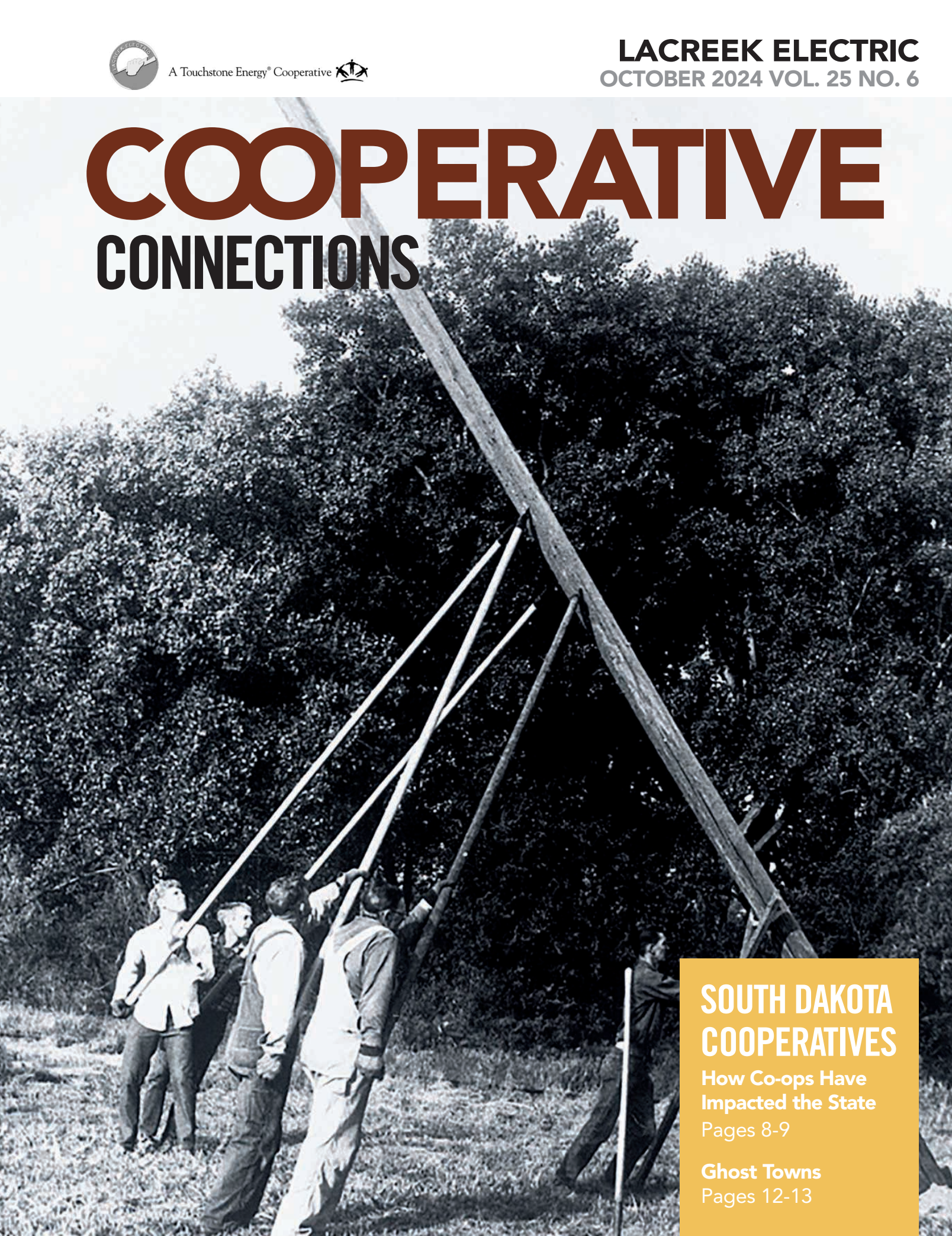




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**LACREEK ELECTRIC**  
OCTOBER 2024 VOL. 25 NO. 6

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## **SOUTH DAKOTA COOPERATIVES**

**How Co-ops Have  
Impacted the State**  
Pages 8-9

**Ghost Towns**  
Pages 12-13



# Lacreek is Seeking 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.

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.

A T & T BOSG	Bettelyoun, Manuel	Charlene	Charging Crow,	Cournoyer,	Elk Boy, Jacqueline
Adams, Larry	Est	Blue Horse, Gerald	Eleanor Est	Kimberly	Est
Afraid of Bear,	Bettelyoun, Terry	Est	Charging Crow, Eva	Cournoyer, Wayne	Elk Boy, Vestana Est
Michael Est	Est	Bowman, Ruby Est	Est	Crazy Bear, Larry	Elk Looks Back,
Albert, James Est	Bettelyoun, Maxine	Brave Bird,	Chase Alone,	Crossett, Clay	Emery Est
Aldrich, M Kathryn	Big Crow, Caroline	Cleveland	Carmen Est	Crow, Jessie Est	Elk Looks Back,
Allen, Martha	Est	Brave Hawk,	Chief Bear, Joe Jr Est	Crow Good Voice	Marceline Est
Apple, Antoine J Est	Bingham, Ione Est	Eugene Est	Chipp, Charles Est	Elk, Eugene W Jr	Emrick, Patricia A
Apple, Dora Estate	Black Bear, Verna	Brewer, Duane Est	Chipp, Phillip Est	Cummings,	Est
Arapahoe, Wilferd	Est	Brings Plenty, Floyd	Clifford, David C	Clarence Est	Engel, David L
Bad Cob, Ione Est	Black Bull, Arnold	Est	Sr Est	Curry, Clover Est	Espinosa, John Est
Bad Milk, Bruce Est	Est	Brown, David	Clifford, Eli Sr Est	Cutt, Mary J Est	Farmer, David A Est
Badlands Ag	Black Bull, Harold	Brown, Fred Sr	Clifford, Jessie M Est	Daniels, Natalie	Fast Horse, Rufus
Spraying	Est	Brown, Pauline Est	Clifford, Maxine Est	DeBoer, Carol	Est
Bald Eagle Bear,	Black Bull, Mary	Brown Eyes,	Clifford, Patrick T Est	Deering, Carolyn	Fawcett, Linetta
Lorene Est	A Est	Norman Est	Coats, George Est	Deutscher, Rueben	Featherman,
Barrett, Christine	Black Elk, Steven	Brunsch, Beryl Est	Coats, Robert E Est	Est	Delano D Est
Bartlett, David	Black Eyes, Amos	Bryant, Demetria	Collins, Connie Est	Dimond, Scott	Ferguson, Laura Est
Beane, Lou	M Est	Buckman, Wilbur	Comes Killing,	Dithmer Bros	Ferguson, Leonard
Bear Killer, Ralph	Black Eyes, Harvey	C Est	Norman Est	Dohse, Kathy	Est
Sr Est	Est	Bull Bear, Gwen Est	Comes Last, Amelia	Douville, Donald Est	Ferguson, Ted Est
Bear Runner,	Black Eyes, Jerome	Bull Bear, Larry J	Est	Douville, Faith	Ferriegel, Jean E Est
Harold Est	H Est	Jr Est	Conroy, Ben	Drapeeaux, Brian	Fetter, James Est
Bear Stops, Irma Est	Black Eyes, Sallie Est	Bullman, Stella Est	Conroy, Cornell L	JJr	Fire Thunder, Ben
Bearing, Monica Est	Blacksmith, Theresa	Bush, Vincent Est	Sr Est	Drechsler, Ellen	Est
Beck, Alverda R Est	Est	Butler, Mary Est	Cook, Debra	Drobny, Norman	Fire Thunder, Bluch
Beem, Vida Estate	Blacksmith, Trivian	C W Enterprizes	Coomes, Irma Est	Est	Est
Belile, Don Sr	Est	Calico Village Well	Cornelius, John Est	Dull Knife, Pearl	First Body Jesus
Bergen, Dorothy Est	Blare, JD Estate	Cangleska Inc	Cottier, Linda S	Dupree, Richard	Christ Church-
Bettelyoun, Joseph	Blindman, Collins,	Cano, Justin Est	Cournoyer, Claudia	Eagle Bear,	Norris
Est	Est	Casey Family	M	Delphine Est	Fool Bull, Ernestine
Bettelyoun, Loretta	Blue Bird, Georgia	Program	Cournoyer, Foster	Est	Est
Est	Blue Horse,	Chappell, Don Est	Sr Est		

Continued on page 10...

