

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Invasive Species

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on the Missouri**
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Manager's Column



Tim McIntyre
General Manager

I was recently asked about what impacts electricity prices. We talked about how the daily cost of living seems to have increased across the board.

Just as inflation has impacted everything from the price of gasoline to the price of eggs, costs for the fuels required to produce electricity have also risen. This is a timely topic, so I wanted to help explain some of the factors that impact electricity prices (and energy bills)

for Lake Region Electric Association and our member-owners.

While there is no short answer, there are a few key elements that impact electricity prices and rates. Some of these factors Lake Region can manage, some of them you impact, and other factors are beyond our control. So, let me break it down.

There are three primary parts to your monthly electric bill: a base charge, an energy consumption (kWh charge) and for some, a demand charge. To understand your total energy costs and what impacts your bill, let's unpack one piece at a time.

The first is a fixed monthly base charge, which covers the costs associated with providing electricity to your home. This includes equipment, materials, labor, and operating costs necessary to serve each meter in Lake Region's service territory, regardless of the amount of energy used. Lake Region charges a base charge for each meter. In order to ensure the reliable service that you expect and deserve, we must maintain our distribution system, including power lines, substations and other necessary

equipment at all times. Like many other businesses, we've experienced supply chain issues and steep cost increases for some of our basic equipment. For example, the cost for a pad mount transformer (the big green boxes) has increased anywhere between 30-50% each, depending on the size, over the past couple of years. Wait times to receive essential equipment can be up to 20 weeks. Because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, some of these expenses must be passed on to our members. I should note that the service charge applies to everyone, and the costs are shared across the membership.

Another component of your monthly bill is the kWh charge, which covers how much energy you consume. You've likely noticed the amount of energy you use can vary from month to month and is typically impacted by extreme temperatures. When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling and heating equipment run longer, which increases your home energy use. Energy consumption is an area that you have some control over, and you can lower your monthly bill by actively reducing energy use. Your thermostat is a great place to start, so be sure to keep it close to 78 degrees during summer months. By adjusting your air conditioning up just a couple of degrees, you can help us avoid those peaks when our generation capacity just might not be enough to cover all of the power we are demanding. One way to track your usage is to log into your Lake Region account on SmartHub.

The last component is demand, or capacity. Lake Region Electric purchases power from our Generation & Transmission providers Basin Electric and East River. Seventy percent of Lake Region's budget is cost of power. Our power bill is comprised of two categories: Kilowatt hour consumption and demand. Kilowatt hour (kWh) consumption is the amount of energy you use. Demand represents the amount of electric power that has to be guaranteed at any given time. Lake Region has to be able to deliver enough power at any time during the day to satisfy all our member's electrical needs. There are some larger consumers who use, or demand, more electricity so they pay a demand charge. The majority of our members, including residential members, do not have a separate demand charge, theirs is built into their energy rate.

I hope this information sheds light on some of the factors that impact electricity prices. While we can't control the weather or the rising costs of supplies, please know Lake Region Electric is doing everything possible to keep internal costs down.

We're here to help you, too. Contact us if you have questions about your bill or for advice on how to save energy at home.

Thank you & God Bless,
Timothy McIntyre

Welcome to our new members!

Almond & Marlys Peterson
Rev. Living Trust

Sean Jones

Warren Symens

Dan Deboer

Tom Seyer

Bochek Stock Farm

COOPERATIVE

CONNECTIONS

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Play it safe near grain bins.

When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.



No One Can Take Your Place

National Farm Safety and Health Week Sept. 17-23, 2023

The 2019 data for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the agricultural sector is still the most dangerous in America with 573 fatalities, or an equivalent of 23.1 deaths per 100,000 workers.

Fall harvest time can be one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry. For this reason, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week.

This annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944. National Farm Safety and Health Week is led by the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), the agricultural partner of the National Safety Council.

Did you know?

- Rural roads pose special dangers especially during harvest season. Watch out for slow-moving farm vehicles and be informed, aware, and patient while sharing rural roadways.
- Farm stress is real, and many things like weather events, tragedies, market uncertainty, or diseases can tip us out of our comfort zone.
- Every day, about 33 children are seriously injured in agricultural-related incidents.
- Hazardous gasses on farms can be found in silos, manure storages, grain bins, and other confined spaces. Be in the know about hazardous gasses and where they can be found on farms.

