

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## Small Town, Big Dreams

Tucker Kraft's  
Road to the NFL

Pages 8-9

Electrical Safety in  
Action

Pages 12-13

# Annual Meeting Re-cap and Prioritize Safety Year-Round



**Matt Hotzler**  
Manager

I want to thank all the members attending the H-D Electric 2023 annual meeting held at the H-D headquarters. The night was much like this whole winter, with not the best weather. One hundred thirty-seven memberships were registered, and over 200 total members attended the meeting. The annual meeting is an excellent opportunity for H-D Electric members to interact with each other and the employees and hear about

last year's performance. There were three director seats up for election, District 3, District 4, and District 9. In each of these districts, only one person took out a petition. Todd Moritz (3) and Casper Niemann (9) were re-elected. Calvin Musch (4) was elected, taking over for Laurie Seefeldt, who did not take out a petition. Laurie was elected in 2014 and served three terms. Thanks to Laurie for her service on the board.

We discussed the storms and outages of this past year and highlighted how H-D Electric continues to replace the overhead lines built in the 1940s and 50s with underground lines. In 2022, H-D Electric crews put in 41 miles of underground line and added 17 new services. Now system-wide, 59% of our system is underground. After returning \$300,000 through a bill credit to members in December 2022, H-D ended 2022 with \$1,692,660 in margins. Once the 2022 audit is complete, margins will be allocated to members for payment in future years. H-D retired \$442,000 in capital credits in 2022 and will retire \$402,000 in 2023 from various H-D and G&T margins earned in 2002-2008. H-D's last rate increase was in 2018; again, we will not have an electric rate increase in 2023. At the end of the meeting, we gave away several prizes to those attending. The special drawing taken from the entire membership for \$1,000 and \$300 bill credits remained unclaimed as the names drawn were not in attendance. Next year we plan to do door prizes differently and give ten-\$100 bill credits and two-\$500 bill credits from those who register and attend. Once again, thanks to those who attended!

There are a lot of different groups that are recognized during various months. One such recognition every May is Electrical Safety Month. At H-D Electric, we know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, and the members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a

part to play in prioritizing safety.

While as General Manager, it is my responsibility to keep H-D Electric employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why you'll see H-D Electric hosting safety demonstrations in schools each April, to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. Last year we reached over 200 local fifth-grade students to discuss electricity and safety. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Service. Mission. Country. You likely identified immediately (and correctly) that these three words describe our nation's veterans. So, besides May being Electrical Safety month, May is also Military Appreciation Month.

Today's veterans are highly skilled because everyone who joins the military is either trained in a tech career field or exposed to advanced technology during their years of service. Many veterans have skills in advanced disciplines such as engineering, electronics or mechanics, which benefit the utility industry. H-D Electric is proud to employ veterans, and we're grateful for their contributions to the co-op and to our community. Operation Manager Troy Kwasniewski served in the Army National Guard, Member Services Manager Tom Lundberg served in the US Army, and Engineer Roger Cutshaw retired from the US Air Force. Our veteran colleagues joined H-D Electric equipped with training in leadership and teamwork. That's because while on active duty within their units, service members work closely together. After all, they know their lives depend on each other's actions. This fosters self-discipline, a sense of personal responsibility, and a passion for excellence.

The utility industry is increasingly complex and undergoing a profound transformation. While there is the utility industry's traditional engineering and wires and poles aspect, it now also encompasses advanced and new technology. Veterans are adept at responding to changing conditions, learning, and adapting to new technologies, which is essential in our evolving industry.

Working for an electric co-op is more than a job. The work has a clear mission—to help our consumer-members and the community. When you work so closely with the community, you can't help but feel a sense of commitment and responsibility to our members. It's similar to the sense of duty and responsibility that veterans experience in the military. They have personal responsibility and commitment to their co-op team members and the members we serve. In addition, veterans

**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 Strohfus – 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.

are trustworthy and goal-oriented, wanting to do right for their co-op and community.

We are grateful to have veterans within our ranks and are proud to serve them and their families within our community.

At the national level, electric co-ops support the “Vets Power Us” program, aimed at employing and honoring veterans and their families. This effort involves partnering with other

electric co-ops across the country and the Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration, and others to hire veterans in the energy industry.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and I hope you'll join me in recognizing the sacrifices veterans have made to our great country—and the many contributions they continue to make to our wonderful community. Veterans, we salute you!