**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
- Neal Livermont – Marion Schultz
- Jerry Sharp – Connie Whirlwind Horse
- Donovon Young Man

**Management Staff**

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

**Office Personnel**

- Amy Pisha – Right of Way Specialist
- Cody Larson – Accountant
- 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 – Aaron Risse – Trace Scott – Damon Wangerin
- Apprentice Linemen:
  - Tee Allen – Les Cuny – Kody Hagen
  - Matthew Kruid – Chayson Schofield
  - Riley Meis - Cameron York
- Staking Specialist: Ryan Pettit
- Warehouseman: Henry Johnson
- Maintenance Man: Justin Smokov

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# July 2024 Board Meeting Highlights

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 July 16, 2024 beginning at 4:00 P.M. Directors present were, Wade Risse, Donovan Young Man, Connie Whirlwind Horse, Jerry Sharp, Marion Schultz, Neal Livermont, Cole Lange, Clifford Lafferty, Clarence Allen, Tom Schlack, Brent Ireland and Scott Larson. Also present were General Manager, Josh Fanning, Finance Manager, Kasi Harris, Operations Manager, Mike Pisha, Member Service/IT, Jessica Cook, Work Order/Staff Assistant, Sherry Bakley, Office Manager, Tracie Hahn and Administrative Assistant, Ashley Turgeon. Absent was Director Troy Kuxhaus.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Ashley Turgeon to record board minutes
- Minutes of the June 2024 board meeting
- Operating Report for May
- Disbursements for June
- June Analysis of Investments
- New Members

Discussion was held on the following items:

- 2025 Basin Rate Change/Projections
- Storm Report - 54 poles lost
  - Cherry Todd, West Central and West River sent crews

The board heard reports from management. These included details of operations, member services, communications, upcoming projects and safety. Donovan Young Man reported on the SDREA Board Meeting he attended. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2024.

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# FIRE SAFETY

Cooking and heating are the leading causes of home fires and fire injuries, and winter months are the peak time for fire-related deaths. **Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 6-12, 2024)** is the perfect time to review and practice fire safety.

### Minimize Your Risks

The good news: Deaths from home fires in the U.S. have trended downward since the 1970s, according to Injury Facts, but even one death from a preventable fire is too many. While fire doesn't discriminate by age, it is the third leading cause of death for children 1 to 14.

**When cooking, make fire safety a priority by keeping these tips in mind:**

- Be alert; if you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the oven or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.

**Heating is the second leading cause of home fires. Follow these tips:**

- Keep all flammables, like paper, clothing, bedding, drapes or rugs, at least three feet from a space heater, stove or fireplace.
- Never leave portable heaters and fireplaces unattended; turn off heaters and make sure fireplace embers are extinguished before leaving the room.
- If you must use a space heater, place it on a level, nonflammable surface, like ceramic tile, not on a rug or carpet.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- When buying a space heater, look for models that shut off automatically if the heater falls over.

### Working Smoke Alarms Are a Must

About three out of five fire deaths happen in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan providing early warning to reduce your risk of dying in a fire. The National Fire Protection Association recommends you:

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas on the ceiling or high on the wall.
- Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen, at least 10 feet from the stove, to reduce false alarms.
- Use special alarms with strobe lights and bed shakers for

- people who are hard of hearing or deaf.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Replace batteries in your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector annually.
- Replace smoke alarms that are 10 or more years old.

### When and How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

Always put your safety first; if you are not confident in your ability to use a fire extinguisher, get out and call 9-1-1. The American Red Cross cautions you to evaluate the situation and ensure:

- Everyone has left or is leaving the home
- The fire department has been called
- The fire is small, not spreading, and there is not much smoke
- Your back is to an exit you can use quickly

### Remember the acronym PASS:

- P**ull the pin.
- A**im low at the base of the fire.
- S**queeze the handle slowly.
- S**weep the nozzle side to side.

*Source: National Safety Council*



### Power Line Safety "Watch Out for Power Lines!"

#### Archer Rindels, Age 7

Archer Rindels warns readers to be careful around power lines. Thank you for your picture, Archer! Archer's parents are Kyle and Rochelle Rindels, members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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.



# Delicious CHICKEN

## CHEESY CHICKEN BUNDLES

### Ingredients:

- 1 (11 oz.) can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup milk
- 3/4 cup Velveeta, shredded or cubed
- 1 (10 oz.) can chunk chicken, drained and flaked
- 1 (8 oz.) can crescent rolls

### Method

Combine soup, milk and cheese. Heat until melted and smooth. Pour into a 7x11 inch pan that has been sprayed with vegetable oil.

Separate crescents into 8 triangles. Place 2 tbsps. of chicken on wide end of crescent roll. Pinch to seal. Place on top of sauce.

Bake uncovered at 375 degrees for 25 minutes and until golden brown. Serve with sauce on top.

Yields eight chicken bundles or four servings.

**Janet Ochsner**  
Box Elder, S.D.

## CROCKPOT CHICKEN PARMESAN SOUP

### Ingredients:

- 3 boneless chicken breasts
- 1 tbsp. minced garlic
- 1 can crushed tomatoes (28 oz. can)
- 1 can tomato sauce (15 oz. can)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ground black pepper
- 2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup parmesan cheese (freshly shaved)
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 8 oz. rotini pasta (uncooked)
- 1 1/2 cup shredded Mozzarella

### Method

Add the chicken breast, minced garlic, crushed tomatoes, tomato sauce, salt, pepper, Italian seasoning and chicken broth to the Crock-Pot.

Cover Crock-Pot with lid and cook on low for 6-8 hours.

Shred the chicken. Stir in the shredded parmesan cheese, heavy whipping cream and rotini pasta. Cover and cook on low for 30 minutes.

Top the individual soup servings with mozzarella cheese.

**Kayla Beaner**  
Centerville, S.D.

## BUTTER CHICKEN

### Ingredients:

- 4 tsps. Garam Masala blend
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp. ground turmeric
- 1/8 tsp. crushed red pepper
- 4 tbsps. butter, divided
- 1 can (14.5 oz.) petite diced tomatoes
- 1 med. red onion, chopped
- 1 1/4 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 tsp. sea salt

### Method

Mix Garam Masala, garlic, ginger, turmeric and crushed red pepper in small bowl. Heat large non-stick skillet on medium heat. Toast seasoning mixture 1 min. or just until fragrant, stirring constantly. Add 2 tbsps. of the butter to skillet, swirling to melt. Add onion; cook and stir 2 to 3 mins. until softened. Stir in tomatoes; cook 5 mins. Carefully transfer mixture to blender container; cover. Blend until smooth, scraping sides as needed. Return pureed sauce to skillet. Bring to simmer on med.-low heat. Add chicken; cook 8 to 10 minutes or until chicken is cooked though, stirring occasionally. Stir in remaining butter, cream and salt until well blended. Simmer on med.-low heat 2 to 3 minutes until sauce is slightly thickened. Stir in additional crushed red pepper to taste and serve with hot cooked basmati rice or warm naan bread, if desired. Garnish with fresh cilantro leaves, if desired.

