

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Preserving Our Past

**Historical Society Unveils
New Cultural Heritage Center**
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Annual Meeting Wrap Up



Kathy Haas
Communications
Specialist

Thank you to everyone who took the opportunity to attend your 79th Annual Meeting! For the second year, we held the Annual Meeting in both Redfield and Aberdeen, to encourage attendance across our territory. Over 260 people attended between both locations.

This year, we eliminated the registration gift as part of our cost saving measures. Members were given the choice between a \$35 bill credit or a \$40 meal voucher. Members who choose the bill credit had it applied to their June energy bill. By offering meal vouchers instead of serving a meal, members are able patronize local businesses.

We scaled back on our activities this year due to the storm that rolled through overnight. Many of our linemen were restoring services through the night into early afternoon and therefore were not able to attend. We were still able to give high voltage safety demonstrations and had an electric Ford Mustang Mach-E available for members to test drive.

Congratulations to Josh Larson, Kirk Schaunaman, and BJ Hansen, who were re-elected as board members at the meeting.

Those in attendance at the Annual Meeting heard updates from the board, management, and our power suppliers. Board President Nolan Wipf highlighted some projects completed in 2025 which included boring under Richmond Lake to create a loop circuit around the lake, updating line along Hwy 281 north of Aberdeen, and burying cable near the Mansfield and Ashton subs. In 2025, the operations department constructed 32 miles of overhead line and 43 miles of underground line.

General Manager Char Hager reviewed the seven cooperative principles that Northern Electric board members and staff embody and uphold. In 2025, Northern Electric and our generation and transmission cooperatives retired \$1,006,900 in the form of bill credits on members' bills. Hager stated that Northern Electric is also invested in the communities within our service

territories. Northern Electric gave \$22,000 back to communities through donations, scholarships and other contributions.

Director Hettich provided an update on the status of the headquarters building project, including the timeline. See page ## for an update on the building's progress. Bob Sahr, General Manager of East River, gave a brief update on East River Electric Cooperative. Andy Buntrock, Basin Electric Vice President of Strategic Planning and Communications, provided an overview of Basin Electric's load growth and infrastructure projects.

We had two Northern Electric employees celebrating milestone anniversaries with the co-op. Ben Peterson, Line Foreman, 20 years and Brian Hansen, Line Foreman, 10 years. We also celebrated the retirement of two employees: Kenny Swanson, who retired after 39 years of combined service to Spink and Northern Electric, and Robert Bernhardt, General Maintenance Technician, who retired after 20 years.

Members who stayed through the business meeting were entered into a drawing for three bill credits: \$200, \$100, and \$50. The bill credits were applied to the member's June bill. The winners had to be present to win and were: Nyle Jenson - \$200, Clara Marko - \$100, and Wade Wagemann - \$50.

East River donated two power banks to give away after the meeting. Winners were chosen at random from the list of registered members. The power bank winners were Clarence Habeck and Ray Salwei.

Kids who visited the Member Services table and completed a short energy quiz were entered into a drawing for two \$20 gift cards. The quiz tested children's knowledge of electrical safety. The winners were chosen at random. Our two winners were Elena Thompson and Cameron Schneider.

Congratulations to all our winners!

Make plans to attend our upcoming events! The annual Member Appreciation Pancake Breakfast will be July 30, 7-9:30 a.m. at the Spink County Fairgrounds in Redfield. Get a free, hearty breakfast of pancakes, sausage, and coffee while you chat with Northern Electric board members and employees. Learn how to stay safe at the Farm Safety Party held at the Brown County Fair, Aug. 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. See various kid-friendly safety demonstrations from Agtegra, Avera, and your area electric cooperatives.

Announcement about these upcoming events are posted in the magazine, on our website, and on our social media accounts. We hope to see you at our future events!

REMEMBER TO REDEEM YOUR MEAL VOUCHER!

