

# Cooperative Connections



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Play a Role**

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Our mission:

# Providing safe and reliable service



Walker Witt

CEO/General Manager  
wwitt@bhec.coop

**...our operations crew was working for all of us 99.01% of all work hours.**

Providing safe and reliable electric service is our mission. Safety is always our number one priority, but reliability is a close second. At a recent board meeting, the 2018 Service Interruptions Report was given to your board. In 2018, the average percent of time that a service had power was 99.9998%. We have been doing this interruption report in its current form for 20 years, and 2018 was the second lowest in that time frame.

Every outage the co-op has is documented and reviewed by operations and engineering employees to determine if the outage could have been prevented and what actions can be taken so that similar outages in the future can be prevented or shortened. From simple solutions, such as tin wrapped around the base of poles to prevent raccoons and cats from climbing poles, to expensive new substations, overhead to underground line conversions, and SCADA (Supervisory Control, and Data Acquisition System) operated switches all help improve reliability.

Reliability improvement is the result of thorough line patrol and tree cutting, improved maintenance, more frequent testing and inspecting programs, more technical and better equipment, sufficient capacity, and added back feeds and loops from multiple distribution and transmission sources.

Each year we do an analysis of cost of system inspection, maintenance, and capital improvements with respect to reliability based upon service interruption to determine a quantifiable nexus of dollars spent to percentage of system reliability. I wish it were that easy!

The one big piece to the puzzle that I have missed in my analysis of system reliability the past several years is the human piece. Garrett Hardin, a somewhat controversial ecologist and philosopher, (with whom I do not agree with in many cases) did provide me with the puzzle piece I have been missing. His formula for reliability is: (TECHNOLOGY RELIABILITY) x (HUMAN RELIABILITY) = SYSTEM RELIABILITY.

The human reliability piece is truly what makes our system reliable. From our engineers at Rushmore Engineering to our rights-of-way crews, the human factor is the driver of our reliability. At Black Hills Electric Cooperative, human reliability is made up of a dedicated workforce that is well trained and has a strong skill set. One of the ways to analyze and quantify human reliability is to look at the amount of time they take off for personal sick time. In 2018, the average percentage of time that an operations employee was not at work due to personal sick time as .99%. So excluding vacations, our operations crew was working for all of us 99.01% of all work hours! I do not know what “average” is, but I am confident that our employees take fewer sick days than most.

Providing reliable electric service is a priority of the co-op, and one that we continue to improve on each year. Of the many resources the cooperative allocates to improve reliability, the human resource is what makes it work. Thanks to all of our employees for your dedication to our co-op and your dedication to our mission. You are appreciated.

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 30, at the Ramkota Convention Center in Rapid City.

# Black Hills Electric Cooperative Connections

(ISSN No. 1531-104X)

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BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Black Hills Electric Cooperative, 25191 Cooperative Way, P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730-0792. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Black Hills Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to their cooperative and living better with electricity. Also available at [www.bhec.coop](http://www.bhec.coop).

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Subscription information: Black Hills Electric Cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Black Hills Electric Cooperative, 25191 Cooperative Way, Custer, S.D. 57730-0792, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to Black Hills Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730-0792. Address all other correspondence to: Cooperative Connections, P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730-0792 Telephone: (605)673-4461; Fax: (605) 673-3147; e-mail: [bhec@bhec.coop](mailto:bhec@bhec.coop); website: [www.bhec.coop](http://www.bhec.coop)

## Pre-registration now open

# Early Annual Meeting Notice

The 74th annual meeting of the members of Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be at the Ramkota Convention Center, 2111 North Lacrosse Street, City of Rapid City, County of Pennington, State of South Dakota.

Please enter the convention center parking lot from Disk Drive and enter the building using the east entrance.

Registration will open at 5 p.m. MDT on Thursday, May 30, 2019. The business meeting will start immediately after the meal on said day to take action on the following matters:

1. Action on the 2018 annual meeting minutes.
2. Reports from board officers and general manager.
3. Declaration of director appointments.

In the matter of the director, for the geographical area of Custer and Oglala Lakota Counties, the candidate is:

Jim Preston  
14039 S.D. Hwy. 40  
Hermosa, SD 57744

For the geographical area of Lawrence, Meade and Pennington Counties the candidate is:

Dave Lindblom  
14170 Wrangler Rd.  
Rapid City, SD 57702

No other applications were received from the two geographical areas.

The official notice of the annual meeting was posted at the cooperative's headquarters at 25191 Cooperative Way, Custer, S.D. on April 1, 2019. The official notice will also appear in the 2018 annual report to be mailed on May 10.

Members may pre-register any time until 5 p.m. on Friday, May 24. Registration may be completed by returning the postcard included with your annual report, by e-mail to [bhec@bhec.coop](mailto:bhec@bhec.coop), or by phone at 673-4461 or 1-800-742-0085. Registration at the meeting begins at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. The business meeting

and children's entertainment begins immediately following the meal.

Scholarships will be awarded to Taleigh Adrian and Joel Broberg during the business meeting.

A drawing for door prizes will follow the business meeting.



Registering at last year's annual meeting.

## Win \$100 for Pre-registering

Pre-registering for your annual meeting helps the co-op keep costs low by purchasing only the meals that we need.

You may pre-register by filling out and

returning the postcard included with your annual report, or by e-mailing us at [bhec@bhec.coop](mailto:bhec@bhec.coop) or by calling 673-4461 or 1-800-742-0085.

Pre-registration deadline is Friday, May 24. In addition to saving the co-op money, you might win \$100 for registering early.

Pre-register at [bhec@bhec.coop](mailto:bhec@bhec.coop)  
You may also pre-register by calling 673-4461

### High Water, High Stakes

Flooding can happen in a number of ways including river and stream overflow, excessive rain or storm surge to name a few. Floodwater contaminants can create serious fire hazards if electrical wiring and equipment have been submerged in water.

