

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Caring for Caregivers

Exploring Family
Caregiving Services
Pages 8-9

Emergency Training
Pages 12-13

How the New Metering System Benefits YOU



Jeff Barnes
IT Specialist
jbarnes@bhec.coop

About three years ago, I shared with you some highlights of our metering system change-out and the benefits it would bring to both the cooperative and our members. Now, I would like to update you on how we have been using this new system and what we are working towards.

We have now fully deployed the new metering system across our entire service territory. This means all members are on the same technology platform, eliminating the different rates we once had due to varied meter-reading technologies. It also prevents confusion for crews and members by ensuring the right meter is installed the first time, saving unnecessary trips and costs.

The system has greatly improved how we detect and respond to outages. When you report an outage, we can “ping” your meter to check for power and quickly determine if the issue is isolated or part of a larger outage. This gives our crews a head start on locating the problem before arriving on site.

SCADA Enhancement: During the day, if our SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system detects a fault on a specific feeder and phase, we can target that path, ping meters, and identify outages before members even return home or discover their wells are down.

Storm Recovery: After hailstorms, not all outages are reported, especially at unattended wells or taps. By pinging meters in storm paths, we can locate hidden outages, dispatch crews immediately, and avoid multiple return trips.

Morning Outage Reports: We now generate daily reports by 6:30 a.m. showing meters that likely lost power overnight. This allows operations staff to efficiently schedule crews alongside other planned work.

Voltage monitoring is something we have been able to benefit from that we did not originally plan for. We can request voltage

readings from individual meters throughout the day to troubleshoot member issues remotely. More importantly, by analyzing voltage across the entire system, we can identify and correct problems such as faulty regulators causing high or low voltage much faster than before.

Our next major project is implementing a system that automatically alerts us to outages without waiting for a member to call. We expect this will reduce the need to send crews back out after hours since we will already know about the outages and can have them addressed as crews are headed in for the day. With that in mind, we still encourage you to call when you lose power and report anything that might be causing the outage. This new system is simply an additional tool to help us dispatch crews more efficiently.

Another project we are working on with our AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) vendor is being able to use this system to communicate with other devices down the line, helping us improve isolation, support fire mitigation efforts, and keep your power on as reliably as possible.

All of these improvements are designed to make your cooperative more efficient and reliable. Our goal is to keep your power on and available whenever you need it.



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC

(ISSN No. 1531-104X)

Board President: Dave Lindblom

Board of Directors:

Dennis Quivey - Vice President

Thad Wasson - Secretary

Alan Bishop - Asst. Secretary

Don Andersen - Treasurer

Gary Kluthe

Jim Preston

CEO & General Manager: Walker Witt

wwitt@bhec.coop

Manager of Operations: Bill Brisk

billb@bhec.coop

Chief Financial Officer: Sammi Langendorf

slang@bhec.coop

System Coordinator: Jesse Sorenson

jsorenson@bhec.coop

IT Specialist: Jeff Barnes

jbarnes@bhec.coop

Director of Communications

& Member Services: Michelle Fischer

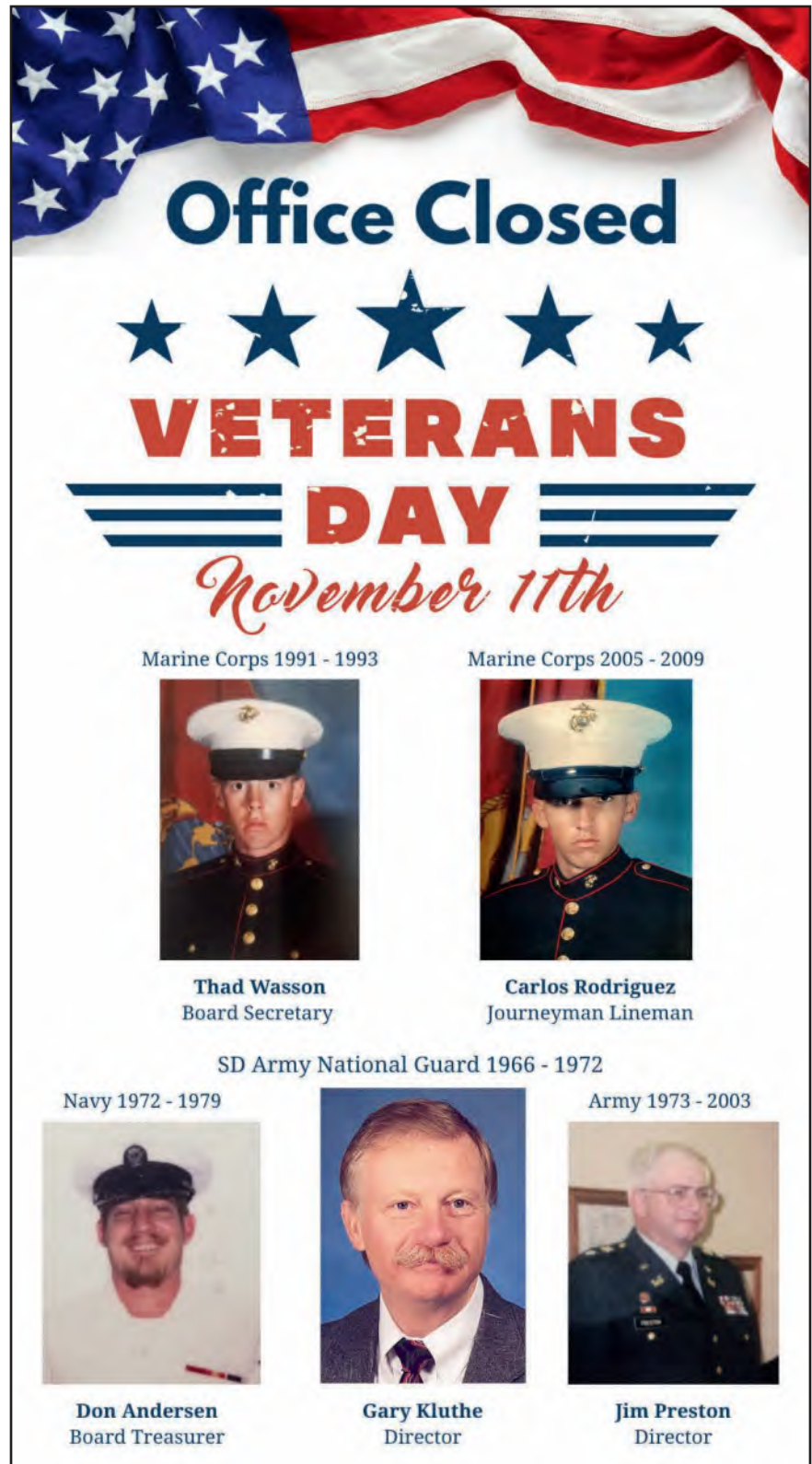
michellef@bhec.coop

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.

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Subscription information: Black Hills Electric Cooperative members devote 55 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.



Office Closed

VETERANS DAY

November 11th

Marine Corps 1991 - 1993



Thad Wasson
Board Secretary

Marine Corps 2005 - 2009



Carlos Rodriguez
Journeyman Lineman

SD Army National Guard 1966 - 1972

Navy 1972 - 1979



Don Andersen
Board Treasurer



Gary Kluthe
Director

Army 1973 - 2003



Jim Preston
Director

Stay Safe This Holiday Season:

Tips for a Merry and Accident-Free Celebration

The holidays bring families together with twinkling lights, festive meals and cozy traditions. But they also bring seasonal risks that can turn celebrations into emergencies if precautions aren't taken. Local safety officials are reminding residents to keep safety in mind when cooking, decorating, and entertaining this year.

