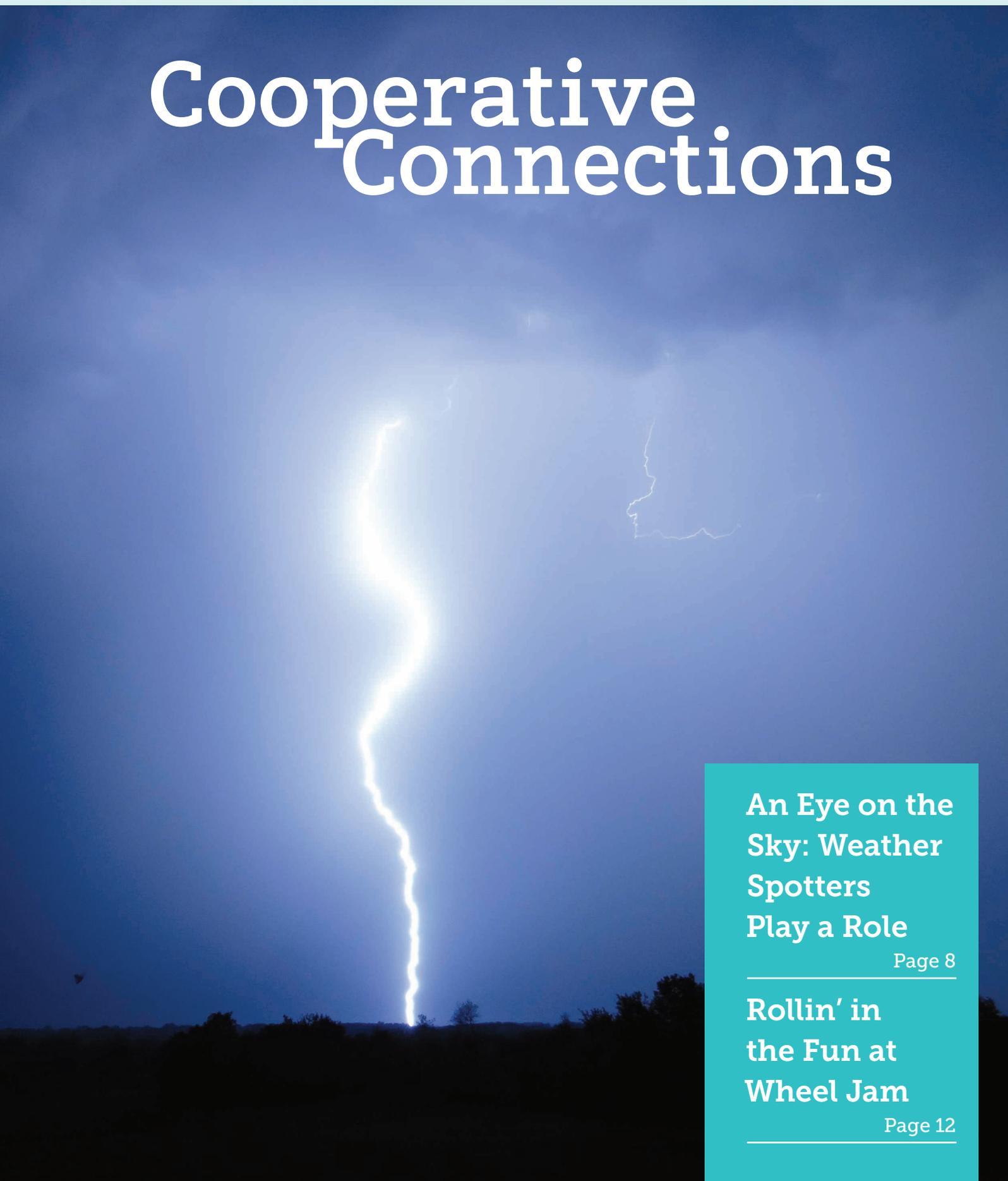


# Cooperative Connections



**An Eye on the  
Sky: Weather  
Spotters  
Play a Role**

Page 8

**Rollin' in  
the Fun at  
Wheel Jam**

Page 12

## Looking back on the Annual Meeting and Planning Ahead

# Moving Your Co-op Forward



**Ken Schlimgen**

General Manager

**Today, about 20 percent of our electric power comes from wind resources and that is expected to increase to 25 percent in the very near future. This is pretty amazing when you consider that every year we use more electricity than we did the year before AND each year, that same electric Kwh is better for our environment.**

What a great Annual Meeting for your cooperative! We hosted 850 members and guests inside the Mitchell Corn Palace on the evening of April 2. The weather was ideal, and it was so enjoyable to see so many friends and familiar faces.

