

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Mitchell Technical College launches careers in a wide range of fields including training for linemen like Lacreek Electric's Matt Kruid.  
*Photo by Billy Gibson*

## Tech Training

**Mitchell Technical College**  
Pages 8-9

**Promoting tribal tourism**  
Pages 12-13

# Staying connected in the storm



**Matt Hotzler**  
Manager

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, H-D Electric strives to deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply—regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As we recently saw our system can be very much affected by the weather. On Tuesday, December 13 the system started with outages caused by ice accumulations.

Our crews worked throughout the day and while restoring a lot of outages more came. On Wednesday the crews continued to work on outages, and we called for help from other cooperatives because we could see with the wind forecasted with the amount of ice accumulation on the wires we were going to have issues. The crews began arriving Wednesday evening. In all, we had 24 additional line workers and their equipment from seven different Electric Cooperatives. Those cooperatives were Southeastern Electric, Douglas Electric, Clay-Union Electric, Charles Mix Electric, Bon Homme-Yankton Electric, Dakota Energy, and Northern Electric. The help of these folks was essential for us to be able to restore power to all essential services on Saturday night. Without their help, we would not have been very close to getting everyone on Saturday. It takes a special person to leave the warmth of their home to travel a couple of hours away to work in horribly cold windy weather to help get the lights back on. Line workers are special people that we all need to be grateful for. But I can't forget the rest of the employees either as they step up and fill in whatever role is needed to aid in getting power back to our members. Besides the cooperative employees, I'm also grateful for all of the members that put an encouraging comment on Facebook, brought in treats for the workers, cleared snow, or pulled out a stuck vehicle to help aid in the restoration efforts. Thanks to all very much!

So how bad was the storm? After it was all done, we ended up losing over 150 poles that broke because of the weight of the ice which in some cases had a diameter thickness of over 3 inches combined with sustained winds of 30 mph and gusts even higher. To put that in perspective that ice would weigh just under a thousand pounds per wire per span between poles. So for a three-

phase line with four wires, it would be equivalent to hanging a Volkswagen Beetle between each span of poles. It doesn't take too much imagination to see why there are wire breaks and pole failures and the challenges faced by those making repairs.

On the other hand, this storm's damage could have been much, much worse if we hadn't been active in our overhead to underground replacement in the past many years. From years 2006 to 2021, H-D has added 355 miles of underground line to our system which replaced 224 miles of overhead line and added lines for new growth. During that time, H-D Electric went from 37 percent of our system underground to 57 percent of our system underground at the end of 2021 (this doesn't include the final 2022 numbers yet as we are still closing year-end but it will increase this percentage more) and a lot of those replacements occurred on some of the statistically worse outage offending lines. So, without those replacements, the damage would have most certainly been worse and the outage times would be even longer. The replacements made over the past years demonstrate our plan to aggressively replace original overhead lines with underground to increase our reliability and handle new loads. Even if we continue replacing overhead annually at our current pace, it will still take many years. Our specific goal is not to replace every overhead line but rather replace lines that cause reliability issues or lack the capacity for new loads. Some of our newer built lines with better construction standards and larger wire and shorter spans have held up to the test of ice storms so they would be further down the list to replace of course that makes sense if they don't cause reliability issues. H-D Electric's overall overhead to underground goal remains to have a reliable, affordable, and safe electric system for our member-owners.

Here at H-D Electric, we understand our role in delivering reliable electricity, but we also understand how susceptible our system is to the weather. So, we have worked diligently to harden our system to weather and continue to do so. While I can't guarantee you won't have outages even if you are fed from underground lines because somewhere upstream either on the H-D system or our transmission providers there is still some overhead which weather events such as winter ice or summer tornadoes. We continue to invest in the H-D Electric system to make more reliable for you the member-owners.



## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### H-D ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 018-905)

**General Manager:** Matt Hotzler

**Headquarters Employees:**

Annie Aberle – Finance and

Administration Manager

Michelle Prins – Billing Clerk

Heidi Brewer-Grimlie – Accounting Clerk

Jami Bolden – Receptionist/Cashier

Roger Cutshaw – Engineer

Darren Matthies – Building Property  
Worker

**Operations:**

Troy Kwasniewski – Operations Manager

Todd Sprang – Line Foreman

Line Crew:

Pat Kirby – Operations Support

Joe Raml – Lead Lineworker

Cody Scarrott – Lineworker

Derek Bille – Lineworker

Kevin Holida – Lead Lineworker

Matt Miller – Equipment Operator/  
Mechanic

Joseph Jordan Jr. – Apprentice Lineworker

Eric Page – Apprentice Lineworker

**Member Services:**

Tom Lundberg – Member Services  
Manager

Noah Reichling – Electrician

Brady Krause – Journey Electrician

Amanda Reese – Apprentice Electrician

**Board of Directors:**

**President:** Bert Rogness – Astoria

**Vice President:** Terry Strohhus – Hazel

**Secretary:** Roxanne Bass – Castlewood

**Treasurer:** Steven Hansen – Clear Lake

Dale Williams – Estelline

Casper Niemann – Lake Norden

Kevin DeBoer – Clear Lake

Laurie Seefeldt – Revillo

Todd Moritz – Castlewood

H-D ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 1007, 18240 SD Hwy 15, Clear Lake, SD 57226-1007 for its members. Families subscribe to H-D Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. H-D Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living. H-D Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Clear Lake, S.D., and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: H-D Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 1007, Clear Lake, SD 57226-1007; telephone (605) 874-2171; toll-free 1-800-358-7233; fax (605) 874-8173; e-mail info@h-delectric.coop

Design assistance by SDREA.