**Operating Statistics:**

	Feb. 2022	Feb. 2023
<b>Customers</b> .....	3,762	3,778
<b>Amount Collected</b> .....	\$1,153,005	\$1,089,865
<b>Average Bill</b> .....	\$306.49	\$288.48
<b>Average Kilowatt-Hour</b> .....	3,155	2,904
<b>Kilowatt-Hours Purchased</b> ...	12,586,047	11,615,808
<b>Kilowatt-Hours Sold</b> .....	11,869,081	10,972,793

## Workplace Safety: Avoid Common Electrical Hazards

Contact with or exposure to electricity is one of the leading causes of workplace fatalities. Follow these tips to avoid electrical injury:

### Overhead Power Line Contact

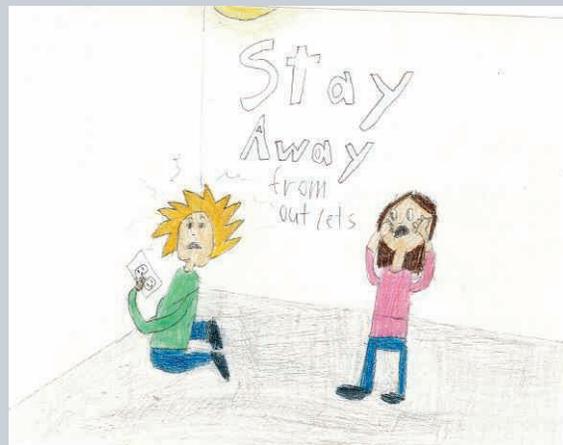
- 46% of all electrical fatalities are caused by contact with overhead power lines
- 57% of overhead power line fatalities were in non-electrical occupations
- Always assume all lines are live and dangerous
- Always look up; be aware of overhead power lines
- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines
- Do not touch anything that is in contact with overhead power lines
- Carry equipment, including ladders, horizontally to avoid contact with power lines
- Stay at least 35 feet away from downed lines

### Accidental Contact with Energized Conductors or Parts

- 45% of all electrical fatalities were caused by working on or near energized conductors or parts
- 74% of these fatalities were in electrical occupations
- Always test for voltage before you perform work. Be sure to also test the area around the equipment you are working on to avoid accidental contact with energized equipment
- Always perform a site and risk assessment before conducting work. Hazards exist on and near the equipment you are working on
- When possible, turn off power before conducting work
- Follow proper lockout / tagout procedures
- Avoid complacency. Every job is different, make sure you follow the hierarchy of controls and other electrical safety work practices on every job

### Electrical Safety in the Workplace

- 69% of all electrical fatalities involved non-electrical occupations
- Know when to say when. If you feel unsafe performing a job, say something
- Be aware of potential electrical hazards in the workplace. Avoid electrical rooms and other potentially hazardous areas
- All electrical work should be completed by qualified workers with proper training
- GFCI protection should be installed where electricity and water may come in contact
- Five sources accounted for 92% of all electrical fatalities
  - Overhead power lines
  - Unexpected contact with electricity
  - Working on energized parts
  - Ground faults
  - Damaged wiring



### Power Line Safety

#### Serena Dekrey, age 9

Serena Dekrey, age 9, gives wise advice to readers on electrical safety. She cautions us to be careful around power outlets. Serena is the daughter of Don and Cassandra Dekrey, members of Sioux Valley Energy based in Colman, 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.

# COMFORTING CASSEROLES

## PHEASANT CASSEROLE

**Ingredients:**

- 1 pheasant
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- Bacon grease
- 1/2 cup flour
- 4 cups milk
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

**METHOD**

Mix flour, salt, pepper, and roll pieces of pheasant in the mixture. Brown in bacon grease. In separate pan, mix butter, milk, and 6 T flour. Stir and bring to a boil. Pour over the pheasant that had been put in a baking dish with bacon laid over it. Bake until tender.

**Gail Klipfel**  
Ellendale, N.D.

## TACO CASSEROLE

**Ingredients:**

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 package taco seasoning mix
- 1 can (16 ounces) pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 can (11 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup crushed tortilla chips

**METHOD**

Preheat oven to 400°F. Brown meat in large skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat. Stir in seasoning mix, beans, tomato sauce and corn. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Spoon into 2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese and tortilla chips. Bake 5 to 10 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with assorted toppings, if desired.