The annual meeting included many of the traditional items, including the financial statement for 2018, employee introductions, and announcements of the winners of our 2019 scholarships and NRECA Youth Tour representatives.

We also tried a few new things this year in an attempt to increase attendance at our event. We had some activities for the kids, including giving the younger kids a chance to wear linemen gear and a bike giveaway. In addition, we offered three \$250 scholarships to high school seniors who attended and are a dependent of a member. I don't think I will ever forget the reaction of young Mr. Greenway who won the bike drawing. He was so happy, and I think he caused all 850 of us to smile.

Our guest speaker was Tom Boyko, East River Electric's General Manager. Tom is originally from North Dakota and came to East River Electric after a 27-year career with Western Area Power Administration.

Tom's presentation was very interesting as he spoke about how the energy industry has changed in the last 10 years and how much faster it will change in the next 10 years. East River is undertaking an aggressive transmission system replacement plan to maintain a high level of reliability and to increase the amount of electric power that can be delivered to our area.

Today, about 20 percent of our electric power comes from wind resources and that is expected to increase to 25 percent in the very near future. This is pretty amazing when you consider that every year we use more electricity than we did the year before AND each year, that same electric Kwh is better for our environment. When you add

the 18% of our power supply that comes from hydro, over 40 percent of our power supply will soon be coming from renewable energy resources. Tom stressed the importance of having a mix of all types of electric generation resources to create a dependable and affordable supply of electricity.

If you have been reading our newsletters or attending our district meetings, you know that your cooperative is also undertaking a more aggressive plan to update and replace our distribution system. This year, we take the first steps of a 5-year plan of work. In total, we plan to replace 340 miles of line and 1700 poles, build 48 miles of new line, install a new metering system, and make numerous smaller system improvements.

Each year the board of directors will review an updated plan and approve the work for the coming year. As a manager, along with the board members and employees of your cooperative, we serve our members for a short time. We inherited a system that belongs to you and our goal is to pass it onto the next generation in better condition than we received it in.

Spring is around the corner and field work may have started by the time you receive this newsletter. Please be aware of farm equipment that is traveling up and down our roads. Be kind and patient to those operators who are planting our food supply. If you are operating farm equipment, please be aware of your surroundings. Take notice of overhead power lines and don't forget about ground mounted boxes and equipment that house high voltage buried cables. We should all take the time to learn how to react when equipment contacts high voltage wires.

I want to again thank those members who chose to attend their annual meeting and to support their electric cooperative. I also challenge each of you to attend our annual meeting in 2020.

Until Next time, Be Safe.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

(USPS 018-963)

**Board of Directors**

- Duane Wolbrink - President
- Todd VanWalleghen - Vice President
- Bernetta Burghardt - Secretary
- Jim Headley - Treasurer
- Mark Hofer - NRECA
- Roger Campbell
- Donita Loudner - SDREA
- Darwin "Butch" Morrison
- Mark Reindl

**General Manager:** Ken Schlimgen

**Editor:** Courtney J. Deinert - courtneyd@centralec.coop

**Assistant Editor:** Patrick Soukup

CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Central 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.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop).

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**Office Information**

M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
800-477-2892 or  
605-996-7516  
[www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop)



**Mission Statement**

Provide Reliable Energy & Services with a Commitment to Safety and Member Satisfaction

## Surplus Vehicle for Sale



**2007 Chevy HD 2500 Pickup**  
Price: **\$3,250**  
245,000 miles  
2 wheel drive  
2 door regular cab  
6L V8 Vortec engine  
Liftgate, tool boxes & rack included

The vehicle will be available to purchase at the Betts Road office at **9:00 AM on Tuesday, April 23rd** to the first buyer present. If multiple buyers are present, an auction will be held, and buyers can increase their bid from the listed price. For more information, contact our office.



