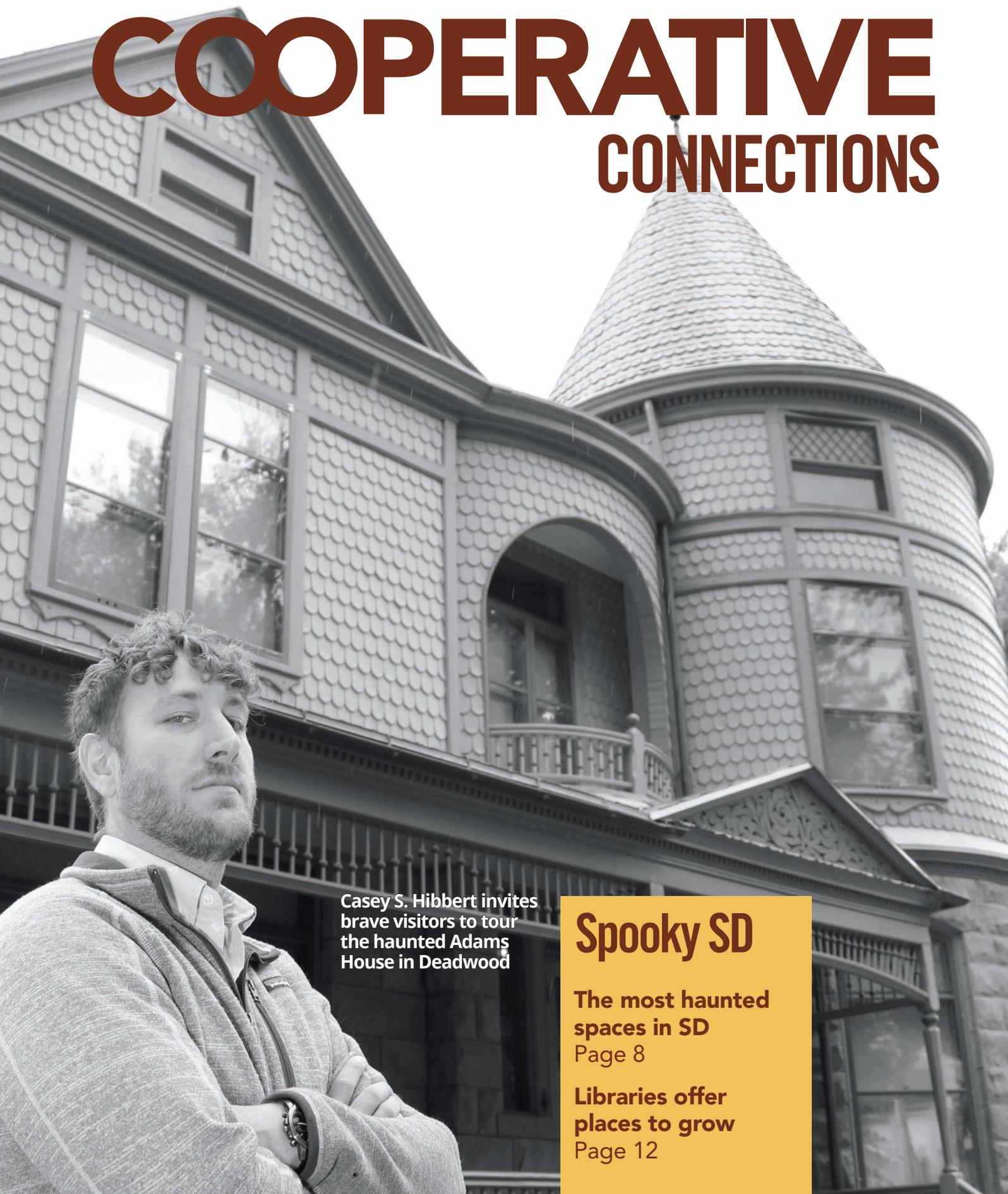


COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Casey S. Hibbert invites
brave visitors to tour
the haunted Adams
House in Deadwood

Spooky SD

**The most haunted
spaces in SD**

Page 8

**Libraries offer
places to grow**

Page 12

Cooperative youth programs make an impact as students head back to school this fall



Ben Dunsmoor
Editor

South Dakota's electric cooperatives have put a strong emphasis on youth programs for decades and this fall we are celebrating two big milestones as students head back to school.

Northern Electric Cooperative is celebrating the 30th year of our scholarship program for area high school and college students. We are also celebrating the 20th year of the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week program. Both programs place a strong emphasis on celebrating local students for their accomplishments in the classroom and in our communities.

Electric cooperatives have a long history of sponsoring youth programs because we want to support the students who will become local leaders in our communities.

Northern Electric Cooperative began offering a scholarship program in 1991. Over the past three decades more than \$40,000 has been awarded to nearly 60 students. Every year, our generation and transmission cooperative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a local student from our service territory. Northern Electric also awards a \$500 scholarship every year. Electric cooperatives provide these scholarships to support the local students who will become the future leaders in our rural communities and cooperatives. As I looked at the list of scholarship recipients over the past 30 years, I recognized many names of

students who have come back to the area to begin their careers after pursuing their degrees. Some of the Northern Electric scholarship recipients have even pursued careers at electric cooperatives.

The Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week program was started 20 years ago by electric cooperatives in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. The program has been a partnership between our local electric cooperatives and KSFY/Dakota News Now since 2002. High school seniors from schools across eastern South Dakota are nominated by their teachers, counselors, or principals to be the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week. A different student is selected every week based on their academic success and extracurricular achievements. The students are featured on Dakota News Now during the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week segment, and they receive a \$250 check from their local cooperative. The students who are selected also have the chance to receive a \$500 or \$1,000 scholarship at the end of the school year. The Scholar of the Week program is a great way to showcase the accomplishments of students in large schools, small schools, and our rural communities. More than \$90,000 in scholarships have been awarded to nearly 600 students who have been recognized by the Scholar of the Week program over the past 20 years.

Electric cooperatives have a long history of sponsoring youth programs because we want to support the students who will become local leaders in our communities. The cooperative scholarship program and the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week program have proven to be successful in accomplishing that goal. So, as students head back to the classroom this fall, we are preparing to recognize more students throughout the upcoming school year for their amazing accomplishments.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

NORTHERN ELECTRIC

(USPS 396-040)

Board President: Donna Sharp

Board of Directors

- Nolan Wipf - Vice President
- Ron Kaaz - Secretary
- Josh Larson - Treasurer
- Fran Esser
- Todd Hettich
- Kirk Schaunaman
- Mike Traxinger
- Jeff Vander Wal

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

Chief Financial Officer: Cathi Podoll

Operations Manager: Jerry Weber

Manager of Member Services: Russel Ulmer

Manager of Information Technology: Derek Gorecki

Communications Director: Ben Dunsmoor
bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Executive Secretary: Kay Albrecht

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

www.northernelectric.coop



Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held August 26, 2021, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. As the first order of business, the Board approved the July 30, 2021, minutes and July expenditures. The Board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management.

Directors viewed the East River Power Cooperative video report. East River Director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the August 5, 2021, meeting. The next East River Board Meeting will be September 9, 2021, following the East River Annual Meeting September 8, 2021, in Sioux Falls. General Manager Char Hager reported on the East River MAC meeting held August 3, 2021. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported that the next SDREA board meeting will be held September 23-24, 2021. Director Jeff Vander Wal reported on the 2021 NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate course held August 10-11, virtually. Director Nolan Wipf reported on the 2021 American Coalition for Ethanol Annual Meeting and Conference held August 18-20, Minneapolis, MN.

MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Update on development projects
- Update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund.
- Legal and Legislative Report.
- Reminded directors of the 2021 NRECA Regional 5&6 Meeting, September

15-17, Minneapolis, MN.

- Informed directors of the Northeast Rural Utilities Legislative Issues Forum.
- Informed directors of the 2021 Winter School for Directors, December 10-15, in Nashville, TN.
- Reminded directors of the 2021 NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) courses which will be held virtually, September 1-2, September 23-24, and October 19-20.

BOARD REPORT

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 a.m. on Monday, September 27, 2021.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$2,581.49.
3. Approved Work Order Inventory #21-07 for \$658,958.98 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
4. Authorized board attendance to the Basin Electric annual meeting, November 9-11, 2021, Bismarck, ND.
5. Authorized board attendance to the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association annual meeting, December 6-9, 2021, in Denver, CO.
6. Appointed Jeff Vander Wal voting delegate for the 2021 Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO) annual meeting, September 16, Minneapolis, MN.
7. Held Executive Session.

Talk to your director or co-op manager with questions on any of these matters.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	July-21	July-20
kWh Sales	29,756,867 kWh	24,146,021 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,590,556	\$2,369,703
Total Cost of Service	\$2,519,426	\$2,307,253
Operating Margins.....	\$71,130	\$62,450
Year to Date Margins	\$309,979	\$525,532

RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE MONTHLY USAGE AND BILL

JULY-2021.....	1,550 kWh.....	\$198.00.....	0.1277 per kWh
JULY-2020.....	1,778 kWh.....	\$207.96.....	0.1170 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation account for 84.9% of NEC's total cost of service.

Practice fire safety this fall and winter

When the weather turns colder, you inevitably start hearing more news about house fires. Even a small fire can be devastating.

Most house fires are caused by cooking that gets out of hand, according to the National Fire Protection Association. But the second most common cause is materials in the home that catch fire. This often occurs when a heat source, such as a space heater or flying embers from a fireplace, comes into contact with fabric or paper, which then ignite. Once a fire starts, it can move so rapidly that even the best efforts to put it out may fail.

When it comes to old houses, the risks are even higher. The older the wood is that a house is constructed of, the faster it burns. Once flames invade the walls of an old house, they move with frightening speed.

Fire protection in any home is absolutely necessary, but even more careful precautions should be taken if your house is older. Here's how to help ensure the safety of your house and everyone in it.

Smoke detectors. These are the first and best line of defense; they allow you to get out of the house at the first whiff of smoke. The NFPA found that six in 10 deaths in house fires occurred in homes that did not have working smoke detectors. Go beyond the federal recommendations and put a smoke detector in every room. Stay on the even safer side by opting for those that detect both smoke and carbon monoxide.

Fire extinguishers. Keep small fires from getting out of control with fire extinguishers that are easily accessible. Choose several fire extinguishers that are light enough for even kids to handle. Make sure they have simple pull mechanisms that don't require much strength. Look for fire extinguishers that work for various parts of the house; for instance, an extinguisher in the kitchen should be able to handle grease fires.

