


Northern Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Cooperative Connections

JULY 2017 VOL. 18 NO. 3



Small Towns Give Unique Twists to

Summer Celebrations

Page 8-9

Director nominating petitions due **July 14**

more information on page 14

Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held May 18 at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. As the first order of business, the Board approved the May 1, 2017, minutes and April expenditures. The Board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management including details on financial, operations, member services, safety and communications.

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 May meeting. The next South Dakota Rural Electric Association board meeting will be held June 29-30, 2017, in Pierre.

MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Update and discussion on development projects and activities taking place in the community and our service area.
- Brief update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund activities.
- Informed the board that NEC will sponsor 10 youth for the SDREA Youth Excursion to North Dakota, July 24-27, 2017.
- Informed the board that applications have been received for the 2017 Basin VIP Tour, June 27-28, the deadline for applications is May 26, 2017.
- Informed the board of the American Coalition for Ethanol Conference, August 15-17, 2017, in Omaha, NE.
- Calendar review of upcoming meetings and events.

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 Tuesday, June 20, 2017.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$8,980.08.
3. Approved Work Order Inventory #17-04 for \$636,020.44 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
4. Approved revisions to existing Electric Tariff.

For questions on any of these matters, please ask your cooperative manager, staff or director.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Let the sun work for you! Consider solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge during the day.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Financial Report – April 2017

	April 2017	April 2016
kWh Sales	21,501,397 kWh	20,802,034 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,063,610	\$1,936,506
Total Cost of Service	\$2,166,075	\$1,962,788
Operating Margins	(-\$102,494)	(-\$26,282)
Year to Date Margins	(-\$81,288)	(-\$20,447)
Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill		
April '17	1,599 kWh \$170.25	.1065 per kWh
April '16	1,615 kWh \$165.65	.1026 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest and depreciation accounted for 83.7% of the cooperative's Total Cost of Service.

Northern Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS 396-040)

CEO/General Manager

Char Hager
info@northernelectric.coop

Board of Directors

Mike McHugh, **President**
Donna Sharp, **Vice President**
Randy Kienow, **Secretary**
Wayne Holt, **Treasurer**
Fran Esser
Victor Fischbach
Glen Larson
Mark Sumption
Nolan Wipf

Harvey Oliver,
NEC Attorney

Management Staff

Russel Ulmer, Manager of Member Services/Marketing
Mark Fischer, Manager of Wireless Services
Derek Gorecki, Manager of Information Technology
Mike Kelly, Operations Manager
Cathi Podoll, Chief Financial Officer
Kay Albrecht, Executive Secretary
Ben Dunsmoor, Communications Director

Editor's e-mail: bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

Subscription Information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Bath, SD 57427.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Northern Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427; telephone (605) 225-0310; fax (605) 225-1684;

NEC Web site: www.northernelectric.coop
TOLL-FREE: 1-800-529-0310

Design assistance by SDREA and TDG Communications



Editor's Column

Educating You About Where Your Power Comes From

Electric cooperatives are different. We are different than other utilities because we answer to you, the member owners at the end of the line.

We are different because one of our guiding principles is education. We want you to be informed about how your cooperative operates and where your electricity comes from. You could say we are the utility equivalent of the farm-to-table concept. It is the reason we take dozens of our members on a two-day trip to North Dakota every June to tour the generation facilities that create the electricity you use every day. It is why we select up to ten teens (as you will read on page 11) to take a similar trip every July. We want you to be informed about your electricity and your co-op.

There has been a lot of discussion and debate in the political arena in the last few weeks about our energy future, energy sources, and the international pacts aimed at reducing carbon emissions. Despite all the rhetoric, electric cooperatives across America are going to stay the course and continue to pursue the most reliable, affordable, and responsible methods to provide you with the electricity you depend on every day.

"As member-owned, not-for-profit organizations, electric cooperatives are driven by a desire to meet and exceed their members' expectations. That's why co-ops are implementing energy-efficiency programs to lower costs, deploying smart meters to give members better insight into their usage and bringing more renewable technology online every month," National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) CEO Jim Matheson said in a statement in early June.

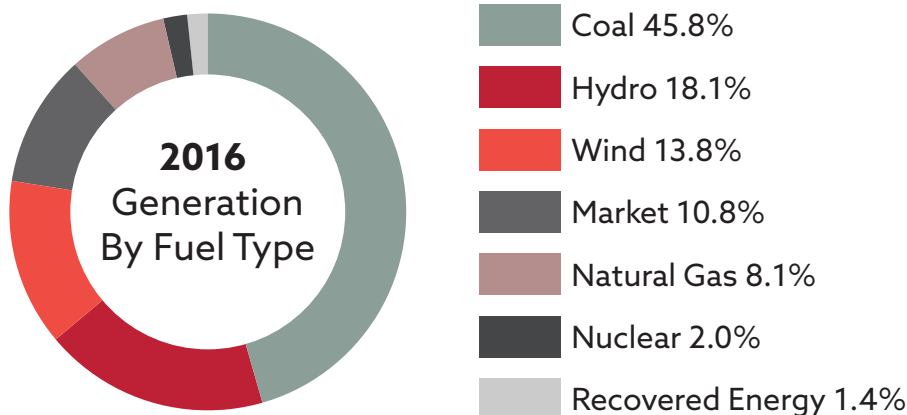
Northern Electric has had a load management program for decades to help members conserve energy and cut costs. Within the last year, Northern

Electric has launched the new SmartHub portal which allows you to log in to pay your bill and look at what your electric use was yesterday, last month, or last year. We educate you about the fuel used to generate your electricity every year in the annual report. A graph with the 2016 statistics is included below.

Electric cooperatives have a responsibility to their members to provide a safe, reliable, and affordable product 24 hours a day and seven days a week, and we plan to continue keeping you informed about how we are doing that along the way.



