

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



South Dakota 4-H Shooting

Shooters Prepare for
the State Competition
Pages 8-9

Wild Horses Roam at
Black Hills Sanctuary
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Jackson Neprud, 4-H archer for Jones
County, poses next to his target.

Balancing Electricity Supply and Demand



Kent Larson
Manager

Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life – so essential that we rarely think about how it’s produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We’re all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet Americans’ needs.

Powerful sources

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower.

At Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, we work closely with Rushmore Electric, our local wholesale power partner, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix— coal, natural gas, wind and hydropower – utility companies have options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because Moreau-Grand works with our wholesale power partner, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers’ needs. For example, Moreau-Grand knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the

mornings when you’re starting your day, and in the evenings when you’re cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

Managing supply and demand across the grid

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks. 329 E PRAIRIE RD, Eagle Butte, SD 57625

RTOs, ISOs and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there’s enough supply to meet demand.

Looking ahead

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it’s important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

Moreau-Grand remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That’s why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply.

Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 018-951)

Manager: Kent Larson

Editor: JJ Martin, Member Services and IT Director

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- Ryan Maher, President
- Kerry McLellan, Vice President
- Geralyn Hahne, Secretary-Treasurer
- Lois Bartlett
- Clint Clark
- Bob Keckler
- Paul Lawrence
- Brent Schweitzer
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Attorney: John Burke

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- Josh Lemburg,
Operations Superintendent
- Kyrie Lemburg, Finance Officer
- Jamie Jones, Accountant

MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, PO Box 8, 823 Main St, Timber Lake, SD 57656-0008, for the members of electric cooperatives across South Dakota. Families subscribe to Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living.

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 8, Timber Lake, SD 57656; Phone (605) 865-3511; Fax (605) -865-3340; e-mail mge@mge.coop; Web site www.mge.coop. This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Design assistance by SDREA

Jan. 21, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes and November 2024 Financial Information

The Jan. 21, 2025, board of directors' meeting was held at the Timber Lake office with the following directors present: Bartlett, Clark, Hahne, Keckler, Maher, McLellan, Schweitzer, Walker and Wall, director absent: Lawrence and others present: Manager Larson and Finance Officer Lemburg (Delegated Recorder of Minutes).

The Large Power Users monthly report was given by Stephanie Bartlett, which included topics on large power usage and payments. Manager Larson stated the December electric bills mailed in early January were not delivered in a timely manner, which affected payments.

The Member Services report was given by JJ Martin, which included an employee luncheon to celebrate Manager Maher's retirement, transitioned office equipment for Kent and Josh, Washington D.C. Youth Tour update, Black Hills Stock Show, Rushmore Electric Member Services meeting, scholarship updates, Wakpala pole changeout photos, and phone system conversion.

The Operations report was given by Josh Lemburg, which included new service updates, safety committee meeting, implementing Fast Field Forms for truck inspections and possibly job briefings, SD 811 positive response program update, MDU communication, and three linemen attending JUTS training.

Manager Larson gave the Manager's report, which included NRECA annual meeting update, Operations Superintendent Lemburg and two linemen attending the Safety Summit, update on the demolition of the old headquarter facility, Touch the Cloud project update, RUS Civil Rights Review, System Operations and Maintenance Review, staff meeting, new headquarter facility excise tax update, update on the WAPA substation improvements, Staking Foreman Hunter Smith will attend the 2025 Leadership Summit, and Rushmore Electric Finance Officer Mark Miller will provide a power bill training.

The board discussed and registered for the SDREA Rural Electric Co-op Day at the Capitol in Pierre scheduled for Feb. 18, 2025.

A discussion was held on scheduling a Policy Committee meeting. Manager Larson will contact Attorney Burke to see which dates work with his schedule.

Manager Larson presented year-end reports, which included a 2024 vehicle analysis, 2024 statistical information and 2024 outside service costs. Reports presented in the board book included 2024 wheeling data and inventory adjustment history.

Director Clark gave the SDREA board meeting report, which included large load projects in Kingsbury County, upcoming data center in FEM Electric's service territory and continuing to work on a resolution to be presented to NRECA.

The directors gave the SDREA annual meeting report, which included interesting presentations and a good keynote speaker.

The directors gave the Legislative Forum report, which included a good turnout and interesting discussions.

Manager Larson reported that Director Hahne has been reported to NRECA as the voting delegate at the NRECA annual meeting, received capital credits from Federated Insurance and received a donation request from Mitchell Technical College, which MGEC does not currently plan to donate.

Board approved the following: the agenda, the minutes from the December meeting, new members, refunds, line extensions, financial statistics, disbursements, safety report, set the annual limit for estate retirements, set February meeting for Feb. 24, 2025, contractor storm bids for 2025, not paying dues to the SD Rural Water Association in 2025, paying dues to all other organizations paid in 2024, Special Equipment Summaries #467-470 in the amount of \$44,653.38, and not sponsoring the donkey basketball fundraising event in Dupree.

The next board meeting was scheduled for Feb. 24, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the Timber Lake office.

