

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Barb Gross, Adele Enright and Jean Tehle have all worked hard to facilitate free and fair elections for registered voters in Dewey County

## Poll tenders rock the vote

Election workers are dedicated to the task  
Pages 8-9

## Freshman Impact teaches sound decision making

Pages 12-13

# Meeting the growing demand for energy



**Ken Schlimgen**  
General Manager

On August 25, 2022, three dozen electric cooperative directors, managers and staff from across South Dakota and western Minnesota toured the facilities of the Southwest Power Pool in Little Rock, Ark. The Southwest Power Pool, or SPP, is responsible for managing the electric grid and wholesale power market throughout a 13-state region that spans from the Canadian Border to northern Texas.

I think few consumers take time to contemplate, just how much our country's economy, national security and the health and safety of our citizens depends upon the reliable delivery of electricity. Our power grid has been constantly growing and evolving for the past 90 years; it is an absolute engineering marvel with more than 9,200 generating units producing more than 1 million megawatts of generating capacity. This entire system works in unison while connected to 600,000 miles of transmission lines and it all costs you and me mere pennies per kilowatt hour and includes delivery to our homes. Amazing, when you sit down and take a minute to think about it.

Balancing generation (making energy) and transmission (moving energy) with demand (using energy) can be extremely challenging, especially with increasing demand for electricity, the early retirement of coal and natural gas facilities and the growth of intermittent generation like wind and solar. The professionals at the SPP described how they manage to pull it off practically every second of every day and night, through fair weather and foul.

Pat Soukup, Central Electric Manager of Member Services, participated in the tour and came away with a greater understanding of how SPP operators do their jobs. "There are so many people behind the scenes making sure the power flows seamlessly across the country. SPP is such a complex entity. Decisions about our electricity, which affects our daily lives, sometimes need to be made within seconds." He and the rest of the group learned that maintaining the necessary equilibrium of the power grid becomes much more complex when Mother Nature decides to send us a severe heat wave or a strong winter blizzard.

Surviving these events without massive regional blackouts and substantial destruction of the infrastructure requires coordination and communication. And that was one of the primary purposes of this tour: to meet the folks who work at the switches, to understand what they do, and share information so that we can manage through the next storm event and prevent prolonged outages.

It's impossible to expect the system or the people who run it to perform absolutely flawlessly under all conditions, but be assured that the folks at SPP are highly competent and conscientious professionals. They take their jobs very seriously because, after all, the system that delivers affordable and reliable electricity to your home and mine also delivers it to their families.

Albert Einstein once observed that, "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." In order for your cooperative to meet the growing demand for renewable energy and ensure the reliability of your power supply, we must constantly make operational adjustments as we strive for balance and a brighter future for our members.

Until next month, stay safe!



A group of more than 30 South Dakota cooperative representatives toured the facilities of the Southwest Power Pool in Little Rock, Ark. Manager of Member Services and Marketing Patrick Soukup and Director Donita Louder attended on behalf of Central Electric Cooperative.

CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

(USPS 018-963)

Board of Directors

- Duane Wolbrink - President
Todd VanWalleghen - Vice President
Mark Reindl - Treasurer
Mark Hofer - NRECA Director
Donita Loudner - SDREA Director
Merl Bechen - Director At Large
Roger Campbell - Director
Jeff Gustafson - Director
Robert Banks - Director



CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Central Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to cooperative members on matters pertaining to their cooperative and living better with electricity. Also available at [redacted]



Contact Us

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 1-800-477-2892 or 1-605-996-7516
Website: www.centraleccoop

Our Mission

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

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BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The board of directors met Aug. 15 2022, at Central Electric Cooperative's Betts Road headquarters for the regular board meeting. They reviewed monthly 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 following items:

- East River managers meeting
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- Rural Electric Economic Development
- Proposal for new commercial service
- Pukwana service agreement
- Strategic planning review
- Employee culture survey

Director Hofer shared SDREA legislative updates and said rural electric service territory annexation remains a key issue.

Director VanWalleghen provided updates from the S.D. Association of Cooperatives meeting.

Director Wolbrink shared East River Electric board updates. 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 consent to Attorney Don Petersen serving as temporary independent counsel for East River Electric. Motion carried.
• A motion was made and seconded to request East River Electric re-evaluate and reconsider the planned retirement of a section of transmission line in Central Electric service territory. Motion carried.
• A motion was made and seconded to release the territory located at 25159 430th Avenue, Spencer, S.D., to Southeastern Electric. Motion carried.