**McCormick.com**

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 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

# Find Hidden Energy Savings and Extra Storage in Your Attic



**Miranda Boutelle**  
Efficiency Services  
Group

**Q:** Do you have any tips on finding hidden energy savings in my home?

**A:** I've been in a lot of homes. One common hiding spot for energy savings is the attic. It is also a common location for storing holiday decorations and infrequently used sentimental items.

Yet, using your attic for storage can be problematic when trying to maximize your home's energy efficiency. Let's explore how you can improve insulation levels and properly store items in your attic.

Attic insulation is one of the best low-cost ways to make your home efficient. People often associate insulation with keeping your home warmer in the winter, but it also provides benefits in the summer. Insulation reduces heat transfer from the attic to the house, which lowers energy bills for air conditioning and makes your home more comfortable.

Attic insulation is measured in R-value, which is a measurement of how well a material resists the flow of heat. For attic insulation, thicker is better. The recommended R-value is typically between R-38 and R-60, depending on your climate. Hawaii and the southernmost tips of Florida and Texas recommend R-30. Measured in inches, that ranges from around 10 to 20 inches, depending on the type of insulation you have. In most homes, the ceiling joists are buried in insulation to achieve the recommended R-value.

The problem with attic storage is it typically doesn't offer enough space for the recommended R-value. Often, plywood or boards are placed directly on top of the ceiling joists, which isn't enough space for the insulation. Insulation can get compacted by people moving items in or out, reducing the effective R-value.

Ideally, the attic would not be used for storage so it can be properly insulated, but that's not feasible for everyone. Here are some strategies for maintaining attic storage and recommended insulation levels.

The best location for attic storage is over an

unconditioned area of your home, such as the garage. You don't need insulation in attic spaces over a garage or unconditioned area because you are not heating or cooling the space below. This makes it the perfect spot to tuck away items for storage.

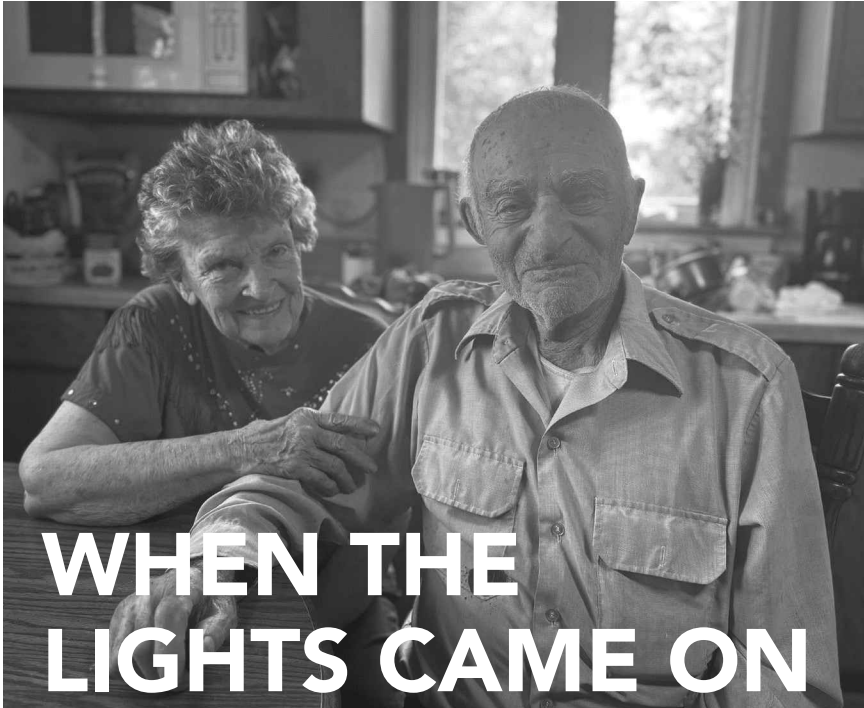
If that isn't an option, consider minimizing the number of stored items or the storage area's footprint. A great way to do this is by building an attic storage platform. A raised platform allows the space underneath it to be fully insulated. These platforms are available in ready-to-install kits, or you can buy materials and build them yourself.

Allow enough space underneath the platform to achieve the proper R-value. Use lumber to build a frame perpendicular to the existing joists and cover it with plywood or oriented strand board. Once your storage area is set up, add insulation inside the platform to bring the R-value up to the proper level.

Your attic might also have trusses that allow you to build shelves and maximize space by storing items vertically.

Always wear a dust mask or respirator when working in the attic. Don't forget to weatherstrip the attic hatch to ensure a tight seal. Take a look around your attic to see if you can find any hidden opportunities for energy savings.





## WHEN THE LIGHTS CAME ON

Herman and Nina Rosenau Photo credit: Shannon Marvel

### WWII Veteran Remembers How Electricity Modernized Life on the Farm

JJ Martin and Shannon Marvel

For the last 66 years, Herman Rosenau has been thankful he hasn't had to pump water for the cows by hand at his farm and ranch near Glad Valley.

In 1957, Rosenau became one of the first members of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative in Timber Lake, S.D.

Coming of age at the tail end of World War II, Rosenau bore witness to some major world changes. As rural South Dakota started electrifying, Europe and East Asia were in turmoil. Before shipping off for the war, Rosenau's life was all manual labor. After seeing the metamorphosis that the other half of the world went through, Rosenau watched his own world drastically change. Electricity slowly spread out across the Moreau-Grand service area like lightning in slow motion.

With a mischievous smile, Rosenau

sat down at the kitchen table with his morning coffee to discuss how he remembered the lights coming on at his home. After haying all morning, he was happy for a break.

"Things changed not all overnight, but pretty steady," Rosenau said. "We got an electric refrigerator, then we got electricity out of a pump jack on the well. Everything kept growing little by little."

Before electricity, Rosenau recalls watering the cows with a windmill in the water tank.

"And when the wind didn't blow, you pumped the water by hand," Rosenau said.

He remembers when the first electric bills totaled around \$7 per month.

"Well, story of my life was a pitchfork and a team of horses until around 1947," he said with a laugh.

With electricity becoming available

to rural folks in South Dakota, Rosenau recalled being able to purchase a deep freeze. That electric appliance allowed him to store food, particularly beef, for long periods of time and saved him the 70-mile round-trip to Lemmon to the meat locker.

Rosenau is not one to forget how thankful he is for having access to electricity and freedom. The electricity reached his home a few years after he returned home from serving in the Army. The World War II veteran said he went in at the time of the Belgian Bulge.