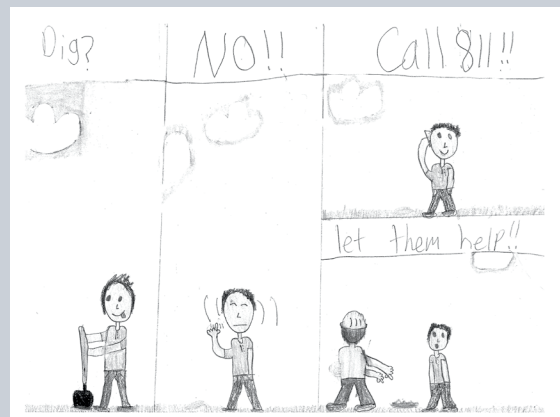
Farm and ranch life can be demanding and stressful. Over the past several years, it has reached a critical stage for the folks who grow America's food with COVID-19 pandemic impacts on top of natural disasters, extreme weather events, financial pressures due to fluctuating commodity prices, labor shortages, trade disruptions and a

long list of other factors. Given these ongoing challenges, it's no surprise that more farmers and farm families are experiencing stress and mental health concerns.

Today, safety professionals still use this promotional week to remind those working in our nation's most dangerous industry to be careful. Agriculture's death rate is why farmers and ranchers must use safe farming practices during harvest and throughout the year.

South Dakota's electric cooperatives urge our agricultural producers to make better safety and health decisions this harvest season and during the next year. Join us in promoting safety during the 80th annual **National Farm Safety and Health Week Sept. 17-23, 2023**.

During this time, please encourage others to adopt safe practices and behaviors as we prepare to prevent injuries during this harvest season.



Call 811!

Evey Hinrichs, Age 9 3/4

Evey Hinrichs advises people it's not safe to dig before calling 811. Evey is the daughter of Kelby and Carrie Fey from Aberdeen, S.D., members of Northern Electric Cooperative.

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.

DIPS AND SPREADS

SPINACH DIP

Ingredients:

16 oz. sour cream
1 cup mayonnaise (must be mayo)
1 pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
1 can water chestnuts, chopped
1 tbsp. minced onion
1 tsp. season salt
1/2 tsp. Accent
Dash of Worcestershire sauce
2 dashes of hot sauce

METHOD

Serve with Club or Ritz crackers.

Linda Hubbard
Rapid City, S.D.

CREAMY CINNAMON DIP

Ingredients:

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1 container (8 oz.) sour cream
1/4 cup packed brown sugar
2 tbsps. milk
2 tbsps. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. all natural pure vanilla extract

METHOD

Beat all ingredients in medium bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Spoon into serving bowl. Cover.
Refrigerate until ready to serve.
Serve with fresh fruit slices, cookies or pound cake or angel food cubes.
mccormick.com

CARAWAY CHEESE SPREAD

Ingredients:

1 container (12 oz.)
Cheddar cheese spread, at room temperature
2 tbsps. minced onions
1 1/2 tbsps. whole caraway seed
1/2 tsp. Lawry's® Seasoned Salt

METHOD

Mix cheese spread and seasonings in medium bowl. Cover.
Refrigerate at least 2 hours to blend flavors.

Serving Suggestion: Serve with assorted vegetables such as celery sticks, cherry tomatoes, jicama sticks, carrot sticks, endive leaves, and/or assorted crackers.

mccormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Biel Joins Youth Excursion

Laura London

Lake Region Electric

“I had a great time!” exclaimed Hunter Biel after returning from the Youth Excursion to Bismarck. Hunter joined teens from all over the state on a three-day adventure sponsored by our statewide cooperatives. The teens traveled by charter bus to Bismarck, North Dakota where they stayed in the dorms at Bismarck State College.