NOVEMBER 2024 FINANCIAL INFORMATION			
	NOV '24	NOV '23	YTD 2024
Operating Revenues	\$1,074,367	\$1,154,097	\$12,209,147
Cost Of Power	\$555,286	\$574,352	\$5,975,882
Cost Of Electric Service	\$1,048,360	\$1,094,346	\$12,188,079
Margins	\$35,430	\$82,460	\$188,431
Kwh Purchased	9,396,080	10,155,845	98,270,506
Kwh Sold	7,458,059	9,346,996	89,910,046

Falls Are Preventable

March is Ladder Safety Month. Whether working from a ladder, roof or scaffolding, it's important to plan ahead, assess the risk and use the right equipment. First, determine if working from a height is absolutely necessary or if there is another way to do the task safely.

- Discuss the task with coworkers and determine what safety equipment is needed.
- Make sure you are properly trained on how to use the equipment.
- Scan the work area for potential hazards before starting the job.
- Make sure you have level ground to set up the equipment.
- If working outside, check the weather forecast; never work in inclement weather.
- Use the correct tool for the job, and use it as intended.
- Ensure stepladders have a locking device to hold the front and back open.
- Always keep two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand on the ladder.
- Place the ladder on a solid surface and never lean it against an unstable surface.
- A straight or extension ladder should be one foot away from the surface it rests on for every four feet of height and extend at least three feet over the top edge.
- Securely fasten straight and extension ladders to an upper support.
- Wear slip-resistant shoes and don't stand higher than the third rung from the top.
- Don't lean or reach while on a ladder, and have someone support the bottom.
- Never use old or damaged equipment; check thoroughly before use.



Fall Hazards at Home

Are you a weekend warrior or do-it-yourselfer? If you take on home improvement or other weekend projects, it's important to prepare yourself for physical exertion, especially if you've been sedentary through the winter months, and take extra precautions to prevent falls.

Risky projects, like installing siding, gutters or roofs, are best left to professionals. Saving money isn't worth risking a debilitating or fatal fall.

At home or at work, many of the same rules apply. When taking on a project, remember the following.

- Practice all of the ladder safety tips mentioned to the left.
- Keep the work area clear of hazards and immediately clean up spills.
- Read all instructions and safety precautions on your equipment.
- Don't wear loose clothing that can get caught in equipment.

Source: National Safety Council



"Don't cut trees near power lines."

Remington Welsh, Age 11

Remington warns readers to not cut trees around power lines. Thank you for your picture, Remington! Remington's parents are Ryan and Rachel Welsh, members of Black Hills Electric Cooperative.

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.

Hearty FAMILY MEALS

EASY CREAMY HAMBURGER PASTA

Ingredients:

1 lb. ground hamburger
1 lb. cooked pasta
5 oz. spinach
1/4 cup butter
2 cups heavy cream
1 tbsp. minced garlic
1 cup grated parmesan cheese

Method

In a large pan, brown hamburger and minced garlic. Remove any excess grease. Turn heat to low and add the butter and heavy cream. Stir and simmer for a few minutes until the butter melts and it starts to boil. Stir in the spinach and cook for about three more minutes. Stir in the parmesan and cooked pasta. Enjoy!

Lyndell Todd
Rapid City, S.D.

MINI BBQ BACON CHEDDAR MEATLOAF

Ingredients:

2 lbs. ground beef
6 oz. chili sauce
4 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
1 1/2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
1/2 cup panko breadcrumbs
2 large eggs
1 tsp. onion powder
1 tsp. seasoned salt
1 tsp. garlic powder
2 tbsps. Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp. yellow mustard
1/2 cup BBQ sauce

Method

Preheat oven to 425°F. Cook and crumble bacon. In a mixing bowl, mix together all meatloaf ingredients except the BBQ sauce. Divide the mixture into eight round loaves. Press a small depression into the middle of the meatloaves. Brush BBQ sauce on top of the meatloaves. Bake for 25 minutes. Turn on broiler and brown the BBQ sauce for two to five minutes.

Kayla Beaner
Centerville, S.D.

SKILLET CHICKEN POT PIE

Ingredients:

1/4 cup butter
1 cup chopped onion
1/4 cup flour
2 cups chicken stock
1 cup milk
1/2 cup apple cider
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp. whole thyme leaves
1/4 tsp. black pepper
2 cups cubed cooked chicken
1 large sweet potato, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes (about 2 cups)
1 cup frozen peas
1 can (7.5 oz.) refrigerated biscuits, (10 biscuits)

Method

Preheat oven to 450°F. Melt butter in large ovenproof nonstick skillet on medium-high heat. Add onion; cook and stir five minutes or until softened. Sprinkle with flour. Stir with whisk until mixture is well blended. Add stock, milk, apple cider, garlic powder, cinnamon, thyme and pepper; whisk until mixture is smooth.

Stir in chicken, sweet potatoes and peas. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium; cook and stir 15 minutes or until sweet potatoes are tender.

Place biscuits on top of chicken mixture. Bake 10 minutes or until biscuits are golden brown.

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 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Landscaping to Save Energy



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

Q: How can landscaping help lower my energy bill?

A: There's a lot going on in the space around our homes. Competing factors of aesthetics, safety, energy efficiency, water conservation and increasing risk of wildfires are a lot to consider. Thoughtful planning and good design can address these factors and result in year-round energy savings.

Carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% of a typical household's energy use, according to the United States Department of Energy (DOE). When selecting the right trees and other foliage, research what is best for your local climate. Select native species naturally adapted to your location for lower maintenance.

Strategically placed deciduous trees allow for summer shade and passive solar heat gain in the winter when leaves have fallen. This can lead to energy savings in the summer and winter.

