as green boxes, because they contain high-voltage power equipment. Cambrie is the child of Lance and Holly Koistinen of Hayti.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

FRESH FROM THE GARDEN

ZUCCHINI SPINACH CASSEROLE

Ingredients:
 2 lbs. zucchini
 1 lbs. frozen spinach
 1 chopped onion
 4 cloves of garlic
 5 beaten eggs
 1/2 cup salad oil
 1-1/2 cup cracker crumbs (save 1/2 cup for top)
 1-1/2 cup cheddar cheese (save 1/2 for top)

METHOD

Cook and drain first four ingredients. Add eggs, salad oil, cracker crumbs and cheddar cheese. Add salt, pepper and parsley to taste. Spread the remaining crumbs and cheese on top. Bake at 350 for 40 minutes.
Glenda Morton, Sioux Falls

CREAMY CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients:
 1 1/2 long English cucumbers cut in half moons
 1 1/2 lb tomatoes on the vine sliced in segments
 1/4 cup red onion thinly sliced (optional)
 3 tbsp dill finely chopped
 2 small garlic cloves grated
 1/2 cup sour cream
 1/2 tsp salt
 Ground black pepper to taste

METHOD

In a large bowl, add cucumbers, tomatoes, red onion, dill, garlic, sour cream, salt and pepper. Stir gently from the bottom in the center of the bowl until well combined. Serve salad within next six hours or so.
ifoodreal.com

CUCUMBER SANDWICHES

Ingredients:
 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
 1 pkg. Good Seasons Italian Dressing Mix (dry)
 1 mini loaf of cocktail rye bread
 1 cucumber, sliced
 fresh dill weed, chopped

METHOD

The night before serving the cucumber sandwiches, mix together the cream cheese and the Good Seasons Italian Dressing Mix. Refrigerate overnight. Shortly before serving, spread some of the cream cheese mixture on a slice of the cocktail rye bread. Top with a slice of cucumber and sprinkle with dill weed.

Elaine Rieck, Harrisburg

CHERI'S SALAD

Ingredients:
 1-1 lb. pkg. veggie spiral noodles
 2 1/2 c. diced ham
 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
 1 c. chopped celery
 1 bag frozen peas, thawed

Dressing:
 1/2 c. mayonnaise
 1/2 c. sour cream
 1 tbsp. mustard
 1 tbsp. sweet pickle juice
 3/4 tsp. onion powder
 1/3 c. sugar

METHOD

Cook noodles according to package directions, drain and rinse. Mix ingredients together in a bowl and set aside. Mix until blended and pour over salad. Stir until well blended.

Jan Antonen, Arlington

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Q: I'm a firm believer that saving energy helps the environment as well as the pocketbook. So, how can I help others improve their energy savings at home?



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

A: Helping people feels good. Supporting community is sewn into the fabric of your electric co-op, which is guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles that put the needs of members first.

On National Good Neighbor Day, which is Sept. 28, join in the cooperative spirit and help your neighbors, friends and family save at home with these do-it-yourself energy-saving tips.

Tips range in physicality and cost, providing options based on your ability.

CHANGE LIGHTBULBS

Prioritize changing lights that are used the most, such as incandescent porch lights left on all night. LEDs use about 75 percent less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Some neighbors can't climb step stools or ladders, so help them out if you are able. Be sure to check for overhead power lines when using ladders outside.

SWAP THE FILTER

Furnace filters should be checked regularly and replaced when they are dirty. Simply writing down the dimensions of the furnace filter can help your neighbor, who can pick up a pack of new ones in the store or order online.

If you find a really dirty furnace filter, don't remove it until you have a replacement. Operating your system without a filter allows dirt and dust in the system to go directly to the heating and cooling components, which can damage the system and necessitate costly repairs.

OPEN THE DAMPERS

Register dampers allow heated and cooled air to properly circulate throughout the home. If you have a central air heating or cooling system, dampers should be left open. The idea

that closing registers saves energy is a common misconception. If furniture is on top of dampers, move it to a new permanent spot so it does not block air flow.

ADJUST THE WATER HEATER

Check the water heater and set it to 120 degrees. Use a kitchen thermometer to test the water temperature. At the faucet nearest the water heater, turn only the hot water on and wait until it gets hot. Let the hot water run into a glass and place a kitchen thermometer in it. Wait until it registers the highest temperature. If the water heater is set too high, you can save energy by lowering the setting.



KEEP OUTDOOR UNITS CLEAR

Clean brush and debris from around the air conditioner or heat pump. If leaves or brush pile up around the outdoor unit of a heat pump or air-conditioning system, it can reduce the airflow, making the system work harder than it should. That uses more energy and can reduce the life of the unit.

