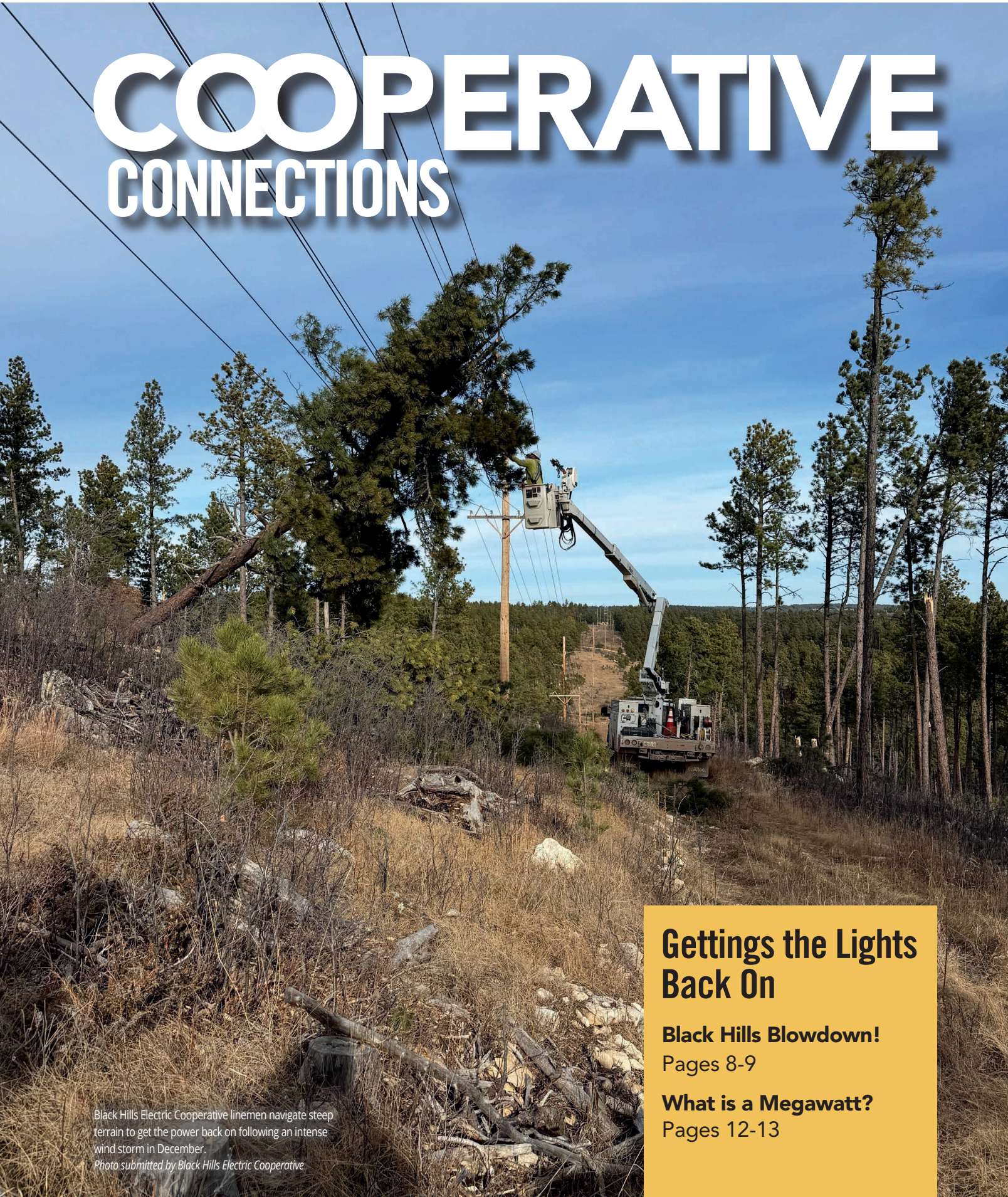
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

NORTHERN ELECTRIC
MARCH 2026 VOL. 26 NO. 11

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Black Hills Electric Cooperative linemen navigate steep terrain to get the power back on following an intense wind storm in December.
Photo submitted by Black Hills Electric Cooperative

Gettings the Lights Back On

Let us know about new projects, new heating, removing load control on AC

Kathy Haas
Communications Specialist

As we settle into the new year, it's time to start tackling our goals and achieving those New Year's resolutions. If you want to start with something easy to get momentum, make sure the information we have on file for you is correct! That includes contact information, such as phone number and email address, as well as names on the account. If you had household changes in the last year, please let us know what names should still be associated with your account.

Remember to keep us in the loop if your upcoming project will require a new service, or if there are changes to the equipment on load control:

UPCOMING PROJECTS

If you have a project that will require a new service, let us know as soon as possible. Advance notice helps get those processes rolling early, even for what seems like small new services. Whether you're putting in a bin site or adding a drain tile pump, any new service will spark a flurry of behind-the-scenes preparations. From easements and surveys to acquiring the materials needed and adding the project to our schedule, new services have a lot of moving parts that we need to coordinate. Some of the essential materials to build line or upgrade services have months-long lead times.

The best way to notify us is to call 605-225-0310. Member services will have a discussion with you, to gather all the information we need, such as your account information, surrounding infrastructure, and the legal description of the area you plan to modify. In addition, we will provide you the aid to construction required for the potential infrastructure build out.

If you're not sure if the project will require more infrastructure, it's better to check with us first. Otherwise, you run the risk of wrapping the project up only to realize it's not functional with the current electric infrastructure. When members alert us of incoming loads ahead of time, we are able to better balance the lines, which is necessary in order to provide reliable energy.

AC LOAD CONTROL DEVICES

As of January 2026, Northern Electric will no longer control air conditioners during the summer months. Instead, you will have full control over your own unit. The summer air conditioning rate has been eliminated.