Slower-growing trees might take longer to provide maximum shading benefit, but their roots are typically deeper, and branches are stronger. These factors can make them less likely to be damaged by wind, snow or ice, and be more drought resistant.

Be sure to plant large trees far enough away from your home to prevent damage from falling branches or root damage to your home's foundation.

Keep in mind, if you have a rooftop photovoltaic solar system, even a small amount of shade can significantly reduce energy production. Consider smaller plantings closer to the home to shade walls, windows or hardscaped surfaces, such as driveways and sidewalks.

Windbreaks are another landscaping strategy that can be beneficial for energy savings in windy areas. The DOE says windbreaks reduce wind speed by as much as 30 times the windbreak's height. That, in turn, reduces wind chill near your home and can lower heating costs. The DOE recommends planting two to five times the mature tree's height away from your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs for windbreaks and consider adding fences or earthen mounds to help lift

the wind up and over your home. In cold climates, they offer the added benefit of acting as a snowdrift to keep snow from piling up against your home.

Keep landscaping clear of dryer vents, heat pumps and air-conditioning units to ensure access for maintenance and airflow around those locations.

If you live in an area at risk of wildfire, create a defensible space around your home. Consider hardscaping with gravel, bricks, pavers or stone shaded by fire-resistant awnings or covers. Plant fire-resistant plants with proper spacing of plants and trees from your home and other structures on your property.

When landscaping, always consider safety first. Call before you dig to ensure you know where any underground power, gas, water or sewer lines are located. The national 811 Underground Service Alert program routes you directly to your local resources. Call 811 or go to call811.com before you dig.

Be mindful of overhead power lines, too. Look up and check the surroundings before setting up ladders. Be thoughtful when planting new landscaping that could encroach on power lines. Utility equipment should have at least 10 feet of clearance, when possible.

As you prepare to refresh your yard for the coming spring and summer, consider ways you can boost your energy efficiency for more comfort and savings year-round.



Crafting Memories

Jaylie's Custom Pens Turns Parts Into Art

Frank Turner
frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Jaylie Beckman, a member of Grand Electric near Bison, S.D., has a knack for taking something as ordinary as a pen and making it extraordinary.

Last year, Jaylie and her mother, Jenny, ordered a custom nursing-themed pen advertised on Facebook as a gift for her sister-in-law, a nurse at West River Health Services in Hettinger, N.D. When the surgery department manager saw the pen, she wanted 10 more for their entire team.

“At first, we said, ‘Wait, we bought them from somebody else.’ But then we thought, if they make can make them, we can too,” Jenny said. “It all exploded from there.”

Encouraged by the growing interest in her community, Jaylie embraced the challenge. Inspired, she began exploring TikTok and other social media for new ways of making pens and ordering supplies for her new endeavor: Jaylie’s Custom Pens. Combining beads with pens, Jaylie began transforming basic parts into something that is truly one of a kind.

In May 2024, Jaylie and Jenny opened their first vendor booth at the Bison Spring Vendor Fair, showcasing nursing, faith-based and graduation themed pens.

Since then, the two have traveled across northwest South Dakota and southwest North Dakota, displaying Jaylie’s beautifully



Jaylie Beckman selling pens at a vendor show in Timber Lake.
Submitted Photo

crafted pens at trade shows in Faith, Hettinger, Buffalo and beyond. Their booth now hosts a wide variety of customized pens with themes ranging from monster trucks and rubber ducks to butterflies – and Jaylie’s personal favorite, a pen topped with a focal bead that proudly states, “Cat Mom.” In total, Jenny estimates that Jaylie has sold more than 500 pens from their last eight craft shows.

“I really love it,” Jaylie said.

Beyond the fun aesthetic, Jaylie’s pens have also provided both her and her family a way to process a profound loss within their family. In January 2024, Jenny lost her granddaughter, Jaylie’s niece, to a farm accident. In her memory, Jaylie and Jenny created purple pens with Minnie Mouse beads to help raise money in a silent auction for a commemorative park.

“Creating these pens gave Jaylie something to focus on and put her energy toward during that difficult time,” said Jenny. “I think it kept her mind off of it and I know it helped me.”

Jaylie continues to take custom requests for pens. She has also expanded her inventory to include bracelets, Crocs charms, stickers and keychains. Those interested can find her work on the Jaylie’s Custom Pens Facebook page, where she shares updates on her latest projects.



Jaylie Beckman’s favorite custom pens proudly state, “Cat Mom.”
Photo by Frank Turner



West Central Electric CEO Jeff Birkeland, left, is the retired archery coach, and IT Coordinator Derek Wolf, right, is a first-year rifle coach for Jones County, South Dakota.

SOUTH DAKOTA 4-H SHOOTING

Shooters Prepare for the State Competition in April

Jocelyn Johnson
jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop

Dedicated practice is the price each marksman pays to qualify and compete at the South Dakota 4-H Shooting Sports state event.



Sophie Wolf takes aim during a weekly practice.

This year, hundreds of shooters will compete on April 25-27 to showcase marksmanship. Their hard work will be on display as every shot will impact the final score. Among these competitors is a dedicated group from Jones County, South Dakota. For the past two decades, employees from West Central Electric Cooperative in Murdo, S.D., have dedicated their time to coaching various 4-H shooting disciplines.

