

Cooperative Connections



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Ahead:
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Is Key**

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Election Day 2018 Is November 6

Don't Make This The Worst Election Ever



Ben Dunsmoor

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Turnout, for the last two gubernatorial elections...has been the worst in recent history.

The last few weeks of summer in South Dakota bring us fairs and festivals and preparations for the upcoming harvest. But, during even-numbered years in South Dakota (2018, 2016, 2014, etc...) Labor Day weekend and those waning days of summer often signal the unofficial kickoff to campaign season. This is the time of year when colorful campaign signs litter front yards and highway ditches, the debate season starts to heat up and knocks on your front door may result in a face-to-face conversation with one of the candidates on the ballot.

This fall, South Dakotans will elect a new governor and a new member of Congress. Both of these decisions are very important; however, statistics show South Dakota voters don't make gubernatorial election years as much of a priority as presidential election years. I ask you to turn that trend around this fall.

Voter turnout during non-presidential election years tends to be lower than presidential election years. According to statistics from the South Dakota Secretary of State's office, the average voter turnout for the last eight presidential elections was 72 percent. The last eight non-presidential elections, which are years when South Dakotans elect a governor, averaged a 64 percent voter turnout. Turnout, for the last two gubernatorial elections, however, has been the worst in recent history with only 52 percent of voters showing up to elect Governor Dennis Daugaard in 2010 and 53 percent of voters turning out to re-elect Daugaard in 2014.

Voting for the President of the United States is a very important responsibility and 70 percent of South Dakotans showed up to vote for the last two presidents. But, I would argue that voting for South Dakota's governor is just as important - if not more important - than voting for president. The governor's decisions have a direct impact on the voters of South Dakota. The governor leads new policy initiatives for the state. The governor is the chief executive of the state of South Dakota and the actions of the governor hit closer to home for most voters.

This year, South Dakotans have a prime opportunity to decide who they would like to lead their state during a very important non-presidential election year. Republican Congresswoman Kristi Noem is stepping away from Washington D.C. to run for governor against Democrat Billie Sutton. South Dakotans have the chance to elect a brand-new governor on November 6.

Because Rep. Noem is running for governor, South Dakotans also have the rare chance to fill the state's only seat in the U.S. House of Representatives without an incumbent on the ballot. Neither Republican Dusty Johnson nor Democrat Tim Bjorkman have served in Washington D.C. The last time South Dakotans had that chance was during the 2004 special election when Democrat Stephanie Herseth defeated Republican Larry Diedrich following the resignation of former Governor and Congressman Bill Janklow.

So, this fall I ask you not to make this the worst non-presidential election ever when it comes to voter turnout. I ask you to pay attention to the debates on TV, learn about the candidates running for office, and show up to vote on November 6. South Dakota voters have a rare chance this fall to hit the reset button in both Pierre and Washington D.C. and the decisions you make on Election Day 2018 will have a ripple effect on you and your fellow South Dakotans for years to come.



(USPS 396-040)

Board President: Donna Sharp

Board of Directors

- Randy Kienow – Vice President
- Glen Larson – Secretary
- Wayne Holt – Treasurer
- Fran Esser
- Victor Fischbach
- Josh Larson
- Mark Sumption
- Nolan Wipf

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

Chief Financial Officer: Cathi Podoll

Operations Manager: Mike Kelly

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

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Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held July 19, 2018, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. As the first order of business, the Board approved the June 22, 2018, minutes and June expenditures. The Board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports from management including details on financial, operations, member services, safety, communications and IT.

Directors viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative video report. East River Director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the July 5, 2018, meeting. General Manager Char Hager reported on the East River MAC Meeting she attended July 3, 2018, in Madison. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported on the SDREA board meeting he attended June 28-29, 2018, in Pierre.

Manager's Report

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

- Update and discussion on new and progressing development projects.
- Update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund.
- Legal and Legislative report from General Manager Char Hager and Attorney Harvey Oliver on the SDREA Legal Seminar they attended, July 10-11, 2018, in Pierre.
- Discussion on staff preparation for the Northern Electric Annual Meeting, September 12, 2018, in Aberdeen.
- Reminded directors attending the 2018 East River Annual Meeting, September 5, in Sioux Falls.
- Informed directors of the 2018 Mid-West Electric Consumers Association Annual Meeting, December 10-13 in Denver, CO.
- Informed directors of the 16th Annual Line

Patrol Charity Ride, September 7-8, 2018, at Rapid City, SD.

Board Report

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Approved date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 23, 2018.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$271.58.
3. Approved Work Order Inventories #18-06 for \$37,628.16 and #18-06MC for \$34,313.64 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 2018 Basin Electric Annual Meeting, November 6-8, in Bismarck. Appointed Director Donna Sharp delegate and General Manager Char Hager alternate.
5. Appointed General Manager Char Hager delegate for NRECA, CFC, Federated, RESCO and NISC for the 2018 NRECA Regional Meetings, September 17-19, Minneapolis, MN.
6. Appointed Director Mark Sumption voting delegate for the Basin Electric District 1 Nominating Caucus.
7. Approved annual special and general capital credit retirements for members age 70 and over. Estimated retirements will total \$400,763.01.
8. Approved resolution for the REED, Inc. loan application by Allevery Adventure Zone, LLC.
9. Approved revision to existing policy P-18E, to be effective as of July 19, 2018.

Ask your cooperative manager, staff member or director for details on any of these matters.

Financial Report	June 2018	June 2017
kWh Sales	21,948,594 kWh	21,082,370 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,161,226	\$2,154,472
Total Cost of Service	\$2,163,459	\$2,124,294
Operating Margins	(-\$2,233)	\$30,178
Year To Date Margins	\$274,784	\$30,111

Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill

June 2018	1,432 kWh	\$180.31	.1259 per kWh
June 2017	1,306 kWh	\$158.94	.1217 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 82.9% of NEC's total cost of service.

College Bound?