Participating restaurants are listed on the back of the voucher and include Big Fella's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Flinnors, Hitchcock Café, Leo's good Food, Millstone, Roosters, Topsy Tractor, Top Chop (both locations), Tokyo Steakhouse, and Tulare Meats. Please use the meal voucher by Aug. 31, as listed on the meal voucher.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

NORTHERN ELECTRIC

(USPS 396-040)

Board President: Nolan Wipf

Board of Directors

Todd Hettich - Vice President
Scott Sperry - Secretary
Josh Larson - Treasurer
Thomas Lambert
B.J. Hansen
Kirk Schaunaman
Bruce Schumacher, Jr.
Mike Traxinger

CEO/General Manager: Char Hager
info@northernelectric.coop

Chief Financial Officer: Lorisa Rudolph

Operations Manager: Jerry Weber

Manager of Member Services: Russel Ulmer

Manager of Information Technology:
Derek Gorecki

Communications Specialist: Kathy Haas

Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Northern Electric Cooperative, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

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JUNE BOARD REPORT

Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held June 22, 2026, at the Agtegra Cooperative headquarters with all directors present. As the first order of business, the board approved the May 21, 2026, minutes and May expenditures. The board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management.

East River Director Kirk Schaunaman reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the June 4, 2026, meeting. The next South Dakota Rural Electric Association Board Meeting will be June 25-26, 2026. Director Todd Hettich, General Manager Char Hager and CFO Lorisa Rudolph reported on the CFC Forum which was held June 14-17, 2026. Director Todd Hettich gave an update on Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO) board activities.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Char Hager's report to the board included the following items:

- Reported on the Rural Economic Development (REED) Board Meeting held on June 2, 2026.
- Reported on the East River MAC Meeting held on June 2, 2026.
- Reported on the employee

meeting held on May 27, 2026.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

The board held its annual reorganization. The following directors were elected:

- President - Todd Hettich
- Vice President - BJ Hansen
- Secretary - Scott Sperry
- Treasurer - Josh Larson

BOARD REPORT

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

- Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 a.m. on Friday, July 31, 2026.
- Approved Work Order Inventory #26-05 for \$337,661.07 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
- Approved 18 estate requests for out of order capital credit retirements totaling \$36,297.57.
- Appointed Director Nolan Wipf delegate and Director Todd Hettich alternate for the East River Annual Meeting, Sept. 2-3, 2026.
- Approved Capital Credit retirements for 2026.
- Held Executive Session.

Talk to your director or co-op manager if you have questions on these matters.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	MAY 2026	MAY 2025	
kWh Sales.....	20,524,519.....	17,693,307	
Electric Revenues	\$2,836,533	\$2,153,219	
Total Cost of Service	\$2,703,311	\$2,276,899	
Operating Margins.....	\$133,222	(\$123,680)	
Year to Date Margins.....	\$497,368	(\$32,077)	
RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE MONTHLY USAGE AND BILL			
MAY 2026	1,376 kWh.....	\$249.18	\$0.1811
MAY 2025	1,232 kWh.....	\$191.11	\$0.1551

Wholesale power costs, taxes, interest, and depreciation account for 84.4% of total cost of service.



As unmanned aerial systems (UAS) increasingly populate recreational and professional skies, safety remains paramount – especially near critical infrastructure such as overhead power lines. Today we reaffirm that drones should be flown in open spaces away from electrical lines and substations to prevent power outages and dangerous debris that can threaten public safety.

A drone colliding with a power line can cause outages and, if lines are downed, create serious electrical hazards for anyone nearby. Touching downed lines or debris that has fallen on fences, trees or other objects can result in severe injury or death. If you encounter downed power lines, immediately call 911 and notify emergency personnel and the utility company.

To ensure safe and compliant drone operations, follow federal registration and business-approval requirements, and stay informed about local, state and community regulations. FAA safety guidelines remain essential: Inspect your drone for damage before each flight and repair any issues prior to use. Fly at or below 400 feet unless FAA authorization or an allowed exception applies. Maintain visual line of sight; do not fly beyond it. Avoid airports, manned aircraft, stadiums and crowds of people. Do not fly for unapproved commercial purposes without FAA authorization. Refrain from flying in bad weather, including low visibility or high winds. Never fly recklessly or endanger others; violations can result in fines and penalties.

It is encouraged that drone operators plan routes

that maximize safety and minimize proximity to power infrastructure. Responsible pilots, adherence to FAA guidelines and awareness of local rules can prevent outages, injuries and potentially tragic consequences. For more information on legal requirements and best practices, consult FAA resources and your local utility providers.