“It’s the cooperative giving back to the community and promoting our youth,” said Jeff Birkeland, CEO of West Central Electric. “A few years ago, we took 41 kids to state, and we brought home 43 state trophies. I’m proud of our kids.”

Birkeland coached archery for 15 years and happily recounted the experience with his two boys during that time.

“Kids want to shoot. We have the best participation in shooting sports

than we have in anything else.”

Birkeland’s son, Jacob, competed for 10 years in shooting sports among other 4-H competitions.

“While I explored many aspects of 4-H, shooting sports became my primary focus,” Jacob said. “I began my journey in shooting sports with BB gun and was introduced to archery. Archery quickly became my main area of competition, and it has been an incredibly rewarding and impactful part of my 4-H experience.”

This experience offered him a competitive edge as well as bonding memories that Jacob vouches as life shaping.

“One of the greatest highlights of my time in 4-H has been the lasting friendships and memories I’ve built along the way,” Jacob said. “Whether it was constructing a trophy shelf with my grandpa, having archery competitions against my dad to see who had to do the chores or representing South Dakota at the national shooting sports event – each experience has contributed to my personal and professional growth. I would not be where I am today without it.”



Matthew Birkeland, left, stands with Hayzen Sealey, right, at the spring state competition.

Derek Wolf, IT coordinator for West Central Electric and first-year coach for Jones County 4-H, said, “We begin practicing once a week in January. We work on safety first – getting the kids comfortable with their firearms. Then, we step into practicing for competition.”

Each county competes in three matches leading up the state competition, and every participant must make a qualifying score in at least one match to qualify for state.

“We encourage every kid to enter and compete in all three matches,” Birkeland said. “It’s better to practice at it instead of getting to state and having the wheels fall off.”

The art of practicing perfectly is what brings these competitors to state. Birkeland noted that those who practice, will win. And those who overcome a disappointment may come home with the trophy.

“It teaches those kids a lot about life,” Birkeland said. “You practice and practice, you put the time in and then one thing happens – one flinch,

one mistake and it’s over. Emotionally, hopefully it strengthens them a bit. Instead of breaking down and crying, you better be able to handle it...Limit your problems. Don’t increase them with a mental meltdown.”

Wolf agreed with this sentiment and described how overcoming a bad shot and being mentally tough is sometimes more important than being a skilled shooter.

“There are a lot of kids who find success in this, so I find it rewarding to be involved as a coach,” he said.

Wolf’s daughter, Sophie, competes in .22 rifle and archery and remarked that the highlight of the competition was that it challenged her and made her a stronger competitor. She trains twice per week for several hours while preparing for the state competition.

“I feel excitement when I compete,” Sophie said. “I love the challenge.”

In 2024, more than 1,600 participants competed in various disciplines at the spring state shooting event. These disciplines

are pistol, archery, rifle, hunting and western heritage. An additional 270 participants competed in the fall state shooting event for shotgun and muzzleloading. Each year, the top five shooters win trophies and this year’s winners may be chosen to represent at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships in Grand Island, Neb., on June 22-27. Last year, South Dakota tied for 2nd place with Missouri at the national event.

John Keimig, South Dakota State University Extension Youth Safety Field Specialist, emphasized that the shooting program is made great by the people who volunteer.

“One of the great things about small communities in South Dakota is people who give their time to volunteer,” said Keimig. “If it wasn’t for people who volunteer, we wouldn’t have this successful program – whether it be volunteers who work full-time for an electric cooperative or farmers and ranchers. They are the backbone of this program.”



Archers stand on the line at South Dakota’s spring state competition.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

March is an ideal time to service your home cooling system, ensuring it runs efficiently when the heat of summer arrives. Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling service in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, giving you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long.



Help Us Find These Missing Members

The following list of people have capital credit checks that were undeliverable in December 2024. If you know of the current address of anyone listed here, please let us know by calling 1-800-952-3158 or emailing mge@mge.coop.

AA OUTFITTERS LLC
 ABERLE, WAYNE
 AGNEAUX, ARLENE
 AGUILAR, JAMIE
 ALVAREZ, ALICIA
 AMMANN, MARK
 ANDERSON, JORDAN D.
 BAGOLA, MYRON ESTATE
 BAGOLA, RENEE
 BAKEBERG, ALAN
 BALD EAGLE, JOSEE
 BARCELONA, GRACE VERNIE B.
 BAUMEISTER, THOMAS
 BEAR RIBS, IYONNE G. ESTATE
 BENSON, CAYLOR D.
 BERNDT, LUCILLE E. ESTATE
 BIG EAGLE, JERRY J.
 BIRD NECKLACE, TRINI
 BIRKELAND, ROBBIE
 BLACK BIRD, DANIAL JR.
 BOWKER, DOROTHY ESTATE
 BOWKER, JEFFREY J.
 BOWKER, ORALLY ESTATE
 BRAUN, JOYE M. ESTATE
 BRINGS PLENTY, JOSEPH J. SR.
 BRINGS PLENTY, STEPHEN
 BROWN, ILENE F.
 BROWN, MAYNARD Z.
 BRUGUIER, IVAN ESTATE
 BRYSON, LENORA
 BUSBY, CHARLES J.
 CAMACHO, JOHANNA M.
 CASILLAS, DENISE M.
 CHARGING EAGLE, RICHARD
 CHARGING EAGLE, STEVEE
 CHASING HAWK, ANGELA F.
 CHIPPS-THOMAS, MANILA B.
 CLAYMORE, CHARLES ESTATE
 COLGAN, DEBRA
 COLLINS, SYDNEE
 COOK, ARDYS C.
 CROSS, IRMA ESTATE
 CROW GHOST, HEATHER
 CROW GHOST, ROSE MARY ESTATE
 CUTT, MARGARET ESTATE
 D & D OIL COMPANY INC
 DAVIDSON, JAMES L. ESTATE
 DEFENDER, ADELINA ESTATE
 DEMERY, GERMAINE ESTATE
 DIXON, STEPHANIE
 DRUM, ASHLEY JO
 DUCHENEAUX, ANNETTE
 DUCHENEAUX, JEANETTE
 DUCHENEAUX, K. C.
 DUCHENEAUX, PETE W.
 DUPREE SENIOR CITIZENS