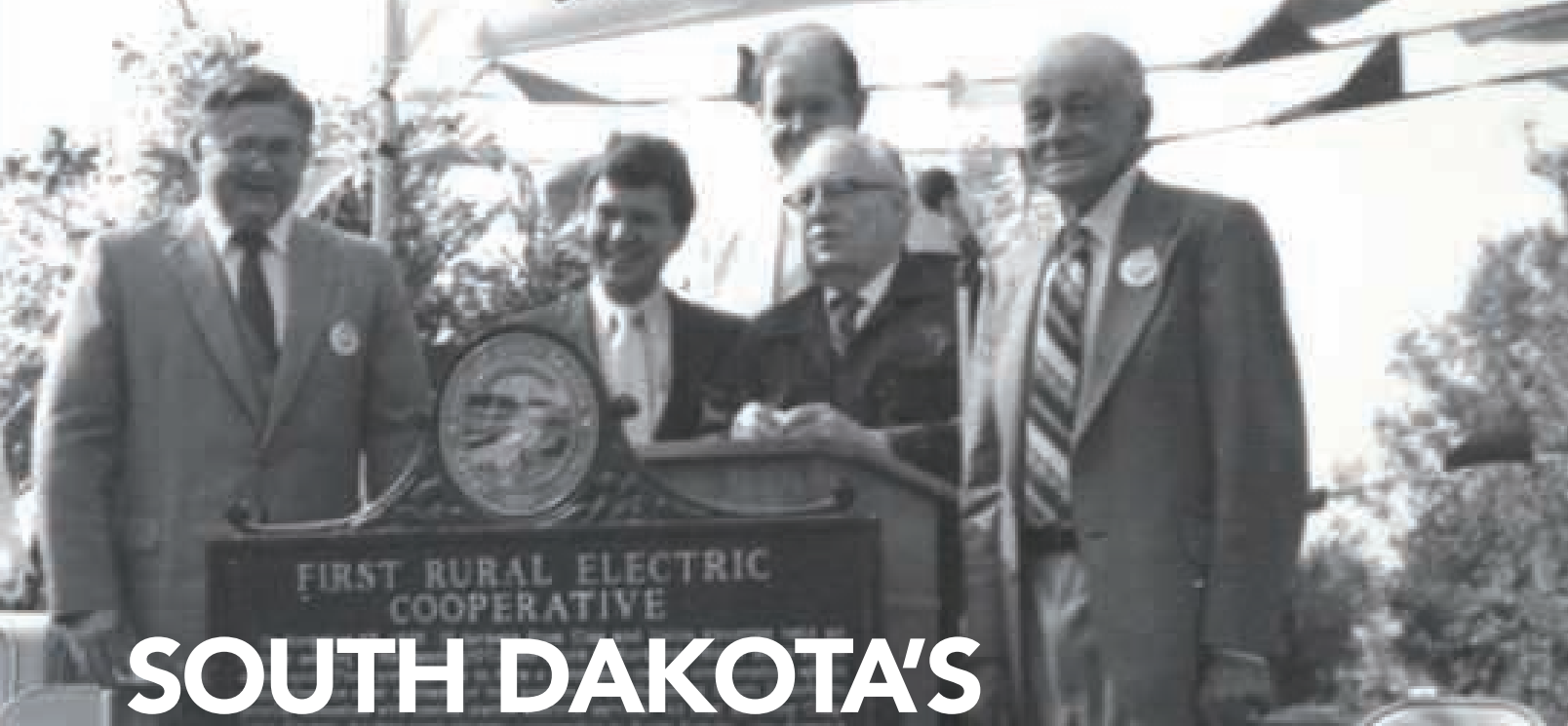
"I went to the Texas Infantry in the spring when it looked like the war in Europe was getting under control," Rosenau said.

"I was in Manila when they dropped them two little eggs on Japan. And if they hadn't done that, I don't think I'd be here. Because they told us if we have to go ashore in Japan, we will lose a half million to a million boys going ashore. That's the total population of South Dakota."



Linemen placing poles in the early days at Moreau-Grand Electric.





# SOUTH DAKOTA'S COOPERATIVES

**Jacob Boyko**

[jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop](mailto:jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop)

Picture life in rural South Dakota 100 years ago. Each morning, families woke before dawn to work by the flicker of kerosene lamps, hand-pumped water to fill a gas-powered wringer-washer, and retrieved breakfast ingredients from a dripping ice box. Looming in the backs of producers' minds were fears that the market would trend downward and they may not be able to cover their debts, or even harvest their fields.

Today, South Dakota's rural farmers and ranchers enjoy virtually all of the accommodations of modern living their suburban counterparts enjoy. Past luxuries like running water, full-time electricity, internet and telephone are now standard, and many farmers enjoy stronger economic security compared to the past's tumultuous markets.

That's because for over 100 years, rural South Dakotans have pooled their resources by forming cooperatives that level out some of the disparities between rural and urban life. Thanks to members' ingenuity, rural America is not just a viable, but a thriving place to live and work.

## The First Cooperatives

The first cooperatives in South Dakota were agriculture-focused. Far too often, an

oversupply of goods led to price crashes, resulting in farmers unable to economically harvest crops or market livestock. This led to tremendous waste and crushed livelihoods.

As producers grew weary of the uncertain market, they organized to collectively market and distribute their products: they coordinated, shared risk and pooled resources.

South Dakota's earliest farm supply and marketing cooperatives started popping up a little after the turn of the 20th century. The South Dakota Secretary of State's office lists Lake Andes Farmers Cooperative, formed in 1909, as the oldest ongoing cooperative in the state.

During this early period, cooperatives operated in a legal gray area. Since producers working collectively in a cooperative setting could be viewed as monopolistic or collusive, they were under careful watch by the Federal Trade Commission as well as their larger competitors.

That changed in 1922 with the passage of the Capper-Volstead Act.

"Capper-Volstead allowed producers to come together and market their products and not be in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act," explained Brenda Forman, South Dakota Association of Cooperatives executive director. "[Cooperatives] were not considered to be a monopoly as long as they were a cooperative association formed

Clay-Union Electric Corporation was the first electric cooperative in South Dakota.

by producers, owned by the members, one member gets one vote in cooperative elections, etc."

The presence of ag cooperatives surged in the 1930s as producers looked for stability during the Great Depression, the South Dakota Farmers Union says. With effectiveness proven, the cooperative strategy has stuck around since.

Today, there are 63 farm supply and marketing cooperatives serving over 130 South Dakota communities, Forman said.

Those same visionaries who established the first ag cooperatives identified another need that was not being met. Using the same cooperative model that changed their lives once already, farmers would bring power to the prairie.

## Electricity

Before energy infrastructure was widespread, many small towns in South Dakota relied on local power plants. However, with distribution lines only serving the city, living even a mile or two out of town was the difference between flipping a light switch and carrying a lantern.

Despite requests from farmers to run lines to their homes – some of whom even offered to pay installation costs – most municipalities and investor-owned utilities (IOUs) refused because undertaking the effort didn't lead to any meaningful profit.

Even many of the state's elected representatives seemed resigned to the idea



that the future of energy for their farming constituents was tied to on-site generation, like the modest Delco–Light plants that could power a few small appliances and light bulbs. To them, it seemed laughable that there was any feasible way to run lines in a state where the service would average out to a sparse 2.2 customers per mile of line, and for many, that was the end of the conversation.

The narrative changed when President Franklin D. Roosevelt expanded his New Deal programs to modernize rural America, creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) to finance ambitious projects.

The profit-minded IOUs were largely uninterested in expanding into sparse territory for mealy returns, and little progress was made toward Roosevelt's vision.

In 1936, once it was apparent IOUs wouldn't be making the foray into rural territories as farmers had hoped they would, Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act. Now, cooperatives could organize and receive REA loans while the IOUs idled.

A group of 17 farmers from Clay and Union counties jumped at the opportunity to finally bring their homes into the modern age. Just months after the REA was established, and at a time when just 5% of South Dakota farms had power, the group hatched out a plan to secure an REA loan for their newly-formed Fairview Rural Electric System, today Clay-Union Electric Corporation.

