


COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Local art teacher's mural commemorates dedicated Burke lineman.
Photo by Jacob Boyko

Rural Murals

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Winter Preparedness & Energy Conservation Tips



Michelle Fischer
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As the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp, it's time to start thinking about how to prepare your home for the colder months ahead. At Black Hills Electric Cooperative, we are committed to helping our members save energy and reduce costs while keeping their homes warm and comfortable this winter.

Here are some practical tips on how to get started:

Weatherproof Your Home

One of the most effective ways to conserve energy is by sealing up any air leaks that let in cold drafts and allow heat to escape. Start by checking for gaps around windows, doors, and areas where plumbing or electrical work enters your home. Apply caulk or weatherstripping to seal those leaks and consider adding insulation to your attic and walls if they are not adequately protected.

- **Tip:** A properly insulated attic can reduce heating costs by up to 15%.

Upgrade to Energy-Efficient Appliances

Older appliances often consume more electricity. Consider replacing outdated heating systems, water heaters, and kitchen appliances with Energy Star-rated models that use less energy and deliver the same, or better, performance.

- **Tip:** Through 2032, federal income tax credits are available to homeowners that will allow up to \$3,200 annually to lower the cost of energy efficient home upgrades by up to 30%.

Install a Programmable or Smart Thermostat

A programmable or smart thermostat allows you to set your heating system to operate

more efficiently based on your daily schedule. You can program it to lower the temperature when you're not home or sleeping, and then raise it again when needed.

- **Tip:** By lowering your thermostat by just 7-10 degrees for eight hours a day, you can save up to 10% a year on heating costs. Smart thermostats also offer remote access, so you can adjust settings from your phone.

Take Advantage of Natural Heat

On sunny days, take advantage of solar energy by keeping blinds and curtains open to let the sunlight warm your home naturally. In the evening, close them to help insulate and trap heat indoors.

- **Tip:** Using heavy, insulated curtains on windows can reduce heat loss by up to 25%.

Check and Maintain Your Heating System

Regular maintenance of your heating system ensures that it runs efficiently. Schedule an annual tune-up with a licensed technician to clean filters, check for leaks, and ensure your system operates at peak efficiency.

- **Tip:** A well-maintained heating system can last longer and reduce energy consumption by up to 20%.

Switch to LED Lighting

With shorter days and longer nights, lights will be on for more hours during the winter. Switch to LED bulbs, which use 75% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last up to 25 times longer.

- **Tip:** LED holiday lights are also a great energy-saving choice during the festive season.

If you're looking for more ways to save energy or have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at 800-742-0085 or 605-673-4461. We're here to help you stay warm, comfortable, and energy-efficient this winter.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC

(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. 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.

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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; website: www.bhec.coop.



WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE GREAT DEEDS YOU'VE DONE FOR OUR COUNTRY.

Our office will be closed Monday, November 11th.

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★



HOLIDAY FOOD SAFETY TIPS

Rachel Dotson

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

It's the time of year when many families will be gathering around the dining room table savoring the flavors of their favorite holiday meals. Check out how to keep your holiday meals safe this season with a few tips from Land-grant University Extension Services.

Shopping Safely

Before shopping, check the ingredients you have at home and verify their expiration date. It is helpful to prepare a shopping list before going shopping. Make sure you have sufficient room in your refrigerator for all purchased food items. Cold foods that need refrigeration or freezing should be purchased last.

Oklahoma State University Extension advises while shopping, keep raw meat, poultry and seafood away from other foods in your grocery cart. Placing raw meat, poultry and seafood in plastic bags can be a good method to separate them from other foods. Ask a cashier to place your raw meat, poultry and seafood in a separate bag.

Safe Food Handling Practices

- When it comes to preparing meats, washing poultry and meats at home is no longer necessary and is not recommended by the USDA. University of Connecticut Extension recommends thawing meat in a refrigerator or in a cold-water bath.
- Defrost meats in the refrigerator for approximately 24 hours, depending on size, or submerge meat in its original package in cold water and allow 30 minutes of thawing time for every pound.
- Rinse fruits and vegetables thoroughly under cool running water and use a produce brush to remove surface dirt. Even wash prepackaged greens to minimize bacterial contamination.
- While preparing food, use two cutting boards: one for preparing raw meat, poultry and fish, and the other for cutting fruits and vegetables, cooked food or preparing salads.
- Don't forget to also wash hands with soap and water before and after handling food.

Storing Leftovers

Bacteria grows when the food is left out for more than

two hours at room temperature. Divide leftovers into smaller portions and store in shallow containers in the refrigerator. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension advises reheating cooked leftovers to 165 degrees. Use a food thermometer to measure temperature accurately. Sauces, soups and gravies should be reheated by bringing them to a boil. When microwaving leftovers, make sure there are no cold spots in food where bacteria can survive.

Multistate Approach for Food Safety

Food-borne illnesses affect 48 million Americans each year. Research and education have led to major advances in food safety; however, challenges remain. Many methods that use heat or chemicals to ensure food safety are not 100% effective and can damage food color, texture, flavor and nutrients.

Researchers at 32 Land-grant Universities are collaborating on innovative solutions for food safety and quality.

Their work is helping meet consumer demand for minimally processed, additive-free food items with longer shelf lives, higher nutrient content and less potential to cause food-borne illnesses.