DUPRIS, RODERICK ESTATE
 EAGLE SHIELD, WINONA
 EAGLE, TONY
 EDLEMAN, ANATHEA M.
 FIELDER, SCOTT
 FISCHER, CLAYTON ESTATE
 FISCHER, GARY
 FISCUS, CHRIS
 FLYING HORSE, JOHNABETH G.
 FOUR BEAR, DANIELLE L.
 GAGE, MARGARET A.
 GARCIA, BOBBI T.
 GARREAU, TERRILEE M.
 GARTER, ELIZABETH M.
 GILL, KENNY
 GONZALEZ, ROCEL P.
 GREEN GRASS CONG CHURCH
 HALE, LACI J.
 HARJO, RICHARD F.
 HARPER, PATRICIA A.
 HARRIS, JOHN C.
 HAWK, STEVEN K. ESTATE
 HELSLEY, WILLIAM
 HIGH ELK, HANNA P.
 HOLMES, ELIZABETH W.
 HOLY, VERONICA R.
 HOWARD, JEROME
 HUNT, ANGELA
 IN THE WOODS, BRITTNEY L.
 INTVELD, REBECCA C.
 IRON LIGHTNING, ANTOINE
 IRON SHIELD, ARLEATA J.
 IRON, THOMASINE J.
 ISABEL DAYCARE VIP
 IVERSON, JEFFREY
 JEWETT, MELISSA A.
 JOHNSON, JUDET.
 KECKLER, MCKAYLE D.
 KELLER, PAUL
 KELLOGG, KENNETH F.
 KERSTIENS, DEANNA F EST
 KESSLER, MARY ET TA
 KLING, AVIS L. ESTATE
 KNUTSON, RANDY
 LAWRENCE, ALMEDA
 LAWRENCE, CARLA
 LAWRENCE, LORNE
 LE CLAIRE, LEROY ESTATE
 LE CLAIRE, VICTORIA ESTATE
 LITTLE SHIELD, NORMAN
 LOESCHER, MICHAEL E.
 LONG, ROBERT C.
 LOUIS, VERONICA
 LOW DOG, ELAINE
 LOW DOG, LARRY ESTATE
 MACKABEN, ANN M.

MARRS, JAMES D. JR.
 MAXON, RAY
 MEDICINE EAGLE, GEORGE
 MEGINNESS, ALICE ESTATE
 MESTES, JAYME C.
 MESTES, ORVILLE R.
 METCALF-FRANZEN, ROSE
 MILLER, CHERRISH
 MIRANDA, MARTI JO
 MNI MART INC.
 MUTCHELKNAAUS, SCOTT
 NEUSCHWANDER, CARRIE
 NEVILLE, RICHARD
 NICHOLS, JUDITH ESTATE
 PATENEAUDE, TEENA
 PROVOST, KENNETH ESTATE
 RED BEAR, COLTON B.
 RED BIRD, KELLISSA
 RENVILLE, TWILA ESTATE
 RICKS, R. REED
 RIEGER, ROBERT ESTATE
 RISNER, STEVEN L.
 ROUGH SURFACE, HENRY ESTATE
 ROY, MARC S.
 RUST, JODY L.
 SALAZAR, SIBYL
 SCHAD, VERNA J.
 SCHILY, JACK W. ESTATE
 SCHILY, JACOB
 SCHULER, DEBBIE
 SCHWARZ, ROBERT C.
 SHAVING, SONYA J.
 SITTING HOLY, VERDENA
 SLOCUM, ROBERT
 SPOTTED HORSE, PETE A. JR. ESTATE
 SPRINGER, RAY
 STEEN, CHARLES A.
 SWAN BLANCO, HEATHER
 TAKES THE KNIFE, DARLA J.
 THOMPSON, KEVIN W. ESTATE
 THOMPSON, KRISTIE
 THOMPSON, LIBBY
 VARLAND, DUSTI
 VROOMAN, RITA
 WALTERS, KYLE E.
 WARD, SHERRIE L.
 WATSON, MARGARET H.
 WELLINGTON, JOHONNA T.
 WHITE DOG, DEANNA F. ESTATE
 WIDOW, EDMUND
 WILBUR, AMANDA
 WOHLLEBER, ARLYN E.
 WOODBURY, JOHN
 YELLS EAGLE, NANCY

LOCATE YOUR ACCOUNT ADDRESS

If you locate your address on any of the inside pages of the Moreau-Grand Electric's Cooperative Connections, notify us and you will receive a \$25 bill credit.