Extension Cords

With more lights and electronics plugged in during the holidays, extension cords are often stretched to their limits. Experts urge homeowners not to overload outlets and to replace any cords that are frayed or damaged. Only outdoor-rated cords should be used outside, especially in snowy or wet conditions.

Families should avoid running cords under rugs or across doorways where they can overheat or become tripping hazards.

Turkey Fryers

Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners have grown to include deep-fried turkeys, but safety must come first. Fryers should only be used outdoors, on a flat surface and far away from buildings, garages or wooden decks. Fire officials caution that a partially frozen or wet turkey can cause oil to boil over and ignite, leading to severe burns or home fires.

A fire extinguisher rated for grease fires should always be kept nearby, and fryers should never be left unattended while in use. One distracted moment can cause a disaster.

Ladders

From hanging lights to topping off the tree, ladders are part of the holiday routine. Falls are among the most common seasonal injuries, so ladders should be set on level ground and never leaned against unstable surfaces. Having another person hold the ladder is strongly advised.

Candles and Fireplaces

Candles and fireplaces are popular during the holiday season, but they also raise the risk of home fires, especially when combined with the extra decorations and greenery that fill many homes in December. According to the National Fire Protection Association, candles cause an average of

46% of fires in December each year. Never leaving a flame unattended and incorporating a few safety rules can prevent a devastating fire.

Lights and Decorations

Before hanging holiday lights, inspect strands for cracked socket, frayed wires or loose connections, and replace any damaged sets. Outdoor lights should always be weather-rated, and lights should be turned off before bedtime or when leaving the house. Timers and smart plugs can help make this easier.

Decorations should be securely fastened to prevent them from tipping or falling, especially in homes with children or pets. Heavy ornaments should be placed higher on the tree, out of reach of small hands and wagging tails. Fire officials also recommend choosing flame-resistant or non-combustible decor whenever possible and keeping all decorations away from heaters, fireplaces or open flames.



"Don't fly kites near power lines!"

Kristen Vanden Berg, Age 11

Kristen cautions readers on the dangers of flying kites near power lines. Great picture, Kristen! Kristen's parents are Andy and Geraldine Vanden Berg from Corsica, S.D.

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

Holiday SIDE DISHES

CORN CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

2 15 oz. cans whole kernel corn, drained
15 oz. can cream corn
1/2 cup butter, melted
1 box Jiffy cornbread mix
1/2 pt. whipped cream

Method

Combine whole kernel corn, cream corn, butter, Jiffy cornbread mix and whipping cream. Mix thoroughly. Pour into greased 8.5"x11" pan and bake at 350° F for 40-45 minutes.

Sharon Houchin
Central Electric

BETTER THAN STUFFING

Ingredients:

1 box chicken/turkey stuffing mix
Chicken broth
Celery
Carrots
Onions
1 stick herbed butter (or make your own)
2 cups chicken/turkey gravy

Method

Prepare stuffing according to directions but substitute water with broth. Dice and sauté celery, carrots (total of two cups) and onions in herbed butter. Fold into stuffing. Put into baking pan and top with gravy. Poke gravy into stuffing – just a little bit. Don't completely mix. Bake at 350° F for 20 minutes and broil briefly at the end.

Valerie Marso
Oahe Electric

RAW VEGETABLE SALSA

Ingredients:

2-4 medium cucumbers, cubed
2-4 medium tomatoes, cubed
1 small onion or 1/2 of a white or yellow onion sliced
1 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. sugar
2 tbsps. apple cider vinegar
Additions: black pepper to taste, chopped basil, or chopped green bell pepper.

Method

Place cubed tomatoes and peeled cucumbers into a bowl. Add sliced onion.

Mix in remaining ingredients and stir. Marinate for several hours or overnight.

This salad keeps for 3-4 days refrigerated.

Raw Vegetable salads full of electrolytes, vitamin C and fiber.

Laurie Wernke
Southeastern Electric

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 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Prep Now for Winter Savings



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

Q: What can I do now to manage my winter energy bills?

A: You'll be thankful you prepared in the fall for colder weather when you receive your first winter bill. Just as you pull out your winter gear before you need it, prepping your home for the coming season is a great idea.

The following steps can be taken now to use less energy at home before the winter chill sets in. They also help lower strain on the electric grid during extreme winter weather when energy use is at its peak in your community.

First, let's consider your home's layers. Just like layering up those winter flannels, fleeces and down jackets with waterproof, wind-stopping shells, gloves and hats, your home needs layers, too. Air sealing and insulation protect your home from the elements while locking in the warm air to keep you cozy. The same applies to hot weather, making air sealing and insulation a year-round efficiency upgrade.

To offset the costs, federal tax credits for energy efficiency upgrades are available through Dec. 31, 2025. Homeowners can claim a total of 30% of the cost of installation, up to \$3,200. Tax credits are available for insulation, heat pumps, air conditioning systems and more. There's even a tax credit for electrical panel upgrades, which might be needed to accommodate new energy efficient equipment.

There's also a \$150 tax credit for an energy audit, which allows a pro to help determine what your home needs and how to prioritize potential projects. Visit energystar.gov for more information.

When it comes to do-it-yourself projects, there are a few upgrades you

can take care of yourself. Lock in savings with window cleaning and maintenance. Make sure sash locks and window cranks are in good working order and cleaned of any dirt and leaves. Debris can keep them from closing snugly. I find the crevice tool attachment on my vacuum cleaner, combined with a small, dry scrub brush or an old toothbrush, works great. The locks should pull the top and bottom window sashes together tightly. For casement windows, the locks should pull the window tightly to the frame.

Although it might not seem like a significant difference, reducing airflow through and around windows can make your home more comfortable in the winter. Replacing broken or nonfunctional sash locks can be a reasonable DIY project, but it's best to avoid doing it when the winter winds are blowing. Also, use caulk to seal all gaps around the window trim. If you have operable storm windows, make sure they close.

If you have a forced-air heating or air conditioning system, replace the filter. First, turn the system off to check it. If your filter is dirty, leave it in place until you have a replacement. Running your system without a filter can send any dust or dirt in the ductwork directly into the components and damage your equipment. Make a note of the filter's size on your shopping list or take a picture of the filter with your phone so you can reference it when running errands.

Also, stocking up on filters can save you money. I bought a 12-pack of filters for \$72 – \$6 each. A similar filter sold separately was \$10. Don't see a bulk pack at your local hardware store? Ask at the customer service desk. They may be able to order them for you.

This fall, look for opportunities to protect your home from the elements and maintain your equipment before the cold of winter.



HUNTER'S SAFETY

HuntSAFE volunteer instructors, from left, Kit Talich, Derek Wolf and Greg Miller, demonstrate proper gun safety during a HuntSAFE course. Not pictured is instructor Mike McKernan.

Photo by Frank Turner.

Co-op employees get involved in HuntSAFE

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

For more than 10 years, West Central Electric Cooperative Staff Engineer Kit Talich has volunteered with the HuntSAFE program in his hometown of Murdo. Run by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks with help from local instructors, HuntSAFE teaches young people how to hunt both safely and ethically.