**mccormick.com**

## CHICKEN, BROCCOLI, AND RICE CASSEROLE

**Ingredients:**

- 1 lb. chicken tenders
- 1 cup long grain rice
- 1 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tsps. garlic powder
- 2 tsps. onion powder
- 1 1/2 tsps. whole rosemary leaves, crushed
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

**METHOD**

Preheat oven to 400°F. Spread chicken and rice in greased 2-quart baking dish. Mix stock, milk and seasonings in medium bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Slow pour over chicken and rice. Cover with foil. Bake 45 minutes. Remove foil. Stir in broccoli. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, 15 minutes longer or until rice has absorbed all the liquid and broccoli is tender.

**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.

## MECO ELECTRIC GRILLS

H-D Electric Cooperative



### ELECTRIC TABLETOP GRILL

Price: \$175

### ELECTRIC CART GRILL WITH POLYMERE SIDE TABLES



Price: \$230



### ELECTRIC CART GRILL WITH COMPOSITE-WOOD SIDE TABLES

Price: \$210



## H-D Monthly Poster Contest Winner

Jaclyn Koistinen, daughter of Patrick and Jenilee Koistinen from Lake Norden, SD received an Art Set for being the poster contest winner in February.

Congratulations Jaclyn!



## H-D Electric Basin Tour

For more than 30 years, H-D Electric Cooperative has offered H-D members a trip to North Dakota to tour Basin Electric's Coteau Freedom Mine, Antelope Valley Station Power Plant and Great Plains Synfuels Plant.

H-D Electric and Codington-Clark Electric will be joining together again this year for a two-day, one-night educational and fun getaway at the end of August.

Watch for more details to come and registration!

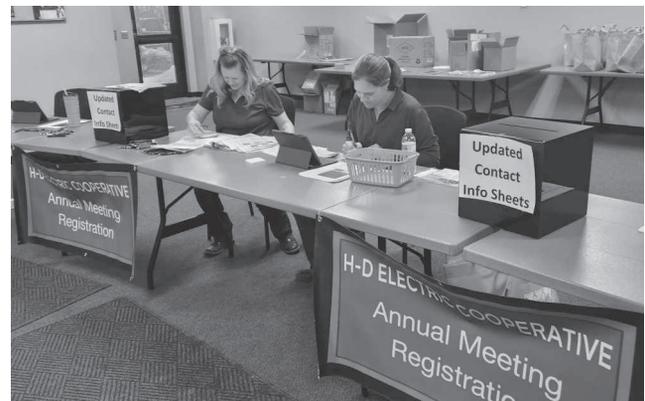
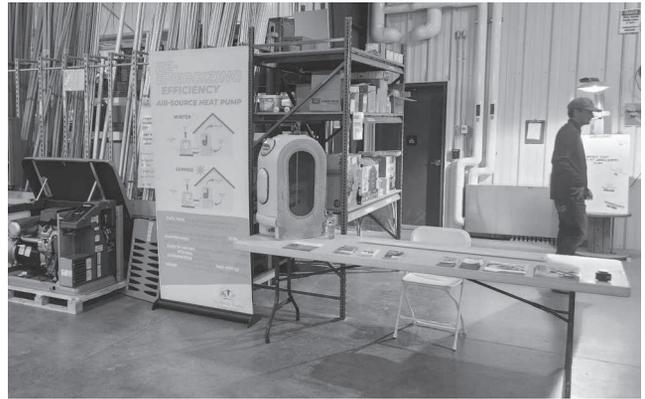
# 2023 Pictures and Prizes from 2023 Annual Meeting

Several display tables, with H-D employees, were on hand. Popular displays included the LED all night yard light, the Water Heater Display, and the Generator Display.

The business meeting started with Board President Bert Rogness announcing a quorum and called the meeting to order. Manager, Matt Hotzler, Board President, Bert Rogness and Treasurer, Steve Hansen presented a review of 2022 and insight on what 2023 will bring.

After a chance for questions on old or new business the meeting was adjourned. Names were then drawn for door prizes and finished up with a chance to win a \$1,000 bill credit and \$300 bill credit drawn from names of all the cooperative members (must be present to win). In this year's drawing, the members were not present.

Thanks again to all who attended. Plan to attend next year's annual meeting that will be held in Hamlin Education Center in Hayti, South Dakota.