Eligible addresses will not be on the front or back cover.

EMPOWERING FUTURE CO-OP LEADERS.



Artorreus Waloke Chosen to Represent on Youth Tour



Moreau-Grand Electric is proud to announce that Artorreus Waloke of Cherry Creek will be representing your cooperative in Washington, D.C., this summer!

Artorreus is the son of Kelly Waloke and the grandson of April Waloke.

The Takini Senior will spend a week touring the U.S. Capitol with other future leaders from the state.

Congratulations, Artorreus!

Linecrew News

Despite the subzero temps, the line crew adjusted their schedule to replace a pole that was backed into and split vertically. The guys deftly removed the pole, drilled into the frozen ground and placed a new pole while only shutting off power to one member.

It still gets dark early this time of year, so be careful when backing up in someone's yard!



MEMBER SERVICES

Incentive and Rebate Programs

When you flip on a light switch, electricity travels in an instant to your home and the bulb glows – that's called demand. When all of us turn on lights, heaters, run a hot bath or any of the other appliances at the same time, it increases the demand load system wide.

We offer a one-time incentive of \$50 to our members that install a Demand Response Unit (DRU) on water heaters and central air conditioning units. After a licensed electrician (hired by Moreau-Grand Electric) installs the DRU, we begin managing your energy consumption – on average, four to eight days out of the month. If you would like to join the over 550 other members of Moreau-Grand Electric in the Demand Response Program, you can contact Member Services at 800-952-3158 to set up a time to have a DRU installed.

Water Heater Rebate Program (water heaters 40 gallons or more)

Is that old water heater leaking a bit or takes a long time to recover? Are you building a new home? Give us a call, we can help with a rebate on that new water heater.

- \$75 when replacing an existing electric water heater with a new electric water heater
- \$200 when replacing an existing gas or oil water heater with a new electric water heater
- \$200 on new construction

(All rebates are subject to a maximum amount of \$500 per member, per year).



RUNNING FREE

Photos by Alvis Uptis

Wild Horses Roam at Black Hills Sanctuary

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

In the southern Black Hills, a watchful eye will catch a rare and breathtaking sight: a herd of wild mustangs galloping freely across thousands of acres of grassland in the Cheyenne River Valley.

For the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary staff and the hundreds of rescued horses they care for, it's just another day on the ranch.

The sanctuary operates like most working ranches, says Susan Watt, the president and CEO of the Institute of Range and the American Mustang. Staff regularly travel over 15 miles across the 10,000 acre ranch to fill water troughs and set out hay, mineral blocks and horse cake. It's a trek that takes them across picturesque grasslands, hills, bluffs and the muddy banks of the Cheyenne River. A bulwark against suburban sprawl, the land remains as nature intended.

"Wild horses have been part of North America since time immemorial," Watt explained. "We have a large population of American mustangs, Spanish mustangs, horses with blood lines that trace back to Spain and Portugal, and a small herd of Choctaw Indian ponies that were part of the Trail of Tears

– They are a very important part of American history we need to preserve."

The story of the sanctuary begins in the late 1930s with a young man named Dayton Hyde. At 13 years old, Hyde left his home in Michigan for his uncle's cattle ranch in Oregon after hearing captivating tales of the wild west's excitement and beauty.

Once he arrived, Hyde was completely enthralled by the western lifestyle. With each passing year, his connection to the land and the wildlife strengthened, shaping his identity as a cowboy, conservationist and writer.

Decades later in 1987, while on a trip to Nevada to purchase cattle, Hyde came across corrals of wild horses the federal government had rounded up using low-flying helicopters. Devastated by the idea of the free-roaming herds confined to pens, Hyde was inspired to create a refuge for wild horses where they could run free.

Hyde petitioned congress to allow him to take some of the captured horses and create a sanctuary. South Dakota Governor George Mickelson, who had learned of Hyde's ambitions and was supportive, invited Hyde to inspect a piece of land known as Chilson Canyon near Hot Springs, S.D.

For nearly 40 years now, that piece of land plus Hyde's hard work has given hundreds of wild horses another chance to roam wild. However, it's a luxury very few wild horses receive.

Since 2020, the Bureau of Land Management has reported

WILD HORSE SANCTUARY

rounding up over 40,000 wild horses to control herd populations, which can grow rapidly in the wild. Their fates vary; At government holding pens, they await auction where if sold they'll be rehomed with owners who agree not to sell them for slaughter outside of the U.S.

According to Watt and other wild horse advocacy groups, those assurances don't always matter.

"The horses are supposed to be protected from slaughter," she continued, "But unfortunately, you put them in a trailer and cross the border into Canada or Mexico and they don't always check to see what's in the trailer."

The horses that come to the sanctuary are generally in "emergency situations," Watt said, which means the horses are being sent to slaughter or their previous caretaker died or is unable to take care of the horses.

In addition to preserving the herds of wild horses, Hyde envisioned the sanctuary as a means to protect and preserve the land's natural beauty and rich historical legacy, which includes long-ago remnants of human activity.

"This particular tract of land was the location for ancient petroglyph writings that ancient man did on cliff walls," Watt explained. "And we're protecting the pioneer history of this land; Our buildings that we use are pioneer homesteads."