Just last month, Talich was in front of a class at Jones County Elementary School, holding a specially modified firearm designed only for demonstrations. The training guns have no firing pins, but the lessons carry real weight as Talich taught sixth-grade students how to cross a fence safely, keep a muzzle pointed in the right direction and always treat a firearm as if it is loaded.

"I went in for a year or two just to help out," Talich recalled. "Then I took the instructor exam and got certified in 2015, and I've been teaching ever since."

HuntSAFE is designed for youth hunters in South Dakota. In order to hunt under certain youth tags, students must first complete the program and earn their HuntSAFE card. The course covers everything from basic firearm mechanics to safe handling, outdoor ethics and wildlife conservation.

"It's about 10 to 12 hours of classroom in-

struction, plus a field day," Talich explained. "We go over the book material, but then the kids also have to handle firearms, cross fences, shoot clay pigeons and demonstrate that they understand the safety rules."

Talich said his co-op's culture of community commitment has always made volunteering possible.

"The co-op has always been very supportive," Talich said. "They've encouraged me to take time out of my day to help with the program. Everyone's on board with safe hunting and safe handling of firearms. It fits right in with the cooperative principle of concern for community."

While many of the students go on to hunt deer, pheasants or other game, Talich emphasizes that HuntSAFE is about more than just filling a tag.

"A lot of these kids may never go hunting, but living in rural South Dakota, chances are they'll be around firearms at some point," he said. "The most important thing is that they know how to safely handle a firearm or that they have the confidence to speak up if someone else isn't handling one safely."

In the safety course, Talich often highlights four core safety rules: always treat every gun as if it is loaded, always point the muzzle in a safe direction, keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot, and be sure of your target and what is beyond.

"If you follow those four, the chances of anyone getting hurt are very, very low," he said. "It's rewarding to watch them learn and take it seriously. And it's rewarding to know they're taking those lessons home — sometimes even teaching their younger siblings or cousins what they've learned."

After nearly two decades at the cooperative, Talich is preparing to join Sioux Valley Energy — a career move that also means stepping away from his role in the HuntSAFE classroom. To ensure the program continues, another West Central Electric employee is ready to take his place. Derek Wolf, who has already been helping in the classroom alongside Talich, said he is thrilled to continue representing West Central Electric in the program.

"I just grew up around hunting and firearms, and I think it's a neat program for kids to be involved in," Wolf said. "Whether they end up hunting or just knowing gun safety, I think it's huge. Obviously, Kit's been doing it a lot of years, and he saw I was interested. With him stepping out, it just made sense to step in."

Looking back at 10 years of volunteering, Talich said he is glad to see another co-op face step forward to champion gun safety.

"It's important to me that the program keeps going strong," Talich said. "It's good to know there are people like Wolf who are willing to step up and carry it on."



CARING FOR CAREGIVERS

Exploring Structured Family Caregiving Services for South Dakota's Caregivers

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

November is recognized nationally as Family Caregivers Month, a time to honor the essential role of caregivers and highlight the resources available to them and the loved ones they support.

Yet, families face a growing challenge: how to care for aging loved ones when services are often far from home. Nursing homes or assisted living centers may be located hours away, and even when they are nearby, the cost or availability of space can present real barriers.

One answer has been the Structured Family Caregiving program, launched by the South Dakota Department of Human Services (DHS) in 2019.

According to Heather Krzmarzick, Director of the Division of Long-Term Services and Supports within DHS, the program is one of many resources at DHS that are

Several resources are available for caregivers in South Dakota through the Department of Human Services.

Photos by Homecare Services.

available to help older adults and their caregivers. It provides training, coaching, ongoing support and even a modest stipend to those offering significant care for an older adult in the home.

“Structured Family Caregiving serves caregivers who live with their family member and provide substantial care for them, including personal care, supervision, medication management and other things, such as managing finances and transportation for necessary appointments and community activities,” Krzmarzick said.

In many ways, the program echoes the electric cooperative story. Just as co-ops once brought electricity to rural areas that were otherwise overlooked, the program helps families meet a need that might otherwise go unserved. In places where nursing homes or assisted living centers are many miles away, the program gives families a practical way to continue care at home, often the place where people feel most comfortable.

“Structured Family Caregiving is important because it

supports the vital work of family caregivers, strengthens families and improves outcomes, especially in underserved or isolated regions,” she said. “The program honors South Dakota’s values of strong families, independence and community.”

In addition to expanding community-based care options to rural areas, the program allows families to potentially prevent or delay the move to a nursing home and reduce the economic burden that often comes with that transition. Krzmarzick said DHS also offers other programs for those that may need a little extra assistance to remain safely in their homes but don’t require the intensive services of a nursing facility.

“Each caregiver has unique needs and preferences,” she said. “As such, the services and supports are designed to meet the varying needs of each caregiver and help care for a person at home as long as possible.”

To be eligible for the program, the care recipient must be 65 or older or

18 or older with a qualifying disability and meet both functional and financial criteria to qualify for the program.

Since its creation, the program has grown steadily, giving more families the tools to succeed. Krzmarzick said it has allowed many older adults and adults with disabilities to remain in their homes while supporting family caregivers with knowledge, training and a small amount of financial assistance.

Agency Director Steven Novotny with Homecare Services of South Dakota, Inc., one of many in-home care providers in the state, said that few other programs reach and serve those who need care quite like the program.

“Structured Family Caregiving has the unique ability to serve consumers in every community across our state, large or small. Under this program, individuals can receive care from a trusted family member or friend, which allows them to remain independent and living in their community,” he said. “Our caring staff at Homecare Services of South Dakota have seen

firsthand the positive impact on families when we are able to provide support and training to the caregivers that are stepping into what is often a challenging role caring for a loved one.”

Krzmarzick said the Structured Family Caregiving program is just one of many support options that DHS offers individuals and their caregivers in South Dakota. Resources are available online at dhs.sd.gov or through Dakota at Home, South Dakota’s Aging and Disability Resource Center, at 1-833-663-9673.

“All caregivers, not just those utilizing the Structured Family Caregiving Program, may access free training and resources to help improve confidence in their caregiving abilities, reduce stress and prevent burnout,” Krzmarzick said. “Caregivers may also be eligible for other programs that offer respite options. Our Dakota at Home specialists are dedicated to helping you find services and supports to meet your specific needs or the needs of a family member.”



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-L was published in the October edition.**

M

MAAS, LAURA
MAAS, MOIRA/PETER L.
MACHOVEC, JEROME/MARY L.
MACINNES, JAMES/MARY
MACKEY, DEBORA K.
MAI, TRAVIS/CHRISTY
MALISON, KURT J.
MALLARY, RONALD/TERRY
MALLOY, DEAN G.
MALONE, MARY
MALONEY, MARGARET
MANDELBERG, LINDA
MANDERS, WADE/BOBI J.
MANEY, PATRICK T./SHARON K.
MANGOLD, DOUGLAS W.
MANNING, ANITA
MANNING, STEVEN A.
MANTON, SHERRY ESTATE
MARANTOS, ALLEN A./WANDA J.
MARKLEY, SUSAN
MARQUAND, LARRY/MARILYN
MARQUARDT, SAMUEL
MARR, KEVIN F.
MARR-PETERSEN, STACEY
MARSHALL, JON/SHARON
MARSHALL, VIOLA J.
MARTENS, LUKE/SHANTI
MARTIN, GEORGE/SANDRA
MARTIN, KATHI N./SIEGMUNT
MARTINI, PATRICIA
MASARIK, AL
MASON, D. G.
MASON, JOANNE E.
MATHEWS, M. J.
MATHIS, ARDIST.
MATHIS, C. R./JUDY L.
MATTHEWS, STANTON/LORI
MATTIS, JOHN W./VALENTINA
MATTOX, HENRY W.
MAUDE, TIFFANY
MAULE, BILL
MAY, WOLFGANG T./SUZANNE D.
MAY, WYLLEEN
MAY-GREENOUGH, MANDI
MCCLASKEY, BRYAN L.
MCCLASKEY, THOMAS/ROSE
MCCLUNG, HARRY R. ESTATE
MCCLURE, MARGARET I.
MCCORMICK, DANIEL F.
MCCRILLIS, WILLIAM K.