REMOVE THE WINDOW AC

By removing the unit before wintertime, the window can close properly. This prevents heat from escaping and wasting energy. It also keeps the room more comfortable. Window AC units are heavy and awkward. This project is best done with a buddy. Get that person to commit to helping put the unit back next spring.

SHARE ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAMS

Information is a great way to help, and it's free. Look into programs your co-op offers and share that information with your neighbor. Don't forget to check the U.S. Department of Energy for federal tax credits for upgrades.

Wordes works to master complexity of the pipe organ

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The many pastimes of Rachel Wordes include popular activities such as dance, soccer and volunteer work through her church.

And then there's the pipe organ. Wordes, a native of Clara City and recent graduate of Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, has been on a quest to perfect her musical skills on this arcane instrument since she joined the music program at Dordt.

She received scholarship support in dance and education, but also received a special private scholarship to study the pipe organ because of her proficiency on piano, her passion for music and eagerness to learn. She sat down at the imposing Casavant organ at Dordt and it was love at first listen.

Wordes read a history of the vaunted Casavant organ written by Dr. Joan Ringerwole, who described it as having voice and breath and taking on the qualities of a living being. The massive organ has 2,865 pipes, 57 ranks, 37 stops and 32 pedals.

"The appeal to me is that the pipe organ is like a palette you can use to paint a musical picture," Wordes said. "Every one is different and has its own unique tone and timbre."

Throughout her college career, Wordes taught piano and pipe organ lessons, led summer music camps, participated in recitals and distinguished herself in her ability to play and teach.



Rachel Wordes plays an organ at St. Bavorkerk in Haarlem, Netherlands. The instrument was built in the early 1700s and was played by Handel and Mozart.

During two weeks last spring, she was selected to take part in a pipe organ tour across the Netherlands. She has also traveled with her fellow Dordt College students and faculty to Europe for the opportunity to play 24 famous and historic pipe organs.

"The Netherlands trip was remarkable," she said. "We got to play two or three pipe organs a day. We had some pieces picked out and played in the style represented during the time the organ was made, going all the way back to the 1300s. It was kind of like driving a car that's not yours. They're all different with

different tones, temperaments, character and personality. I learned a lot."

Knowledge is something Wordes is more than eager to share. In 2019, she spent the summer teaching music in La Entrada, Honduras. During the first five months of 2022, Wordes worked with students in Managua, Nicaragua, and recently returned there with a year-long commitment to teach English and music at a local private school.

Her career goal is to teach English as a Second Language (ESL).

"I love to teach and watch students expand their skills," she said.



Sunflower commodity prices are making farmers smile

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

It's hard to keep from smiling when you're driving past a field of golden sunflowers in full bloom during the late summer months.

Wall Drug billboards, old red barns and shiny grain bins are no match for the attention of motorists along I-90 when the sunflowers are bursting forth in all their spectacular yellow splendor stretching far into the horizon.

The subject of many aerial and terrestrial photographers across the region, sunflowers have a special appeal as they grow tall in the field and seem to greet the day leaning forward with a positive energy that exudes joy and optimism.

The current sunflower commodity market certainly has given farmers a reason to smile. South Dakota farmers raised nearly 600,000 acres and more than 1 billion pounds of sunflowers

last year, ranking second only to North Dakota for sunflower production. In fact, for the past decade the Dakotas and Minnesota have alternated the top three spots in their friendly competition depending largely on the vagaries of weather patterns. At least 75 percent of the U.S. commercial sunflower production has taken place in those three states.

About 1,000 of those South Dakota acres were grown by Brad Schecher, a fourth generation farmer who also rotates wheat, corn, flax and soybean crops on his 3,500-acre spread located near Bison in the northwestern part of the state, one of the hot-bed regions for sunflowers.

Schecher took over the family farm from his father nearly 10 years ago and said the military conflict in Ukraine and other economic factors have converged to form a "perfect storm" that has constricted international supplies and created a favorable environment for the

current global sunflower oil market. Commodity prices have broken all-time records by soaring 60 percent compared to a year ago.

"It's as good as any of the 10 years I've been involved in it," Schecher said. "Ukraine was the largest producer of sunflowers and the largest exporter of sunflower oil on the world market with about 50 percent of the overall market, but a lot of their crop has been destroyed or confiscated by the Russian military. That's one of the things that have driven prices up, and it's been good for the farmers."

High prices and high returns are keeping Schecher interested in raising sunflowers, but sometimes he has his doubts. Especially when he gets tired of fighting the fires, a battle that all sunflower farmers are bound to face at some point.