Install arc-fault interrupters. These ingenious little gadgets detect the electrical arcing that occurs when an old wire buried deep in your wall begins to fail. Speak with an electrician about where best to install interrupters and how your particular ones work.

Maintain it all. Finally, test everything on a regular basis. Smoke detectors should be tested every month, their batteries replaced every six months, and old smoke detectors replaced every 10 years. Opt to purchase an extra fire extinguisher so your family can take it to the backyard and practice using it.

Have a plan. What if the worst happens and those smoke detectors go off? Have a plan to get out fast. Make sure those on upper floors have a fire ladder that can get them safely to the ground. Designate a meeting place for all family members, and practice your safety plan at least once every six months.

Does all of this sound like overkill? It's not! Fire safety is imperative year-round for every home. Your home deserves to have the care required to keep it safe and sturdy, but more importantly, your family deserves the peace of mind that comes from knowing they are protected in an emergency.

WE'VE GOT SD COVERED



South Dakota's electric cooperatives deliver affordable, reliable power to our members in every corner of the state. But we do so much more!

Visit our Co-op Connections Plus YouTube channel and you'll see co-ops in action providing valuable consumer information at Dakotafest and the South Dakota State Fair. You'll see co-ops at local community events and youth leadership programs. We've got South Dakota covered!

Simply scan the QR code to the right and be sure to subscribe!



Call 811 before you dig!

Fletcher Nutt

Fletcher reminds readers of Cooperative Connections to be sure to call 811 before digging. Fletcher's parents are Donald Nutt and Amanda Larron of Sioux Falls.

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.

PERFECT PASTA PICKS

RATTLESNAKE PASTA

Ingredients:

1/4 c buttery spread
 2 T all-purpose flour
 3/4 c dairy milk
 1/2 c vegetable broth
 1 T vegetable base
 1/2 c Parmesan cheese, shredded
 salt, to taste (optional)
 pepper, to taste (optional)
 1/4 c pickled jalapeno slices
 3 T minced garlic
 10 oz. cooked rotisserie chicken, shredded
 1 green bell pepper, sliced
 1 red bell pepper, sliced
 1 handful fresh cilantro, minced
 1 pound whole-wheat linguini, cooked

METHOD

In medium pot, melt buttery spread then add flour; mix well. Slowly add dairy milk and vegetable broth, stirring well. Add vegetable base and Parmesan cheese; heat slowly until thickened. Add salt and pepper, to taste, if desired. Add jalapenos, garlic, bell peppers and roasted chicken; heat thoroughly. Serve over cooked linguini.

Family Features

HERB BAKED CHICKEN AND PASTA

Ingredients:

2 cups uncooked medium pasta, such as rotini, penne or ziti
 1 pound uncooked boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch cubes
 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
 1 1/2 cups water
 1 package McCormick® Italian Herb Baked Chicken & Pasta Seasoning Mix
 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) petite diced tomatoes, undrained

METHOD

Preheat oven to 375°F. Place pasta, chicken and 1 cup of the cheese in 13x9-inch baking dish. Mix water, Seasoning Mix and tomatoes until well blended. Pour over pasta and chicken. Stir to coat well, making sure most of the pasta is covered with sauce. Cover with foil. Bake 45 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Remove foil and stir. Sprinkle with remaining 1 cup cheese. Bake, uncovered, 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Let stand 5 minutes. (Sauce will continue to thicken upon standing.)
mccormick.com

SPAGHETTI PIE

Ingredients:

6 oz. spaghetti
 2 T. butter
 2 well beaten eggs
 1/3 c. Parmesan cheese
 1 c. cottage cheese
 1 lb. ground beef
 1/4 c. chopped green pepper
 1/2 c. chopped onion
 2 c. chopped tomatoes
 1 tsp. sugar
 1 tsp. oregano
 1/2 tsp. garlic salt
 1/2 c. shredded mozzarella

METHOD

Cook spaghetti, drain. Stir in butter, Parmesan cheese and eggs. In buttered 10 inch pie plate, form the mixture into a crust. Spread the cottage cheese over crust. Cook beef until browned. Drain fat. Stir tomatoes, sugar, oregano and garlic salt into cooked beef. Put all in spaghetti crust. Bake 350 degrees for 25 minutes. Add mozzarella and cook five minutes more or until cheese is melted. Bulk sausage may replace ground beef.

Linda Sherry, Sioux Falls

Please send your favorite dairy 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 2021. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.



How to stay cybersmart

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and it is becoming critically important to protect your accounts and stay 'cybersmart'

At a time when we are more connected than ever, being 'cybersmart' is critically important. This year has already seen more than a fair share of cyberattacks and breaches, including the high-profile attacks on the Colonial Pipeline and other critical infrastructure. These attacks are becoming more sophisticated with new bad actors cropping up each day. Luckily, there are several steps that can be taken

every day to mitigate risks and stay one step ahead of cybercriminals. Here are a few quick tips:

ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) adds that necessary second check to verify your identity when logging in to one of your accounts. By requiring multiple methods of authentication, your account is further protected from being

compromised, even if a bad actor hijacks your password. In this way, MFAs make it more difficult for password cracking tools to enable attackers to break into accounts.