Ben Dunsmoor
Communications Director



Electrical Safety Tips for the 4th of July

It's finally summer and in just a few days, the biggest holiday of the season arrives: the 4th of July! As you prepare for backyard BBQs and poolside fun, there are some important things to remember to make sure it's a safe holiday.



Whether you are hosting or heading over to a neighbor's or relative's house to celebrate, we have a few safety tips to share with you so that your friends and family enjoy your time together and avoid accidents:

Summer Holiday Poolside Electrical Safety Tips:

Spending time in and around the pool is a big part of summer and celebration during the warmest months of the year. Regardless of whether you are hosting a get-together at your home or someone else's, make sure the chances for accidents are minimal by following these simple safety steps:

- Never run electrical cords over or alongside the pool. Water and electricity don't mix!
- If you are decorating the backyard, string party lights a minimum of three feet away from the pool or any water source.
- Store and activate fireworks as far away from the pool as possible.
- Never use a floatation device to support an electrical appliance (fan, etc.).
- Never cross the pool exit or towel storage area with electrical wires.
- Always use safety caps on electrical outlets near water.
- When possible, use GFCI outlets to protect yourself and your electrical appliances outdoors.

Electrical Power Line Safety Tips:

Power lines run through neighborhoods and can even pass through overgrown trees. They're often the most dangerous when you don't even notice they're there because you either see them all of the time or they are covered by tree canopies. Stay mindful and remember these safety tips when you're spending time in the backyard or outdoor neighborhoods:

- Never let kids (or adults for that matter) climb trees that are near power lines.
- Make sure your trees are trimmed and out of the way of power lines running through your yard or near your home.
- Never attempt to touch a downed power line. If there is one in your yard, call your local electric cooperative immediately. There can still be current running through the line and an active line is highly dangerous.

Source: www.allstarelectrical.com

Beat the Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, hot weather mixed with outdoor activities can lead to dangerous situations. According to the CDC, people can suffer heat-related illness when their bodies are unable to properly cool themselves. During extreme heat, follow these guidelines to protect yourself and your loved ones.



Stay Informed: Check local news for extreme heat alerts.



Stay Cool: If you do not have access to an air-conditioned space, visit a shopping mall or public library for a few hours. Call your local health department to locate heat-relief shelters in your area.



Stay Hydrated: Drink (nonalcoholic) fluids regularly, regardless of your activity level. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.



Don't leave anyone (or pets) in a closed, parked vehicle.



Do check on elderly friends and neighbors.



Heat Stress: Who's at Risk?

Adults over the age of 65, children under the age of 4, individuals with chronic medical conditions such as heart disease and those without access to air conditioning.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Never use a fork to get your toast out of the toaster."



Atoya Howey, 9 years old

Atoya is the daughter of Valerie Howey, Hill City, S.D. She is a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Custer, 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.

Delectable Desserts



Easy Cake Dessert

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 spice cake mix | 6 T. sugar |
| 1 can apple pie filling | 2 tsp. cinnamon |
| 3 eggs | 1/2 cup chopped nuts |

Combine spice cake mix, apple pie filling and eggs. Pour half the batter into a 9x13-inch greased pan. Mix together sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle half over batter. Add remaining batter; top with sugar mixture and nuts. Bake at 350°F. for 30 to 35 minutes. Top with ice cream or whipped cream.

Carolyn Saugstad, Alcester

Bourbon Peach Cobbler

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 2-1/4 cups plus 1 T. flour, divided | 8 T. bourbon, divided |
| 2/3 cup plus 1/2 cup sugar, divided | 1 T. baking powder |
| 2 (16 oz.) bags frozen peaches, 6 cups | 12 T. butter |
| | 3/4 cup half-and-half |
| | 1 large egg |

Butter bottom and sides of 9x13-inch baking dish. Combine 1 T. flour, 2/3 cup sugar, 4 T. bourbon and peaches in a medium bowl. Spread mixture evenly in bottom of baking dish. Whisk together remaining flour, sugar and baking powder. Melt butter in a medium bowl. Mix in half-and-half, egg and remaining bourbon. Stir the butter mixture into the dry mixture (add cinnamon if desired) and whisk until smooth. Drop dollops of batter over peaches evenly. Bake at 375°F. for 50 minutes or until top is golden and toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Serve with ice cream.

Cortney Reedy, Tea

Raspberry Poke Cake

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 white cake mix | 1 cup hot water |
| 1 (3 oz.) pkg. raspberry jello | 1 (3 oz) carton raspberry yogurt |
| 1 (8 oz.) container whipped topping | 2 (10 oz.) boxes fresh raspberries |

Prepare and bake cake according to package directions in a 9x13-inch pan. Remove from oven and poke holes in cake while warm with a wooden spoon handle or knife handle. Mix together jello and water, stirring until jello is dissolved. Pour over holes in cake. Cool. Mix whipped topping and yogurt together until blended; gently fold in raspberries. Spread evenly on cake. Refrigerate.

Barbara Angerhofer, Hendricks, MN

S'mores Pie

Graham Cracker Crust:

- 1-1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 7 T. butter, melted
- 1/3 cup sugar

Filling:

- 3/4 cup heavy cream

- 6 oz. semi-sweet chocolate, chopped
- 2 tsp. McCormick® Ground Cinnamon
- 1 T. plus 1 tsp. McCormick® Extra Rich Pure Vanilla Extract, divided
- 1 (7 oz.) jar marshmallow creme
- 4 oz. (1/2 package) cream cheese, softened
- 1 (8 oz.) container whipped topping

