

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Hot Air Balloons

**Festival Gains
Popularity**
Pages 8-9

Go-Kart Racing
Pages 12-13

*Photo provided by
Petra Wilson, owner
of Western Horizons
Hot Air Balloons.*

Construction Update



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager

There is a common saying about South Dakota having two seasons: winter season and construction season. Central Electric Cooperative has been in construction mode since the frost left, and the crews and contractors are busy making infrastructure improvements.

This is the fourth and final year of our construction work plan, and the year is already over. The remainder of the summer and fall will be spent finishing projects we planned four years ago.

We have already completed some line replacement projects this year. Additional projects include replacing 7 miles of overhead line south of White Lake and west of Kimball. We also plan to replace 2 miles of line near Chamberlain, 28 miles in the Howard area, 8 miles of line in the Crow Lake area and 10 miles of line in the Letcher area.

East River Electric, our power supplier, is investing in the transmission system that feeds their substations near Chamberlain, Fedora and Howard. A new substation and switchyard will be built a few miles east of Chamberlain to accommodate growth in that area. The transmission line that runs from Fedora to Madison will be updated along with the Fedora and Howard substations. These investments will improve the reliability of our power supply and allow for the delivery of more electric power to these areas.

Central Electric Cooperative has a goal to replace 60-65 miles of older overhead power lines each year. The new lines mainly consist of buried high-voltage cable, but crews have also installed new overhead lines built to a heavier construction standard. We have made significant progress in our line replacement in the last 4 years, which will improve reliability long into the future.

One of the continued challenges we face is material supply. We are seeing lead times increasing to as long as two years, and some items have increased significantly in price. Fortunately, we have developed strong relationships

with our suppliers to secure needed inventory. Internally, we have increased the materials we keep on the shelf so we can continue to do our work. We anticipate supply chain issues to continue for another 3-5 years. While our efforts have helped us avoid delaying most projects, they come at a cost.

STAR Engineering of Alexandria, MN, is assisting Central Electric in developing a new 4-year construction work plan. That plan will be submitted to the USDA Rural Utilities Service and, when approved, will provide loan funds to continue making improvements over the next 4 years.

Our members come from many different backgrounds. We serve a broad spectrum, from farmers, ranchers and homeowners to small business owners and large industrial facilities. We serve members raising a family, working remotely or simply enjoying life. Reliable electric service has been and will continue to be the key to keeping our members safe and helping them thrive.

Until next month, stay safe!



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

**Join us for
Ag Appreciation Day**

Wednesday, August 9
W.H Lyon Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls
Lunch served 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Bring this ticket to receive a meal of pork smoked on-site, chips, & a drink. Free admission to the fairgrounds until 1 p.m. courtesy of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

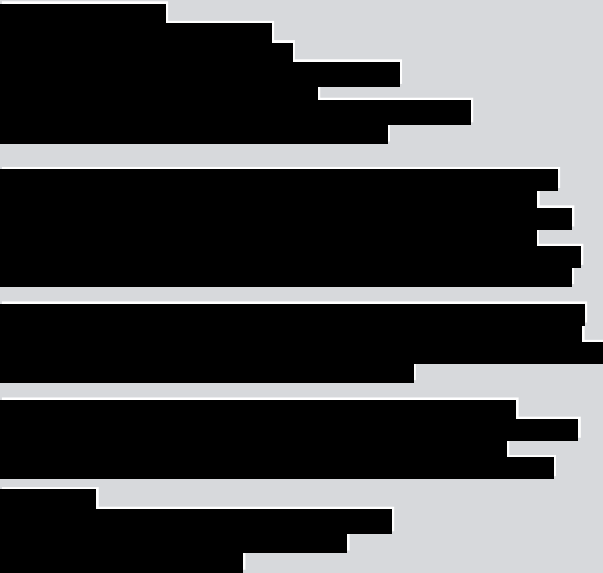
The region's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are once again hosting Ag Appreciation Day at the Sioux Empire Fair in Sioux Falls on Wednesday, Aug. 9. Local ag producers are welcome to attend. Bring this ticket for a free meal starting at 11 a.m.

CENTRAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS

(USPS 018-963)

Board of Directors

Duane Wolbrink - President (Aurora County)
Todd VanWalleghen - Vice President (Sanborn County)
Mark Hofer - Secretary & NRECA Director (Hanson County)
Mark Reindl - Treasurer (Jerauld County)
Donita Loudner - SDREA Director (Buffalo County)
Roger Campbell - Director (Brule County)
Jeff Gustafson - Director (Davison County)
Robert Banks - Director (Miner County)
Merl Bechen - Director At Large (All Counties)



Our Mission

Provide reliable energy and services with a commitment to safety and member satisfaction.

Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. Central Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The board of directors met May 15, 2023, at Central Electric Cooperative's headquarters for the regular board meeting. They reviewed reports by management including details on operations, member services, communications, service department and financials.

BOARD REPORT

General Manager Schlimgen updated the board of directors on the East River managers' meeting, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Rural Electric Economic Development, USDA Rural Utilities Service, grant funding opportunities and other management activities. Work continues on updating proposals to provide electric service to a large commercial member.

The minutes of the April 12, 2023, safety meeting were reviewed by the board.

Manager of Operations Brian Bultje informed the board that material delays continue to be an issue and timeframes for delivery are longer than ever before, with some transformers more than three years out.

District meetings are scheduled to take place throughout June. The board discussed the meeting format and pertinent information to be shared with the membership.

The board reviewed Policy 827 Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) Avoided Cost Rate. No action was taken.

The board reviewed Policy 306 Interconnection of Distributed Resources. No action was taken.

Director Wolbrink reported on East River Electric happenings. Discussion followed.

The board reviewed monthly director expenses.

BOARD ACTION

The board considered or acted upon the following:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve a non-site-specific labor only contract with Douglas Electric Cooperative. Motion carried.

There being no further business, President Wolbrink adjourned the meeting. The next board meeting was scheduled for June 19, 2023.

FINANCIAL REPORT	YEAR TO DATE MAY 2022	YEAR TO DATE MAY 2023
Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Sales	150,321,160 kWh	144,734,117 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$ 14,657,696	\$ 14,675,260
Total Cost of Service	\$ 13,918,279	\$ 14,276,522
Operating Margins	\$ 739,417	\$ 398,738

Working Out in the Heat

Exercising outdoors is a great way to enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather of summer. But you'll need to take some extra precautions to stay safe. Here are some do's and don'ts for working out when temperatures climb.

DO: Stay hydrated

Drink plenty of water before, during and after your workout to prevent dehydration and help regulate body temperature. Nicole Thompson of the American Council on Exercise recommends slowly drinking water or sports drinks about four hours before exercising. Aim for 1 ounce for every 11 pounds of body weight – so 10 ounces for a 110-pound person or 20 ounces for a 220-pound person.

Weigh yourself before and after working out to determine how much fluid you need to replace. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recommends drinking 2-3 cups of water for every pound lost.

DON'T: Drink products containing alcohol

Alcohol is a diuretic, so it contributes to dehydration.

DO: Wear lightweight and breathable clothing

Choose light-colored and loose-fitting clothes made of moisture-wicking materials. This'll help keep you cool and dry.

DON'T: Wear dark colors or heavy fabrics

Dark-colored clothing can absorb heat and trap it against your body.

DO: Wear sunscreen

The key number to look for on your sunscreen is the sun protection factor. An SPF of 15 filters out about 93% of UVB rays, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, while an SPF of 30 will filter out around 97%. Look for "broad spectrum" on the label to protect against UVA and UVB rays.

Apply sunscreen 15 or 20 minutes before going out (check the instructions on the label). Reapply every two hours – or more frequently if you're sweating a lot. Don't forget about your ears, lips and any bald spots on your scalp – they need protection, too.

DON'T: Work out during the hottest times of the day

The sun is at its strongest between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., so try to schedule workouts for earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. Remember, you can always work out inside and in an air-conditioned area if needed.

DO: Know the signs of heat-related illness

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Nausea and dizziness
- Headaches
- Feeling weak

A weak or rapid pulse

Cold, clammy skin

If you experience any sign of heat exhaustion, move to a cool place, loosen your clothing, put cool and wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath, and sip water, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says. Get medical help if your symptoms don't go away after an hour, if your symptoms worsen or if you're throwing up.

