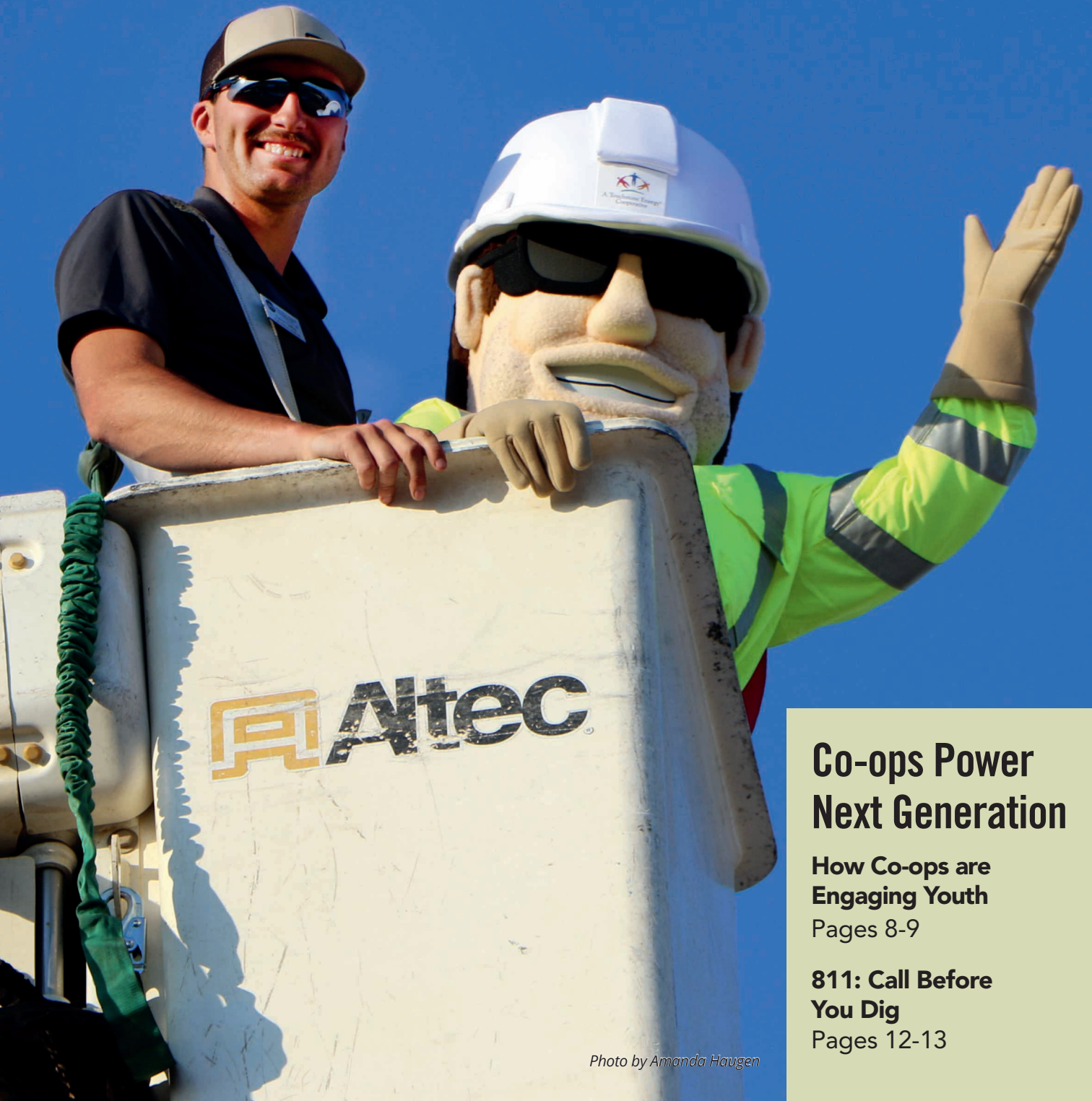


COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Co-ops Power Next Generation

**How Co-ops are
Engaging Youth**
Pages 8-9

**811: Call Before
You Dig**
Pages 12-13

ATTENTION Trade Students

Do you want free money for school?