Together, we can enjoy the benefits of drone technology while safeguarding our communities and critical electrical infrastructure.

As drone use expands, operators should build safety into every mission from the outset. Calibration, pre-flight checklists, and robust maintenance programs help catch issues before takeoff. Operators are encouraged to use situational awareness tools, such as real-time weather updates and wind assessments, to adjust flight plans accordingly. Community education events and outreach can foster a responsible culture among hobbyists and professionals alike, reinforcing the shared responsibility to protect power networks and nearby residents. By prioritizing safety, we preserve access to this transformative technology for all.



"Call 811 before you dig – always."

Laina Nelson, age 10

Laina reminds members to always call 811 before digging. Thank you for sharing your picture, Laina! Laina's parents are Nathan and Kristen Nelson – members of H-D 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.



Family FAVORITES

PARTY IN A PAN

Ingredients:

1 1/2 lbs. hamburger, browned
1 can cream of celery soup
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 box Stove Top Stuffing Mix
1 can corn, drained
3 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded

Method

Combine the hamburger, celery soup and chicken soup in a bowl and set aside. Prepare the Stove Top Stuffing as directed on the box. Layer half the hamburger mixture, half the corn, half the stuffing and half the cheese; repeat layers again. Bake 30-40 minutes at 350°F or until cheese is melted. Makes 9x13 inch pan.

Kathy Zomer
Douglas Electric

WALLEYE WITH HORSERADISH SAUCE

Ingredients:

2 lbs. walleye fillets
1 cup Lawry's Herb & Garlic marinade
1 tsp. Lawry's Season Salt
1 tsp. lemon pepper
1/4 cup butter
2 tbsp. horseradish
2 tsp. dill

Method

Marinate fish in herb & garlic marinade for 30 minutes. Drain. Sprinkle with season salt and lemon pepper. Bake fish until it flakes. Melt butter in saucepan. Remove from heat and add horseradish. Spoon onto fillet after cooked. Sprinkle on dill and serve.

Valerie Marso
Oahe Electric

BBQ MEATBALLS

Ingredients:

Meatballs

3# ground beef
1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
1 cup oatmeal
1 cup cracker crumbs
2 eggs
1/2 cup finely chopped onion
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
2 tsp. chili powder

Sauce

2 cups ketchup
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 tsp. liquid smoke, or to taste
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 cup finely chopped onion

Method

Mix all meatball ingredients together and shape into meatballs. Place meatballs in a baking dish.

Mix all sauce ingredients together and pour over meatballs. Cover and bake at 350°F for one hour. The meatballs can be made ahead of time and frozen for several weeks. This makes a large batch, so it can be divided into smaller batches and frozen.

Karen Soulek
Charles Mix Electric

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 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.



Both past and current soldiers help out at the annual Military Appreciation Breakfast.
Courtesy photo from Susie Vetter.

BCF BREAKFAST SUPPORTS TROOPS

Kathy Haas

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It isn't easy organizing a breakfast capable of feeding 500 people. As part of the Family Readiness Group, Susie Vetter and numerous volunteers have done it every year for the past two decades. This year will be no different. Preparations are well underway for the Military Breakfast, held on Saturday morning, during the Brown County Fair.

On Aug. 15, from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. anyone can stop by the Ken's tent for pancakes, eggs, ham, coffee, and juice. There's no set cost for the meal. Attendees are asked to give a free will donation. Veterans eat for free, of course.

"Some don't give much, and others make up for what they don't," said Susie, "It evens out to a good donation towards our Christmas party, our picnic for the army reserves, and deployments."

Those donations are used to support the local 452nd Army Reserve soldiers and their families, especially while deployed. The 452nd unit is based out of Aberdeen and has a sister unit based out of Grand Forks. Soldiers from six states report to the 452nd unit.

While attendees have been holding strong for many years, Susie said there has been a dip in recent years. But the attendee's generosity has not. For the past two years, a large donation has been anonymously put in the

donation container.

"I wish I knew who the person was to thank them. It's a very generous donation and has really helped. It's amazing how generous people still are in this day and age. That has not changed over the years," Susie said.

For the first breakfast, the group didn't even have their own griddle to cook on. The Aberdeen Rural Fire Department lent their grill, local businesses helped sponsor the food, and Susie found people willing to wake up at 5 a.m. on Saturday during the fair to help cook and serve.