Keep Safety in Mind

There are several specific causes for fires on in on- and off-campus college housing, including cooking, candles, smoking and overloaded power strips. For most students, the last fire safety training they received was in grade school, but with new independence comes new responsibilities. It is important that both off-campus and on-campus students know their fire risks and prevention actions that could save their lives.

Cooking

- Cook only where it is allowed.
- Keep your cooking area clean and free of anything that can burn.
- Keep an eye on what you are cooking, especially if you are cooking at high temperatures.
- If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.

Candles

- Place candles in sturdy holders.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Keep candles away from anything that can burn.
- Use safe flameless candles.

Smoking

- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.
- Use deep, wide ashtrays. Place ashtrays on something sturdy and hard to burn.
- After a party, check for cigarette butts, especially under cushions. Chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast.
- Don't smoke when you have been drinking or are drowsy.

Electrical safety

- Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything that can burn.
- Never use an extension cord with large appliances, like a refrigerator.
- Do not overload outlets.
- Use only surge protectors or power strips that have internal overload protection.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/college.html>

Are You Registered?

National Voter Registration Day is a national holiday celebrating our democracy. It was first observed in 2012 and has been growing in popularity every year since. Held on the fourth Tuesday of September, National Voter Registration Day will be observed on Tuesday, Sept. 25, this year. The holiday has been endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). It is further supported by the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED).

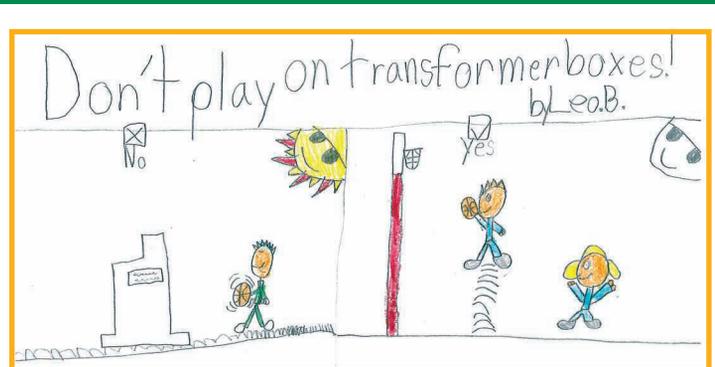
South Dakotans seeking to vote in the Nov. 6 general election must be a U.S. citizen residing in South Dakota and be 18 years old on or before Election Day. Voter registration forms must be received by the county auditor 15 days before the election day. Additionally, those seeking to vote may register at the county auditor's office, a driver's license station, city finance office, public assistance agencies providing food stamps, TANF or WIC, Department of Human Services offices which provide assistance to the disabled or military recruitment offices.

Minnesotans must be a resident of the state for 20 days prior to the election. They can register online, in person or on election day.

For more information, visit <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/> or call the Minnesota Secretary of State's office at 1-877-600-VOTE (8683) or contact your county election office.



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Don't play on transformer boxes."

Leo Bakeberg IV, Second-grader at Dupree Public School

Leo is the son of Leo Bakeburg and Amanda Grewe, Dupree, S.D. They are members of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Timber Lake, 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.

Garden Goodness

Cheesy Sausage and Potato Skillet Casserole

8 oz. bulk breakfast sausage, crumbled	1/4 tsp. McCormick® Black Pepper, Coarse Ground
1 medium onion, chopped	1-1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
1 medium green bell pepper, chopped	1 cup crumbled feta cheese
6 eggs	2 plum tomatoes, seeded and chopped
1 cup milk	1 T. oil
1 T. McCormick® Oregano Leaves	1 (20 oz.) pkg. refrigerated shredded hash browns
1/2 tsp. salt	

Cook and stir sausage in large skillet on medium heat 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Add onion and bell pepper; cook and stir 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Set aside. Beat eggs in large bowl with wire whisk. Add milk, oregano, salt and pepper; mix well. Add sausage mixture, cheeses and tomatoes; mix well. Set aside. Pour oil into same skillet, swirling to coat the pan. Spread hash browns in bottom and up sides of pan. Pour egg mixture over potatoes. Cover. Cook on medium heat 10 to 15 minutes or until eggs are set. Makes 12 servings

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 221, Total Fat 13g, Saturated Fat 6g, Cholesterol 122mg, Sodium 477mg, Protein 12g, Carbohydrates 14g, Dietary Fiber 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Zucchini Hot Dish

1 medium unpeeled zucchini, washed, seeded and cut into chunks	Sliced onion
1-1/4 cups uncooked rice	Sliced green pepper
Fresh sliced tomatoes	American cheese slices
	Uncooked bacon

Spray a 10x10-inch casserole dish. Layer zucchini chunks in bottom of pan. Sprinkle rice over top of zucchini. Place a layer of tomatoes, sprinkled with oregano, salt and pepper over rice. Next, top this with a layer of onion, green pepper and cheese slices. Lastly, place layer of bacon over all. Bake, covered, at 350°F. for 1-1/2 hours. The raw ingredients will provide enough moisture to cook the rice.

Gail Lyngstad, Pierre, SD

Sandi's Tomato Garden Salad

3/4 cup sugar	6 large tomatoes, coarsely chopped
1/2 cup olive oil	1 large onion, coarsely chopped
2/3 cup tarragon vinegar	2 green peppers, coarsely chopped
2 T. yellow mustard	2 cucumbers, coarsely chopped (optional)
2 T. parsley	Rotini noodles, cooked
1 tsp. basil	
1 tsp. thyme	
Salt and pepper to taste	

In a large bowl, mix together first 8 ingredients. Add vegetables. Refrigerate overnight.