Apply now for the Charles Johnson Education & Training Trust Scholarship

This scholarship is for people who:

- Want to further their education
- Remain in or return to the Day County area
- Work in the trades industries

Criteria for Award

- Qualifying Course of Study
- Positive Character Qualities
- Future Goals & Plans Align With Scholarship
- Reference from educator or employer



For information and applications:

- Visit: www.lakeregion.coop
- Contact Laura at Lake Region Electric
 - LLondon@lakeregion.coop
- Contact your High School Counselor

Applications Due April 1st

Our office will be **CLOSED**

Friday, April 18, 2025

Good Friday

Have a blessed Easter.

Call to report outages:
605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869



TELL US WHO POWERS YOU!

We know our co-op community is filled with people making a difference. Let's celebrate them! Nominate a member or employee of your local Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative who goes above and beyond. They could win up to \$3,000!

Nominate Your Local Hero Now!

whopowersyoucontest.com

Call our office for more information: 605-345-3379

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Person Family Trust
Linda Nelson
Tracy Marquette

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LAKE REGION ELECTRIC RIPPLES

(USPS 018-904)

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LAKE REGION RIPPLES COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., PO Box 341, 1212 N Main St., Webster, SD 57274. Lake Region Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

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24 hour Dispatching/Outage Line 1-800-657-5869

Join us for a

TOUR

VIP Member

See first hand where your power comes from as we guide you on a tour of Basin Electric Power Cooperative and generation facilities.

August
19-20
2025



\$25 fee
per member
+ 1 free guest

Charter Bus Tour to Bismarck

Travel, tours, hotel accomodations, meals and evening entertainment are provided for you by your cooperative.

TO GET ON THE LIST or FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Laura London or Brett Kwasniewski

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Email: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop

Visit our website:
www.lakeregion.coop



Return to LREA Basin Tour: PO Box 341, Webster, SD 57274

LREA Member Name _____

Phone: _____ **LREA Account #** _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Guest Name: _____

Preferred Pick Up Location: Webster Bristol Groton

Distracted Driving

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system – anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

Consequences

Using a cell phone while driving creates enormous potential for deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. In 2022, 3,308 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

Get Involved

We can all play a part in the fight to save lives by ending distracted driving.

APRIL
Distracted Driving Awareness Month
an **nsc** initiative
National Safety Council

Teens

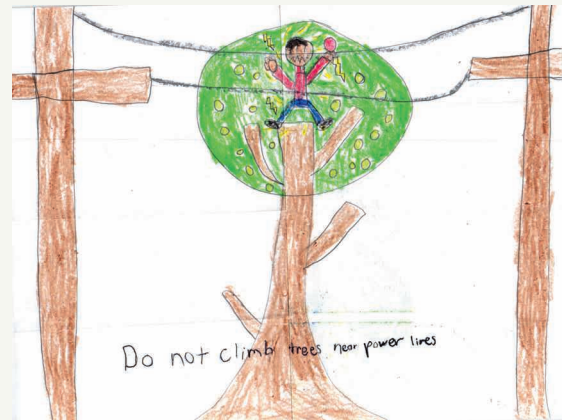
Teens can be the best messengers with their peers, so we encourage them to speak up when they see a friend driving while distracted, to have their friends sign a pledge to never drive distracted, to become involved in their local Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter, and to share messages on social media that remind their friends, family and neighbors not to make the deadly choice to drive distracted.

Parents

Parents first must lead by example – by never driving distracted – as well as have a talk with their young driver about distraction and all of the responsibilities that come with driving. Have everyone in the family sign the pledge to commit to distraction-free driving. Remind your teen driver that in states with graduated driver licensing (GDL), a violation of distracted-driving laws could mean a delayed or suspended license.

Educators and Employers

Educators and employers can play a part, too. Spread the word at your school or workplace about the dangers of distracted driving. Ask your students to commit to distraction-free driving or set a company policy on distracted driving.



“Do not climb trees near power lines.”

Naomi Krcil, Age 7

Naomi cautions readers about the dangers of climbing trees near power lines. Thank you for your picture, Naomi! Naomi's parents are Andrew and Andrea Krcil, members of Charles Mix Electric Association.

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.

Let's Have BRUNCH

EASY BREAKFAST MUFFIN

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 tsps. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
2 eggs (beaten)
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup milk

Method

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Line a 12 cup muffin tin with paper liners or spray each cup with cooking spray. In a mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt.

Add in eggs, oil and milk and mix only until combined, don't beat or over mix or they will be dry! Fold in 1/2 cup mix-ins if desired.

Scoop into prepared muffin tin and bake for 15 to 18 minutes or just until golden and a toothpick comes clean. Serve with butter and jam.