If you have a load control device on your air conditioner, please call to schedule a time for us to remove the air conditioner from load control. If you have a heating /cooling contractor onsite, they can disconnect the air conditioner control wire. Then, we just need notification of the removal.

All other load-controlled equipment will remain on the management system. If you have both a water heater and an air conditioner on a load control device, only the air conditioner will be disconnected. While removing your air conditioner from the load control device, we may also update your device to a new style load control device for your non-air conditioning loads. We are working to phase out the previous model of load control devices.

Please call 605-225-0310 to coordinate a time for us to detach your air conditioner from load control.

NEW HEATING

Northern has a reduced rate for fixed space heating equipment from October to May. To qualify, the heating equipment must be at least 240 volts and permanently wired in. If you've added permanent heating equipment, such as baseboard heating or hanging heaters, please call to let us know, so we can get you on the reduced rate.

Portable space heaters or heaters that are under than 240 volts, such as some fireplace heaters, do not qualify for the reduced rate. If you are unsure if your heating equipment qualifies, please call us at 605-225-0310.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

NORTHERN ELECTRIC

(USPS 396-040)

Board President: Nolan Wipf

Board of Directors
Todd Hettich - Vice President
Scott Sperry - Secretary
Josh Larson - Treasurer
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B.J. Hansen
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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.
Subscription information: Northern Electric Cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for $12 annually. Periodicals postage paid at Bath, SD 57427.
Postmaster: Please send address changes to Northern Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427; telephone (605) 225-0310; fax (605) 225-1684

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Northern Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

JANUARY BOARD REPORT

Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, at the Agtegra Cooperative building with all directors present. As the first order of business, the board approved the Dec. 19, 2025, minutes, and expenditures. The board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management.

East River Director Kirk Schaunaman reported on the East River Board meeting held Jan. 8, 2026. South Dakota Rural Electric Association. Director Nolan Wipf reported on the SDREA Board Meeting held Jan. 14-16, 2026, in Pierre. Directors Kirk Schaunaman, Nolan Wipf, and General Manager Char Hager reported on the SDREA Annual Meeting and Legislative Dinner, which was held Jan. 15-16, 2026, in Pierre.

MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Reported on Rural Electric Development (REED) Board Meeting held on Jan. 6, 2026.
- Reported on East River MAC Meeting held on Jan. 6, 2026.
- Report on the employee meeting held on Jan. 12.
- Reported that Kenny Swanson retired on Jan. 2, after 39 years of service to Spink Electric and Northern Electric.
- Reported that Shawn Evans was selected to replace Kenny Swanson as foreman at the Redfield location.

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, Feb. 27, 2026.
- Approved Work Order Inventories #25-12 for $2,217,831.62 and #25-12MC for $74,845.39 to be submitted to Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
- Authorized transfer of $750,000 from Revenue Deferral into revenue for 2025.
- Approved elimination and modifications of electric heat rate tariffs.
- Approved the 2026 Operating Budget.
- Held Executive Session.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

	December-25	December-24
kWh Sales	33,274,036	31,725,840
Electric Revenues	$3,807,256	$2,585,304
Total Cost of Service	$2,983,629	$2,752,016
Operating Margins	$823,627	($166,712)
Year to Date Margins	$1,973,356	$1,938,712

RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE MONTHLY USAGE AND BILL

DECEMBER 2025	3,364 kWh	$312.94	$0.0930
DECEMBER 2024	3,094 kWh	$295.34	$0.0955

Wholesale power costs, taxes, interest, and depreciation account for 83.3% of total cost of Service.

Ensuring Drone Safety Near Power Lines

As drones continue to gain popularity for recreational and commercial use, their integration into our daily lives should not lessen the consideration of safety – particularly when it comes to flying near power lines. The intersection of drone technology and electrical infrastructure necessitates adherence to safety protocols, regulations, and best practices to protect both pilots and the integrity of electrical systems.

Power lines are essential components of our electrical grid, delivering energy to homes and businesses. However, they can pose serious hazards for drone operators. Collisions with power lines can cause significant equipment damage, leading to costly repairs or replacements. More critically, such incidents can disrupt service for hundreds of members, creating outages that could last for hours or even days.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has established regulations governing drone use, including restrictions on flying in proximity to power lines. According to FAA guidelines, drone pilots must always maintain a visual line of sight with their aircraft and avoid flying over people. When operating near electrical infrastructure, it is crucial to adhere to the regulations pertaining to altitude and no-fly zones.

Drone operators should also be familiar with state and local laws, as some municipalities have designated specific areas as no-fly zones, particularly near critical infrastructure like power facilities. Understanding these regulations is not only a legal requirement but also an essential step in ensuring the safety of all involved.

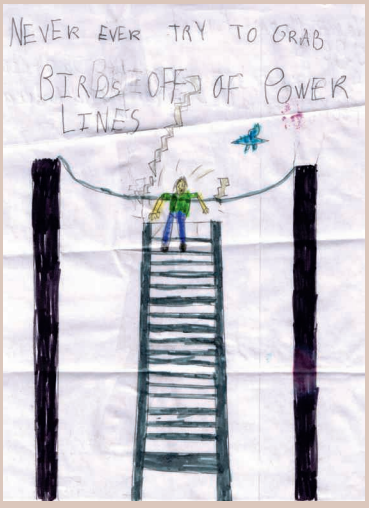
Best Practices for Safe Operations

To minimize risks when flying drones near power lines, operators should adopt several best practices:

1. **Pre-Flight Planning:** Before taking off, thoroughly assess the flight area. Identify the location of power lines, potential obstacles, and any relevant no-fly zones. Consulting local maps and aerial photography can aid in understanding the landscape.
2. **Maintain Safe Distances:** When operating near power lines, always keep a safe distance. The FAA recommends a separation of at least 500 feet from energized power lines to avoid potential collisions. Keeping a safe buffer not only protects the drone but also mitigates risks to nearby electrical infrastructure.
3. **Use Technology Wisely:** Many modern drones come equipped with GPS and obstacle avoidance systems that can aid in safe navigation. Utilize these features and ensure that your drone's software is updated to reduce the likelihood of malfunction.
4. **Operating in Controlled Conditions:** Avoid flying drones in poor weather conditions such as high winds, rain, or reduced visibility. Harsh weather not only affects flight stability but can also lead to loss of control over the drone, increasing the risk of accidents.
5. **Emergency Procedures:** In case of a malfunction or loss of control, having an emergency plan in place is vital. Be prepared to communicate with local authorities if a drone becomes entangled in power lines or presents a safety concern.