Farm Safety "Always Be Alert"

Clyde Manas, Age 8

Clyde Manas warns farmers and ranchers to be careful with their equipment around power lines. Thank you for your picture, Clyde! Clyde's parents are Terry and Lacey Manas, members of Bon Homme Yankton Electric.

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.

Holiday DELIGHTS

EASY CRANBERRY SALAD

Ingredients:

12 oz. fresh cranberries
20 oz. crushed pineapple,
drained (reserve juice)
1/2 cup pineapple juice
(from reserved juice)
2 cups sugar
3 oz. pkg cranberry jello
(may also use cherry jello)
1/4 cup maraschino cherries,
finely chopped

Method

Boil cranberries with pineapple juice and sugar. When berries pop, remove from heat. Add dry jello, pineapple and cherries. Refrigerate. Keeps for up to two weeks in the refrigerator.

Elaine Rieck
Harrisburg, S.D.

CAKE BATTER DIP

Ingredients:

8 oz. softened cream cheese
8 oz. thawed cool whip
1/3-2/3 cup milk
1 box Funfetti cake mix
(unprepared)
Sprinkles

Method

Add whipped topping and cream cheese to a large mixing bowl and beat with a hand mixer until smooth and creamy.

Add cake mix and 1/3 cup milk and stir with a wooden spoon until combined. Dip will be very thick, so add more milk, a little at a time, until you get to your desired consistency. I used about 2/3 cup for my dip.

Garnish with sprinkles and serve with whatever dippers you prefer (graham crackers, animal crackers, vanilla wafers, pretzels, fresh fruit, etc.)

Kayla Beaner
Centerville, S.D.

OPEN-FACED HOT TURKEY SANDWICHES

Ingredients:

1 container (12 oz.) turkey
gravy
8 slices cooked turkey
1 loaf baguette bread,
(12 in. long)
1 cup fresh spinach leaves
1 cup prepared stuffing,
warmed
1/2 cup cranberry sauce

Method

Cook gravy and turkey slices in large skillet on medium-high heat until heated through.

Cut baguette in half lengthwise, then cut each piece in half. Place bread, cut-side up, onto four serving plates.

Top bread evenly with spinach, turkey, stuffing, any remaining gravy and cranberry sauce.

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.

Best Smart Home Tech on a Budget



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

Q: How can smart home technology help me lower my power bill?

A: Smart technology can make it easier to save energy by simplifying or automating tasks. It can also optimize energy use to reduce waste and improve efficiency.

When upgrading to smart technology at home, consider the purchase cost as well as long-term savings. For example, you may pay a little more for a product with the latest technology, but it could result in significant savings each year and over the lifetime of the appliance.

Here are some smart devices that will take the work out of saving energy.

Smart thermostats save energy by automatically adjusting your heating or cooling system. For example, you can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling costs by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for eight hours a day, according to the Department of Energy (DOE).

You can program a smart thermostat to change the temperature when you are asleep or away, or use a smartphone app to adjust your thermostat settings. Some models use artificial intelligence to maximize efficiency by learning your patterns and preferences. Prices range from \$80 to \$250, depending on features. Smart thermostats do not work with all heating and cooling systems, so check compatibility before you buy.

Your water heater can also be controlled for energy savings. Installing a timer on your electric water heater can save 5% to 12% of the energy it uses by turning it off at night and when you don't need to use hot water, according to the DOE.

If you are already planning to replace your electric storage water heater with a heat pump water heater, consider a model equipped with smart technology features, including Wi-Fi capabilities for controlling it remotely or during peak demand times, viewing the amount of hot

water available and tracking energy use. There are a variety of modes, including vacation, efficiency and high demand, which produces more hot water. Some models can notify you or shut off if a leak is detected. Depending on the manufacturer and size of the unit, a smart heat pump water heater may only cost a few hundred dollars more than a standard heat pump water heater.

Smart lighting gives you the power to control lights in your home remotely or set a lighting schedule that fits your lifestyle. This can be beneficial for energy savings and provide home security benefits. If you or other members of your household are notorious for leaving lights on, smart lighting can help. Numerous features are available, including dimmable bulbs and color-changing effects.

Smart light switches are another budget-friendly way to control lighting. They're priced from about \$10 to \$50. Smart switches with dimmable options are available and can also control ceiling fans. Some have occupancy sensors that turn lights off when no movement is detected in a room.

A smart plug fits into any outlet to control whatever is plugged into it. Set them to automatically turn off and on or control them using a smartphone app. Prices range from \$8 to \$25.

A wide variety of smart shades, curtains and blinds are available, including styles with integrated controls. You can also add smart controls to your existing blinds or curtains. Both options allow you to adjust the tilt of blinds and open or close curtains. Set a schedule, control them remotely or use a voice command paired with a voice assistant, such as Alexa or Google Home. This allows you to reduce cooling needs in the summer and heating needs in the winter. Smart controls start at around \$70. To save the most energy, prioritize windows with the most incoming light.

Upgrading to smart home technologies can make it easy to use less energy at home. Choose options that make the most sense for your lifestyle to optimize savings.



Rosebud Electric Cooperative providing power in the early days.
Photo provided by the Rosebud Electric archive.