In the aftermath of a flood, there may be hidden electrical hazards. Before beginning the cleanup effort, have a qualified electrician check the house wiring, assess other damages and proceed with repair work. Then, follow these important safety tips:

- Follow any directives to turn off utilities. If you're advised to switch off the main power source to your home, flip each breaker and THEN turn off the main breaker. You may also need to shut off the main valve for your home's gas and water.
- DO NOT go near any downed power lines especially if there is standing water nearby.
- Take care when stepping into a flooded area. Be aware that submerged outlets or electrical cords may energize the water, posing a potentially lethal trap.
- Have an electrician inspect electrical appliances that have been wet and do not turn on or plug in appliances unless an electrician tells you it is safe.
- A qualified service repair dealer should examine all electrical equipment that has been wet. Certain equipment will require replacement, while a trained professional may be able to recondition other devices.
- Do not touch a circuit breaker or replace a fuse with wet hands or while standing on a wet surface. Use a dry plastic- or rubber-insulated tool to reset breakers and use only one hand. If using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or pressure washer, follow the manufacturer's instructions.

#### Replace or Recondition?

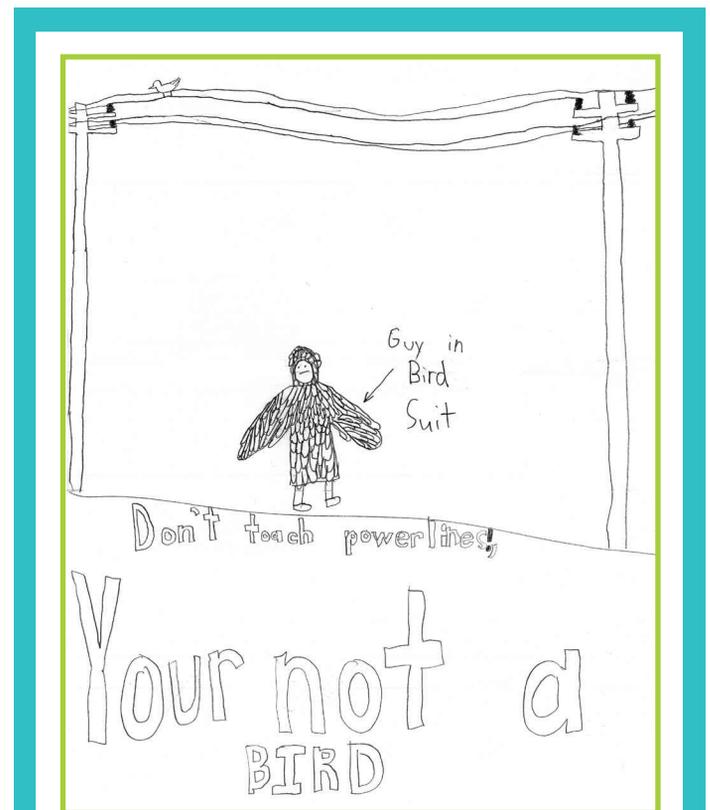
After a serious flood, some items may be reconditioned, while others will need to be completely replaced to protect you and your family. It is recommended that you allow an electrician or electrical inspector to guide the restoration or replacement of any electrical wiring or equipment. Corrosion and insulation damage can occur when water and silt get inside electrical devices and products. Water can also damage the motors in electrical appliances. Therefore, you should be prepared to replace:

- Circuit breakers and fuses
- All electrical wiring systems
- Light switches, thermostats, outlets, light fixtures, electric heaters and ceiling fans
- Furnace burner and blower motors, ignition transformers, elements and relays for furnaces and hot water tanks
- Washing machines, dryers, furnaces, heat pumps, freezers, refrigerators, dehumidifiers, vacuums, power tools, exercise equipment and similar appliances
- Electronic equipment, including computers and home entertainment systems

Source: esfi.org



### KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Don't touch power lines! You're not a bird."**

**Jack Bartscher, 11 years old**

Jack is the son of Jon and Tanya Bartscher, Mitchell, S.D. They are members of Central Electric Cooperative, Mitchell.

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.

# Comforting Casseroles

## Turkey Noodle Bake

1 T. oil	Seasoning Mix, Original
1 cup chopped onion	3 cups uncooked wide egg noodles
2 (14.5 oz. each) cans diced tomatoes, undrained	2 cups shredded cooked turkey
2 cups water	1 (4 oz.) package cream cheese, cubed
1 (4.5 oz.) can chopped green chiles, undrained	2 cups shredded Mexican cheese blend, divided
1 package McCormick® Chili	

Heat oil in large saucepan on medium heat. Add onion; cook and stir 3 minutes or until tender. Stir in tomatoes, water, chiles and Seasoning Mix. Bring to boil. Remove from heat. Stir in egg noodles, turkey, cream cheese and 1 cup of the shredded cheese. Pour mixture into 9x13-inch baking dish. Cover with foil. Bake at 375°F. for 15 minutes. Remove foil. Stir mixture and sprinkle with remaining 1 cup shredded cheese. Bake, uncovered, 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Serve with assorted toppings such as sour cream and guacamole, if desired. Makes 8 servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 325, Total Fat 17g, Saturated Fat 9g, Sodium 530mg, Cholesterol 93mg, Carbohydrates 23g, Protein 20g, Dietary Fiber 3g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Chili Pheasant Casserole

8 to 10 oz. egg noodles	1 to 2 tsp. chili powder
1/2 cup chopped raw onion	1 tsp. smoked paprika
1/2 cup chopped celery (optional)	1 cut-up cooked pheasant
1 can cream of chicken soup	1/2 cup of sour cream
1 T. fresh or dried parsley flakes	1/2 lb. of white Cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese, grated

Cook noodles in boiling water 8 minutes; drain. Combine all ingredients in a greased 3- to 4-quart casserole; stir together. Pour 1/2 cup hot water over casserole before baking. Bake at 350°F. for 40 minutes.