USE STRONG PASSPHRASES AND A PASSWORD MANAGER

This may seem obvious, but all too often securing strong passphrases/ password managers is overlooked. People spending more time online during the pandemic has contributed to more bad actors prowling for accounts to attack. Using long, complex, and unique passwords is a good way to stop your account from being hacked. An easy way of tracking and remembering

your passwords is by using a password manager.

PERFORM SOFTWARE UPDATES

When a device prompts that it is time to update the software, it may be tempting to simply click postpone, and ignore the message. However, having the latest security software, web browser, and operating system on devices is one of the best defenses against online threats. So, don't wait - update.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Common sense is a crucial part of maintaining good online hygiene, and an intuitive step to stay safe online is to do some research before downloading anything new to your device. Before downloading any new apps on your device investigate who created the app, what the user reviews say, and if there are any articles published online about the app's privacy and security features.

CHECK YOUR SETTINGS

Be diligent to double check your privacy and security settings on your accounts and apps and be aware of who can access your documents. This extends from Google docs, to Zoom calls, and beyond. For meetings on Zoom, for example, create passwords so only those invited to the session can attend, and restrict who can share their screen or files with the rest of the attendees.

95%
of cybersecurity breaches are due to human error.
(Source: National Cybersecurity Alliance)

There is a hacker attack every **39 seconds.**
(Source: National Cybersecurity Alliance)

Being cybersmart and maintaining stellar online hygiene is the best way to protect yourself and others from cyberattacks. No single tip is foolproof, but all these tips combined can make a real difference for taking control of your online presence. Following these tips is also easy, and free. By taking preventive measures and making a habit of practicing online safety, you can decrease your odds of being hacked exponentially - and prevent lost time, money, and the annoying inconveniences of a compromised account. □

This article is provided by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the National Cybersecurity Alliance (NCSA), and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).



PASSWORD DOS AND DON'TS
A strong password can make all the difference in protecting your personal information. Follow these tips for stronger passwords.



DO:

- Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- Use two-factor authentication.
- Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

DON'T:

- Don't use common words or numbers like "password" or "1234."
- Don't use personal details like your date of birth in a password.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month.
Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart

Northern Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



SEARCHING FOR SPOOKS

Casey S. Hibbert peers out into the natural world through a window in the top floor of the haunted Adams House in Deadwood. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

Paranormal enthusiasts search for signs of the hereafter in SD's haunted spaces

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Those eerie, creaky footsteps heard coming from the stairwell in Deadwood's historic Adams House could be the restless spirit of former owner W.E. Adams. Or they could simply be a figment of the imagination.

Maurice "Mo" Miller isn't going to try to convince you either way. He just wants to collect evidence that there was in fact an unexplained sound and let you draw your own conclusions.

Miller is founder and lead sleuth of the Black Hills Paranormal Investigations team. He and his six-member squad aren't out to bust ghosts or chase mischievous spirits away. They only want to make a friendly connection with inhabitants of the afterlife, maybe say hello and spend some quality time together.

For the past 10 years, Miller and his crew have been conducting their missions all across the Black Hills area and have logged scores of audio recordings and other evidence they offer as possible proof of the existence of the hereafter.

Every October, Miller invites fearless guests to accompany the investigators on their missions. But he often warns visitors beforehand: Don't come dressed in a Dracula costume or some silly getup - this is serious business.

"This isn't a dog-and-pony show," Miller said. "We never do investigations with the public on Halloween because people will come dressed up as a vampire or a witch and think it's the county fair. The shows on TV are for entertainment. We have fun, but we don't contrive things for entertainment value and promise we'll deliver a ghost in a jar or yank one out into the open with a hook."

Miller developed a passion for the paranormal when he had an unexplained experience as a youngster.

"I was in my bedroom and - I don't know how or why it happened - the closet door blew off the hinges and went flying across the room. My parents thought the door came down because I'd been swinging on it like a monkey. I was a little unnerved and slept on the couch for a month. But I started reading academic material on the subject to see if there was really something to this paranormal thing, and it's been my passion ever since."

The BHPI team has several black metal cases, or "spirit boxes" full of devices, contraptions and gizmos they use to detect the presence of wandering ghosts. There are electromagnetic field meters, binoptic cameras, infrared static cameras, digital audio recorders and more.

They've completed investigations of many haunted places in Deadwood and the surrounding area such as the Homestake Opera House, the Bullock Hotel, the Brothel Deadwood, the Lucky Nugget Casino and others.



Black Hills Paranormal Investigations team member LeAnn Harlan keeps an eye out for spirits during a recent visit to a private residence in Spearfish. Above/right, a device used by BHPI triggers when spirits are detected nearby.

As far as the fear factor goes, Miller said during late-night investigations he often finds himself keeping a close eye on BHPI Case Manager Mark Shadley, a retired police sergeant and seasoned law enforcement officer. If the former lawman starts showing

selling author Ann Charles, but there are many other famously haunted places and spaces around the state.

Author Chad Lewis has been researching paranormal activity in South Dakota, across the region, and around world for nearly 30 years and has written 25 books on the supernatural, including *The South Dakota Road Guide to Haunted Locations* as part of his “Unexplained” series. While Lewis has made many television appearances, he often speaks to local audiences and calls attention to some of the lesser known haunted sites such as Devil’s Gulch in Garretson and Spirit Mound State Historic Prairie near Vermillion.