Schecher said that for all the eye appeal sunflowers hold, it's not always easy to bring in the crop. He explained that reaping the high-yield, high-oleic variety that he grows for the sunoil market can cause fires to break out during the combining process in the



Brad Schecher farms roughly 1,000 acres of sunflowers near Bison. *Photo by Brooke Schecher*

fall. The elevated oil content of the plant - ranging anywhere from 38 to 44 percent - along with the dust that's created during combining can result in a combustible mixture that is sometimes ignited by the presence of static electricity.

To make sure he's prepared, Schecher keeps a battery-operated leaf blower aboard the combine at all times.

"I have to keep blowing the combine off when I get to the end of the field to keep a fire from breaking out," he said. "You can see the accumulated piles of dust start glowing red-hot, and you can usually smell it and get it put out before it gets out of control. It's a hazard that you just have to contend with. Sometimes it can happen two or three times a day, especially when it's dry conditions."

Other farmers, such as Lance Hourigan of Lemmon, S.D., have addressed this common problem by investing in after-market solutions. Hourigan reached northward across the state border and recruited Stelter Repair out of New Leipzig, N.D., to manufacture an air tower to help

Estimated number
of sunflower acres

600,000

planted in South
Dakota in 2021

reduce the risk of fire during harvest time. Resembling a chimney, the device draws in air from above the combine where there is much less dust and debris billowing from the threshing process, and blows the air over the engine to help it stay cool and clean.

While Schecher focuses on the high-oleic variety that represents about 80 percent of the market, there are other varieties grown for silage, birdfeed and other uses. Confection sunflowers, grown mostly in the eastern part of the state, are those found bagged up on convenience store shelves, the kind loaded with an assortment of flavors and

seasonings and meant for chewing.

While sunflowers are native to the continent, their history in North America can be traced to American Indian tribes in present-day Arizona and New Mexico. Archaeologists have found that these tribes domesticated the crop as early as 3000 B.C. The seed was ground or pounded into flour for cakes, mush or bread. Some tribes mixed the meal with vegetables such as beans and squash. The seed was cracked and eaten for snacking, while the oil was squeezed from the seed and used in making bread.

Non-food uses included purple dye for textiles, body painting and other decorations. Parts of the plant were used to treat snakebites. The oil was used on the skin and hair, and the dried stalk was used as a building material.

Today, agricultural scientists are exploring new uses for the plant while also figuring out how to provide protection from wireworms and other threats. Meanwhile, bullish farmers are keeping their eye on the global markets while exuding the same sense of sunny optimism associated with the sunflowers they work so hard to raise.

Lacreek Electric Seeking These Members

An electric cooperative operates on an at-cost basis by annually allocating to each member, based upon the member's purchase of electricity, operating revenue remaining at the end of the year; later, as financial condition permits, these allocated amounts – capital credits – are retired. Capital credits represent the most significant source of equity for Lacreek.

Since a cooperative's members are also the people the co-op serves, capital credits reflect each member's ownership in, and contribution of capital to, the cooperative. This differs from dividends investor-

owned utilities pay shareholders, who may or may not be customers of the utility. Each year, the Lacreek board of directors makes a decision on whether to retire capital credits based on the financial health of the cooperative. During some years, the co-op may experience high growth in the number of new accounts, or severe storms may result in the need to spend additional funds to repair lines. These and other events might increase costs and decrease member equity, causing the board not to retire capital credits. For this reason, Lacreek's ability to retire capital credits reflects the cooperative's strength and financial stability. The board alone decides whether to retire capital credits. 233500303

Some of the checks issued in 2018 have not been claimed. If you know any of the members listed below and have the ability to contact them, please have them call our office or if you see your name on this list, please contact us at 605-685-6581.