For the crust, mix all ingredients in medium bowl. Press into bottom and up sides of 9-inch pie plate. Set aside. For the filling, bring cream just to boil in small saucepan. Pour over chocolate in medium heatproof bowl. Let stand 1 minute then stir until smooth. Stir in cinnamon and 1 tsp. of the vanilla. Pour into prepared crust. Refrigerate 30 minutes or until chocolate is firm. (Freeze 15 minutes for faster chilling.) Beat marshmallow creme, cream cheese and remaining 1 T. vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Gently stir in whipped topping until well blended. Spread evenly over chocolate layer in crust. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or until ready to serve. Garnish with chocolate curls or toasted marshmallows, if desired. Yield: 8 servings

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 600, Total Fat 36g, Sodium 267mg, Cholesterol 75mg, Carbohydrates 65g, Dietary Fiber 2g, Protein 4g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Easy Rhubarb Dessert

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 cake mix (strawberry, white, yellow or lemon) | 1 cup chopped walnuts, divided |
| 3 cups sliced rhubarb | 3/4 cup brown sugar |

Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Fold in rhubarb and 1/2 cup chopped walnuts. Pour into a greased 9x13-inch glass pan. Sprinkle top with brown sugar and remaining walnuts. Bake at 325°F. for 30 to 40 minutes. Serve with lemon sauce, whipped topping or just plain.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis

French Coconut Pie

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 4 T. butter | 1 cup milk |
| 2 eggs | 1 cup or 3-1/2 oz. can shredded coconut |
| 1 T. all-purpose flour | |
| 3/4 cup sugar | 1 9-inch unbaked pie shell |

In a large bowl, combine melted butter, eggs, flour, sugar, milk and coconut. Pour into pie shell. Bake at 400°F. until firm, about 45 to 60 minutes.

Lynn Holzerland, Waubay

Please send your favorite salad, garden produce or pasta 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 2017. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



ABOVE: A large area of grass was burned when a sky lantern drifted into the pole yard behind the Northern Electric office in Bath on July 4, 2016. The fire burned for more than two hours before going out.

Co-op Fire Sparks Fourth of July Warning

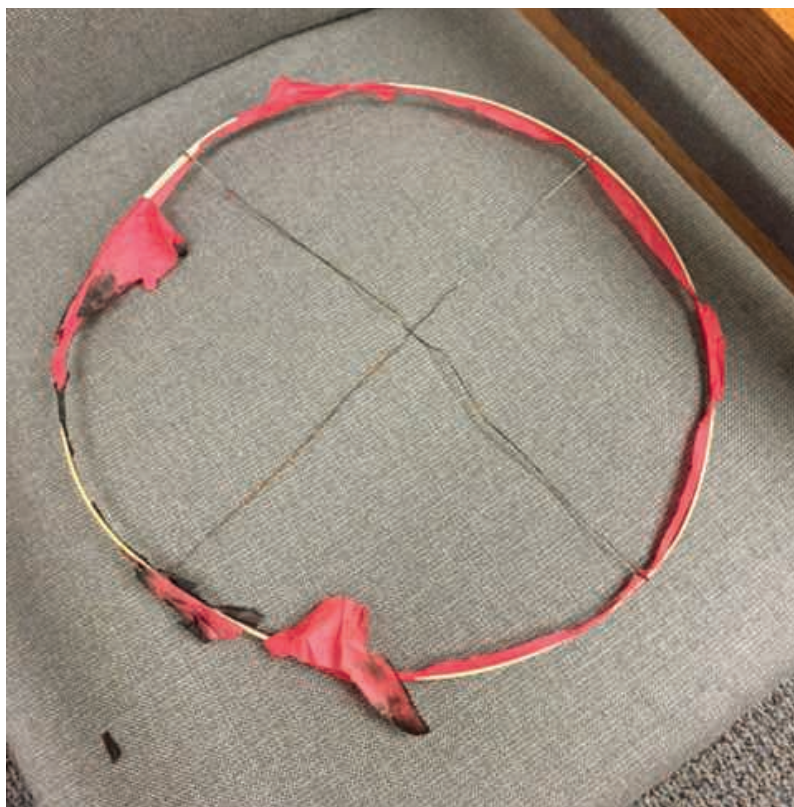
by Ben Dunsmoor

Shooting off fireworks and pyrotechnics during the Fourth of July isn't always an innocent activity. If Independence Day celebrators are not careful those booms and bangs that light up the sky can turn into flames and fire when the debris hits the ground.

Last year, Northern Electric Cooperative had a close call on the night of July 4 when a sky lantern drifted into the pole yard behind the Bath office and started a grass fire.

"We discovered that there had been a grass fire in the pole yard," Northern Electric CEO and General Manager Char Hager said. "At first the cause was thought to be a lightning strike, but upon further investigation we discovered the remains of a Chinese lantern, or candle balloon."

Security camera footage from the pole yard showed the lantern floating into the area around 10 p.m. on the night of July 4, 2016. The lantern landed in the grass and sparked a fire shortly before 11:00 p.m. The security cameras in the pole yard showed flames that were several feet high but eventually the fire burned out.



ABOVE: The remains of a sky lantern were found in an area of burned grass on July 5, 2016, in the pole yard behind the Northern Electric office in Bath.

"It burned for about two-and-a-half hours," Hager said. "It was contained to grass but it could have been much worse. Fortunately, it went out on its own."

The incident serves as a reminder that Fourth of July fireworks and pyrotechnics can be dangerous and should be used with extreme caution.

"They don't always go out when they land," Brown County Emergency Manager Scott Meints said about the lanterns similar to the one that started the fire in the pole yard.

"It was contained to grass but it could have been much worse. Fortunately, it went out on its own."

Meints says there are no restrictions on fireworks in Brown County as long as they are set off during the proper time period allowed by the state. However, Meints says anyone shooting off fireworks needs to keep safety in mind.

"Just use common sense, know what is out there, know where your stuff is going to land, and have something nearby to put out a fire," Meints said. "You should have a fire extinguisher, a bucket of water, or a hose nearby."

There are restrictions on lighting fireworks in Aberdeen and larger municipalities in Brown County according to Meints, but if county residents drive out into the country to blast off fireworks on the Fourth of July they need to remember to properly dispose of them after the fun is over.