Symptoms of heatstroke include:

A body temperature of 103° F or higher

Hot, dry, bright red or damp skin

Labored breathing

A fast, strong pulse

Headache, dizziness, nausea or confusion

Loss of consciousness

Heatstroke is an emergency. If you suspect it, call 911 immediately.

DON'T: Overdo it

Adjust your workout intensity to account for the heat and listen to your body's cues. Shorter workouts are good when temperatures rise. Allow your body to get used to the heat. Then you can gradually increase your time outdoors and exercise intensity.



Don't pull the cord!

Gabrielle Clement, Age 10

Gabrielle Clement advises people it's not safe to pull the cord when disconnecting appliances from an outlet. Gabrielle is the daughter of Dustin and Michelle Clement from Box Elder, S.D., members of West River Electric Association.

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.

Savory Summer SALADS

GRAPE SALAD

Ingredients:

2 lbs. red seedless grapes
2 lbs. green seedless grapes
1-8 oz. cream cheese (softened)
1 cup sour cream
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup chopped pecans

METHOD

Wash and dry grapes. Mix cream cheese and sour cream. Add sugar and vanilla. Mix well. Fold in grapes. Place in 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with brown sugar and pecans.

Angie Ruiter
Sioux Falls, S.D.

CHICKEN SALAD

Ingredients:

1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt
2 tbsp. mayonnaise
1 tsp. parsley flakes
1/2 tsp. seasoned salt
1/4 tsp. pure ground black pepper
1/2 rotisserie chicken, cut into bite-size chunks (about 2 cups)
1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
1/4 cup chopped red onion

METHOD

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.
mccormick.com

CORN CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients:

2 cans whole kernel corn (drained)
1 cup diced, unpeeled and seeded cucumbers
1/4 cup chopped red onion
1/3 cup mayonnaise
2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
2 tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
2 tbsp. lime juice
1 tsp. paprika
1/2 tsp. garlic salt
1/4 tsp. ground cumin

METHOD

Mix corn, cucumber and onion in large bowl. Set aside. Mix remaining ingredients in small bowl until well blended. Add to corn mixture; toss lightly to coat. Cover. Refrigerate 2 hours or until ready to serve.

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.

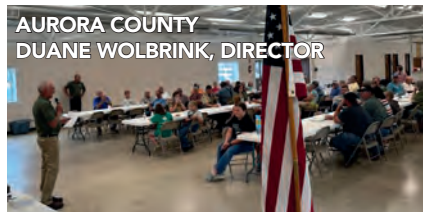
DISTRICT MEETINGS



We extend special thanks to all cooperative members who attended their local district meeting in June. Your attendance shows you are invested in the future of your cooperative.

The meetings in Aurora, Brule and Buffalo Counties included director elections. Duane Wolbrink of Stickney was unopposed and will continue to represent Aurora County. Bradee Pazour of Pukwana was elected to serve Brule County after Roger Campbell decided not to seek reelection. Donita Loudner of Fort Thompson was unopposed and will continue to represent Buffalo County.

Central Electric Cooperative's mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to its member-owners – that's you! When members of the community come together for a common purpose, we create an opportunity to improve the quality of life for everyone in our service territory. Your input is imperative to help ensure a bright future.



AURORA COUNTY
DUANE WOLBRINK, DIRECTOR



BRULE COUNTY
ROGER CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR



BUFFALO COUNTY
DONITA LOUDNER, DIRECTOR



DAVISON COUNTY
JEFF GUSTAFSON, DIRECTOR



HANSON COUNTY
MARK HOFER, DIRECTOR



JERAULD COUNTY
MARK REINDL, DIRECTOR



MINER COUNTY
BOB BANKS, DIRECTOR



SANBORN COUNTY
TODD VANWALLEGHEN, DIRECTOR

Campbell Known for Business Acumen and Critical Thinking Skills

Reflecting on Roger's contributions after three terms on board



Roger Campbell of rural Pukwana has represented Brule County on Central Electric Cooperative's board of directors since 2014. This year, he decided not to run for reelection.