“Spirit Mound’s legends date back as far as Lewis and Clark. In their journals, they wrote that once arriving upon Spirit Mound, their guides would go no further as they feared small creatures that looked like little people and were very good with poisonous arrows.”

He has explored many haunted sites in the Hills such as the Mount Moriah Cemetery and the Keystone Mount View Cemetery at the foot of Mount Rushmore. But Lewis has also studied spooky places in eastern South Dakota such as the Orpheum Theatre and Old Minnehaha Courthouse in Sioux Falls, Mount Marty College and Dakota

Visit these haunted sites if you dare

Here is our Top 10 list of the eeriest, scariest, most haunted places in South Dakota. Enter at your own risk:

- Bullock Hotel - Deadwood
- Adams House - Deadwood
- Old Minnehaha Courthouse Museum - Sioux Falls
- Dakota Theater - Yankton
- Hotel Alex Johnson - Rapid City
- Sioux San Hospital - Rapid City
- Lucky Nugget Casino - Deadwood
- Homestake Opera House - Lead
- Eastons Castle - Aberdeen
- Mount Marty College - Yankton



BHPI lead investigator Maurice “Mo” Miller discusses strategy with Deb Sutton and Kayleigh Johnson.

signs of fright or starts heading for the door, then it’s probably time to scam.

The Black Hills area is often considered a hotbed of paranormal activity of the kind depicted in local folklore and in the tales spun by best-

Theatre in Yankton, Eastons Castle in Aberdeen and others.

With Halloween coming up, Lewis encourages anyone interested in all things unexplained to get out and explore haunted sites and also to learn more about the history, lore and culture of different locations.

“I think people should venture out and see things for themselves and make their own determinations,” he said. “If you go out to Spirit Mound, make sure to leave an offering like a shiny rock or candy for the Little People. This will protect you from them getting followed home.”



Remembering a few basic tips will ensure a safe and successful harvest this fall.

HARVEST SAFELY

As farm equipment gets bigger - the margin for error around power lines gets smaller

Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

It can be easy to get in a hurry as harvest season ramps up in the fall. It is a race against time to get the crop out of the field before the first blast of winter. But it is also important to be aware of power lines and electrical hazards during harvest. Here are some safety tips to keep in mind this fall:

LOOK UP, LOOK OUT, LOOK AROUND

It is a good idea to survey farmyards, roads, and approaches and locate all power lines and transformer boxes before harvest begins. New tractors or combines may be bigger than old machinery and might not fit as well underneath power lines. Surveying the areas where machinery will be operated during harvest is a good first step to staying safe in the field.

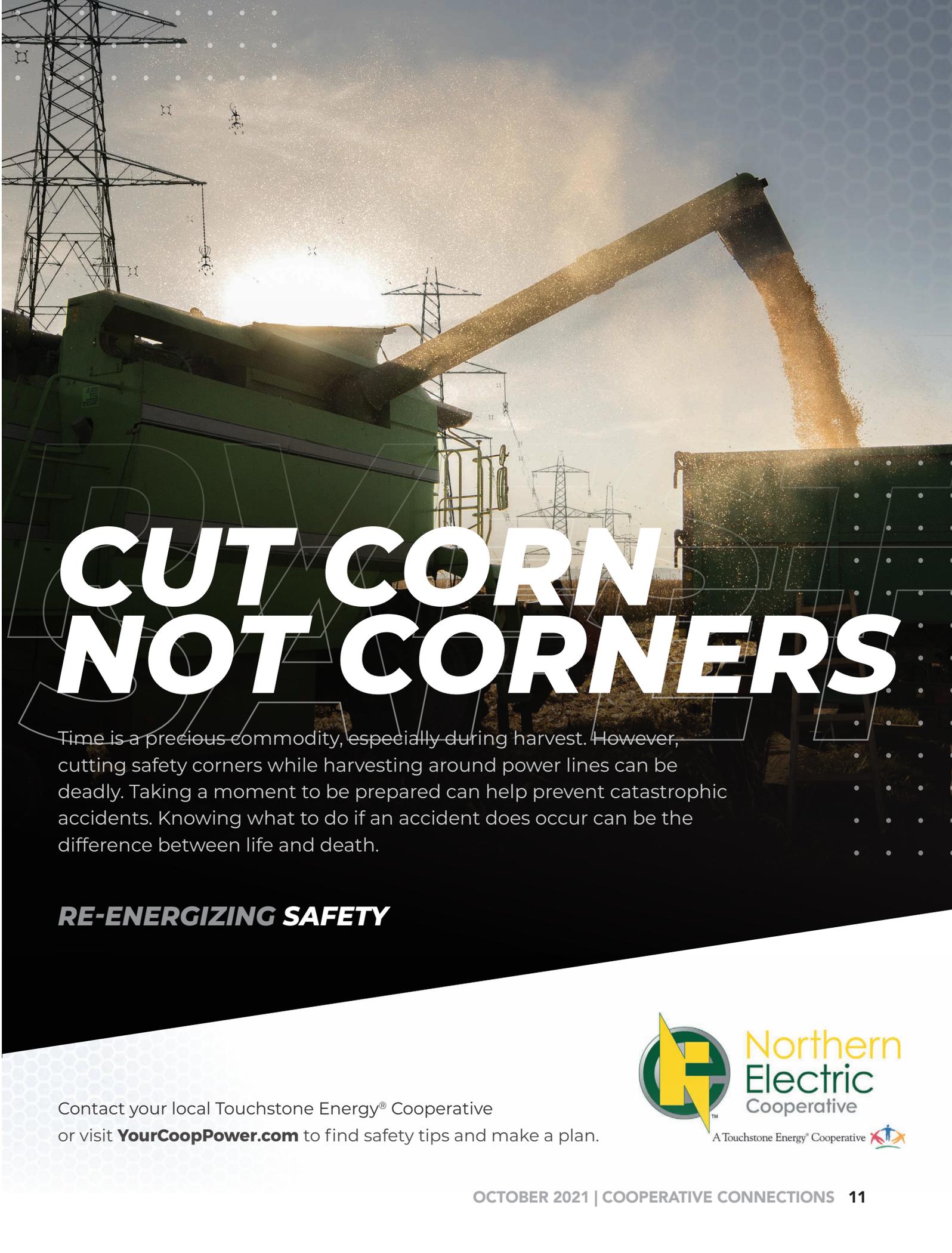
KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE

If farm machinery does accidentally contact a power line, or crash into a pad-mounted transformer box, it is important to know the proper steps to stay safe. The operator of a piece of machinery that contacts an overhead power line should stay inside the equipment and call for help. The operator can use a cell phone to call 911 or Northern Electric Cooperative. The operator should also tell everyone in the area to stay 40 feet away from the downed line and machinery. If the operator gets out of the equipment and touches the ground, they could be electrocuted because they will create a path to ground for the electricity. The safest place to be if farm machinery contacts a power line is inside the cab.

HOP OUT AND AWAY

If the operator needs to get out because the machinery started on fire, they must jump out of the cab as far away from the equipment as possible. Hopping out of the machinery with both feet together will allow the operator to avoid touching the equipment and the ground at the same time. After the operator is out, they should shuffle or hop with both feet together until they are 40 feet away from the area.

Surveying the areas where farm machinery will travel this fall and keeping some basic safety tips in mind will ensure a successful harvest.



CUT CORN NOT CORNERS

Time is a precious commodity, especially during harvest. However, cutting safety corners while harvesting around power lines can be deadly. Taking a moment to be prepared can help prevent catastrophic accidents. Knowing what to do if an accident does occur can be the difference between life and death.

RE-ENERGIZING SAFETY

Contact your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
or visit **YourCoopPower.com** to find safety tips and make a plan.



Northern
Electric
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

A PLACE TO GROW

Public libraries across the state continue to serve the needs of their communities as places to go for a wide range of experiences.

South Dakota's public library system grows and adapts to an ever-changing cultural and technological landscape

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The state's public library system got its start even before there was a state.

In 1886, three years before South Dakota achieved statehood, the Howard Public Library was chartered and quickly became a point of pride for the people of present-day Miner County.

The contents of the library have long since been relocated to a modern facility in the town's Municipal Building, but the original structure can still be visited at Prairie Village in nearby Madison.

As the first of its kind in the state, the Howard Public Library is still a thriving entity and serves as a testament to the versatility and resiliency of the state's library system. Standing strong through world wars, recessions, depressions, funding pressures, political challenges and

changes in culture and contemporary lifestyles, South Dakota's libraries are still delivering the goods - and the books - in their respective communities.

Mary K. Schlim is the head librarian in Howard and says the community takes a lot of pride in being home to the state's first facility. She takes an optimistic view of the future of libraries...as long as they continue to adapt.

"I think libraries have a bright future," she said. "You just have to keep updating and modernizing and keeping up with the trends and the technology. We have the computers, but we're adding new books all the time. There will always be demand from people who want an actual, physical book to read. There will always be a need for libraries."

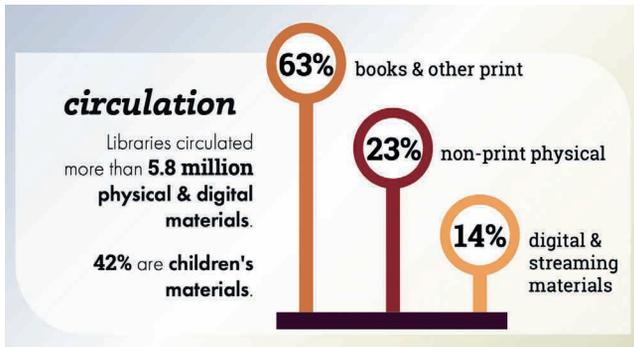
Schlim said her facility is open six days a week with more than 14,000 books on the shelves, five public

computers with internet access, 37 subscriptions to magazines and periodicals, and free WiFi access.

In the year prior to the pandemic, 3.7 million visits were made to the state's 107 public libraries while nearly half the state's residents held a library card. In 2019, more than 600 of the state's citizens were employed at a public library, and a collective 5.8 million digital and physical materials were circulated.

Brenda Hemmelman, access and development services director for the state library system, said libraries return \$4 in various programs and services for every \$1 invested. She describes libraries as a sound investment in communities large and small.

Hemmelman recently announced the distribution of nearly \$2 million in grant money disbursed to a total of 78 public, local school and academic libraries across the state. The grant money came from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.