TUCKER KRAFT



# SMALL TOWN, BIG DREAMS

Kraft refuses to go down amongst a group of Redbird defenders.

## Tucker Kraft's Road to the NFL

**Frank Turner**

frank.turner@sirea.coop

With a population of 500 residents, Timber Lake, S.D., may seem similar to many small-town communities across the state. The town is known for its scenic beauty, outdoor recreational opportunities, and rich history. However, what really sets Timber Lake apart from the rest is a homegrown NFL prospect: Tucker Kraft.

At an impressive 6-foot-5 and weighing 254 pounds, Kraft has proven himself to be South Dakota's latest up-and-coming football star. Ask any fan of college football and they will tell you that Kraft has the size and skill set to make waves on a professional level.

Luckily, Kraft's talents haven't gone unnoticed. During his latest breakout season as SDSU's All-American tight end, Kraft left an impression on NFL

scouts with his ability to outrun opponents, snatch incredible catches and charge through multiple tackles. A top contributor in nearly every game, Kraft led the Jackrabbits to their first-ever FCS National Championship. The historic season quickly cemented Kraft's place as a top tight end in the NFL Draft.

Kraft recalls the moment everything fell into place: "I just realized that when I had the ball, no one could touch me," he said. "I knew after that season that I was completely capable of playing with the pros."

Timber Lake High School head football coach Ryan Gimbel says he is not surprised to see his former stu-



Tucker Kraft

dent and player on the doorstep of the NFL. Countless hours in the weight room and gym, he said, revealed Kraft to be a student-athlete with incredible drive.

“Seeing the raw natural talent of Tucker spoke for itself and what he could accomplish, but he also had the dedication to take it to that next level,” said Gimbel. “To me, it wasn’t a surprise, and that was our running joke when he left high school – ‘I’ll see you playing on Sundays.’”

Kraft’s journey to the NFL, however, was not without its fair share of adversity. Growing up in Timber Lake, Kraft lost his father to a plane crash when he was only 12 years old. Kraft overcame the childhood tragedy with his two brothers and mother by working tirelessly on and off the field. Honoring his father’s legacy, Kraft followed in his father’s footsteps to become an All-American college star like his father had done before him.

“My brothers took a big part in raising me after my dad died,” said Kraft. “My mom, my aunts and uncles all played a role, but I pride myself on getting a lot of things done independently.”

Steely determination has carried Kraft to the highest level of football, and not even dramatic injury has been able to slow him down. In November Kraft officially declared his name in the NFL draft. Kraft’s friends and family cheered him on as he showed off his incredible strength and skill on national television at the NFL Combine. There, Kraft proved his ability to play alongside the likes of Dallas Goedert, Riley Reiff and South Dakota’s other pro footballers.

“I was kind of star-struck walking in,” said Kraft. “Sitting down with the head coaches of the NFL franchise, you realize that you are at this level now. This is a job interview.”

The NFL Combine, however, will

not be the last of Kraft’s time on national television. Ranked as the sixth top tight end, Kraft’s eyes are set on the draft in April. And, although he hails from somewhere small, Kraft plans to loom large on the field as a starting player with great potential.

“I want to go to a team that’s going to use me, whether I’m on the line of scrimmage in the trenches with the big guys or catching balls and getting yards after the catch. I want to make an impact on a team, day one.”

Whatever happens in April, Kraft’s hometown is ready to cheer him on. According to Gimbel, most of Timber Lake is ready to don colors and jerseys that they are not used to wearing to support their hometown kid.

“The buzz in our town has just erupted,” said Gimbel. “Our community, school, and family friends – they all want to see him be successful in the opportunity that he has worked for.”



NFL prospect Tucker Kraft evades a tackler, leading SDSU to a 31-7 win last November against the Illinois State Redbirds.

# Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the 2023 Scholarship recipients. These awards are offered as part of our commitment to developing and educating future leaders. This scholarship program is open to dependents of H-D Electric members.

Madeline Horn, a senior at Castlewood High School, is the 2023 recipient of H-D Electric/Basin Electric Power Cooperative's \$1,000 scholarship. Madeline is the daughter of Craig and Jessica Horn. She plans to attend SDSU in Brookings to pursue a degree in Human Biology.

