

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

VALUE OF THE COOPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager

As I write this article, we are busy digging out from the 20-plus inches of snow that greeted us in the new year. The recent snowstorm followed a Christmas weather event that included several days of subzero temperatures. The past 30 days have been challenging for your cooperative, but that seems minimal compared to the challenges the weather presented to area livestock producers and snowplow operators.

This month, we are wrapping up 2022 financial statements and gaining knowledge of how the fiscal year ended. If you read my column last month, you know that if rates remained the same, Central Electric would face a financial shortfall of \$434,000 in 2023. You also understand there are several contributing factors to the projected shortfall. As a result, your cooperative is adjusting electric rates to increase revenue by a modest 1 percent. In this column, I will tell you the rest of the story.

I will start by pointing out that the cooperative business model has several advantages. Each member holds equal power, each member has a voice and the cooperative operates as a not-for-profit entity. For this conversation, I will focus on our not-for-profit business structure.

Your power supply consists of three electric cooperatives, each with a defined role in generating and delivering electric power, each with a member-elected board of directors and each owned and governed by you, the member. The three cooperatives I am referencing are Central Electric, East River Electric and Basin Electric.

As a member-owner of this electric cooperative family, you and thousands of others share the risk and reward for their performance. All three cooperatives anticipate revenues above budget for 2022.

The cooperative business model allows Basin Electric and East River Electric to return excess revenues to Central Electric and other members. It also allows Central Electric to defer unexpected revenue into future years.

The East River Electric and Basin Electric boards of directors both recently authorized a return of funds to Central Electric. We received the funds, as reflected in the cooperative's operating margins shown on page 3 of this newsletter.

Central Electric intends to use the excess operating margins as part of a deferred revenue plan to offset future expenses and minimize future rate adjustments. Before proceeding with that plan, we must gain approval from our auditors and the Rural Utility Service. Our goal is to maximize the value of these unexpected revenues for our members over the next several years.

Central Electric's operating margins, shown in the table on page 3, include revenue returned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and East River Electric Power Cooperative in 2022.

Because our partner cooperatives returned excess revenue, only a slight adjustment in electric rates was required for 2023. Statements received in February for energy consumed in January will reflect the new rates. Adjustments include a \$2 increase in the facility charge on all accounts, a new \$2 charge on electric heat submeters and an increase of \$.003 on residential/farm kilowatt hours over 1,200. The table on page 15 shows the estimated statement difference for residential/farm accounts. The board also approved minor adjustments in other rate categories.

Central Electric strives to provide safe and reliable electric service for the benefit of the community while maintaining financial integrity. Our entire cooperative family strives to provide value to you, our member-owners. Your cooperative's power suppliers will continue to control costs and minimize adjustments to future electric rates.

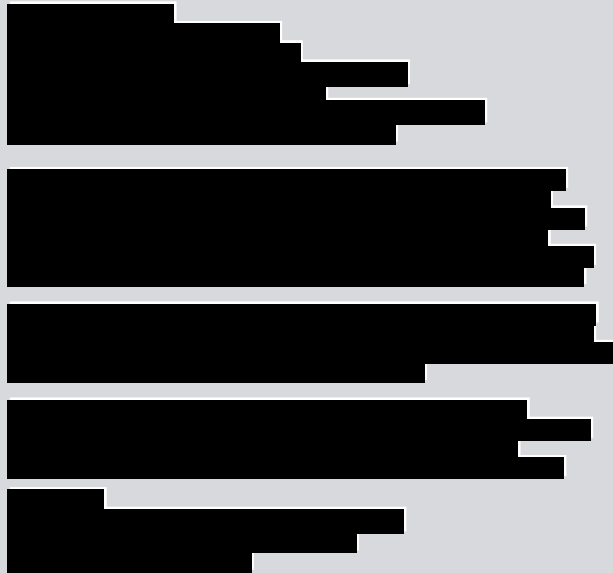
Until next month, stay safe!

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 on Nov. 21, 2022, at Central Electric Cooperative's headquarters for the regular board meeting. They reviewed reports by management including details on operations, member services, communications, special projects, the service department and financials.