Roger has utilized his business background to help the cooperative achieve its mission of providing reliable, affordable energy and services. Before joining the Central Electric board, Roger worked for 39 years in manufacturing, specializing in defense, construction equipment, pumps and gearboxes. He has also served on his church council and is the treasurer on the township board.

Roger earned a degree in mechanical engineering from South Dakota State University and is a member of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. He is also Six Sigma Green Belt Certified in project management.

"Roger is an intelligent thinker. He has a strong ability to analyze information and look to the future," said former board member Jim Headley of White Lake, who served with Roger from 2014-2021.

Headley added that while he and Roger didn't agree on everything, they were always able to talk through various issues and make sound decisions. "He is thorough and willing to look into the facts, and that's what you need on the board."

Roger has been known to play the role of devil's advocate to spark meaningful discussion in the board room. On top of that, board president Duane Wolbrink said, "Some of the expertise I appreciated that Roger brought to the board was his experience in managing employees, experience with OSHA safety and workers unions."

Being a director is usually serious business, but board members get to know each other and even have fun on occasion. A few years back, during a strategic planning session in Oacoma, Roger was surprised to discover his fellow board members stole his pontoon that was docked nearby and took it for a joyride.

"Duane [Wolbrink] egged me on, so we took it for a spin," explained Todd VanWalleghen, board vice president. "It was a nice evening and would have been a good night for a longer ride, but Roger being a cheapskate, it didn't have much gas in it," Todd joked. "Roger said the sheriff stopped by his place, but there were never any charges filed."

Duane rebutted in his defense, "The way I remember it, it was all Todd's idea. But it was a few years ago, so I may not remember every detail."

Others along for the joyride with Duane and Todd were director Bernetta Burghardt and Jean Morrison, spouse of now-retired director Butch Morrison. It was a fond memory for everyone but Roger,

who wasn't there to enjoy it.

Roger wants members to know that Central Electric management has built a strong team to serve the membership, and the employee group is as good or better than any electric cooperative in the state and beyond.

Roger's wife, Judy, is a retired educator. They have two children and six grandchildren. After Roger's term officially ends at the cooperative's annual meeting in September, he will continue helping the neighbors with farm chores and maybe spend more time deer hunting.

He claims that he will fill any extra time he gains from not attending cooperative board meetings by "doing whatever Judy wants." She can hang this page on the fridge to remind him of that.

We wish Roger the best as he moves on from the cooperative board. His business acumen has greatly benefited cooperative employees and members.

Bradee Pazour of Pukwana was elected to fill the Brule County board position, and she will fill Roger's seat following the annual meeting in September. Roger nudged Pazour to run, and he said, "I have absolute confidence that Bradee will do a great job representing Brule County."



Bradee Pazour of Pukwana was elected to serve Brule County at the district meeting on June 22. Her term begins after the annual meeting.



TAKING TO THE SKY

Balloons light up the night during the night glow event of the festival.

Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival Gains Popularity

Jocelyn Johnson

It's a picturesque and dramatic spectacle that's awed most people for several hundred years. Yet, spectators and pilots alike have not tired of the image. Hot air balloons have that quality of enchantment. And what better way to be enchanted than to see dozens of these balloons floating up into the sunrise of a South Dakota sky?

The annual Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival is attracting nearly 30 balloons and thousands of spectators on Aug. 25-27, 2023. The event is taking place at the airport outside of Hot Springs, S.D., where it will celebrate its 8th year of growing popularity. Festival sightseers can pack all-day-fun into their festivities by visiting the vendors, obstacle courses,

bouncy houses, and performances in Hot Springs by Magician Jared Furnau and the Wild Blue Band.

Petra Wilson, a local commercial pilot, founded the festival in 2016 before opening her own flying business – Western Horizons Hot Air Balloons.

"The way I got introduced to ballooning is a tale of serendipity," said Wilson. "Almost 20 years ago, my husband and I attended a hot air balloon festival in Peoria, Ill., where we are asked to become crew members for a weekend. On the last flight of the weekend, he asked us if we wanted to go for a ride. The ride was absolutely stunning and from that point on we were hooked."

Wilson became a private pilot in 2014 and a commercial pilot in 2017. In 2015, Wilson and her husband moved to Hot Springs, where she discovered she was the

only hot air balloon pilot flying in the area.