As the popularity of drones continues to soar, awareness around safety protocols, especially near power lines, has become increasingly critical. By understanding the risks involved, adhering to regulations, and implementing best practices for safe drone operations, pilots can ensure the protection of themselves, others, and vital electrical infrastructure. Responsible drone use fosters innovation while ensuring safety remains paramount in our evolving technological landscape.

"Never ever try to grab birds off of power lines!"



Naomi Krcil, Age 8

Naomi warns readers to never EVER grab birds off of a power line. Great picture, Naomi! Naomi's parents are Andrew and Andrea Krcil from Dante, S.D.

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.

Scrumptious SALADS

MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

2 cups macaroni (cooked, drained, rinsed and cooled)
2 or more cups of carrots (chopped or shredded)
1 small chopped onion (optional)
1 cup chopped green pepper (optional)

Dressing

1 cup mayonnaise (Hellmans)
1/4 cup vinegar
1/2 cup sugar
7 oz. sweetened condensed milk
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper

R. Gregg Fritz
H-D Electric

KARI REDER'S POTATO SALAD

Ingredients:

7-8 lbs. potatoes, Yukon gold or red
1 dozen eggs
1 med. sweet onion
2 cups Mayo
1 tbsp. cream
1/4 cup of apple cider vinegar
1/2 cup of sugar or splenda
1 1/2 tbsps. mustard
2 tbsps. celery seed
Celery salt, salt and pepper to taste

Method

Boil potatoes and eggs, peel and dice. Add the chopped onion. Mix together mayo, cream, apple cider vinegar, sugar, mustard, celery seed, celery salt, salt and pepper. Mix all together well and refrigerate.

Kari Reder
Northern Electric

SUMMER GARDEN PASTA SALAD

Ingredients:

1 lb. thin spaghetti, broken into 1" pieces
1 pt. cherry tomatoes, halved
2 med. zucchini, peeled & diced
2 med. cucumbers, diced
1 green pepper, diced
1 red pepper, diced
1 – 16 oz. can sliced black olives, drained

Dressing:

1 – 16 oz. bottle Italian dressing
1/4 cup parmesan cheese
1 tbsp. sesame seeds
1 tsp. paprika
1/2 tsp. celery seed
1/2 tsp. garlic salt

Method

Cook pasta; drain. Drizzle with 1-2 tsps. olive oil. In large bowl, combine pasta, tomatoes, zucchini, cucumber, peppers and olives.

Whisk dressing ingredients together. Pour over salad ingredients and toss to coat.

Cover and refrigerate for three hours.

Jane Ham
Cam Wal Electric

Photo courtesy of Laurie Wernke.

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.

Redfield's new foreman

Shawn Evans steps into foreman role

Kathy Haas
khaas@northernelectric.coop

At the beginning of 2026, Journeyman Lineman Shawn Evans was selected as Northern Electric's newest foreman. Shawn will primarily be in charge of the Redfield crew. He took over the position after Kenny Swanson retired in January.

Shawn started at Northern Electric on May 8, 2000. With 26 years under his belt, Shawn knows the importance of responsible leadership in the field. Line work can be dangerous if the proper safety precautions are ignored, Shawn said.

"I want ensure all our linemen take the time to learn the right ways to do tasks, and aren't afraid to ask questions," Shawn said.

Safety is a major part of the foreman role, Shawn said. To keep themselves and others safe, everyone working around electric lines needs to know the proper ways to use tools and complete tasks. Northern sends the linemen to safety classes and hosts in-house training regularly, to ensure all linemen stay up to date on safety procedures. As the technology advances and becomes more complex, safety standards update. Even changes that make the work easier, such as bucket trucks vs climbing poles, require new safety procedures. Tasks like working in the substations require the linemen to have additional certifications just to step foot in the substation, Shawn said.

In his new role, Shawn will wear several hats, from project manager to emergency contact. Shawn will coordinate with fellow foremen Ben Peterson and Brian Hansen to complete projects assigned by Operations Manager Jerry Weber.

"The main goals are to keep everyone safe and keep projects moving," Shawn said.

Being the foreman for Redfield has a unique set of challenges. Redfield has four linemen, counting Shawn, who report to the office there. Linemen at both locations are sent throughout Northern's service territory, but when a damaging storm rolls through the southern part of the territory, the Redfield crew has to hold down the fort until reinforcements can arrive.

Shawn is a familiar face to the area. He grew up around Frankfort and went to school in Redfield. Shawn attended Mitchell Tech for two years of electrical construction and maintenance, and then completed the power line program. Shawn served in the National Guard for 21 years, and was deployed to Iraq from 2013 to 2015. He lives on a hobby farm near Redfield with his wife, Toni. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

Tyler Bain, right, was presented the Scholar of the Week award by NEC Communications Specialist Kathy Haas.

TYLER BAIN NAMED SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK

From academics and athletics to community service and job experience, Tyler Bain has a packed schedule, all in preparation for college and life after. His efforts have already begun to pay off. In addition to various distinction awards, Tyler was named the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week for Feb. 1.

Since the Scholar of the Week program began, more than $80,000 in scholarships have been awarded to more than 530 students. As Scholar of the Week, Tyler was awarded a $250 scholarship from Northern Electric and will have the chance to receive a $1,000 scholarship, or one of two $500 scholarships that will be given away at the annual Scholar of the Year banquet.