AT & T BOSG	Black Bear, Peter	Burning Breast, Mary	Donahue, Patrick	Gibbons, Ivan Est	High Pipe, Jessie M Est
Advantage Services	Black Bear, Verna Est	Calico Village Well	Doppler, John	Gillespie, William Est	Hill, Lillian Est
Afraid of Bear, Michael	Black Bull, Mary A	Cano, Justin Est	Drechsler, Ellen	Good Crow, Lyle Est	Homan, Glen
Afraid of Hawk, Maria Est	Black Elk, Steven	Catches, Carol	Dunbar, Dennis	Good Lance, Anthony Est	Hoskins, Arlan
Afraid of Hawk, Martha Est	Black Eyes, Jerome H Est	Chappell, Don Est	Dupree, Richard	Good Shot, Jessie	Hughes, Elizabeth
Allery, Ruth	Black Eyes, Sallie	Chippis, Benjamin Est	Dutton, Diane M	Good Voice Elk, Frank Jr	Hunt, David Est
Amiotte, Wallace Est	Blacksmith, Theresa Est	Chippis, Phillip Est	Eagle Bear, Delphine Est	Good Voice Flute, Colleen	Hunter, Carolyn M Est
Apple, Antoine J	Blindman, Collins, Est	Claymore, Marlyce	Eaton, James F	Grass, Floyd Est	Ireland, Carl
Around Him, Ruby	Blue Bird, Robert J	Coats, George Est	Eckstaine, Terry	Grass, Luther Est	Iron Cloud, Eddie Est
Atwell, Michael A	Blue Horse, Gerald Est	Collins, Connie	Elk Boy, Vestana Est	Gunsalus, Wade	Iron Cloud, Freida
Bacon, Kathleen	Bowman, Ruby Est	Colombe, Theresa	Elk Looks Back, Emery Est	Haas, Lydia	Iron Cloud, Patricia
Bad Cob, Ione Est	Bowman, Sharon	Comes, Gina	Elk Looks Back, Myrna Est	Hacker, Robert	Iron Horse, Jacob Sr
Badlands Ag Spraying	Britton, James Jr	Comes Last, Amelia Est	Espinosa, John Est	Hahn, Joann Est	Iron Shell, Isaac Jr Est
Barrett, Wanda	Broken Rope, Mildred Est	Conroy, Cornell Sr	Ewert, Sue	Hairy Shirt, Pauline	Iron Whiteman, Linda Est
Barrientos, Lucille T	Brooks, Glen Est	Cornelius, John Est	Farmer, Shirley K	Hancock, Jack Est	Jacobson, Myron Est
Bear Killer, Ralph Sr Est	Brown, David	Cortier, Adrain	Fast Horse, Rufus	Harris, Donald	Janis, Cleveland
Bear Stops, Irma Est	Brown, Fred Sr	Cottier, William Dean	Faulk, Jerry	Harris, Gary	Jensen, Corey R
Beem, Vida Estate	Brown, Louis Est	Cournoyer, Kimberly	Fawcett, Linetta	Has No Horse, Roselyn Est	Johnson, Amy
Belile, Catherine J	Brown, Pauline Est	Crazy Bear, Isaac Est	Featherman, Delano D Est	Hatchet, Cheryl R	Johnson, Selma
Belt, Roxanne	Brown, Wm B	Crossett, Clay	Ferguson, Ted	Hays, Viola	Johnston, Jim
Bengford, Paul	Brown Bull, Leona Est	Crow Good Voice Elk, Eugene W jr	Fire Thunder, Ben Est	Heath, Mary Est	Jones, Roberta
Bergen, Dorothy	Brunsch, Beryl Est	Crump, William	First Body Jesus Church	Heeftle, Jon Est	Jumping Eagle, Tina Est
Bernard, James	Buckman, Wilbur C Est	Cummings, Ayla	Fisher, Keifer DDS	Helper, Geraldine	Keeler, Christine Est
Berry, Loriann	Buffington, Kath	Cuny, Kyle	Fool Bull, Ernestine	Henry, Raymond Est	Keeler, Norman
Bettelyoun, Maxine	Bull Bear, Mary Ellen	Curry, Robert	George, Lisa	Her Many Horses, Louis	Kills Enemy, Emma Est
Bettelyoun, Terry Est	Bullman, Stella Est	Davis, Christopher	Ghost, Misty	Hernandez, Marlene Est	Kills Enemy, Vivian Est
Betts, Maxine	Burgess, Gene Est	Deering, Carolyn	Ghost Bear, George Est	High Hawk, John A	Kills Right, Albert Est
Bidelman, Alan	Burke, Esther Est	Dempsey, Cynthia	Ghost Bear, Robert Est	High Horse, Alfred	Kingsbury, Charlotte
Bissonette, Rudolph Est	Burnette, Byrona	Deutscher, Rueben	Ghost Bear, Sarah M	High Horse, Marge	Klawonn, Kevin
Black Bear, Christine Est	Burnette, Earl	Dirks, Clarke			Knopp, Karin
	Burnette, Jeneile	Dithmer Bros			Knudson, Lavern E

