



Lacreek Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Cooperative Connections

SEPTEMBER 2017 VOL. 18 NO. 5



Game On!

Page 8-9

**Co-ops Use Football Season
to Connect with Members**

What are Capital Credits?

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.

The checks listed issued in 2017 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 or long distance (toll free) 1-800-655-9324.

Allen, Carol & Jack
 Apple, Claudia
 Artichoker, Karen
 Bear Killer, Ralph
 Beem, Vivian
 Bettelyoun, Loretta
 Big Road, Freda
 Billard, Francois
 Black Cat, Adeline
 Blacksmith, Peter & Leets
 Blacksmith, Sandra & Vance
 Braudis, Brian & Mary P
 Brewer, Duane
 Bryant, Demetria & Gary
 Chief Eagle, Tom & Wanda
 Conroy, Ben
 Cook, Christine
 Country, Lynn M
 Cournoyer, Claudia
 Cournoyer, Foster Sr
 Crawford, Scotty & Kimberly
 Cummings, Mary
 Daniels, Morgan
 DeBoer, Carol
 Dohse, Kathy
 Dubray, Carmelita
 Dubray, Keith
 Dubray, Thomas
 Eagle Elk, Diana J

Eisenbraun, Boe & Jolene
 Engel, David L
 Fast Horse, Calesta
 Ferriegel, Jean E
 Fetter, Orvill & Bernice
 Fights Over, Paula
 Floyd, Georgia F
 Fortune, Vern
 Good Shield, Delano
 Grant, Florine
 Hawk, Steven V Jr
 Hartley, George
 Iron Horse, Jacob Sr
 Jacobs, Tim & Barbara
 Jones, Robert & Edie
 Kaline, Burt
 Kaulay, Karen
 Kieffe, Pat
 Kills Enemy, Gerard
 Kills In Water, Wilma
 Lawrence, Michael A
 Leftwich, Dawn
 Little Moon, Alice
 Lone Elk, Leroy
 Long, John
 Marshall, Clifford
 Merrival, April
 Morrison, Art
 Nelson, Curtis D & Sylvia

Northwest Piping Company
 Novak, Leonard
 Olson, Jennifer
 Phipps, Nancy
 Pine Ridge Ambulance
 Poor Bear, Cecile
 Porter, Terry & Starla
 Pourier, Sean
 Pourier, Justin & Tamara
 Red Cloud, Donna M
 Red Elk, Candice
 Red Kettle, Jennifer
 Roubideaux, Margaret
 Rouillard, Coletius Sr
 Red Eagle, Latonna
 Sharp, Charles & Verna M
 Smith, Maria P & Jean
 Shot, Deon
 Standing Crow, Yvonne
 Stands, Arlana
 Taylor, Brenda & Charles P
 Thompson, Roddy
 Tiede, Paul L & Susan B
 Thunder Chief, Molly
 Tobacco, Archie
 True Blood, Leslie
 Vander Wilt, Dina & Jeff
 Vocu, Theresa
 Waters, Raymond

School is in session. Please do not text while driving. Be safe and watch for children in the cross walks.





Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-912)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Schlack– President 2402505506
Jerry Sharp – Vice President
Troy Kuxhaus– Secretary
Clarence Allen– Treasurer
Marion Schultz - Melvin Cummings
Brent Ireland -Ellis Rae Hicks
Connie Whirlwind Horse - Wade Risse
Donovon Young Man - Dean O'Neill
Neal Livermont

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Derek Sorley– General Manager
Sherry Bakley – Staff Assistant
Josh Fanning – Member Services and
Procurement Manager
Anna Haynes – Finance and Administration
Manager
Mike Pisha – Operations Manager

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Tracie Hahn– Bookkeeper
Stacey Robinson – Secretary
Amy Pisha – Clerk
Kasi Harris – Clerk
Terri Gregg – Billing Clerk
Jessica Cook – Billing Clerk
Lisa Jensen - Cashier/Receptionist
Ashley Turgeon-Cashier/Receptionist

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Line Foreman - Landon Stout
Journeyman Linemen: Dane Claussen
Ryan Pettit - Aaron Risse
Jesse Byerley
Apprentice Linemen: Jordon Bakley
Lonny Lesmeister -Tyler Brown
Aarin Ainsworth - Garrett Metzinger
Glenn Smith – Maintenance Man
Earl Adair – Warehouse Man

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This publication is mailed the 15th of the month prior to the issue date. Layout is at least three weeks prior to mailing. LACREEK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Lacreek Electric Association, Inc., PO Box 220, Martin, SD 57551 for its members. Families subscribe to Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Martin, SD and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 220, Martin, SD 57551; telephone (605) 685-6581; fax (605) 685-6957

Lacreek sends youth to North Dakota

12 South Dakota electric cooperatives sent a group of young people to North Dakota to experience energy production and the process by which it is delivered to their homes and businesses. On the first day of touring, the students were able to visit Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the National Energy Center of Excellence at Bismarck State College in Bismarck, N.D. At these stops, they learned how energy is produced, marketed and delivered. Erica Bakley and Josie May were Lacreek's winners.



Pictured to the left:

Josie May and Erica Bakley looking very happy to board the bus at 6:00AM for their adventure.

Find Your Account Number and Receive A Bill Credit

Find your Lacreek account number in the magazine and you will get a \$10.00 credit on your next months bill. Please call our office when you see your account number in the magazine to receive your \$10.00 credit.



Back To School Electrical Safety

As many prepare for this upcoming school year, we want to share some electrical safety tips that are useful for students of all ages.

Elementary School Students

Electricity can be exciting and interesting to learn about, but it is important that kids learn about electrical safety.

Remind your children of the following tips:

- Never throw shoes onto power lines, and definitely don't try to get them off of the lines.
- Writing utensils and other supplies like paperclips should never be placed in or near electrical outlets, even if you think the outlet isn't working.
- Make sure your hands and the area around you are dry before plugging something in. This is especially important in science labs where there are usually several sets of sinks, an eye wash, chemicals, etc.
- When unplugging things from an electrical outlet, always hold the plastic base to pull the plug out. Never yank it out by the cord.