An Aberdeen Central High School senior, Tyler was nominated for the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week by CHS School Counselor and AP Coordinator Karlie Cooper.

"His ability to proactively set goals and commitment to achieving these is exceptional as a young adult," Karlie said. "In ninth grade, he shared his academic goals of having a rigorous course load to help prepare him for a career in the medical field. Throughout all four years of high school, Tyler has been intentional about meeting regularly to review his progress and seek input on added opportunities."

In middle school, Tyler decided he wanted to become a medical doctor. Since then, he has been self-driven to acquire all the experiences necessary to achieve his goal.

"I think it's important to be well rounded. I try to spread myself out over a lot of activities, so I can be ready for life after high school," said Tyler.

He hopes his extra efforts will help him get into top universities. While he doesn't know what school he will be attending in the fall, his top choice are Washington University, Northwestern University, and University of South Dakota. Tyler plans to specialize in orthopedic surgery, and already has some experience in the medical field. He job shadowed at Sanford Health in Aberdeen, observing the resident orthopedic surgeon in the operating room. In addition, Tyler participated in the MedX program through Sanford to learn more about the various medical careers.

"Tyler's achievements in his academics, athletics and community networking have allowed him to be a leader in many different vessels. For the students that want to take a highly rigorous course load, Tyler has been able to share his experiences and plan to help them map out an academic path for this goal," said Karlie.

His dedication extends outside his classwork as well. Tyler regularly volunteers in the community. He also created a community event called Even the Odds, which helps relieve the costs of purchasing sports equipment by collecting used items and redistributing through a giveaway. He also volunteers at the high school and joined the CHS Eagle Squad. Tyler helps freshman acclimated to high school and answers questions throughout the school year.

"I just want to tell everyone else in high school to take high school seriously and set up themselves up for success in the future," Tyler said.

Tyler was featured on Dakota News Now during the 6 p.m. news on Monday, Feb. 2 and again on the Dakota News Now morning news on Tuesday, Feb. 3 between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. Scan the QR Code to see a replay of Tyler's interview, as well as the other Scholar of the Week winners.

Intense wind left the crossarm of a broken three-phase pole hanging after a holiday storm.
Photos submitted by Black Hills Electric Cooperative

GETTING THE LIGHTS BACK ON

Black Hills Electric Cooperative Works Tirelessly Following Holiday Storm

Frank Turner
frank.turner@sdrea.coop

In the early morning hours of Dec. 18, powerful winds swept across western South Dakota, leaving much of the Black Hills without electricity. The outage included the home of Bill Brisk, manager of operations at Black Hills Electric Cooperative.

Through wild winds, Brisk set out for his office at the cooperative at 3 a.m., where he discovered that the windstorm was unlike anything he had seen in his 36 years with the cooperative.

"We get wind in the Hills," Brisk said. "But nothing like that. In all of the time that I've been at the cooperative, I've never seen wind that strong."

Wind gusts were later estimated at more than 100 mph, tearing through the Black Hills with unprecedented force.

When Brisk arrived, the scope of the damage became clear. Nearly the entire system was down, and more than 11,000 of the co-op's approximately 11,500 meters were without power. By daybreak, more than 96% of Black Hills Electric Cooperative's system was dark, the largest outage event in the cooperative's history.

Although an influx of outage calls from members came in around midnight, Brisk made an early and critical decision; crews would not be sent out while the storm was still raging.

"We began receiving calls around midnight, but I did not have our crews go out, just for the fact that it was just too dangerous," Brisk said. "Trees were breaking off, conditions were hazardous, and I didn't want to put our crews in any dangerous situations."

Instead, crews waited for daylight, when conditions allowed for safe assessment – the first step of getting the lights back on.

Assessment almost always begins with reporting from the community. Due to an overwhelming call volume during storm events, local reports of outages are forwarded to Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Security and Response Services. These services relay important updates to electric cooperatives. Dispatchers communicate with linemen via push-to-talk radios and cell phones, tracking linemen from the time they leave the shop until the outage has been restored.

In addition to local reports, linemen also conduct their own assessments. That morning, linemen reported countless uprooted and snapped trees, downed poles and even wires lay broken across forest floors and roadways. In some areas, trees fell into other trees, creating dangerous conditions for anyone working below.

"I believe this was one of the worst storms in our cooperative's history, including winter storm Atlas," said Brisk.

As the assessment was underway, line

crews worked to bring downed substations back online first, then main three-phase feeders, followed by smaller distribution lines that bring power directly to homes and businesses. That order helps restore electricity to the greatest number of members as quickly as possible.

In the Black Hills, terrain adds another layer of complexity. Many lines run through dense forest, steep canyons and areas far from maintained roads.

"This isn't square-mile territory," Brisk said. "You might have to drive five or six miles just to get around a canyon."

By midday Dec. 18, it was decided the damage was too widespread for Black Hills Electric to tackle alone. Brisk reached out to Mark Patterson, South Dakota Rural Electric Association's manager of loss control, to request mutual aid from neighboring cooperatives – reinforcing a long-standing cooperative tradition built on neighbors helping neighbors.

Within hours, assistance began mobilizing. Crews, trucks and equipment arrived from across western South Dakota. Six electric cooperatives and a contractor ultimately sent help, bringing 55 additional linemen to the Black Hills. Those crews came from Butte Electric Cooperative, Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative, Lacreek Electric Association, West Central Electric Cooperative, West River Electric Association, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative and Kainz Power Lines, a local contractor based out of Custer.

"I had each operations manager of the responding cooperatives call me and ask what we needed," Brisk said. "We asked for bucket trucks, digger trucks, chainsaws, attachments for skid steers, and extra line crews, and they sent everything we asked for."

Days began early and ended late with crews often working 12 to 16-hour shifts. Brisk emphasized safety repeatedly to the crews as they worked among unstable trees, high winds and rugged terrain.

Behind the scenes, the restoration effort extended beyond the field. Office staff coordinated logistics and prepared meals. Lunches were packed daily for crews heading out before dawn. Supplies were tracked, equipment was staged and communication updates were shared with members.