"It's been going strong ever since," Susie said.

Now, the group has their own griddle and uses donations to buy all the food and preparations. That way, they aren't relying on others to get the items to the Family Readiness Group in time for the breakfast. Retired soldiers cook the food and current soldiers help serve. The group is really lucky to have dedicated men and women who volunteers their time, Susie said. Without the retired soldiers who are willing to help with preparations and cooking, it would be much harder to put on the event.

The troops definitely see the benefit of the breakfast, Susie said. Without the Military Appreciation Breakfast, the Family Readiness Group would have to ask for the public's help whenever the 452nd was deployed. The care packages can get expensive due to shipping.

"Even if you use the flat rate boxes, it's at least \$20 for a small box," Susie said.

They try to send a care package every month when the soldier is deployed. Each soldier is asked what they need or what they are missing from the day-to-day lives back home. Then the Family Readiness Group tries to get it for them.

"Our goal, our mission has always been about taking care of the soldiers and their families while they're deployed," Susie said.

Northern Electric and Touchstone Energy are proud sponsors of the Military Appreciation Breakfast.

**Military
Appreciation
Breakfast**
Aug. 15, 7:30-10 a.m.
Open to the public!



BROWN COUNTY FAIR

FARM SAFETY PARTY

Thursday, August 13
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Brown County Fair
Kids' Zone Tent

*Learn more about safety around the farm and community
from these organizations:*





SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A PAST FIT FOR THE FUTURE

A new lobby welcomes visitors to the Cultural Heritage Center.

Photo by Jacob Boyko

Cultural Center & State Museum Reopens After Extensive Renovation

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

After more than two years spent closed for renovation, South Dakota's state museum and cultural center is back up and running to share the story of South Dakota and its people with visitors from across the state and beyond.

The iconic museum built into the Pierre hillside held its grand reopening July 1 in time for the nation's 250th birthday, showing off new exhibits, a gift shop and an expansion that includes a larger meeting room and more space for its archives.

For Museum Director David Grabitske, the reopening marks a new chapter for the South Dakota State Historical Society, which oversees both the museum and state archives housed there. But it also honors the first laws set forth by the Dakota Territory's first territorial legislature, outlining specific steps and functions for historical preservation for untold future generations of its citizens.

According to Grabitske, many of the

first Dakotan settlers were determined to preserve the history they were making day by day as settlers on the vast American frontier.

"The first three acts [by the territorial legislature] were all about transferring property at the end of life – it's all about inheritance," Grabitske explained. "The fourth act of the territory created the historical society. In my mind, the fourth act goes along with those first three acts; it's about how we give things to the future."

Establishing a historical society demonstrated confidence that there would be a future for the Dakota Territory – complete with a permanent population that would live, grow and prosper there.

"We have a mantra around here," Grabitske said. "We collect today for tomorrow's history."

What that sentiment has amounted to is a sprawling collection of more than 17,000 cubic feet of paper, 50 terabytes of data on its servers, and more than 35,000 individual objects.

"The very first collections that arrived were in 1863, and we still have those in our library," Grabitske said. "They were

library books – 514 of them in 11 boxes."

In the process of collecting and disseminating information, historical societies at the time would collect and make copies of books to trade with other historical societies to expand their collections and diffuse knowledge across a wider area and reduce the risk of losing records to fire.

You'll find those 160 years' worth of books, deeds, contracts and reports



On the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Little Bighorn, Curator of Collections Katy L. Schmidt holds a can found on the battlefield.

Photo by Jacob Boyko

throughout the high-ceilinged, climate-controlled archive wing of the building – but you'll also find objects that aren't necessarily old or inherently valuable.

"The reason we add something into our collection is because it's historic, and what we mean by historic is it has significance and integrity," Grabitske explained. "Something being 'old' just fixes it in time. What makes something historic is that it is significant – it tells the story of people in South Dakota, and it has integrity, which means a certain completeness to tell that story."

To illustrate the point, Grabitske described a recent addition to the museum's collection – a painted tire with the words "no hunting."