Though Dayton Hyde passed away in 2018, his legacy lives on. Today the sanctuary is home to several hundred wild horses, a herd of cattle, thousands of acres of pristine prairie

and the inextinguishable spirit of the wild west.

"He used to say every ache and pain he ever had was from a horse," Watt laughed. "What Dayton Hyde really wanted was to protect this land from subdivision, to let it be for wildlife and wild horses, and keep it safe and protected. I think South Dakota should be immensely proud of what Dayton Hyde has done."

For more information about the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary, visit www.wildmustangs.com.



(Above) Dayton Hyde, founder of the sanctuary.
(Below) The sanctuary encompasses more than 10,000 acres of land along the Cheyenne River near Hot Springs, S.D.
Photos by Alvis Uptis





The Vinyl Record Club at the Custer County Library meets once each month. Photo submitted by Custer County Library

CATALYST FOR COMMUNITY

Fun Awaits At Your Local Library!

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

In honor of Dr. Seuss’s birthday, March is National Reading Month – and the best place to celebrate is at your local library. Whether you are into reading or are just looking for a fun weekday activity, your local library is sure to have something that interests you and your family. Stop in at your local library to learn about fun activities like the ones below!

Custer County Library – Vinyl Record Club, Seed Library, Letterboxing

As the snow melts and the first leaves of spring begin to unfurl, the Custer County Library transforms into a hub of inspiration for community gardeners of all skill levels. With engaging seminars and resources for everyone to enjoy, Custer’s library is the perfect place for community members of all ages to cultivate a love for gardening.

One of the library’s most beloved initiatives is the seed library, made possible by the contributions of the Custer Mile

High Garden Club. This unique resource invites visitors to explore a collection of seeds that they can use whether they’re growing vegetables in their garden or flowers on the kitchen counter.

Seeds are sorted by type, Myers explained, with sections dedicated to seeds you start indoors, seeds you start outdoors, root vegetables, leafy greens, flowers, herbs and so on.

The library also hosts educational seminars covering topics including hydroponics and sowing seeds in the wintertime.

“Master gardeners come to talk on related topics and we’ll have free plant clippings and free seed packets available for people to pick up,” Myers explained. “It just kind of kicks off our gardening season.”

Gardening isn’t the only thing bringing people together at the Custer County Library. The Vinyl Record Club transforms the library into a relaxing lounge where community members connect over their shared love of music.

“Everyone brings their favorite albums,

and you can play a song or two to share,” Librarian Sarah Myers explained. “We just saw it as a potential to bring people together and capture that interest of vinyl. It’s kind of fun to see different generations of people interacting together.”

Myers also promotes outdoor opportunities through a scavenger hunt activity called letterboxing.

Similar to geocaching – just without the coordinates – letterboxing requires players follow hints and clues about their surroundings. Myers prepares clues in a similar fashion to the one below that guides players to a cache on the Mickelson Trail.

“Park near search and rescue, ready for a quest. Walk toward Hill City, following the rest. From the little stop sign, take 220 steps on track. Search high and low for a quartz throne, no looking back. If you see the football field sign, you’ve gone too far. Take a seat on the throne, reach down, and there’s your star.”

From under benches to tucked between rocks, players scour the area for the hidden stamp to ink their logbooks and continue to the next step of their adventure.

“We love getting people outside,” Myers continued. “This was a way for families to have little mini adventures. Libraries

are more than just books – they’re a place where you can build community and find community.”

Madison Public Library – Chess Club, Trivia Night

In Madison, Librarian Lisa Martin keeps her community sharp with brain-building activities and clubs for people of all ages.

The library’s reach extends beyond its rows of books and walls; On Thursday nights, The Office Bar & Grill in downtown Madison transforms into a bustling trivia hotspot where the community tests their knowledge on an array of topics to lead their team to victory.

The library hosts five rounds of trivia. Participants can count on a round focused on current events, but the rest remain a surprise to keep everyone on their toes.

“Sometimes we do a theme to go along with a month,” Martin explained. “Last January, we decided to do “Dry January” where you try and go without drinking, but it was really just an excuse to have trivia about soda pop!”

The night’s winner receives a gift card to The Office Bar & Grill, but at the end of the year, the team with the most points walks away with a trophy.

The library also hosts a chess club, which Martin says attracts community members of all ages.

“It’s hard to get the boys in sometimes because they might not want to sit through things,” Martin said. “Chess club attracts that crowd, and we’ll have 10 guys sitting here anywhere from sixth grade to retirement talking to each other and teaching each other – sometimes smash talking – and it’s a lot of fun.”

Martin strives to offer something for everyone. Whether it’s inviting Lake Herman State Park rangers to demonstrate outdoor skills, holding puzzle competitions or hosting talented musicians, Madison Public Library will have something to get you involved.

Gregory Public Library – STEAM Club

At the Gregory Public Library, the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) Club, is working to spark children’s imaginations and show them opportunities for new

hobbies, or even future careers.

The after-school club focuses on hands-on lessons where students often have an active role in the experiment.

“We started off by inviting Sanford in and the kids were able to do an experiment where they extracted DNA from strawberries,” Librarian Tara Engel said of the early days of the club. “We’ve also used our LEGOs to introduce engineering, we’ve used a lot of art supplies, we’ll do chemistry experiments with microscopes – Our STEAM Club is really getting kids thinking and doing things in a different manner.”