**Laurie Wernke, Lennox, SD**

## Wonder Tot Casserole

3/4 lb. salmon	1/2 cup chopped celery
3/4 lb. tater rounds	1 can cream of mushroom soup
1/4 lb. American cheese	3/4 cup milk
1/2 cup chopped onion	

Put salmon and tater tots in a greased casserole, reserving a few tots for topping. In a saucepan, combine cheese, onions, celery, soup and milk; heat until cheese is melted. Pour over salmon and tater tots. Bake at 325°F. for 1 hour. Season with salt and pepper.

**Deb Merkwan, Yankton, SD**

## Crescent-topped Cheeseburger Casserole

1 lb. lean ground beef	1/8 tsp. pepper
1/4 cup chopped onion	1-1/2 cups shredded American cheese
1/4 cup chopped dill pickles	1 (8 oz.) can refrigerated crescent rolls
1/2 cup water	1 egg, beaten
1/2 cup ketchup	1 T. sesame seed
1 T. yellow mustard	

In a 10-inch nonstick skillet, cook beef and onion over medium-high heat 5 to 7 minutes until thoroughly cooked; drain. Stir in pickles, water, ketchup, mustard and pepper. Spoon beef mixture into an 11x7-inch glass baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese. Unroll crescent dough; press into 12x8-inch rectangle. Cut into 6 squares; place on top of cheese. Brush with egg; sprinkle with sesame seed. Bake at 375°F. for 25 to 30 minutes or until deep golden brown.

**Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, SD**

Please send your favorite dairy, dessert or vegetarian recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

# Keep Cool for Less



Pat Keegan

Collaborative Efficiency

**Dear Pat:** We moved into our home last spring. It's pretty new and seems well-insulated in winter. But it was hot last summer, so we had to run the A/C a lot, and the electric bills were a killer. Do you have any tips on how we can cool our home this summer – without going broke? – Brandon

**Dear Brandon:** We've discussed some of the easiest ways to make your home more efficient, like reducing solar gains, insulating and ventilating the attic, and sealing air leaks. You may need to focus on inefficiencies in your home's cooling system. But before we address that, let's look at some other potential problems:

- Do you have freezer or second refrigerator in the garage? This can be a major energy hog, especially if it's old and you live in a warmer climate.
- Do you have a well? Your pump may be draining your energy use as you rely on it more during the summer. Start by looking for leaks in the system, and if necessary, reduce irrigation.
- How about a swimming pool? It may be time to overhaul or replace the pool pump. If the pump is in good shape, try putting it on a timer.
- If you have central air conditioning (A/C) or a heat pump, make sure your filter has been changed or recently cleaned. The next step is to call an HVAC contractor for a tune-up and a complete an assessment of the system. A tune-up can improve the efficiency and extend the life of the unit. The tune-up includes cleaning the condenser coil, a check of the refrigerant levels and a good look at the pump and electrical contacts. Talk to the contractor about the efficiency of the A/C unit. If it's old, it may be cost-effective to replace it, even if it's still functional.
- Ductwork is equally important as the A/C unit, so make sure the contractor you choose is capable and willing to provide an expert assessment. A real pro will know how to measure the air flow at each supply and return register. If you're not getting cool air to the rooms that need it, the contractor may be able to make modifications to the ductwork.
- Leaky ductwork could be your problem. If the ducts are in unconditioned areas like a crawl space or attic, it's especially important to make sure they're sealed and insulated. It will also help to seal ducts that are in conditioned spaces.
- Some HVAC contractors can do a duct-blaster test to measure duct leakage. Discuss whether you should ever close any supply registers. Most experts recommend that supply registers are always open.
- If you cool your home with window A/C units, there are a few things you can do to maximize your cooling while keeping costs as low as possible.
- Use window A/C units in rooms that can be closed off with a door, to make the cooling as effective as possible.
- Make sure you have the right sized unit for the size of the room. A unit that's too big will cool the room before the humidity has been lowered, which will make it feel less cool, while a unit that's too small will have to work harder, causing a shorter life span—and it may not do the job.
- Use an electric fan or ceiling fan to help distribute the cold air throughout the area you are cooling.
- Turn off the A/C unit when no one is in the room.
- If your window A/C unit isn't cooling properly, it may need to be replaced. Look for an ENERGY STAR-certified unit to make the most of your cooling dollars.



That old fridge or freezer in your garage could be taking a bite out of your wallet.  
Photo Credit: Alex Weimer

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).

Of course, the simplest way to save money on your A/C is to not use it. As much as possible, keep your activities limited to rooms that are easily cooled. Try to spend more time cooking and eating outside. If you have a basement, think about setting up a second bedroom down there where it's cooler. Think of it as your new summer hideaway!

## Work Begins Wyoming CarbonSAFE Project Test Site

Dirt work started March 31 on the Dry Fork Station plant site where geologic testing will be done for the Wyoming Carbon Storage Assurance and Facility Enterprise's (CarbonSAFE) Phase II project.

The CarbonSAFE initiative, implemented by the U.S. Department of Energy, is focused on investigating the feasibility of underground carbon dioxide emissions storage from coal-based electric generation facilities. Feasibility will be determined by whether storage is found to be practical, secure, and permanent. Several deep geologic layers are being studied for their suitability for carbon dioxide storage, including the site at Dry Fork Station near Gillette, Wyoming.

James Sheldon, Basin Electric supervisor of reliability and performance engineering, and Basin Electric lead for CarbonSAFE activities, said dirt work should be finished within a few days. "Currently, our schedule shows drilling of the test well could occur as soon as mid-April," Sheldon said. "Core samples will be collected from the well, and the well will be plugged and abandoned according to regulations. The results of the analysis of the data will be used by geologists at the University of Wyoming's Center for Economic Geology Research to create geologic computer models to test storage scenarios."