Sandi Polkinghorn, Lake City, SD

Apple Corn Bread Crisp

4 cups peeled, sliced tart apples, about 4 to 5 medium	1 (8.5 oz.) pkg. corn bread/muffin mix
3/4 cup packed brown sugar, divided	1 tsp. ground cinnamon (or to taste)
1/2 cup quick-cooking oats	5 T. cold butter, cubed

Stir together apples and 1/4 cup brown sugar. In another bowl, combine corn bread mix, oats, cinnamon and remaining brown sugar. Cut in butter until crumbly. Add 1/2 cup corn bread mixture to apples. Transfer to a greased 8-inch square baking dish. Sprinkle remaining corn bread mixture over top. Bake at 350°F. for 30 to 35 minutes or until filling is bubbly and topping golden brown. Serve warm.

Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN

Please send your favorite pasta, slow cooker and holiday favorites 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 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



Northern Electric Journeyman Lineman Chris Piehl creates an electrical arc for Spink County first responders on July 10 to demonstrate the dangers of a 7,200-volt power line.

POWERFUL TRAINING

Spink County First Responders Get First-Hand Training on Electrical Safety

Ben Dunsmoor

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The first task of a first responder at an emergency is to ensure the scene is safe for firefighters, paramedics, and the public. And, when that emergency involves electricity it's crucial that first responders know the proper safety steps to take around power lines and meters.

"It's one of those things that slows down any rescue because guys are pretty cognizant about making sure the power is shut off," Spink County Emergency Manager Larry Tebben said.

Almost 40 first responders from Spink County received first-hand training on electrical emergencies during a nearly two-hour evening session at the Northern Electric Cooperative office in Redfield on July 10.

"Typically, that is one of the first calls I make, after my mutual aid, is to the utilities," Conde Fire Chief Dave DeBarge said.

At least one representative from almost every Spink County volunteer fire department or emergency response agency attended the training in July.



Journeyman Lineman Chris Piehl explains the different equipment used to provide electricity to a home, farm, or business.

“They like all the training they can get to make their job as safe as possible,” Tebben said.

Training on electrical hazards during emergencies can be rare for many rural emergency responders, which is the reason Northern Electric Cooperative hosted the July 10 event. Spink County Emergency Manager Larry Tebben said he doesn't remember a training session which focused specifically on electrical emergencies during his eight years as emergency manager.

“They (Spink County first responders) definitely thought what you were teaching was something worth going to,” Tebben said.

The first hour of the training focused on five main electrical hazards response crews may encounter when they arrive at the scene of an emergency. One of the topics of discussion was a practice called ‘pulling meters.’ Some first responders attempt to shut off power to a home, shop, or business by pulling the electric meter from the socket. However, pulling certain models of meters does not always shut off the power which can create a dangerous situation. Northern Electric crews showed

the first responders in attendance the proper way to shut off the power to a home or farm without pulling the meter.

“I think a lot of guys had it in their head that pulling the meter took care of it,” DeBarge said. “Sharing that information of what to do was pretty important.”

“I thought it was pretty important that first responders get that first-eye view of these electrical hazards.”

First responders also learned the proper steps to take when a vehicle crashes into a power line, how to handle fires on power poles, and the proper safety steps to follow when working around damaged underground transformers.

Following the discussion on electrical hazards, the Northern Electric line crew

in Redfield conducted a live high-voltage demonstration using a safety trailer which shows the dangers of contacting a 7,200-volt power line. The Redfield line crew used grapefruits, cucumbers, and hot dogs to show the devastating effect of high-voltage electricity on the human body.

“I thought it was pretty important that first responders get that first-eye view of these electrical hazards,” DeBarge said.

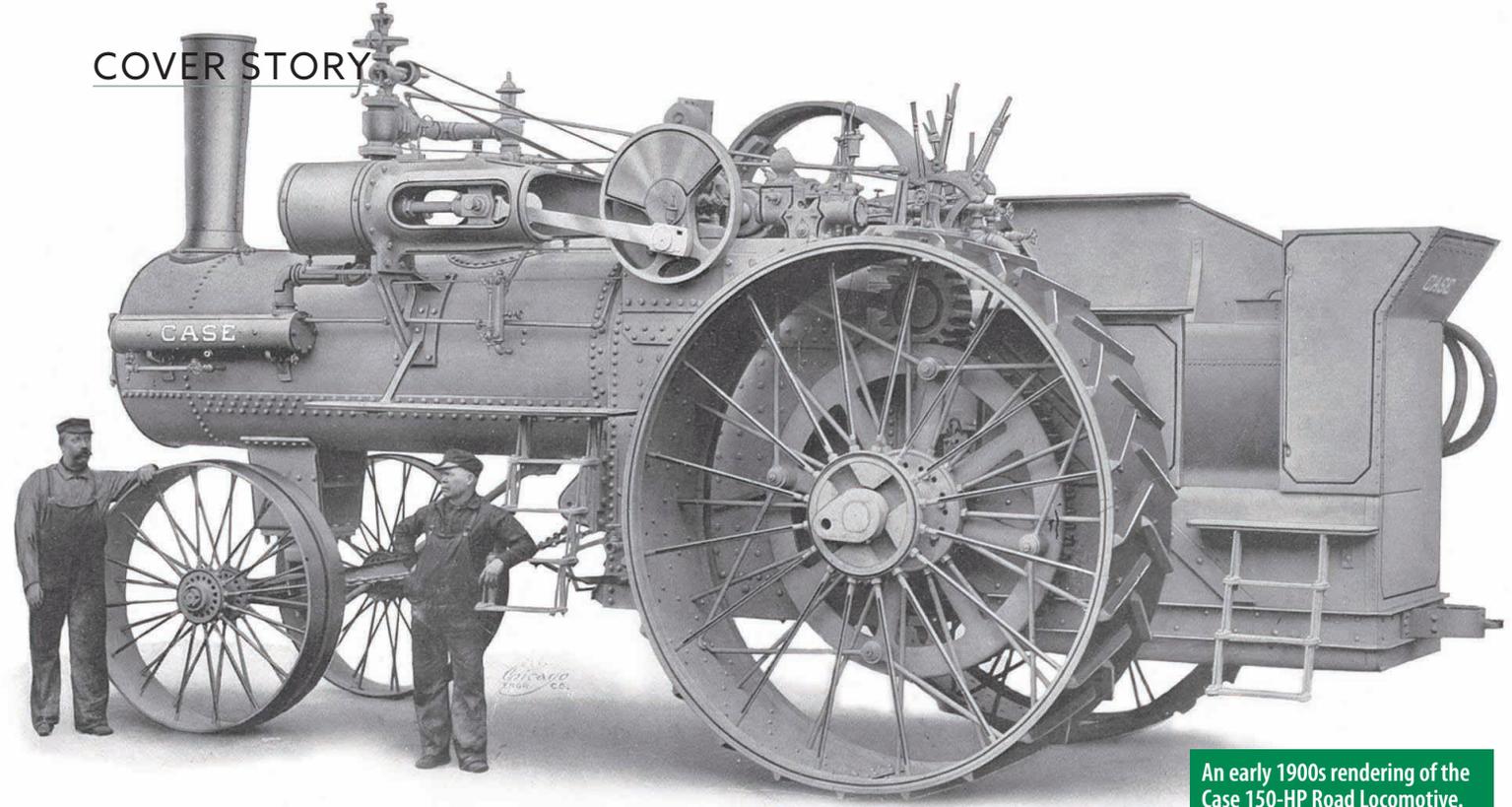
This was the first time Northern Electric Cooperative held a safety training for first responders in Spink County. Northern Electric hosted a similar training in Brown County in 2017. The co-op hopes to make first-responder training an annual event because of the importance of the information that is shared.