I introduced many different people to ballooning by inviting them out to watch and even crew," Wilson said. "Some of those people became my students and eventually became hot air balloon pilots in the Hot Springs area."

When asked how she started the festival, Wilson replied, "I decided this area was such a beautiful place to fly that I wanted to share it with all my ballooning friends and their friends, as well as locals who might appreciate the beauty of the balloons in the sky, so what better way to do this than having a balloon festival."

The festival started with the partnership between Wilson and Olivia Mears, Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce in Hot Springs.

Mears said, "Folks from South Dakota, California, Nebraska, Colorado, and more attend this festival. We attract private pilots who fly for their own enjoyment and commercial pilots who are licensed to carry passengers."

Tamie Shrum, current balloon-meister for Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival, is a commercial pilot overseeing the safety and regulation of the participating balloons. She travels the world to fly, including six countries and 37 states. Shrum owns three of her own balloons and earns her living flying passengers and training students how to fly.

"I like to do long jump flying, which is long distance flying," said Shrum. "My longest distance is 137 miles in a three-hour flight with a top speed of 78 mph."

Shrum explained that a considerable amount of studying goes into the preparation for a long jump flight. Everything matters – the time of year, time of day, location, and weather patterns.

"We work off of a microscopic level," Shrum said. "A regular person might say, 'It's not that windy today,' but a balloon pilot might say, 'It's too windy to fly today.'"

Describing how balloons fly, Shrum said, "In layman's terms, hot air rises and cold air sinks. You put heat in the

envelope, making it hotter than ambient temperatures which allows it to lift the massive weight it's carrying."

We use a burner with regular propane," Shrum continued. "The amount of propane needed changes based upon ambient temperature, altitude of flight, and how much passenger weight is being carried."

Balloons are simplistic in design but can be challenging to fly.

"You don't steer a balloon...while airplanes fly against the wind, balloons fly with the wind, which can be unpredictable," Shrum explained. "Sometimes you land in a park and sometimes you land in main street."

"I've flown over Pikes Peak in Colorado



Commercial Pilot Tamie Shrum looks below on other balloons while flying.

and in Japan along with many other places," Shrum said. "I've been fortunate to sightsee all over the world from 1,000 feet in the air while others are sightseeing from the surface...but South Dakota is one of the most gorgeous places to fly in."



Commercial Pilot Petra Wilson inspects her balloon.



See you at Sioux Empire Fair & Dakotafest

Each year, your cooperative participates in public outreach events to share information with members. This gives you an opportunity to have in-depth conversations about energy use at your residence or farm.

The region's electric cooperatives are once again hosting Ag Appreciation Day at the Sioux Empire Fair in Sioux Falls on Aug. 9. Local ag producers are welcome to attend. Bring the ticket printed on page 2.

Dakotafest will be held in Mitchell, Aug. 15-17. The air-conditioned Touchstone Energy building is booth number 216 on 2nd Street across from the SDSU Extension. Stop by to cool down and have a snack.

Save the Date

ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPT. 19, 2023

Evening meeting. Three-meat buffet, youth prizes and drawings for energy bill credits. Must be present to win.

Employee Years of Service

 DuWayne 16 years on July 5	 Heather 4 years on July 16
 Evan 4 years on July 23	 Tim 5 years on Aug. 6
 Patrick 8 years on Aug. 17	 Doug 38 years on Aug. 26
<div><h3>Thanks for your dedicated service!</h3> Craig 5 years on Aug. 27</div>	



Central Electric's Youth Tour attendees, left to right: Hanson H.S. junior Cody Beaudry, Mitchell H.S. junior Reed Bruns, Wessington Springs H.S. junior Abby Kolousek, Plankinton H.S. junior Whitney Payne and Kimball H.S. junior Tatum Tyrrell.