"It wasn't just the line crews," Brisk said. "Everybody stepped up."

As crews continued working and Christmas approached, it appeared unlikely that power would be fully restored in time for the holiday. The visiting crews made it clear they were willing to stay through the holiday.

"All the outside crews said they weren't leaving," Brisk said. "They stayed to help us finish."

By Christmas Eve, most members had power for the holiday and visiting crews were able to return home. Even still, Black Hills Electric crews continued limited work through the holiday, work that continues today.

"To be truthful, we are still cutting trees, setting poles and repairing lines from this storm," said Brisk.

The storm was later designated a FEMA-eligible event, requiring detailed tracking of labor, equipment and materials.

Looking back, Brisk said the restoration efforts relied heavily on cooperation and dedication among crews from the assisting cooperatives.

"It's good to know you've got great neighbors," he said. "When you need help, they come."

An assisting lineman from West River Electric Cooperative installs a ground on the line to be further worked on.

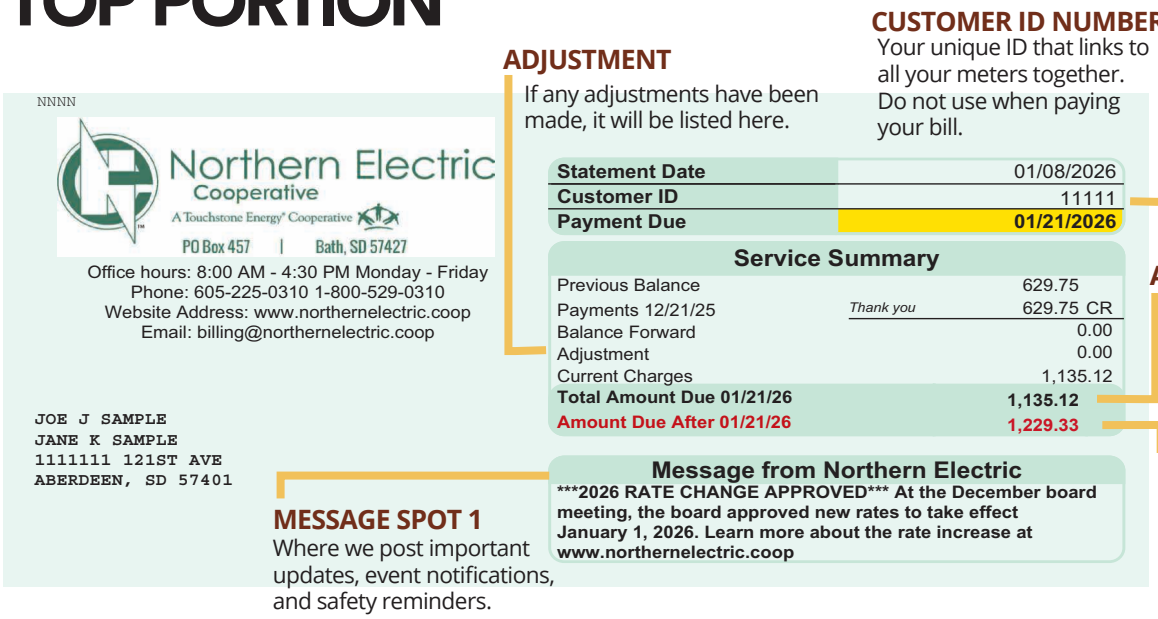
Damage from the storm not only affected poles, but also uprooted trees.

Bill Brisk, manager of operations at Black Hills Electric Cooperative, gives a morning briefing, updating the cooperative and assisting crews with storm recovery assignments.

How to read your NEC bill

In an effort to be as transparent as possible, we pack a lot of information into your monthly bill. Regardless of your rate structure, all bills are formatted the same way. If you have multiple meters, each meter will have its own usage section. In this example bill, the member is on a coincident demand rate. If you have any questions about your bill, please call 605-225-0310.

TOP PORTION



ADJUSTMENT
If any adjustments have been made, it will be listed here.

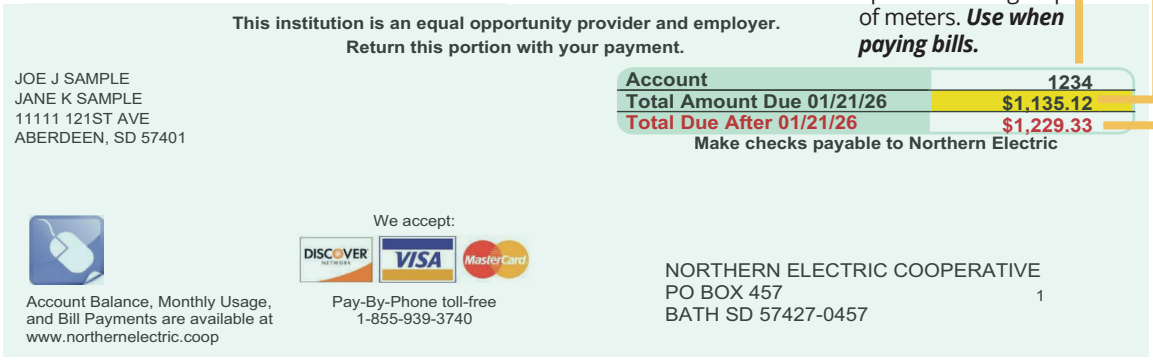
CUSTOMER ID NUMBER
Your unique ID that links to all your meters together. Do not use when paying your bill.

AMOUNT DUE
This is the total amount you owe for the previous month's usage.

LATE FEE
This is the amount you'll owe if the bill isn't paid by the due date.

MESSAGE SPOT 1
Where we post important updates, event notifications, and safety reminders.

BOTTOM PORTION



ACCOUNT #
Specific to this group of meters. ***Use when paying bills.***

AMOUNT DUE
This is the total amount you owe for the previous month's usage.