MCCUTCHEON, WALT
MCDONALD, DENNIS/CAROLINE
MCDONALD, LUCILLE R. ESTATE
MCELHANEY, ROYCE A./MARGO
MCFARLAND, MICHAEL/ANGELA
MCGEE, JAMES M./REVA J.
MCGEE, MICHAEL T./JUDITH
MCGEE, ROBERT A./BILLIE D.
MCGOWAN, JUDY S.
MCGUIGAN, MICHAEL/KAREN
MCGULLION, DAVE/BRENDA
MCINNIS, STEVE/DENISE
MCKEE, STAN
MCKERNAN, PATRICK
MCKIM, LARRY W./ROSE M.
MCCLAUGHLIN, LAVERNE/FLORENCE
MCMAHON, ADAM L.
MCMURTRY, PAMELA/MICHAEL
MCNAIR, NORMA L.
MCPHERSON, A. J.
MCPHERSON, JAMES/JAMIE
MCVEY, MARY K.
MEEKS, KELLY
MEEKS, MICHAEL L.
MEHLHOP, PAT/TARA
MEINERS, LARRY
MEINHARDT, ALTA E.
MELBY, JANS
MELLO, JILBERTO
MELLO, JILBERTO/CHRYSTAL
MELLO, MANUEL ESTATE
MENNING, CLAIR R./JANA
MERRITT-LAMPL, JUDY
MESSER, ROBERT/JUDY M.
MESSING, BETH
METTLER, ANNE
MEYER, CAROL/PHILLIP
MEYER, DANIEL L./ANGELA M.
MEYER, GLENN/VANETTE
MEYER, RODNEY
MICHAEL BAKER JR. INC
MICHAEL, STANLEY J. ESTATE
MIDDLETON, SHARON
MIDWEST GAMING INC
MIES INC. - PETER MIES
MIGLIORINO, ROBERT R.
MIGNERY, SID
MILEY, JACKIE
MILLER, ALAN R./CHRISTINE
MILLER, AUGUST F./EVELINE L.
MILLER, CHAD/PAMELA

MILLER, CHEYNEY
MILLER, DORTHY M.
MILLER, JOHN A./DAWN
MILLER, THOMAS E.
MILLIGAN, MICHAEL/KIMBERLY
MILLIN, MELISSA/DAVID
MILLS, DENNIS M.
MILLS, JERRY J./SHERRI L.
MINER-GRAVES, GLOVONNA L.
MINES, ROBERT
MINK, POTEET
MINKLER, BRUCE A.
MINOR, VERONICA J.
MITCHELL, JIM/ANN
MITCHELL, ROBERT L./SUSAN B.
MITCHELSON, LEE/DAY
MOHR, SCOTT A./DIANA J.
MOLER, DAVID N./SHANNON D.
MOLLER, DAN L./MELANIE
MOLTZEN, ROBERTA
MONCRIEF, KEITH W./TONG M.
MONGOLD, NANCY M.
MONROE, TRACEY/DENISE
MONTANA, GARY/LINDA
MONTANA, LINDA
MONTGOMERY, JOHN/SHEREE
MOORE, DANNY/CYNTHIA
MOORE, JAMES A.
MOORE, NANCY
MOORE, ROBERT E. ESTATE
MOOS, THEODORE C./MARCIA
MORALES, SANJUANA
MORENO, JAMES
MORGAN, SUSAN
MORKEN, CHARLES/JANET
MORRILL, KEITH
MORRIS, ALLEN D./JANET L.
MORRIS, BRIAN S./MICHELLE D.
MORRIS, CHARLES L.
MORRIS, JOEL D./ELIZABETH A.
MORRIS, LARRY/JACKIE
MORRIS, SUSAN D./JOEL E.
MORRIS, TAMBRA
MORROW, TOM
MOSEY, PAUL A.
MOSKAL, LEONARD S.
MUDEK, TIM/SANDRA
MUELLER, DAVE/BRENDA
MUNOZ, MARIA S.
MUNSELL, ROBERT
MURAIDA, RONALD/JUDITH

MURPHY, GREGORY L.
MURPHY, ROGER
MUTH, SHELBY/BARBARA
MYERS, LESLIE E.

N

NASH, MERWYN D.
NATION, ALICIA
NEILL, DENNIS
NELSON LANE, CONSTANCE
NELSON, CLIFFORD J./MARIE V.
NELSON, DANNY L./JODI C.
NELSON, ROBERT L./LORI
NELSON, VELVET/BLADE
NEMO GUEST RANCH - JOHN/DALE DEVERMAN
NETTIFEE, TOBY
NEUBERGER, W. G.
NEUENSCHWANDER, MARIE/WES
NEWKIRK, DUANE
NEWLIN, STEPHEN/TERRY
NEWSOM, RAYMOND F./MARIANNE K.
NICHOLSON, GERALD/JENNETTE
NICHOLSON, JENNETTE
NIELSEN, DONALD (DUANE)/KARI
NIELSEN, FRED L.
NIELSEN, MARVIN/DELORES
NIELSON, MARI
NIELSON, MARI/SCOTT
NIGGEMANN, JODI/ROBERT P.
NIKKILA, RON/LAURA
NILSEN, RONDA
NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER
NOBLE, ROBERT J.
NOLAN, BETTY L.
NORDNESS, RICHARD A./CONNIE
NORRIS, SHAWN/AMY
NORTHWEST DISTRICT OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH
NUNLEY, THOMAS/LINDA
NUSTAD, CHARLES/MARY
NYGAARD, ELAINE J.