"Pick up after yourselves. Every year we have county roads littered with trash," Meints said.

If the fireworks are not properly disposed after being used the material could start a fire when no one is around.

"It doesn't even have to be sparks it could be something sitting there smoldering that could cause a fire," Meints said.

And the fire will not likely go out like the one that burned in the Northern Electric pole yard in 2016, which is why it is important to use caution and keep safety in mind this Fourth of July.



ABOVE: An image of the Northern Electric pole yard taken by a security camera on the afternoon of July 4, 2016, before the fire started.



ABOVE: An image of burning grass in the pole yard around 11:00 p.m. on the night of July 4, 2016. Security camera footage showed a sky lantern drifting into the yard about an hour earlier.



ABOVE: Northern Electric employees found the large area of grass that burned when they arrived at work on the morning of July 5, 2016.

Unique Celebrations

SUMMER BRINGS A VARIETY HOMETOWN CELEBRATIONS to many Main Streets in South Dakota and western Minnesota.

Brenda Kleinjan

Some celebrate heritage and culture such as wacipis in many western South Dakota communities to those celebrating ethnic groups such as Czech Days (Tabor, S.D.), Danish Days (Viborg, S.D.) and Æbleskiver Days (Tyler, Minn.)

And then there's the celebrations that just seem truly unique.

In South Central South Dakota, the community of Burke opens its streets for a cattle drive of long-horned bovines as it kicks off its annual Burke Stampede and Rodeo July 14-16. In addition to rodeo performances, the celebration features a trail

ride and cowboy cookout. Find out more at <http://www.burkestampederodeo.com/home.html>

The town of Custer in western South Dakota taps into its historical roots when it hosts Gold Discovery Days each July.

The 2017 Gold Discovery Days, set for July 21 to 23 includes a Gold Nugget hunt for kids, the area's annual bed races and also daily balloon rallies.

For more information, go to www.visitcuster.com/chamber/events/custergolddiscoverydays/

Head north and east of Custer a few hours on July 23 and you'll encounter the 41st running of the Reva Turtle Races.

The races featuring the hard shell contestants bring dozens of people to the unincorporated town





Left: Potato Wrestling is part of Clark's Potato Days celebration. **Below:** Custer's Gold Discovery Days feature bed races. **Bottom:** A variety of old tractors can be seen in use during the Twin Rivers Old Iron Festival in Delmont in September. **Opposite page:** Lawn mower races are featured in several communities. **Cover:** Longhorn cattle make their way into town for the Burke Stampede.

in eastern Harding County.

Be sure to check the event's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Reva-Turtle-Races-124003867629956/> for more information.

In western Minnesota, the town of Tyler, Minn., proudly boosts its Danish heritage with Æbleskiver Days.

The town celebrates the little sphere-shaped Danish pancakes with three shifts of volunteers cooking up the treats throughout the event. The celebration will also include a kickball tournament on July 22 and also a Cruise-In Car Show during Æbleskiver Days from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the fairgrounds in Tyler.

A new addition to the town celebration this year is Rainbow Country Trolley. The 30-foot long trolley will be pulled by two Belgian draft horses. The owner/driver Gerry Buse will entertain with singing and music during the ride. The trolley will be available to ride from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The pick up and drop off sites are: the fairgrounds, the band shell, and Danebod. It will take roughly 30 minutes to go from the Fairgrounds to the Danebod, so please plan accordingly.

To learn more about the event, go to <https://www.facebook.com/aebleskiverdays>

The revving of lawn mower engines can be heard at celebrations across south central South Dakota as drivers in the Pukwana Mower Races make appearances at events in South Dakota from April through October.

Find out more about the schedule at <http://www.pukwanamowerracing.com/race-schedule.html>

According to the Clark Potato Days site, "the potato is king in Clark, S.D., where local farmers grow bushels of the tasty tuber. That's why, each year, the town throws a party in honor of its favorite over-used, under-appreciated starch."

The site goes on to promote the eastern South Dakota's annual event by pointing out, "Mr. Potato Head is proud of Clark's celebration, and will be making an appearance at this year's festivities. The locals vie for top honors in a Best Decorated Potato

Contest. Past winners included an astronaut, farmer, race cars, and tooth. The Potato Dish Cooking Contests always bring out the best cooks in the county. And, the highlight of the celebration involves grown adults wrestling each other in mashed potatoes!

"Besides all the potato stuff, the event features those small-town festival activities that keep families and regular folks coming back year after year," the site continues.

Among the events during the celebration is Mashed Potato Wrestling, which starts this year at 11:30 a.m. on Aug. 17.

On Sept. 9-10, the community of Delmont, S.D., will host its Kuchen Festival and the Twin Rivers Old Iron Festival. The German dessert festival, which was first held in 1997, will be held Sept. 9 while the farm equipment festival is both days.

Find out more http://www.delmontsd.org/kuchen_festival_and_twin_rivers.htm

Be sure to check out other happenings in communities near you on the back page of this magazine.



Electric Co-op Donation Sends SPURS Riders To Special Olympics



ABOVE from L to R: Northern Electric Board of Directors Treasurer Wayne Holt, SPURS Fundraising Coordinator JoAnn Williams, Northern Electric CEO Char Hager, SPURS Executive Director Becky Fischbach, and Volunteer Coordinator Julie Kumpf.

Northern Electric Cooperative presented a \$2,000 donation to SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center at the end of May to assist with the cost of sending riders to the Special Olympics Equestrian event in Huron in July.

The donation was made in partnership with Northern Electric's wholesale power provider East River Electric Power Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Both co-ops provided matching funds that were included with the donation. All three cooperatives also sponsored the event at the same level in 2016.