Going door to door and collecting \$5 sign-ons from neighbors ranging from ecstatic to skeptical, the cooperative finally got the REA's green light and received a \$70,000 loan to build 67 miles of line that would serve about 300 members, according to a 1936 Argus Leader report.

The success of South Dakota's first electric cooperative brought hope to still more than 90% of South Dakota farmers without power. It wasn't long before dozens more newly-formed cooperatives were each going door to door collecting sign-on fees to secure their own REA loans.

## Serving Everyone

In 1946, roughly 10 years after the state's first electric cooperative debuted, rural farmers and ranchers from the state's

remote northwest corner met in Lemmon to form their own cooperative. The board understood securing a loan from REA to serve such a vast and sparse territory would be a big ask, so they opted to charge members a \$10 monthly minimum, which was twice the minimum rate of most South Dakota cooperatives, and equal to about \$170 today.

Even so, would-be members agreed to the terms of the longshot project and paid their \$5 membership fee. Despite federal hesitation about the feasibility of such a project, the REA loan was approved.

Grand Electric Cooperative received more than \$1.8 million over two loans that would build 1,127 miles of line and serve 948 members. The investment amounted to one of the REA's largest and riskiest yet in the state, but proved to be a success.

Cooperative members did the impossible; the wires in northwest South Dakota had finally been energized. Board members then eyed another ambitious goal – bringing telephone to Northwest South Dakota.

West River Cooperative Telephone Company was formed as a separate entity, but in the spirit of cooperation, the telephone and electric cooperative would be jointly operated. The two would, and still to this day, share a building, staff and infrastructure.

“Up here, we cover almost 8,000 square miles and have 4,000 miles of wire, but we only have 1,800 members,” explained Eric Kahler, the cooperatives' joint general manager. “When you look at the economics of this type of service territory, if you're in the business to make money, you're not going to be too successful here. The cooperative model is really the only model that could work here.”

And the community knows that fact and is grateful for their cooperative, says Patricia Palmer, who has spent much of her last 63 years working in Grand Electric and West River Telephone's member services.

“They're thankful,” she said. “Very thankful. We have a terrific telephone work crew and line department. At times, they work tirelessly in horrible weather conditions... You can't believe the thank you notes that we get.”

Growing up on a farm near McIntosh, Palmer has a firsthand account of the impact

of cooperatives. And she says it's one she will never forget.

The night she watched her family's farmhouse light up for the first time was also the beginning of a new chapter, she recalled. A chapter with an automatic washer, a refrigerator and a toaster.

As times change, cooperatives continue to be at the forefront of bringing service that might otherwise be out of reach.

“When I came to the cooperative, it was just telephone and electricity, and now we have high-speed internet and TV,” Palmer said. “Over the years, the cooperative has really grown!”

## Other Applications

The cooperative model is also used in many other sectors; there are 34 South Dakota credit unions that offer member-owners better interest rates and reduced fees compared to for-profit banks.

Even some rural water systems, while not wholly cooperatives themselves, borrow some of the cooperative fundamentals to make serving large areas more practical.

“Cooperatives are pretty significant in the impact they've had,” Forman said. “And the other cooperatives we have – there are daycare co-ops, food co-ops, education co-ops – there's a number of different structures that the cooperative model has been used for, because of that ownership and one member, one vote.”

Today, there are 141 cooperatives in the state, providing more than 78,500 jobs, \$2.8 billion in worker salaries and \$3.9 billion in gross domestic product (GDP), according to a South Dakota State University study titled *The Economic Impact of Cooperatives in South Dakota*.

That means cooperatives contribute almost 13% of South Dakota jobs, more than 11% of salaries, and 6.2% of the state's entire GDP.

“In a cooperative, your board is local,” Forman said. “[The co-op board and employees] support and participate in sports functions, 4-H barbecues, you may go to church with them, or they may be at family dinner. Which means when something is a concern or challenge, you have somebody to go to and you have contacts close that know you and understand the system.”

# CAPITAL CREDITS

Foudray, Robert J Est	Herman, Frances J Hernandez, Nick Est	Kills In Water, Willard Est	Looking Elk, Barbara Est	Miller, Gary Miller, Geraldine L Est	Park, Frank D Parkhurst, Carol Est
Fresquez, Shirley Est	Hesser, Helen Est	Kills Right, Albert Est	Loud Hawk, Russell Est	Miller, Mathew G Mills, Calvin L Est	Pawnee Leggins, Joseph
Froiland, Eric	High Hawk, John A Est	Knight, Verla M Est	Lynn, Eileen Est	Millspaugh, John D Est	Peck, Pamela J
Fuerstenau, Gregg	High Horse, Marge	Kohle, Kay Estate	Lyons, Linda	Mitchell, Roger Est	Peneaux, Curtis
Gardner, Don H Est	High Pipe, Jessie M Est	Kramp, Kathrine	Maggard, Bernice Est	Mogan Ranch	Peneaux, Earl Est
Garnier, Will J Est	Homan, Glen Est	Kriz, Emmy G	Malewski, Laura	Montileaux, Pauline Est	Phelps, Lisa
Geersen, Neil A Est	Hopkins, Myrnette Est	Kunkel, Ron	Many Birds, Ann	Moore, Mary Ellen Est	Phipps, Nancy
George, Lisa	Horse, Ron	Ladeaux, Marion Est	Marek, Wayne	Morris, Giles	Phipps, Nell L Est
Ghost Bear, George Est	Hunter, Carolyn M Est	Lakota Wesleyan Mission	Marino, Joseph	Morrison, Clifford Jr Est	Pickett, Sheila F Est
Ghost Bear, Robert Est	Hunter, Paulette Est	Lamont, Gina Est	Marsh, Lucille	Morton, Kenneth D	Pine Ridge Ambulance
Ghost Bear, Sarah M	Ice, Verlean E Est	Landwer, Stace J	Marshall, Clifford Est	Mousseau, John T Est	Pine Ridge Christian Academy
Gibbons, Ivan Est	Iron Cloud, Eddie Est	Lang, Ellen Est	Marshall, Fred L	Moves Camp, James Est	Pine Ridge Ministries
Gillespie, William Est	Iron Cloud, Patricia Est	Larvie, Flora Est	Marshall, William Est	Mueller, Ronald	Pionk, Deb
Golis, Aleen	Iron Shell, Isaac Jr Est	Larvie, Gertie Est	Martin, Adora Est	Mullins, Molly	Plenty Arrows, Carl Est
Gomez, Hector C	Iron Shell, Rita Est	Larvie, Inez Est	Martin, Danny C	Murray, Alvina Est	Plumman, Charlotte Est
Good, Norma Est	Iron Whiteman, Linda Est	Lasalle, Phalena	Martin, Nancy R	Neikirk, David E	Poor Bear, Ladonna Est
Good Crow, Ella Est	Jacobs, Don T	Lawrence, Michael A Sr Est	Martinez, Annabelle J Est	Neiss, Tamera A	Poor Bear, Merle M Est
Good Crow, Lyle Est	Jacobson, Myron J Est	Leeper, Helen I Est	Martinez, James	Nelson, Eden Fred Est	Porcupine, Aaron Est
Good Shot, Jessie Est	Janis, Christine	Lehman, Donna M	Martinez, Julia J Est	Nelson, Frieda H Est	Porcupine, Samuel Est
Good Voice Elk, Frank Jr	Janis, Isabelle Est	Leui, Dorothy D Est	Maupin, Elizabeth	Nelson, Lillian Est	Pourier, Justin
Grass, Floyd Est	Janis, Joe L	Little Boy, Joe Est	McCowan, Kathy	Neufeld, Katherine H	Pourier, Lorie Est
Grey Fox, Victoria Est	Janis, Stella V Est	Little Eagle, Stanley Est	McCrimmon, Marsha	New Holy, Martha Est	Price, Jerry
Grosz, Calvin Est	Johnson, Amy	Little Hoop, Peter Jr	McCue, Steve Est	Nilles, Deann	Price, Robert Est
Hahn, Joann Est	Johnston, Jim O Est	Little Moon, Alice	McGrady, Tim	Ninas, Rodney L Est	Priest, Juanita L
Hairy Shirt, Pauline Est	Jones, Robert	Little Moon, Victoria Est	McGaughey, Mary J Est	Northwest Piping Co	Pumpkin Seed, Alberta Est
Hanneman, William Est	Jones, Roberta	Little Soldier, Phyllis Est	Means, Cecil R II	O'Neill, Jimmie Est	Pumpkin Seed, Bessie Est
Hanson, Stella Est	Jordan, Jacque	Little Spotted Horse, Sarah Est	Means, Ruth Est	O-KOLA Kiciye	Pumpkin Seed, George Est
Harding, David	Jumping Eagle, Rebecca Est	Little White Man, Lucy Est	Means, Wesley Est	O-Tipi	QUEST
Harris, Donald N Est	Jumping Eagle, Tina I Est	Loafer, Acey Estate	Medicine, Teresa Est	Oglala Baptist Mission	Quist, Arlene Est
Hartley, George	Jumping Elk, Vera D Est	Lone Elk, Belva Est	Menard, Kristine	Oliver, Michael T	Quiver, Robert Est
Has No Horse, Roselyn Est	Keeler, Christine Est	Lone Elk, Charlotte M Est	Menzel, Richard P	Olson, Jennifer S	Raben, Bernice Est
Hatchet, Cheryl R Est	Keeler, Norman J	Lone Elk, Loretta Estate	Merrival, John C Est	One Feather, Delmar Est	Rasmussen, Joann Est
Hawk Wing, Virgil Sr Est	Keester, Rhoda Est	Lone Hill, Darcie	Mesteth, Rosalyn M Est	ONTRAC	Ratney, Deborah
Hays, Viola C Est	Kills Crow Indian, Julia Est	Lone Hill, Sophia M Est	Metzinger, Lois J Est	Osterbur, Jerriegh	Raymond, Karen Est
Heath, Mary Est	Kills Enemy, Gerald	Lone Wolf, Rochelle Est	Meyers, Leigh	Overby, Charles B	Red Cloud, Angie Est
Heeffle, Jon Est	Kills Enemy, Vivian Est	Long, Ramona Est	Miles, Harry Est	Page, Robert	Red Cloud, Donna M
Heitz, Robbie		Long Soldier, Mabel Est	Miles, Mike Est	Palacio, Pansy	
Her Many Horses, Louis Est			Millar, Arnold E Est		
Herman, Walean Est			Miller, Floyd Est		