Hunter enjoyed the hands-on learning so much that he wished the trip had been longer. “I learn best by actually doing stuff, and the hands-on activities were all so cool! I wish it had lasted just a little longer.” In addition to the hands-on learning activities directed by industry experts, the group toured Basin Electric Headquarters, Great Plains Synfuel Plant, Freedom Coal Mine and Antelope Valley Station Power Plant to see how and where South Dakota’s power is generated. Hunter was impressed by the size of the trucks at the coal mine, “Those things are huge.” Hunter also appreciated seeing the models depicting how the power travels from the plant to our farms and homes as well as the “really old” models from when Basin Electric was first built.

While the basis of this excursion is to learn about electricity and where our power comes from, the trip incorporates some fun, socializing activities. “We did so much stuff. We got to go to the water park where we started a chain in the lazy river; we had people joining that weren’t even part of our group. It was a blast!”



Youth Excursion participants enjoyed hands-on learning at Bismarck State College.

The trip is focused on the teens learning, having fun, and making connections with peers that they may not have met otherwise. Hunter said that he made some good friends along the trip, one whom he had never met before but felt like they had been friends forever. “Me and this other kid just hit it off, people thought we’d known each other forever, but we just met on the bus.”

The trip is organized by our statewide organization, SDREA, and Lake Region pays all expenses for a student whose parent or guardian is a member of Lake Region Electric Association as part of our support for the education and training of our future cooperative members.

Hunter had an unforgettable experience, and he encourages others who are eligible to apply next year. He hopes that his younger sisters will attend when they are old enough.



Hunter Biel, representing Lake Region Electric.

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

First Name	Last Name	& / Or	City/State
Alfred	Arcoren		Browns Valley, MN
Cheyenne	Barse	or Mary Barse	Breckenridge, MN
Christopher	Boe		Young America, MN
Paul	Brewer	Or Geraldine K.	Saint Paul, MN
Arthur	Christlieb	Or Betty	Andalusia, AL
Rebecca	Dargatz		Webster, SD
Dominic	Dolney		Webster, SD
Nadine	Eagle-Anderson	or Francis X Eagle	Waubay, SD
Pat	Falk	or Diane Falk	West Fargo, ND
Grace	Frazier		Waubay, SD
Ellen	Owens Hauser		Waubay, SD
Chad	Haber		Tea, SD
James	Halsam Jr.	C/o Julie Huso	Sioux Falls, SD
Barry	Hoag		Big Stone City, SD
Amanda	Holy Bull		Fargo, ND
Robert	Jepsen		Aberdeen, SD
Robert	Knutson		Miller, SD
Joyce	McKay		Sisseton, SD
Lona	Miller		Peever, SD
Barbara	Morris		Groton, SD
Jeanine	Nyhus		Sioux Falls, SD
Lynnelle	Plenty Chief		Sisseton, SD
Craig	Rickert		Sioux Falls, SD
Basil	Robertson		Pickstown, SD
Bill	Rosenau		Groton, SD
Douglas	Sea		Sioux Falls, SD
Joseph	Shortall		Roslyn, SD
Dawn	Turner		Great Falls, MT

Business/Organization	Contact Name	
Jacobs Construction		Aberdeen, SD
Marshall County Equipment	Mike Forrester	Foley, AL



INVASIVE SPECIES

State run boat checks and washing stations aim to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species, such as zebra mussels, in South Dakota.

Zebra Mussels and Their Impact on the Missouri River

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdra.coop

The Missouri River in South Dakota, renowned for its outstanding recreational areas, fishing holes and scenic campgrounds, draws a wide swath of tourists from around the world. However, these welcoming public waters have become the home of one unwelcome intruder—the infamous zebra mussel.

Endemic to southeastern Europe, the zebra mussel made its journey to the United States Great Lakes in the '80s as an unlikely stowaway, clinging to the hulls of large ships and barges. Since their arrival, the mussels have proliferated across the Midwest, spreading from one river system to the next.

So how can a mollusk, merely the size of a fingernail, inflict millions of

dollars in economic damage to local recreation, agriculture and hydroelectric power generation? Martin Goding, Gavins Point Dam maintenance and operations manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, explains that one zebra mussel can spawn more than a million eggs in a season, overrunning the local ecosystem. Once established, the mussels latch onto every viable surface in the water—they envelop pipes, ruin beaches and disrupt hydroelectric dams.