O

OAKES, JACK S./HARRIET
O'BRIEN, MARJORIE
O'BRIEN, PATRICK
O'BRYAN, LAURIE
O'CONNELL RANCH - O'CONNELL, MITCH
O'CONNOR, JOHN W./NANCY B.
O'CONNOR, THOMAS T.
O'DELL, BEN/PEGGY

OESTMANN, ERIC/DARLA J.
O'LEARY (DINGMAN), LILY
OLESEN, RICHARD/MARGUERITE
OLIVER, CHRIS/PENNY
OLIVER, KIRK
OLIVER, KIRK/DEBBIE
OLOFSON, SHERRY M.
OLSEN, MARVIN/ROXANNE
OLSEN, WILLIAM L.
OLSON, ALAN C. ESTATE
OLSON, ALBERT/KATHLEEN
OLSON, DARIN C.
OLSON, GREG
ONE FEATHER, DAN
ONE FEATHER, KELMAR ESTATE
O'NEILL, PATSY
ON-SITE INSPECTION AGENCY
ORBAN, JOHN/MARY
ORMESHER, DAVID M./JOAN L.
ORMESHER, LORRAINE
ORR, DENNIS J.
ORTEGA, MIKE A./ROBBI J.
ORTEGA, ROBBI J.
ORTMAN, JIM
OSBORN, ERIC
OSTYN, M. D.
OWEN, BERNARD A.
OXYOKE RANCH INN - RONNIE L. RUST

P
PACE, JON G.
PALMER, STEVEN D.
PAPIKE, DR. JAMES/PAULINE
PARKER, DAVID A.
PARKER, PATRICIA
PARKS, MICHAEL/JACQUELINE
PARSLEY, ALLISON
PASCHKE, DEAN L./DANETTE M.
PASQUALUCCI, ROBERT/PENNY
PATRICK, CONNIE
PATTON, DOROTHY A.
PAVER, MIKE/DAWN
PAVLICK, THOMAS/CHRISTINE
PEARSON, JAMES R./CHIE
PEARSON, M. M.
PEARSON, MICHELLE
PEASE, MICHAEL
PECHA, GORDON
PECK, THOMAS E./LYNN A.
PEDERSON, RON
PELCHAT, LAUREN
PELLER, RICH
PELTZ, DENNIS/JOAN
PENASKOVIC, STEPHEN/NANCY
PENDERGRASS, ANOUSKA
PENLAND, JUDY
PEPPER, MARY L.
PERKINS, PATRICK S./VICKI L.
PERRETT, JEROLD M.

PERRIGO, REX/GERI
PETERSEN, C. P./IONE K.
PETERSEN, DAN
PETERSON, BRIAN/ELIZABETH
PETERSON, DOLORES J.
PETERSON, ELIZABETH ESTATE
PHILLIPS, CORBIN
PHILLIPS, PAM
PHILLIPS, PAUL E.
PHONETEL TECHNOLOGIES
PICOTTE, CLIFFORD S./JOYCE
PIGSLEY, ELRA E.
PINKERTON, WILLIAM W./DONNA
PISTORIO, ELENA
PLANK, LESTER M./JANET L.
PLOOSTER, JERRY/SONDRA
PLUMMER, GLENN
POINT, SUSAN K.
POLIZZI, RAYMOND A./MARYANN
POLONCIC, JOHN/JEANNINE
POMARICO, BERNICE
POND, GERALD/KEE S.
POOL, GREGORY/KATHY
POOLEY, VIVIAN L.
PORTZ, GEORGE N.
POSEY, WILLIE H./NAOMI C.
POUNTAIN, JOHN G.
POWELL, EVELYN
PRATER, MARGARET
PRICE, STEVE C.
PRIMER, DON/KATHY
PRINCE, JANE
PROBST, ROBERT G.
PROSOSKI, THEODORE
PUCKETT, PHIL
PULLEN, PAMELLA

Q
QUELCH, DEBORAH

R
RADLINGER, RICHARD
RAGELS, VINCENT R./DEBORAH
RAINFORD, ROCKY/TINA
RAMIREZ, ARTHUR
RANDLEAS, RICHARD/NANCY
RANDOLPH, DONNA/SCOTT
RAPID CONSTRUCTION -
↳ ROBERT V. HOUTEN
RASHE, PETER J./LYNNE A.
RASMUSSEN, EVELYN
RASMUSSEN, THOMAS P./ANN K.
RAU, JOHN B./JOAN M.
RAUERT, CRAIG M./LINDA L.
RAYBURN, RICHARD L./HELEN E.
REANY ESTATE, MAMIE
REBER, TY/LINDA
RED FEATHER, CLEO

REDDEN, ROBERT/SUSAN
REDDEN, SUSAN/JOSHUA
REED, PAUL V./GERI L.
REES, JACQUELINE
REGISTER, PAM
REHFELD, RUTH
REIGHARD, TODD L./PAULETTE
REMBOLDT, SCOTT
RENCOUNTRE, GAYLE
RENFRO, REBECCA D.
RENKLY, SCOTT M.
RENTZ, JOHN M.
REYNOLD'S STAGE STOP
REZAC, JOHN
RHEAD, BRAD
RHODE, RICHARD W./DEBORAH J.
RHUDY, KEITH
RICHARDS, DENISE L.
RICHARDS, DOUG
RICHARDS, JEFFRY D./KATHY L.
RICHARDS, RONALD/DEBRA
RICHARDSON, KAREN K. ESTATE
RICHARDSON, MICHAEL
RICHINS, KRIS/R. K.
RICHMOND, JOHN/LINDA
RICHTER, JAMES A.
RICKENBACH, ROSE A. ESTATE
RICKS BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION -
↳ RAMEY/ELIZABETH RICKS
RIGGS, TROY/SHELLI
RILEY, DORAN/JUDITH
RILEY, ELIZABETH A.
RINEHART, JOSEPH/IVA J.
RINGHOFER, BOB
RISING, CURTIS D./ALISA A.
RISS, JOHN/CAROL S.
RISTAU, TONI
RJD & ASSOCIATES - ROBERT DUDZINSKI
ROBB, BRIAN A./DIANE
ROBERSON, MAXINE A.
ROBERTS, CAPT P.
ROBERTS, LORRAINE M.
ROBLEY, QUENTIN/GLORIE A.
ROCH, B. C.
ROCHON, MICHAEL/LISA A.
ROCKVAM, DONALD
ROEN, ROBERT D./VIRGINIA C.
ROGERS, JENNIFER L.
ROGERS, VICKI/JOHN
ROHBOCK, CARL/PAMELA C.
ROMEY, FLORENCE I. ESTATE
ROOT, PAULA K.
ROSE, COREEN S.
ROSE, ROGER
ROSE-FROELICH, SHARON
ROSENBERG, PAUL
ROSENQUIST, EDWARD E.
ROSS, DONALD H.
ROSS, MICHAEL E./KAREN L.

ROSSOW, SHAUN A./ANGELA
ROTHS, ARTHUR/JOYCE
ROUPE, GILBERT N.
ROUX, STEVEN M.
ROWE, SUE/SAM
ROYSTON, EDNA
RUD, JOHN M.
RUE, DENISE
RUEDEBUSCH, MITCHELL/KRISTINE
RUFFING, CHARLES F.
RUMBAUGH, SUSAN
RUMBAUGH, TIMOTHY/SUSAN
RUNGE, WILLIAM F.
RUPP, RICHARD/LEA
RUSHING, JOHN T./BRENDA A.
RUSHMORE RANCH ESTATES
RUSSELL, WILLIAM J./EVELYN
RUTHERFORD, KATHRYN
RYTTER, DEANNA D.