LATE FEE
This is the amount you'll owe if the bill isn't paid by the due date.

ACCOUNT/USAGE PORTION

ACCOUNT
Specific to this group of meters. ***Use when paying bills.***

RATE CLASS
Rate classes indicate how you are charged. Rates ending with a "C" are demand- based (kW).

METER READINGS
Kilowatt hour (kWh) readings from the first and last service days of the billing period. Second registers (rates ending in "C") on coincident demand rates will not show kWh readings.

METER MULTIPLIER
Used to factor in usage from instrument-rated meters utilizing a current transformer (CT).

Account Number: 1234 **Map Location: 000-00-000-00**

Service Description	Service Address	Rate	Meter Number	Services From	Services To	Days	Readings Previous	Readings Present	Meter Multiplier	kWh Usage	kW Usage
	11111 121ST AVE	B101	10000000	12/01/25	01/01/26	31	83799	95225	1	9626	34.2
	11111 121ST AVE	B101C	10000000	12/01/25	01/01/26	31	0	0	1	0	10.43
	11111 121ST AVE	BR18	12300000	12/01/25	01/01/26	31	4309	4354	40	1800	8.8
	11111 121ST AVE	BR18C	12300000	12/01/25	01/01/26	31	0	0	40	0	0.32

DESCRIPTION
Specialty descriptions, such as irrigation or combined services, such as house and grain bin.

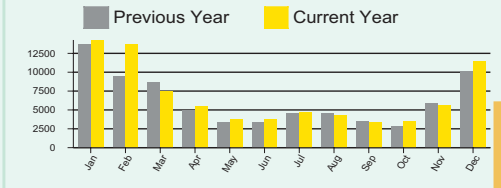
METER NUMBER
Each account has one main meter, listed first. Any submeters are below the main meter. On coincident demand rate, your meter will have two registers listed, because we need to record the energy usage and the demand, which are two different registers. *These same meters will be in your* ***Current Service Detail****.*
In the example, Meter 1 is the main meter. Since this member is on a coincident demand rate, Meter 1 is listed again, with rate class B101C, to measure demand. Meter 123 is a submeter. It is listed again as BR18C, because it is a submeter for the heat, which will not be billed for demand.

kWh USAGE
Lists total kilowatt hours used this billing cycle for each meter/submeter. Because the main and submeters are billed at separate rates, your submeter usage total is subtracted from the main meter.
Total usage = ((Meter 1 present - past) * multiplier) - ((Submeters present - past)* Multiplier)
In the example:
*Meter 1: 95225-83799=11426*1=11426*
*Submeter 123: 4354-4309 = 45*40 = 1800*
Usage total: 11426-1800 = ***9626***

kW USAGE
Kilowatts measure demand, aka the highest amount of kilowatts used in a 30 minute interval. The kW is used to calculate the coincident demand and capacity charges for rate classes which end with the letter "C."
For the main meter, this column shows the peak demand for rolling 12-month period. If you are not on demand, this shows your peak for the month, but does not affect your bill.

HISTORY
This section of the bill provides historical data so you can see how your current electric use compares to previous months.

kWh Usage History



PERIOD ENDING	12/01/24	12/01/25
Avg Daily Temp	25	23
Avg Daily kWh	327	369
Avg Daily Cost	$30.38	$30.96

Check your mail for a letter from us explaining the rate increase. If you have any questions about your rates o did not receive your letter, contact our office at 605-225-0310.

MESSAGE SPOT 2
Where we post additional updates, opportunities, event notifications, and reminders.

FACILITY CHARGE
The facility charge is the portion of your bill which reimburses the cooperative for the poles, wires, equipment, and other non-power costs incurred to deliver electricity to your service location.

Current Service Detail

Facility Chg		82.50
Submeter Charge		4.50
Energy Chg 1000000	$0.06670 per kWh	642.05
Energy Chg 1230000	$0.05500 per kWh	99.00
Coincident Demand Chg	$21.50 per kW	224.25
Capacity Charge	$0.85 per kW	29.07
Total Electric Charges		1,081.37
100/150 Watt Metered Light (2)		14.00
Water Heater Credit		6.00 CR
Total Other Charges		8.00
State Sales Tax		45.75
Total Current Charges		1,135.12

ENERGY CHARGE
Charges for kilowatts used per hour. Calculated by multiplying the kWh Usage by the correlating rate.
In the example:
*Meter 1: 9626 *0.0667 =* **$642.05**
*Submeter 123:1800*0.055 =* **$99**

COINCIDENT DEMAND
This charge only apply to meters on Demand rates (C). Calculated by multiplying kW Usage by the rate.
Meter 1: 10.43*21.50 = ***$224.25***
Note: Submeter 123 has a secondary rate BR18C, which indicates it is a submeter for heat. We do NOT bill demand on heat, so there is no charge line for this usage.

OTHER CHARGES
All other charges not directly related to electric charges, including lights and water heater credits.

CAPACITY CHARGE
Members on coincident demand rate also have a capacity charge to cover additional expenses to serve that load and accommodate their power needs. It is calculated using the main meter's kW Usage.
In the example:
*Meter 1: 34.2*0.85=* ***$29.07***

What Can You Do With 1 Megawatt?

Big Box Stores

1 MW will power a typical large retail store.

Factory

Facilities with heavy machinery can draw 1 MW of power.

Office Building

1 MW can power several medium-sized office buildings.

Hospital

1 MW will power a small hospital.

Power Plant

Typical outputs:
Coal: 500 MW to 1 GW
Gas: 50 MW to 1 GW
Nuclear: 500 MW to 1.5 GW

1 MW is 1 million watts of power.

School

0.5 MW will power a medium-size public school.

EV Charging

1 MW can power four Tesla Supercharger V3s simultaneously.

Data Center

1 MW will power one small data center.

Other facilities that can draw up to 1 MW of power:
- High-speed rail
- Large farms
- Wastewater treatment
- Stadiums

Residential

1 MW can power 750 to 1,000 homes.

Source: NRECA; Design: Jerry Mosemak

WHAT IS A MEGAWATT?