Kohle, Kay Est	Means, Wesley	Patterson, Jim F	Robin Son, Terry D	Sleeping Bear, Violet Est	Two Two, Elmer
Kornely, Nancy G	Medicine, Sherry Est	Pawnee Leggins, Joseph	Robinson, Ann	Slow Bear, Andrew Sr	Vander Schaaf, Christyn
Kriz, Robert A	Mennonite Central Comm	Pearson, Hubert J	Rodriquez, Andy	Slow Bear, Eleanor Est	Villarreal, Frank Est
Kunkel, Ron	Menzel, Richard P	Peck, Pamela J	Roemmick, Clarence C	Slow Bear, Elfreda Est	Villarreal, Lucette
Ladeaux, Marion Est	Mercure, Lenus	People Against Violence	Rooks, Lorenzo Est	Slow Bear, Mercy Est	Wagner, Antoinette K
Lakota Wesleyan Mission	Merrival, John C Est	Perkins, Theresa M	Roper, Harold	Smith, Rena Est	Walking Bull, Lorraine Est
Lang, Ellen Est	Mesteth, Rosalyn M	Peterson, G V	Ross, Allen	Smith, Joe	Watson, Louise
Langerman, Rose M	Mesteth, Susan M	Phelps, Lisa	Rouillard, Darlene	Smith, Steven P	Weslyan Indian Mission
Larabee, William	Metzinger, Lois J Est	Phipps, Nell	Rouillard, Lloyd Jr Est	Songstad, Laurie	Whipple, Melvin Est
Larvie, Gertie	Meyers, Leigh	Phipps, Ray	Roupe, Gilbert	Sorensen, Luann	Whirlwind Horse, Paul
Larvie, Inez Est	Millar, Arnold E Est	Pierce, Richard	Rowland, Clarence Est	Spotted Eagle, Bruce Est	Whirlwind Horse, Raymond Jr
Little Eagle, Stanley Est	Miller, Floyd Est	Pine Ridge Christian Academy	Roy, Gerald Jr	St. Peter's Episc Church/ Oglala	White, Evelyn
Little Moon, Victoria Est	Miller, Gary	Pionk, Deb	Runnels, Gerry Est	Standing Soldier, Deloris Est	White, James
Little Soldier, Phyllis	Miller, Geraldine L	Pirnie, Doug	Runnels, Jack	Standing Soldier, Sharon	White, Lee
Little Spotted Horse, Sarah	Miller, Mathew G	Pitman, George	Running, Beatrice	Stands, Homer, Sr Est	White Butterfly, Virgil
Little White Man, Lucy Est	Mills, Calvin L Est	Plenty Wolf, Alisa	Running, Philomine Est	Star, Elliot	White Calf, Florita Est
Livermont, Patty	Mitchell, Roger Est	Plenty Wounds, Pete Jr	Running Horse, Robert Est	Stevenson, Mike	White Clay Ambulance
Livermont, Vivian Est	Mogan Ranch	Poor Bear, Ladonna Est	Runs Above, Rudy Est	Stone, Gloria J	White Eyes, Juanita Est
Loafer, Acey Est	Moller, Eddie	Poor Bear, Merle M Est	Runs Against, Delia	Stone, Tisavera S	White Face, Lucille Est
Locke, Joy	Montileaux, Pauline	Porcupine, Aaron Est	Runs Against, Faron	Stoner, Mary Est	White Pipe, Marvin Est
Loften, Tom	Mook, Keith	Pourier, Jacqueline	Rystrom, Jenny L	Stoner Robert J	White Plume, Roy Est
Lone Hill, Dean	Moore, Mary Ellen Est	Prater, Steve	Sacred Heart Church/ Norris	Street, Parke C	Whiting, Dale Est
Looking Elk, Barbara Est	Moore, Sandra Est	Pretty Hip, Jake	Sacred Heart Church/ Rosebud	Studt, Ronald	Wiedmann, Terry
Looks Twice, Zona	Morrison, Clifford Jr Est	Price, Robert Est	Salamanca, Joe E	Sully, Claudia Est	Williams, Matthew A
Loud Hawk, Russell Est	Morrison, Karen	Pumpkin Seed, Alberta	Samson, Marilyn	Sun Bear, Phyllis	Wilson, Fannie Est
Lynn, Eilleen Est	Morton, Kenneth D	QUEST	Samuel, Elizabeth	Swift Bird, Joseph B Est	Wilson, James J IV Est
Marino, Joseph	Mueller, Roger	Quigley, Dennis	Sanchez, Cleo Est	Swimmer, Emma Est	Witte, Deann
Marsh, Lucille	Mueller, Ronald	Quiver, Robert Est	Sanchez, Jane	Tall, Edith Est	Wood, Barbara
Marshall, Bill	Murphy, Gregory	Raben, Thomas	Sanchez, Carl W Jr	Tall, Herman Est	Wooden Knife, Leslie Est
Marshall, Fred	Murray, Alvina Est	Rasmussen, Karla	Sasse, Velma Est	Ten Fingers, Irma Est	Wooden Knife, Scott
Marshall, Shirley Est	Murray, Marian	Red Bird, Patty	Sasse, Ernest Est	Thomas, Mark	Wounded Horse, Hazel
Marshall, William Est	Naasz, Clyde	Red Elk, Wilbur Est	Scabby Face, Ernest Est	Thunder Hawk, Homer T	Wounded Shield, Dennis
Martin, Adora Est	Neiss, Tamera A	Red Hail, Katherine Est	Schmidt, Margaret M	Todd, Harry V Est	Wright, Stanley
Martin Cheri	Nelson, Eden Fred Est	Red Hair, Cora Est	Schroeder, Jennifer A	Toman, Tom	Yankton, Jennie
Martin, Dan	Nelson, Frieda H	Red Hair, Rose	Schultz, Steve	Tools, Carla D	Yeager, Freda Est
Martin, Nancy R	Nelson, Lillian	Red Paint, Ross	Schwartz, Steven	Tools, Phyllis	Yellow Cloud, Carla
Martinez, Julia J Est	New Holy, Martha	Red Shirt, Darlene	Scott, Mike	Trask, Frank	Yellow Elk, Marian Est
McCardle, James	Newman, Leona	Red Star, Carol Est	Scott, Thurlow Est	Treehaven School	Yellow Hawk, Collins
McCrimmon, Marsha	O-KOLA Kiciye O-Tipi	Red Star, John	Scout, Louis Est	Trujillo, Margaret	Yellow Thunder, Amelia Est
McCue, Steve Est	Oglala Baptist Mission	Reiff-Vilhauer, Paula	Selzler, Tony Est	Tumblin, William W	Young, Belva Est
McGrady, Tim	Oglala Sioux Const Co	Rice, Joe	Severson, Daniel	Turgeon, Lorna	Young, Linda
McKinnon, Larry R	One Horn, Lewis	Richard, Alma Est	Shaving, Irene	Twiss, Clifford Jr Est	Young Bear, Lawrence Est
McLaughlin, Gerald	OST Air Quality Monitoring	Richards, Delmar P Sr	Sherman, Joan	Twiss, Marie Est	Young Bear, Will
Means, Ruth Est	Palmier, Arlene	Richards, Denzel	Sierra, Kathleen	Twiss, Ted Est	Zimiga, Barbara
Means, Veronica Est	Park, Frank D	Richards, Leona M	Sitting Up, Margie Est	Two Bulls, Lucille Est	
	Parker, Cecelia N	Richardson, Debra	Sleeping Bear, Melvin Est	Two Eagle, Dorothy Est	
		Robertson, David			