**We will be closed on May 27 for Memorial Day.**

## Employee Years of Service

**Curt Guindon**

May 1 - 42 years

**Rodney Weber**

May 1 - 7 years

**Courtney Deinert**

May 1 - 5 years

**Dusty Roskens**

May 8 - 24 years

**Wade Brozik**

May 14 - 12 years

**Teresa Sprinkel**

May 15 - 13 years

**Dustin Weier**

May 16 - 12 years

**Donn Koster**

May 17 - 20 years

**Paul Koch**

May 21 - 18 years

**Aaron Punt**

May 24 - 9 years

**Thank you for your service to the cooperative!**

### High Water, High Stakes

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

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

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

#### Replace or Recondition?

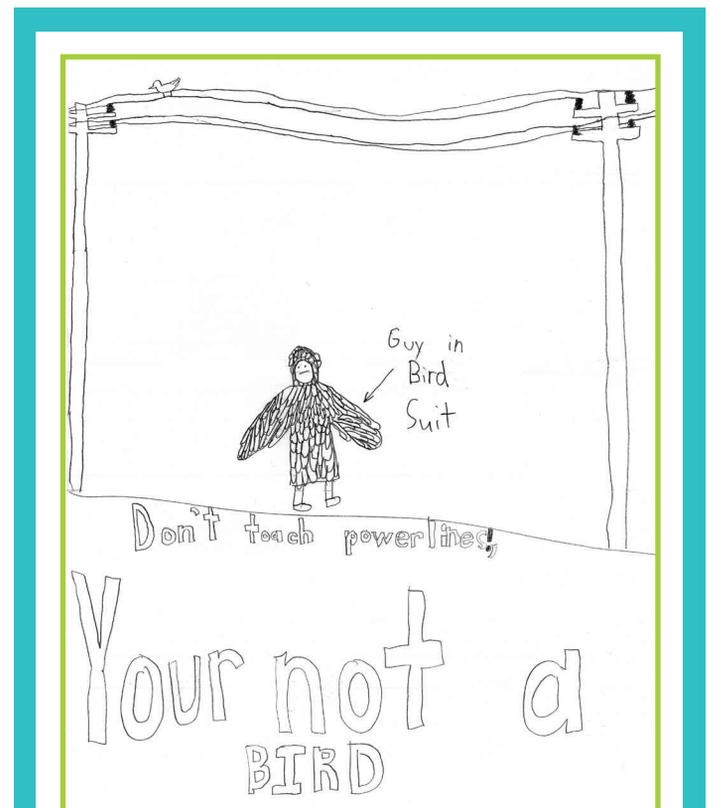
After a serious flood, some items may be reconditioned, while others will need to be completely replaced to protect you and your family. It is recommended that you allow an electrician or electrical inspector to guide the restoration or replacement of any electrical wiring or equipment. Corrosion and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

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

Source: esfi.org



### KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



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

**Jack Bartscher, 11 years old**

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

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

# Comforting Casseroles

## Turkey Noodle Bake

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

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

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

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Chili Pheasant Casserole

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

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

**Laurie Wernke, Lennox, SD**

## Wonder Tot Casserole

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

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

**Deb Merkwan, Yankton, SD**

## Crescent-topped Cheeseburger Casserole

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

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

**Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, SD**

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

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

# EMPLOYEES EARN PROMOTIONS

## Roskens Accepts Role of Line Superintendent

Dusty Roskens, former Kimball Area Foreman, assumed the role of Line Superintendent on April 1.

The Line Superintendent is a new position designed to meet the growing needs of the operations department, including the current advanced replacement project and continued construction and maintenance. Roskens will work with the Manager of Operations to support the line foremen, staking technician, hired contractors, and the cooperative's safety program.



Roskens began as an apprentice linemen and has been with the cooperative for 24 years. Prior to that, he also worked for the cooperative as a part-time summer employee. Roskens became Kimball Area Foreman in 2005. Roskens and his wife, Jessica, have two children, Jersey and Ty.

## Baker Promoted to Area Foreman

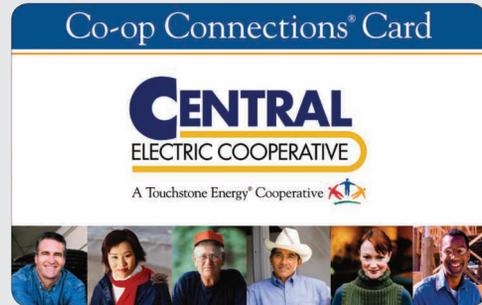
Jesse Baker accepted the position of Kimball Area Foreman and assumed his new position on April 1.