2023 YOUTH TOUR

Forty teens representing 20 South Dakota electric cooperatives headed to the Washington, D.C., area June 17-23 for the 2023 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Central Electric Cooperative sponsors the trip to support the development of future community leaders. Local Youth Tour attendees were Hanson High School junior Cody Beaudry, son of Tami Beaudry; Mitchell High School junior Reed Bruns, son of David and Laura Bruns; Wessington Springs High School junior Abby Kolousek, daughter of Scott and Amber Kolousek; Plankinton High School junior Whitney Payne, daughter of Ken and Michelle Payne; and Kimball High School junior Tatum Tyrrell, son of Lorin and Amy Tyrrell.

The program, which can trace its existence back to a 1957 speech by Lyndon B. Johnson where he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youth to the nation's capitol so they "can actually see what the flag stands for and represents," encourages teens to engage in their communities and learn about the

importance of political involvement. More than 1,300 teens have represented the Rushmore State since South Dakota sent its first group in 1963.

The 2023 group visited many of the historic sites the region has to offer, including a Flag Day stop at Baltimore's Fort McHenry. The fort's bombardment in the War of 1812 was captured in Francis Scott Key's poem, which would eventually become the national anthem. Old Glory would play a recurring theme in the trip as students could see it at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and also hear an inspirational message centered on the flag from Youth Day keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist in U.S.A. men's wheelchair basketball.

Students also met with the state's congressional delegation and other Youth Tour participants from across the country while touring many of our nation's historical sites – including the National Archives, Library of Congress, Mount Vernon and the U.S. Supreme Court.



Students visited the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.



Students met with U.S. Senator John Thune and U.S. Representative Dusty Johnson.



The Library of Congress, founded in 1800, provided insight into the nation's history.



The trip wouldn't be complete without a visit to the U.S. Capitol Building.



RACING FAMILY FUN

Go-kart racers in Aberdeen are placed in divisions by age and skill to keep the races competitive. The track usually hosts races twice a month during the summer months. *Photo by Scott Waltman*

Go-kart Racing at Aberdeen Track is a Family Affair

Scott Waltman

Kevin Horn didn't set out to drive to Aberdeen several times a summer so he could race.

Instead, after seeing races on TV, the Waubay mechanic bought a go-kart for his then-9-year-old daughter. But while she was driving, the kart skidded on some wet grass and she hit the kart trailer. After that, she turned the keys over to Dad.

That was about 11 years ago. Horn took his daughter's number 9 and flipped it to make a 6, and he's been racing ever since.

Like others who race at the Aberdeen Karting Club track at the Brown County Fairgrounds, his story has a tie to family, even if it didn't work out exactly as he thought it would.

Karting, racers and organizers say, is a family affair.

Brody Griffin of Watertown is 10 and started karting three years ago.

He makes the rounds, mostly to the closest tracks in Aberdeen, Brookings and Miller. He races just about every weekend during summer, and the allure is simple. Griffin said he just likes driving.

He was named rookie of the year his first season and finished second in his division his second season in Aberdeen.

But it's not all zipping around the track and trying to pass other drivers. Griffin said he helps work on his kart with his father.

That makes sense to Landon Schott, a 24-year-old racer from Aberdeen who is one of the track's most successful drivers. Now that he's a little older, helps with public relations and social media for the track.

When Schott started racing, he said his father made it clear to him that he would be helping work on the kart and had to keep it clean. Karting can be a big financial investment, and his dad wasn't going to spend heaps of money if his son wasn't going to pitch in and be engaged.

Schott, too, said he appreciates the friendly and family atmosphere of karting.

Sponsorships are critical to both the Aberdeen track and its racers, he said. He wouldn't have been able to travel across the country racing without



Josiah Combellick serves as the event's flagman.

Photo by Scott Waltman

having sponsors since he started driving in 2006, he said.

The Aberdeen track doesn't have any employees, and the Aberdeen Karting Club is a nonprofit group, so contributions are important, Schott said.

Rick Cartney is the vice president of the Aberdeen Karting Club and has been involved with the track since it was founded in 1996. His first race was in Aberdeen that first year, and now he gets to the track to start prep work around 9 a.m. on race days. Races usually start around 4 p.m. and last into the night.

For Cartney, the payback comes from the smiles on the faces of young racers.

"Mainly, it's for the kids," he said.

They do their best racing when they don't win, but they learn, grow and mature, Cartney said.

The Aberdeen track is between an eighth and a 10th of a mile long and is great for young racers who are just

starting out, he said.