## Operating Statistics:

Nov. 2021

Nov. 2022

**Customers** ..... 3,757 ..... 3,780

**Amount Collected** ..... \$809,564 ..... \$780,337

**Average Bill** ..... \$215.48 ..... \$206.44

**Average Kilowatt-Hour** ..... 2,663 ..... 2,714

**Kilowatt-Hours Purchased** ... 10,587,153 ..... 10,862,688

**Kilowatt-Hours Sold** ..... 10,003,269 ..... 10,257,469

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



### Check out this handy electrical fire check list

Electrical Fires do not have to happen. Use this checklist to help you find and fix electrical fire hazards in your home before they can start a fire.

Smoke Alarms – Smoke alarms save lives!

- ✓ Do you have enough smoke alarms?
- ✓ Are they working?
- ✓ Do you test them?

Switches and Outlets – Be on the look-out for signs of trouble.

- ✓ Are they working?
- ✓ Do they make crackling, buzzing, or sizzling sounds?
- ✓ Are they warm to the touch?
- ✓ Do plugs fit snugly?

Cords – Never use damaged cords.

- ✓ Is there fraying or cracking?
- ✓ Are they pinched or pierced?
- ✓ Do you use extension cords all the time?
- ✓ Are cords getting enough air?

Lamps and Appliances – Use them safely.

- ✓ Are you using the right bulbs?
- ✓ Do you use space heaters safely?
- ✓ Are appliance cords protected from damage?

Electrical Panel – Know the basics.

- ✓ Do you have AFCIs?
- ✓ Have you tested your AFCIs?
- ✓ Are all circuit breakers and fuses the proper size?



### KEEPING UP WITH ELECTRIC METERING TECHNOLOGY



South Dakota's electric cooperatives recently held an electric meter school in Pierre where more than 45 co-op employees learned about the latest technology in residential and industrial kilowatt hour metering processes. Metering is a key component of providing reliable, safe and affordable power to cooperative members all across the state.

To view scenes from this important training program and learn more about how electric cooperatives work to improve our communities, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



### Take care when flying kites

#### Jaclyn Koistinen

Jaclyn Koistinen, 11, is already thinking ahead to spring when kite-flying is a popular activity. She warns kids and adults both to take care when putting that kite in the air. Jaclyn is the daughter of Patrick and Jenilee Koistinen, members of H-D Electric based in Clear Lake.

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.





# BRUNCH SWEET BRUNCH

**CRAB QUICHE****Ingredients:**

- 1 (6 oz.) can crab meat (rinsed and drained)
- 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/4 c. chopped green onion (or fresh chives)
- 4 eggs.
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 c. milk (or half-n-half)

**METHOD**

Grease or spray pie pan. Combine crab, cheese and onion. Press into pie pan and up the sides. Whisk together the milk, eggs, salt and mustard. Pour mixture into pan. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake in 400 degree oven about 30 minutes or until set. Let set 5 minutes before cutting and serving.

**Elaine Rowett, Sturgis**

**PRALINE PECAN CRUNCH****Ingredients:**

- 1 (21 oz.) box Quaker Oat Squares cereal (about 8 c.)
- 2 c. pecans
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 c. light corn syrup
- 1/4 c. margarine
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda

**METHOD**

Heat oven to 250 degrees. Mix cereal and pecans in 9x13 inch pan. Set aside. Mix corn syrup, brown sugar and margarine in glass bowl. Microwave on high 1-1/2 minutes. Stir. Microwave 1 to 1-1/2 minutes more or until boiling. Stir in vanilla and baking soda and pour over cereal mixture. Stir to coat evenly. Bake 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes. Spread on baking sheet to cool. Break into pieces and store in airtight container.

**Nancy Stenson, Fort Pierre**

**CINNAMON APPLE BRUNCH BAKE****Ingredients:**

- 1 can (21 oz.) apple pie filling
- 1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 3 tbsp. butter, melted
- 2 tsp. McCormick® Ground Cinnamon
- 1 1/2 tbsp. McCormick® All Natural Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1 can (12 oz.) refrigerated biscuits
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts

**METHOD**

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix apple pie filling, brown sugar, butter, cinnamon and vanilla in medium bowl. Spread 1/2 of the apple mixture in 2-quart shallow baking dish. Cut each biscuit into quarters. Arrange biscuit pieces, points up, over apple mixture. Spread remaining apple mixture over biscuits. Sprinkle with nuts. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

**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 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

### Q: Are there ways to reduce energy use on a farm?

A: The importance of farms cannot be understated. Farmers feed our families and keep the country running, but the business brings many challenges, including risk and uncertainty. Finding ways to use less energy can reduce costs and result in energy savings for years to come.

When looking to improve farm efficiency, consider the following areas.

#### MOTORS AND PUMPS

Because motors and pumps account for a significant amount of energy use on a farm, replacing inefficient motors with efficient models can save energy and reduce costs. Adding variable frequency drives (VFDs) allow you to vary the frequency and voltage supplied to the motor or pump to adjust the motor's speed. This saves kilowatt hours and reduces load by only operating at the needed capacity. VFDs can be used in place of a phase converter, which allows use of three-phase power equipment where there is only access to single-phase power.