"You see these things going down the road [in South Dakota], and we realized we were missing [one for the museum]," he explained. "We found one near Timber Lake which had a story. The lady who gave it to us (family of Dorothy Dopp, courtesy of the Timber Lake & Area Museum) had put it up in 1967 and she had faithfully painted it over the years and knew the dates she had painted it. We don't need 400 of these tires – we need one to represent the whole state."

Visitors to the museum this summer can experience the first three rooms of the updated exhibits. These sections house a welcome area, 'What is History?' exhibit and a gallery. The remaining sections are slated for completion in December 2026 and will feature exhibits on South Dakota's environment, people, politics, conflicts and more.

For more information on the Cultural Heritage Center and the South Dakota State Historical Society, visit history.sd.gov.



An exhibit showcasing the famous people of South Dakota.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



This plaster doll (left) was gifted to South Dakota by Japan in 1927 to commemorate the United States' 150th birthday. Fifty years later, for the nation's 200th birthday, Japan gifted South Dakota another doll (right).
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Museum Director and South Dakota State Historical Society Assistant Director David Grabitske walks through the extensive art archive, revealing a painting of an electrical lineman working through a winter storm.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Grabitske demonstrates the new movable shelves installed over tracks within the floor. This upgrade will maximize the available archival space.
Photo by Jacob Boyko

SENIORS TAKE D.C.

Kathy Haas

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Thirty-three teens representing 19 South Dakota electric cooperatives traveled to the Washington, D.C., area June 14-20 for the 2026 South Dakota Youth Tour. Northern Electric Cooperative was represented by two area teens: Aberdeen Central senior Noah Hubert and Britton-Hecla senior Camden Dinger. Both seniors went on the prerequisite Youth Excursion, where they toured the generation facilities that make their electricity. Camden and Noah joined Youth Tour students from 44 other states.

The seniors were in for a jam-packed schedule exploring themes of patriotism and national history throughout the week. Students visited many of Washington, D.C.'s most historic and impactful sites, including the Holocaust Museum, Arlington Cemetery, as well as several presidential and war memorials. The group also had the chance to view the Declaration of Independence at the National Archives and tour the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, where much of the nation's paper currency is produced. Noah and Camden were able to meet with South Dakota's congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, including U.S. Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds, during the tour of the Capitol and Supreme Court.

For Camden, the most beneficial part of the trip was being able to speak with the state representatives.

"You learn a lot more when you start



speaking with people who are actually part of the government and they explain you their day-to-day life. It helps you learn about what it takes to run a government,” Camden said.

As part of the experience, students were provided with trading pins of their state. The goal was to encourage interactions between students from different parts of the country. The pins are also a fun souvenir. Noah and Camden were able to collect pins from almost all of the other students.

“There were a bunch of different states there, and it was cool going up to them, trying to trade our pins,” Camden said.

Noah said he started with about 50 South Dakota pins, and was able to trade with almost everyone, including the hotel. Not all the pins are the same size, either.

“The hotel pin is big. It’s about two inches,” Noah said. “The Wisconsin pin is quite small.”

The trip was a good mix of education and fun. In addition to learning about America’s history, the students also had supper on a river boat cruise and

spent an evening at National Harbor.

“My favorite parts of the trip were getting to visit new places, like the Holocaust museum, with a ton of new people,” Noah said.

At the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, students concluded their trip with NRECA-led events, where they heard from Youth Day keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist in U.S. men’s wheelchair basketball, who shared a message about perseverance and leadership.

Overall, Noah and Camden both recommend the trip to other high school seniors. For Noah, the history and the scope of the tour will leave a lasting impression, he said.

“The view from the Lincoln Memorial looking at the Washington Monument was surprising,” Noah said, “Just how big the monuments are.”

Camden came away with a deeper appreciation for the number of individuals it takes to run the government.

“One small thing someone does can affect the whole United States,” Camden said.



Camden Dinger, left, and Noah Hubert pose in front of the Washington Monument while on the Youth Tour.

HISTORY OF YOUTH TOUR

The program traces its roots to a 1957 speech by Lyndon B. Johnson, who urged electric cooperatives to send young people to the nation’s capital so they “can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.”

Thus, NRECA’s Electric Cooperative Youth Tour was born!