BOARD REPORT

General Manager Schlimgen updated the board of directors on the Cooperative Finance Corporation Integrity Fund, Mitchell United Way, upcoming legislative luncheon, SDREA annual meeting, Basin Electric happenings, the East River managers meeting, Rural Electric Economic Development, annual work plan and capital budget.

Board members asked management to revisit plans to enhance building security at the Mitchell headquarters and bring proposals back for consideration.

Power Systems Engineering (PSE) representatives joined the meeting and presented the cost-of-service study. The results provide a strategic path for future rate adjustments.

Director Bechen, Director Banks, and Director Loudner reported on Basin Electric's annual meeting. Bechen and Banks also reported on East River Electric's director orientation. Discussion followed.

Director Wolbrink provided East River Electric board updates.

The board reviewed monthly director expenses.

General Manager Schlimgen shared previously reviewed bylaw updates to be taken up for consideration in 2023. Revisions to be considered should be finalized before district meetings so updates can be reviewed with the membership.

BOARD ACTION

The board considered or acted upon the following:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2023 annual work plan and capital budget. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept proposed rate adjustments effective January 1, 2023. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to authorize President Wolbrink to sign Eide Bailly's audit engagement letters for 2022 financials, tax return and benefit plan participant review. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting was scheduled for Dec. 19, 2022.

FINANCIAL REPORT	PRIOR YEAR TO DATE NOV. 2021	YEAR TO DATE NOV. 2022
Kilowatt Hour (kWh) sales	327,165,404 kWh	317,388,606 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$ 32,128,003	\$ 31,625,547
Total Cost of Service	\$ 31,306,111	\$ 29,556,763
Operating Margins	\$ 821,892	\$ 2,068,784

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.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR FUTURE LEADERS



Scholarship deadline Feb. 1

Central Electric Cooperative proudly engages in youth educational initiatives to support the development of our future leaders. As part of those efforts, the cooperative is offering the following scholarships:

- \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship (Student must be the dependent of a member with primary residence served by Central Electric)
- \$1,000 Jay Headley Memorial Scholarship (Student must be the dependent of a member and pursuing a bachelor's degree in an agriculture-related field)

Applications are due Feb. 1, 2023. Eligibility requirements and applications are available online at www.centralec.coop/scholarships. Contact the cooperative office for more information.

H.S. Juniors – Washington, D.C. Youth Tour applications due Feb. 1

After taking a break due to covid-19 travel restrictions, the Youth Tour is coming back! National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and Central Electric Cooperative invite high school juniors to apply for a trip to Washington, D.C.

The educational journey takes place June 17-23, 2023, and travel expenses are paid by participating cooperatives. Attendees will learn about government, cooperative philosophy and rural electrification.

Applicants must be high school juniors during the 2022-2023 school year who permanently reside in Aurora, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Miner, or Sanborn County of South Dakota. They do not need to be cooperative members to apply. Children and legal dependents of cooperative directors

and employees are not eligible to participate.

Outstanding juniors chosen as Youth Tour delegates must obtain signed parental consent to attend. The application includes the following short-answer question: *What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of, and how would you have contributed?*

Interested students should visit www.centralec.coop/youth-tour to learn more. Applications should be completed by Feb. 1. Please call 1-800-477-2892 with any questions regarding Youth Tour.

Central Electric Cooperative engages in youth educational activities to help develop the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you for supporting our youth outreach initiatives.

Lawmakers attend co-op's legislative luncheon

Tara Miller

Manager of Communications

Central Electric hosted its annual legislative luncheon on Dec. 19, 2022, to engage in pertinent discussions with elected officials before the 2023 legislative session.

Those in attendance were General Manager Ken Schlimgen, the cooperative board, several employees, District 19 Representative Jessica Bahmuller of Alexandria, District 19 Representative Drew Peterson of Salem, District 20 Representative Ben Krohmer of Mitchell, District 20 Representative Lance Koth of Mitchell, District 20 Senator Joshua Klumb of Mitchell and representatives from East River Electric Power Cooperative.