This year, SPURS is expecting to send more than 40 riders to the Special Olympics event. The donation will help pay for the costs of travel for the riders and their families. The Special Olympics Equestrian event is July 10-11 in Huron.

Co-ops Donate To Fredrick Athletic Association For Park Improvements

The Frederick Athletic Association is making several improvements to its community baseball field and park with the help of local sponsors.

At the beginning of the year, the association launched a \$10,000 fundraising campaign to upgrade the baseball field, install a new backstop behind home plate to protect fans from foul balls, and construct new playground equipment and a new batting cage at the park.

With the help of a combined \$1,000 donation from Northern Electric Cooperative, East River Electric Power Cooperative, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative the group surpassed its goal this spring. Association treasurer Stephanie Sumption says 20 businesses, including Northern Electric, stepped up to help pay for the park improvements.

Contractors are expected to complete the list of upgrades before the baseball season gets into full swing this summer.

The park will be the site of a local baseball tournament later in the summer.



ABOVE from L to R: Northern Electric Director Mark Sumption presents a \$1,000 check to Frederick Athletic Association members Derik Bretsch and Stephanie Sumption.

Young Leaders Head To North Dakota

The eight Northern Electric Cooperative youth listed below have been selected to attend the South Dakota Rural Electric Association Youth Excursion this summer in Bismarck, North Dakota. The teens who have been selected for the 2017 Youth Excursion will have the opportunity to tour power plants, wind farms, a coal mine, and the facilities that supply Northern Electric Cooperative with electricity. The 2017 Youth Excursion is July 24-27.



Sarah Aman

Sarah is the daughter of Patrick and Lynn Aman. She has a younger sister named Jennifer, and next year she will be a sophomore at Warner High School. She competes in basketball, track, archery, and she is a Lake Region Conference math competition finalist.



Taylor Dinger

Taylor is the son of Verl and Sandy Dinger of Hecla. He has two older brothers and two older sisters. Taylor will be a junior at Britton-Hecla school. Taylor enjoys working on the farm, especially in the shop with machines and tools.



Dillon Fliehe

Dillon is the son of Darwin and Denise Fliehe of Redfield. Dillon has two brothers, Ben and Deven, and one sister, Macy. He will be a junior in high school this coming fall. He enjoys participating in track, football, cross country, and band.



Aryan Jamal

Aryan is the son of Edward and Jyoti Pfeiffer of Aberdeen. He has a strong interest in life sciences. He actively participated in track and field and football. He also acted in school plays and likes theatre. He will be a junior in the upcoming school year.



Kaden Lee

Kaden is the son of Kristen Lee of Faulkton and Jason Lee of Cresbard. Kaden will be a senior at Faulkton School. He is a member of FFA, plays football and runs hurdles in track. Kaden enjoys farming, hunting, and fishing.



Houston Malpert

Houston attends Britton-Hecla High School and will start his junior year in August. Houston hopes to go to college for Paleontology. He is very interested to learn about the factories, machines, and processes during Youth Excursion.



Mitchell Wipf

Mitchell is the son of Nathan and Jan Wipf of Frankfort. He will be a junior in high school next year. He has two siblings, an older sister named Brenda, and a younger sister named Colleen. He loves working with sheep, cattle, and on the farm.



Madilyn Wright

Madilyn is the daughter of Stephan and Lynn Wright. She has one older brother. She lives northwest of Groton and will be a senior at Groton Area High School in the fall. Madilyn is a member of FFA, and 4-H. She is also in show choir and loves showing cattle.

Engineering Early Electrification

Retired REA Engineer Honored By South Dakota Governor

THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE LEFT WHO REMEMBER what life was like in rural South Dakota in the late 1940s when the countryside was first electrified by cooperatives. However, Jim Duvall, who turned 100 years old on May 29, 2017, is the exception.

"I was one of the pioneers out there," Duvall recalled during a phone conversation in May from his Virginia home just days before his 100th birthday.

Duvall grew up in McIntosh, S.D., but moved away for college and later a job with the Signal Corps in Chicago, Ill., inspecting radar equipment for bombers during World War II.

After the war was over, Duvall started working as an engineer for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Rural Electrification Administration. The

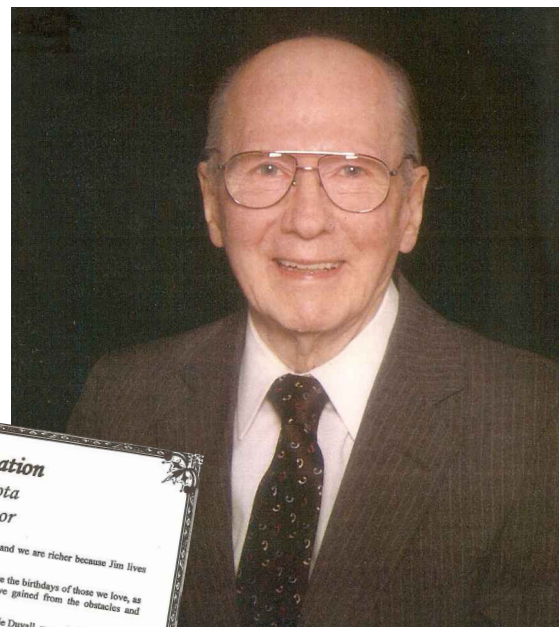
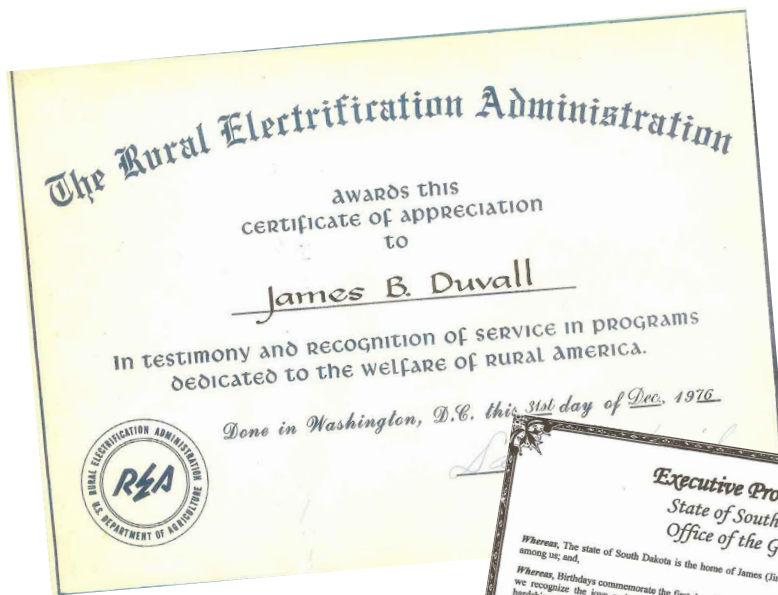
centenarian knows the exact day he started his job with REA; he reported to the St. Louis, Mo., office on Nov. 19, 1945.