Gabriel Holzwarth, a senior at Faitharm Academy/Homeschool, and Riley Koistinen, a senior at Hamlin High School, and Kaylee Decker, a senior at Deuel High School are the 2023 recipients of H-D Electric \$500 scholarships.

Gabriel is the son of Luke and Kim Holzwarth. He plans to attend South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Riley is the son of Harold and Rachel Koistinen. He plans to attend Lake Area Technical College in Watertown to pursue a degree in Business Entrepreneurship.



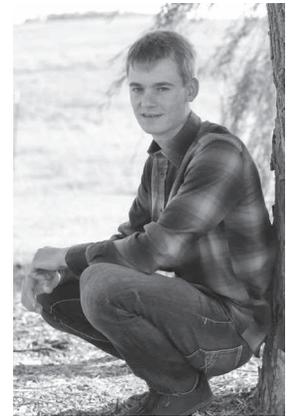
Madeline Horn



Gabriel Holzwarth



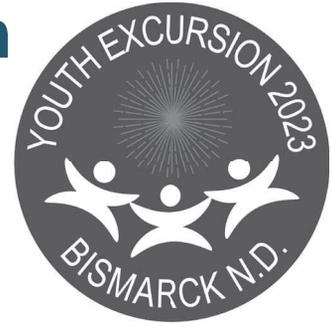
Kaylee Decker



Riley Koistinen



# Announcing Youth Excursion 2023 to Bismarck, N.D.



Calling all high school students! Is your parent or guardian an active member-owner of H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc? If so, you're eligible to apply for an unforgettable summer experience: Youth Excursion 2023!

If chosen, you will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Bismarck, N.D., for a youth event unlike any other. From July 24-27, participants will stay on-campus at Bismarck State College. During this time, they will have the opportunity to sightsee, make friends from all across the state and gain a new understanding of where their electrical power comes from.

Once participants arrive on the campus, they can look forward to two whole days of building friendships, taking in the sights of North Dakota's

capitol and learning "The Story Behind the Switch." During their stay, students will get to hear from power industry experts and participate in hands-on activities. Students will be given the opportunity to tour the Great Plains Synfuel Plant, Freedom Coal Mine and Antelope Valley Station Power Plant to see where South Dakota's power is generated.

There will also be plenty of time built in for recreation and socializing – students will play games, go on a scenic cruise in the Lewis and Clark Riverboat, visit Rivers Water Park and much more. Participants can look forward to connecting with students from all across South Dakota, building strong friendships and learning from their peers.

To be eligible for Youth Excursion, students must be in high school and their parent or guardian must be an active member-owner of H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.

To apply for the Youth Excursion, applications are available with your School Counselor or visit our website at [www.h-delectric.coop](http://www.h-delectric.coop), applications are available under the 'Community' section.

Please contact H-D Electric for more information at 605-874-2171.

Application deadline is June 2, 2023.

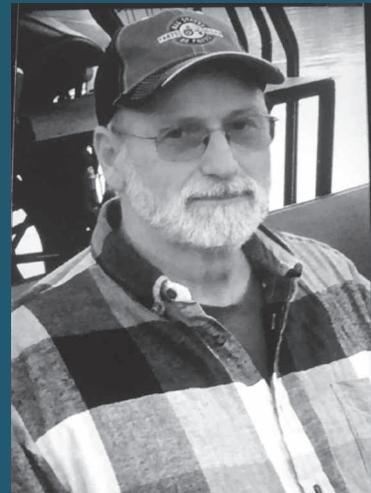
## Welcoming Calvin Mush

Please help us welcome Calvin Mush as the new director for District 4.

Calvin grew up North of Tunerville about 3.5 miles where he currently lives with LeAnn. Between them they have six children and ten grandchildren. He attended and graduated school from Grant-Deuel School.

In his free time, he likes to fish, especially ice fishing. Calvin looks forward to serving the members of the coop.

"I think I'd be a good asset being on the board knowing the needs and wants of the co-op and its patrons."



Calvin Mush, the new District 4 Director.



# ELECTRIC SAFETY IN ACTION

In a controlled demonstration, Journeyman Lineman Brady Gaer uses life-size equipment on the high voltage demonstration trailer to educate students about electricity.

## Empowering the Public to Stay Safe

**Frank Turner**

frank.turner@sirea.coop

Electric safety is a topic that South Dakota students are excited to engage with. They often ask questions like, “What should you do if your tractor equipment touches a power line?” or “How can birds sit safely on a power line?” or even “What does it look like when something comes in contact with high voltage?”