In 2015, local governments detected South Dakota's first infestation of zebra mussels in Lewis and Clark Lake. Goding says this discovery ignited a fierce battle against the invasive species.

“We are in the war to eradicate the zebra mussel, but I don't think we're ever going to completely eliminate them,” said Goding. “They are multiplying faster than we can get rid of them.”



Zebra Mussels completely envelop Gavins Point Dam's water gates, adding up to an additional 30 tons of weight.



With few effective treatments at their disposal, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been forced to adjust to operating within a river infested with mussels. The change has significantly

increased the maintenance costs associated with running Gavins Point Dam. Pipes, essential for cooling the dam as it produces electricity, now require routine disassembly and cleaning. Over the course of six months of warm weather, the dam's lakeside gates collect an additional 30 tons of weight from the relentless accumulation of zebra mussel shells and the debris they carry.

"We have spent a million and a half dollars over the last five years just in maintenance to deal with this invasive species—and that's not even counting the cost of materials," said Goding. "Zebra mussels have really impacted the operation and turned maintenance into a nightmare."

Beyond maintenance, zebra mussels have also disrupted power generation. Outbreaks of zebra mussels within

the dam's infrastructure have resulted in unscheduled and forced outages, interrupting an energy source that has been historically reliable.

"One could safely say that Gavin Point Dam has lost a million dollars in power generation over the last five years," said Goding.

Since the initial invasion in 2015, some strategies have emerged to mitigate damage from the invasive species. The introduction of UV lights and the addition of strainers have curbed the presence of zebra mussels within the dam. Even still, the mussels have continued their spread northward through the Missouri River to Lake Sharpe near Pierre, S.D.

According to Goding, the experiences at Gavins Point Dam serve as a stark warning for dams and water systems yet to face infestation.

"Lewis and Clark Lake is beyond prevention," said Goding. "We have crossed that bridge and they are not going away."





International Friendship Has a Deeper meaning with Dunse

Laura London
Lake Region Electric

The story behind the story of friendship started long before any agreement was reached and it has a much deeper friendship for some. This year marks the 20-year anniversary of the signing of a Friendship Agreement between the city of Dewangen, Germany and Webster, SD.

Mike Dunse had just moved to the Webster area in 2003. At that time, he had a lot going on with just having moved and starting a family with his wife Stacy. He didn't become involved until quite a few years later. When the signing first took place, Mike's wife Stacy worked at the newspaper and would cover stories of the German visitors while they were visiting the area, which enabled them to become more familiar with the visitors and the program. It was their eldest son, Ty, who would really

help Mike understand the relationship between the people of Webster and the people of Dewagen, a town half a world away. In 2017 Ty was a part of the student exchange. Mike watched as his son and other students connected with the German students to form meaningful friendships, giving Mike the desire to become more involved. The Dunse's, along with Austin and Tina Norton, took over the Student Exchange portion of the Webster / Dewagen organization in 2018. They exchanged groups of students in 2019 and 2022 and the friendship towns are preparing to exchange students next year.

Mike became even further involved in the Webster/ Dewagen Friendship Organization when he was honored to become president in 2022. Mike says being involved in the organization is all about friends, "I enjoy the many friends that I have made over the years,

not only the students, but their parents, grandparents, and just people from Dewagen. They are all so welcoming and they are always willing to offer their friendship and hospitality. It's the friendships that keep this group going on both sides of the agreement. We are treated as family when we visit Dewagen and we treat our friends from Dewagen as family when they are here. This is such a special relationship."

Mike's most memorable visit to Germany is very personal and he feels it is an important story to share so that people can gain a better understanding of the depth of friendships formed through this organization. Mike had plans of going to Germany in June of 2018. A few months prior to the trip, he was presented with a unique opportunity when a friend from Dewagen asked Mike if he would like to hunt when he went for the visit. Mike being an avid hunter of course replied