“Electricity is a powerful tool and if we do not respect the power of electricity one wrong decision can be the difference between life and death,” Northern Electric Operations Manager Mike Kelly said.

Which is the reason electrical safety is a critical component for crews responding to an emergency.



Journeyman Lineman Shawn Evans talks with first responders about the different types of meters that are installed throughout the cooperative service territory.



An early 1900s rendering of the Case 150-HP Road Locomotive.

STEAM POWER DREAM

Recreating the Case 150-HP Road Locomotive

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

A legacy preserved in pictures and technical drawings has been brought back to life and debuts Sept. 7-9 at the James Valley Threshing and Tractor Club Show at Andover, S.D.

More than 100 years ago, the largest steam tractor ever produced – the 150-horsepower Case Road Locomotive – rolled off the drawing boards and onto the landscape. Fewer than 10 were produced and the behemoth's sheer power created technical issues for its ongoing reliability. But despite the issues that would eventually silence its massive engine, the giant – its rear wheels stood 8 feet tall and the front wheels reached the shoulders of a full-grown man – made an impression on Kory Anderson.

Anderson, an entrepreneur and mechanical engineer started with an idea 12 years ago to build a scale-model replica of the 25-foot, 10-foot wide machine. He spent the ensuing years researching the machine – including a visit to the Case archives in Wisconsin, recreating the drawings in CAD and researching what materials would overcome the original issues caused by lack of metallurgical advancements 100 years ago.

Anderson crafted mahogany molds for the parts that would need to be cast at Dakota Foundry in Webster. The services of an Amish boilermaker in Ohio would be secured.

The machine's rear wheels – each standing 8 feet tall and



Kory Anderson, right, an entrepreneur and mechanical engineer, is bringing to life a replica of the Case 150-HP Road Locomotive.

Case 150-HP Road Locomotive Specifications

from the Case archive documents:

- **BOILER** - Shell 42 inches in diameter.
- **TUBES** - Ninety-three 2 inch tubes, 108 1/2 inches long, of cold drawn, seamless steel tubing
- **FIRE BOX** - 58 1/4 inches long, 39 1/4 inches wide, and 45 inches high, made of the best open-hearth flange steel.
- **HEATING SURFACE** of boiler, 515 square feet. Grate area of boiler is 15.8 square feet.
- **BOILER PRESSURE** - The boiler tested at 350 pounds hydrostatic pressure, and can carry 160 pounds as a working pressure.
- **WATER TANK** - The capacity of the tank is about 500 gallons
- **WATER FEED** - An ejector will fill the water tank in eight minutes from any stream or other accessible water supply
- **FUEL CAPACITY** - The coal capacity is about 2,750 pounds.
- **ENGINE CYLINDER** - 14 inches diameter by 14 inch stroke.
- **HORSE POWER** - The engine easily develops 150 brake horse power running at its normal speed of 300 revolutions per minute.
- **TRACTION POWER** - The engine has been built for heavy hauling purposes and is capable of drawing 40 to 50 tons up grades from 5 percent to 10 percent. The engine itself, not loaded, will go up a 40 percent grade.

www.jamesvalleythreshers.com/case150.htm

Photos by Anderson Industries, LLC



Kory Anderson, left, and Gary Bradley stand next to some of the inner workings of the steam powered Case. Cover: Michael Dean Bradley and Gary Bradley pose by the hulking Case 150-HP Road Locomotive.

measuring 3 feet wide – would need to be fabricated. Finished, they would weigh three tons each. Parts would be painted, lettering and graphics would be applied. And thousands of hours would be spent breathing life into a machine not heard from since the 1920s.

In the age of railroads and horse-drawn power, the turn of the 20th century saw some innovative tractors that would transform the agriculture. The Case Road Locomotive had the potential to eclipse them all. Designed to move heavy loads where rail lines didn't exist, it was used to haul copper ore in New Mexico, and was used for jobs ranging from plowing beet fields, threshing and hauling stone from a quarry in states including Georgia, Kansas,

Kentucky, New York and Wisconsin.

The thing was built for power, if not speed. (In low gear, it crawled along at just over 2.5 miles an hour, while high speed doubled the pace, reaching more than 5.6 miles per hour.)

While the original machine sold for around \$4,000 in 1904 (roughly four times the cost of a 1904 Cadillac). The 2018 version will cost considerably more: an estimated \$1 million.