S
SAATHOFF, BRAD/DIANA
SAHADI, ED/VICKI
SALAZAR, HEDY M.
SALINE, JEFFREY/KAREN
SALVERSON, GARY/ELLY
SAMPSON, DARLENE A.
SANDERS, SHARON
SANDVOLD, AL/JANELLE
SATTERFIELD, LEATHA A./STEVE
SATTERFIELD, STEVE
SAUKERSON, ALISON
SAULSBURY, PAUL C.
SAVALA, ROBERT
SCHAEFER, SHERRY
SCHAEFFER, WILLIAM G./KELLY
SCHALLER, DANIEL P./DEBRA M.
SCHARTZ, KENNETH
SCHATZ, RAYMOND M./CHERE M.
SCHAUER, DAVE
SCHAUER, DAVID/BRENDA
SCHELL, PAULA
SCHMIDT, JEROME A.
SCHMITZ, EDWARD.
SCHNABEL, JANELLE
SCHNEIDER, BEVERLY
SCHNEIDER, CHARLOTTE ESTATE
SCHNEIDER, GARY L./BETH L.
SCHNEIDERMAN, KEITH
SCHOENROCK, LINDA M.
SCHRANDT, PETER A.
SCHRIEVER, TODD/CHERYL
SCHRODER, THOMAS D.
SCHROEDER, ELTON E./LEONA G.
SCHULTE, WILMA J.
SCHULTZ, ANDREW J./STACEY
SCHULTZ, CLARK A./LYNNE M.
SCHULTZ, JEFFREY

(continued on page 14)



LINEMENS' TRAINING READYED CREW FOR CHAINSAW ACCIDENT

(From left) When Brandon Schmiege cut his forearm, fellow linemen Tristan Hall, Luke Koval and Brian Davis knew exactly how to respond.
Photo submitted by Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative.

When a Routine Day of Trimming Trees Turned Critical, Cooperative Employees Were Prepared to Help

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Perched within the manlift on a bucket truck, Brandon Schmiege methodically sawed away large tree branches near overhead power lines, dropping them to the ground more than 50 feet below.

It's nothing out of the ordinary, explained the 19-year veteran lineman from Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative in Milbank, South Dakota. After a while, you become accustomed to the work – and its hazards.

From the bucket he was standing in, Brandon reached with

his chainsaw for one of the last few cuts he'd need to make. But as he began the cut, the chainsaw kicked up and he lost control. Steadying himself and throwing the brake on the saw, Brandon looked down at his left arm. He'd been badly cut.

"I saw quite a bit of blood right away," Brandon said. "My first thought was that I needed to get down fast."

Gathering his strength and trying his best to stay calm, Brandon maneuvered his bucket down through the tree limbs back to the ground where linemen Brian Davis, Luke Koval and Tristan Hall noticed something wasn't right.

"I think we all sensed something happened," Brian explained. "The way he was coming down like that, and he'd just fueled up the saw, so we were wondering what had happened."

Luke ran to go shut off the woodchipper, which was drowning out Brandon's yelling. As the engine died, they finally heard Brandon yell, "Call for help!"

Brian raced to the truck to radio back to the office in Milbank, calling in a "Mayday" along with the crew's location.

With a first-aid and tourniquet kit in hand, Brian sprinted toward Brandon, where Tristan and Luke had removed Brandon's safety harness and wrapped a towel over the wound on Brandon's forearm and applied pressure to slow the bleeding.

As the team secured a tourniquet tightly around Brandon's upper arm, the crew kept in touch with the office by cell phone. The office staff, having called 911 as soon as they heard 'Mayday,' worked together to relay the street address and details of the injury to emergency dispatchers.

Seeing the urgency of the situation, the team placed Brandon in the service pickup and Tristan began driving him to the hospital. As the linemen were driving back into town, the ambulance met them and took Brandon to the hospital in Milbank where they stabilized him and discovered he'd severed two arteries in his forearm. He was then transferred to

Sioux Falls and underwent surgery.

Luckily, Whetstone Valley Electric and the South Dakota Rural Electric Association had conducted first-aid training for linemen just several weeks before. The instruction included CPR, AEDs, tourniquets and wound care.

"Regular first-aid training and keeping first-aid supplies on hand is so important because our linemen are often out somewhere rural," explained Joe Denison, SDREA's loss control professional and certified paramedic for the Arlington and Lake Norden ambulances. "If we have to wait 30 minutes for an ambulance, that can be too late."

Whetstone Valley Electric General Manager Dave Page says despite the incident, he finds it encouraging that the employees followed procedure — maintaining clear communication with each other and with 911, administering first aid on site, and knowing exactly what to do each step of the way.

"It wasn't only the training that was provided, but it was the attention that

these guys gave to that training - where it stuck, and their response was automatic," Dave said. "In addition, the Mayday training that we do here at Whetstone went a long way to help us all stick to the plan and see a successful outcome."

Now back on the job, Brandon credits his safe outcome to the co-op's focus on regular safety training and having first aid supplies in the vehicles.

"I don't think the makeshift towel tourniquet would have stopped the bleeding," Brandon said, looking down at the scar on his forearm.

Brian added, "I don't want to think about the outcome if we didn't have a plan in place."

To help prevent those worst case scenarios, electric cooperatives continually scrutinize safety training and workplace incidents. Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative is sharing this story with its members-owners and fellow cooperatives to promote preparedness for unexpected incidents like this one, and overall encourage a culture of safety awareness.

3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

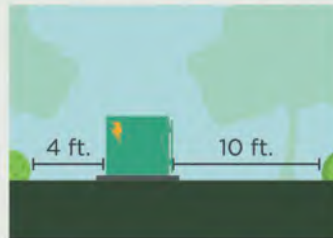
Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them.

Here's how you can help:

1. Plant trees in the right place. Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).



2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



3. Report dangerous branches. If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



Trimming improves safety for all.

Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.

CAPITAL CREDITS

(continued from page 11)

SCHULTZ, MARK/KARA K.
SCHUMACHER, E. G. ESTATE
SCHURMAN, TED R./JANET G.
SCHWAHN, DIANA/BRYAN
SCHWALL, ROGER/NICKI
SCHWALM, PAMELA G./ALBRECHT J.
SCHWARTZ, LES/KELLY
SCHWENDEMAN, MICHAEL L. ESTATE
SCOFIELD, KIRK/DANA
SCOFIELD, PAUL/MAXINE
SCOTT, LEOTA C.
SCOTT, RONALD O./VELMA
SEAMAN, EDWARD C./GAIL M.
SEAT, JACK W./RUBY J.
SEBRING, LESLIE
SEE, BECKY S./CURTIS
SEMPLE, MICHAEL N./MELODY
SEQUENZIA, JOSEPH R./GERALDINE
SHANE, STEVE/ANITA
SHANNON, DAYTON/JUANITA
SHANTEAU, DOUG
SHARP-FRITZ, JODIE
SHAY, ROGER
SHAYKETT, JIM
SHEEHY, MORGAN
SHERIN MARTIN, JANE
SHERMAN, RODERICK L.
SHIGLEY, BARBARA
SHOCKEY, DONNIE
SHULER, BARRY L./LORIS K.
SHYMANSKI, FRANCIS J.
SIBERT FOX, MARY
SIDHE, BRENDA Y.
SIEG, DARYL A./DAWN
SIENICKI, ROBERT/MYRNA
SIEWERT, DENNIS
SIGLER, THERESA
SILVA, LEONA
SILVERNAIL, RICHARD
SIM, EDGAR K.
SIMONSON, MARK
SIMPSON, HARRISON/BARBARA
SIPMA, MILES/LISA
SIX GUNS INC - KEN HILL
SKALBERG, DAVE
SKINNER, LEE/DOLORES
SLAYMAKER, SANDRA
SMITH, ANTHONY J.
SMITH, CASEY M.
SMITH, DARRIN
SMITH, ELDEN M./DINAH
SMITH, HENRY E. JR.
SMITH, J. M./KAREN A.
SMITH, JANE
SMITH, JEROMEY/JESSICA
SMITH, JESI J.
SMITH, JODIE L.
SMITH, LARRY D.
SMITH, MARDELL