Analysis of the geologic cores, coupled with collected seismic survey data, may suggest carbon dioxide storage is technically feasible near Gillette. If project partners decide it makes business sense to do so, University of Wyoming would seek additional Department of Energy funding for a more detailed examination of the geology for a specific carbon dioxide storage project.

Wyoming CarbonSAFE is one of just six Phase II projects funded through that initiative; another, sponsored by Basin Electric, is in North Dakota. Sheldon said the initiative could play a role in the development of an environmentally friendly, economical, and long-term carbon mitigation strategy for coal-based power generation facilities.

## Member Matching Program Maxes Out For Third Time

For the third time in the history of the program, Basin Electric's member matching program maxed its budget.

Sixty-two co-ops from Basin Electric's service area participated in the 2018 member matching program, helping support organizations in their communities.

In total, 314 donations were made last year through the member match program, according to Jennifer Holen, Basin Electric's charitable giving administrator.

"Our goal every year is that our members use this program to the fullest," Holen said. "Our members know their communities best, and we're proud to be their partner in supporting their communities."

Each year, one-third of Basin Electric's charitable giving budget is allocated for member matching donations. Funds are allocated to member matches on a first-come, first-served basis.

Basin Electric's board of directors established the co-op's Charitable Giving Program in 2001 to bring greater support to rural America. Basin Electric had provided charitable donations for decades prior, but the board wanted to do more and make sure the program was managed in an equitable manner.

## Scholarships Awarded to Future Linemen



The South Dakota Rural Electric Line Superintendents Association awarded \$500 scholarships to eight Mitchell Technical Institute Power Line Construction and Management Program students. An additional Scholarship, the Mark and Kathy Hofer Power Line Scholarship, was awarded to Oakley Denne of Madison. Pictured are front row, from left are: Colt Moyer, Baltic; Wiatt Hively, Madison; Kameron Cochran, Sturgis; Tanner Griebel, Parkston; Oakley Denne, Madison – Braeden Bruning, Onida; Logan Ruesink, Dell Rapids; and Jack Hasche, Lake Preston. In the back row are members of the SDRE Line Superintendents Scholarship Committee: Jon Christensen, Whetstone Valley; Mark Iyotte, Cherry-Todd Electric; Trever Turner, Union County Electric; Rob Vetch, FEM Electric; Jared Terhark, Codington-Clark Electric and SDRELSA Scholarship Committee Chairman Bill Brisk, Black Hills Electric.



SKYWARN® weather spotter training aids volunteers in providing first-hand information to the National Weather Service.

# AN EYE ON THE SKY

## Spotters Play A Role in Weather Alert Process

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

Trained volunteers form a network of weather observers providing critical first-hand information for National Weather Service.

The spotters give first-hand accounts of what they are observing at ground level, an area often times obscured from what radar can detect. (Depending on the distance from the radar, that gap can extend from several hundred feet to nearly two miles.)

“Spotter reports add credibility to our warnings,” said Kelly Serr, who was conducting a training in Pierre in March. “We’re never sampling the lowest level of the storm.”

Serr kicked off the training with some basics: “This is weather spotter training, not weather chasing training. Never risk the safety of yourself or others and do your observation from a safe location.”

In most years, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning caused hundreds of injuries and deaths and billions in property and crop damages. To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. In South Dakota, several hundred volunteers attend training throughout the spring each year.

Although SKYWARN® spotters provide essential information



Clouds form a backdrop to a power line in northeastern South Dakota.

Photo by: Northern Electric Cooperative member C.J. Lane

for all types of weather hazards, the main responsibility of a SKYWARN® spotter is to identify and describe severe local storms. In an average year, the United States experiences more than 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

### Who is eligible and how do I get started?

NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN® program. Training is free and typically lasts about two hours. Volunteers learn:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

## Weather Spotter Class

While many training classes were held in March and April, a few are still being offered in South Dakota through May:

**Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m.** – Bon Homme County Spotter Class, Avon Fire Hall, 106 E 1st Ave.

**Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m.** – Lebanon, S.D. Community Center

**Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m.** – Clay County, S.D., Spotter Class, Vermillion, S.D., High School

**Friday, April 19, 1 p.m.** – Custer Highlands/Elk Mountain, Elk Mountain School, 10222 Valley Rd, Dewey, S.D.

**Monday, April 22, 7 p.m.** – Clark, S.D., Community Center, 120 N Commercial St

**Monday, April 22, 7 p.m.** – Douglas County Spotter Class, 4-H Building, 408 9th St, Armour, S.D.

**Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m.** – Lake/Moody County Spotter Class, East River Electric Power Cooperative, 211 Harth Ave S, Madison, S.D.

**Monday, April 29, 7 p.m.** – Minnehaha County Spotter Class, Washington Pavilion, 301 S Main Ave, Sioux Falls

**Wednesday, May 1, 6 p.m.**, Murdo, S.D., Ambulance Shed, 101 N Main

**Wednesday, May 1, 7 p.m.** – Yankton County Spotter Class, 201 W 23rd St, Yankton, S.D.

**Online spotter training available:** The Cooperative Operational Meteorology Education and Training (COMET) offers an online Skywarn® Spotter Training course in two sections: "Role of the Skywarn® Spotter" and "Skywarn® Spotter Convective Basics". The course is designed for people interested in becoming storm spotters. The course is free and each section takes one to two hours to complete.

## Weather Ready

### Aberdeen Weather Team Aims to Improve Preparedness and Response

by Ben Dunsmoor

The Aberdeen office of the National Weather Service is bringing together emergency managers, broadcast media, transportation officials, and private sector organizations – including electric cooperatives – to prepare for severe weather events. Officials with the office in Aberdeen held the second annual Integrated Weather Team (IWT) workshop on March 20 to improve communication and coordination between these groups.