For more about the build, visit <https://www.facebook.com/Anderson-Industries-LLC-115448931876302/>

For more about the Threshing Show, go to <https://www.facebook.com/jvthreshers/> or <http://www.jamesvalleythreshers.com/>



Among those lending a hand to the project's build are Mark Knox, left, and Bob Johnson, second from right. Johnson is system support/member services manager at Codington-Clark Electric in Watertown.

Youth Get An Inside Look At Co-op Power

Ben Dunsmoor

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Nearly 50 teens from across South Dakota got to see what it takes to generate the electricity they depend on every day during the 2018 Youth Excursion to Bismarck, North Dakota.

“This is the power behind charging up their cell phone or their hot shower,” South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director of Communications and Member Relations Brenda Kleinjan said. “They get to see what is on the other end.”

High school students from eight South Dakota electric cooperatives, including 13 students from Northern Electric Cooperative, boarded a bus on July 23 for the four-day tour. The students stayed at Bismarck State College and participated in several hands-on experiments and presentations. During one of the activities the teens got to operate a power plant simulator and experience what it takes to run a boiler-powered electric generation unit.

The students also got an up-close look at the various ways electricity is generated during the 2018 Youth Excursion. The teens toured the North American Coal Freedom Mine and Basin Electric Power Cooperative’s Antelope Valley Station power plant. Students also viewed a wind farm north of Bismarck and a solar array which generates electricity for Bismarck



The 2018 Youth Excursion group included 49 teens from eight South Dakota electric cooperatives.

State College. The four-day excursion gave teens a comprehensive look at electric generation while exposing them to all the career possibilities along the line.

“The goal of Youth Excursion is to bring our future co-op members, board members, and future employees together to explore their energy sources,” Kleinjan said.

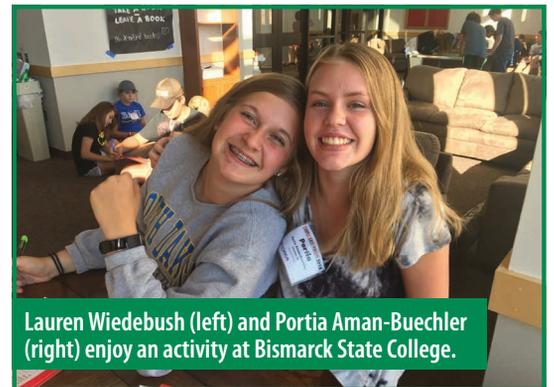
Grace Hagen, who will be a senior this fall at Warner High School, said the trip was fun and informative.

“It was really cool,” Hagen said. “You’ll find your interests somewhere (on the trip).”

Aberdeen Central Senior Malee Olson said the tour of Basin Electric’s Antelope Valley Station was one of her favorites.

“That (boiler) was impressive. I wouldn’t think it would hang from the ceiling.”

Olson also enjoyed



Lauren Wiedebush (left) and Portia Aman-Buechler (right) enjoy an activity at Bismarck State College.

the evening activities which included a trip to Raging Rivers Waterpark in Mandan, North Dakota.

“I liked the waterpark and the huge slides.”

On the final night of Youth Excursion, the students got to unwind with some trivia and music led by a co-op employee who works for National Information Solutions Cooperative. NISC is an information technology cooperative that develops software for electric co-ops. NISC has an office in Mandan.

Olson said the trip exceeded her expectations and she would recommend Youth Excursion to other students.

“You may think it’s boring but just do it. It’s fun.”



Students view the solar array at Bismarck State College.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Members of Northern Electric Cooperative Inc.

The **Annual Meeting of the members of Northern Electric Cooperative Inc.** will be held at the Aberdeen Civic Arena and Theatre in the City of Aberdeen, State of South Dakota, on the **12th day of September, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.** to take action on the following matters:

- Reports of officers, directors, and committees
- Election of three directors
- To discuss and act upon any other business

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that although Directors for Districts 1, 3, and 8 will be elected by the membership at the meeting, paper ballots will not be needed. Incumbent directors Mark Sumption (District 1) and Francis Esser (District 8) and member Ronald A. Kaaz (District 3) are the only eligible candidates for their Districts. Each of the eligible candidates is running unopposed. Since no other nominations can be submitted, the candidates will be automatically elected at the annual meeting.

2018 Northern Electric Cooperative Board of Director Candidates

District 1
Mark Sumption
 Frederick, SD

District 3
Ronald A. Kaaz
 Aberdeen, SD

District 8
Francis Esser
 Redfield, SD

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Secretary has posted such nominations in the principal office of the Cooperative.

Glen Larson
 Secretary

July 19, 2018

2018 Annual Meeting



Northern Electric
 Cooperative
 A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Member Owned Member Focused

September 12, 2018

Aberdeen Civic Arena & Theatre

5:00-6:30 p.m. FREE Meal & Energy Expo

6:30 p.m. Business Meeting



Power in Preparation

Co-ops Committed to Preparedness Every Day

Derrill Holly

NRECA

Preparation is the key to success in many things we do in life. Planning, practice and thoughtful assessment provide opportunities to work out potential problems in advance.

September is National Preparedness Month, and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency is encouraging all of us to prepare for emergencies. But most of us do better when we prepare for the routine, the extraordinary and the unexpected.

For electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota, preparation plays a huge role in ensuring that our members have the electricity they need as soon as they flip a light switch or start an appliance.

When a co-op crew pulls a truck into a loading bay, warehouse workers have already pulled the parts and equipment needed for that crew's scheduled day's work. When a member services representative discusses balanced billing by telephone, they're helping a member with preparations to ease the impact of seasonal high bills.

When meteorologists call for exceptionally hot or cold weather, electric co-ops work closely with their generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) to ensure adequate supplies of electricity are reserved to meet anticipated demand.

South Dakota and western Minnesota electric co-ops are constantly preparing for the future. Engineers and construction crews design, build and upgrade the electric system to move electricity from

Be Prepared Before the Storm

Here are some basic items you should store in your home in case of emergency:

-  **Water:** Three day supply, one gallon per person per day
-  **Food:** Three day supply, non-perishable, high-energy
-  **Clothing, bedding, and sanitation supplies**
-  **Tools:** Can opener, plates, utensils, flashlight, batteries, cash, bleach, hand sanitizer
-  **First aid supplies, medicine**
-  **Important documents**

Visit
redcross.org/domore
to learn more about
disaster kits.