Red Eagle, Margaret Est	Church/Rosebud Saknikent, Gary Est	Slow Bear, Mercy Est	Swift Bird, Joseph B Est	Mission Westover, Margaret Est	Wright, Bill Wright, Stanley
Red Elk, Wilbur Est	Salway, Leon Est	Slow Bear, Steven Est	Swimmer, Emma Est	Whidby, Amanda	Yeager, Freda Est
Red Hail, Katherine Est	Sanchez, June Est	Smith, Joe Est	Tall, Edith Est	Whipple, Harlan J Est	Yellow Boy, Sophie Est
Red Hair, Cora Est	Sasse, Carl W Jr	Smith, Mae	Tall, Herman Est	Whirlwind, Frederick Est	Yellow Cloud, Harrison Est
Red Hair, Rose Est	Sasse, Velma Est	Smith, Maria P	Taylor, Brenda	Whirlwind, Vivian Est	Yellow Elk, Marian Est
Red Paint, Ross Est	Satterfield, Steve	Smith, Michael C	Ten Fingers, Irma Est	Whirlwind Horse, William Est	Yellow Hair, Dorene Est
Red Star, Carol Est	Scabby Face, Ernest Est	Smith, Rena Est	Terkildsen, Dahlmond Est	White, Evelyn Est	Yellow Hawk, Donald Est
Returns, Kenneth Est	Schmidt, Margaret M	Sorensen, Luann	Thomas, Rudi L	White, Lee E	Yellow Thunder, Amelia Est
Rice, Joe	Schneider, Carol	Spann, Curtis D	Thompson, Helen R	White Calf, Florita Est	Young, Belva Est
Richard, Alma Est	Schneider-Marshall, Mary Kay	Spider, Emerson Sr Est	Thunder Hawk, Elizabeth	White Clay Ambulance	Young, Lila Est
Richards, Benjamin D III Est	Schultz, Steve	Spider, Louise	Tiede, Paul L	White Dress, Sylvia Est	Young, Linda
Richards, Cecelia	Schulz, William	Spotted Eagle, Bruce Est	Tobacco, Archie Est	White Eyes, Juanita Est	Young Bear, Lawrence Est
Richards, Delmar P Sr Est	Scoresby, Paul H	Spotted Elk, Jasper Jr Est	Tobacco, Faith Est	White Face, Helen Est	Zeller, Doug
Richards, Denzel Est	Scott, Thurlow Est	Spotted Owl, Barbara Est	Tobacco, Ida Est	White Face, Lucille Est	
Richards, Leona M	Scout, Louis Est	Spotted Tail, Arlene	Todd, Harry V Est	White Plume, Alexander Jr Est	
Richardson, Debra	Scouts Enemy, Buck	Spotted Tail Wright, Cheryl Est	Tools, Phyllis Est	White Plume, Roy Est	
Robin Son, Terry D	Selzler, Tony Est	St. Peter's Episc Church/Oglala	Treehaven School	Whiting, Dale Est	
Robinson, Ann	Semnole, Rochelle	Standing Bear, Jay Est	Trujillo, Margaret	Whiting, Lawrence J Est	
Rodriquez, Andy	Severson, Daniel	Standing Bear, Jim	Tumble, William W	Whiting, Wayne S Est	
Rooks, Aloysius R Est	Shangreaux, Pete Est	Standing Bear, Pearl Est	Tuttle, Harold F Est	Wichers, May	
Rosales, Mable Est	Sharp, Charles W Est	Standing Crow, Yvonne Est	Tuttle, Robert	Wiedmann, Terry	
Ross, Beverly M	Shaving, Irene	Standing Soldier, Deloris Est	Twiss, Clifford Jr Est	Wilcox, Darlene	
Rouillard, Coletius Sr Est	Shellenberger, Lee Est	Stands, Arlana L Est	Twiss, Marie Est	Williams, Lorna	
Rouillard, Darlene	Shorthorn, Marla Est	Stands, Homer, Sr Est	Twiss, Ted Est	Wilson, James J III Est	
Roupe, Gilbert	Shoulders, Cora Est	Stanley, Janelle	Two Bulls, Alvina Est	Wilson, James J IV Est	
Rowland, Clarence Est	Shoulders, Irdy Est	Star, Elliot	Two Bulls, Lucille Est	Witt, Mary A Est	
Roy, Gerald Jr	Sierra, Valentino Est	Stellium Corporation	Two Crow, Jack Est	Wittig, Sandra	
Ruff, Corrine J Est	Sitting Up, Margie Est	Stengle, James B	Two Eagle, Dorothy Est	Woepfel, Mary L	
Runnels, Gerry Est	Sleeping Bear, Melvin Est	Stephen, Ellen	Two Eagle, George C Sr	Wooden Knife, Leslie Est	
Runnels, Nancy L	Sleeping Bear, Violet Est	Stewart, Pearl M Est	Two Two, Elmer	Wounded Head, Darlene Est	
Running, Beatrice	Slow Bear, Andrew Sr Est	Stone, Gloria J Est	Valandra, Shane	Wounded Horse, Hazel Est	
Running, Philomine Est	Slow Bear, Annette Est	Stoner, Mary Est	Valentine, David		
Running Horse, Robert Est	Slow Bear, Eleanor Est	Street, Parke C	Vander Wilt, Dina		
Runs Against, Delia Est	Slow Bear, Elfreda Est	Sully, Claudia Est	Villarreal, Lisa		
Runs Against, Faron A Est	Slow Bear, Margaret Est	Swallow, Elaine P Est	Villarreal, Lucette		
Ruona, Johanna	Slow Bear, Margaret Est	Swallow, Oliver W Est	Villarreal, Ruth Est		
Russ, Gregory			Wagner, Antoinette K Est		
Sacred Heart Church/Norris Sacred Heart			Walking Bull, Lorraine Est		
			Walters, Delbert B Est		
			Walters, James J		
			Wells, Shirley Est		
			Weslyan Indian		