Lyon-Lincoln Electric Member

UMM BRUNCH

Ingredients:

Scallops
English Muffin
Eggs

Method

Soak scallops in cold water in fridge for two hours, pat dry, sauté in butter and garlic until opaque (approx. 4 min). Put on toasted English muffin. Cook poached eggs in 10-inch skillet with 1 tbsp. vinegar (3-5 mins.) Remove with slotted spoon and drain on paper towel. Add to the scallops and top with Hollandaise Sauce.

Hollandaise Sauce:

Cut 1/2 stick butter into thirds. In double boiler, combine 1 piece of butter and 3 egg yolks, 1 tbsp. lemon juice and 1 tbsp. water. Place it over boiling water and cook while whisking rapidly. Add remaining butter one at a time, continue to cook. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Kari Reder
Northern Electric Member

SAUSAGE AND EGG TACOS

Ingredients:

4 oz. breakfast sausage, casings removed
1 tbsp. perfect pinch roasted garlic bell pepper seasoning
6 eggs
2 tbsps. milk
1 tbsp. butter
6 small flour tortillas, warmed
1/4 cup shredded Mexican cheese blend
1 med. ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and sliced

Method

Heat medium skillet on medium-high heat. Add sausage and Seasoning; cook and stir until sausage is browned and crumbled. Remove sausage from pan; keep warm. Drain fat from pan.

Beat eggs and milk in medium bowl with wire whisk. Melt butter in same skillet on medium heat. Add egg mixture; cook and stir until eggs are firm.

For each taco, place one tortilla on plate. Top with eggs, sausage, cheese and avocado. Sprinkle with additional seasoning, if desired.

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 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Member Spotlight

Bitter Lake Lodge is All About Food and Friedships

Laura London

Take a drive south of Waubay, and you will find Bitter Lake Lodge on the northeast end of its namesake, Bitter Lake. In Lake Region Electric Association's territory, this sprawling lake, known for being a haven for perch and walleye, is a popular spot for anglers and hunters. Bitter Lake Lodge was built on this pretty lake front property in 2012. Originally owned by four individuals, Kris Bronson (and wife Tamijo) became sole owner of the lodge when he bought out his partners in 2023; those three retained ownership of the campground which is located right next to the lodge. The lodge was reopened to the public in 2023, initially serving some food, pizzas from Dakota Butcher and fryer items, they have now expanded to a full menu.

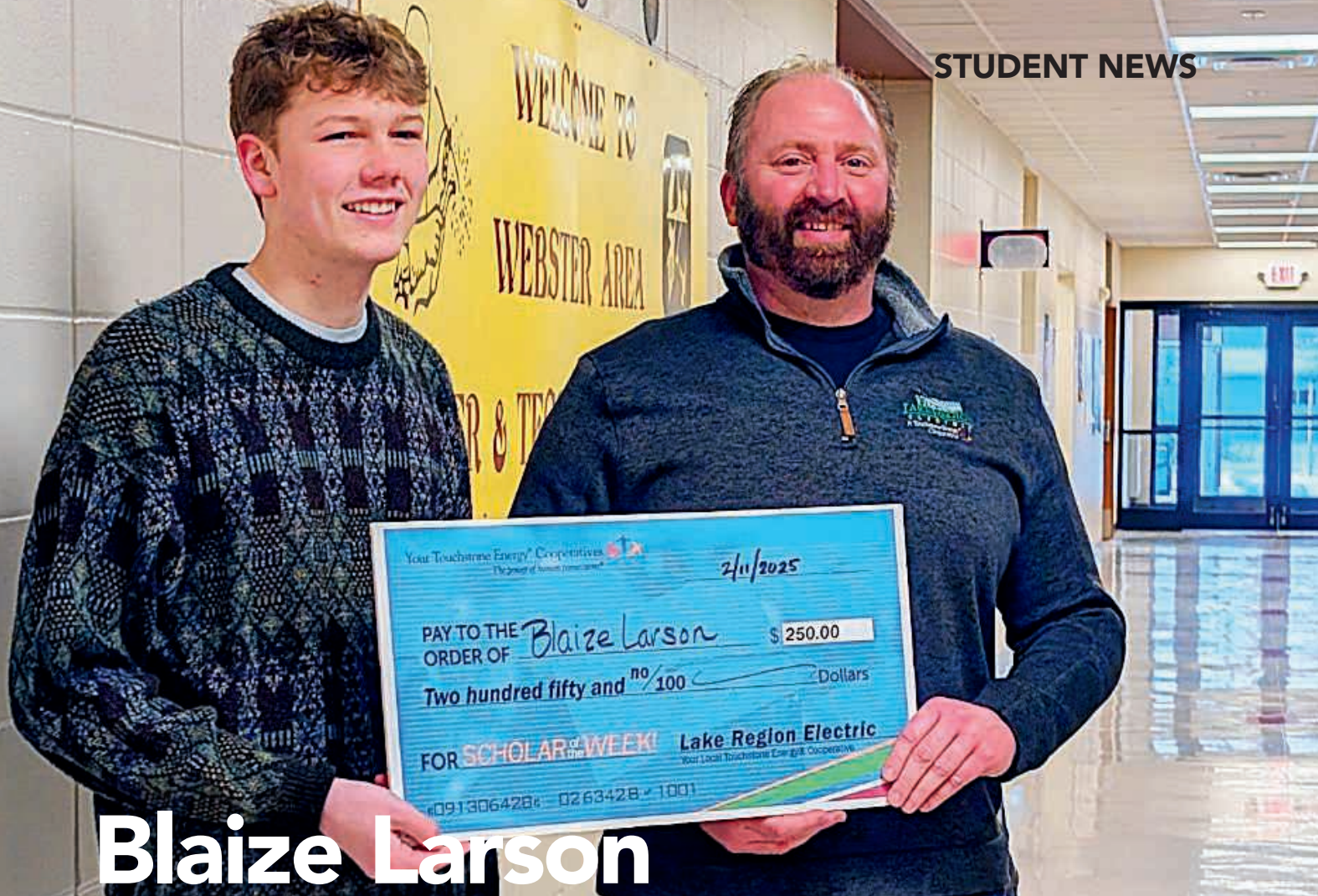
Bitter Lake Lodge is quickly becoming a popular spot known for their good food and friendly service. Lake Region Electric Association's Utility Specialist