There are races in Aberdeen a couple of times a month during summer, with the schedules of other tracks in the region taken into consideration so drivers can make it to as many races as possible. Generally, there are 30 or 40 drivers in Aberdeen, most of them young people, Cartney said.

Starting at the Aberdeen track has served Schott well. He has advanced to grand national events with both the International Karting Federation and Maxxis Kart Racing, finishing as in the top five, but never quite nabbing a championship. Last December, Schott said, he traveled to Daytona, Fla., and raced with about 70 other drivers, never finishing outside of the top 14.

"I guess maybe I'm just an adrenaline junkie," Schott said.

In 2013, as a junior driver, he won a Maxxis regional championship. The event drew drivers from across the nation and is called the Maxx Daddy, he said.

Schott said that and winning an end-of-season state championship in 2021 on his home track in Aberdeen are, at least to date, two of the highlights of his career.

He also won the state championship in 2015 in Brookings.

The state karting championships used to be in Brookings, but have been in Aberdeen in recent years. They return again this year on Aug. 12.

That event will likely draw about 200 drivers from South Dakota and surrounding states, Cartney said. A heavy bronze trophy in the shape of Mount Rushmore goes to the winner.

It will be yet another chance for the karting community to gather. Both Schott and Horn said they have made friends traveling the karting circuit. It's one of the most enjoyable parts of racing, they said, and Cartney agrees.

"These people are like a second family," he said.



Landon Schott helps prepare a go-kart before the races begin in Aberdeen on Saturday, June 17. Schott is one of the most successful racers from the Aberdeen Karting Klub. *Photo by Scott Waltman*



RECENT GRANT AWARDS

Through Operation Round-Up, participating cooperative members round up their monthly electric bill to the next dollar. Several Central Electric employees also contribute through payroll. Member and employee contributions are pooled together to support local causes through the grant program.

Below are pictures from recently completed projects that received support from Operation Round-Up. The board of trustees reviews grant applications two times each year. The next deadline is Nov. 1.



Kimball Backpack Program received a \$1,000 grant to support youth nutrition.



Dacotah Tipis Habitat for Humanity of Fort Thompson received a \$2,000 grant for much needed tools and supplies.



Servicemen's Memorial Cemetery in Mitchell received a \$1,000 grant to help fund a shelter and parking lot improvements.



Kimball Center Food Pantry received a \$1,500 grant for a new accessible door.



The Town of Fulton received a \$700 grant to help purchase a new AED.



Hudson Foubert and the Sanborn County 4-H Leaders received a \$500 grant to help fund an outdoor learning space at Sanborn Central School.

Protect Yourself from Utility Scams



Tara Miller

Manager of
Communications

Have you been the target of a utility scam? Utility scams involve malicious outside actors contacting you and threatening to disconnect electric, water, internet or phone service. Imposter scams are the number one type

of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as somebody who works for the power company, attempts are more likely to come in the form of an email, phone call or text message.

COMMON TYPES OF SCAMS

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time to think clearly. If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. Members who are concerned about a bill can check their account status online or call 1-800-477-2892. If the message arrives by email or text, do not respond or click any links.

Some scammers falsely claim you have been overcharged and they want to issue a refund. It sounds easy, but if you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, scammers will drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

Remember, Central Electric will never threaten you, demand immediate payment, or force you to provide bank account information. Trust your gut.

DEFENDING AGAINST SCAMS

If you are contacted by anybody demanding a utility payment, offering a refund or pushing payment assistance, delete the email, close the web browser or hang up the phone.

NEVER give out personal information. Call the utility company using the number on your bill to determine if there is an issue with your account and to report the suspicious phone call.

NEVER wire money or pay with a gift card or cryptocurrency. Only scammers will ask for those obscure payment methods. Once you send a payment to a scammer, the money is gone and you won't get it back.

ALWAYS be skeptical of calls, emails and texts from unknown sources. Be suspicious of anybody who requests banking or other personal information. Central Electric's customer service team will never call and threaten you or demand immediate payment – that's not how we do business.

REPORTING UTILITY SCAMS

If you are contacted by a scammer claiming to work for a utility company:

- Report the scam to your utility company by calling the number on your billing statement.
- Report the scam to the S.D. Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division by calling 1-800-300-1986.