In the following years, some Texas cooperatives sent groups of young people to Washington to work during the summer in Johnson’s office. In 1958, a co-op in Iowa sponsored the first

group of 34 young people on a weeklong tour of our nation’s capital. Later that same year, another busload came to Washington from Illinois. The idea grew, and other states sent busloads of young people throughout the summer. By 1959, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour had grown to 130 students. Since South Dakota sent its first group in 1963, more than 1,350 students have represented the Rushmore State on the trip.

In 1964, NRECA began coordinating

joint activities among the state delegations and suggested that co-op representatives from each state arrange to be in Washington, D.C., during Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Week. The first year of the coordinated Electric Cooperative Youth Tour included approximately 400 young people from 12 states. Word of the program has continued to spread, and today more than 1,500 students and over 250 chaperones participate every year.

CO-OP SUMMER OUTREACH

Join Us at S.D. State Fair, Dakotafest, Minn. Farmfest

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Attention all co-op members! If you're heading to the South Dakota State Fair, Dakotafest or Farmfest this summer, stop by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives booths for some great family fun and a chance to win a prize!

Make sure you fill out your coupon on the back of this magazine and bring it with you to the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives booth at the South Dakota State Fair or Dakotafest for your chance to win one of two electric grills sponsored by Karl's TV & Appliance.

South Dakota State Fair – Sept. 3, 2026

South Dakota's electric cooperatives will host the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives booth at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron, Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026.

This one-day event will feature a slew of energy-themed activities, from bucket truck rides lifting you more than 50 feet above the state fairgrounds to an interactive pole climbing demonstration complete with real spiked boots and climbing gear that linemen use every day on the job. We've also partnered up with South Dakota One Call to remind you to always call 811 before you start digging – but your kids are welcome to use our mini excavator in our sandbox to uncover buried treasure!

While you're here, check out our on-site displays for select highly efficient, all-electric heat pumps and mini-splits, water heaters, yard tools and more!

Find our booth near the Horticulture Building.

Dakotafest – Aug. 18-20, 2026

You'll want to stop by the South Dakota Touchstone Energy Cooperatives building at Dakotafest in Mitchell, Aug. 18-20!

Join us for fresh-off-the-grill brats, oven-baked cookies and freezie pops as you learn about the latest in home energy savings and efficiency. We'll have other cool stuff for you to check out, including an automatic lawn mower, a solar panel display and an EGO Power+ Portable Power Station.

Minnesota Farmfest – Aug. 4-6, 2026

Minnesota members, come visit your electric cooperative at Minnesota Farmfest near Redwood Falls, Aug. 4-6, 2026. Members may enter a raffle drawing for one of five battery-operated yard tools. We'll even have the high-voltage trailer on site for a live demonstration to remind visitors to be safe around overhead and buried power lines.



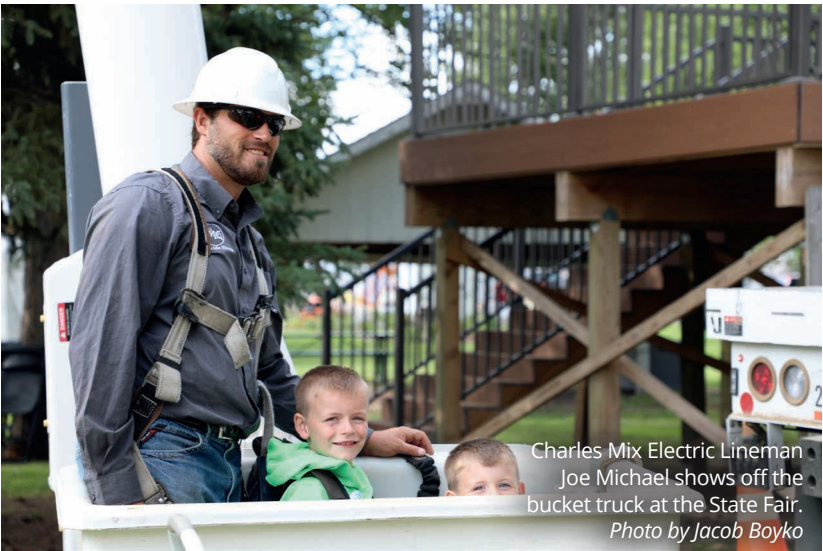
Kids perfected their utility pole climbing skills at the South Dakota State Fair.