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

Table with 3 columns: FINANCIAL REPORT, PRIOR YEAR TO DATE AUG. 2021, YEAR TO DATE AUG. 2022. Rows include Kilowatt Hour (kWh) sales, Electric Revenues, Total Cost of Service, and Operating Margins.

# A heaping helping of holiday home safety

Nearly every household uses extra electricity during the holidays for cooking, decorating and heating.

Take extra care to use electricity safely and to ask family members and house-guests to do the same. Here are some helpful tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when broiling or doing any stovetop cooking.
- Keep children well away from cooking appliances while in use.
- Keep towels, potholders and curtains away from hot surfaces.
- One of the riskiest holiday behaviors is overloading your electrical outlets. You will overload your wall outlets if you string strand after strand of holiday lights together and plug them into an extension cord that you plug into an outlet. Plugging multiple strands of cords into a power strip does not add any juice to the electrical circuit that powers the outlet you plug the strip into.
- Check decorative lights for damaged cords, plugs and sockets. Replace anything that's frayed, cracked or broken. Buy cords that are certified by UL; look for the UL symbol on the package.
- Don't run extension cords under rugs, carpets or baseboards, or anywhere they can be a tripping hazard.
- Only use decorations and cords outdoors that are properly rated for outdoor use.
- When you put up outdoor decorations, do not string lights in trees near power lines. Fasten outdoor lights carefully and securely with clips, never nails or tacks.
- Keep electric lights away from decorative metal trees.
- Keep all light strings and other decorations away from pets so they don't get tangled in them or chew the wires.
- Keep all decorations - and everything else - at least 3 feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces and space heaters.
- Always turn off your decorations when you leave home and when you're sleeping.
- Make sure smoke detectors are present and working properly.
- Use space heaters properly and safely. Keep them out of high-traffic areas and at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Do not leave a space heater running unattended. Turn off space heaters and unplug them when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Never leave an open flame, including your fireplace or a candle, unattended.

## LINEMEN PARTICIPATE IN RUBBER GLOVING SCHOOL



Roughly 50 electric cooperative linemen from across the state recently participated in a Rubber Gloving School at the Mitchell Technical College training facility. The program included simulating maintenance and repair work on energized power lines, awareness of proper safety procedures, grounding and insulation of vehicles, operation of aerial lift devices and more.

To see a video of this event and learn more about how electric cooperatives serve our members, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



## Don't play on transformer boxes

### Traci Tschetter

Traci, 11, warns readers to stay away from transformer boxes, which contain high-voltage underground electrical equipment inside. Traci is the child of Ryan and Elaine Tschetter and they are members of Whetstone Valley Electric.

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.

# CROCKPOT CREATIONS

## SLOW COOKER CHILI

**Ingredients:**  
 2 lbs. lean ground beef  
 1 pkg. McCormick Slow Cookers Chili Seasoning  
 2 cans (14.4 ozs. each) diced tomatoes, undrained  
 2 cans (16 ozs. each) kidney beans, drained and rinsed  
 1 can (15.5 ozs.) tomato sauce

### METHOD

Brown ground beef or turkey in large skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat. Place cooked beef, Slow Cookers Chili Seasoning Mix, tomatoes, beans and tomato sauce in slow cooker. Stir until well mixed. Cover. Cook 8 hours on low or 4 hours on high. Stir before serving. For best results, do not remove cover during cooking.  
**McCormick.com**

## SLOW COOKER TURKEY BREAST

**Ingredients:**  
 2 tsps. McCormick Garlic Powder  
 2 tsps. McCormick Paprika  
 2 tsps. McCormick Rubbed Sage  
 2 tsps. Sicilian Sea Salt  
 1 tsp. McCormick Pure Ground Black Pepper  
 1 tsp. McCormick Whole Thyme Leaves  
 1 turkey breast, (about 6 lbs.) fresh or frozen, thawed  
 3 tsps. butter, melted

### METHOD

Mix seasonings in small bowl; set aside. Rinse turkey and pat dry. Brush turkey with melted butter. Sprinkle seasoning mixture over entire surface and under skin of turkey. Place turkey breast in slow cooker. Cover. Cook 1 hour on high. Reduce heat to low; cook 7 hours longer or until turkey is cooked through (internal temperature reaches 165 degrees). Transfer to platter or carving board and slice.  
**McCormick.com**