Jacob Boyko
jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

If you're a regular Cooperative Connections reader, you've probably seen the term "megawatt" countless times. From articles about new power generation facilities, energy-saving tips, major infrastructure projects or energy policy, megawatts come up again and again. But what does a megawatt actually mean?

Watts, Kilowatts, Megawatts & More

A megawatt is a unit of power that measures the speed at which energy is generated or used at a given time. A megawatt is 1,000 kilowatts (KW), or 1 million watts.

You may recognize watts from the labels on everyday household items like light bulbs and phone chargers. These numbers indicate the amount of power the device draws while operating.

Here are the wattages for some common household items:

- LED Light bulb – 5-20 Watts
- Refrigerator – 350-800 Watts
- Desktop PC – 100-800 Watts
- LED Television: 30-300 Watts
- Microwave – 700-1,200 Watts
- Hair Dryer – 1,500-2,000 Watts
- Clothes Dryer – 1,800-5,000 Watts

At East River Electric Power Cooperative, the generation and transmission cooperative that sells power to member co-ops in Eastern South Dakota and Western Minnesota, Jennifer Gross uses a modified bicycle to help put power into perspective.

1 Million Watts
=
1,000 Kilowatts
=
1 Megawatt
=
1/1,000 Gigawatt

The bike is stationary – the pedals power a small generator wired to several different kinds of light bulbs. Gross, who is East River's education and outreach coordinator, says the "pedal power bike" demonstrates energy use in a tangible way and highlights the difference of energy-efficient products.

"It's actually quite difficult for the person pedaling to generate electricity consistently for more than a few minutes," Gross said.

Jennifer Gross demonstrates energy generation and consumption. *Submitted Photo*

"When they're pedaling to power the inefficient, old-school incandescent light bulbs, they can pedal for about one minute and not even keep it at 200 watts the whole time."

The electric grid experiences the most strain during peak demand times – the hours before and after work and school when most people are home doing laundry, watching TV etc.

In communities with hundreds to thousands of homes and businesses, electricity demand grows large enough to be measured in megawatts – the unit equal to 1,000 KW.

Your electric co-op's electricity is generated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which was formed in the 1960s by electric co-ops in the upper Midwest to generate electricity for co-ops. Serving over 3 million consumers across nine states, Basin generates power from its owned and leased assets, which include coal, natural gas, solar and wind. Basin's generation capability is so massive that it's measured in gigawatts – the unit equal to 1,000 MW.

Basin reports a maximum generating capacity of about 8,427 MW – or 8.427 GW. That figure reflects every available generation resource running at full output, including the oil-fueled peaking units used during times of high demand, along with purchases from the Western Area Power Administration and the Southwest Power Pool energy market.

On an even larger scale, the total installed generation capacity in the U.S. reaches the terawatt level, totalling about 1.3 TW, which is equal to 1,300 GW, 1.3 million MW or 1.3 billion KW – enough to simultaneously run about 1 billion hair dryers!

Your Co-op's Megawatts

As a co-op member, you're a part-owner of Basin Electric's generation resources. Here's a look at several of those facilities.

Antelope Valley Station
Beulah, N.D. • 1984
900 MW • Coal

Bison Gen. Station
Epping, N.D. • 2030
1,490 MW • Nat. Gas

Pioneer Gen. Station
Williston, N.D. • 2013
822 MW • Nat. Gas

Crow Lake Wind
White Lake, S.D. • 2011
172 MW • Wind

Wild Springs Solar
New Underwood, S.D.
2024 • 114 MW • Solar

Dakota Energy Cooperative raises line so the home can pass underneath.
Photo submitted by Dakota Energy Cooperative

MOVING A MOUNTAIN

Co-ops Assist Historic Home On Trek Through Rural South Dakota

Jacob Boyko
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Jeff and Sherri Johnson had been waiting for years to build their dream home on their McCook County land, but with ongoing supply chain challenges, it was becoming increasingly difficult – and expensive – to build on their rural acreage.

When Sherri saw the sale listing for a beautiful historic home in northwest South Dakota, she knew that it was more than a house; it was a dream come true.

"I had a dream a few years ago about a blue house moving, and I saw this house that had been on the market for a while in Lemmon," Johnson recalled. "I saw the house, and then I remembered the dream, because when God gives us a dream, it just goes deep in there and you remember."

She knew she had to act, and soon after, the Johnsons were the proud owners of the 1910 prairie-style home. All they had to do was get it to their land north of Montrose.

Sherri and Jeff contacted Milbank House Movers to figure out just how exactly to transport a 100-ton house over 400 miles.

"For a 37-foot tall loaded, 2 ½ story house, this was one of the longest moves we have done," explained Josh Wendland from Milbank House Movers. "We had to reach out to all of the power companies along the moving route to get their input as to how far they felt we could travel each day with how many power lines we would have to deal with on any give segment of the route. It was determined that the total move of 421 miles should be segmented into seven travel days on the road ranging from 14 miles the first day up to 98 miles on the furthest traveled day."

At Moreau-Grand Electric, crews found the house was too tall to pass under their lines even if they raised them up with their bucket trucks.

"We had to totally just cut some of the lines, the structure was so tall we couldn't lift them up high enough," said JJ Martin, the co-op's member services director.

Martin said power outages were pretty minor in the service territory until the house reached the US 212/SD 63 junction west of Eagle Butte, where the Western Area Power Administration had to cut its transmission line taking the southern portion of Moreau-Grand Electric's service territory offline.

"Once the structure moved through, we put the lines back up, and the outage only took about an hour or two in total," Martin said. "After that, there were a few minor distribution outages until they finally crossed the Cheyenne River."

At East River Electric, the generation and transmission cooperative serving co-ops in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota, operations dispatch worked in advance to identify power line crossings along the route that would need to be lifted or disconnected.