And while you may not want to talk about the experience, it's best to let others know about scams so they can avoid becoming a victim.



UPGRADE UNLOCKED



New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub.

Manage your account like never before with the improved SmartHub application. The enhanced design is coming your way soon. Usage and payment details will be front and center for quick access. Call us with any questions at 1-800-477-2892.



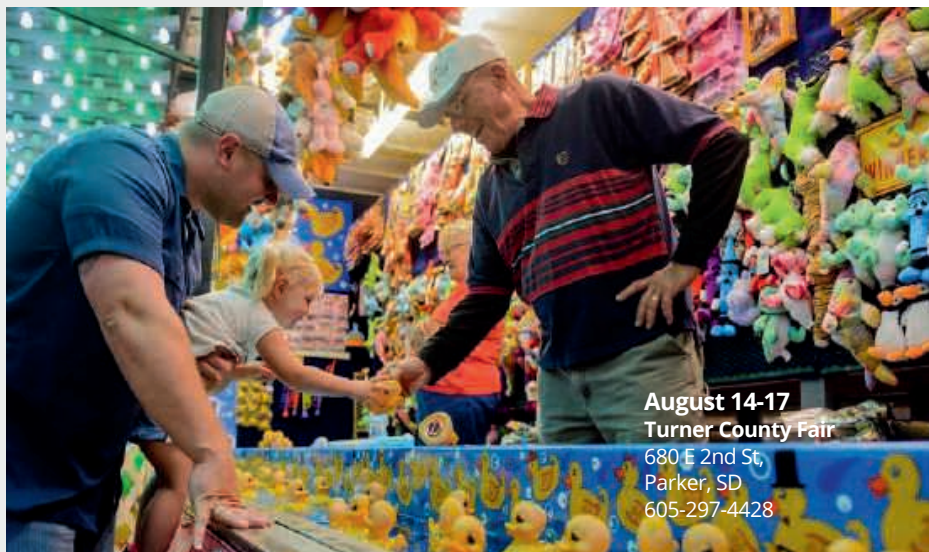
Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub.

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



August 14-17
Turner County Fair
680 E 2nd St,
Parker, SD
605-297-4428

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.

JULY 21-23
Winner Elks 54th Annual Rodeo
Winner, SD
605-842-5830

JULY 28-29
Farley Fest
Lake Farley Park
Milbank, SD
www.farleyfest.com

JULY 28-30
Clear Lake Days
Clear Lake, SD
clearlakedays.com

JULY 29
BBQ Pit Row and Car Show
Winner, SD
605-842-1533

JULY 30
Bergen Threshing Bee
9 a.m.
Bristol, SD
605-237-0310

AUG 5-6
Pioneer Power Threshing Show
MN Machinery Museum
Hanley Falls, MN
507-828-9666

AUG 10-13
Custer County Fair
Hermosa, SD

AUG 11
Northern Bull Riding Tour Finals Bull-a-Rama
Geddes, SD
605-680-2763

AUG 13-14
Twin Brooks Threshing Show
Featuring Allis Chalmers
Twin Brooks, SD
605-880-2884

AUG 19
Yankton Extreme Bull Riding
7:30 a.m.
Yankton Rodeo Arena
Yankton, SD
605-760-2153

AUG 21
30th Annual Bishop's Cup Golf Tournament
Minnehaha Country Club and
The Country Club of Sioux Falls
Sioux Falls, SD
605-988-3765

SEPT 2
Hidewood Valley Barn Dance
7 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 4
Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show
Steam Whistle Blows
1 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 9-10
Twin Rivers Old Iron Festival (Tractor Show)
Delmont, SD

SEPT 16
SD Coin & Stamp Convention
Scherr-Howe Area
Mobridge, SD

SEPT 22-24
Coal Springs Threshing Bee
Meadow, SD
605-788-2229

SEPT 23
Springfield Dakota Senior Meals Fall Festival
9 a.m.
Springfield Community Building
Springfield, SD

SEPT 29-30
Junkin' Market Days
Ramkota Exhibit Hall
Sioux Falls, SD
605-941-4958

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