William Kindle Remembers When Electricity Came to Bull Creek

Frank Turner

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William Kindle, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, carries vivid memories of growing up in Bull Creek, a small township just east of Winner. It was the mid-1950s: Eisenhower was president, and the Korean War had just ended. Though more than half a century has passed, Kindle remembers clearly the challenges of living without electricity.

“Growing up, we didn’t have any refrigeration,” Kindle said. “My mom used to drop our food into a well using a bucket, clear down to the water level where it was cool, and that’s where she kept her cream and butter.”

At age 10, Kindle’s life changed drastically when Rosebud Electric connected his rural, family home to the grid. The lights came on, and the days of using the water well for food preservation would soon be a memory as his father

brought home the family’s first refrigerator.

“After that, he went to town again and bought a TV, a great big old wooden thing,” Kindle laughed. “It had only one channel, KPLO.”

But electricity meant more than just connection to a grid. It brought with it a connection to the outside world through shows like “I Love Lucy,” “The Andy Griffith Show,” and Kindle’s personal favorite growing up, “Captain 11”. The show, broadcast from Sioux Falls, featured weatherman Dave Dedrick as a space captain who would introduce cartoons and play games as an after-school children’s program.

“Us kids thought that it was the greatest thing that ever happened, when we got a TV,” Kindle said.

According to Kindle, the introduction of electricity had an overwhelmingly positive impact on his rural community. The dangers of using kerosene lamps



William Kindle
Photo by Frank Turner

vanished, allowing producers to work more effectively through the night.

“I remember the first night that we had a yard light,” Kindle said. “Us kids were playing under that light,

and we couldn’t get over the fact that the whole yard was lit up. Prior to that, as soon as the sun went down, we would light the lamps and that’s all we had.”

“Everyone in the community welcomed having power,” Kindle added. “It was quite a thing.”

The safety and productivity it brought were immeasurable, transforming every facet of daily life. Kindle remembers how much the addition of consistent light affected his own family’s cattle operation.

“We ran cattle and raised hogs,” he said. “I remember when my dad got the barn wired up, because he used electricity for calving. Before we had electricity in there, we used kerosene lamps out in the barn, and they started a lot of fires – those damn things.”

Kindle’s early years were spent farming and ranching, but he devoted most of his career to the autobody and fender business, repairing cars for over 30 years. He later joined the tribal council of the Rosebud Sioux in 1989 and has since completed five terms as president, including one in an interim capacity, and three terms as vice president. Recently, he was re-elected to the council as a representative for the Swift Bear community near White River, where he lives now as a member of Cherry-Todd Electric.

As someone who has served his community for more than three decades, Kindle said he is unsure if people could ever return to a time before electricity reached their door.

“If we had to go back to those days, people couldn’t do it,” he said. “I don’t think people would adjust. It would be too difficult to go back.”



RURAL MURALS

Small Communities Showcase History and Culture Through Mural Art

Jacob Boyko

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Lemmon

Visitors from all over the map flock to Lemmon each year to explore the town's plethora of fascinating exhibits, from the Petrified Wood Park to the life-size steampunk-style sculptures by local artist John Lopez.

But of all the town's unique offerings, there's one stand-out exhibit that ties everything together: Boss Cowman Square.

Lopez's life-size metal sculpture of cowboy legend George Edward Lemmon is the focal point of the square. The Boss Cowman clutches the reins of his steampunk stallion, his eyes fixed on the horizon watching for stray cattle.

"Dad Lemmon," as the town's founder is so fondly known among locals, settled the town in 1906 between the Grand River and North Dakota border. It would soon be a stop along the incoming Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, which Dad Lemmon had been recruited to platte westward.

The sculpture is accompanied by a background mural depicting a scene far away from the bustling saloons and general stores of early Lemmon. In the scene, saddled-up cowboys under the careful

watch of the Boss Cowman sculpture guide a meandering herd hundreds of heads long across a river – no problem for Dad Lemmon, whose roundup skills and knowledge of the land were legendary across the West.

In 2015, as Lopez dreamt of what would one day be Boss Cowman Square, he recruited the help of two Nigerian artists, Dotun Popoola and Jonathan Imafidor, to help bring the vision to life.

"We studied a few materials and made sure all the elements were well captured, like the kinds of trees, the way the river looks and the butte in the background," Imafidor recalled about the 2016 project.

One obstacle that posed a challenge for the traveling artists – beside the shock of South Dakota's cold spring weather – was the slight differences between the cattle they knew in Nigeria and the cattle of the American West.

"We are representational artists and we've done a lot of drawings of cows, so we kind of had an idea of what the cattle should look like," Imafidor explained. "But in Lemmon, the kind of cattle that are found in the region are a little different than what we have in Nigeria. I remember when we started painting the cattle ... John Lopez told us, 'I don't think you can find those here.' Then he brought some material for

Cowboys keep a herd of longhorns moving at the bank of the Missouri River. Visitors will notice the sculpture of Dad Lemmon turned around to keep an eye on the progress. *Photo provided by John Lopez.*

us so we were able to see the difference and then we made the corrections."

After about a month of work, the mural was completed and the Boss Cowman Square was unveiled to the public in July 2016.

Burke

In Burke, K-12 art teacher Kate Witt isn't shy about brightening up her community. The mom of four has designed and painted four murals around town, including one depicting the town's beloved utility worker, Rich Bailey.