Photo Caption.

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency

power plants and substations to farms, homes and businesses.

All of these actions prepare electric co-ops to deal with the daily challenges of meeting the electricity needs of their members. But working together, we put in just as much effort preparing for the uncertainties posed by flooding, tornadoes, wildfires, high winds, blizzards and ice storms. Electric co-ops maintain and constantly update emergency response plans. Employees train for major events and know in advance what their primary and secondary roles would be. Electric co-ops also subscribe to mutual aid agreements. That's why you see trucks and crews from co-ops in other states in your communities when major power outages occur.

We also work with state and national

officials to help ensure that crews can get to your communities when they are needed and have the lodging, food and support necessary to work effectively far from home.

September may be National Preparedness Month, but the region's electric cooperatives are committed to preparedness every day – for the routine, the extraordinary and the unexpected.

Derrill Holly writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.

Are You Ready?

The heat of August and September make it hard to remember that winter snows will be here before we know it.

The South Dakota Office of Emergency Management offers the following preparedness tips:

Winter storms, especially blizzards, can be very dangerous. Preparing before extremely cold, snowy weather occurs can save your life. Know what winter storm watches and warnings mean. If a Winter Storm Watch has been issued for your area, hazardous winter weather conditions (such as snow greater than 6 inches in 24 hours, winds gusting over 35 mph, or visibilities less than a 1/4 mile) are expected in the next 12 to 36 hours. A Winter Storm Warning means the conditions listed for the Watch exist.

Try to stay indoors during a blizzard. If you have to go outside to check on animals or for another reason, be sure to dress warmly in loose fitting layers of clothing.

Wear heavy gloves to protect your hands and heavy socks with boots that will not absorb water. Cover your mouth so that you don't breathe in freezing cold air that can damage your lungs. Keep your body dry.

Know the signs of hypothermia or frostbite.

If you are traveling at all when a winter storm is possible, then you should always bring emergency supplies with you. You can never predict when you might get stranded and need them. If stranded, make sure you stay in your vehicle. Run your vehicle about 10 minutes every hour. Open windows a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Make yourself visible to rescuers by turning on the dome light at night, tie a colored cloth to your antenna, and raise the hood after the snow stops falling.

If you are caught outside, find a dry shelter and cover all exposed parts of the body. If shelter is not available, prepare a lean-to, wind break, or snow-cave for protection from the wind.

Build a fire for heat and to attract attention. Place rocks around the fire to absorb and reflect heat. Do not eat snow, it will lower your body temperature. Melt it first.

Weather related dangers can be very unexpected. Being prepared for a potential hazardous situation could save your life.



Supply Kit

Prepare your family for any disaster by putting together an emergency supply kit. Make sure your kit is always ready, easily accessible and stored in a durable container.

Recommended Kit Supplies

- Water, one gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt to help filter the air
- Moist towelettes for sanitation
- Wrench or pliers
- Can opener for food
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Unique family needs, such as daily prescriptions, infant formula or diapers, and copies of important family documents
- Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation

Other Items to Include

- Change of clothing
- Sleeping bag or blanket
- Hat, mitten, scarf
- Waterproof matches
- Toys, books, puzzles, games
- Extra house and car keys
- List of contact names and numbers
- Sturdy shoes
- Gloves for clearing debris
- Tent
- Fuel for cooking
- Plastic knives, forks, spoons
- Paper plates and cups
- Paper towels
- Heavy-duty aluminum foil
- Hand sanitizer
- Bar soap and liquid detergent
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Feminine supplies
- Toilet paper
- Household bleach with no additives
- Newspaper to wrap garbage and waste
- Ax, shovel, broom
- Screwdriver, hammer
- Coil of one-half inch rope
- Knife or razor blades
- Garden hose for siphoning and fire fighting

Source: <https://dps.sd.gov/emergency-services/emergency-management/preparedness>

2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to the notice to all members, the 70th Annual Meeting of the membership of Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held in the Aberdeen Civic Arena and Theatre on the 13th day of September 2017, at 6:30 p.m. with registration commencing at 5:00 p.m.

Nearly 600 members and guests were served a buffet dinner before the business meeting. An electric products and services expo was also held.

Following the National Anthem, Chairman Mike McHugh called the meeting to order. The Chairman then called on Director Francis Esser from District 8 in Redfield to deliver the invocation. General Manager Char Hager and Chairman McHugh then recognized guests, directors and officers of the board.

Secretary Randy Kienow declared a quorum was present, with the official registration being 223. He then gave a report on petitions for nominees. Kienow stated that petitions were received for the following Director candidates: District 4, Josh Larson, Columbia & Tanya Torguson, Bath; District 6, Randy Kienow, Aberdeen, and District 7, Victor Fischbach, Mellette.

Chairman McHugh called for the Secretary's report. Upon motion, the reading of the minutes of Northern Electric Cooperative's 69th Annual Meeting was waived and the minutes, as previously mailed to all of the members prior to this meeting, were approved as printed and mailed.

Treasurer Wayne Holt stated that the financial statements printed in the annual report represented an accurate reflection of the audited financial status of the Cooperative, as of December 31, 2016. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Chairman McHugh called for any unfinished or old business. There was none. McHugh and General Manager Char Hager began their presentation.

In combined President/Manager reports, McHugh and Hager stated:

The Road to New Opportunity is the theme of the 2017 annual meeting as we take a look at the changes that have happened at the cooperative over the past year and some of the new opportunities that lie ahead in the future.

This is our 70th Annual Meeting. Just like the very first meeting there are many challenges facing electric cooperatives today. Whether those challenges lie in new regulations, rates, or rural development, electric co-ops remain strong as we try to turn those challenges into new opportunities.