#### IRRIGATION

Upgrade irrigation equipment to use less water, which means less pumping and reducing the amount of water and energy consumed. The goal is to get the right amount of water where it is needed. This can be accomplished by reducing evaporation through system design and fixing leaks in the system. GPS and geographic information system technologies allow for more specific irrigation targeting. Monitor and test systems regularly to ensure maximum efficiency.

#### LIGHTS

The longer lights are on, the higher the potential for savings. Prioritize replacing incandescent or fluorescent exterior lighting on photocells or lights that stay on all night. LED lights last two to four times longer than fluorescents and 25 to 35 times longer than incandescents. That means less frequent replacement, which saves on materials and labor costs.

#### HEATER CONTROLS

In climates where engine block heaters are used to keep vehicle engines warm enough to start, adding engine block heater controls with

temperature sensors and timers will reduce electricity use. To keep water from freezing on farms with livestock, save energy by using stock tank heaters with thermostatic controls, which operate only when needed instead of running constantly. Insulated stock tanks may eliminate the need to heat water.



#### EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

New farming technologies that offer efficiency possibilities include electric tractors, space heating and water heating. Equipment with information technology capabilities can aid efficiency by monitoring conditions and automating farming tasks. As with home efficiency practices, consider the equipment used most and the savings potential from upgrading or modifying existing equipment.

#### REBATES

About 80 percent of U.S. farms are located in counties served by electric cooperatives. Check with your local electric co-op to see if they offer rebates on farming equipment and energy-efficiency projects that help reduce energy use.

Improving efficiency on the farm can result in less energy use, lower bills and improved farming success during challenging financial times.



**Miranda Boutelle**  
Efficiency Services  
Group





The Dirty Boot Band has entertained thousands of music lovers across the state and region. *Photo by DBB*

## Dirty Boot Band makes music a joyful family affair

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

Even The Grinch gets into the groove when the Dirty Boot Band takes the stage.

The family-based musical septet was playing a gig last December at Tiger's Tap in Fort Pierre when a fellow clad in a luminous green Grinch costume got up and danced a little jig.

That was okay with lead singer Sheridan Nickolas, who grinned at the gyrating Grinch while she kept strumming her Taylor six-string.

This particular set was one of about 50 gigs the DBB played last year with dates that found them venturing from one end of the state to the other. Audiences in places like Platte, Hayes, Mitchell and more heard the band belting out a blend of vintage country hits like Delta Dawn, Momma Tried and The Highway Song along with originals like Little Black Pickup Truck and To the Man I Loved.

They've played atop long-bed trailers, in hayfields, in senior citizen centers, shopping malls, bars and restaurants, and consider it an honor to respond to

invitations and play music for anyone wanting to have a fun time.

Hailing from the Onida and Fort Pierre area, the DBB is made up of cousins from the Weinheimer and Nickolas families who decided to form a group in the winter of 2020. The current line-up includes Jacob, Sam and Simon Weinheimer collaborating with Sheridan, Adelynn, Jace and Ty Nickolas.

Together, they work hard on honing their musical chops, memorizing lyrics, smoothing out their chord progressions, tightening their harmonies and even working on original tunes. When they're not touring around the state, the band mates are busy doing farm chores and tackling their academic subjects as students of the Seton Home Study School.

Somehow, they still find the time to compete in sports and pursue a side hustle of making baked goods and selling homemade jewelry.

Sheridan, a senior, is an ace softball pitcher and also likes to hunt.

"During hunting season, we do chores on the farm and do our school work, but



In lieu of a traditional gratuity for entertaining their audience at the Trader Days festival in Fort Pierre, members of the band received a free helicopter ride sponsored by an anonymous supporter. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

we also clean pheasants at the lodge," she said, referring to a family-owned hunting lodge, preserve and skeet range. "And in the spring it's calving season, so we're always checking on the cows."

She said the group plans on continuing to play more gigs and entertain more people as long as their limited time allows. And as they keep developing their chops, they're taking inspiration in the knowledge that their music is good enough to make a grinchy heart grow a few sizes when they play.





Mitchell Tech facilities were used for the annual electric cooperative rubber gloving school last summer. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

## Mitchell Tech prepares linemen to deliver the 'right stuff' for members

**Billy Gibson**

editor@sdrea.coop

It's rare that you find a cooperative lineman in the state of South Dakota who hasn't been through the training program at Mitchell Technical College.

Mike Puetz doesn't remember all the names and faces, but his mentorship has played a key role in turning loads of wannabe linemen into highly skilled craftsmen over the past 25 years.

Puetz serves as head of the lineman training department at MTC and is giving some thought to hanging up his hooks in the next year or so. When he reflects on his teaching career, he swells with pride at how the program has improved exponentially over time.

There have been many milestones in the emergence of the lineman education program rising to become one of the best of its kind in the country.

Back in 2018, for instance, the power line construction and maintenance school was named winner of the inaugural Siemens-Aspen Community College

STEM award. The honor is given by the Aspen Institute to eight colleges nationwide that provide "outstanding preparation" for students in high-demand jobs and provides selected schools with \$50,000 to apply toward scholarships and other forms of financial assistance.

"That was definitely a shock," Puetz said. "There's a lot of good programs out there, and for us to be chosen for that prestigious award was unbelievable. We work hard to be able to say we have a very strong program, and that just gave us some validation that we're moving in the right direction. It's icing on the cake."

Mark Patterson, manager of loss control services at the South Dakota Rural Electric Association based in Pierre, has worked with Puetz for 15 years. He's hard-pressed to find many co-op linemen who haven't trained under Puetz.