“This will help our libraries invest in infrastructure, technology and materials that will serve their patrons through modern, innovative facilities and practices well into the future,” Hemmelman said.

Grant-funded items include the following:

- Technology to replace old computer equipment
- Podcasting equipment
- Digitization equipment
- Books, audio books, e-books
- 3D printers and other makerspace equipment
- Furniture with embedded technology
- Library automation software
- SMART boards/Promethean boards for classroom teaching and displays.

The state system also purchased an additional \$76,000 worth of audiobooks and e-books for the South Dakota



Titles to Go (SDTTG) consortium with funds from IMLS through ARPA. Hemmelman said SDTTG program usage increased 18 percent from 2019 to 2020 as users checked out more than 400,000 titles.

Hemmelman said libraries face an ongoing challenge to remain relevant and useful in a rapidly changing technological

landscape. She said libraries were fortunate to receive the recent grant money after 96 percent of the state’s facilities closed temporarily during the pandemic.

She was quick to note, however, that 86 percent continued to provide public services even though the physical facility may have been closed. More than 80 percent provided outside or curbside checkout services and all of them increased access to digital materials.

For Hemmelman, those indicators point to a promising future for the state’s public library system.

STATE LIBRARY DIGITIZES 41 VOLUMES OF SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS



As the South Dakota State Historical Society celebrates its 120th year, the South Dakota State Library has digitized all 41 volumes of the South Dakota Historical Collections. From 1902 to 1982, this series was published biennially by the Department of History (now the South Dakota State Historical Society) as part of its mission to collect, preserve and make accessible the history of the state. All 41 volumes are now available via the Featured Collections section of the South Dakota State Library’s Digital Collections.

These volumes cover a wide array of topics and are a valuable resource for students, teachers, and scholarly researchers. Six editors presided over the South Dakota Historical Collections during its run, including Doane Robinson, Will G. Robinson and Dayton Canaday. Their different editing styles and interests are evident throughout the volumes. Taken as a whole, the series represents an evolution in perspectives on the state’s history, heritage and culture. In 1989, an index to the collection was compiled and published to aid researchers.

The South Dakota State Library serves as the state’s depository for current and historical state agency publications, some of which go back to territorial days.

The South Dakota State Library’s Digital Collections reflect the history and culture of South Dakota. Primarily of interest to librarians, researchers, and genealogists, the digital collections include newspaper articles, South Dakota library photographs, state government annual reports and research reports, South Dakota Codified Laws, Session Laws, House and Senate Journals and more. Access the collections at: sdsdl-montage.auto-graphics.com/.

CRAZY ABOUT CO-OPS



Entertainer and Mount Vernon Mayor Weston Frank bears a co-op logo on his forearm in memory of his great grandfather.

South Dakota's cooperative leaders leave a legacy of service in local communities throughout the state

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Some people place a lot of faith and belief in the cooperative way of doing business.

And then some people don't mind letting the world know exactly where they stand on cooperatives and what they represent.

When Weston Frank pulls up his shirt sleeve, everyone can see how much cooperatives mean to him. He has the word "COOP" tattooed in big, bold letters right there on his forearm.

Frank, who is mayor of Mount Vernon and an entertainer well-known throughout the state, had the cooperative logo inked into his arm for a special reason. He got the tat in memory of his great grandfather,

Howard Frank, who started working at the ag co-op in Wessington Springs after his gas station business burned to the ground. He eventually retired from the co-op in the mid-1990s.

When Weston Frank takes a glance at that image on his arm, he remembers a man who had earned the respect of everyone in his community.

"I love the double circle co-op logo because it's something my great grandfather wore every day. Everyone knew him as a kind and quiet man who would help anyone. He'd stay late to get a job done, then head out to the 281 Junction on Sunday afternoon at the drop of a hat to help a stranded stranger. I never met one person who had something bad to say about him."

As for Weston Frank, the co-op symbol has an even deeper meaning than the memory of his great grandfather.

"That logo stands for a time when men did what they said they would. You could trust the word of your fellow man, and the local co-op board. I have on occasion caught grief from some folks who associate the double circle with poor memories and situations. I always apologize that they feel that way, but the co-op provided for my family for many years without incident. For me, the logo helps me remember the man, the good he did and the love he had for his family."

Cooperatives have been part of South Dakota's landscape for well over 100 years, and have an estimated annual economic impact of \$8 to \$10 billion. Collectively, cooperatives provide an estimated 16,000 jobs for South Dakotans, and contribute almost \$600 million in tax revenue to the state.



The cooperative spirit also runs through the veins of Brenda Forman, executive director of the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives. Her introduction to the co-op world came early in life when she was a girl growing up in Gettysburg where both her grandfather and father served on the Cenex board of directors.

“THAT LOGO STANDS FOR A TIME WHEN MEN DID WHAT THEY SAID THEY WOULD. YOU COULD TRUST THE WORD OF YOUR FELLOW MAN, AND THE LOCAL CO-OP BOARD.”

At the age of 14, Forman landed her first job at the local Cenex station and worked there through high school and college, often filling a spot on the spraying crew. She joined the co-op association 25 years ago and has carried on the mission of serving the association’s members and lauding the many benefits of cooperative businesses, including telecommunications, farm supply, marketing and electric organizations.