Board President Duane Wolbrink started the meeting with introductions. General Manager Schlimgen and Chris Studer of East River Electric gave a presentation about industry happenings. Lawmakers each took a moment to share their perspectives on upcoming legislative issues.

The cooperative will continue the dialogue throughout the legislative session to ensure we are aware of any bills that could affect our membership.

To find contact information for your legislators, use the interactive map at www.sdlegislature.gov/Legislators/Find.



Central Electric Cooperative's Board President Duane Wolbrink kicks off the discussion at the legislative luncheon.



District 19 Representative Jessica Bahmuller shares insights on legislation she will sponsor.



District 20 Senator Joshua Klumb shares his thoughts on issues lawmakers will face in the legislative session.



District 19 Representative Drew Peterson talks about upcoming fiscal challenges.



District 20 Representative Lance Koth speaks about challenges lawmakers will face during the 2023 legislative session.



District 20 Representative Ben Krohmer talks about his expectations for the 2023 session.

EMPLOYEE YEARS OF SERVICE



Brandon Auch
Appliance Repair Tech. &
Journeyman Electrician
4 years on Feb. 4



Cody Riggs
Journeyman Lineman
8 years on Feb. 9



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.



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

Safely meeting the demand with a home generator



Patrick Soukup
Manager of Member
Services & Marketing

When severe storms and natural disasters cause power outages, it can be an inconvenience, or even a problem, to be without electricity. Purchasing a backup generator can help with preparation for such power outages and provide peace of mind. As with all things involving electricity, the incorrect use of generators can create potentially hazardous situations. Our partners at Safe Electricity have outlined essential considerations in

purchasing the right generator and safely operating it. Improper use of a standby or portable generator can lead to injury or even death. It's important to learn and follow all safety measures to help keep yourself and others safe.

Decide what needs to be powered. What appliances, devices, and equipment are essential? Choose a generator size that can handle the full load of the estimated power required. Keep in mind that it takes more power to turn an appliance on — its surge power — than it does when in continuous operation.

Select the type of generator, either standby or portable. Standby generators are permanently wired into a house by a professional electrician. The installation should include a transfer switch that prevents feeding electricity back into overhead lines, which can be deadly for linemen. These generators are fueled by natural gas or propane from existing gas lines and automatically turn on in the event of a power outage.

A portable generator is typically fueled with diesel or gasoline, which must be regularly refilled. Unlike a standby generator, these must be turned on and off manually, and appliances must be directly plugged into the generator with a suitably rated extension cord.

Be aware of local ordinances. Depending on location, there may be electrical, positioning, or noise codes that must be followed when operating or installing a backup generator. Contact a local electrical contractor or generator dealer to help choose a code-compliant generator.

Once the generator is installed and ready to go, follow these safety guidelines to ensure the safe operation of the backup generator:

Thoroughly read and follow all manufacturer instructions to properly ground the generator before turning it on.

Do not connect portable generators directly to a home's electrical system. Doing so could re-energize overhead powerlines and endanger the lives of utility linemen working to restore power.

Nothing should be plugged into a portable generator before starting it to prevent a surge from damaging a household appliance.

When running a portable generator, always use properly rated extension cords (length and load) when connecting appliances.

Always operate portable generators in a well-ventilated space to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning and other harmful fumes. Never run a generator indoors.

Generators can pose an electrical risk when operated in wet conditions. Make sure the generator stays dry during operation, and don't touch electrical equipment with wet hands.

Less Energy Usage	More Energy Usage
Small portable generator (3,000 to 4,000 watts) Power the basics, such as a refrigerator (600 watts), microwave (1,500 watts), sump pump (600 watts), lights (400 watts) and TV (200 watts).	Large portable or standby generator (10,000 watts) Power the same appliances as medium portable or small standby model, plus a choice of a water heater (3,000 watts), central air (5,000 watts) or electric range (5,000 watts).
Medium portable or small standby generator (5,000 to 8,500 watts) Power the same appliances as a small portable, plus a gas heating system (500 watts), dishwasher (1,200 watts), computer (250 watts), second sump pump (600 watts) and more lights (400 watts).	Large standby generator (10,000 to 15,000 watts) Power the same appliances as a large portable or standby model, plus a washing machine (1,200 watts) or electric dryer (5,000 watts).