"Mike has been around so long, and I'd estimate about 80 percent of the electric co-op linemen out there today have been trained by him," Patterson said. "They do a fantastic job of teaching the fundamentals, whether a student ends

up at a municipal, an investor-owned or a co-op. And our superintendents do an exceptional job of working with the graduates to help them gain the field experience they need to serve our members with a mindset of safety and efficiency."

Over the years, Puetz said, MTC has not only distinguished itself among similar programs but has also greatly expanded its array of academic and technical career tracks. There are tracks for construction and manufacturing, business and service industries, health sciences, engineering technologies and agriculture and transportation.



Sioux Valley Energy's Cole Anderson learned his trade at MTC.





At left, Mike Puetz has trained hundreds of future linemen. Above, Mitchell Technical College is well equipped to give electric linemen the real-world skills they need to succeed. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

Cole Anderson is a lineman at Sioux Valley Energy based in Madison. He graduated from the training program four years ago and recalls why he selected MTC to learn the ropes of line work.

"I had an uncle who was a lineman in another state and I knew that's what I always wanted to do," said Anderson, a graduate of Chester Area High School. "I started looking at schools and noticed they had limited positions open and they were always taken very quickly. That told me how good their reputation was."

Anderson received his certification in May of 2018, joined the cooperative as a 1,000 hour lineman, and eventually worked his way into a journeyman position.

Oddly enough, he met Puetz a year before he enrolled at MTC. While still in high school, Anderson was on a tour of the facility when he happened to encounter Puetz in the hallway. The two shook hands and after a brief conversation, Puetz said: "If I don't see you here next year, I'm coming to track you down."

Anderson said he finds himself frequently relying on his lineman education and remembering the things Puetz taught him, including those lessons that don't necessarily have to do with line work.

"I think he's awesome. He's big on work ethic and he always told us that no matter what we did in life, a good work ethic will allow you to accomplish your goals and stand out from the rest," Anderson said. "He also had a thing about belts. You had to wear a belt. If he saw you and you didn't have one on, he'd take his off and give it to you."

Anderson and his wife, Sarah, recently built a new home outside of Madison and are expecting a baby boy in March. He said he's grateful for the outstanding

instruction he received during his education phase and is also thankful to have a position at an outstanding organization within the electric cooperative system.

"I just feel fortunate. It's been a great experience all the way through," he said. "I think it's a privilege to be able to do a job I enjoy and to work with professionals who know their craft, and an organization that is focused on delivering the highest quality service to its members."

For more information about MTC, visit [www.mitchelltech.edu](http://www.mitchelltech.edu).



MTC is a prime training ground for future co-op linemen. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

## Capital Credits

# Help Us Find These People

The following members were unable to receive their capital credits. If you know the current address or phone number of anyone listed here, please let the H-D Electric office know.