## SLOW COOKER MASHED POTATOES

**Ingredients:**  
 5 lbs. Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and cut into cubes  
 1 c. chicken stock  
 2 McCormick Bay Leaves  
 1/2 c. (1 stick) butter, cut into chunks  
 1 tsp. salt  
 3/4 tsp. McCormick Pure Ground Black Pepper  
 1/2 tsp. McCormick Garlic Powder  
 1/2 -1 c. milk  
 1 tsp. McCormick Parsley Flakes

### METHOD

Spray inside of 6-quart slow cooker with no-stick cooking spray. Add potatoes, stock and bay leaves. Cover. Cook 4 hours on high or until potatoes are tender, stirring after each hour. Remove bay leaves. Stir in butter, salt, pepper and garlic powder. Cover. Let stand 5 minutes. Beat potatoes with electric mixer on medium-high speed or mash with potato masher, gradually adding milk, until smooth. Stir in parsley. Top with additional butter, if desired. Serve with McCormick Brown Gravy or Perfect Brown Gravy.  
**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 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

# THANKS FOR ATTENDING YOUR ANNUAL MEETING



Central Electric Cooperative hosted its 22nd Annual Meeting on Monday, Sept. 26, at the Corn Palace in Mitchell. A three-meat buffet was served by Central Catering to kick things off. Several kids had their picture taken as they dressed up like a lineworker.

Board President Duane Wolbrink welcomed everyone to the meeting, and Pastor Richard Poppen of Fedora Endeavor Presbyterian Church gave the invocation.

After the President's Report, General Manager of East River Electric Cooperative, Bob Sahr, spoke on the future of our cooperatives and industry.

During the Manager's Report, Manager Ken Schlimgen recognized the following youth program recipients: Miranda Hanson, \$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship winner; Levi Nightingale and Grace Cheeseman, \$1,000 Jay Headley Memorial Scholarship winners.

Trustees on the Operation Round-Up board were also recognized, including three trustees who reached

their term limits this year: Carla Amick of Letcher, Scott Kolousek of Wessington Springs and Connie Hattervig of Carthage. New trustees will be appointed to fill the vacancies in Jerauld, Miner and Sanborn County.

President Wolbrink recognized Director Bernetta Burghardt, as 2022 was her final year of board service. She did not run for reelection after representing Miner County for 18 years. Following the meeting, Director Donita Loudner honored Burghardt with a Native American Star Quilt to thank her for her leadership.

The cooperative awarded several door prizes, including forty \$25 energy bill credits and a number of youth prizes. Plankinton High School students Cally Faulhaber and Kris Guindon each won a \$250 random drawing scholarship that was offered to any high school student in attendance at the time of the drawing.

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



Central Electric Cooperative held its 22nd Annual Meeting at the Corn Palace on Monday, Sept. 26.



Director Bernetta Burghardt accepts a plaque and thanks members for allowing her to represent Miner County for 18 years.

Attendees register for the Annual Meeting in the lobby of the Corn Palace.



Lynda Nordstrom poses with Sadaya and Dazee, who both won youth door prizes at the meeting.



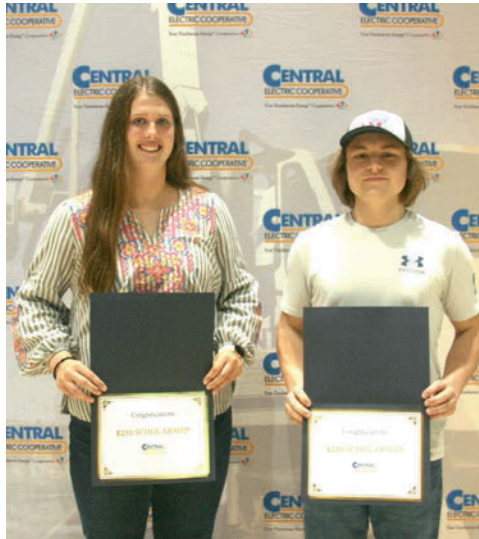
Jenika Haak won her very own karaoke machine!



Patrick Morgan shows off the smartwatch he won at the meeting.