Lukas Pearson has become a regular, "My family and I head over to Bitter Lake Lodge quite often, especially for their amazing wings on Wednesday nights! I've been going there since their first wing night, and it has quickly become the place to be around the area on a Wednesday evening." Teresa Grebner is the Manager for the lodge, She said they have been hosting wing nights every Wednesday for about a year now. According to Grebner, they typically sell well over a hundred orders of wings on a Wednesday night. "We recently had a benefit for the Griffee Family on Wing Night; we sold wings for full price but donated half of the sales from that night to the family after the devastating loss of their child and their home in a house fire. That night we did over 300 orders of wings!" They have traditional flavors for their wings but some of the most popular are Sweet Honey Garlic, Kickin' Bourbon and Raspberry Chipotle, with a few new flavors being added.

Bitter Lake Lodge has more to offer than just wing night, they offer a complete menu and are even trying out a Sunday brunch. The word on the street is that Head Cook Eric Kuehn has made quite a name for himself with his ability to cook a phenomenal steak, which is one of the things that keeps people coming back. Grebner, who says she has never done anything like this before runs the lodge with about 10 employees. "I am so fortunate for my staff at the Lodge. We have become family and that is hard to accomplish in a business like this." Community support has been key to getting things going at the lodge and has helped them expand their menu. The relationships that have been built with the staff and customers creates a friendly atmosphere that makes people want to come back. "I think that the friendliness of our staff and the overall atmosphere plays a big role in the attraction to the Lodge. Our customers are also fantastic! We have so many regulars that come in and we all banter back and forth. We all wear smiles all night, no matter how busy or slow we are."

Whether you are taking the family out for dinner, looking for a quick appetizer and a cold drink, or are planning an event, Teresa and the rest of the staff at Bitter Lake Lodge are ready to serve some fantastic food and friendly conversation!





Blaize Larson Named Scholar of The Week

Blaize Larson of Webster Area High School has proven that he has what it takes to be honored as Touchstone Energy's Scholar of The Week. Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and Dakota News Now have joined together to recognize the achievements of high school seniors throughout the region. "Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week" has been celebrating the achievements of high school seniors since 2002. Recipients are highly motivated high school seniors who excel in the classroom and community. This program was founded on the four pillars of Touchstone Energy: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and a Commitment to Community.