"The IWT is an ad-hoc 'team' of people and entities who are involved in the preparedness and response to high-impact weather events," NWS Aberdeen Warning Coordination Meteorologist Kelly Serr said.

The goal of the annual one-day workshop is to meet with organizations and discuss best practices and methods to improve communication with the public before, during, and after a severe or high-impact weather event.

According to Serr, the IWT is a nationwide initiative led by the National Weather Service. The weather service offices in Sioux Falls and Rapid City have held similar events, but the Aberdeen office is the first in South Dakota that is meeting every year.

"The IWT philosophy was born out of the desire to bring together those involved in the weather warning and public safety process," Serr said. "The vision of the workshop is to better understand each group's role in public safety, expectations, and how each IWT member can work together toward mutual goals."

Northern Electric Cooperative Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor and retired Operations Manager Mike Kelly presented information during the March 20 workshop about a mid-October winter storm that caused widespread power outages. The information was intended to help the National Weather Service, emergency managers, and those attending the workshop understand the weather conditions that cause power outages.

"My hope is that we continue to learn from each other, understand each other's strengths and weaknesses and make central and northeast South Dakota as ready, responsive and resilient as possible," Serr said.

More than 30 people attended the March 20 workshop.



About 30 people attended Integrated Weather Training in Aberdeen in March.

# Is Your Home Free of Electrical Hazards?

Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange's Safe Electricity program recommends you make sure your home is free of electrical hazards. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, faulty home electrical wiring is responsible for 26,000 residential fires a year, hundreds of deaths, and thousands of injuries. Unfortunately, electrical hazards often go unnoticed until it is too late. Safe Electricity has the following tips to help you find hazards that may be lurking around your home:

- ✦ Check electrical outlets for loose fitting plugs that can cause shocks or start fires. Replace missing or broken wall plates so that the inner wiring components are not exposed. If you have young children, make sure safety covers are used on unused outlets and outlets are not overloaded with too many appliance plugs.

- ✦ Check the cords of the appliances in your home as well as the plugs and connectors. Make sure that they are not frayed, cracked or damaged, placed under rugs or carpets, resting on furniture, or located in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple cords to walls, floors or any other objects.

- ✦ Extension cords should be used on a temporary basis only. They are not a permanent wiring solution. Have additional outlets installed where you need them. If you are using extension cords, make sure that they have safety closures

to protect young children from shocks or burns. Never use an indoor extension cord for outdoor use.

- ✦ Check your electrical panel to make sure that the breakers and fuses are properly rated for the circuit that they are protecting. If you do not know what the correct rating is, have a qualified electrician identify and label the correct size to be used. If you are replacing a fuse, make sure that you replace it with the same size as the one removed.

- ✦ Check light bulbs and appliances to make sure the wattage matches fixture requirements. Additionally, the bulb should be screwed in securely to prevent overheating.

- ✦ If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or gives you an electrical shock, immediately unplug, repair or replace it.



Ground Fault Interrupter

- ✦ Check for or install ground fault circuit interrupters. A GFCI is an inexpensive electrical device that shuts off power instantly if there is problem. GFCI should be installed in all "wet" areas of the home such as bathrooms, kitchens,

and basements. GFCIs should be tested monthly to ensure they are working properly. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates GFCIs could prevent more than two-thirds of the roughly 300 electrocutions that happen each year in the home.

- ✦ Consider installing arc-fault circuit interrupters on bedroom circuits. Smoke detectors in all bedrooms and in hallways within 15 feet of bedrooms, and at least one smoke detector on every level. Carbon monoxide detectors should also be within 15 feet of each bedroom.



Arc fault breaker

- ✦ Inspect all outdoor connections, appliances and tools for frayed cords, broken plugs and broken housings.

## Area Meeting



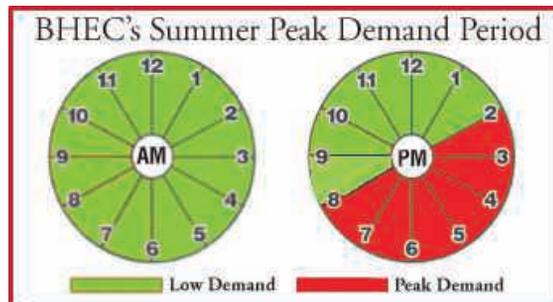
BHEC CEO Walker Witt visits with the members at the Rochford area meeting. Fifty-one members attended. This year, the co-op paid the six co-sponsors a total of \$1,890 for food, rent and cleaning.

## Summer Demand Times Begin June 3

Black Hills Electric Cooperative's summer demand hours begin on Monday, June 3. Members on the demand rate will want to manage their electric use from 2-8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Managing your demand during those times can save you money.

From June 1 through September 30 co-op members use the majority of their electric energy from mid-afternoon to early evening, during the heat of the day. Because of this, the cost of energy the co-op buys to meet the load is higher.



Using large loads during off-peak times saves everyone money on energy costs.

For those with demand controllers, this is a good time to check the clock.

## May is Electric Safety Month

May is electric safety month but in reality, every month should be electric safety month. Every year, people or animals are needlessly injured or killed because of carelessness around power lines and home wiring systems.

Stay away from downed power lines and keep others and animals away from them. Make sure your home wiring is up to code and that there are no exposed wires on switches and plugs.

Do not overload circuits and only use extension cords temporarily.

Install a ground fault circuit interrupter on all circuits where water and electricity can come in contact.