with an exuberant “Yes!” It took several months and a lot of paperwork to make this happen, but the hunt was approved. Over the next few years, Mike was not only able to join in 3 German hunts, but he was also able to host several friends on hunts here in the United States. In May of 2022, Mike experienced a life changing accident that damaged the vision in his right eye. “As a right-handed person, hunter, and active outdoorsman, it impacted me pretty hard.” Mike had three surgeries but no improvement in his vision. Not to be deterred, “I came to the realization that I need to switch to a left-handed hunter.” This is not as easy as just making a decision, as he had been a right-handed hunter for the past 40 years. Mike had a hunt set up in Germany that December, which doctors only cleared him for two days prior to the trip. The hunt did not go as well as Mike had hoped, as he had not had enough practice and shooting left-handed proved to be too much of a challenge. Just before heading home, things took a turn. “One of my friends had a gun for me to try; it was a right-handed gun that you use your left eye to aim with. I tried it and it worked great, it brought tears to my eyes! It was

a dream come true! When I got back to the states, I started to look for a gunsmith to make a gun like this for me, but I couldn’t find anyone to take on the task. With no luck finding a stock builder, I thought I was back to left-handed again. This is where those true friendships come in. On July 8th of this year, as we were preparing for the 20th celebration in Dewagen, I was asked to go say “Hi” to some friends we had met during the last trip in December, which is not uncommon to do. This trip took a turn when I was certain that I didn’t know, nor had never seen, the guy we were meeting. My friends said, “This is Stephan, and he is a professional gun stock maker like his dad and grandpa before him. He is a 6th generation stock builder.” My Friends Robert Stiner, Bernd Kanetzki, Richard Stirner, Austin Norton, along with my wife and 3 boys had worked together to present me with a gun and Stephan was going to build me a stock so I can shoot right-handed with my left eye. The gun is now completed and in the process of being shipped to the states. To this day no one will tell the cost of all that took place and I’m sure I will never know, and all they can tell me is “This is what friends

are for.” and my wife only says, “You have some great friends there.” These are the kind of Friendships that this organization yields, and this is only one story of hundreds like it. “Friends Forever” is our saying to each other, and I believe it with each memory made.”

You don’t have to speak German to host a friend or student from Dewagen Germany, as Dunse tells his friends from Dewagen, “Don’t worry about your English, It’s much better than my German.” He thinks he can understand maybe 30% of what they say but he only speaks about 5%. Friendship has a language of its own. Those who want to be involved in the organization should have some connection to the Webster community and should be willing to host members of the delegation from Dewagen or surrounding community when a group travels to Webster. The Dunse family has hosted several groups of friends over the past few years and plan to continue to open their home to old and new friends in the future. “Our house is ALWAYS open to our friends from Dewagen and it always will be.”

CELEBRATION OF FRIENDSHIP

For the past 20 years, the cities of Dewagen, Germany and Webster have officially shared a special sort of friendship, but it’s a relationship that actually spans nearly three decades.

Now, residents of both places are celebrating that decades-long relationship.





Drone Spraying

A Modern Tool in Today's Agriculture

Scott Waltman

As modern agriculture continues to evolve, drones are one of the newer tools farmers can use to help their land and crops.

The hovering, unmanned aircraft can be handy for small areas and places it's difficult for traditional spraying options to get to, according to those who offer the service to those in the ag sector.

Drones aren't the weapon of choice to spray chemicals on 1,500 acres of corn or soybeans, but that day is likely coming, said Derek Ver Helst, who operates Dakota Unmanned Aerial in Brandt.

Closer to the coasts, drones are already used for a multitude of purposes that aren't just fun and shooting videos. They are only going to become more prominent in ag-heavy states like the Dakotas, he said.

"The possibilities are pretty much

just limited by your imagination," Ver Helst said.

He said his background as an agronomist piqued his interest in spraying with drones. Dakota Unmanned Aerial is a side hustle he started about two years ago. He works as a senior conservation agronomist for AgSpire.

Nick Williams had a background in agriculture working for CHS Cooperative and selling farm equipment before starting Williams Drones southeast of Parkston in August 2020. Business has been good, he said, estimating that it has doubled each year.

"It's really taken off, it continues to grow," Williams said.

He and Ver Helst agree that farmers have been receptive to the relatively new option, willing to give it a try when the project isn't too big.

Williams said he does mostly ag-related work. In late July, he was staying busy with fungicide applications.

Drones are great near shelter belts and around wet areas. Those are places



that are hard for a land rig or spray plane to get to. Drones work better because they are smaller and more agile, he said.