Middle/High School Students

If you've just received the privilege of driving to school with your newly-obtained driver's license, pay close attention on those morning and afternoon drives for utility crews at work. Should you be involved in an accident involving a power line or pole, assume live electricity is outside of the car and use extreme caution.

- Always steer clear of pad-mount transformers – the big green metal boxes. All electrical equipment on school property should be avoided due to the possible dangers of electrical shock.
- Always be cautious in science classes, specifically the ones with labs. Sinks, eye washes, chemicals – it's likely your hands or the area near you will be wet. Keep everything dry and use

caution when plugging in equipment.

College Students

- Get in the habit of unplugging what's not in use. It's common practice, unfortunately, for college kids to load up electrical outlets and power strips with electronics and appliances. Many dorm and apartment rooms are fairly small there isn't much room to spread these out. Many campus housing options are dated and aren't equipped to handle today's amount of electricity usage.
- Use only approved electrical products with the mark of a recognized certification agency.
- Choose a power strip with a heavy-gauge cord that are approved by a recognized certification agency.
- Replace frayed or damaged extension cords with new ones.
- Keep extension cords out from under carpet, rugs or furniture as this could damage the cord and also present a fire hazard.
- Keep flammable materials such as books, paper and clothing away from heaters, stoves and other heating sources.
- Never leave cooking appliances unattended.
- Plug portable heaters and air conditioners directly into the outlet. If an extension cord is needed, to prevent overheating and risk of fire, use only one that is rated for this purpose to ensure that the cord can handle the electrical current.
- Never remove the third prong from an electrical product. The third prong is the grounding device and is a critical safety feature.
- Keep gadgets and cords away from bedding and curtains. The heat from a laptop charger or mini-fridge can start an electrical fire if left in contact with flammable material for too long.
- Avoid overloading outlets or circuits as this can cause overheating that may lead to fire.

Source: www.twielectric.com/recent/school-electrical-safety/



Editor's note: As part of his senior experience project, Connor Guenot, a New Underwood High School senior, gave an electrical safety demonstration to the second-grade class at New Under-

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Don't put your finger in an outlet."

Paeton Thin Elk, 8 years old

Paeton is the child of Samantha Janis, New Underwood, S.D.

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.

wood Elementary School with a goal of teaching the kids about electrical safety in their daily lives. After the presentation, the kids made safety posters summarizing their learning experience. Above is one of the posters that was drawn.

Garden Goodness



Zucchini Cobbler

- 8 cups chopped, seeded and peeled zucchini
- 2/3 cup lemon juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg

- Crust:**
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
 - 2 cups sugar
 - 1-1/2 cups cold butter, cubed
 - 1 tsp. ground cinnamon

In a large saucepan over medium-low heat, cook and stir zucchini and lemon juice for 15 to 20 minutes or until zucchini is tender. Add sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg; cook 1 minute longer. Remove from heat; set aside. For crust, combine flour and sugar in a bowl; cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir 1/2 cup into zucchini mixture. Press half of remaining crust mixture into a greased 10x15-inch baking pan. Spread zucchini over top; crumble remaining crust mixture over zucchini. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake at 375°F. for 35 to 40 minutes or until golden and bubbly. Yield: 16-20 servings.

Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN

Saucy Chicken and Asparagus

- 1-1/2 lbs. fresh asparagus spears, cut-up
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 2 T. cooking oil
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp. curry powder
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Place asparagus in a greased 9-inch square baking dish. Brown chicken in oil; season with salt and pepper. Arrange chicken over asparagus. Mix soup, mayonnaise, lemon juice and curry powder. Pour over chicken. Cover and bake at 375°F. for 40 minutes or until chicken is tender and juices run clear. Sprinkle with cheese. Let set 5 minutes before serving.

Shirley Miller, Winfred

Refrigerator Pickles

- 7 cups sliced, unpeeled cucumbers
- 1 cup sliced onion
- 2 cups sugar
- 1-1/4 cups vinegar
- 1 T. non-iodized salt
- 1 T. celery seed

Layer cucumbers and onions in pint jars. Dissolve sugar, vinegar and salt over low heat. Stir in celery seed. Pour over cucumbers. Refrigerate 2 days; will keep for months in refrigerator.

Jane Ham, Rapid City

Cheesy Vegetable Spaghetti Pie

- 8 oz. spaghetti
- 1 T. olive oil
- 2 cups sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced onion wedges
- 1 1/2 cups thinly sliced zucchini
- 1 (14.5 oz.) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 tsp. McCormick® Rosemary Leaves
- 1 tsp. McCormick® Garlic Powder
- 1 tsp. McCormick® Oregano Leaves
- 1 tsp. McCormick® Thyme Leaves
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 8 eggs
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. shredded mozzarella cheese (2 cups), divided

Cook spaghetti as directed on package. Drain well. Meanwhile, heat oil in large ovenproof skillet on medium-high heat. Add mushrooms, bell pepper and onion; cook and stir 5 minutes or until tender. Add zucchini, tomatoes, rosemary, garlic powder, oregano, thyme and salt; cook and stir 10 minutes until most of the liquid has evaporated. Beat eggs in large bowl. Add spaghetti and 1 cup of the cheese; mix well. Stir into vegetables in skillet. Cook on medium-low heat 5 minutes or until bottom is set. Sprinkle with remaining 1 cup cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 8 to 10 minutes or until center is just set and cheese is melted. Cut into 8 wedges to serve.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 306, Total Fat 14g, Sodium 500mg, Cholesterol 234mg, Carbohydrates 27g, Dietary Fiber 3g, Protein 18g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Sweet and Sour Onions

- 4 large onions
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup boiling water
- 1/4 cup sugar

Slice or chunk onions in baking dish. Mix remaining ingredients. Pour over onions. Bake at 300°F. for 1 hour or until onions are cooked through.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis

Pepper Salad

- 1 small sweet onion
- 1 red pepper
- 1 yellow pepper
- 1 green pepper
- 1 orange pepper (when in season)
- 4 large tomatoes
- 1 pkg. Good Seasons Zesty Italian Dressing
- 1 (16 oz.) bottle Kraft Italian Dressing

Cut onion and peppers into 1-inch chunks. Marinate in Italian seasonings and dressing several hours or overnight. Add chunked tomatoes just before serving. May add sliced black olives if desired.