Below is an attempt at energy humor:

1. What is the definition of a shock absorber? — A careless electrician.
2. Do you know how an electrician tells if he's working with AC or DC power? If it's AC, his teeth chatter when he grabs the conductors. If it's DC, they just clamp together.
3. What did the light bulb say to the generator? — I really get a charge out of you.
4. What Thomas Edison's mother might have said to her son: "Of course I'm proud that you invented the electric light bulb. — Now turn it off and get to bed."
5. Sign on the side of the electrician's van: Let Us Get Rid of Your Shorts.
6. Two atoms were walking down the street one day, when one of them exclaimed, "Oh no - I've lost an electron!" "Are you sure?" the other one asked. "Yes," he replied, "I'm positive."
7. Why are electricians always up to date? — Because they are "current" specialists.
8. What would you call a power failure? — A current event.
9. Did you hear about the silly gardener? — She planted a light bulb and thought she would get a power plant.
10. How do you pick out a dead battery from a pile of good ones? — It's got no spark.

## Pre-registering Saves Money

Pre-registering for your annual meeting helps the co-op keep costs low by purchasing only the meals that we need. We also save on set-up costs, registration materials and printing costs.

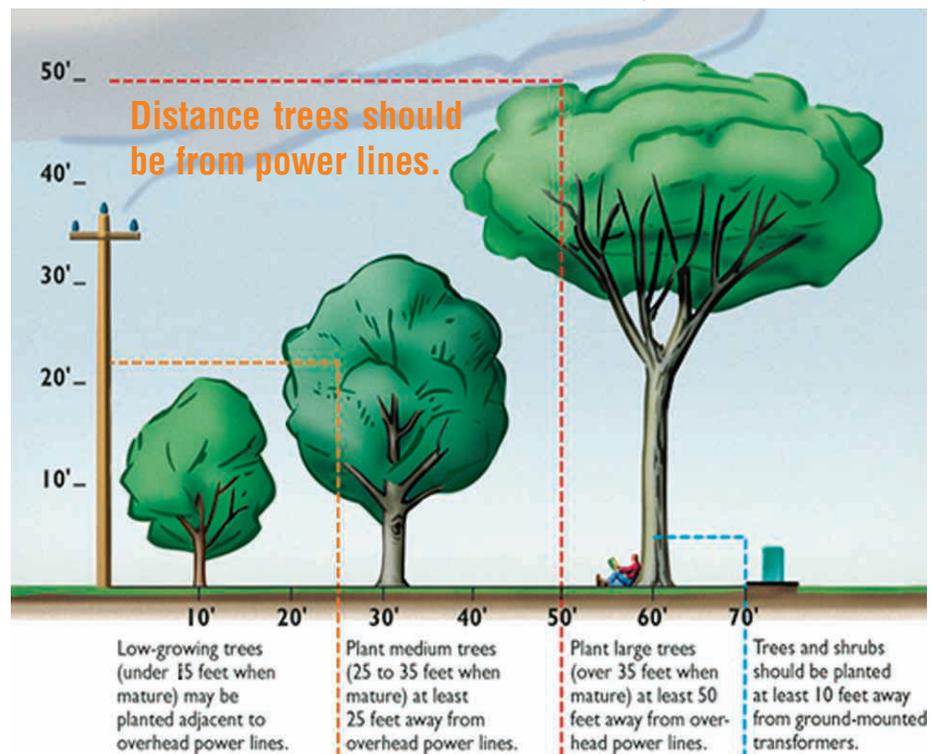
The co-op has to guarantee the number of meals we order and pay for meals whether eaten or not. At more than \$20 a meal, unused meals can add up.

It becomes a guessing game on how many meals to order based on how many people who registered do not come or how many people who come but did not pre-register.

You may pre-register using the postcard in the annual report, by e-mailing us at [bhec@bhec.coop](mailto:bhec@bhec.coop) or by calling 673-4461 or 1-800-742-0085.

Preregistration deadline is Friday, May 24. In addition to saving the co-op money, you might win \$100 for registering early.

If you must cancel, please let us know before the May 24 deadline.



To prevent dangerous situations, BHEC trims and removes trees on a regular schedule, clearing branches and trees from power lines and rights-of-way. Sometimes this includes the complete removal of a tree that is too close to a power line. Occasionally, we have to remove a dead or dying tree outside the right-of-way. Our purpose is to ensure electric reliability and safety.

## 74th Annual Meeting

Will be Thursday, May 30, at the Ramkota Convention Center  
2111 N. Lacrosse St., Rapid City, S.D.

Registration begins at 5 p.m.

Dinner at 6 p.m.

Business Meeting following dinner

Seat two directors

State of the Co-op Address

# Fun Rolls into Huron

Wheel Jam Celebrates Two, Four and 18 Wheels – and more

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdra.coop

**More than 40 competitors are also expected for the South Dakota BBQ Championships.**

Whether two wheels, four wheels or 18 wheels, vehicles of all types will be rolling into Huron May 31-June 2 for the 16th annual Wheel Jam.

The celebration of transportation takes place on the South Dakota State Fair Grounds and will include the 13th annual Original South Dakota BBQ Championships cook off as well as musical entertainment.

Organizers of the event note, “When semi-trucks, classic cars, motorcycles, stock car races, and a few rock and roll bands all get together, it means one awesome weekend for the state of South Dakota!”

Between the concurrent shows for big rigs, cars and pickups and motorcycles, visitors to Wheel Jam will see thousands of gleaming wheels. They can also watch (or be in) the BIG RIGS run in the Dynamic Engine Brake Competition, listen to



A truck in the 2017 Wheel Jam Dynamic Engine Brake Competition gives the course a run.



classic rock bands in South Dakota or just sit back and enjoy the weekend on the South Dakota State Fair Grounds.

Smokin' hot wheels won't be the only

## Wheel Jam Schedule

### Poker Run

**Friday, May 31** • 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Registration: 5 p.m. at Red Arrow Bar – A free will offering meal will be served during registration. The poker run is open to all vehicles. Entry fee: \$10. The entry fee includes admission into the Big Jim Jam Fest.