Sources: ConsumerReports.org and SafeElectricity.org

Exercise caution around portable generators, which have exposed engine parts that could burn or injure an individual. Keep children and pets away from a running generator. Use care when refueling portable generators to prevent potential fires and spills.

Properly shut down portable generators by turning off and unplugging all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator.

Remember to perform regular maintenance before and after each use. For portable generators, inspect oil and fuel filters, oil level, spark plugs, and fuel quality. Standby generators require less maintenance, but should still be inspected before and after power outages.

For more information about choosing and safely operating a generator, visit SafeElectricity.org or contact Central Electric at 1-800-477-2892.

Dave H.
Journeyman
Electrician

Kevin J.
Journeyman
Electrician

Rodney W.
Journeyman
Electrician

Dwight K.
Journeyman
Electrician

Lincoln F.
Sales &
Project Mgr.

A group of five men, four journeymen electricians and one sales/project manager, are standing in front of a white Central Electric Cooperative service truck. The truck has the company logo and name on its side. The men are wearing various work clothes, including hard hats, safety glasses, and high-visibility vests. The background shows a residential area with houses and trees.

Need a generator? We can help.
605-996-7516 | 800-477-2892 | www.centralec.coop

A photograph of a two-story house at night. The house has dark siding and white shutters. Several windows are lit from within, casting a warm glow. A white Kohler generator is visible in the foreground, running on the lawn. The sky is dark with some clouds.

**When the power goes out,
you go on.**

KOHLER Generators

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

OGLALA 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.

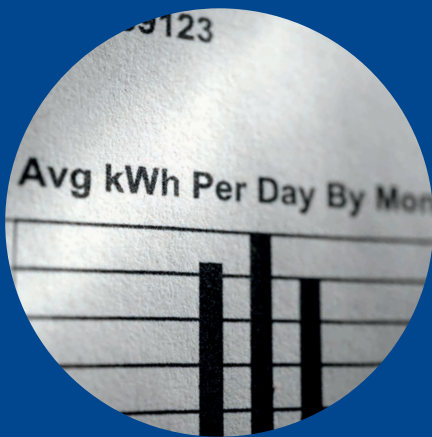
“It’s one of the first tours of its kind,” Bloemendaal said. “Destination America caters to an upscale clientele of individuals who like to travel a lot and have been to a lot of places. They’re looking for something unique and interesting they haven’t seen before.”

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.”





Monitor Energy Use



Sign up for SmartHub by visiting www.centralelec.coop and clicking "New User? Register to use SmartHub!" at the top of the page.



View energy usage details and billing history by downloading the SmartHub application on your tablet or mobile device.



Want \$10 off your next statement? Score a one-time bill credit of \$5 by signing up for paperless statements, and another \$5 by signing up for automatic payments. All of a member's eligible accounts must be enrolled by April 1, 2023, to qualify. Each newly enrolled member is eligible for one \$5-\$10 bill credit if conditions are met.



2023 Electric Rate Adjustment

While Central Electric's rates have remained the same since 2019, the cost of delivering reliable energy has increased substantially. Equipment and material prices, among other expenses, prompted the need for a rate adjustment in 2023.

Changes to your bill include a \$2 facility charge adjustment and a \$2 electric heat submeter fee, if applicable. The facility charge helps recover the cooperative's operating expenses, including power lines, transformers, maintenance, equipment, and customer service activities. The submeter fee helps recoup the costs to purchase, operate, and maintain the submeters.

Residential and farm members using more than 1,200 kilowatt hours per month will be billed \$0.082 on usage above that threshold, representing an increase of \$0.003. The impact of the adjustments on individual bills will vary for each member.

Questions?

Phone: 1-800-477-2892 or 1-605-996-7516

E-mail: billinggroup@centralelec.coop

Website: www.centralelec.coop

How will the rate adjustment affect my monthly statement?