Caroline Bochman, Tyndall

Please send your favorite garden produce, pasta or slow cooker 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 2017. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Ductless Heat Pumps

Heat and cool your home without blowing your budget



Patrick Keegan
Collaborative Efficiency

Dear Pat: My husband and I are tired of paying such high electric bills during the winter. We think our winter bills are high because of our baseboard heaters and our summer bills are high because of our window AC units. Our neighbor just installed a duct-

less heat pump system in their home. Do you think that would work for us? – **Karen**

Dear Karen: Mini-split ductless heat pumps are becoming more popular for good reason. They can heat efficiently even when winter temperatures drop below the freezing point, and they are an economical and energy efficient replacement for window AC units.

Ductless heat pumps are often installed as the primary heating source and paired with a backup system that kicks in when outside temperatures are extremely cold. Baseboard heaters are an electric resistance system and use much more energy than a heat pump, which is just moving heat in or out of the home. If you make this change, you should reduce your heating costs considerably. Heat pumps work harder as the outside air temperature drops, but combining the heat pump with a backup heating system solves that problem.

I recently spoke with Joe Hull, an energy services advisor with Midstate Electric Cooperative in Oregon. Members there have found that ductless systems with a backup heating system can work effectively to as low as -28 Fahrenheit.

Ductless heat pump systems could be an ideal solution if your home doesn't have a duct system. If your existing ductwork is in poor condition, installing a ductless heat pump may be more practical or less expensive than repairing, sealing and insulating ducts.

A ductless heat pump has two main components: the outdoor compressor and the indoor air handler.

Coolant and electrical lines run through a conduit from the compressor outside the home through the wall to the inside air handler(s).

Ductless heat pumps can be configured in different ways. A common approach that could deliver the most value is to provide heating and cooling to one large zone in the home by using a single compressor and a single air handler. Or you could use one compressor to power as many as four inside air handlers, each with its own thermostat. A home could even have more than one outside compressor.

Scott Mayfield, an expert from Kootenai Electric Cooperative in Idaho, said installing a ductless system in his home had benefits beyond cost savings. "With baseboard heaters, the heat used to rise along the walls, but with the new ductless system, it flows throughout the rooms evenly. It would have been worth switching to ductless for the comfort alone."

In some parts of the country, ductless mini-splits are becoming more popular in new home construction as well. In fact, a friend of mine in Hood River, Ore., had a ductless system installed in her new home.

Ductless heat pumps are often a great solution, but as you explore this option, it would be wise to consider:

- What are the other investments you could make to reduce your energy costs or improve comfort? Is the ductless heat pump the best option? A thorough energy audit of your home will help answer these questions.

- Are rebates offered by your electric co-op?

- What is the best size and efficiency level for a ductless heat pump in your situation?

- Are there contractors in your area with experience installing ductless heat pumps?

Contact your local electric co-op for a list of recommended contractors and visit www.energystar.gov for tips on hiring contractors.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on ductless heat pumps, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

Duo to Be Inducted into Cooperative Hall of Fame

Two men who have dedicated their careers to South Dakota telecommunications cooperatives will be inducted into the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame Sept. 13 in Watertown, S.D.

Jerry Heiberger, general manager of Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative (ITC) in Clear Lake, S.D., and Clair Bonebright, board director and secretary for Venture Communications Cooperative in Highmore, S.D., will become the 75th and 76th inductees into the Hall of Fame, which was established in 1985.

Heiberger began his career in 1979 working as a repairman for McCook Cooperative Telephone, now known as TrioTel Communications. In 1981, he served as a central office technician for Brookings Lake Telephone Company, and in 1983, he was promoted to central office supervisor. He held this position until being promoted to operations manager in 1991. From then until 2001, Heiberger played a vital role in the merger between Interstate Telecommunications and Intrastate Telephone Company as well as integrating new technology and services to the co-op's staff and members.

In 2002, Heiberger became ITC's general manager, a position he held until his 2017 retirement. In this position, he has demonstrated a vision of continual growth and improvement. Heiberger has strived to provide quality, reliable and affordable services for ITC's members, while keeping the cooperative business model and technology at the forefront.

Bonebright has served on the Venture Communications Cooperative board of directors since 1984, making this his 33-year anniversary.

During his years of service, Bonebright has been part of the ever-changing and fast-paced industry of telecommunications. He has witnessed much change in technology and services provided to cooperative members, but has never failed to embrace change and successfully endure industry challenges.

Currently, Bonebright serves as board secretary for Venture Communication. Before that, he served as board president for Venture Vision from 1996 to 2015 and as a board member for Western Telephone Company from 2008 to 2014. Bonebright also served on the Resolutions Committee and Marketing Committee for the South Dakota Association Telecommunication Cooperative and the Legislative Advisory Committee for the South Dakota Telecommunications Association.

Bonebright has played an active role in his community and worked diligently to bring reliable and advanced services to co-op members. His loyalty and vision for cooperatives in this state has made him an integral part of Venture Communication's success and the effectiveness of a state-wide telecommunications network.

For tickets to the induction banquet, call the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives at 605-945-2548.