A route is mapped out and the drone reads that information and flies mostly autonomously, Williams said.

He sets the height, speed, gallons of application per acre and swath width. Once a drone is in the air, it does almost all of the work, though Williams said he can control the height a little, if needed.

Drones have sensors and other features so they don't run into trees, equipment, wind turbines or structures, he said.

Depending on the amount of land to be sprayed, it can take longer to map a field than to spray it, Ver Helst said.

His drones carry 10 liters, but others have a capacity of 40 liters, he said. When a drone runs out of chemical, it returns back to the operator, who puts on a new tank, changes the battery and sends it back out, Ver Helst said. The drone will pick up spraying right where it left off, he said.

In 2016, land-grant university researchers and educators started work to increase the use of drones in agriculture, according to information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

That work continues today. It includes identifying and evaluating the most user-friendly and cost-effective drone platforms and sensors, according to the USDA.

Some drone operators offer swarm spraying, Van Helst and Williams said.

For instance, there could be five drones programmed to follow the same grid over a field, pasture or slough working in unison, Van Helst said. As one runs out of spray, it returns for a new tank of chemical and battery until the job is finished.

Van Helst said he doesn't do a lot of spraying. Most of it is on pastures.

But, he said, he has done some work in orchards and vineyards where grapes are grown.

Williams has branched out a little more. Last year, he said, he was hired to do a dust-control project at the Sanford Underground Research Facility in the Black Hills. That is the former Homestake gold mine near Lead.

And both men say drones can be used to combat one of South Dakota's least-popular commodities – mosquitoes.

Drones can be used to spray for skeeters on fairgrounds, when there's a big city gathering and even in a residential area.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, they were even used to shower stadiums with antibacterial spray, Van Helst said.

One drone operator in Texas was contacted to see if drones could be used to drop fish food into a pond, Williams said.

He said his drones can cover about 20 acres an hour, though some can do 30 hours an acre. And he expects the new drones released next year will be able to spray 40 hours in an acre.

For large fields, a land rig or a spray plane is still a better bet, Williams said. A traditional ground sprayer can probably cover 70 acres an hour, he said.

Van Helt said his T-40 drone can handle about 100 acres a day.

One challenge in getting started is getting all of the licensing needed from the Federal Aviation Administration.

He spent about two years testing and writing exemptions and working through the legalities.

Commercial drone operators need a remote pilot certificate from the FAA. Another license is needed to dispense chemicals from a flying aircraft, Van Helst said.

He said he has procured 14 FAA exemptions and will need two more next year.

That's why some drone operators hire a business to navigate that process. That's the route Williams took.

Being a drone operator can be fun or frustrating, just like any other job, he said. He just checks the forecast and hopes it holds. Trying to spray when the wind is 20 mph or more just isn't going to work, he said.

Even so, Van Helst said, drones are a fantastic tool. Ground rigs and spray planes will always be needed, and drones are just one more option for farmers to tap.

"There's a right time and a right place for everything," he said.



Employee Spotlight: Accountant Justin McClurg

Laura London

Lake Region Electric

Things are adding up for Lake Region Electric Association's Accountant, Justin McClurg. He celebrated his five-year anniversary at Lake Region in July. Justin is a part of the office team, where he pays the never-ending bills that come in, pays our taxes and makes nice with the IRS, enters work orders and sends out invoices for work that our crews perform. Justin is responsible for entering and adjusting material items, a task that has been less than fun over the past couple of years due to the supply chain issues and increasing costs. Don't forget that he could be voted "most popular" at least twice a month, as he pushes payroll through. Justin appreciates the friendly, structured atmosphere at Lake Region Electric and he enjoys helping fellow employees and members of Lake Region Electric solve problems; he likes seeing people happy. The friendly banter between co-workers is probably his favorite thing about coming to work every day.

Justin studied Business at SDSU. He chose business because he wasn't sure what he wanted to do as far as a career went and business was a broad topic with many specialties that appealed to his analytical mind. Having grown up in Webster, Justin knew that he wanted to return to the area after college; he preferred the small-town familiarity. Prior to coming on board with Lake Region Electric, Justin worked for Dave's Marine for many years, a job that he enjoyed because he was able to work outdoors and meet a variety of people and there was always something different to do. As Justin got older and his family started to grow, he was looking for something that was a little less physically demanding and more routine. Justin's father is a retired lineman so the opening at Lake Region seemed like the perfect opportunity.