After spending a few months in St. Louis, Duvall was moved to Washington, D.C., and in 1947 he requested a transfer to South Dakota. He spent 13 years stationed in Aberdeen as a REA field engineer where he inspected new co-op lines that were being constructed and energized for the very first time following the war.

"The transformers and wire and everything became available and lines could be staked out and construction could start again (after the war)," Duvall said. "Everything is flat (on the Great Plains) and there aren't a lot of obstructions and a contractor could get a

Ben Dunsmoor





lot done in a day, so it kept me busy.”

During his time in Aberdeen, Duvall oversaw electric and telephone line construction loans and building projects in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. He very likely inspected Northern Electric Cooperative lines as the first poles, wires and meters were energized starting in 1945 with construction continuing through the late 1940s and into the 1950s.

“A big part of my job was to make the final inspection and to make any modifications before the lines were energized and before the contractors got paid,” Duvall said.

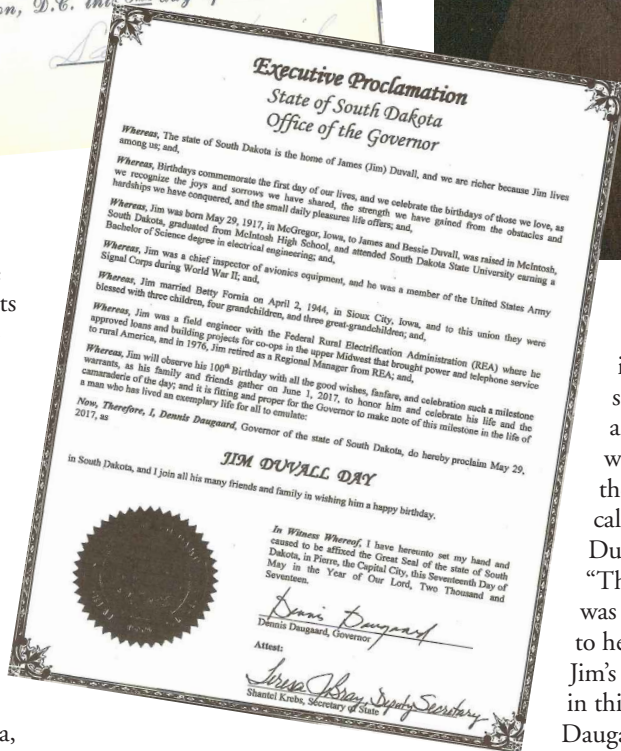
Following his work in South Dakota, Duvall was transferred back to Washington, D.C. where he became the REA Chief Engineer for the southwest and western regions. In 1959, he was given a Meritorious Service Award for his 13 years of service in Aberdeen. Duvall was also honored in 1958 and 1959 as ‘Engineer of the Year’ for the REA.

This spring, South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard also honored Duvall for his role in electrifying rural America when he issued an Executive Proclamation proclaiming that May 29, 2017, Duvall’s 100th birthday, be known as Jim Duvall Day in the state of South Dakota.

“It was really a terrific surprise and I felt so honored,” Duvall said.

The proclamation was issued after Jim Duvall’s son, Don Duvall, called the offices of governors in the states his dad worked in during his career. Don Duvall asked the offices for a signed picture for his dad’s birthday. Governor Daugaard’s office instead reached out to Don Duvall and said they would like to issue a proclamation.

Opposite Page: In this January 1959 photo, Dave Hamil, administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration, presents Jim Duvall a Meritorious Service Award for his 13 years as an REA field engineer. Duvall would later become the REA’s chief engineer. COURTESY PHOTO



“I said, ‘wow, this is a super surprise – I’m amazed you would pick up the phone and call me,’” Don Duvall said.

“The Governor was very pleased to help celebrate Jim’s milestone in this way,” Gov. Daugaard’s Chief of Staff Tony

VenHuizen said. “As the proclamation said, South Dakota is a strong state today because of the contributions of people like Jim Duvall. It’s hard to understate the transformative impact that rural electrification had on South Dakota.”

Don Duvall said his dad enjoyed working for REA and took pride in overseeing early line construction for electric and telephone co-ops in rural South Dakota. Duvall said his dad would even point out his work during family vacations.

“Whenever we were in a rural area, he would pull over and say that’s a REA line over there,” Don Duvall said.

Jim Duvall retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1976 as a REA regional manager stationed in Washington, D.C., but he says his greatest memories and accomplishments came during his time as a field engineer in South Dakota.

“My best days were actually in the field. I felt like I was doing something. I had my hands on,” Duvall said.

And, as Duvall celebrates his 100th birthday at his home in Virginia, that is what he will remember about a career that helped electrify and connect the countryside.

“It was interesting work and I enjoyed it.”

Duvall says his greatest memories and accomplishments came during his time as a field engineer in South Dakota.