Those opportunities include ways to use elec-

tricity cost effectively and more efficiently, and new opportunities to help our communities grow and be more prosperous.

As we announced during our 2016 annual meeting. Basin Electric Power Cooperative implemented a mid-year rate increase last year. Basin Electric owns and operates the power plants that generate most of our electricity. As communicated at this meeting last year that rate increase became effective January 1st for Northern Electric because our wholesale power supplier - East River Electric - was able to offset the increase for the remainder of 2016. At this time, Northern Electric has held off the implementation of a permanent rate increase through the continued use of the power cost adjustment or PCA.

This was done to give our staff and our independent engineering firm time to conduct an in depth study of our rates and rate structures. The PCA increase is a way to collect the revenue required to meet our operating costs and lender requirements. Currently we are evaluating all costs and rate structures. We do anticipate changes in some rates and rate components, and plan to have the changes in place by January 1, 2018. At that time we plan to lower the PCA to zero.

Many of the current rate structures were initially implemented in the 1980's and 1990's. Since that time, the power needs of our members and their usage has increased.

To give you a brief overview of how Northern Electric Cooperative operates I would like you to look at this chart. Northern Electric is a member of another cooperative known as East River Electric Power Cooperative based in Madison, South Dakota. East River is our wholesale power supplier and we pay an electric bill to East River every month for supplying us with electricity just like you pay your monthly bill to Northern Electric.

East River operates transmission lines and substations that deliver electricity to Northern Electric. East River gets its electricity from Basin Electric in North Dakota as well as the Western Area Power Administration or WAPA which administers the distribution of electricity from the hydropower dams on the Missouri River.

This three-tiered system aims to bring our membership the most reliable and affordable electricity possible.

East River also operates a system called load management which controls more than 70,000 electric loads in homes, farms and businesses across its service territory in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota.

Those loads include appliances such as hot

water heaters, grain bin fans, air conditioners, and irrigation pivots. The load management system cycles these large loads on and off during the day so the loads are not all being used at peak times. Load management allows East River and member co-ops like Northern Electric to avoid paying a premium price for electricity during the times when demand is highest.

Load management and peak demand are components of the analysis being conducted in regards to the Northern Electric rate structure. We anticipate changes in the way the co-op charges members for their use of electricity during these peak times and the amount of demand they place on the system.

East River Power Supply Specialist Jeff Rud joins us now to drill into these rate components and explain how the costs impact the co-op.

As you just heard, demand costs are the largest single component of the power bill Northern Electric pays to East River Electric.

With the rate changes that will be coming for 2018 we will be asking you to help manage those demand costs. If members are using electricity during those peak times the cooperative has to pay a premium price for electricity which in turn will be billed to those specific members who are creating the demand during that peak.

However, by utilizing the load management system Jeff just told us about, there is the opportunity for the cooperative to save money on our purchased power bill from East River which means members will save money on their monthly bill also.

Our member services department has been working hard over the past year to promote, monitor, and maintain the load-management system.

Member services representatives have been installing new load management devices on water heaters, air conditioners, and grain bins. The member services department has also been taking an active role in studying rates.

Our member service department also rolled out a new rebate program this year for third-party irrigation management. The new rebate allows farmers to install third-party irrigation management systems on their pivots. The system allows farmers to remotely control their irrigation pivots with a tablet or smart device.

This allows farmers to turn their systems on and off with their smart device at times of peak demand. East River notifies farmers about these peak times through text messages or email notifications. Members can get a \$750 rebate for every third-party irrigation management device installed.

The Northern Electric Operations Department led by Mike Kelly has been working hard over the past year to upgrade infrastructure and build new lines to bring reliable power to your homes, farms, and businesses.

Northern Electric currently maintains nearly 3,000 miles of line.

Our crews replaced 245 distribution poles, upgraded another 158 services to accommodate more electric load, and built 90 new electric services in Brown and Spink counties in 2016.

The operations department is also working on electronic GIS mapping that will allow employees to have access to the most current version of our distribution system map.

The new mapping system will work hand in hand with the outage management system which is planned for 2018.

In addition to the improvements the Northern Electric crews have made over the past year, East River has also made several upgrades to its infrastructure in our area.

In 2016, East River made major improvements within our service territory. East River crews moved and rebuilt the Ferney substation and also upgraded the Redfield and LaDelle substations. East River also rebuilt 24 miles of transmission line from Groton to Ordway, which was East River's largest project to date. East River continues to upgrade its transmission lines and facilities in our area today.

The Accounting and Billing department continues to roll out new features of the National Information Solutions Cooperative software which was installed last year.

One of the main features of the new NISC software is a product called SmartHub. SmartHub allows members to view their electric use and billing information online or on their mobile device through the SmartHub app for Apple and Android.

There are now more than a half dozen ways to pay your monthly bill. You can use SmartHub to pay online and on-the-go. You can also set up automatic withdrawal from your checking account or savings account. A new credit card terminal has been set up in the Bath office so members can easily swipe their credit cards and pay their bill. Members can pay over the phone with our new secure automated telephone system or simply mail in a check to the office or place a check in the drop box at Ken's Super Fair Foods in Aberdeen, or stop in one of the offices in Bath or Redfield to pay with cash, check, or a credit card.

In January, the Northern Electric Board announced its intent to explore the sale of the co-op's wholly-owned internet subsidiary Northern Wireless Communications.

The Northern Electric Board of Directors and

co-op staff members spent several months weighing the pros and cons of selling the subsidiary to Northern Valley Communications which is a subsidiary of James Valley Telecommunications.

With numerous ongoing changes in both the electric and telecommunications industries the Board of Directors ultimately decided it was in the best interest of Northern Electric Cooperative to sell the subsidiary to another local cooperative. In July the sale was finalized and all Northern Wireless customers became customers of either NVC or James Valley.

Northern Wireless provided both television and internet service to our members. The subsidiary was started in 1988 and we thank our members for supporting the subsidiary over the past three decades.