Justin had another #5 to celebrate in July: he and his wife, Tarah added another child to their family. Etta Mae joined her sister Presley and brothers Jett, Maddox and Hux near the end of July. According to Justin, she is a content baby



with more attention than any one child could wish for with four older siblings fighting to hold her and take care of her. Justin doesn't get a lot of free time, as he stays busy with his family, coaching youth wrestling and some t-ball. He jokes that he spends a lot of his time grocery shopping.

His commitment to our community is a reflection of the type of person you want working for your cooperative.

Congratulations Justin, here's to another #5!





Welcome Baby Bremmon

Zac and Sarah Bremmon welcomed their newest hunting partner, Brady, to the family in July.

Zac is an electrician at LREA.



German Fest

BANDS! BEER! FUN!

September 23, 2023

Webster Armory, 120 W. 11th Ave.

20th Anniversary Celebration of Webster-Dewangen Friendship

Presentation by mayors starts at 7:30 p.m. with entertainment to follow

Sponsored by

CITY OF WEBSTER



Vendor Fair

10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

For a spot, call Nikki (605) 265-0897

Noon Meal

in concession stand

Beer & Wine Contest

Entries until 2 p.m. Judging 2 p.m.
Open to all. Hand crafted beer stein and wine goblet for top winners.

Corn Hole

Registration until 12:30 p.m. Games start 1 p.m.

Live Music

Under the Beer Tent. 12-3 p.m.

Car Show

Registration 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Show 1-4 p.m. Awards 4 p.m.

Top 3 awards designed and crafted in Germany
Contact Dennis Bremmon (605) 265-0295

Kuchen Contest

Entries until 1 p.m. Judging 2 p.m.

Free will donation
tasting with coffee following judging

Axe Throwing

12-4 p.m.

Inflatables

Kids' activities starting at 10 a.m.

State Snow Queens

Will be attending the event.

German Meal

4-7 p.m. Schnitzel/Spaetzle/Brats/Kraut
Tickets available at Mike's Jack & Jill,
Reporter & Farmer or A Cut Above
Advanced Tickets: \$20 Day of Event: \$25

Wendinger Polka Band

3-7 p.m., Main Stage Armory

For more information or meal tickets call (605) 265-1637

REGISTER TO WIN!

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

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



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.

AUGUST 26

Veblen Summer Bash

5K Walk/Run 8 a.m.
Car show registration 9 a.m.,
judging 10 a.m., awards
12 p.m.
Rodeo 5 p.m., dance following
rodeo
Veblen, SD
701403-4688

SEPT 2

Hidewood Valley Barn Dance

7 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 4

Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show

Steam Whistle Blows
1 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 8-10

James Valley Threshing & Tractor Show

World's Largest Steam
Traction Engine
Andover, SD
605-868-3242

SEPT 9-10

Old Iron - Fall Harvest Festival

Delmont, SD

SEPT 10

10th Annual Black Hill Beer Run

Spearfish Campground
Pavilion
Spearfish, SD
605-642-7730

SEPT 10

100th Anniversary of Little Brown Church

11 a.m.
Service, Potluck & Auction
West of Hayes
Hayes, SD

SEPT 16

Midland Appreciation Day

Theme: Automobiles
1:30 p.m.
Midland, SD

SEPT 17

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

Church Bazaar
12 p.m.
Hoven, SD

SEPT 22-24

Coal Springs Threshing Bee

Meadow, SD
605-788-2229

SEPT 23

German Fest

Webster, SD
605-380-0588

SEPT 30

Day of Wellness

10 a.m.
Sturgis Armory
Sturgis, SD

SEPT 29-30

Junkin' Market Days

Ramkota Exhibit Hall
Sioux Falls, SD
605-941-4958

OCT 6-7

Holman Acres Pumpkin Fest & Vendor Show

Philip, SD
605-441-1060

OCT 7

Spirit of Dakota Award

Huron Event Center
Huron, SD
605-352-6073

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