The Kimball Area Foreman is responsible for directing the work of the linecrew at the Kimball outpost, including serving and maintaining the cooperative system in Brule and Buffalo counties.



Baker joined the cooperative in 2002 and previously worked as a journeyman lineman on the Kimball crew. He and his wife, Angela, have two daughters, Autumn and Lily.

## Local Discounts with your Co-op Connections® Card



Your cooperative membership earns you discounts at local participating businesses.

Simply show your Co-op Connections Discount Card and save.

- 1) **OnSight 24/7, Mitchell, SD;**  
10% off products and services.
- 2) **Photography Unlimited, Mitchell, SD;**  
Free session & 10% off your order.
- 3) **The Pin Cushion, Mitchell, SD;**  
Buy 1 Aurifil thread at regular price and get 2nd one at 50% off.
- 4) **Rob's Short Stop, Mitchell, SD;**  
Large nachos with chili and 16 oz fountain pop for \$2.99.
- 5) **Sun Gold Sports, Mitchell, SD;**  
15% off storewide, some exclusions apply.
- 6) **Tessiers, Mitchell, SD;**  
10% discount on residential service or maintenance work only. Discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount or for commercial work or installations.
- 7) **Two Dreams Boutique, Mitchell, SD;**  
10% off in store order.

For a full list of ways to save, visit [www.centraleccoop.com](http://www.centraleccoop.com).

To request a card or become a participating business, visit [www.centraleccoop.com](http://www.centraleccoop.com) or call 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516.



Together we're

# RE-ENERGIZING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

## COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

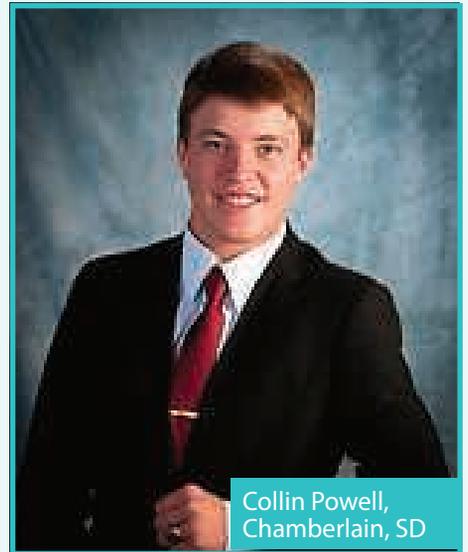
Local students awarded \$3,000 toward further education



Brooke Flemmer,  
Mitchell, SD



Grace Phinney,  
Mitchell, SD



Collin Powell,  
Chamberlain, SD

Central Electric Cooperative awarded scholarships in the total amount of \$3,000 to local students. The scholarships are

**The scholarships are funded by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the family of the late Jay Headley of White Lake, SD.**

funded by Basin Electric Power Cooperative of Bismarck, ND and the family of the late Jay Headley of White Lake, SD.

Brooke Flemmer of Mitchell, SD received a \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship. Brooke is the daughter of Kevin and Julie Flemmer and a senior at Mitchell High School. She plans to attend Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD and pursue a degree in criminal justice.

Grace Phinney of Mitchell, SD and Collin Powell of Chamberlain, SD were selected as this year's winners of the \$1,000 Jay Headley Memorial Scholarships.

Grace is the daughter of Brian and Ranae Phinney and is a senior at Mitchell High School. She plans to attend South Dakota State University (SDSU) in Brookings, SD for animal science, Spanish, and a pre-veterinary track.

Collin is the son of Todd and Barbara Powell and is a senior at Chamberlain High School. He plans to attend SDSU for agricultural science with minors in animal science or business.



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

# AN EYE ON THE SKY

## Spotters Play A Role in Weather Alert Process

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

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

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

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

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

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

Although SKYWARN® spotters provide essential information



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Weather Spotter Class

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Weather Ready

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

by Ben Dunsmoor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More than 30 people attended the March 20 workshop.



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

# COOPERATIVE HOSTS 19TH ANNUAL MEETING

Central Electric Cooperative hosted its 19th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 2nd at the Mitchell Corn Palace. A total of 388 cooperative members registered for the meeting, compared to 368 in 2018. More than 850 total guests were in attendance.