Jerry Heiberger



Clair Bonebright

South Dakota COOPERATIVE Hall of Fame

The South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame provides recognition for a person contributing in especially significant ways to the enhancement of the cooperative idea, its broader acceptance or to the substantial advancement of cooperative enterprise in any of its various forms.
— From the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame Nomination Form

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1985
Arthur Jones
(1905-1985)
Emil Loriks
(1895-1985) | 1995
Quentin E. Loudon
Oscar C. Johnson
(1880-1965) | 2005
Robert Ching
(1924-2012)
Darrell Henderson
Alex Stoesser
(1925-2000) |
| 1986
Albert Schramm
(1916-2000)
Herman D. Holt
(1909-1986) | 1996
Vernon L. Berg
(1920-1998)
Leo P. Flynn
(1908-2001) | 2006
Dennis Hagny
Robert Rademacher |
| 1987
John Riedy
(1911-2001)
August Dahme
(1901-1980) | 1997
Ben Radcliffe
(1915-2014)
G.L. Moseson
(1894-1973) | 2007
Leroy Schecher
Ralph Schreurs
Merlin VanWalleghen |
| 1988
J. Evan Rasmussen
(1905-1990)
John Skage
(1904-1989) | 1998
J.D. Lynd
(1933-2013)
George A. Hargens, Jr.
(1921-1999) | 2008
Charles Olsen
Donald Fieber |
| 1989
Darrell Moseson
Warren G. Grebner
(1920-2014) | 1999
Raymond M. Judy
(1919-1997)
Virgil Fodness
(1922-2013) | 2009
Delbert Bushong
Owen Jones |
| 1990
J.E. Krull Sr.
(1909-1999)
Lawrence Stoley
(1901-1987) | 2000
Keith Taylor
(1923-2002)
Joseph Hieb
(1924-2017) | 2010
Jake Boomsma
Milo Gilbertson
Barry Jensen |
| 1991
Clifford G. Bell
(1904-2000)
Warren Moe
(1925-2011) | 2001
Robert A. Johnson
(1921-2014)
Donald N. Olson
(1928-2006) | 2011
Jeffrey L. Nelson
Wayne Wright |
| 1992
Ken Holum
(1915-1998)
John A. Cink
(1911-2002) | 2002
Vincent Erz
(1926-2012)
Donald Wynia | 2012
Luverne Crosser
Gary French
Ron Minnaert
Larry Wilson |
| 1993
Clement J. Kloucek
(1925-2005)
S. Douglas Murphy
(1904-1996) | 2003
Brian Meyer
(1943-2003)
Don Paulsen | 2013
Thomas Hueners
John D. Johnson
Loren Noess |
| 1994
Philip Testerman
Max Farrar
(1897-1980) | 2004
Ed Fritzsche
(1923-2005)
Dean Rasmussen | 2014
Gene Kroell
John Van Beek
Harvey Wollman |
| | | 2015
Keith Hainy
Roy Ireland
Rodney Renner
Carlyle Richards |
| | | 2016
Bill Bielmaier
Mark Hofer
Ronald Sandine |

A Co-op Twist to Football Tailgating

WHEN THE FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GLOW ON HIGH school football fields this fall, many electric cooperatives take the opportunity to reach out to their members.

Since 2009, Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison, S.D., along with its telephone cooperative arm, West River Cooperative Telephone Co., have made the rounds at area high school football games to meet their members face-to-face.

“We started our tailgate parties in 2009, but prior to that, we hosted “block parties,” which were held at noon,” said Rachel Eggebo, marketing/tech specialist for the two cooperatives. She believes the block parties were started around 2003.

“We wanted to get out and converse with our members face-to-face rather than over the phone,” she said.

“We started our tailgate parties because we realized not everyone could leave at noon to attend the block party. And, we wanted to communicate with our youth as well as our members,” Eggebo continued.

So, armed with hotdogs, chips, ketchup and the rest of the fixings, co-op employees and directors made the rounds at high school games in northwestern South Dakota. This fall, the co-ops will make games in Lemmon, Buffalo, Faith, Newell and Bison. The grills churn out food about an hour

Brenda Kleinjan



before game time, which varies by town and timing in the season.

Adding a t-shirt gun to the mix just adds to the tailgating fun.

“The interaction has been great for both our members and employees. Community involvement is a big part of our organization,” said Eggebo.

To the south, West River Electric Association, headquartered in Wall, also uses area football games as a way to connect with members.

The co-op hosts member appreciation days in some of its communities, but was looking for an inroad into the New Underwood area east of Rapid City, S.D.

“We didn’t have anything in our New Underwood area. We started doing an appreciation day there, but we weren’t getting the younger crowd there,” said Veronica Kusser, manager of member services.

In 2013, the cooperative decided to host a tailgate party before the Wall/New Underwood game.

“We chose to do the Wall/New Underwood game because we serve both communities,” said Kusser.

“We really got to meet the parents with kids – that age group that you have the toughest challenge to get hold of,” she said.

The 2016 game between the Tigers and the Eagles was held in Wall.

“We set up tables and tents and served right at 1,000 hamburgers and hotdogs in a two-hour time frame,” Kusser said.

The cooperative was also able to hand out Operation Round Up® checks to various organizations during the game.

“We gave out our ORU funds at halftime of the football game – it really allows spotlight on involvement in community,” Kusser said.

“We’re just there to visit with our members. At our appreciation events we’re promoting our different programs but at the football game, we’re there just to show our commitment to the community and our support to the younger generations,” said Kusser. “It gives them an opportunity to see that we are in their community.”

The co-op also makes a donation to the local

Left: Ann Ulrich of Faith arm wrestles Grand Electric Cooperative’s Steve Senn while GEC board president John Long looks on during the tailgate party hosted by GEC and WRCTC before a Faith football game in 2016. Also pictured are employees Bonnie Sander and Colle Nash. **Right:** Directors and employees of West River Electric Association in Wall served 1,000 hot dogs and burgers to fans attending the Wall Eagles/New Underwood Tigers football game in October 2016.

school’s concession stand to offset any decrease in sales the stand may see.

“We wanted to show that we care, that we appreciate them,” Kusser said.

This year, the two teams face off on Aug. 18, so WREA was already planning its tailgate in the early summer.

In northeastern South Dakota, FEM Electric Association in Ipswich starts the school year off with a truckload of bottled water.

For the last eight to 10 years, the co-op has ordered bottled water labeled with the co-op’s logo and one of four safety messages.