Director Nominating Petitions Due By July 14, 2017

During Northern Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting (Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at the Aberdeen Civic Arena) members will elect Directors for Districts 4, 6, and 7.

Incumbent directors Randy Kienow, Warner (Dist. 6) and Victor Fischbach, Mellette (Dist. 7) are eligible to run again. The District 4 seat will be vacant because board president Mike McHugh of Aberdeen has reached his term limit.

Northern Electric Cooperative uses a petition process to nominate directors. The procedure requires all candidates to circulate a petition. Candidates must be cooperative members and reside in the district they wish to represent. Each petition must be signed by at least ten (10) cooperative member-consumers residing in that candidate's district.

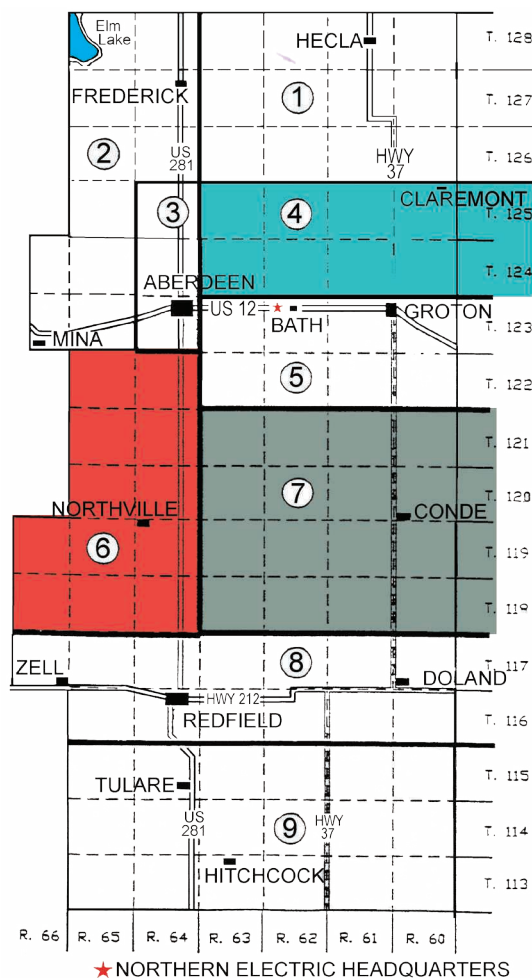
For a joint membership, either the husband or wife may sign a petition but NOT both.

Petitions are available at the Northern Electric offices in Bath and Redfield. Director petitions must be submitted at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting to have names placed on the official ballot and the Notice of the Meeting. No petition filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting shall be considered valid.

Petitions must be filed at a Northern Electric Cooperative office by close of business (4:30 pm) Friday, July 14, 2017.

Nominations are not permitted from the floor during the meeting.

Members may only sign ONE nominating petition for a director candidate from their district of record.



Director Qualifications

*Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws
Article IV Section 3*

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

1. Is an employee of Northern Electric Cooperative;
2. Is not a member and bona fide resident of the service area served by the Cooperative located within the particular District up for election;
3. Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative;
4. Has been previously removed as a Director of the Cooperative in accordance with the procedures provided for removal in these Bylaws;
5. Has failed to attend at least 2/3 of all regular board meetings during any consecutive twelve (12) month period.
6. Has been employed by the Cooperative in the past five years.
7. Has pled guilty or has been convicted of a:
 - A felony,
 - Any crime involving dishonesty, or
 - Any crime involving moral turpitude

Director Nomination and Election Process

2017 Annual Meeting scheduled for September 13

At the 2017 Annual Meeting, Districts 4, 6, and 7 are up for election. Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws set the criteria required to seek election as a Northern Electric Cooperative director:

Article IV, Board Members:

Section 1. General Powers The business and affairs of the cooperative shall be managed by the Board of Directors consisting of nine members elected by the membership at an annual meeting from districts as provided in this article, which Board shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative, except such as are by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws conferred upon or referred to the members. It shall be the duty of each Director to participate in such activities as are deemed necessary to enhance the prestige of the Cooperative, broaden its operation and fulfill its public obligation as a member of the various communities in which it does business and in furtherance, thereof, to devote reasonable time and attendance at meetings of affiliate organizations and at training sessions to assist and improve Directors and Officers in carrying out their duties.

Section 2. Election and Tenure of Office At each Annual Meeting of the members, Board Members shall be elected by secret ballot; provided, that when there is no contest for the representation of a particular district and there is no objection, balloting may be dispensed with in respect of that district and voting may be conducted in any other proper manner. Board Member shall, unless the Cooperative's members determine otherwise in advance of the initial balloting, be elected by a plurality vote of the members. Drawing by lot shall resolve, when necessary, any tie votes.

Except as hereinafter provided, no Directors shall be eligible for re-election who has served as a Director for nine (9) consecutive years and such Director shall be disqualified for a period of three (3) consecutive years.

Section 3. Voting Power Each of the Directors will be entitled to one (1) vote upon all issues which they are called upon to vote.

Upon establishment of the fact that any person being considered for, or already holding, a Directorship or other position of trust in the Cooperative lacks eligibility under this Section, it

shall be the duty of the Board to withhold such position from such person, or to cause the member to be removed therefrom as the case may be. Nothing in this Section shall contain or shall be construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board, unless such action is taken with respect to a matter which is affected by the provisions of this Section and in which one (1) or more of the Directors have an interest adverse to that of the Cooperative.

Section 4. Director Districts. The territory served or to be served by the Cooperative shall be divided into nine (9) Director Districts, the boundaries of each being established by the geographical area within the township and ranges as set forth opposite of the District designation including adjacent areas on the outer perimeters of the Cooperative's territory. One (1) Director shall be elected from each of the nine (9) Director Districts.