Rich's wife, Margaret Ann Bailey, commissioned the mural after Rich's passing in 2023. The mural shows the lineman hanging onto a utility pole as he works on the power lines.

"When we came here in 1970, there wasn't a bucket truck or anything," recalled Margaret Ann. "So he climbed everything, whether it was blizzarding or lightning, and he made sure people had electricity."

The mural also features emergency vehicles, as Rich served for decades as a volunteer firefighter and an emergency medical technician. Parked beneath the lines, the rusted white pickup truck Rich drove around town that over the years became synonymous with himself.

"With this mural specifically, I felt I had

a big important job,” Witt said. “This is a man who the town really loves, and I had a big job to make something beautiful that [Margaret Ann] was going to be proud of.”

Witt incorporated her own signature styles into the mural; her white outlines make the lineman’s silhouette stand out against the more geometrically designed Missouri River bluffs and cloudy sunset in the background.

“That’s where I have a little fun, putting in the modern twist and bold colors,” Witt continued. “I put this white line around everything which made some elements almost look like they’re stickers on a wall.”

Since Witt completed the mural last August, it’s become a point of pride for Margaret Ann who says it’s a testament to her husband’s years of dedication to his community.

“There was an older gal here in town, and she called him at 2 o’clock in the morning and said ‘my air conditioner isn’t working and it’s darn hot in my house,’” Margaret Ann recalled.

She said her husband explained that his job was to fix power lines, not air conditioners. Still, he went to flip the breaker on the woman’s fuse box anyway before going back to sleep.

“That’s the kind of guy he was, and I’m proud,” Margaret Ann said.

Tabor

Where in South Dakota can you find roses, ears of corn, a cardinal and Czech kolaches all in one mural?

Only in Tabor, probably.

Commissioned for the town’s 150th anniversary in 2022, the colorful mural on the sidewall of the local library meanders through the community’s history. From the heavy Czech influence of the earliest settlers represented by pastries and roses to the school’s original mascot, the cardinals, Robbie Jelsma worked very intentionally to portray the town in a way only a knowledgeable local artist could.

Growing up in nearby Springfield, Jelsma is no stranger to Tabor and its famous Czech Days, which draws thousands of people from across the country for the three-day celebration.

“I wanted to represent Czech Days and the Czech culture, so I did my own

research,” Jelsma said.

He incorporated roses, which are the national flower of the Czech Republic, as well as the fluffy pastries with fruit in the middle called kolaches.

He also incorporated local history—Tabor’s school mascot was the cardinal before merging with Springfield and Tyndall to form Bon Homme School District.

When he’s not painting murals, Jelsma is a highly sought-after tattoo artist specializing in more realistic styles. For him, the highlights of the Tabor mural is the level of depth and realism he achieved in his roses and clouds.

The hardest part of painting the mural is working with the elements, as there’s a laundry list of work that needs to be done on the surface before any real painting can begin: washing; smoothing; primer.

On top of that, unpredictable Midwestern weather requires a careful eye on the weather radar for any outdoor painting projects, Jelsma said.

“We started about early October so the fall was just getting started, and you never know in South Dakota if the weather is going to hold out or if you’ll get an early snow or strong wind,” he recalled about his three and a half weeks working on the project.

For Jelsma, the finished mural is as big of a point of pride for him, having been selected and commissioned for the work, as it is for the people of Tabor who get to show it off every summer during Czech Days.

“It’s cool I was thought of for the project,” Jelsma said. “It’s an art project that I think just lights everybody up a little bit when you drive down main street and you see something like that in a small town.”



Artist Robbie Jelsma puts the finishing touches on his mural ahead of the 2022 unveiling. Photo provided by Robbie Jelsma.

DO WE OWE YOU MONEY?

THIS FOLLOWING LIST CONTAINS the names of former Black Hills Electric Cooperative members whose capital credit checks have not been cashed or were returned to us. Please review the list and if you know anyone listed, or his or her heirs, please contact BHEC at 605-673-4461 or 800-742-0085. **A-O was published in the October edition.**

P

PALMER, ERVIN E.
 PARKER, BARBARA/JOHN L.
 PARKER, DAVID A.
 PARKER, GREG
 PARKER, PATRICIA
 PARLIAMENT, ELEANOR
 PARSONS, DONALD/VERONICA
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R

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 ROACH, BYRON/RHONDA
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 ROBB, DIANE
 ROBBERTSON, ELBERT/WINIFRED
 ROBBINS, LOUIE/DONEEN M.
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 ROEBUCK, THOMAS
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 ROLTGEN, ANREW
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 ROMEY, FLORENCE I. ESTATE
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 RUPP, RICHARD/LEA