ADDINGTON, MARTIN G OR JEANNE B	COOPER, SCOTT	JOHNSON, BETTY J	MORK, JASON OR BETH	RZASZUTAK, JOHN T
AGEE, RICHARD	CUTHRELL, RICHARD	JOHNSON, CHARLES C	NEILSON, WALTER C OR MARILYN	RZASZUTAK, LINDA L
ALEXANDER, LEO OR JOLEEN C	DAUGHERTY, WILLIAM E	JOHNSON, DAN	NERLAND, JON OR JACKIE	SALINAS, JEFF
ANDERSEN, LOUISE S OR ARTHUR S	DOOLEY, SPENCER OR WANDA	JOHNSON, GENE	NYTROE, KERMIT OR ELAINE	SANDENE, JEFF D OR DANA M
ANDERSON, BRAD T OR HEIDI	DOSE, CHARLES OR WENDY	JOHNSON, HARLAND OR IHLA	ODLAND, LETITIA A	SAYLER, ORVILLE H OR LORI A
ANTONEN, ELDON D	DRESSING, EDWIN S OR MARY K	JOHNSTON, EDO	OKIMOTO, DICK	SCHMIDT, LEE G OR PAULA L
ARCHER, RANDY R OR CHERYL	DVORAK, DAVID J	JONES, TOM OR CYNDA K	OLSEN, CHAD E	SEINER, DON F OR PATRICIA A
BANDALOS, TRESA L	EGAN, LANNY	KASTEIN, GLADYS	OLSON, DAVID L	SELLIN, JIM
BARNES, DUANE L OR SHARON K	ERICKSON, VIRGIL	KAVERY, MICHAEL J OR KIMBERLY K	OLSON, DONALD L	SEXAUER, ROBERT S OR JACQUALINE N
BAUER, ERIC L OR NANCY	ERRICKSON, CHRIS	KELLOGG, AUDREY	OLSON, SCOTT OR TERESA	SHEPHERD, VICKI
BEAM, JUANITA M	EVERETT, JIM OR PAT	KIECKSEE, WILLIAM	OPSAHL, JOHN	SIRS, TRAVIS D
BECKER, SANDRA R	FISCHER, PHIL V	KIRSCH, LONDON OR MONICA	PAA, JIM OR KATHRYN	SIVER, JAMES A OR JACKIE
BEEHAN, DENNIS OR JULENE	FORSHAUG, HELEN M	KNOLLS, DELETTE	PASO, RHONDA	STAHL, ERNEST OR SARA
BERGAN, JOEL N OR MARY L	GLANZER, JASON	KONTZ, KAREN OR ANTONY	PATE, TERRY D	STANGE, DENNIS
BOYD, ELLEN	GLANZER, JUSTIN	KRAUSE, EUGENE OR AUGUSTA	PATRICK, GENE	SULLIVAN, TERRENCE M OR SHIRLEY
BRAY, ROBERT R OR PHYLLIS J	GRAVING, DOUGLAS	KRIER, EARL W	PATRIOT HOMES	SWANSON, CAROLA
BRIGGS, KELLY	GUNDERSON, KENNETH G	KRUEGER, LAVONNE	PAULSON, BRIAN	THE CHIEF MOTEL OR MCCREIGHT, MARIANNE
BRUSKE, THOMAS OR LINDA	HANSEN, BRADLEY F OR JEAN	LANE (KELM), LORI L	PETERS, DALLAS OR TRICIA	THOMAS, ARLYN OR JEANINE
BUTHE, KENNETH G OR ULA M	HANSEN, RICHARD A	LARSON, KENNETH A OR LAURIE	PETERSON, CHARLES E	THOMPSON, ELLEN M OR KENT
CARLSON, JOEL M	HANSON, BRIAN OR JOAN	LEE, ROBERT B	PETERSON, JAMES R OR DONNA M	THOMPSON, JOHN E OR DOROTHY L
CARLSON, TIM M	HATTON, ANGELA	LIDKE, DURWOOD A OR FERN	POPPEN, SHIRLEY M	VAUGHAN, TERRY OR DARCY
CARSON, PAUL L OR EVELYN L	HAWLEY, WAYNE	LINGREN, CHARLES K OR MAXINE	POPPEN, SR. RICHARD E OR EUNICE	WADE, ROBERT A
CASPER, DAVID W	HEADLEY, JAY	LOKEN, GERALD E	POWELL, JACK L	WADSWORTH, CLARAT. RIECK
CASS, JOSEPH R OR AMY L	HENLEY, JANICE	MAIFIELD, LEON D	PRAIRIE PARTNERS INC	WALDNER, BRIAN
CHRISTENSEN, BETTIE A	HENLEY, TIM OR KRISIT	MARLETTE, MERLE M	REGNIER, MYRON	WALRAVEN, EVELYN
CHRISTENSEN, JASON	HILL, ELDON F	MCKINNEY, CHRIS	REIHE, SONJA	WARD, GERALD M OR VIRGINIA M
CHRISTENSON, PAUL OR JOANN	HOFFMAN, ROBERT F OR JUDITH	MILLER, BENNY	REUTER, BRUCE	WELLMAN, GRACE
CHRISTIANSON, CATHERINE A OR ROGER	HOLMES, RUTH J	MILLER, KEITH E	RICE, W. E OR JOAN	WESTERBERG, J. K
COLLINS, JACK W	HULVERSON, NIKI	MILLSAP, ROBERT S OR HELEN E	ROHL, ALLEN OR SANDRA	WILLIAMS, GAYLE
CONNELLY, JAMES M	JANSEN BROS. ENTERPRISE OR JANSEN, RANDY	MOGLER, ERROL OR DOTTIE	ROST, DANIEL R	WINGE, RICKY
CONVERSE, BOB	JENSEN, DEE	MOHR, ANTHONY	RUDEBUSCH, LISA	
	JENSEN, LARRY	MOLGARD, BRADLEY OR BARBARA	RUE, EARL R	
	JOHNS, JOHN E	MOLTZEN, DANIEL R	RUSSELL, DAVID OR KIM M	

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR! DATE HAS BEEN SET

Tuesday March 21st, 2023, at the  
H-D Electric Headquarters  
in Clear Lake, SD.

**Registration:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Meeting:** 7:00 p.m.

### Statement of Non-Discrimination

H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal Financial assistance from Rural Development, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, H-D Electric Cooperative is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, sex, and familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).



## Basin Electric and H-D Electric Scholarships

H-D Electric Cooperative will award one \$1,000 scholarship and two \$500 scholarships. To be eligible you must be a dependent of a member. One of these scholarships will give preference to a student in an electrical/energy related field. Applications are available and must be completed and returned to H-D Electric by **Feb. 13, 2023**.

Recipients will be chosen according to criteria such as SAT/ACT scores, overall grade point averages, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals and a written recommendation by a third party. Only the applications which provide all of the above information will be considered, so it is important to read the application thoroughly and complete every detail.

The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school.

To apply, you must complete the required criteria and the scholarship application, which can be obtained from local high school guidance counselors, calling H-D Electric at 605-874-2171 or 800-358-7233, writing H-D Electric, PO Box 1007, Clear Lake, SD 57226 or via our website at [www.h-delectric.coop](http://www.h-delectric.coop). Applications must be completed and returned to the office of H-D Electric by Feb. 13, 2023.

## Attention High School Juniors and Seniors

### Win a Trip to Washington D.C.

H-D Electric Cooperative will once again sponsor high school (juniors and seniors) on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Each June, more than 1,800 high school juniors and seniors travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. During the week, they learn about Washington, D.C., government, cooperative philosophy and rural electrification. The students are selected and sponsored by their local rural electric cooperatives. The South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) coordinates arrangements for the South Dakota students.

**Who is Eligible?** All area high school juniors and seniors whose parents are members of H-D Electric Cooperative.

**What Does It Cost?** H-D Electric Cooperative, along with the other local electric cooperatives that participate in the weeklong event, funds the tour. The funding for the tour provides for each participant's transportation, room and board, entertainment and sightseeing events. Students are required to provide their spending money (snacks and souvenirs).