District 1 shall consist of the following: Townships 126, 127 & 128 in Ranges 60, 61, 62 & 63; Township 127 in Range 59; Township 129 in Range 63; and Township 129 in Range 60.

District 2 shall consist of the following: Townships 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128 & 129 in Range 65; Township 123 in Range 66; and Township 126, 127 and 128 in Range 64.

District 3 shall consist of the following: Townships 123, 124 & 125 in Range 64.

District 4 shall consist of the following: Townships 124 & 125 in Ranges 60, 61, 62 & 63; and Township 124 in Range 59.

District 5 shall consist of the following: Townships 122 & 123 in Ranges 60, 61, 62 & 63.

District 6 shall consist of the following: Townships 118 & 119 in Range 67; Townships 118, 119, 120 & 122 in Range 66; Townships 118, 119, 120, 121 & 122 in Range 65; and Townships 118, 119, 120, 121 & 122 in Range 64.

District 7 shall consist of the following: Townships 118, 119 & 120 in Ranges 60, 61, 62 & 63; Township 119 in Range 59; and Township 121 in Ranges 59, 60, 61, 62 & 63.

District 8 shall consist of the following: Townships 116 & 117 in Ranges 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65 & 66; and Township 117 in Range 67.

District 9 shall consist of the following: Townships 113, 114 & 115 in Ranges 61, 62, 63

& 64; Townships 114 & 115 in Ranges 65 & 66; Townships 114 & 115 in Range 60; and Township 115 in Range 59.

Section 5. Nomination of Directors. The nominating process shall be premised on a nine (9) District - nine (9) Director Cooperative. **Any ten (10) or more members residing in such District may file a nominating petition with the Secretary placing in nomination any qualified member from such District. Each signatory shall place the date of signing and his address on said petition. No member may sign a petition to nominate more than one candidate, and to do so shall invalidate the member's signature on the petition signed on the latest date.**

This procedure shall be followed in each Director District in which the Director terms shall expire. Upon receipt of such petition and having found the same to be in order, the Secretary shall post such nomination in the principal office of the Cooperative. Candidates so nominated shall be identified in the Notice of the Meeting and shall also be named on the official ballot.

No petition filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting shall be considered valid. The order in which the nominees shall appear on the printed ballot shall be determined by lot under the supervision of the Secretary. If any nominee should refuse to become a candidate or is not qualified, in accordance with the requirements of the Bylaws, the Secretary of the Cooperative is authorized and directed to remove the name or names from the list of posted nominees and/or from the ballot.

The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the Notice of the Meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board Members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated. **No nominations shall be permitted from the floor. Each member of the Cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from their specific District from which a director is to be elected. Voting may occur two hours before or during the official meeting in accordance with the procedure established by the board of directors.** The candidate from each District receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as a Board Member.

Regional Dateline

June 23

148th Annual Midsummer Festival, Dalesburg Lutheran Church, Vermillion, SD
605-253-2575

June 23-24

Senior Games, Mitchell, SD
Contact Howard Bich at
605-275-6891

June 23-25

Badlands Astronomy Festival Interior, SD, 605-433-5243

June 23-25

Black Hills Bluegrass Festival Sturgis, SD, 605-348-1198

June 24

Growing Berries and Growing Hops, Wagner and Armour SD, 605-254-5640
www.sdspecialtyproducers.org

June 24-25

Kite & Bike Festival Brookings, SD

June 30

Naja Shrine Circus Bowman, ND, 605-342-3402

June 30-July 2

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate 150th Annual Wacipi Agency Village, SD
605-698-8284

June 30-July 4

98th Annual Black Hills Round-up, Belle Fourche, SD
605-723-2010

July 1

Naja Shrine Circus Deadwood, SD, 605-342-3402



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.

Events of Special Note

July 1

Downtown Wine Walk
1 to 4 p.m., Redfield, SD
605-472-2621

July 14-16

Burke Stampede Rodeo
Burke, SD, 605-830-5540

July 29

Make-A-Wish 14th Annual Poker Run, Aberdeen, SD
605-225-7262

July 1-2

Prairie Village Railroad Days
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

July 2

Naja Shrine Circus
Phillip, SD, 605-342-3402

July 3

Naja Shrine Circus
Lemmon, SD, 605-342-3402

July 6-9

22nd Annual Hot Harley Nights, Sioux Falls, SD
605-334-2721

July 7-8

Senior Games, Madison, SD
Bernie Schuurmans at
605-270-3327

July 7-9, 14-16, 21-23

Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant, "Little Town on the Prairie"
De Smet, SD, 605-203-0216

July 8-9

Summer Arts Festival
Brookings, SD, 605-692-2787

July 9

Cruiser Car Show & Street Fair
Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

July 11-16

3-Wheeler Rally
Deadwood, SD, 605-717-7174

July 13-15

Black Hills Corvette Classic
Spearfish, SD

July 14-15

Senior Games, Aberdeen, SD
605-216-2822

July 15

Growing in Greenhouses and Selling in Boxes, Midland, SD
605-254-5640

July 19-22

Senior Games, Rapid City, SD
Contact Kristi Lintz at
605-394-4168

July 21-22

Senior Games, Brookings, SD
Contact Traci Saugstad at
605-692-4492

July 22

Holy Smoke Car Show
O'Gorman High School
Sioux Falls, SD
www.holysmokecarshow.org

August 10

Meat Goats and Growing Tomatoes in a Greenhouse
Custer, SD, 605-254-5640
www.sdspecialtyproducers.org

August 11-12

Senior Games, Huron, SD
Contact LaRon Clock at
605-353-8533 or Howard Bich
at 605-275-6891

August 11-13

27th Annual Old Fashioned Threshing Show, Bahnson Farm, Humboldt, SD
605-526-3459 or
605-251-9974

August 13

Czech Heritage Festival
Bechyn, MN, 320-522-1218
www.BechynCzechFest.org