RUSHMORE RANCH ESTATES
 RUSSELL, WILLIAM J./EVELYN
 RUTHERFORD, KATHRYN
 RYMAN, LOREN/JULIE

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 SANDERS, JOSH/KYLA
 SANVE, WARREN A.
 SCHABER, WADE/LENORA
 SCHAEFER, PATRICIA
 SCHAEFER, SHERRY
 SCHAEFFER, WILLIAM G./KELLY
 SCHALLER, DANIEL P./DEBRA M.
 SCHATZ, RAYMOND M./CHERE M.
 SCHAUB, THOMAS L./CAROL M.
 SCHAUER, DAVID/BRENDA
 SCHILLING, CHARLES F./LINDA
 SCHLEKEWY, GLORIA
 SCHMIDT, JEROME A.
 SCHMIDT, TERRY L./SALLIE A.
 SCHNABEL, JANELLE
 SCHNEIDERMAN, KEITH
 SCHOEPFNER, DONALD/CHRISTINA
 SCHRECKENHAUST, DAWN
 SCHRIEVER, TODD/CHERYL
 SCHROEDER, ELDON E./LEONA G.
 SCHROEDER, KENNETH A./LOIS J.
 SCHROEDER, PAUL D./DIANE M.
 SCHUBERT, LOLITA
 SCHULTE, WILMA J.
 SCHULTZ, ANDREW J./STACEY
 SCHULTZ, CLARK A./LYNNE M.
 SCHULTZ, JEFFREY
 SCHULTZ, MARK/KARA K.
 SCHUMACHER, E. G. ESTATE
 SCHUTT, TERESA
 SCHWAHN, DIANA/BRYAN
 SCHWALM, PAMELA G./ALBRECHT J.
 SCHWARTZ, LES/KELLY
 SCHWARTZ, LOWELL T.
 SCHWARTZ, RONALD
 SCHWINGER, SANDRA/ROB
 SCOFIELD, KIRK/DANA
 SCOTT, LEOTA C.
 SCOTT, RONALD O./VELMA

SEAMAN, EDWARD C./GAIL M.
 SEAT, JACK W./RUBY J.
 SEE, BECKY S./CURTIS
 SEMPLE, MICHAEL N./MELODY
 SEQUENZIA, JOSEPH R./GERALDINE
 SEVERSON, LONDELL/VICTORIA
 SHANE, STEVE/ANITA
 SHANGREAU, TIFFANY
 SHANNON, DAYTON/JUANITA
 SHANTEAU, DOUG
 SHARP-FRITZ, JODIE
 SHAYKETT, JIM
 SHEESLEY, SHANE/STACIE
 SHERIN MARTIN, JANE
 SHIGLEY, BARBARA
 SHULER, BARRY L./LORIS K.
 SHYMANSKI, FRANCIS J.
 SICKMANN, JOHN A.
 SIEWERT, DENNIS
 SIMMONS, STEVEN/MARTI S.
 SIMPSON, HARRISON/BARBARA
 SIPMA, MILES/LISA
 SIX GUNS INC - KEN HILL
 SKALBERG, DAVE
 SKATTUM, CRAIG/CRYSTAL
 SMITH, ANTHONY J.
 SMITH, CASEY M.
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 SMITH, JANE
 SMITH, JEROMEY/JESSICA
 SMITH, LANE C.
 SMITH, MARDELL
 SMITH, MICHAEL H./NANCY L.
 SMITH, MICHAEL V.
 SMITH, MIKE/CHARI
 SMITH, STEVE
 SNEDEKER, RICHARD J.
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 SNIDOW, ELIZABETH ESTATE
 SNYDER, RICHARD/ALLEN
 SOBCZAK, DWIGHT A. JR./LAURA
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 SODERBERG, JASON/JOLYNN
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 SOYLAND, KELLY/MATTHEW
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 SPARGUR, LAURA ESTATE
 SPEARS, CORRINA J.
 SPECK, JEFFREY/AMY L.
 SPELTS, SIDNEY/AMY L.
 SPENCER, KEITH/ANNETTE
 SPERLE, NEIL E.
 SPLICHAL, CURTIS/ELIZABETH
 SPROUSE, BJ/JOYCE C.
 STABEN, JEAN M.
 STAEDTLER, LOUIS

STAIKOFF, ROBERT H. JR./LISA
 STANLEY, DOR-SHAL/MARCIA
 STARBUCK, CHARLES W. ESTATE
 STATON, KATHY
 STEC, GEORGE
 STEEN, KAREN/KELLY
 STEINBERG, BEVERLY
 STEINERT, TIMOTHY W./VIOLET
 STEPHENS, MARY M./TERRY N.
 STERNHAGEN, ANNETTE
 STEUER, TOM/CHRISTINE
 STEUERMANN, LEONORA
 STEVEN, JAMES
 STEVENS, WILLIAM E./JILL R.
 STEWART, JAMES/JACQUELINE
 STEWART, ROBERT H.
 STEWART, TRISHA
 STINSON, BRUCE G./JEAN L.
 STOLTZ, DOUG/JUDITH
 STONE, JEFF/RENEE
 STONE, RICHARD H./DIANNE K.
 STOVER, EVELYN E ESTATE
 STOWALL, JOHN
 STRATMEYER, CASSI L.
 STRATTON, BEN/DENISE
 STREETER, HARRY ESTATE
 STROHFUS, KATHY L.
 STROMER, PATRICIA ESTATE
 STRUIF, RONALD J./JUDY
 SUBER, ANTHONY P./JANICE
 SUDRALA, ALYSSA K.
 SULLIVAN, DEBRA F.
 SUTTERFIELD-GARDN, PAMELA
 SUURMEYER, VICKI
 SWAIN, DOROTHY W. ESTATE
 SWAIN, JAMES L.
 SWAN, DAWN
 SWEDLUND, KENNETH/IONE
 SWEETWOOD, SCOTT
 SWENSON, JEREMY
 SWIRES, JUSTIN/JOBETH
 SYKES, DOUGLAS E.
 SYVERSON, JON/LORELEI

T
 TABKE, SHAWN
 TAFT, EDSON B.
 TAGGART, FRANK E.
 TAYLOR, GLEN
 TAYLOR, LARRY
 TAYLOR, MARGARET
 TAYLOR, TAMARA
 TAYLOR, WILLIAM/LAURENE
 TEBAY, BRENT/KRIS
 TEEPEE CAMPGROUND
 TELLER, MARIAN H.
 TELLIER, MICHAEL/BONITA
 TERBORG, RON W./JUDE L.