At Northern Electric Cooperative we strive to communicate with you as members. We want to share energy efficiency tips, safety facts, and outage information with you. We continue to communicate to you through our monthly *Cooperative Connections* magazine, the Northern Electric website, and our presence on Facebook.

This spring Northern Electric joined with our fellow East River co-ops to begin a campaign called "Powering Your Safety."

As farm equipment gets bigger the margin for error around power lines continues to shrink. Just this spring Northern Electric had nearly a dozen incidents where farm machinery or heavy equipment came in contact with overhead power lines or damaged our equipment.

Damaging overhead power lines is not only expensive but it is also dangerous and can be deadly. The "Powering Your Safety" campaign aims to spread the message about staying safe on the farm and share the steps to take if you contact an overhead power line. Please, visit poweringyoursafety.com for more details about this important topic.

Every summer Northern Electric also provides an educational opportunity to both students and adults by sending groups to North Dakota to tour Basin Electric's power-generating facilities so you can learn where our electricity comes from. During these trips there is plenty of time for socializing with other members, eating great meals, and enjoying the Bismarck area. We hope you will consider coming along next summer. Look in the *Cooperative Connections* magazine for more information in the coming months.

Now, it is time for some comments from one of our students who attended the Youth Excursion trip to North Dakota.

Northern Electric sponsored eight students on the trip this year. Aryan Jamal joins us now to

tell us about the Youth Excursion.

Northern Electric also sponsors one student every year to take the annual Youth Tour trip to Washington D.C. Jazzlyn Tschetter was the student Northern Electric sent this year. Tschetter is a senior at Doland High School and joins us tonight to talk about her experience in Washington DC.

Hager mentioned that NEC is happy to provide educational experiences like the Youth Tour trip to our members.

At this time McHugh recognized two employees for their years of service and dedication to the co-op. The two employees are celebrating major milestones with the co-op tonight. Kenny Swanson, 30 years, Marty Newman, 25 years. Thank you for your years of service to Northern Electric Cooperative. We appreciate all you do.

McHugh mentioned that after serving on the Northern Electric Board of Directors for the past nine years and serving as your Board President for the last year this will be his last Annual Meeting. He has reached his term limit and will be officially off the board following the September 13, 2018, election.

Hager mentioned that NEC would like to thank Mike for all his years of service to Northern Electric Cooperative by also presenting him with a plaque to recognize him for his dedication to the co-op.

Hager mentioned that earlier this summer the Northern Electric Board of Directors selected Nolan Wipf of Hitchcock to take over Mike's seat on the South Dakota Rural Electric Association board. Nolan will continue to represent the interests of Northern Electric at the statewide level as he serves in this new role.

Hager mentioned that she would like to thank all of the NEC employees for their hard work and dedication over the past year.

McHugh called for new business. Hearing none, called to take action on the election of directors. Corporate Attorney Harvey Oliver explained the voting rules and procedures of the election of directors and explained that the candidates for district 6 and 7 being unopposed, the chair declared the nominees as elected by general consent. The committee tallied the votes for the election regarding district 4. Josh Larson received 27 votes, Tanya Torguson received 3 votes. Josh Larson was declared the winner.

Hager mentioned that NEC would like to thank the members for their support over the past year and thanked them for attending the annual meeting of the cooperative.

McHugh called for any other business to come before the meeting, there being none, He declared the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m. and thanked all for attending.

August 25-26

Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival, Sunrise each day at airport, Activities all day, Night Glow Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Hot Springs, SD 605-745-4140

August 25, September 8 and 22, October 6

Lawn Mower Races, Pukwana, SD, 605-680-1718 or 605-682-9781

August 30

Value Added Ag Day and Specialty Crop Workshops at the State Fair, SD Value Added Ag Development Center and SD Specialty Producers, Huron, SD, 605-681-6793

September 2

Studebaker Car Show, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

September 2

Billy Bolander Memorial Demolition Derby, Winner, SD, 605-469-6232

September 6-8

AAUW Annual Used Book Sale, Our 50th Year, Super City Mall, Thursday 6 to 9 p.m., Friday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-0891

September 6-9

Senior State Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Howard Bich at 605-491-0635

September 7-8

Ribs, Rods & Rock n' Roll, Main Street, Vermillion, SD, 605-624-2021

September 7-9

Sixth Annual S.D. Fiddle Festival & Contest, 4-H Grounds, 901 Whiting Drive, Yankton, SD, fiddlersofsouthdakota.com



September 7-9

James Valley Threshing and Tractor Show, Andover, SD, jvthreshers@gmail.com

September 8

Beef N Fun Festival, Mobridge, SD, 605-845-2387

September 8

Sidewalk Arts Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7397

September 8

Eggs, Mushrooms and Microgreens Tours, Noon to 4:30 p.m., Free, Brandon, SD, Contact 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

September 8-9

Fifth Annual Grape Stomp Festival, With the Wind Winery, Rosholt, SD, 605-212-5166, www.withthewindwinery.com

September 8-9

Twin Rivers Old Iron & Kuchen Festival, Delmont, SD, Contact George Sandhoff at 605-505-0535

September 8-9

Quilt Show, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2810

September 11

S.D. Co-op Hall of Fame Induction Banquet, The Lodge, Deadwood, SD, 605-945-2548

September 13-15

St. Joseph's Indian School Annual Powwow, Chamberlain, SD, 605-234-3452

September 14-15

NESD Celtic Faire and Games, Aberdeen, SD, 605-380-5828

September 14-16

North Country Fiber Fair, Watertown, SD, 605-956-7909

September 14-16

Dakota Western Heritage Festival, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-222-0079

September 14-16

German-Russian Schmeckfest, Eureka, SD, 605-284-2332

September 16

Stirling Family Memorial Ranch Rodeo, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-223-7690

October 6

Third Annual Pumpkin Fest, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., City Park, Free activities for children, Alternate date is Oct. 7, Groton, SD, For more information, contact April Abeln at 605-397-8422

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.

Photo courtesy: travelad.com