Each of the six schools in their service area are given about 60 cases of water which they can then sell at concession stands, use at school functions or however they see fit.

“Several schools sell it at sporting events – it’s pure profit for them,” said Scott Moore, FEM’s general manager. “We’re getting our name out there, but more importantly, we’re getting a safety message into the hands of those holding a bottle.”

The co-op also makes an appearance at basketball games between its area schools.

At select games, boxes of Cracker Jacks snacks, with a co-op sticker on them, are tossed out into the crowds.

“That’s really gone over well,” Moore said.



Above: West River Cooperative Telephone Company area journeyman combination technician Bill Anders checks the aim of his son, Zack, as a t-shirt gun sends a prize flying at a Harding County Ranchers game back in 2012.



June Board Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the board of directors was held June 21st, 2017.

Also present were General Manager Derek Sorley, Operations Manager Mike Pisha, Finance & Administration Manager Anna Haynes, Member Services & Procurement Manager Josh Fanning, and Staff Assistant Sherry Bakley.

Routine monthly business consisted of approving the minutes of the previous board meeting and approving new members.

The List of Disbursements was presented by Finance & Administration Manager Anna Haynes and reviewed by the board. The May operating report will be presented at the July board meeting.

Anna presented an idea to have a check audit committee review more in depth each month. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve this committee to start the check audit in July.

Anna reported that the Financial Class that was schedule at the Wakpamni Community was canceled; that Eide Bailly is doing a Depreciation review and will be having a meeting with them; reported on collections, past due accounts and there was an issue with the new 8-month rate on Irrigations accounts that has been corrected; the office has been short staffed with vacation and unforeseen medical issues; that an employee will be out on maternity leave which could be at any time and we passed our security scan last week.

Mike reported on work in progress "Schwartzing to Martin Sub Transmission-Allen Road Move-Finished HWY 18-Rensulate at Kyle-New Irrigation; on S&L Pole Testing; about the bidding on the Wanblee Tap and gave a truck #16 update.

Josh asked the board to make a decision on the date for the 2018 Annual Meeting; that the Irrigators were on load control once in May and June; on inventory; about updating mapping in IVUE and on the 2nd year college student scholarship.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the date of April 26, 2018 for the Annual Meeting and to mail the Capital Credit Checks before the Annual Meeting.

The safety report was presented by Mike and Anna.

Derek reported on legal matters; that Jordon Young received his Journeyman Certificate; that he and Anna attended a Power Bill Training at Rushmore Electric and Terri Wallis with CFC provided Cooperative Accounting training to him and his staff along with Landon, Tracie and Kasi; on the Rushmore Managers meeting ,SDREA Managers meeting and the Black Hills Electric Cooperative Annual meeting he attended; about the SDREA Loss Control Service Inspection which was very good and passed inspection; on the employee meeting; and on Union Negotiations.

Discussion was held on the NRECA Regional Meeting in Minneapolis, MN with Clarence Allen being the Delegate and Derek Sorley being the alternate.

Discussion was held on the Retirement Security (RS) and 401(K) pension plans with a motion being made, seconded and carried to approve the resolution.

Anna presented the 990 form to the board. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the 990 form.

A meeting was set up for the safety committee to meet on July 18th, 2017 at 2:00PM.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to purchase iPads for the board.

The board went into executive session at 6:35PM and came out at 7:00PM.

Next Board Meeting – July 18th, 2017 at 4:00PM
961900103

Lacreek's Office will be closed September 4th in observance of Labor Day!

In Case of An Outage

FIRST: Check your fuses or breakers in your home or building in which you do not have power.

SECOND: Check meter for display and readings. If the meter is blank, you are probably experiencing an outage and need to call our office immediately.

THIRD: If your meter has a display, check your breaker below your meter on the yard pole.

FOURTH: Please contact your neighbor to see if they are Lacreek Electric Association is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. Experiencing a power outage because it would be helpful to know if other members in the area are also out of power.

FIFTH: Make sure you have the name the bill is in, the meter number and /or the account number.

SIXTH: Call Lacreek Electric at **605-685-6581** or if you are calling long distance dial 1-800-655-9324. We now have a 24 hour answering service. First you will hear an automated message, "Thank you for calling Lacreek Electric. Your call may be recorded or monitored for quality assurance." You will then hear the following menu: 961900103

*If you're calling to report an electrical outage, press 1.

*If you have a billing question, press 2.

*If you're calling to report a meter reading, press 3.

*For all other calls, press 0.

Office Hours: 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. MDT • Open over noon hour •

Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.

Does Your Wiring Look Like This?

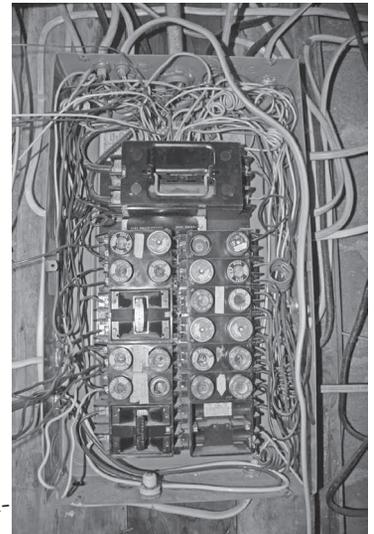
Unlike fine wine, a farm or home's wiring doesn't get better with age. If your home is more than 10 years old, it may be time to consider rewiring.

Today's average home uses six times more electricity than a generation ago. If you have an older home, your electrical system may not be able to power all the equipment we commonly use today. If your home was built more than 60 years ago, call a licensed electrical contractor to inspect your home's wiring for safety problems, too. Wires with broken or brittle insulation and outlets worn from years of use are serious electrical hazards.

Testing the limits of your wiring can produce disastrous results. Here are some frequently asked questions about older wiring:

What are the signs of potential electrical hazards?