Carla Amick was recognized for her service on the Operation Round-Up board of trustees. Director At Large Merl Bechen presented her with a plaque.



Cally Faulhaber and Kris Guindon each won a \$250 random drawing scholarship.

Future lineworkers? Thanks for visiting the youth area!



Connie Hattervig, center, was recognized for her service on the Operation Round-Up board of trustees. She is pictured with fellow trustees Merl Bechen and Ellen Speck.



Board President Duane Wolbrink recognized Basin Electric Scholarship recipient Miranda Hanson.

These girls were all smiles in their Touchstone Energy hardhats.



Ready for work! This guy is sporting the right gear to get started.



After the meeting, Director Donita Lounder, left, presented Bernetta Burghardt with a Native American Star Quilt in honor of her service.



## POLL TENDERS



Jamalia Franzen, auditor deputy in Dewey County, encourages all eligible citizens to register to vote. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

## Poll workers urge voters to stay active in the election process

**Billy Gibson**

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

About 10 years ago, Michele Moore was newly retired and looking for something interesting to occupy her time. Out of the blue, she received a call from the Clay County elections auditor.

“She wanted to know if I was interested in working the elections and I told her I’d do it. It’s been very rewarding and it feels like I’m doing something important and worthwhile,” Moore said.

When she’s not facilitating the election process, Moore takes care of the bookkeeping for the family’s welding and manufacturing business operated by her husband, David.

While election work isn’t a full-time gig, poll tenders put in long hours on voting day. They typically report to the local precinct at 6 a.m. before the polls open an hour later. The shift goes straight through to 7 p.m. when the polls close, although any voters still

standing in line at that time are allowed to cast their ballots. Workers have to stay on duty the entire time and often pack their own lunch and dinner.

After the last voter is done, all the sealed ballots and accompanying paperwork are brought to the auditor’s office for verification and certification to ensure the election is “free and fair.”

Moore said all the workers at her precinct located at the National Guard Armory in Vermillion are diligent, dependable, thorough and conscientious. She said they take their jobs very seriously and are careful not to be “political” in any way, a guideline contained in the orientation and training process that workers go through before each election regardless of one’s years of service.

The training material requires that workers be professional, punctual, respectful to voters, team-oriented and “leave partisan leanings at the door.” Anyone concerned about the validity of the election process can appear at

Number of South Dakota citizens

**62,429**

registered to vote but considered inactive

the precinct as a “poll watcher” or “poll observer,” however, those individuals must adhere to a separate set of guidelines as set forth by the Secretary of State’s Office.

“We’re not here to change anyone’s mind or influence how anyone votes,” Moore said. “We’re just here to do anything we can to help them vote as quickly and smoothly as possible and make sure the process goes well. We try to make it easy for them.”

That doesn’t mean everything always goes according to plan. As the political passions and divisions have grown more intense over recent years, Moore said she’s encountered some fairly tense situations. But she said she generally





Poll workers are on the job from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time. If the polls close while you are in line, you will still be permitted to vote.

Here is a breakdown of party identification as of Sept. 1, 2022:

- Republican - 291,956
- Democrat - 150,760
- No party/Ind. - 142,538
- Libertarian - 2,733
- Other - 1,376

**Total - 589,363**

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Election poll workers see themselves as doing something helpful to support and facilitate the democratic process.

feels safe while doing her work inside the armory.

Some voters can get upset when they try to make requests that violate the voting rules, such as attempting to change their party affiliation on voting day or not providing the proper identification. She said tensions can run high during contentious presidential or mid-term elections.



“Sometimes people get angry and you just try to calm them down. They don’t know how things work and what’s required because they’re not paying attention,” she said. “Social media and TV stirs up their passion and they don’t always know how to control that.”

She recalled one particular fellow who insisted on voting without presenting the proper identification. When he was

told he would have to use a provisional ballot, he became agitated and stormed out of the precinct. Moore was “a little nervous” about the man returning and what he might do, but she took comfort in the fact that the National Guard soldiers were right there in the building.

Cris Sichmeller, a resident of Webster, signed on to join her local precinct in Roslyn six years ago and enjoys the



Michele Moore

social aspects of the assignment. A self-described “farm wife,” Sichmeller said she doesn’t often have an opportunity to sit down and visit with friends, but being at

the polling place means visiting with folks and catching up on current events.