These are some of the most popular questions Oahe Electric’s Chief Financial Officer Valerie Marso has not only been answering but also demonstrating for more than 20 years.

“They always just have tons of questions,” said Marso. “It’s always fun to hear what they come up with next.”

It’s not just for entertainment, however. Oahe Electric and its employees are committed to realizing their goal of zero accidents at home and at work. Part of preventing tragedy starts with educating the public, especially youth, on how to stay safe around electricity.

In the last year alone, Oahe Electric traveled to nine different schools and led demonstrations for more than 900 students. For Marso, verbal communication is only half the battle when it comes to educating students

about electric safety. The real impact, she said, comes from showing them.

“The visuals and the noise that the high voltage makes really lands in a way that you just can’t convey with words,” said Marso. “It can scare the students a little bit, but I think it gives them a healthy respect for electricity.”

Co-op across the state, including Oahe Electric, use three different interactive safety demonstrations to hone their message about safety: Power Town, Co-ops in the Classroom and the high voltage demonstration trailer.

One of the most popular, Power Town, is a small-scale, tabletop model of a few quaint houses attached to a small power grid. The miniature electrical system shows students how electrical current moves through

various items they may encounter in their daily lives, presented in a fun and easy-to-learn format. Line-workers, who work on the real equipment every day, lead the demonstration and teach students about personal protective equipment worn by co-op employees to complete their jobs safely.

Co-op in the Classroom is yet another powerful initiative South Dakota co-ops engage in to promote safety across the state. Working in conjunction with East River's Education and Outreach Program, co-ops meet the students where they are in the classroom to teach local youth the importance of respecting electricity through hand-on lessons that engage and excite the audience.

Lastly, the high voltage demonstration trailer is a portable unit that carries life-size equipment from events to local schools. It's a demonstration that always leaves an impression. Within a safe environment, students get to see actual equipment, such as utility poles, electrical conductors and distribution transformers, in action. Each hour-long demonstration shows what can happen when objects such as animals, trees, ladders and even fruit come into contact with power lines.

"This is equipment that our linemen work on every day, so they are comfortable showing these students how energy works," said Marso.

These demonstrations not only

entertain, but also promote a healthy and safe environment for co-op members and the public. During one of Oahe Electric's latest outreach events, Marso recalled listening to a small group of kids talk about how they sometimes sit on "the green boxes." They were referring to underground transformers. It became a teachable moment that left an impact on both the students and teachers.

"We told them to never touch them," she said. "You never know what going on in there, and it's always better to be safe than sorry. It was at least one person who took something home and actually used it. Moments like that show we are really making an impact with these students."



Oahe Electric Power Supply Specialist Steve Long teaches electric safety using Power Town, a miniature model used in safety demonstrations.



# SEWING MEMORIES

The Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum is located in Vermillion, S.D.

## Take a Stitch Back in Time

**Jocelyn Johnson**

[jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop](mailto:jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop)

A stitch in time saves family memories and sews history together at The Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum just outside of Vermillion, S.D. A mom and five daughters hold a passion for sewing and for the history of household sewing machines.

Collecting domestic vintage sewing machines began more than 20 years ago for Sally Abild who visited

auctions with her mom, Evelyn Hanson. There, they found various vintage sewing machines and began collecting them.

"I would see these vintage machines that were being sold for little or nothing," Sally said. "I hurt, in a way, for the families because I thought, 'These are a part of their history.' If I had my grandmother's or my mother's sewing machine, I would be extremely happy to have it."

She purchased 20 machines, not

knowing what to do with them, but wanting to preserve them. They were first stored in an old farmhouse before eventually moving to a milking barn, which was homesteaded by Sally's husband – Dick Abild's great grandfather. The barn was renovated and opened as a museum in 2017.

The museum's collection of sewing machines grew with contributions from her sisters.

"They would come across machines I had never seen in the Midwest," Sally said. "In the bigger cities, there was more money in the mid-1800s when sewing machines started to pop up. You would find a bigger selection in those areas that you didn't find in rural areas."

Sally and her sisters, Gloria, Marie, Linda and Geri, carefully researched the history of each machine they owned, putting them in order and fixing them up. Today, visitors to The Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum are able to view more than 120 vintage machines along with treasured family mementos. Sally's family has a legacy of sewing their own clothes. She remembers her great grandmother making dresses from feed sacks and her mother, Evelyn, would sew clothes for the family on her treadle machine, since electricity wasn't available on the farm until the 1950s.