Photo by Jacob Boyko



Touchstone Energy Cooperatives host a booth at Dakotafest in 2025.

Submitted Photo



Charles Mix Electric Lineman Joe Michael shows off the bucket truck at the State Fair.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Fairgoers get a lineman's view of the State Fair! *Photo by Jacob Boyko*



A future lineman readies for his climb.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Show off your co-op spirit with temporary tattoos! *Photo by Jacob Boyko*



A line forms for bucket truck rides.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Booth visitors can win prizes by playing Plinko.
Submitted Photo



A rendering of the front of the new headquarters building.

PROGRESS CONTINUES ON HEADQUARTERS FACILITIES



Todd Hettich
Board President,
Building
Committee Chair

I'm pleased to report that construction on your new headquarters building is progressing within the approved budget and is on track for the scheduled completion date of November 2026. If you drive by, you'll notice that work continues on the installation of the roof and exterior walls. The pouring of the interior concrete pads, framing, and electrical work are ongoing. The majority of the windows have been installed, and the new structure has been tied into the existing shop. From here on out, most of the progress won't be visible from the road.

The new headquarters will be able to serve the membership for many years. It replaces the building that had been in use since 1967. The co-op has been battling major issues for many years, and the decision was made to build new. Construction started in November 2025 with the demolition of the old building. As work progresses, we will provide highlights. For more information about the new headquarters, please talk to your director or co-op manager.



The east side of the building is open, allowing access during construction.

MEMBER APPRECIATION



PANCAKE BREAKFAST



**Northern
Electric
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**THURSDAY, JULY 30
7 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.**

Spink County Fairgrounds, Redfield, SD

During the
Spink County
Achievement Days



**Free and open
to the public**

REGISTER TO WIN!

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

Your Phone Number: _____ Dakotafest – Find us in the Touchstone Energy Building!
Your Email Address: _____ S.D. State Fair – Find us in the Horticulture Park!

WIDER OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE
WAYS AND COOL OFF IN OUR
LEARNING ABOUT ELECTRICITY



AUG. 18-20
Dakotafest
2300 E. Spruce St.
Mitchell, 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.

JULY 30
Spurs Grand Classic
Equestrian Competition
9 a.m.
Aberdeen, SD
605-226-1099

AUG. 1
3rd Annual Celebration
in the Park/Rib Cook-Off
1-9 p.m.
Groton, SD

AUG. 1-2
Family Camping Weekend
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

AUG. 4-6
Farmfest 2026
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Morgan, MN
Ideagroup.com/Farmfest

AUG. 5
Ag Appreciation Day
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sioux Empire Fair
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG. 7
Raise Em' Rank Bull Riding
& Breakaway Roping
Geddes, SD
605-680-2763

AUG. 8
Peever 125th Celebration
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Parade, Bean Bag Tournament,
Tractor Pull, Street Dance
Peever, SD

AUG. 8-9
South Dakota Senior Games
Events for People Ages 50+
Huron, SD
Register by July 26
SouthDakotaSeniorGames.org
605-295-2039

AUG. 13-15
Watertown Senior Games
Watertown Parks & Rec.
\$5 per event, \$20 unlimited
WatertownParksandRec.com
Watertown, SD
605-882-6260

AUG. 15
Melon Festival
Car Show, Live Music,
Bean Bag Tournament
Forestburg, SD

AUG. 27-30
Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

SEPT. 1-6
Sturgis Mustang Rally
Sturgis, SD
SturgisMustangRally.com

SEPT. 3
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives
at the South Dakota State Fair
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
State Fairgrounds –
Horticulture Park
Huron, SD

SEPT. 10-12
DKG Used Book Sale
Wylie Park Pavilion
Aberdeen, SD
605-225-6713

SEPT. 11-12
Center of the Nation
9/11 Remembrance
6 p.m. Fri: Remembrance Walk
Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.: Blood Drive
Belle Fourche, SD

SEPT. 12
Lion's Club Fall Citywide
Rummage Sale
8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Groton, SD

SEPT. 19
Your Race, Your Pace
9:30 a.m. Start
Wylie Park Pavilion
Aberdeen, SD
Register: runsignup.com/race/
sd/Aberdeen/raceatourpace
605-380-6762

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.