TERMES, NATALIE
 TERRONES, FIDEL
 TESTERMAN, KAREN L.
 THAYER, SCOTT N./WENDI L.
 THELEN, TIM
 THOMAS, DALLAS
 THOMAS, JACK
 THOMAS, KATHRYN J.
 THOMAS, SHIRLEY
 THOMAS, STACY A./POLLY J.
 THOMAS, WAYNE A./SANDRA A.
 THOMAS, WILLIAM R.
 THOMPSON, HARLOW
 THOMPSON, ISRAEL J.
 THOMPSON, T. L./CAULINE R.
 THOMSON, J. R./JOANN
 THOMSON, KEVIN
 THORN, ANDREW
 THORPE, CINDY
 THURM, JAMES S.
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 TIERNAN, MIKE/AMANDA
 TIESZEN, VELNA M.
 TOBIN, RICHARD/KAY
 TOMASHEK, THOMAS D.
 TOMPKINS, VICKIE
 TONG, DR KEVIN T./CHRISTINA
 TOSTERUD, ROBERT/KAREN
 TRAUSCH, KATHLEEN L.
 TRAVERS, RICHARD J./DONNA M.
 TREFZ, ROBERT J./BARBARA J.
 TRENHOLM, JOSEPH/SHARON
 TREVINO, SUSAN/EDWARD Q.
 TROBEE, SUSAN D.
 TROTTER, GAYLE
 TROYER, JOHN A./ANNIE F.
 TRUHE, MARV/NICKI
 TSCHACHER, MARTIN/CYNTHIA
 TUDOR, LAWRENCE W./CAROL C.
 TUGGLE, TERRI ESTATE
 TURNER, JOHN D./CONNIE S.
 TURNER, MICHAEL E./SUSAN
 TURNER, PAMELA I.
 TURNER, TONY C.
 TWETO, JOHN
 TWO BULLS, EDWARD (TOM)/MAXINE
 TWO BULLS, GLADYS ESTATE

U
 ULMER, CORINNE L.
 ULVESTAD, LONNA
 UNDERWOOD, JIM E.

V
 VAIRA, JOLENE
 VAN BUREN, SHELLEY
 VAN LOENEN, GORDON R./SANDRA M.
 VAN METER, CLAY/KATHLEEN

VAN SPEYBROECK, THERESA L./JOHN
 VANDE HOEF, JAKE
 VANNATTA, ROY R./CANDIDA
 VANPOOL, RICHARD C./MARILYN
 VANTAGE CABLE ASSOC
 VAVICH, MITCHELL G.
 VENARD, NEIL
 VERHAGE, JOHN M./ALISHIA C.
 VERHEUL, DAVID/CHERYL
 VETTEL, KEN/DANA
 VILLALOBOS, RAFAEL/MARIA
 VITTER, DRUE ESTATE
 VOAS, BARBARA H.
 VOCU, ANTHONY/JOLENE M.
 VOGEL, DAVID W./MARVA L.
 VOSS, ROY D./CRYSTAL

W
 WACHENDORF, TERRY/MARY
 WACHHOLZ, WALLACE R./NANCY
 WADE, DAVID/LOIS
 WAGER, ANGIE
 WAGER, CHRIS/ANGIE
 WALKER, RICHARD C.
 WALKER, RUSSELL A./RUTH
 WALKER, VERNA
 WALLACE, BEULAH/JOSIAH A.
 WALLIN, DOUGLAS D./MISSY
 WALLS, BRUCE A.
 WALLS, CAROL A.
 WALSH, JOYCE
 WANNARKA, MAX J./KATHERINE
 WANNER, IDA ESTATE
 WARD, EUGENE G./JEANNINE R.
 WARD, KRISTOPHER C.
 WARDROP, LAWRENCE
 WARR, JASON W./DEBORAH
 WARREN, MARGARET R.
 WARRICK, KREG S./KEENA
 WASCHE, DAVE
 WASHENBERGER, PERRY/PAULET
 WATKINS, DAVE
 WATLAND, DOUGLAS
 WATSON, CHESTER R.
 WATSON, ROY/LOIS
 WATTAWA, LEROY/JUDY
 WATTLEWORTH, P. A.
 WEAVER, STEVE A./JULIE
 WEBBER, LAURA M.
 WEEKS, ERIC W./SHELLEY D.
 WEICHMAN, DOUGLAS
 WEIGER, MONTE
 WEIR, CHARLES E.
 WEISCHEDEL, CECIL/PATRICIA
 WEISCHEDEL, SCOTT A./LORI C.