**When is it Held?** The weeklong trip will be held on Jun. 17-23, 2023. Participants will meet for an orientation meeting on Saturday, Jun. 17, in Sioux Falls. Then, the group will fly to Washington D.C. on Sunday, Jun. 18, and return to South Dakota on Friday, Jun. 23. A commercial bus will be used for transportation while in Washington D.C.

**How do I Qualify?** Complete the Rural Electric Youth Tour application form that is available from your school guidance counselor or H-D Electric Cooperative website [www.h-delectric.coop](http://www.h-delectric.coop) or in person at H-D Electric headquarters. Submit completed applications to H-D Electric Cooperative before Mar. 17, 2023.

For more information contact:

Jami Bolden — [jamib@h-delectric.coop](mailto:jamib@h-delectric.coop)  
18240 SD Hwy 15  
PO Box 1007  
Clear Lake, SD 57226  
605-874-2171  
[www.h-delectric.coop](http://www.h-delectric.coop)

## 2023 H-D Electric Director Election

H-D Director elections will be held at the H-D Electric annual meeting on Tuesday, Mar. 21, 2023. The annual meeting this year will be at H-D Electric headquarters in Clear Lake, S.D.

Director Nominations are by petition only. Petition forms are available at the H-D Electric office and must be signed by at least 15 memberships, (individuals of joint memberships count as one membership). Petitions will be available after Jan. 5, 2023, and must be returned to the office by Feb. 24, 2023. However, because of publication deadlines, in order to have the candidate profile published in the March *Cooperative Connections* annual meeting report magazine, petitions should be submitted at or prior to Feb. 1st, 2023.

### Three director districts for this year are:

**District 3 including the following townships** — Hamlin Township and Dempster Township, Hamlin County, S.D.; and Hidewood Township, Deuel County, S.D.

**District 4 including the following townships** — Portland Township, Rome Township, Goodwin Township and Havana Township, Deuel County, S.D.; Kranzburg Township, Codington County, S.D.; and Georgia Township, Grant County, S.D.

**District 9 including the following townships** — Norden Township, Cleveland Township, Dixon Township and Garfield Township, Hamlin County, S.D.; Laketon Township, Brookings County, S.D.; and Pleasant Township, Clark County, S.D.

# NATIVE TOURISM

## Native Tourism Alliance shines spotlight on tribal nation culture

**Billy Gibson**

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Sure, many of the 15 million travelers who visit South Dakota each year may have marveled at the Mount Rushmore Memorial, snapped a selfie at Wall Drug or beheld the fast-moving waters in Falls Park.

But how many of them have witnessed the whirling splendor of a wacipi, the traditional Native American celebration of life? How many have paused to watch a Native artist crafting a colorful piece of beaded jewelry?

Several years ago, a blind spot was noticed in the Department of Tourism's efforts to attract visitors – not much attention was being focused on the state's nine federally-recognized tribal nations.

In an effort to address that oversight, the department teamed up with the George Washington University International Institute of Tourism Studies

and the tribes to develop a sustainable indigenous tourism industry by letting visitors know there are many points of interest available for exploration far beyond the beaten paths.

The five-year plan has been described as a “groundbreaking endeavor” and is one of the first initiatives of its kind under the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act and was unveiled in August of 2021. More than 60 state, local and federal organizations collaborated to formulate the strategy as a catalyst for economic growth.

“I think the Alliance is a potential revenue source for our tribes, and it's a way for us to generate income, alleviate poverty and help conserve our natural resources and culture,” said Dew Bad Warrior-Ganje, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

The plan identified five guiding principles:

### Native Tourism Alliance

**CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE**

PO Box 590, Eagle Butte, SD 57625  
605-964-4155

**CROW CREEK SIOUX TRIBE**

PO Box 50, Fort Thompson, SD 57339  
605-245-2221

**FLANDREAU SANTEE SIOUX TRIBE**

PO Box 283, Flandreau, SD 57028-0283  
605-997-3891

**LOWER BRULE SIOUX TRIBE**

PO Box 187, Lower Brule, SD 57548  
605-473-5561

**ONGLALA SIOUX TRIBE**

PO Box 2070, Pine Ridge, SD 57770  
605-867-5821

**ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE**

PO Box 430, Rosebud, SD 57570  
605-747-2381

**SISSETON WAHPETON OYATE**

PO Box 509, Agency Village, SD 57262  
605-698-3911

**STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE**

PO Box D, Fort Yates, ND 58538  
701-854-8500

**YANKTON SIOUX TRIBE**

PO Box 1153, Wagner, SD 57380  
605-384-3641



- Unity - Reunification of the Očhéthi Šakówi Oyate through shared history, commonalities, and collaboration on developing regional tourism.
- Preservation - Promotion of art and culture in order to enhance self-identity and pride as well as preserve the culture, including language and traditional knowledge.
- Woksape - Recognition of Elders as the driving force of traditional knowledge and wisdom in the development of regional tourism and educating the youth to be stewards of the language and culture.
- Education - Creation of cross-cultural bridges and educating the World about Native American communities.
- Self-sufficiency - Development of opportunities for Tribal Nations to become self-sufficient and create pathways to enhance livelihood.

Organizers gathered together and developed detailed goals and methods to achieve those goals. Planners were forced to start from the ground floor as not much data existed to determine the present status of Indigenous tourism.