### Pick-Up Party

**Saturday, June 1** • Registration from 9 a.m. to noon; show from noon to 4 p.m. • Awards at 4 p.m.

Come to Wheel Jam and bring your 25+ year old pickup – in any stage of repair or dis-repair. No fee to park in designated area! We will be giving trophies for the pickup that is the ugliest, best of show, and came the furthest. Come park your pickup, set up your camper/lawn chair and set back and enjoy the fun!

### Make It Mine Show-n-Shine (Classic cars/motorcycles)

**Saturday, June 1** • Registration from 9 a.m. to noon; show from noon to 4 p.m. • Awards at 4 p.m.

There is no entry fee to participate in the Make it Mine Show n' Shine. Vehicles do not have to be in a "judged car show" condition. Winners are chosen by trophy sponsors. Each sponsor will choose from cars and bikes to award its trophy to. There is no criteria to follow. The winner is chosen based on the sponsor's preference.

### 11th Annual Midwest SPL Sound Competition

**Saturday, June 1** • Registration from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. • Qualifying Time: 11 a.m.

JM & TEAM FLEXICUTION presents the 11th annual Midwest SPL Sound Competition located in the Hippodrome.

### Wheel Jam Parade

**Saturday, June 1** • 10:30 a.m. • Participants line-up on Market Street starting at 9 a.m. – All wheels are welcome to participate!

Parade route: Market St. east to Dakota Ave. south to 21st St. and back around to the fairgrounds.

### Dynamic Engine Brake Competition

**Saturday, June 1** • 1 p.m. • Located on Nevada Ave. between Market St. and Gate 3

### Biker Games

**Saturday, June 1** • 6 p.m. • East side of carnival mat

### Wheel Jam Truck Show Light Show

**Saturday, June 1** • Dusk • Located in West Machinery

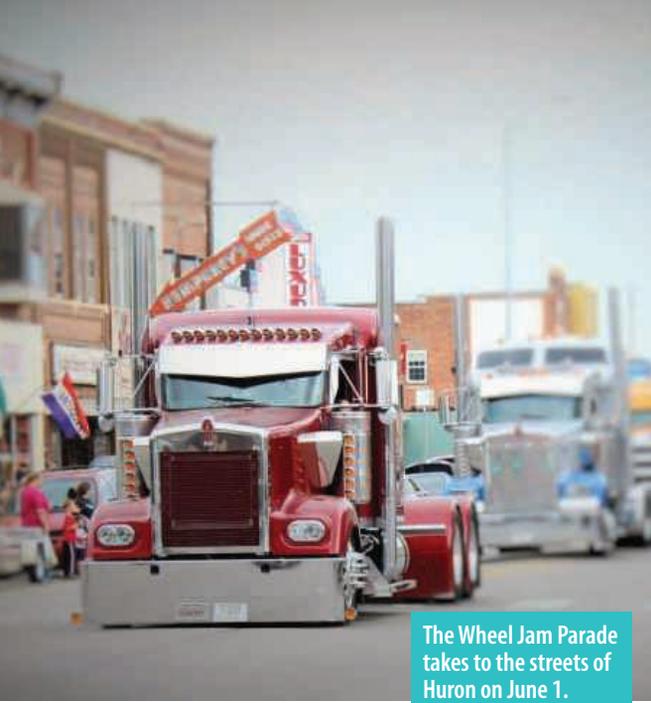
Trucks will tune into Big Jim 93.3 from 10 pm - 11 pm for Saturday Night Rockin' Lights w/ Wheel Jam Truck Show Light Show.

### Backstreet Cruisers Car Show

**Sunday, June 2** • Registration Time: 9 a.m. to noon • Show Time: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### Windriders ABATE Motorcycle Show

**Sunday, June 2** • Registration: 9 a.m. to noon • Show from noon to 4 p.m. • Family Living Center



The Wheel Jam Parade takes to the streets of Huron on June 1.

feature of the weekend as grilling maestros light up their grills to compete in the Original SD BBQ Championships. The event began in 2007 and is a Kansas City BBQ Society sanctioned event. Each year, more than 40 teams compete in the event, which offers more than \$14,000 in total KCBS purse. The grand champion wins \$2,500 as well as an invitation to compete at the prestigious American Royal in Kansas City, Mo. The Reserve Grand Champion pockets \$2,000 in the competition.

The event also features the Backyard BBQ People's Choice Competition, which is open to anyone. Participants do not have to compete in the KCBS portion of the event to register for the Backyard BBQ Competition.

And for chili lovers, there's the F.A.T. Friday Chili Challenge on Friday, May 31. The people's choice public tasting is held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information on the BBQ, visit <http://www.sdbbqchampionships.com/>

Learn more about Wheel Jam at <http://www.wheeljam.com/> or by calling the South Dakota State Fair office at 800-529-0900 or 605-353-7340.



Above: The Wheel Jam Truck Show Light Show illuminates the evening on Saturday. Right: Cars of all types will be on display during Wheel Jam.





# 12 WAYS TO PREPARE

<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Sign up for Alerts and Warnings</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Make a Plan</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Save for a Rainy Day</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Practice Emergency Drills</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Test Family Communication Plan</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Safeguard Documents</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Plan with Neighbors</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Make Your Home Safer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Know Evacuation Routes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Assemble or Update Supplies</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Get Involved in Your Community</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Document and Insure Property</b>

## WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

### Storm Preparation Key

#### Federal Emergency Management Agency

Make a plan today. Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find.

**Step 1: Put together a plan by discussing these four questions with your family, friends, or household to start your emergency plan:**

- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my shelter plan?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my family/household communication plan?

**Step 2: Consider specific needs in your household.**

As you prepare your plan tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Discuss your needs and responsibilities and how people in the network can assist each other with communication, care of children, business, pets, or specific needs like the operation of durable medical equipment. Create your own personal network for specific areas where you need assistance. Keep in mind some these factors when developing your plan:

- Different ages of members within your household
- Responsibilities for assisting others
- Locations frequented
- Dietary needs

<https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>

- Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment
- Disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment
- Languages spoken
- Cultural and religious considerations
- Pets or service animals
- Households with school-aged children

**Step 3: Fill out a Family Emergency Plan.**

Fill out a family emergency plan or use them as a guide to create your own.