- Whenever you turn on a larger appliance, such as a dishwasher or air conditioner, the lights in your house dim.
- Fuses blow or circuit breakers trip off frequently.
- Appliances that heat, such as toasters and irons, don't get as hot as they should or take a longer time to heat.
- Your television picture shrinks or fades when lights or appliances come on.
- Outlets or dimmer switches seem hot to touch.
- Outlets are not equipped with a grounding hole and require a "cheater" plug in order to run your appliances.



Is an "old-fashioned" fuse box a hazard in your home?

When fuse boxes were in widespread use, most homes only had 30-to 60-ampere (amp) service. Today's homes need at least 150- to 200-amp services to safely supply power for major appliances.

If you have a fuse box and you've added any large appliances over the years, have an electrical contractor inspect your wiring to make sure it is still safe.

How can I tell when an electrical outlet isn't safe? 2501868304

There are three indicators of an unsafe outlet: If an outlet can no longer hold a plug snugly; if any parts of the outlet are broken; or if the outlet feels hot to the touch. If any of these conditions exists, the outlet should be replaced as soon as possible.

How long should electrical wiring and my outlets/switches last?

The amount of time any given electrical wiring should last depends on the type of use and the abuse the system has experienced over the years. If you have any doubts about your wiring or notice some frayed or broken insulation, get a complete inspection of your home's electrical wiring.

What's inside your service panel?

Service panels are equipped with either FUSES (older systems) or CIRCUIT BREAKERS (modern systems) that protect the wires in each circuit from overheating and causing a fire.

TRIPPED BREAKER?

It's probably a result of too many appliances running on one circuit.

Unplug the appliances in the room

Find the tripped breaker in the service panel: it will have switched to OFF or be some where between ON and OFF

Switch it fully OFF, then ON. Power will be restored to the room.

BLOWN FUSE?

Unscrew the blown fuse and replace it with one of the same amperage rating. Never use a replacement with a higher amperage rating! 1033200104



Killer Korn Camo

Langford man develops new camouflage pattern

SOMETIMES THE BEST IDEAS SHOW UP IN the strangest places. Just ask Jordan Deutsch, who came up with a new camouflage idea while farming.

Three years ago, during harvest season, Deutsch was sitting in a tractor cab, grain cart in tow, as he waited for the combine to make its rounds in the cornfield. That's where the idea to start Fallin' Fowl Camo was born.

"I was looking at the field and wondered why someone hadn't come out with a corn or cornfield camo pattern," he said. "I always felt other camo patterns were too dark and stuck out too much. I love Realtree and Mossy Oak for deer hunting and all that, but some of their newer waterfowl patterns don't look anything like where we hunt up here, like cornfields."

Once harvest was complete, Deutsch took the initiative to explore what options were available for an upstart to introduce a corn-themed camo pattern, which he named Killer Korn, to the waterfowl market.

"I checked with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and they told me to submit my ideas with some pictures to get the patent going," said Deutsch, who is 25 and returned to the Langford area to farm with his extended family after receiving an agriculture degree from Lake Area Tech in Watertown. "We took a bunch of pictures, picked three, and a graphic designer from the USPTO meshed them together. Then we tweaked it three or four times from there until we got it where I wanted it and put a patent on it."

Andrew Johnson
Farm Forum



Next steps

After receiving a patent on the Killer Korn pattern, Deutsch decided to also trademark his Fallin' Fowl Camo brand name.

"The next step was how to get the actual pattern onto clothing," he said. "That was the tough part."

Deutsch said some exhaustive online research finally led him to Jest Textiles, a New Jersey-based company that offered the printing and design services he'd need to screen the Killer Korn pattern onto material.

"I got in touch with them and sent them the file for my camo," he said. "They ran a sample, and once I got that back I wanted to tweak it a little bit more."

He said minor adjustments were necessary, as there were slight differences in color and size from how the pattern's image looked on a computer screen compared to how it actually printed on clothing. As a result, Deutsch altered the color and scale of his pattern several times prior to settling on a final design.

"As far as scale goes it really depends on the ground, but we averaged out what a corn ear would normally be," he said. "Some are 7 or 8 inches, and some really big corn is 13 inches. We settled on 9 to 10 inches and went from there, blowing up the husk size so it was lifelike and would mimic what actual corn looks like in a field."

Through the process, Deutsch said he also came to another important realization.

"There's corn from North Dakota all the way to Texas, and not all corn is the same," he said. "Some might have more green in it, while some varieties might be more red. Plus, corn in the fall has a totally different color than it does in spring after it's been sitting around all winter. I finally had to bite the bullet and settle on a design."

Long time coming

With the help of Jest Textiles, Deutsch had the Killer Korn camo pattern printed on some pants, hooded sweatshirts and beanies, and the first batches of his product started arriving in November and December.

It's been a long process for Deutsch, who said the idea for Fallin' Fowl Camo first took off in January 2014.

"Here it is, three years later, and I finally got it where I want it," he said. "Now that I have my product, I'm trying to figure out which direction to go. I don't want to go too far in the direction of selling it myself, but would rather have a licensing deal where companies can put it on whatever they want."

Deutsch said he's working on a potential partnership with Heavy Hauler Outdoor Gear, a company from Kingsley, Iowa, that specializes in waterfowl products.

"I've actually been working with Heavy Hauler and trying to work out a deal with them," he said. "They've put the pattern on a sample blind, blind bag and gun case, and we're working out the details. They make the Scheels-brand blinds along with some other products, and that was part of my dream, to invent something and see it in a store like Scheels or Cabela's."

For Deutsch, a camo pattern that looks identical to corn fills a vacant need in the waterfowling world. He also believes it could mean less work in the long run for duck and goose hunters who



don't take the time to properly stuff their blinds. Stuffing corn stalks and husks, wheat stubble and other vegetation into a layout blind's exterior to help it melt into its surroundings is necessary while field hunting, but Deutsch said some hunters fail to do it properly.

"Staying hidden is the key to waterfowl hunting, and I was sick and tired of people not stuffing blinds and ruining the hunt," he said. "That's why I came up with the pattern. I wanted something that blended in a lot better, because most of the time we hunt waterfowl in corn."