It depends on how much electricity you use.

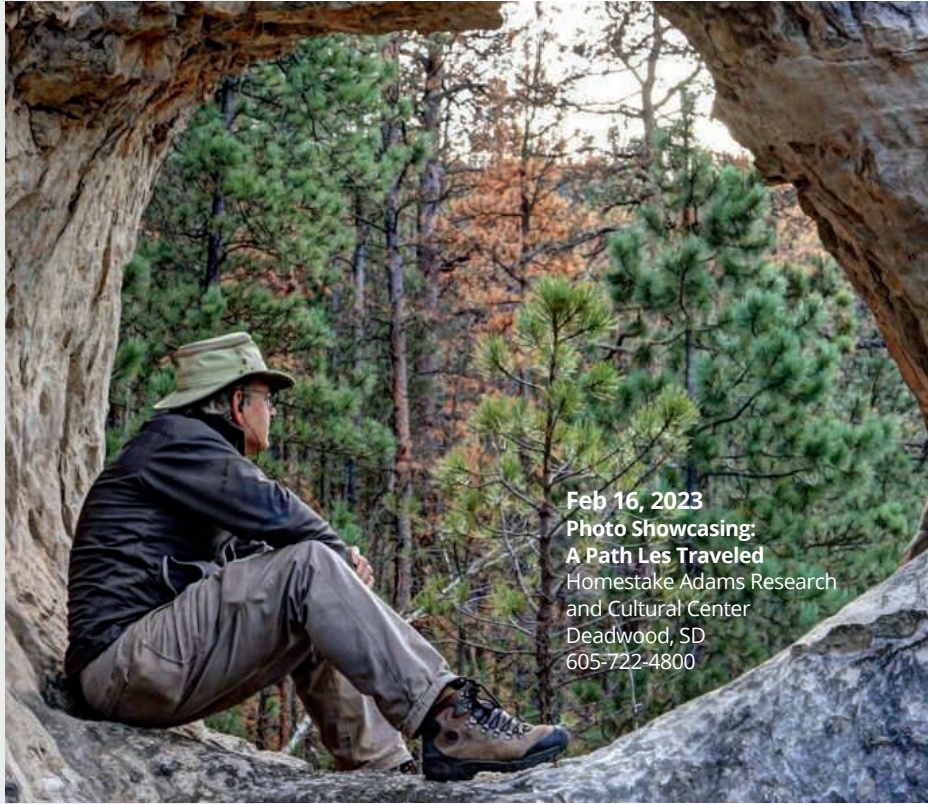
Residential and farm members on the general service rate using 1,200 kilowatt hours (kWh) or less per month will only incur a \$2 facility charge adjustment and a \$2 electric heat submeter fee, if applicable. The facility charge helps recover the cooperative's operating expenses, including power lines, transformers, maintenance, equipment, and customer service activities. The submeter fee helps recoup the costs to purchase, operate, and maintain the submeters.

Residential and farm members using more than 1,200 kWh per month will be billed \$0.082 on usage above that threshold, representing an increase of \$0.003. Tools are available in the SmartHub app to help manage energy usage throughout the month. To access SmartHub services, sign up at www.centralec.coop.

Service Type	Monthly Usage	Estimated Statement*	Estimated Statement Difference Compared To Prior Rate
General Service Farm/Residential	1,200 kWh	\$187.45	\$2 Facility charge adjustment
General Service Farm/Residential	1,600 kWh	\$220.25	\$2 Facility charge adjustment + extra \$1.20 kWh charge = \$3.20
General Service Farm/Residential	2,000 kWh	\$253.05	\$2 Facility charge adjustment + extra \$2.40 kWh charge = \$4.40
General Service Farm/Residential	2,400 kWh	\$285.85	\$2 Facility charge adjustment + extra \$3.60 kWh charge = \$5.60

*Estimated statement amounts are before tax and do not factor in potential submeter fees.

Central Electric Cooperative
Phone: 1-800-477-2892 or 1-605-996-7516
E-mail: billinggroup@centralec.coop
Website: www.centralec.coop



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.**