Roger and Lori Pietz claimed the New Age Nosh Award at last year's Chislic Festival in Freeman. Photos by SD Chislic Festival

Step inside the Chislic Circle for unique food and lots of family fun

Billy Gibson

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In a world already rife with scads of dander-raising hot-button issues, add chislic to the list. It seems that anytime more than a few cocksure chislic chefs gather around a grill, controversy can't be too far away.

The bickering typically begins with picking the proper protein. Opt for the traditional scrumptious cubes of mutton or lamb, or take a risk and go hog-wild with pork or maybe buffalo? How about swinging farther to the edge with venison, goat, beef or chicken? Dare we add emu to the list?

At least one restaurant is sending the chislic cosmos into spasms by serving up plates of (gasp) "fish-lic."

The plethora of opinions surrounding the preparation of chislic starts with the choice of meat and springboards from there into seasonings, cooking methods and even serving techniques. Grilled,

deep fried or air fried? Fork, toothpick or skewer? Don't get a chislic enthusiast started on the sauce selection.

Many people and various cultures have a strong attachment to their particular favorite types of food, but South Dakota's desire for chislic is unusually intense – especially for those who dwell within the Chislic Circle.

If the name Chislic Circle evokes images of a secret society that conducts mysterious midnight rituals around a raging bonfire deep in the forest, well, it's not quite that. It's more of a clever marketing concept, and an effective one for community leaders who take pride in their chislic lore. In fact, everyone is invited to come inside this circle.

At the center of the Chislic Circle lies Freeman, S.D., with the chislic realm falling inside a 100-mile radius and including communities such as Kaylor, Menno, Hurley, Marion, Bridgewater, Emery and others. The Circle was spun into creation in 2018 when a small

but passionate contingent of chislic connoisseurs decided to celebrate and demonstrate their pride in their unique culinary heritage.

Andrea Baer was part of that early chislic cadre. She said the catalyst came when chislic was officially declared the "state nosh" by the Legislature four years ago.

"Before then, when you mentioned chislic outside of the area, there was hardly anyone who knew what you were talking about," said Baer, who is a native of Turkey Ridge still living on the farm her forebears from Denmark settled several generations ago. "It's something that's very unique to the area and we



like to celebrate it.”