“People used to spend time just visiting with one another, going to houses and having coffee and playing cards, but that doesn’t happen a lot these days,” she said. “There’s a lot of camaraderie that comes with being around people you know in the community that you have something in common with.”

She said at her precinct things normally proceed “without a lot of drama,” but she remembers that the Covid pandemic did cause a few wrinkles. Several workers contracted the virus, along with the precinct deputy.

The workers had to wear face shields, and Plexiglas was set up in the voting area and at the registration tables.

“I remember a man who had just retired from the military and he came in and saw the face shields and just laughed,” Sichmeller recalled. “He said that wasn’t going to keep us from getting the virus or passing it on to others. He said we needed a hazmat suit for that. I guess he was right.”

Barb Gross recently retired after tending the polls in Dewey County since the 1980s. She describes herself as a stickler for adhering to the rules and buttoning everything down.

“We always made sure everything tallied up because we knew we were going to be audited and we invited that because it was a challenge to see if we could pull it off without a hitch and without anything slipping through the cracks,” she said.

Secretary of State Steve Barnett emphasized the fact that poll workers serve a very valuable role in society.

“They’re on the front lines of the election process. You couldn’t run an election without them,” he said.

Barnett stressed importance of voters meeting their obligation to stay actively involved and make sure they are familiar with the rules and regulations. To find out more about voting rights and responsibilities, visit [www.sdsos.gov](http://www.sdsos.gov).

# Dielectric testing and training for emergencies



Delivering reliable power takes more than the simple flip of a switch. Your cooperative must meet rigorous ongoing safety and training requirements throughout the year.

Operations crews and electricians recently collaborated with South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) to test the electrical insulation of their bucket trucks. Dielectric testing is performed yearly on bucket trucks to ensure adequate insulation performance and protection of electrical workers. Tests confirmed the cooperative's bucket

trucks have sufficient insulation.

Lineworkers also completed pole top rescue training. Annual rescue exercises help ensure lineworkers are prepared to safely take action if an emergency occurs on the job.

Training and equipment testing measures are critical for electric cooperatives. We genuinely care about the safety of workers, and we thank SDREA for helping us meet our obligations to our members through equipment testing and training.



**YEARS OF SERVICE**



**Tim**  
Howard Area Foreman  
43 years on Nov. 19



**Dean**  
Manager of Finance  
and Administration  
4 years on Nov. 5



**Chase**  
Apprentice Lineman  
2 years on Nov. 2

*Office Closed*

November 11  
in observance of Veterans Day

November 24-25  
in observance of Thanksgiving

*Thank you!*

## Surplus Vehicle Sale November 9

The pictured vehicles were declared surplus and will be sold to the highest bidder at Central Electric's Betts Road location on Wednesday, Nov. 9. Bidding is open to the public. Vehicles will be accessible for viewing at 9:00 a.m. prior to the sale.

**When:** Wednesday, Nov. 9, 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Central Electric Cooperative, 25487 403rd Avenue, Mitchell S.D.

**How to Bid:** Interested parties must be present to bid or have a bidder representative present. If multiple interested parties are present, an auction will begin.

Payment is expected in full at the conclusion of the sale. For more information, contact Brian Bultje, Manager of Operations, by calling 1-800-477-2892.



### 2003 Freightliner FL-70 Diesel Truck

- Automatic transmission
- 220,000 miles
- 2002 HR-46 Terex elbow bucket and material handler
- 5750 hours on the boom
- 2-wheel drive
- Opening bid: \$12,700



### 2001 Dodge 1-Ton Dually Flatbed Pickup

- Diesel Engine
- Automatic transmission
- 173,700 miles
- 4-wheel drive
- Opening bid: \$3,500

## James River Youth Rodeo held in Mitchell

Approximately 70 kids and their families traveled to Mitchell to participate in the James River Youth Rodeo on Sept. 16.

Central Electric Cooperative was proud to support the event along with our neighbors at Dakota Energy, East River

Electric Cooperative, Sioux Valley Energy and Southeastern Electric Cooperative.

A variety of competitions provided entertainment for all ages. Kids 3 and under participated in playful "stick horse" events, and kids ages 4-7, 8-11 and 12-18

showed off their pole bending and barrel racing skills.

The event was well-organized. It took the work of many parents and volunteers to ensure the rodeo was a success. Thanks to all the volunteers and talented youth rodeo athletes for putting on an incredible show.