One of the most popular initiatives has been the bridge construction lab, where students use recycled materials like cardboard tubes to construct different bridges and learn basic engineering concepts.

“We use some of our bridge and construction books in our nonfiction section as examples,” Engel explained. “Then we have them use cardboard, construction paper, straws and strings to try and hold their bridge up.”

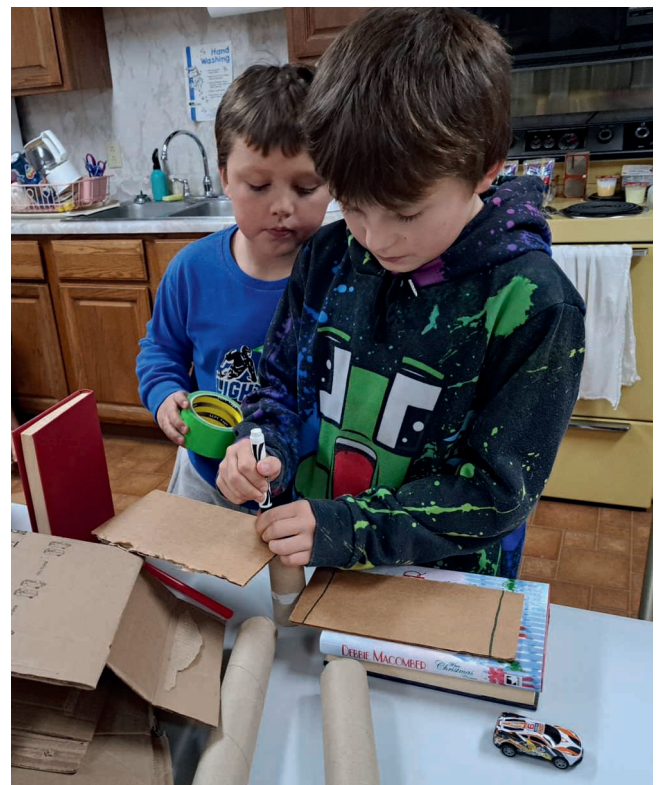
The moment of truth comes when the bridge’s structural soundness is tested by the weight of a Matchbox car driving across the deck.

The library also makes use of challenge cards for LEGOs, where students draw a card with a creation challenge and students ranging from making the tallest tower to building a musical instrument that makes a sound.

“It’s fun to see how the students come together to form teams and work together,” Engel said.



(Above) Trivia Night winners in Madison.
Photo submitted by Madison Public Library



(Right) Gregory students work on a cardboard bridge.
Photo submitted by Gregory Public Library



MARCH 14-15
St. Patrick's Day
Weekened
 Fri. 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.
 Deadwood, SD
 605-578-1876

*Photo courtesy of
 Travel South Dakota*

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. 28-MARCH 1
Mardi Gras Weekend
 8 p.m. Fri.-10 p.m. Sat.
 Main Street
 Deadwood, SD
 605-578-1876

MARCH 6
SD Jazz Festival Concert
 Aberdeen Community Concert
 Association
 7:30 p.m.
 NSU Johnson Fine Arts Center
 Aberdeen, SD
 Tickets Available at Concert

MARCH 8-9
Philip Area Annual Gun Show
 Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sun. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 American Legion Hall
 Philip, SD
 605-859-2135

MARCH 8
Epiphany Sausage Sale
 10 a.m. until gone
 Parish Hall
 Epiphany, SD

MARCH 8
Minnehaha County
Pheasants Forever Banquet
 5 p.m.
 El Riad Shrine
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-376-8219

MARCH 14-15
Badlands Quilter Weekend
Getaway
 Fri. 5 p.m.
 Sat. 8 a.m.
 Community Center
 Wall, SD
 605-685-5718

MARCH 15
VFW Teener Baseball Bingo
Benefit
 5 p.m.
 Tyndall Auditorium
 Tyndall, SD

MARCH 22
Annual Banquet & Bash
 Britton Area Chamber of
 Commerce
 5:30 p.m.
 Britton, SD
 605-448-8130

MARCH 26
Hill City Garden Club
Trip to Central Asia
 1 p.m.
 Kathryn Cleveland
 Hill City Super 8
 Hill City, SD

MARCH 29
Ready. Set. Grow!
 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Couteau Prairie Master Gardeners
 Codrington CTY Extension Complex
 Watertown, SD
 605-838-7098

APRIL 4
Mitchell Technical College
2025 Alumni Gathering
Cornhole Tournament
 5 p.m. Social
 6:30 p.m. Tournament
 The World's Only Corn Palace
 Mitchell, SD
 605-995-7342

APRIL 4-5
Annual Schmeckfest
 German Heritage Celebration
 748 S Main St.
 Freeman, SD
 605-925-4237

APRIL 4-6, 11-13
Women Playing Hamlet
 April 4-5, 11-12: 7:30 p.m.
 April 6, 13: 2:30 p.m.
 Mighty Corson Art Players
 Corson, SD
 www.mightycorson.com

APRIL 5-6
Youth & Family Kids Fair
 Sat. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Sun. 12-4p.m.
 The Monument
 Rapid City, SD
 605-342-4195

APRIL 11-12
Junkin' Market Days Spring
Market
 Fri. 4-7 p.m.
 Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
 Sioux Falls, SD
 www.junkinmarketdays.com

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