That celebration has taken the form of an annual event that’s been recognized by tourism officials as one of the state’s fastest-growing festivals with an estimated 10,000 attendees last year after a pandemic pause in 2020. Organizers were expecting up to a couple thousand for the inaugural event in 2018, but four times that many showed up. The following year, the party was moved from the Freeman softball field to the more spacious 40-acre Prairie Arboretum.

This year’s festival was held on July 30 with the usual food vendors touting their unique savory recipes, libations, live music, a family-friendly kid zone, bingo, dancing, a cornhole competition, 5K run/walk, helicopter rides and other forms of family-oriented fun.

Festival board member and chislic expert Ian Tuttle also presented, “From Russia with Love: The History of Chislic” at the nearby Heritage Hall Museum and Archives.

Tuttle enjoys telling the story of how chislic arrived in the late 1800s with a particular group of immigrants described as “Germans from Russia.” A group of German Mennonites and Hutterites originally fled religious persecution in the 16th century and migrated eastward through the Russian Empire where they raised crops and sheep.

They chopped the meat into small pieces, cooked it over a fire and called it “shashlik,” a word for “skewer” rooted in the Turkic languages of Central Asia. The word is a close cousin to the more widely known “shish kebab.”

Eventually, those migrants found their way to present-day southeastern South Dakota and made sure to bring their shashlik with them. Those residing



inside the Chislic Circle generally recognize Johann Hoellwarth as the individual who introduced chislic to the Dakota Territory. Born in 1849 to a German Lutheran family in the Crimea, Hoellwarth settled just outside of where Freeman is today and was laid to eternal rest in the town.

Each year a panel of seven fearless judges takes on the task of naming the festival’s “best chislic.” For the past two years the top Traditional Division Award has gone to Kyle Sturzenbecker and his squad of Sheep Flockers.

Sturzenbecker said he and his fellow chef Josh Goehring don’t characterize themselves as competitive, but he also isn’t about to give away any trade secrets.

“You don’t have to do a whole lot. I just let the flavor of the meat speak for itself,” he said. “Honestly, I never

thought I’d win. I just like to cook good food that people enjoy eating.”

In 2021, the non-traditional New Age Nosh Award was claimed by Roger Pietz, owner of the Pietz Kuchen Kitchen. The establishment is mostly known for its rich custard dessert, but for the festival Pietz decided to go in a different direction and put together a tangy chislic pizza.

Ultimately, the Chislic Festival is about celebrating family, honoring the past and preserving the rural lifestyle.

“The tradition of chislic comes not from cities, the wealthy, or the privileged,” Baer said, “but from the rural, hardworking farm tradition of the people who settled this area. We thrive on the rural, while building the region through vibrant community.”



Anglers get hooked on fly fishing for fun and sport

Billy Gibson

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Tall tales, small tales, long tales, short tales... Buddy Seiner is interested in hearing any fishing tale you'd like to tell.

While he's partial to fly fishing, Seiner is passionate about fishing in all of its forms. And he offers an open invitation to anglers of every ilk to share their stories of fishing adventures enjoyed with friends, family members or in the presence of one's own company.

Seiner started www.fishstories.org after his grandfather passed away and he realized there were no audio or video recordings of the many outings they took together casting flies and chatting about whatever popped into their minds in the moment.

Several years ago, Seiner stood on the main stage during a TED X speech in Rapid City and explained his purpose in creating the website. Soon after, he began hauling in a mess of fish stories submitted by avid anglers from far and wide. Today, the archive holds more than 400 sagas of lunkers that were landed, the big ones that got away and precious time spent with loved ones in the great outdoors.

"I believe all fish stories need to be told," said Seiner, who works as a communications consultant based in Pierre. "I used to fish a lot with my grandpa and I realized I'd never hear his voice again after he passed away. He was full of wisdom and had a great sense of humor. I had some regrets about not recording him, so I started this project as a way for people to preserve those cherished voices and to preserve the memories."

Seiner observes that many people are in some way connected with fishing, whether they pursue it themselves or know someone who likes the feel of a rod and reel. He has found that the stories submitted to the site feature not only intriguing narratives of reaching the day's limits under clear cerulean skies but they also reveal relationships that run deeper than the deepest river channel. Some describe disastrous events.

One of those is the story of an outdoors escape that quickly turned tragic. A young woman tells how she lost her husband to an accident while the two were ice fishing on a frozen lake in Minnesota.

While there are stories of heartache and loss, Seiner said most tales tend to trend toward the positive. He has his own fond memories of how his uncle introduced him to fly fishing



Part art and part skill, fly fishing is an increasingly popular pastime across the region. *Photo by Travel South Dakota*

26 years ago and how he started tying his own flies as a college student.