SMITH, MICHAEL H./NANCY L.
SMITH, MIKE/CHARI
SNEDEKER, RICHARD J.
SNEVE, VANCE M./VIRGINIA R.
SNIDOW, ELIZABETH ESTATE
SNYDER, JOHN/KRISTI
SNYDER, RICHARD/ALLEN
SNYDER, SCOTT
SORENSEN, FAUN/JEFF
SORENSEN, KELLY/MARIE
SORENSEN, ARNE
SPARGUR, LAURA ESTATE
SPEARS, CORRINA J.
SPEIRS, DARYL
SPELTS, SIDNEY/AMY L.
SPENCER, KEITH/ANNETTE
SPEZZANO, JOSEPH/DEBBY
SPLICHAL, CURTIS/ELIZABETH
STAEDTLER, LOUIS
STAHL, COLTON
STAHL, KENNETH D./SHERYL L.
STAIKOFF, ROBERT H. JR./LISA
STANLEY, DOR-SHAL/MARCIA
STEELE DEVELOPMENT INC
STEELE, GINA L.
STEELE, TERRY A.
STEGE, GARY/KARON
STEINBERG, BEVERLY
STEINER, BRANDON/KRISTEN
STEINERT, TIMOTHY W./VIOLET
STEPHENS, MARY M./TERRY N.
STEUER, TOM/CHRISTINE
STEUERMANN, LEONORA
STEVENS, GENE/ANDREA
STEVENSON, TIM
STEWART, BRYAN
STEWART, JAMES/JACQUELINE
STEWART, JOHN F.
STEWART, ROBERT H.
STEWART, TINA L.
STEWART, TRISHA
STINSON, BRUCE G./JEAN L.
STOLTZ, DOUG/JUDITH
STONE, DIXIE L.
STONE, JEFF/RENEE
STONE, NANCY L.
STONE, RICHARD H./DIANNE K.
STONE, RICHARD L./DONNA J.
STOWALL, JOHN
STRAND, MARVIN/MARJEAN C.
STRATTON, BEN/DENISE
STREHLOW, RICHARD J./ROBERTA J.
STROMER, PATRICIA ESTATE
STROUP, DEANE T.
STRUTTON INN B & B -
↳ CARY/DENICE STRUTTON
STRUXNESS, AMANDA E.
STURN, JOSEPH N.
SUGAR SHACK - DAVE HORTON
SUMMERS, CLIFFORD T.

SUTTON, DEBORAH A. ESTATE
SUURMEYER, VICKI
SVENNES, JERRY/LINAE
SVENSON, SHANNON
SWAIN, JAMES L.
SWALLOW, JOHN H. ESTATE
SWAN, DAWN
SWEANY, VICKY
SWEDLUND, KENNETH/IONE
SWEETWOOD, SCOTT
SWIM, STEVE/JUDY
SYLJUBERGET, DAN R./DONNA L.
SYVERSON, JON/LORELEI

T
TAGGART, FRANK E.
TAYLOR, GLEN
TAYLOR, LARRY
TAYLOR, MARGARET
TAYLOR, TAMARA
TEEPEE CAMPGROUND
TELLER, MARIAN H.
TELLIER, MICHAEL/BONITA
TERBORG, RON W./JUDE L.
TERMES, NATALIE
TERRONES, FIDEL
TERRY, RICKY L.
TESTERMAN, KAREN L.
THELEN, TIM
THIBODEAU, JESSE/JENNIFER
THOEMKE, KURT D./KIMBERLY A.
THOMAS, FLORENCE M.
THOMAS, JACK
THOMAS, ROB M.
THOMAS, SHIRLEY
THOMAS, SHIRLEY M.
THOMAS, STACY A./POLLY J.
THOMAS-FRIEND, LESA K.
THOMPSON, BOYD W./JANET L.
THOMPSON, MAVIS L.
THOMPSON, T. L./CAULINE R.
THOMSON, J. R./JOANN
THOMSON, KEVIN
THORN, ANDREW
THORPE, CINDY
THORSON, GERALD/PATRICIA
THURM, JAMES S.
TIBBLES, PATRICK M./JANYCE
TIESZEN, VELNA M.
TIMBER RIDGE CONVENIENCE STORE
↳ LEE/LINDA OSBORN
TOBIN, RICHARD/KAY
TOFTELAND, DON
TOMASHEK, THOMAS D.
TONUCI, RONALD/KATHLEEN
TORPEY, PATRICIA
TOSTERUD, ROBERT/KAREN
TRAVERS, RICHARD J./DONNA M.
TREFZ, ROBERT J./BARBARA J.

TRETT, MARTY/MARY
TREVINO, SUSAN/EDWARD Q.
TROBEE, SUSAN D.
TRODE, THOMAS
TROJANOWSKI, KATHLEEN M./ANTHONY
TROTTER, GAYLE
TROUT HAVEN CAMPGROUND - BARB BISSON
TROYER, JOHN A./ANNIE F.
TRUHE, MARV/NICKI
TSCHACHER, MARTIN/CYNTHIA
TSCHETTER, DONALD E.
TSCHETTER, NORMAN M./CAROL A.
TSUMPES, BRAD
TUDOR, LAWRENCE W./CAROL C.
TUGGLE, TERRI ESTATE
TURNER, MICHAEL E./SUSAN
TUSKO, CHRIS
TWETO, JOHN
TWO BULLS, EDWARD (TOM)/MAXINE
TWO BULLS, GLADYS ESTATE

U
ULMER, ANTHONY/LEANN
ULRICH, JEFFREY L./GWEN R.
ULVESTAD, LONNA
UNDERWOOD, JIM E.
UST TRANSFORMERS - STEVE HAGLER

V
VAN BUREN, SHELLEY
VAN EKEREN, BARBARA/DANNY
VAN LOENEN, GORDON R./SANDRA M.
VAN METER, SPENCER
VAN SPEYBROECK, THERESA L./JOHN
VAN STRYDONCK, JOHN/MARY A.
VANDE HOEF, JAKE
VANPOOL, RICHARD C./MARILYN
VANTAGE CABLE ASSOC
VARNS, KENNETH E./PAMELA
VAVICH, MITCHELL G.
VENARD, NEIL
VENJOHN, CALLEN P.
VERHAGE, JOHN M./ALISHIA C.
VERMUNDSON, CHAD
VEURINK, SHAWN/DARLENE
VOAS, BARBARA H.
VOCU, ANTHONY/JOLENE M.
VOGEL, DAVID W./MARVA L.
VOIGT, THOMAS J./JANE
VOSS, ROY D./CRYSTAL

W
WACHENDORF, TERRY/MARY
WACHHOLZ, WALLACE R./NANCY
WALKER, MARIA R.
WALKER, RICHARD C.
WALKER, RUSSELL A./RUTH
WALKER, VERNA