# SOUND DECISIONS

Central Electric lineman Cody Riggs uses a hot stick to simulate de-energizing a power line during a Freshman Impact emergency exercise at Hanson High School in Alexandria. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

## Freshman Impact program promotes sound safety practices for students

**Billy Gibson**  
billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The students at Hanson High School were stunned and aghast at the horrific scene unfolding right before their eyes.

There were two wrecked sedans, a downed utility pole and tangled wires strewn across the road. Emergency responders were swarming everywhere as a fire truck barreled onto the scene with its sirens blaring. And the most unsettling sight of all: four of their fellow students lying in the crumpled cars with massive wounds and barely clinging to life.

Fortunately, it turns out the accident scene was just a drill staged by a group known as Freshman Impact: Caught in the Moment, and coordinated as part of Cornbelt Program Day at the school located in Alexandria.

Nearly 200 students came from surrounding schools for a full slate of

learning opportunities centered around vehicle safety, first aid, emergency response, drug abuse awareness and much more. Participating schools were Hanson High School, Armour, Bridgewater-Emery, Ethan, Marion, McCook Central, Plankinton and Wessington Springs.

Local organizers Yolanda Price and Don Huber worked with Freshman Impact Executive Director Rick McPherson, local school officials and emergency response agencies to plan the event.

The morning session included seven separate stations scattered throughout the school's parking lot and in the gymnasium. The learning stations focused on the following subjects: teen mental health; healthy relationships; jaws of life and ambulance demonstration; seatbelt awareness; drug dog; social media dangers; and a distracted driving course where the



West River Electric is one of several electric cooperatives that support the Freshman Impact program.

students wore goggles simulating drug and alcohol impaired vision and attempted to navigate a short course behind the wheel of an ATV.

Taking part in the program was Central Electric Cooperative, which provided the downed power pole and wires. Once the emergency exercise was set into motion, two co-op linemen promptly arrived on the scene to de-energize the lines and worked with other responders to secure the area and form a safe perimeter.

Central Electric's Manager of Communications Tara Miller helped



A Hanson High School student takes on the role of an accident victim during a recent mock emergency scenario. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

facilitate the partnership while working alongside local organizers.

“This is an incredible opportunity for area students to learn about good decision-making, safety and the real dangers that are out there,” Miller said. “Concern for community is one of our guiding principles as a cooperative. This experience serves to educate first responders and students. It aligns with our values, and we are pleased to support it.”

The day’s program covered just about all the bases. The schedule included a poignant perspective of loss and grief from LeAnn Moe, who lost her teenage daughter to an automobile accident. During the mock accident response, one of the crash victims was carried away in a hearse furnished by a local funeral

home. And after all the activity settled down outside, the students returned to the gymnasium to observe a mock legal trial and sentencing hearing over the car accident they had witnessed.

The day ended with the distribution of educational materials by CORE (Community Organized Resources for Educating), the parent organization of Freshman Impact.

McPherson said he has found that the teaching method employed by Freshman Impact is successful in driving the message home to students, and they also develop a rapport with local

agencies and emergency responders.

“The students see up close and learn through hands-on activities the possible consequences of wrong choices and the lasting effects physically and emotionally on their bodies, their families and friends and their community,” he said, noting that West River Electric based in Wall is also an event sponsor. “It’s all about making safe choices and preventing destructive behaviors, and it’s important our teens learn the life-long skills and values to help them make the best possible decisions.”

Visit [www.freshmanimpact.com](http://www.freshmanimpact.com).

Central Electric Cooperative of Mitchell presented CORE with a \$2,500 Operation Round Up grant to help fund the local program. Pictured left to right are Freshman Impact founder Rick McPherson, CORE Coordinator Yolanda Price, CORE Coordinator Don Huber, Operation Round-Up Trustee LeAnn Moe, Central Electric Director Merl Bechen and Hanson County Chief Deputy Mike Brown. *Photo by Tara Miller*



# IS YOUR ORGANIZATION NEXT?

## Apply for grant by November 1



Fedora Volunteer Fire Department

Every six months, Central Electric Cooperative accepts Operation Round-Up® grant applications from organizations for projects that benefit local communities and area residents. The next grant application deadline is Nov. 1, 2022.