(continued on page 14)



PREPARING FOR WINTER WEATHER

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

As we near the frigid winter months of South Dakota, it's important for you and loved ones to stay ready for an emergency.

Even though power outages are rare, a loss of electricity can affect modern lives in critical ways; In an instant, you may no longer be able to heat your home, prepare food or access critical information.

It's crucial to prepare for power outages and other general emergencies by keeping supplies in both your home and vehicles as well as making sure you and your loved ones have a plan in place.

Brad Reiners, director of communications for the state Department of Public Safety, encourages South Dakotans to stock

up on essentials like food, water and batteries prior to the winter months.

"Make sure you have enough food and water for at least three days, and each person in the household should have one gallon of water per day," Reiners said.

State DPS recommends keeping non-perishable food items like pasta, canned goods and nutritious snacks that don't require refrigeration and don't need to be heated or cooked before consumption.

"Never use gas powered generators, grills or portable stoves indoors, as they can produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide," Reiner added.

As you prepare, remember to be proactive about your health. Have your medical prescriptions refilled in advance of a severe storm and keep a battery bank charged so you can power your cell phone in case you need to

access telehealth services, emergency services or access critical information.

In your car, keep warm blankets, winter clothes, snacks, a shovel, flashlight and a set of jumper cables in case you get stranded.

"It's also advisable to check your tires for proper inflation and tread, and make sure your windshield wipers are in good condition with freeze-resistant washer fluid," Reiners added.



If you plan to rely on a generator or wood burning stove for heat if the power goes out, check beforehand that your equipment is in safe working order, and you have enough fuel to last several days.

Keeping warm clothes, blankets and sleeping bags at the ready can be lifesaving if you're unable to heat your home.

Meals on Wheels here to help with Blizzard Bags

For senior citizens, some of this advice is easier said than done. Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota understands that better than anyone, and they have come up with a solution.

“Blizzard Bags” have been a part of the organization’s lineup for over 20 years now and include some of the essentials seniors need when hunkering down for severe weather.

“We deliver shelf-stable meals for seniors who, especially in rural areas, may not have access to food for a while if their electricity goes out,” said Jennifer Paschke, regional manager for Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota. “We provide five meals in those bags they can use during a loss of power or being stranded in their homes due to weather.”

The food supplied is generally items that don’t require a heat source, like packages of tuna salad and crackers, protein bars or cans with a pop-top seal so no can opener is required, Paschke said.

The bags also include water and other donated supplies like batteries and flashlights from local businesses, including some rural electric cooperatives.

“The biggest success story I know in

my area is a couple of years ago when they had tornados in Philip,” Paschke remembered. “The water we provided [in the blizzard bags] were some of the only sources of water some of those people had. Just having that food and water can be a godsend for some people.”

Blizzard Bags are available to seniors age 60 and up who are a part of the Meals on Wheels program. The bags cost roughly \$20 to put together, according to Pascke, and are funded in part by community donors. The organization provides home deliveries for seniors living in both cities and rural areas.

Anyone interested in getting service or helping with the cause can contact Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota at (605) 394-6002.



Meals On Wheels of Western South Dakota provides blizzard bags to seniors in case weather conditions affect normal delivery. Photo provided by Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota.

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WEISS, CHARITY
WELCH-PATTERSON, KATHLEEN
WELDER, BILLY J./SUSAN E.
WELDY, LARRY/SUSAN
WELLS, G. V. ESTATE
WELSH, HUGH
WELSH, JUDITH
WELTY, THOMAS/EDITH
WENDT, DONALD F./GRACE
WENZEL, DARREL/DEANNE
WESCH, MURIELLE H.
WEST, DOROTHY M.
WESTERN MINING CORP (USA)
WESTERN TELECOMMUNICATNS - FIBER
WESTERN WIRELESS CORPORATION
WESTERS, TORY N./JOSIE J.
WHIPPLE, SYLVIA/VINCENT
WHITAKER, STEVEN R.
WHITE, STANLEY/JANICE
WHITING, ALLEN/LOIS
WHITMAN, SUANNA
WHITMAN, TERRY
WHITMORE, JANET L.
WHYTE, STANLEY/SCOTT
WIDMER, EARLE K./BARBARA
WIENEKE, KUHRT
WILABY, DENNIS
WILDEMAN, TOM ESTATE
WILKERSON, JERRY
WILLIAMS, DONALD E.
WILLIAMS, FRANCES/MARGARET
WILLIAMS, FREDERICK L./JULIE C.
WILLIAMS, IVY/GRACE
WILLIAMS, JOHN/LISA
WILLIAMS, TAMMY D.
WILLIAMSON, CHRISTINA/MARK
WILSON, AL/LINDA
WILSON, JERRY L.
WILSON, TED ESTATE
WILSON, WILLIAM
WIMP, MAX/LOUANN
WING, RANDY J.
WINJUM, TIM/LISA
WINK, ROBIN S.
WISE, RICHARD S.
WITHEY, BRIAN
WITHROW, TIMOTHY L./LAURA A.
WITTE, KAY A.
WOJACK, JOHN L./KIMBERLY A.
WOLF, GARY/JANELYN

WOOD, GENE/KATHY
WOOD, KEN/THERESA
WOOD, ROBERT L./THERESA A.
WOOD, ROGER
WRIGHT, CARI M.
WRIGHT, M. W./KELLY J.
WRIGHT, RANDALL/LISA
WRIGHT, RICHARD L.
WYDAK CABLE TV
WYLEZIK, RICHARD P.