Where to find Fallin' Fowl Camo

RC Hunting Store in Aberdeen is selling Fallin' Fowl Camo hoodies and beanies from its warehouse as well as through its online business at rchuntingstore.com.

For more information on Killer Korn and other Fallin' Fowl products, go to [Facebook.com/fallinfowlcamo](https://www.facebook.com/fallinfowlcamo).

DID YOU KNOW?

Corn is a primary crop in the three counties near Fallin' Fowl Camo's Langford, S.D., base.

Marshall County:

- 58.9 percent of the county's landmass is cropland.
- 38 percent of that cropland was planted to corn in 2013 (120,000 acres)

Day County:

- 60 percent of that county's landmass is cropland (395,0007 acres)
- 33.9 percent of the cropland planted to corn in 2013.

Brown County:

- 77.9 percent of the county's land mass is cropland (854,000 acres)
- 43 percent (369,500 aces) was planted to corn in 2013.

Investing in Educational Goals

Electric Cooperatives Award Hundreds of Scholarships

SCORES OF COLLEGE AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL students heading to school this fall are having part of their tuition bill paid by scholarships from the region's electric cooperatives.

For the past 26 years, Basin Electric Power Cooperative has awarded scholarships to students in a nine-state area. More than 180 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each were awarded to students in the region through Basin Electric's Scholarship Program. A bulk of the scholarships are awarded to dependent children of Basin Electric member cooperatives.

Twenty-five scholarships are awarded to dependent children of Basin Electric and subsidiary employees, 20 scholarships are awarded to dependent children of Basin Electric's member cooperative employees, and 141 scholarships are awarded to

dependent children of member-system consumers.

The Basin Electric scholarship program recognizes and encourages academic and community achievements of students in the region. It's also considered an investment in the economic future of rural areas.

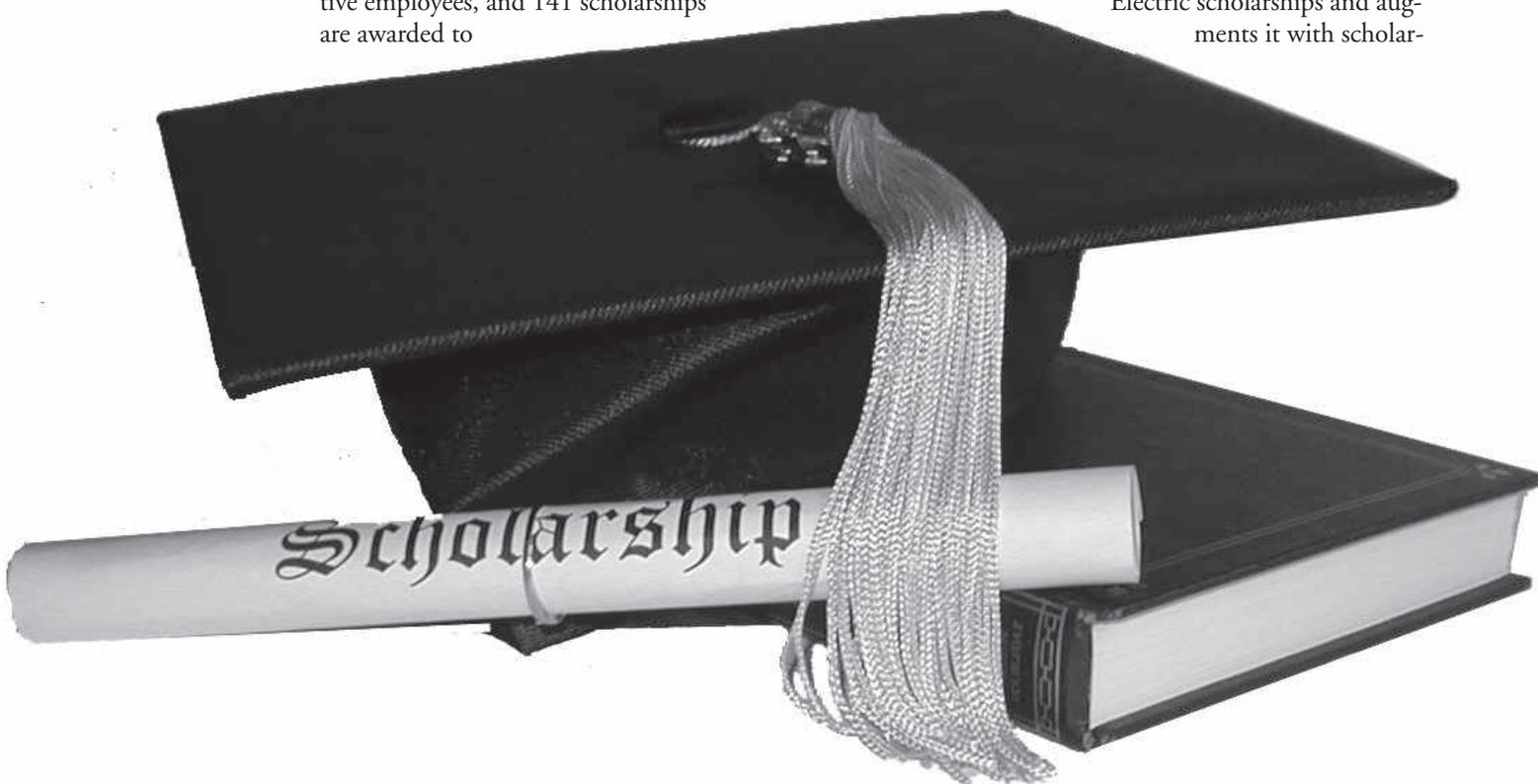
Since the program's inception, Basin Electric has awarded 4,554 scholarships worth about \$4.5 million.

While Basin Electric's scholarships provide the foundation, electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western South Dakota have built even more opportunities for students.

In 2017, cooperative collectively awarded nearly \$120,000 in scholarships to 180 students. This

amount includes the \$39,000 in Basin Electric scholarships and augments it with scholar-

By Brenda Kleinjan



ships from Operation Round Up monies, Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week and other resources.