Funding categories include community service, economic development, education and youth, environment, emergency energy assistance and disaster relief. Organizations that have received past grants include non-profit groups, cemetery associations, youth organizations and fire departments.

Operation Round-Up® is a voluntary program in which members round up their electric bill to the next whole dollar each month, and the extra cents accumulate to fund local grants. Since the program's inception in 2015, Central Electric members, employees and board members have invested nearly \$160,000 to support area projects.

Central Electric Cooperative, headquartered near Mitchell, provides electric power to more than 4,900 members in eight counties, with outpost locations in Howard, Kimball, Plankinton and Wessington Springs. Grant applicants do not need to be members of Central Electric Cooperative, but eligible projects should positively impact residents in Aurora, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Miner, or Sanborn County.

For complete funding guidelines, visit [www.centralec.coop/operation-round-up](http://www.centralec.coop/operation-round-up) or contact Central Electric Cooperative at 1-800-477-2892.



Town & Kountry Kid 4-H Blue Group



Davison County Horse Committee

**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLICATION  
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT  
AND CIRCULATION  
(REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)**



**Jerauld & Buffalo 4-H  
Shooting Sports**



**Kimball Volunteer  
Fire Department**



**Plankinton Ambulance  
Association**



**James Valley  
Drug & DUI Court**



**The Children's Ark,  
Inc. Daycare**



**Little Learners  
Preschool & Daycare**



**Kimball Rodeo Club**

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**NOV. 3-5**  
**Huron Ringneck Festival & Bird Dog Challenge**  
 Huron, SD

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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

**OCT. 28-30**

**ZooBoo**  
 Great Plains Zoo  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-367-7003

**OCT. 31**

**Halloween Parade**  
 Belle Fourche, SD

**NOV. 3-5**

**Yankton's Harvest Halloween**  
 Downtown, Yankton, SD

**NOV. 3-5**

**Huron Ringneck Festival & Bird Dog Challenge**  
 100 4th Street SW, Huron, SD  
 605-352-0000

**NOV. 4-6**

**Girlfriends' Weekend**  
 Hill City, SD

**NOV. 5-20**

**Rustic Designs & More Christmas Show**  
 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily  
 Ethan, SD  
 605-770-2411

**NOV. 5**

**Fairburn Community Center Bazaar**  
 Fairburn, SD

**NOV. 11-13**

**Christmas at the Barn**  
 Front Porch 605  
 Groton, SD  
 605-216-4202

**NOV. 12**

**Black Hills Meat Festival**  
 Black Hills Harley Davidson  
 2820 Harley Dr.  
 Rapid City, SD  
 605-390-7917

**NOV. 12**

**Holiday Extravaganza**  
 Sisseton, SD  
 605-698-7425

**NOV. 13**

**Lutefisk, Lefse, Meatball Supper**  
 Chamberlain, SD  
 605-234-6698

**NOV. 18-20**

**Deadwood's Big Whiskey Festival**  
 Deadwood, SD  
 605-578-1876

**NOV. 19**

**Fall Craft Show**  
 Minneluzahan Senior Center  
 Rapid City, SD  
 605-394-1887

**NOV. 19**

**Lille Norge Fest**  
 Canyon Lake Activity Center  
 Rapid City, SD  
 605-342-4226

**NOV. 25**

**Olde Tyme Christmas Kick-off and Parade**  
 Hill City, SD

**NOV. 25**

**Trap Shoot**  
 Izaak Walton League  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-332-9527

**NOV. 25**

**"Light up the Night" Parade and Fireworks**  
 Belle Fourche, SD

**NOV. 25-26**

**Kris Kringle Kraft Fair**  
 Hill City, SD

**DEC. 2-3**

**Gregory Mid-Winter Fair**  
 Gregory Auditorium  
 Gregory, SD  
 605-830-9778

**DEC. 2-3**

**Christmas in the Hills**  
 Mueller Center  
 Hot Springs, SD  
 605-745-4140

**DEC. 3**

**Santa's Thrift Village**  
 Minneluzahan Senior Center  
 Rapid City, SD  
 605-394-1887

**DEC. 3**

**60th Annual Wreath and Centerpiece Sale**  
 Central States Fair Grounds,  
 Rapid City, SD  
 605-343-0710

**DEC. 17**

**Custer Christmas for Kids**  
 Custer High School  
 Custer, SD  
 custerchristmas4kids@gmail.com

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