"We have a lot of our line measurements for these situations, but if it's an odd route, we go and get new measurements of lines that we may not have measured – like if they're trying to go through an area to avoid bigger infrastructure or bridges," explained Clayton Tanner, East River's system operations superintendent. "Depending on how close the load will get to our infrastructure, we decide whether we have to have our guys on scene to watch it go through, or if we have to switch that line out and ground it because there's a chance of it arcing over. There have even been cases where we've dropped the line to the ground and had them drive over it."

The house crossed 12 of East River Electric's transmission lines; nine of the lines had to be de-energized, three of the lines were lifted, and crews watched the house pass underneath in two other locations.

Despite the home's unprecedented journey, spending a week trekking 421 miles across rural highways through eight electric cooperatives, the house arrived in one piece.

The house joins another historic building on Jeff and Sherri's land: a 1903 rural schoolhouse that sat in Turner County for much of its life before being moved to Minnehaha County to serve as a Methodist Church, and finally to McCook County in 2011 when Sherri and Jeff purchased the building to move it and restore it to its former turn-of-the-century glory.

When asked if she had ever thought she'd get this far along with the house moving project, Sherri nodded an affirmative yes.

"We already did it once with the church," she said. "I wished we could have been able to do this about 10 years ago, since it probably would have fit a little better. But you know what? Things work out exactly the way they are supposed to."

History of the House

Known as the Ole Quamman house, the 1910 prairie style foursquare house spent the last 115 years on 2nd Avenue in Lemmon. Ole Quamman was one of the first businessmen to arrive in Lemmon, which was founded just three years before in 1907. Quamman created the town's Petrified Wood Park & Museum in 1933 to showcase petrified wood from Perkins County. At its Lemmon address, the house featured two flowerpots decorated with petrified wood on its walkway – those traveled with the home to McCook County.

The South Dakota State Historical Society writes that the interior of the home is "lavishly styled" and features some of the latest design ideology of the time.

It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2015, but lost its eligibility after the move. Sherri is applying to get the house back on the list for its architectural significance and level of preservation. She also plans to do the same with her historic church.

Sherri and Jeff Johnson with their new home on its foundation in McCook County. It sits on land that has been in Sherri's family for generations.
Photo by Jacob Boyko

The house crosses the Oahe Dam – officially entering east river South Dakota.
Submitted Photo

The house rounds one of the final corners. Southeastern Electric Cooperative was on the scene to connect power.
Submitted Photo

In the application to add the house to the National Register of Historic Places, the South Dakota State Historical Society writes that the interior of the home has an "elegant Arts and Crafts design."
Submitted Photo

FROM SHERRI'S JOURNAL

The only place I wanted a picture of the house moving along its 400-mile journey was at the Missouri River crossing. I was plenty early on the morning of Nov. 17, 2025, when I parked my car at Oahe Dam Visitor Center. It was cold, windy, and still dark outside as I aimed my headlights at the Oahe Mission School and Chapel historical marker. I started reading the sign, but abruptly stopped when I read '...at Bogue…' Bogue was the maiden name of my 3x great grandma. Not only was I reading a sign about a building being moved as I waited for my historic house to move across the dam, but the name on the sign perfectly connected to a name in my ancestry. Daylight eventually dawned, the clouds broke, and sunlight lit up the house as it crossed the river. I had planned a picture, but God did so much more that morning.
Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we all ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. (Ephesians 3:20)

MARCH 7
Ag Day
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Washington Pavilion
Sioux Falls, SD
605-367-6000

Washington Pavilion Photo

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
Spay-ghetti & No Balls
5-8 p.m.
Shriners – 802 S. Main St.
Aberdeen, SD

MARCH 5
SD Jazz Festival
7:30 p.m.
Johnson Fine Arts Center
Aberdeen, SD

MARCH 7
Free Christian Men's Event
The Barn at Aspen Acres
8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Spearfish, SD
Register: RiseUpMen.com

MARCH 7
Southern Hills Holistic Fair
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Mueller Civic Center
Hot Springs, SD

MARCH 7-8
The Black Market
Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
W.H. Lyon Expo Building
Sioux Falls, SD
605-332-6004

MARCH 14-15
Philip Area Annual Rod & Gun Show
Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
American Legion Hall
Philip, SD

MARCH 14
St. Uhro Finnish Festival
11 a.m. Main Street Parade
12 p.m. Community Ctr. Lunch
Lake Norden, SD
605-881-1758

MARCH 14
SNOLF (Snow Golf) Tournament
Webster, SD
Contact: Buster's Resort
605-345-2787

MARCH 20-21
Badlands Quilters Getaway
Fri. 5:30 p.m. Start
Sat. 8 a.m. Start
Wall Community Center
Wall, SD
605-279-2807

MARCH 20-22, 27-29
Mighty Corson Art Players
March 20-21, 27-28: 7:30 p.m.
March 22, 29: 2:30 p.m.
Corson Playhouse
Corson, SD

MARCH 28
Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser
6-11:30 p.m.
Legion Post #39
Groton, SD

MARCH 28
Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt
10 a.m.
City Park
Groton, SD

MARCH 28
Coteau Prairie Masters Gardeners Ready, Set, Grow
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Codington Cty. Extension Cplx.
Watertown, SD

APRIL 3
Bachelors of Broadway: Gentlemen of the Theatre
7 p.m.
Johnson Fine Arts Center
Aberdeen, SD

APRIL 9-11
Annual Schmeckfest
German Heritage Celebration
Freeman, SD
605-925-4237
www.schmeckfest.com

APRIL 18
Brookings Quilt Show XII
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Admission: $10
Dakota Bank Center
Brookings, SD
605-690-3246

APRIL 18
Tri-Valley Chorus 75th Annual Show
4 p.m.
Centerville, SD

APRIL 20
The Bronx Wanderers
7 p.m.
Johnson Fine Arts Center
Aberdeen, SD

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.