CAPITAL CREDITS & STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

WALLACE, BEULAH/JOSIAH A.
WALLS, BRUCE A.
WALLS, CAROL A.
WALMSLEY, J. T. ESTATE
WALSH, DANIEL L.
WALTER, SUSAN K.
WALZ, DON L./GLORIA D.
WANGEN, KEN
WANNARKA, MAX J./KATHERINE
WANNER, IDA ESTATE
WANTTIE, MICHELLE/BRIAN
WAR BONNET RANCH LTD
↳ RODNEY VOLLMER
WARD, EUGENE G./JEANNINE R.
WARD, KRISTOPHER C.
WARREN, MARGARET R.
WARRICK, KREG S./KEENA
WATKINS, DAVE
WATSON, CHESTER R.
WATSON, JOHN H./CYNTHIA A.
WATSON, ROY/LOIS
WATTAWA, LEROY/JUDY
WATTLEWORTH, P. A.
WEAVER, STEVE A./JULIE
WEBBER, LAURA M.
WEBER, RICHARD F.
WECHSLER, SIDNEY E./SANDRA
WEEKS, ERIC W./SHELLEY D.
WEGNER, DANIEL P.
WEICHMAN, DOUGLAS
WEIGER, MONTE
WEIR, CHARLES E.
WEISCHEDEL, CECIL/PATRICIA
WEISCHEDEL, SCOTT A./LORI C.
WEISS, CHARITY
WELCH-PATTERSON, KATHLEEN
WELDER, BILLY J./SUSAN E.
WELDY, LARRY/SUSAN
WELLING, J. H.
WELLMAN, GREG/DEBBIE
WELLS, G. V. ESTATE
WELLS, PATTY
WELLS, SHEILA/TIMOTHY
WELSH, HUGH
WELSH, JUDITH
WELTY, THOMAS/EDITH
WENDT, DONALD F./GRACE
WENZEL, DARREL/DEANNE
WENZEL, LANA
WESTERN MINING CORP (USA)
WESTERN TELECOMMNCATNS - FIBER
WESTERN WIRELESS CORPORATION
WESTERS, TORY N./JOSIE J.
WETMORE, WAYNE
WHARTON, PETER M./SHARON H.
WHIPPLE, ROBERT
WHIPPLE, SYLVIA/VINCENT
WHITE EYES, THEODORE
WHITE, JOAN
WHITE, STANLEY/JANICE

WHITFIELD, DOUGLAS/KAREN L.
WHITING, ALLEN/LOIS
WHITMAN, MARY R. ESTATE
WHITMAN, SUANNA
WHITMAN, TERRY
WHYTE, STANLEY/SCOTT
WIK, SHERRY
WILABY, DENNIS
WILDEMAN, TOM ESTATE
WILKOWSKI, DEB
WILLENBRINK, SUSAN
WILLIAMS, BENJAMIN L.
WILLIAMS, DONALD E.
WILLIAMS, FRACES/MARGARET
WILLIAMS, FREDERICK L./JULIE C.
WILLIAMS, IVY/GRACE
WILLIAMS, JOHN/LISA
WILLIAMS, LARRY
WILLIAMS, PAUL S./BETTY
WILLIAMS, RONNIE D.
WILLSON, JOSEPH
WILMOT, DAVID M./JANICE
WILSEY, LARRY
WILSON, GARRY W.
WILSON, SUSAN A.

WILSON, TED ESTATE
WILSON, TERRIE/MARK
WILSON, WILLIAM
WING, RANDY J.
WINGATE, ROBERT E./EVELYN M.
WINK, ROBIN S.
WIPF, MEGAN
WISE, RICHARD S.
WISE, VICKY/RYAN
WITTE, KAY A.
WITTROCK, ROBERT
WOJACK, JOHN L./KIMBERLY A.
WOLCOTT, MARY L.
WOLF, GARY/JANELYN
WOLF, JANELYN
WOLFF, DIANE
WOLFF, KATHLEEN R. ESTATE
WOLFGRAM, DONNA
WOOD, KEN/THERESA
WOOD, ROBERT L./THERESA A.
WOOD, ROGER
WOODS, WILLIAM E./LAVADA J.
WOSJE, MATT/MICHEALA L.
WRIGHT, M. W./KELLY J.
WRIGHT, RANDALL/LISA

WRIGHT, RICHARD L.
WUERTZ, DENNIS
WYATT, FRANK
WYDAK CABLE TV
WYTOSICK, MICHAEL A.

Y
YELLOW HORSE, ADELINE
YELLOW HORSE, LINDA ESTATE
YOHNER, DENNIS S./HELEN A.
YOUNG, CHRISTOPHER J.
YOUNG, JAMES A.
YOUNG, LISA/MICHAEL
YOUNG, MARY M.
YOUNG, RAE A.
YOUNGBERG, JOE/KARIN

Z
ZAFFT, BRYON T./SUSAN A.
ZARLING, RICK
ZEEB, DAVID W./SANDRA
ZIMMERMAN, ROBERT G.
ZORNES, JULLIAN

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, 2025 4. Issue Frequency: Monthly 5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 12 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$6.65 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, 2025, mailed October 20, 2025. 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)	9,018	8,941
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
1. Paid/Requested Outside County Mail Subscriptions	8,907	8,846
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	8,909	8,848
D. Free Distribution by Mail outside county	90	90
4. Free Distribution Outside the Mail	0	0
E. Total Free Distribution	90	90
F. Total Distribution	8,999	8,938
G. Copies Not Distributed	21	5
H. Total	9,020	8,943
I. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation	98.77	98.94

16. Electronic Copy Circulation: 0

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation as of October 1, 2025



NOV 22, 26, 28-29
Christmas Tree Sales
 Nov. 22: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Nov. 26: 5-8 p.m.
 Nov. 28-29: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 6B Seed And Supplies
 Alpena, SD
www.6Bseedandsupplies.com

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.

OCT. 31
Hill City Main Street Merchant
Trick-or-treat Boys & Girls Club
Annual Halloween Carnival
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 1
Spearfish Senior Center Fall
Craft Fair & Bake Sale
 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Spearfish, SD
 605-642-2827

NOV. 1
Black Hills Meat Fest
 2-4 p.m.
 Nerdy Nuts Expo Hall
 Rapid City, SD

NOV. 1
Fairburn Community Ctr. Bazaar
 5:30 p.m.
 Linn Street
 Fairburn, SD

NOV. 9
Kadoka Holiday Festival
 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
 Kadoka City Auditorium
 Kadoka, SD
 605-488-0151

NOV. 2
Annual Turkey Dinner
& Silent Auction Fundraiser
 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
 Rapid Valley UMC
 5103 Longview Rd.
 Rapid City, SD
 605-393-1526

NOV. 7-9
Hill City Girlfriends' Weekend
 Information on Facebook Page
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 10
Hill City Senior Sunday Breakfast
 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Hill City Center
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 15
Dueling Pianos
Playing for Permanency
 5:30 p.m.
 Holiday Inn & Convention Center
 Spearfish, SD
 605-722-4558

NOV. 16
Advanced Technique Class:
How to Select Fabric
 The Farmer's Daughter
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 22
Lille Norge Fest
 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 Viking Hall
 2900 Canyon Lake Dr.
 Rapid City, SD

NOV. 28
Trees & Trains Exhibit
 SD State Railroad Museum
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 28
Snacks With Santa
 2-4 p.m.
 Hill City Center
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 28
Roasted Chestnuts & Cider
 5 p.m.
 Alpine Inn
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 28
Olde Tyme Christmas Parade
 6 p.m.
 Main Street
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 28
Holiday Express Classic
 First Class & 21+ Spiked!
 1880 Train
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 28-29
Kris Kringle Vendor Fair
 Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Hill City High School
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 30
Advanced Technique Class:
Split Rectangles
 The Farmer's Daughter
 Hill City, SD

DEC. 5-6
Christmas in the Hills
 Mueller Center
 Hot Springs, SD
 605-890-2974

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.