# GHOST TOWNS

## South Dakota's History Remembered

Jacob Boyko

[jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop](mailto:jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop)

Scattered across open fields and through narrow mountain gulches, a careful eye can spot many of South Dakota's nearly 250 long-lost prairie villages and prospecting towns.

Many of these communities were once thriving outposts, railroad hubs, farming villages and mining towns, but were dealt their final blows by the hardships of the dust bowl, changes to railroad systems and the depletion of natural resources.

Most of the towns are long forgotten, their existence marked only by the rotted shell of an old wood barn or a crumbling foundation poking up from the ground.

Thanks to the work of local historical societies who have pieced together the history of the communities' "booms and busts" through old newspaper clippings, plat maps and land records, we can get a glimpse into the lives of the first rural South Dakotans and learn about the communities that once bustled with life.

### Galena

Unique among a cavalcade of abandoned Black Hills gold-rush towns, Galena's roots are in its silver. The town was settled in the late 1870s after prospectors Patrick Donegan and John F. Cochran discovered layers of lead and silver ore near Bear Butte Creek while searching for gold deposits.

The U.S. government removed the two men from the area in accordance with Native American treaties. However,

their exile turned out to be short-lived. Donegan and Cochran returned shortly after to mine their claim as more and more gold-hungry settlers tested the increasingly unenforceable treaties.

The claim, which would later become the Sitting Bull mine, turned out to be a mother lode, according to Galena Historical Society member Jeff Jacobsen.

Over the next several years, other mining operations popped up in the gulch as the miners' families made Galena their new home. The town soon had multiple houses, a hotel, restaurant, stores, a catholic church, cemetery and school, attracting new settlers through its peak between 1881 and 1883.

Arriving from Chicago in hopes of expanding his fortune, Col. John Davey soon became a Galena mining heavyweight, buying up claims along the Bear Butte Creek, including the Sitting Bull claim.

Davey's more than 125-man operation was running smoothly until trouble arose from a claim dispute. The owners of the nearby Richmond claim suspected Davey was digging too far into the hill and mining their silver. Davey claimed he was following the path of the ore, which according to mining law, he was allowed to follow onto another claim. The Richmond claim owners said the law didn't apply to a horizontal blanket formation of ore, like the one in Galena.

A lengthy court battle ensued, and the judge shut down the Sitting Bull mine

until the ruling. Galena was suspended in controversy as many of the townsfolk found themselves out of work.

Thus began Galena's rocky "boom and bust" cycle, Jacobsen explained.

"The boom time was when Col. Davey and other mines were producing, and then the lawsuit shut that down and you have a bust," he said.

The judge ruled against Davey, and the operation never recovered. Galena would never again be the bustling town it was in the early 1880s.

"In 1892, some more people came into town and tried to start up again, so that was a boom, and then they went bankrupt, so there's a bust," Jacobsen continued. "There's like three or four cycles like that in Galena."

By the mid 1930s, the town had seen its final bust. The mining wasn't comparable to the riches of the past, and interest in the gulch slowly started to fade. The tracks were removed and the school house closed in 1943.

Today, Galena is the best-preserved Ghost Town in South Dakota. On the second Saturday of each June, visitors can tour the town, visit the maintained graveyard and go inside the newly-restored schoolhouse, courtesy of the Galena Historical Society.

"It just kind of stands out," Jacobsen said. "Galena is just one of the very few silver mining areas in the Black Hills when almost everyone else was trying for gold."



Galena School  
Photo Credit: Galena Historical Society



## Did You Know

In 1947, Deadwood resident Ollie Wiswell came across an orphaned coyote pup while he was out on a hike. He gave the pup, named Tootsie, to Fred and Esther Borsch of Galena. Tootsie gained fame as the mascot for the Borschs' Deadwood liquor store, famously appearing on the store's sign. Fred taught Tootsie to howl along to his singing, and the two recorded the album "South Dakota Tootsie."

Tootsie, at this point a South Dakota mascot, rode through parades, was featured in an airline advertising campaign, and even embarked on a nationwide tour where she visited the White House and performed for President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Vice President Richard Nixon.

Gov. George Mickelson, a fan of Tootsie himself, signed legislation in 1949 making the coyote the state's official animal. Tootsie died in 1959 and is buried near her home in Galena.

## Argonne

About nine miles northwest of Howard, just off state Highway 25, lay the remains of the ill-fated farming community, Argonne.

Marked by a blue historical sign, travelers-by can catch a glimpse of the town's massive cement bank vault with its swinging iron door, an old silo bearing the town's name, several concrete foundations, and a house falling into its own footprint.

The town's founder, Dr. Louis Gotthelf, was a Prussian-born physician who emigrated to the United States in the aftermath of the Prussian revolution. Gotthelf staked his claim in 1881 and established the townsite in 1886.

The town was originally called St. Mary's, named after Gotthelf's daughter, and was strategically positioned along the Chicago and North Western railroad, with the streets running parallel to the railroad rather than the traditional east-west layout. Confusion with another St. Mary's led to the residents voting to change the name to Argonne in 1920, which was chosen to honor local soldiers who had served in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive during World War I.

Despite having what should have been a prime location, Argonne failed to grow to Gotthelf's satisfaction, and he left with his family for Parker in 1889.

A 1919 land boom in South Dakota finally turned things around for Argonne, Miner County Historical Society member George Justice Forster said.

"Most of the growth that happened initially was when it kind of took off as a

trade center," he explained. "Suddenly the town had a railway depot, lumberyard, farmer's cooperative and general store."

In the early 20s, Argonne's population boomed to about 100 residents, and the town offered new amenities including a school, blacksmith and post office.

Argonne's peak was short-lived, and by 1930 the population had fallen to about 65 residents.

When Doug Jerlow moved to town in 1953, much of what was built in the town's prime was left abandoned, and most of the businesses that did remain were struggling.

"It was past the peak," Jerlow recounted. "One general store closed when the post office inside it closed, and that was an elderly lady who ran that and lived in a house by herself. The Haxby family's store was open for maybe a year or two after that."

Though the town was facing a bleak outlook, there remained one huge point of pride for Argonne: high school basketball.