**A total of 388 cooperative members registered for the meeting, compared to 368 in 2018. More than 850 total guests were in attendance.**

Prior to the meeting, members enjoyed a meal catered by Central Catering. Kids were also able to “Dress Up Like a Lineman” and take a photo. *(Photos are posted on our Facebook page. Parents can also request a photo by contacting our office.)*

Board President Duane Wolbrink welcomed everyone to the meeting, and Pastor Ben Payne of Northridge Baptist Church gave the invocation.

After the President’s Report, guest speaker and General Manager of East River Electric Cooperative, Tom Boyko, spoke on the future of our cooperatives and industry, including generation resources and upcoming system maintenance.

During the Manager’s Report, Manager Ken Schlimgen recognized the following youth program recipients: Brooke Flemmer, \$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship winner; Grace Phinney and Collin Powell, \$1,000 Jay Headley Memorial



Nearly 50 kids in attendance signed up for the “Bike Raffle”



Members enjoy a three-meat buffet and were assisted by employees



“Future Lineman” Hunter Hohn

Scholarship winners; and Youth Tour recipients Chloe Munsen, Grace DuVall, Ben Laufman, Casey Miller, Brendin LaBore, and Megan Linke.

Following the meeting, the cooperative awarded several door prizes including a kid’s bike, three \$250 “Luck of the Draw Scholarships” for high school seniors, and \$25 energy gift certificates.

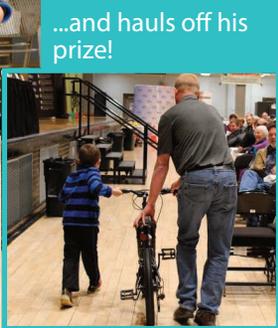
Thank you to all who attended and participated in your cooperative’s annual meeting.



Pastor Ben Payne gave the invocation



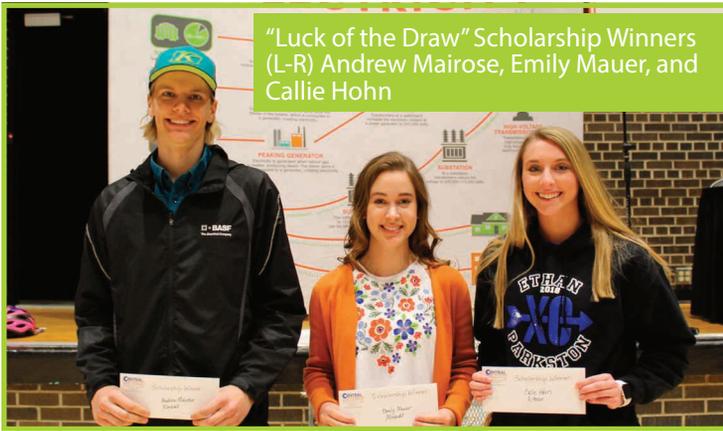
A very happy "mini-member" (Alex Greenway) shows off his new bike...



...and hauls off his prize!



Brooke Flemmer accepts her scholarship award from President Wolbrink



"Luck of the Draw" Scholarship Winners (L-R) Andrew Mairose, Emily Mauer, and Callie Hohn



Grace Phinney and Collin Powell accept their scholarship awards from Director Jim Headley

# YOUTH TOUR WINNERS

## Area Students Win Trip of a Lifetime to Washington, D.C.

Each year, Central Electric Cooperative sponsors up to eight area high school juniors to attend the National Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C in June.

This year's recipients are Chloe Munsen of White Lake, daughter of Paul and Renee Munsen; Grace DuVall of Pukwana, daughter of Darrel and Yvette DuVall; Ben Laufman of Mitchell, son of Steve and Janel Laufman; Casey Miller of Fulton, son of Rick and Kay Miller; Brendin LaBore of Wessington Springs, son of Philip Labore; and Megan Linke of Woonsocket, daughter of Henry and

Paula Linke.

These representatives will join more than 1,500 students from across the country to tour Washington, D.C. They will meet with South Dakota's Congressional Delegation and have the opportunity to watch history come alive as they explore the museums, memorials and monuments.

Central Electric sponsors the trip to support our local youth as tomorrow's leaders and community members. One recipient from each director district may be selected based on an essay submission.