Y
YELLOW HORSE, ADELINE
YOUNG, JAMES A.
YOUNG, RAE A.
YOUNG, WILLIAM E./JAMI D.
YOUNG, WILLIAM/DOROTHY
YOUNGBLOOD, KEITH/SHERRY

Z
ZACHARIAS, JACOB R.
ZEEB, DAVID W./SANDRA
ZIMDARS, ROGER L./PATTI
ZIMMERMAN, JOSHUA/ABI
ZINKHAN, GUENTER/HEIDI



Statement of Ownership Explained

The USPS Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation, also known as PS Form 3526, is required by the Post Office annually to show proof of continued eligibility for mailing under a Periodical Permit.

Form 3526 is our annual “Transparency in Publishing” report that we send off to the post office. Think of it like a report card, but instead of subjects like math and science, it’s all about how many copies of this lovely newsletter we’re sending out.

So, if you ever wondered why your electric cooperative newsletter includes these numbers, now you know! It’s just one more way we keep everything running smoothly.

**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
(REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)**

1. Publication Title: *Black Hills Electric Cooperative Connections* **2.** Publication No.: 1531-104X **3.** Filing Date: October 1, 2024 **4.** Issue Frequency: Monthly **5.** No. of Issues Published Annually: 12 **6.** Annual Subscription Price: \$6 **7.** Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730 **8.** Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730-0792 **9.** Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor: Publisher: Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730 Editor: Michelle Fischer, Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730 Managing Editor: Same as editor **10.** Owner: Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730 **11.** Known bondholders/mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or more of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: RUS and CFC **12.** Tax Status: Purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months **13.** Publication Title: *Black Hills Electric Cooperative Connections* **14.** Issue Date of Circulation Below: November, 2024, mailed October 20, 2024. **15.** Extent and Nature of Circulation:

	Avg. No. of Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Single Issue Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total number of copies (net press run)	8,804	8,834
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
1. Paid/Requested Outside County Mail Subscriptions	8,742	8,772
2. Paid In-County Subscriptions	0	0
3. Sales Through Dealers, Carriers, Counter Sales, etc.	0	0
4. Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	2	2
C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation	8,744	8,774
D. Free Distribution by Mail outside county	55	55
4. Free Distribution Outside the Mail	0	0
E. Total Free Distribution	55	55
F. Total Distribution	8,799	8,829
G. Copies Not Distributed	5	5
H. Total	8,804	8,834
I. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation	99.37	99.37

16. Electronic Copy Circulation: 0

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation as of October 1, 2024

**ENERGY
EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH**

If you’re heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you’re away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an “away” schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they’re not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.





NOV. 22-JAN.5
 Winter Wonderland
 Nightly - 5 p.m.-12 a.m.
 Falls Park
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-275-6060

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.

NOV. 2
Wall Community Craft Show
 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Wall, SD
 605-279-2665

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

NOV. 8-9
Sioux Empire Arts & Crafts Show
 Friday, 12 p.m.-8 p.m.
 Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-332-6004

NOV. 9
Deadwood's Big Whiskey Festival
 4 p.m.-8 p.m.
 Main Street
 Deadwood, SD

NOV. 9
Christmas at the Homestead
 12 p.m.-4 p.m.
 North Sioux City, SD
 605-232-0873

NOV. 9-10
Zonta Craft & Vendor Show
 Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Ramkota Hotel
 Pierre, SD
 605-280-1511

NOV. 16
Festival of Trees
 6 p.m.
 Lead, SD
 605-584-2067

NOV. 23-24
Winterfest: A Winter Arts Festival
 Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Aberdeen, SD

NOV. 29-DEC. 29
Trees & Trains Exhibit at SD State Railroad Museum
 Hill City, SD
 605-665-3636

NOV. 29-DEC. 29 (WEEKENDS)
1880 Train Holiday Express (Spiked! 21+)
 Hill City, SD
 605-574-2222
 1880train.com

NOV. 29-DEC. 29 (WEEKENDS)
1880 Train Holiday Express (Spiked! 21+)
 Hill City, SD
 605-574-2222
 1880train.com

NOV. 29-DEC. 29 (WEEKENDS)
1880 Train Holiday Express (First Class)
 Hill City, SD
 605-574-2222
 1880train.com

DEC. 1-31
Olde Tyme Christmas at participating businesses, Lane of Lights Viewing
 Hill City, SD

DEC. 5
Christmas on the Prairie
 4 p.m.
 Main Street
 Miller, SD

DEC. 6-8, 13-15
A Sherlock Carol
 Dec. 6-7, 13-14, 7:30 p.m.
 Dec. 8, 15, 2:30 p.m.
 Corson, SD
 mightycorson.com

DEC. 7
KJAM Parade of Lights
 5:30 p.m.
 Madison, SD
 605-256-4514

DEC. 7
Holiday Open House
 ArtForms Gallery
 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Hill City, SD
 605-574-4894

DEC. 8
Hill City Senior Sunday Breakfast
 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Hill City Center
 Hill City, SD

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