Her father, Richard Mangin, held a position on the Cenex board for



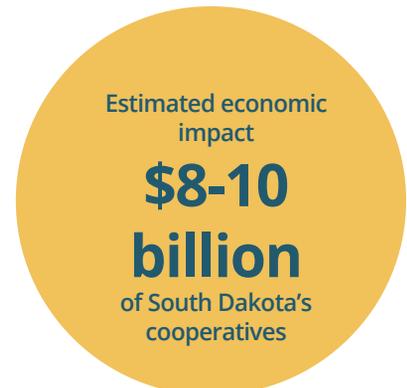
South Dakota Cooperative Association Hall of Famer Charles Birkholt served as general manager of Cam Wal Electric Cooperative for the last eight of his 45 years there. After retiring from Cam Wal, Birkholt served on the board of Venture Telecommunications.

25 years. At the end of December each year, she would accompany her dad down to the co-op to help take inventory.

“On the way over we’d talk about the co-op and how it got started and why he served on the board, to help people,” Forman recalled. “Something that touched me deeply happened when a gentleman came up to me once and I told him I was from Gettysburg. He said he knew my dad and they worked on the Cenex board together. He looked around at the other people and told them I come from good stock. That was one heckuva of a compliment, coming from someone who thought that much of my dad and granddad and their involvement in the co-op.”

Charles Birkholt is a member of the SDAC Hall of Fame and has served consumers of both a telecommunications co-op and an electric co-op. Back in 1952, Birkholt joined Cam Wal Electric in Selby as a groundsman at the rate of 85 cents an hour. He climbed his way up to manager and recalls farmers complaining about their \$5 monthly power bills. He later retired after 45 years of service at Cam Wal.

But Birkholt wasn’t done yet. Shortly after retiring 20 years ago, he joined the board of Venture Communications.



“I enjoyed working at both co-ops and being able to see things on both sides of the board table,” he said. “It gives you different things to think about and makes you understand you have to keep an open mind. But in both positions, you’re working to improve the service and your relationship with your members.”

Birkholt said he encourages all cooperative members, employees and leaders across the state to pause a moment during Co-op Month in October to reflect on the importance of these not-for-profit organizations.

“The consumer is our primary goal, our only reason for existing. That is very unique and isn’t the case for investor-owned enterprises. We’re the underdogs, so that just means we have to work harder,” he said.



**Pheasant Hunting Season
Opening Day
October 16, 2021**

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.

**SEPTEMBER 25
Great Downtown
Pumpkin Festival**

526 Main Street, Rapid City, SD,
605-716-7979

**SEPTEMBER 25-26
Menno Pioneer Power Show**

Menno, SD, contact Daniel at
mennopowershow@yahoo.com
for more details

**SEPTEMBER 25-26
Reza: Edge of Illusion**

Oscar Larson Performing Arts
Center, Brookings, SD, tickets
on sale at
<http://www.RezaLive.com>

**SEPTEMBER 30
7th Annual Taste of
Sioux Falls**

Washington Pavilion, Sioux
Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

**SEPTEMBER 30 -
OCTOBER 3**

Festival of Books
Various Locations, Deadwood,
SD, 605-688-6113

**OCTOBER 1-2
Oktoberfest**

Various Locations, Deadwood,
SD, 605-578-1876

**OCTOBER 1-3
SiouxperCon**

1201 N West Avenue, Sioux
Falls, SD, visit siouxpercon.com
for more details and tickets

**OCTOBER 7-10
Annual Great
Scarecrow Festival**

Campbell Park, Huron, SD,
605-354-0491

**OCTOBER 8
Lake Region Marching Band
Festival**

Groton, SD, 605-846-7607

**OCTOBER 8-9
Junkin' Market Days**

W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux
Falls, SD, 605-941-4958

**OCTOBER 9
Pumpkin Festival**

City Park, Groton, SD,
605-846-7607

**OCTOBER 9-10
Sioux Falls Quilters' Guild
Bi-annual Quilt Show - "Fall
in Love with Quilting"**

Sioux Falls Convention Center,
Sioux Falls, SD, for more info
visit siouxfallsquiltersguild.com
or send an email to
sfqg2021show@gmail.com

**OCTOBER 11
Native American Day
Celebration**

Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy
Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

**OCTOBER 16-17
Heartland Quilter's Guild**

Highland Conference Center,
Mitchell SD, Contact Karen at
605-996-6726 for more info

**OCTOBER 16-17
KELOLAND Living Arts
& Crafts Show**

Best Western Plus Exhibit Hall
& Annex, Sioux Falls, SD, email
events@keloland.com for
more info

**OCTOBER 23
Ladies Day at
the Crossing Bar**

Crossing Bar, Mina, SD,
featuring vendors and door
prizes, 605-390-2939

**OCTOBER 29
Downtown Trick or Treat**

Downtown Area, Groton, SD,
605-846-7607

**OCTOBER 30
16th Holiday Shopping
Extravaganza**

Davison County Fairgrounds,
Mitchell, SD, call Cindy at
605-999-8563 for more info

**OCTOBER 30
Scare in the Square**

Main Street Square, Rapid City,
SD, 605-716-7979

**OCTOBER 30
Yankton's Harvest
Halloween**

Downtown, Yankton, SD, email
mandi@bostonsyankton.com
for more info

**NOVEMBER 25
Community Thanksgiving**

Community Center, Groton,
SD, 605-846-7607

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