They initially identified a “rich mix” of 145 existing natural, cultural and heritage attractions and special events to promote, in addition to potential agritourism initiatives.

Nearing the halfway point in the plan’s prescribed timetable, stakeholders report substantial progress and greater interest from visitors seeking an authentic cultural experience.

Calvin Bloemendaal, who has represented the South Dakota Department of Tourism in the Alliance from its inception, pointed out several specific measures of success.

Chief among them is the creation of a nine-day motorcoach tour of tribal territory that starts in Rapid City and terminates in Bismarck. The tour, coordinated with assistance by the tourism department, will begin this summer and will be operated through Destination America and Trafalgar Tours.

“It’s one of the first tours of its kind,” Bloemendaal said. “Destination America caters to an upscale clientele of individuals who like to travel a lot and have been to a lot of places. They’re looking for something unique and interesting they haven’t seen before.”

He also mentioned the progress that has been made in building a network of support for tribal tourism and the development of themed destination experiences.

There’s also a marketing guide that is part of the department’s general ongoing promotional efforts. More than 30,000 of the helpful guides were printed and are being distributed at visitor centers, trade shows and other industry events.

“I was at a trade show in Denver and people were extremely interested in this idea and gravitating toward it. The guide is an effective tool that inspires people to visit,” he said. “We’re making a lot of headway as far as putting together pitches and itineraries to attract more tour operators to the state.”







# CULTURE ON DISPLAY

The Mead Cultural Center has a variety of exhibits and programs to appeal to every interest. *Photos by Mead Museum*

## Mead Cultural Education Center has something for every interest

**Billy Gibson**

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The action seems to never cease at the Mead Cultural Education Center in Yankton.

Between three very popular permanent exhibits, community-based special events and temporary displays that come and go, the constant swirl of activity keeps Rob Marlow on his toes.

Marlow is program director at the museum, which is known affectionately to local supporters and frequenters as “The Mead.” He was finally catching his breath after the Christmastime crush when he and his team had to quickly turn their attention to installing a new traveling exhibit called “Crossroads: Changes in Rural America,” the product of a collaboration between the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street program and the South Dakota Humanities Council.

Previously, the touring exhibit spent several months on display at the South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum

on the SDSU campus in Brookings and will show at The Mead through the first week of March.

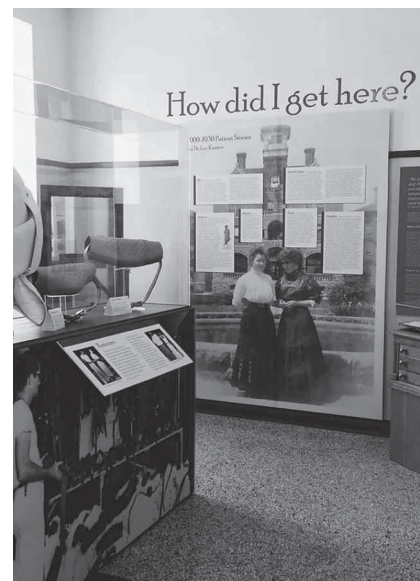
Other stops include the Sturgis Public Library from March 11 through April 30 and the Fort Sisseton Historic State Park from May 6 through June 25.

Marlow explained that the exhibit describes how the U.S. population has shifted away from rural and agrarian communities and moved toward more urban and suburban centers since 1900. It showcases the many ways agriculture-based towns and villages across the country have responded to those changes and in many cases have thrived.

As they’ve felt the impact of the long-term demographic trends, rural communities have been pro-active and intentional in finding new opportunities for growth, innovation and economic development.

“A lot of people who don’t live in rural towns have a perception that they’re barely hanging on by a thread, and that’s not always the situation. The reality is that while it hasn’t been easy,

farmers and ranchers and small town leaders have rolled up their sleeves and met these challenges head-on, to the point that we see many folks coming back to a lifestyle with a slower pace, more freedom, more comfort and more room to roam. It’s really a super success



A display focusing on the historic Yankton State Hospital is a popular attraction at the Mead Cultural Education Center in Yankton.





This display was created by the local Lego club and attracted a lot of interest during the Christmas season. *Photos by Mead Museum*

story, and this exhibit shows that. We're excited to have it here at The Mead," Marlow said.

Meanwhile, curious crowds continue to flock to the museum's three permanent exhibits, which include Yankton State Hospital: Minds, Methods and Medicine; Journey Forward: Connecting Cultures; and the Children's Transportation Museum.

Marlow said visitors and guests generally have a special fascination with the story of how the Mead Building in Yankton was once home to the state's largest mental health facility for women.

The permanent display designed by Jane Bobzin, Carol Ryan and Stan Hoffart opened in 2020 and tracks the history of the facility that dates back to 1879.

It highlights the accomplishments of hospital superintendent Dr. Leonard Mead and Dr. Leo Kanner, considered to be the "Father of American Child Psychiatry" for his innovative work in the field of autism.

"We get a lot of positive reviews and feedback about that display. People walk away learning a lot about the history of the facility and how the hospital provided treatment for those with mental disorders at the time," Marlow said.

Throughout the calendar year, the facility hosts a variety of seasonal events and activities such as the Hall of Trees held each year from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

This past Christmas, nearly 70 local businesses, social organizations and other sponsors decorated trees to reflect the spirit of the season. More than 1,300 visitors cast their vote for best-of-show by dropping a token in a box in front of their favorite tree. Registration fees paid by the competing tree decorators go toward providing free museum admission to those 17 and under.