Chloe Munsen



Grace DuVall



Ben Laufman



Casey Miller



Brendin LaBore



Megan Linke

# Fun Rolls into Huron

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

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdra.coop

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

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

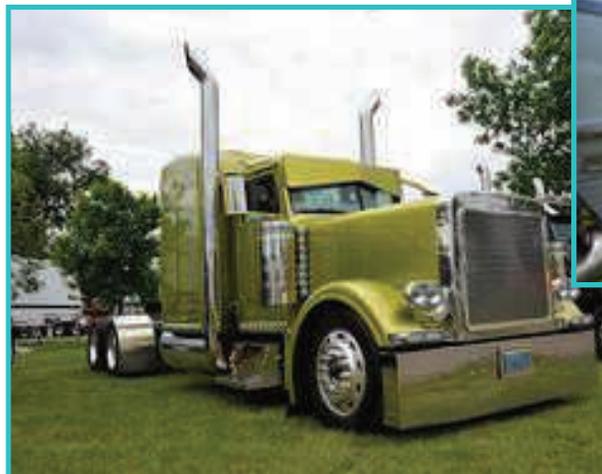
The celebration of transportation takes place on the South Dakota State Fair Grounds and will include the 13th annual Original South Dakota BBQ Championships cook off as well as musical entertainment.

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

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



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



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

Smokin' hot wheels won't be the only

## Wheel Jam Schedule

### Poker Run

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

### Pick-Up Party

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

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

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

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

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

### 11th Annual Midwest SPL Sound Competition

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

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

### Wheel Jam Parade

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

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

### Dynamic Engine Brake Competition

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

### Biker Games

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

### Wheel Jam Truck Show Light Show

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

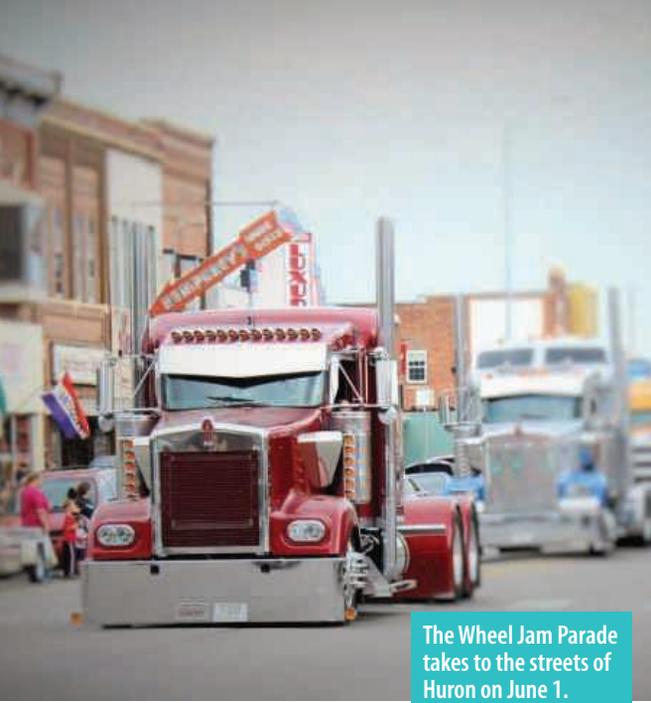
Trucks will tune into Big Jim 93.3 from 10 pm - 11 pm for Saturday Night Rockin' Lights w/ Wheel Jam Truck Show Light Show.

### Backstreet Cruisers Car Show

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

### Windriders ABATE Motorcycle Show

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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



# FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING

Emergency responders are usually the first on the scene of an accident and can be at the greatest risk from electric hazards.

Central Electric Cooperative conducted electric safety training at the Mitchell Office on March 27th for local fire departments, EMTs, and first responders. The annual training is free to area responders as a service to better protect our first responders, cooperative personnel, and community citizens.

Manager of Operations Brian Bultje explained the different types of meters and process for disconnecting power. Journeymen linemen Dustin Weier and Tim Olinger gave attendees a first-hand look inside underground equipment, and Tony Roth and Cody Riggs showed attendees how to operate an aerial bucket truck to rescue stranded personnel.



Joy Blom (Corsica) is harnessed into the bucket while Riggs assists Ryan Bechen (Artesian) in operating the truck



Weier simulates a potential high voltage contact scenario

Bultje, Weier and Riggs also ran the high voltage trailer demonstration. The demonstration safely simulates effects of a high voltage contact. This provides first-hand education on the danger of high voltage lines and potential harm that can be done.