Delbert Gillam, also known as the

Argonne Ace, led the Argonne Arrows to a 10-1 start in his junior year in 1953. Gillam also broke the state record for the most points scored by a player in a single game, making 31 field goals and 10 free throws, scoring 72. Argonne still holds this record.

The high school closed in 1956, but the community limped on for a few more years before the grade school closed in 1970 when the railroad picked up and left.

Doug Jerlow's family, the last residents of Argonne, left town that same year.

Jerlow pointed out that while many other communities along the rail line like Unityville, Canova, Carthage, and Esmond struggled to recover from the abandonment of the line, for Argonne, it was the death blow.

Now, Forster and other members of the Miner County Historical Society are working to preserve the history of Argonne.

A historical marker will soon be placed east of Argonne on state Highway 25 that will tell the story of Argonne from its founding to its final household.

Though Jerlow now lives near Madison, he still farms near Argonne and owns most of the former townsite. As the unofficial mayor of Argonne, as Jerlow sometimes calls himself, he wants to keep the memory of his childhood hometown alive.

"It was just a nice community to grow up in," he said. "Those small communities, I think it's becoming harder to find them anymore."



Argonne Arrows  
Photo Credit: Miner County Historical Society



# RELIABLE ENERGY

## How the EPA's Power Plant Rule Jeopardizes Grid Reliability

Jocelyn Johnson

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The energy future outlined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Power Plant Rule means more blackouts, greater uncertainty and higher electric bills. This is the concern of electric cooperatives and other industry leaders who are in litigation with the EPA over the legality of the power plant rule issued in May of this year.

“The administration and the EPA specifically have made it a priority to undertake a ‘death by a thousand cuts’ approach to regulating the utility sector,” said Stephen Bell, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's vice president of advocacy, press and member communications. “They've enacted a number of rules, including the EPA Power Plant Rule. As a result, they're proposing rules and regulations at a

rapid pace that have a direct impact on our industry specifically.”

Boiled down, the EPA's Power Plant Rule requires coal-fired and natural gas power plants to capture 90% of carbon dioxide emissions using carbon capture and sequestration technology by 2032. This is not attainable according to NRECA who represents electric cooperatives nationally.

Alongside other industry leaders and 27 states' attorneys general, NRECA filed a lawsuit and stay request in the D.C. Circuit against the EPA earlier this year. The stay request, which attempted to delay the implementation of the rule, was denied in July and an appeal was immediately made to the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that



the Clean Air Act's Section 111 requires EPA's standards be based on technology that has been adequately demonstrated. A system that meets all of EPA's requirements has never existed and therefore cannot be considered adequately demonstrated.

"No operating coal or natural gas power plants in America exist that use carbon capture at the scale that would comply with EPA's regulation," said Bell. "Their final rule is unreasonable, unrealistic and unachievable, because it relies on technology for implementing greenhouse gas reductions that just isn't ready for prime time."

Grid reliability is a concern for many in the energy industry – including local distribution cooperatives whose mission is to provide safe, affordable and reliable energy to member-consumers.

"The numbers don't add up," said Bell. "I think we are in a situation where reliability is being put at risk

by a policy that doesn't focus on the importance of keeping the lights on."

South Dakota Rural Electric Association's General Manager Steve Barnett added the same sentiment, acknowledging that the timing of the power plant rule was troubling.

"At the same time the EPA is leading our nation down the path to fewer power plants, utilities are facing a surge in electricity demand – driven by the onshoring of manufacturing, the growth of the American economy and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency," said Barnett.

Grid reliability affects everyone's ability to turn on the lights, heat their homes and use electric appliances. However, the future of grid reliability does not have a positive outlook for many in the energy industry.

As it stands, the EPA's rule would cause debilitating pressure on an already strained grid. It would also

have a potential impact on consumer costs.

"When demand is high and supply is low, costs go up," Barnett said. "We're concerned about threats to reliability as well as cost increases to our members."

This growing demand – and shrinking supply – is why the North American Electric Reliability Corporation has warned that 19 states could see rolling blackouts over the next five years during times of high electrical usage, including during life-threatening cold snaps and heat waves.

"Demand for power is increasing and supply is not keeping up," said Bell. "Against that backdrop, the EPA has proposed a rule that will force electric co-ops to take power plants offline. They will be forced to do more with less in a situation where we need more. This is not a recipe for success."



**SEPT. 14-OCT. 27**  
**Mazing Acres Fall Festival**  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
30851 433rd Ave.  
Yankton, SD  
605-760-2759



**SEPT. 27-29**  
**Coal Springs Threshing Bee and Antique Show**  
Meadow, SD  
605-788-2299

**OCT. 4-5**  
**Holman Acres Pumpkin Fest and Vendor Show**  
Philip, SD  
605-441-1060

**OCT. 4-5**  
**25th Annual Pumpkin Fest**  
Webster, SD  
<https://webstersd.com/home>

**OCT. 5-6**  
**Run Crazy Horse Marathons**  
Crazy Horse  
605-390-6137  
[www.runcrazyhorse.com](http://www.runcrazyhorse.com)

**OCT. 5-6**  
**Magic Needlers Quilt Show**  
Codington County Extension Complex  
Watertown, SD  
605-881-3273

**OCT. 5-6**  
**The Black Market**  
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds  
Sioux Falls, SD  
605-332-6004

**OCT. 6**  
**Giant Pumpkin Festival**  
Bentley Memorial Building  
Bison, SD  
Enter Pumpkins by 11:30 a.m.  
605-244-5475

**OCT. 10-11**  
**Rural Women in Agriculture Conference**  
Oct. 10 from 1-9 p.m.  
Oct. 11 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m.  
The Lodge of Deadwood  
Deadwood, SD  
[SouthDakotaWomeninAg.com](http://SouthDakotaWomeninAg.com)

**OCT. 11-12**  
**Junkin' Market Days**  
Ramkota Exhibit Hall  
Sioux Falls, SD  
605-941-4958

**OCT. 19**  
**Buffalo County Fall Ball**  
Live Music and Food  
8 p.m.  
Fire Hall  
Gann Valley, SD

**OCT. 25-27**  
**Forest of Fears Haunted Trail**  
7 p.m.-10 p.m.  
Reclamation-Ranch  
40787 259th St.  
Mitchell, SD

**OCT. 26**  
**Hill City Children's Boo Bash and Pumpkin Festival**  
Hill City, SD  
605-574-2368

**OCT. 26**  
**Hartford Women of Today Fall Craft Fair**  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
West Central Becker Center  
Hartford, SD  
605-359-2049

**OCT. 26**  
**Owl-O-Ween**  
Noon-5 p.m.  
Black Hills Raptor Center  
Caputa, SD  
605-391-2511

**OCT. 31**  
**Treat Street**  
5:30 p.m.-7 p.m.  
Main St.  
Milbank, SD  
605-432-6656  
[MilbankSD.com/Chamber](http://MilbankSD.com/Chamber)

**NOV. 2**  
**Fall Fling Craft Show**  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Dakota Christian School  
Corsica, SD  
605-366-7940

**NOV. 2**  
**Reliance Christmas Carousel**  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Legion Hall  
Reliance, SD  
605-730-0553

**NOV. 22-23**  
**Holiday Arts Christmas Craft Show**  
Davison County Fairgrounds  
Mitchell, SD  
605-359-2049

**NOV. 30**  
**A Hometown Christmas Market**  
2 p.m.-6 p.m.  
Main St.  
Elk Point, SD

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.

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