**Step 4: Practice your plan with your family/household.**

# Family Emergency Communication Plan

FEMA P-1095/July 2017HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

<b>Family Name:</b>	
Home #:	
Address:	
Name:	Mobile #:
Other # or social media:	
Email:	

<b>Important medical or other information:</b>	
Name:	Mobile #:
Other # or social media:	
Email:	

<b>Important medical or other information:</b>	
Name:	Mobile #:
Other # or social media:	
Email:	

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS and INFORMATION

<b>Police/Sheriff:</b>	Dial 911 or ☎
<b>Fire:</b>	Dial 911 or ☎
<b>Poison Control:</b>	☎
<b>Doctor:</b>	☎
<b>Doctor:</b>	☎
<b>Pediatrician:</b>	☎
<b>Dentist:</b>	☎
<b>Medical Insurance:</b>	☎
<i>Policy #:</i>	
<b>Medical Insurance:</b>	☎
<i>Policy #:</i>	
<b>Hospital/Clinic:</b>	☎
<b>Pharmacy:</b>	☎
<b>Homeowner/Rental</b>	☎
<b>Insurance: Policy #:</b>	
<b>Flood Insurance:</b>	☎
<i>Policy #:</i>	
<b>Veterinarian:</b>	☎
<b>Kennel:</b>	☎
<b>Electric Cooperative:</b>	☎
<b>Gas Company:</b>	☎
<b>Water Company:</b>	☎
<b>Alternate/Accessible Transportation:</b>	☎
<b>Other:</b>	

## SCHOOL, CHILDCARE, CAREGIVER and WORKPLACE EMERGENCY PLANS

<b>Name:</b>	
Address:	
Emergency/Hotline #:	
Website:	
Emergency Plan/Pick-Up:	

<b>Name:</b>	
Address:	
Emergency/Hotline #:	
Website:	
Emergency Plan/Pick-Up:	

<b>Name:</b>	
Address:	
Emergency/Hotline #:	
Website:	
Emergency Plan/Pick-Up:	

<b>Name:</b>	
Address:	
Emergency/Hotline #:	
Website:	
Emergency Plan/Pick-Up:	

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (ICE) CONTACT

<b>Name:</b>	Home #:
Home #:	Email:
Address:	

## OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT

<b>Name:</b>	Mobile #:
Home #:	Email:
Address:	

## EMERGENCY MEETING PLACES

<b>Indoor:</b>	
Instructions:	
<b>Neighborhood:</b>	
Instructions:	
<b>Out-of-Neighborhood:</b>	
Address:	
Instructions:	
<b>Out-of-Town:</b>	
Address:	
Instructions:	

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**April 27**

Hermosa Museum  
Fundraiser, 5 p.m., School  
Gym, Hermosa, SD

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**April 27**

River Rat Marathon, Yankton,  
SD, 605-660-9483

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**April 27-28**

Annual JazzCrawl, Sioux Falls,  
SD, 605-335-6101

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**May 1-5**

Black Hills Film Festival, Hill  
City, SD, 605-574-9454

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**May 4**

Rockerville Community Club  
Garage Sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.,  
23776 Golden Hills Drive,  
Rockerville, SD,  
402-649-2530

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**May 11**

Community Appreciation  
Day at the South Dakota Air  
& Space Museum, During  
normal hours, Box Elder, SD,  
605-385-5189

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**May 11**

Small Piece Art Show  
Opening, 4 to 7 p.m., Art  
Expressions Gallery, Custer,  
SD, 605-673-3467

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**May 11-12**

The Best of Hill City, Various  
locations, Hill City, SD,  
605-574-2365

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**May 17-19**

State Parks Open House and  
Free Fishing Weekend, Pierre,  
SD, 605-773-3391

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**May 17-19**

Sound of Silence Tesla Rally,  
Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

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**May 24-26**

Annual Off Road Rally,  
Sturgis, SD, 605-720-0800



**May 31-June 2: Fort Sisseton Historical Festival, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474**

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**May 24-26**

South Dakota Kayak  
Challenge, Yankton, SD,  
605-864-9011

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**May 25-26**

Annual SDRA Foothills Rodeo,  
Wessington Springs, SD,  
605-770-4370

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**May 27**

Stars, Stripes & Steps,  
2-mile, 5k, 1/2 marathon,  
Centennial Park, Hot Springs,  
SD, 605-890-1515

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**May 31-June 1**

South Dakota BBQ  
Championships, Huron, SD,  
605-353-7354

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**May 31-June 2**

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD,  
605-353-7340

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**June 1**

Annual Casey Tibbs Match of  
Champions, Fort Pierre, SD,  
605-494-1094

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**June 1-2**

Spring Volksmarch, Crazy  
Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

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**June 2**

Mickelson Trail Marathon,  
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

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**June 2-8**

Ride Across South Dakota  
(RASDAK), Rapid City, SD,  
rasdakbiketour@gmail.com

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**June 2-August 11**

Annual Red Cloud Indian  
Art Show, Pine Ridge, SD,  
605-867-8257

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**June 7**

East of Westerville with  
Kenny Putnam Kiwanis  
Club Concert, 7 p.m., Riggs  
Theatre, Pierre, SD,  
605-280-0818

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**June 7-8**

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD,  
Contact Brett Rauterkus at  
605-722-1430

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**June 7-9**

Annual Black Hills Quilt  
Show & Sale, Rapid City, SD,  
605-394-4115

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**June 8**

Train Day, Redfield, SD,  
605-472-4566

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**June 8-9**

Siouxland Renaissance  
Festival, Sioux Falls, SD,  
1-866-489-9241

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.