Central Electric Cooperative regularly provides safety training for local organizations, clubs or schools. For additional safety resources or to inquire about scheduling a presentation, contact our office.

# AREA STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT ELECTRICITY

What do socks, light bulbs and bicycles have in common? All these materials can teach students about electricity.

Co-ops in the Classroom is offered by Central Electric's wholesale power provider, East River Electric Power Cooperative. Jennifer Gross, Communications Coordinator for East River, visited 15 schools in the local area.

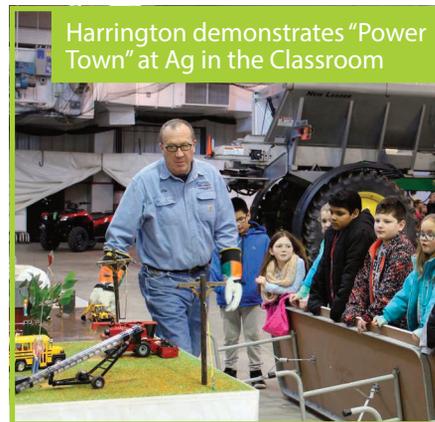
A variety of hands-on demonstrations engages the students. A Van de Graaff generator demonstrated the movement of electrons with some hair-raising results.

Another device that invokes a lot of excitement is the Pedal Power bicycle generator. Students are asked to become power plants as they provide the energy that produces electricity for lights and small household devices.

"The Pedal Power turns the concept of electricity from something



White Lake student has a "hair-raising" experience



Harrington demonstrates "Power Town" at Ag in the Classroom

abstract into something tangible. By providing the energy needed to make a light bulb turn on, the students are able to quantify just how much more energy an incandescent light bulb requires than a CFL or LED," said Gross.

By the end of the presentation, students developed a new

understanding and appreciation for electricity.

On March 19, students had an additional opportunity to see "Power Town," a tabletop electric safety demonstration, at "Ag in the Classroom" in Pukwana and Mitchell.

Mitchell Foreman Tim Harrington and Manager of Member Services/Marketing Patrick Soukup taught students the importance of respecting overhead and underground power lines, calling 811 before any digging project, and what to do if you contact a power line in your tractor or vehicle.

# IT TAKES

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## April 18

Senior Health and Living Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Lunch 11 a.m. to Noon, Multiple businesses and presentations available, James Valley Community Center, 300 W. 1st Avenue, Mitchell, SD

## April 22-23

Big Bend Shrine Club sponsored Shrine Circus, Chamberlain, SD

## May 17-19

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

## May 17-19

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

## May 24-26

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

## May 24-26

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

## May 25-26

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

## May 31-June 1

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

## May 31-June 2

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

## Thursday, June-September

Mitchell Farmer's Market, Featuring fresh produce, meats, eggs, baked goods, handcrafted items and more, 4:30 to 7 p.m., Corn Palace Plaza, Main Street, Mitchell, SD



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

## June 1

Dairy Fest, Brookings, SD, 605-692-7539

## June 1

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

## June 1-2

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

## June 2

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

## June 7-8

Howard Headers, Cruise Night, Friday at 6 p.m., Car Show Saturday, Registration at 10:30 a.m., Show at Noon, Main Street, Howard, SD, Contact Gary Hueners at 605-203-1086

## June 7-9

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

## June 8-9

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

## June 13-15

Czech Days, Tabor, SD, 605-463-2478, [www.taborczechdays.com](http://www.taborczechdays.com), [taborczechdays@gmail.com](mailto:taborczechdays@gmail.com)

## June 21-July 12

River City Friday Nights "Bridging Families and Communities Together!" Weekly Fridays 6 to 10 p.m., Live music, vendors, kids activities, beer garden, Free Admission, Main Street, Chamberlain, SD, Contact Mollie at 605-682-9051

## June 28-29

"Fishing for a Cure" Ladies Only Fishing Tournament, Rules Meeting Friday at 6 p.m., Tournament Saturday at 8 a.m., American Creek Marina, Chamberlain, SD, Contact Kelli at 605-730-1967

## June 29

Rhubarb Festival, Leola, SD, 605-824-0014

## July 19-20

Storybook Land Festival, Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-1557

## August 17

American Island Days, American Creek Campground, Chamberlain, SD, Contact Donna at 605-680-1202

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.