“My Uncle Dwaine gave me a rod and I went in the back yard and started practicing. He always told me I’d enjoy it and he was right,” Seiner said.

It was at Bear Butte Creek near Sturgis that Seiner landed his first trout. He was casting for a brown trout beneath a willow tree. The fish went for the dry fly – a blue wing olive – and both the fish and Seiner were hooked. The fish was landed and released but Seiner’s love of the sport has never waned.

Fly fishing is growing in popularity across the region as more anglers discover the adventure and what many describe as the therapeutic benefits of casting flies out across the water. Though fly fishing is often associated with the clear, cold, fast-running streams found in the Black Hills area, Seiner said there is a wide range of options available depending on an angler’s tastes and preferences.

“We have a lot of water that’s prime for fly fishing,” he said. “It’s a sport Buddy Seiner started fishstories.org to preserve fishing tales and memories like those he has of his late fishing pal, Lucy.

that’s new to a lot of people and it’s gaining momentum. You can catch anything on a fly rod. You can go for trout and fish the stock dams out west, you can sight-fish for walleye or channel catfish in the clear waters of the Missouri River, you can fish the glacial lakes in the northeast or fish for carp out near Yankton.”

Whether they go for carp or brown trout, many fly fishers take an interest in maintaining and preserving the habitat for future generations to enjoy.

Seiner serves on the board of a group called Black Hills Fishers and works

with folks like Hans Stephenson of Dakota Angler and Outfitter in Rapid City to promote the sport of fly fishing, support conservation and educate the public on how to preserve the environment.

“Fly fishing is so much fun,” he said, “but if we don’t do what we can to protect our woods and waters, it will be a tragedy. We need to stay committed to preservation and conservation, and I’ve found that most people who enjoy the outdoors are very conscientious. We want people to have fishing stories to share for generations to come.”



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SEPTEMBER 1-5
South Dakota State Fair
Photo Credit: SD State Fair

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

AUGUST 24-28
Corn Palace Festival
604 N Main St., Mitchell, SD,
605-995-8430

AUGUST 24-28
Kool Deadwood Nites
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

AUGUST 25-28
Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village, Madison, SD,
605-256-3644

AUGUST 26-27
Hill City Wine, Brew and BBQ
Elm St., Hill City, SD, hillcitywine
brewandbbq.com

AUGUST 26-27
Sizzlin' Summer Nights
Main St., Aberdeen, SD,
605-226-3441

AUGUST 26-28
Hot Air Balloon Festival
Various Locations, Hot Springs,
SD, fallriverballoonfest.com

AUG. 30-SEPT. 4
Sturgis Mustang Rally
Thunderdome, Sturgis, SD,
sturgismustangrally.com

SEPTEMBER 1-5
South Dakota State Fair
890 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD,
sdstatefair.com

SEPTEMBER 4
Dakota Five-O
City Park, Spearfish, SD,
dakotafiveo.com

SEPTEMBER 8-11
S.D. State Senior Games
Watertown, SD, 605-491-0635
or 605-753-3668

SEPTEMBER 10
605 Black Hills Classic
Lions Park, Spearfish, SD,
605-274-1999

SEPTEMBER 10
Germanfest
Fawick Park, Sioux Falls, SD,
siouxfallssistercities.com/event

SEPTEMBER 10
Insect Festival
McCrary Gardens, Brookings,
SD, 605-688-6707

SEPTEMBER 10
Sidewalk Arts Festival
Main Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD,
605-367-6000

SEPTEMBER 16-18
South Dakota Film Festival
Capitol Theatre, Aberdeen, SD,
southdakotafilmfest.org

SEPTEMBER 17-18
**Northeast South Dakota
Celtic Faire and Games**
37925 Youth Camp Rd.,
Aberdeen, SD, 605-622-0144

SEPTEMBER 23-24
Hops and Hogs Festival
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

SEPTEMBER 23-25
**HNIRC Championship of
Champions**
Stanley County Fairgrounds,
Fort Pierre, SD, horsenations
indianrelay.com

SEPTEMBER 24
**Great Downtown Pumpkin
Festival**
Main Street Square, Rapid City,
SD, 605-716-7979

SEPTEMBER 24-25
Menno Pioneer Power Show
Pioneer Acres, Menno, SD,
mennopowershow@yahoo.com

SEPT. 29-OCT. 1
**Custer State Park Buffalo
Roundup & Arts Festival**
Custer, SD, gfp.sd.gov/buffalo-
roundup

SEPT. 30-OCT. 1
Oktoberfest
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

SEPT. 30-OCT. 2
SiouxperCon
1201 N West Ave., Sioux Falls,
SD, siouxpercon.com

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.