The 2022 Hall of Trees exhibit also included a 1,400-piece Lego display built by the Yankton Community

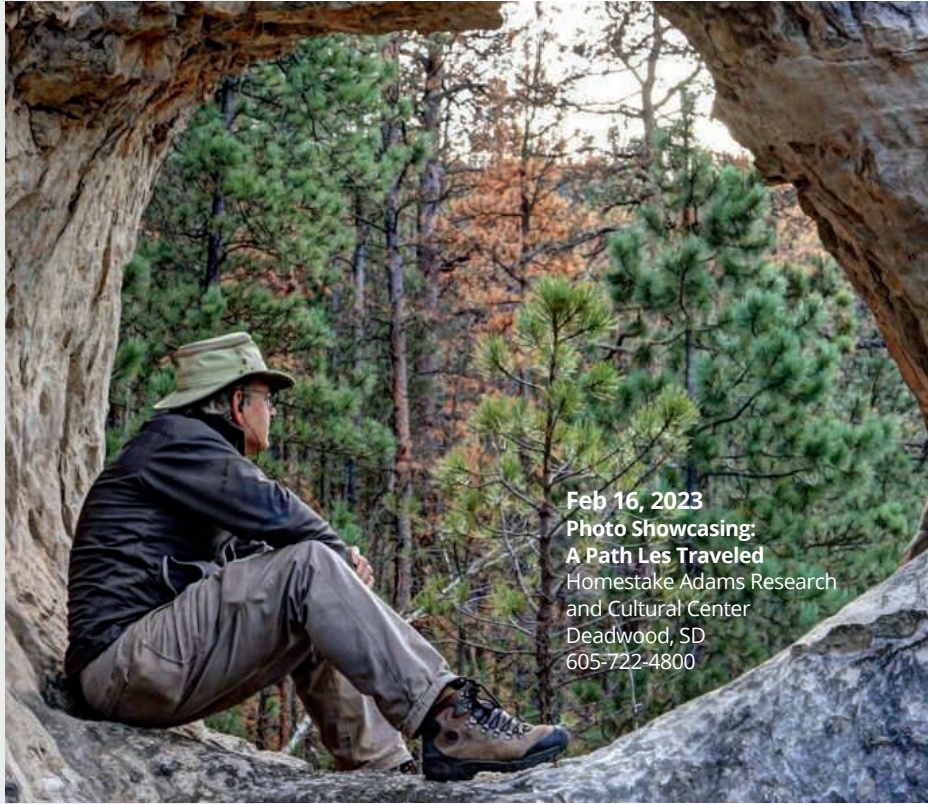
**"There's a lot to see and explore at the Mead Building. We feel like the discovery process is something that never ends."**

*- Rob Marlow*

Library Lego Club led by local brickmeister Tom Cihak. Last year's display featured an assortment of Tonka trucks.

Another popular seasonal event occurs during Halloween and is centered around "haunted history" tours of the Mead Building and an "overnight experience" where guests gather together with their sleeping bags and snacks, share ghost stories and listen for signs of any paranormal activity taking place in the crooks and crevices of the structure.

"There's a lot to see and explore at the Mead Building," Marlow said. "We feel like the discovery process is something that never ends."



**Feb 16, 2023**  
**Photo Showcasing:**  
**A Path Les Traveled**  
 Homestake Adams Research  
 and Cultural Center  
 Deadwood, SD  
 605-722-4800

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.

**FEB. 3-4**  
**TOOTSIE**

Show Dates:  
 Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 4, 2 p.m.  
 Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.  
 Washington Pavilion  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-367-6000

**FEB. 4**  
**Lake Hendricks Fishing Derby**  
 9 a.m. registration  
 Hendricks City Public  
 Lake Access  
 Hendricks, MN  
 507-828-2113

**FEB. 4**  
**James River Gobblers**  
**Hunting Heritage Banquet**  
 Highland Conference Center  
 Mitchell, SD  
 605-999-3208

**FEB. 10-11**  
**Mardi Gras Weekend**  
 Mardi Gras Events & Parade  
 Sponsored by Deadwood  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 Main Street  
 Deadwood, SD

**FEB. 11**  
**Songs of Romance**  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Washington Pavilion  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-367-6000

**FEB. 16**  
**Photo Showcasing:**  
**A Path Les Traveled**  
 12 p.m.-1 p.m.  
 Homestake Adams Research  
 and Cultural Center  
 Deadwood, SD  
 605-722-4800

**FEB. 24**  
**Calamity's Shindig**  
 6 p.m.-9 p.m.  
 Homestake Adams Research  
 and Cultural Center  
 Deadwood, SD  
 605-722-4800

**FEB. 28**  
**BIG Career & Internship Fair**  
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
 Ramkota Hotel  
 Sioux Falls, SD

**MARCH 4**  
**Annual Ag Day**  
 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
 Washington Pavilion  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-367-6000

**MARCH 18**  
**Shamrock Shuffle Fun Run**  
 12 p.m.  
 Main Street  
 Presho, SD

**MARCH 25-26**  
**Greater Sioux Falls Model**  
**Train Show**  
 Multi-Cultural Center  
 Sioux Falls, SD

**MARCH 30**  
**"The Wildest Banquet**  
**Auction in the Midwest"**  
 5:30 p.m.  
 South Dakota Military  
 Heritage Alliance  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-339-1203

**APRIL 1**  
**Mozart Requiem**  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Washington Pavilion  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-367-6000

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