"I had to learn how to sew growing up," Sally said. "If I wanted something new, I had to learn how to make it for myself."

The Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum is one of three vintage sewing museums in the United States. "We collect domestic vintage machines – meaning our machines were the first to be used by families in the home and were made of all metal," Sally said. "A machine that has



Sally Abild and her family pose outside of the Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum.

plastic in it is not a vintage machine."

One of the oldest domestic, vintage machines on display at the museum is one by Elias Howe, who made the first official patented and manufactured sewing machine in 1846.

"We also have a Singer Model 12, which came out after the Civil War," she said. "Isaac Singer sold them door-to-door to families and was credited with coming up with the first payment plan – allowing up to 10 years to pay for this machine. It's said that Singer's Model 12 was the machine that clothed a nation."

The most unique machine that Sally favors, however, is a Wilcox and Gibbs that came about it the mid-1800s.

"It's a small, chain-stitch machine that was loved by many women back then," Sally said. "They could easily take it

from house to house, and it was easy to use. It's also the symbol we use for our museum."

Most vintage sewing machines tended to be family heirlooms, which were passed down from generation to generation.

"Many women who visit the museum have a machine that was passed down to them by their mothers or grandmothers and want to find out more information on them," Sally said. "Men love to visit too to learn more about the mechanics of these machines."

Sally revealed the transition from vintage sewing machines, made with metal, to newer sewing machines, made with plastic, began when America gave Japan two Singer patents after World War II. Japan capitalized on this and managed to perfect a design that they sold in America for a third of the cost. To compete with this, Singer began to put plastic parts into their machines and before eventually going out of business in 1988. Consequently, the age of vintage sewing machines ended when the convenience and affordability of plastic was introduced.



Evelyn Hanson instilled the love of sewing and vintage machines in her five daughters.



**May 28, 2023**  
**Back When They Bucked**  
 Days of '76 Arena  
 Deadwood, SD  
 800-344-8826

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.

**MAY 6**  
**Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**  
 Lake Farley Park  
 Milbank, SD  
 605-432-6656

**MAY 17**  
**Norwegian Independence Day**  
 6 p.m.  
 Vivian, SD  
 605-222-3296

**MAY 20**  
**Buggy Museum Open House**  
 10 a.m.  
 Stockholm, SD  
 605-938-4192

**MAY 20**  
**Booth Day**  
 10 a.m.  
 Booth Fish Hatchery  
 Spearfish, SD  
 605-642-7730

**MAY 20**  
**Frühlingsfest and Spring Market**  
 1 p.m.  
 Main Street Square  
 Rapid City, SD  
 605-716-7979

**MAY 25**  
**Wine Walk**  
 5 p.m.  
 Downtown Businesses  
 Aberdeen, SD  
 605-226-3441

**MAY 26-28**  
**Hidden Treasure Heritage Festival**  
 Lead, SD  
 307-259-4484

**MAY 27**  
**Back When They Bucked All-Day Rodeo**  
 9 a.m.  
 Days of '76 Event Complex  
 Deadwood, SD  
 605-717-7642

**MAY 27**  
**Norwegian Constitution Day**  
 11 a.m.  
 Lake Norden, SD  
 605-874-2171

**JUNE 3**  
**Health Connect of South Dakota: The Human Race 5K**  
 9 a.m.  
 Sertoma Park  
 Sioux Falls, SD

**JUNE 11**  
**River Honoring Community Potluck**  
 5 p.m.  
 Clay County Park River Shelter  
 Vermillion, SD  
 605-670-0540

**JUNE 16-18**  
**Fine Arts In The Hills Show & Sale**  
 Main Street  
 Hill City, SD  
 605-574-2810

**JUNE 18**  
**Father's Day Fishing**  
 10 a.m.  
 Palisades State Park  
 Minnehaha County, SD  
 605-594-3824

**JUNE 21**  
**2023 McCrossan Boys Ranch Golf Classic for Kids**  
 Central Valley Golf Course  
 Hartford, SD  
 605-339-1203

**JUNE 23**  
**Flandreau Fridays**  
 5 p.m.  
 Downtown Flandreau  
 Flandreau, SD

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