While many of the scholarships are open to students in any discipline, some scholarships are targeted to encourage students to explore future co-op careers.

Each year, the South Dakota Line Superintendents Association awards \$4,000 in scholarships to future line workers, primarily at Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D. Other scholarships target engineering students.

Typically, electric cooperative scholarship deadlines are in late January or early February.

Looking for more scholarships?

Check out these tips from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships>)

What kinds of scholarships are available?

Some scholarships for college are merit-based. You earn them by meeting or exceeding certain standards set by the scholarship-giver. Merit scholarships might be awarded based on academic achievement or on a combination of academics and a special talent, trait or interest. Other scholarships are based on financial need.

Many scholarships are geared toward particular groups of people; for instance, there are scholarships for women or high school seniors. And some are available because of where you or your parent work, or because you come from a certain background (for instance, there are scholarships for military families).

A scholarship might cover the entire cost of your tuition, or it might be a one-time award of a few hundred dollars. Either way, it's worth applying for, because it'll help reduce the cost of your education.

How do I find scholarships?

You can learn about scholarships in several ways, including contacting the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend and checking information in a public library or online. But be careful. Make sure scholarship information and offers you receive are legitimate; and remember that you don't have to pay to find scholarships or other financial aid.

Try these free sources of information about scholarships:

- the financial aid office at a college or career school
- a high school or TRIO counselor
- the U.S. Department of Labor's FREE scholarship search tool
- federal agencies
- your state grant agency
- your library's reference section
- foundations, religious or community organizations, local businesses, or civic groups
 - organizations (including professional associations) related to your field of interest
 - ethnicity-based organizations
 - your employer or your parents' employers

BASIN ELECTRIC MEMBER SYSTEM SCHOLARSHIPS

Recipient

Cooper Timm
Kristen Rezac
Megan Andersen
Logan Schaeffbauer
Bailey Moody
Kristan Soukup
Troj Valburg
Alexa Montagne
David Wang
Alexander Thyen
Cassandra Koel
Haley Bialas
Anne Knofczynski
April Hoffman
Elisa Kaitfors
Julianna Kari
Devon Sievers
Hallie Tolzin
Samantha Loomis
Alecia Vogl
Trevor Sik
Jadyn Woodward
Roman Orr
Porter Jones
Jon Schulte
Hannah Juracek
Matthew Eigenberg
Marissa Morris
Jessica Lupkes
Elena Giorgio
Peyton Kuchenbecker
Joslyn Jessop
Cade Venhuizen
Kadon Leddy

Co-op

Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, Inc.
Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Cam Wal Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Charles Mix Electric Association, Inc.
Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative, Inc.
City of Elk Point
Clay-Union Electric Corporation
Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Dakota Energy Cooperative, Inc.
Douglas Electric Cooperative, Inc.
East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.
FEM Electric Association, Inc.
Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.
H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Kingsbury Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Lacreek Electric Association, Inc.
Lake Region Electric Association, Inc.
Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association
Rosebud Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Sioux Valley Energy
Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Union County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.
West Central Electric Cooperative, Inc.
West River Electric Association, Inc.
Wheatstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Member Cooperative Employee Scholarships

Mattisen Kelley	Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Tori Gaer	Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Jocelyn Nestande	Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association
Michelle Lanam	Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.
Caylie Gronwold	Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Paige Johnson	Wheatstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Other Scholarships

In addition to these scholarships electric cooperatives awarded nearly \$79,000 in additional scholarships to 140 other students.

Regional Dateline

August 18-19

Southern Hills Music and Arts Festival, Custer, SD
605-440-0640

August 18-20

Black Hills Steam and Gas Threshing Bee, Sturgis, SD
605-490-2024

August 18-20

Riverboat Days, Yankton, SD
605-665-1657

August 18-27

Central States Fair
Rapid City, SD, 605-355-3861

August 19-20

Annual Threshing Bee
Rosholt, SD, 605-537-4426
www.rosholtthreshingbee.com

August 24-27

Kool Deadwood Nites
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

August 24-27

Prairie Village 55th Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.org

August 26

Sizzlin' Summer Night Car and Motorcycle Show
Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-3441

August 26-27

Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival, Hot Springs, SD
605-745-4140

August 29-September 3

Mustang Rally, Sturgis, SD
605-490-1663



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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.

Events of Special Note

August 23-27

Corn Palace Festival
Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430

August 24-27

Hugh Glass Rendezvous
Lemmon, SD, 605-393-5832

August 31-September 4

South Dakota State Fair
Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

September 2

20th Annual Southern Hills Triathlon, Hot Springs, SD
605-745-3494

September 3

Studebaker Car Show
Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

September 7-10

State Senior Games
Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Howard Bich at 605-275-6891 or
sdsrgames@gmail.com

September 8-9

Ribs, Rods & Rock n' Roll
Vermillion, SD, 605-624-2021

September 8-10

James Valley Threshing and Tractor Show, Andover, SD
jvthreshers@gmail.com

September 9

Sidewalk Arts Festival
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7397

September 9

Foothills Bud Light Bull Bash
Wessington Springs, SD
605-770-4370

September 9-10

Harvest Festival, including Kuchen Festival
Delmont, SD 605-505-0535
www.twinriversoldiron.org

September 9-10

Annual Grape Stomp Festival With the Wind Vineyard and Winery, Rosholt, SD
605-537-4780
www.withthewindwinery.com

September 9-10

Beef N Fun Festival
Mobridge, SD, 605-845-2500

September 9-10

Quilt Show, Hill City, SD
605-574-2810

September 13

South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame Banquet
Watertown, SD, 605-945-2269

September 14-16

St. Joseph's Indian School 41st Annual Powwow
Chamberlain, SD
605-234-3452

September 15-16

NESD Celtic Faire and Games
Aberdeen, SD, 605-380-5828

September 15-16

Deadwood Jam, Main Street
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

September 15-17

German-Russian Schmeckfest
Eureka, SD, 605-284-2332

September 15-17

Dakota Western Heritage Festival, Fort Pierre, SD
605-222-0079