Blaize is active in numerous school and community organizations and activities

while maintaining a 4.1 GPA and taking AP classes. He is the Senior Class President and the Student Body Secretary as well as the president of the Robotics Club. In FCCLA Blaize has served leadership roles on the local, regional, state, and national levels and is currently Chapter President on the State Advocacy team. "As a leader, I enjoy teaching other members in these clubs how to overcome challenges that they might come face to face with. I like to see the difference that is being made through the different projects that my organizations have put together and completed." Blaize has also been active in HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership), an organization that encourages student volunteerism. Blaize has sound advice for his underclassmen: "Make your own opportunities. Don't sit around

and wait for leadership, volunteering, or anything for that matter, to just fall in your lap; take the initiative and have ambition."

He was also a foreign exchange student in Malansac, France. "I loved the experience and in my free time continue to learn more about the language and culture." Following high school, Blaize plans to attend college to major in Political Science and French with a minor in Spanish.

Blaize was presented with a check for \$250 from Lake Region Electric and was featured on Dakota News Now 6 p.m. news on March 10 and again on the Dakota News Now morning news on March 11 between 6-7 a.m.. He is also eligible to receive one of the three scholarships that are given away at the annual Scholar of the Year banquet. He feels that being chosen as Scholar of The Week is an accomplishment, "I never expect any recognition for anything that I do, I do it because it is something that means a lot to me. Receiving this honor was an amazing privilege that I am very grateful for." Blaize is the son of Beau and Chelsea Larson of Webster.



FROM CELEBRATION TO INSPIRATION

Megawatt welcomes members to the football tailgate party hosted by West River Electric.
Photo by Amanda Haugen

How Electric Co-ops Are Powering the Next Generation

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

April marks Lineman Appreciation Month, the perfect time to spotlight the essential role that electric cooperative employees play in their communities. In line with their commitment to education and community involvement, electric cooperatives are celebrating lineworkers through youth engagement initiatives, and it all stems from one of the electric cooperatives' seven cooperative principles: concern for community. For years, programs such as Cooperatives in the Classroom have provided schoolchildren with innovative, hands-on learning opportunities, demonstrating the critical work electric cooperatives perform in their communities.

Whether it's engaging youth through a Neon Leon safety demonstration or taking students to explore Basin Electric's energy infrastructure during the SDREA Youth Excursion, electric cooperatives across the state are constantly finding new and exciting ways to engage the youth within their communities and inspire the next generation. Below are two new avenues for spurring youth engagement in cooperatives across the state:

Megawatt Mascot

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Megawatt, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative's newest lineman mascot. This summer, select electric cooperatives in western South Dakota are suiting up to introduce Megawatt – a friendly-faced lineman adorned with a hard hat, safety gloves and

bright red cape – to their members.

“The goal is to get younger kids to start thinking about linemen in a certain way – almost larger than life and the backbone of the electric cooperative,” said Rushmore Electric Chief Marketing Officer Matt Brunner. “The hope is that it translates into them considering the lineman profession when they get older.”

Megawatt has already made his debut at several member appreciation events, bringing high-energy fun to parades and tailgates as a true champion of the cooperative spirit. So far, Brunner said the mascot has left a big impression.

“The kids and adults have loved it, and the interactions have been great,” Brunner said. “If nothing else, it's unique. People are constantly asking, ‘Who is that?’ The costume does a great job of starting the conversation: what is a lineman, and what do they do?”

Beyond lineworkers, cooperatives offer a diverse range of career paths.

From engineers to accountants, the cooperative world is full of exciting roles that include opportunities in communications, where professionals share the cooperative's achievements and member services, where employees work directly with the community to meet their needs.

Brunner said he expects the idea to continue gaining momentum over the coming months with new avenues of appreciation for linemen and a better understanding of the day in the life of a lineman, as well as other exciting careers in the electric cooperative industry.

STEM Gains Steam

Jennifer Gross, education and outreach coordinator at East River Electric Power Cooperative, has inspired classrooms for years with a variety of engaging demonstrations, covering everything from science to safety. Last year, Gross introduced a new activity to spark curiosity while incorporating STEM – an approach to education that integrates science, technology, engineering and mathematics into learning. The result led to a crafting activity where kids use simple materials to fashion their own wind turbine.

“We are always trying to come up with new ideas for students,” Gross said. “Incorporating STEM into this project seemed like a natural fit because both teachers and students are very receptive to it.”

The idea is straightforward. Students construct a small-scale turbine from wooden dowels, fins, and a motor capable of generating power. Once completed, they connect their tiny turbine to a multimeter, which measures the energy generated. Instead of relying on natural wind, students use a fan to simulate a windy day. By altering their model turbines, students can find the optimal design for the best output of energy. And just like that, students can step into the role of engineers.



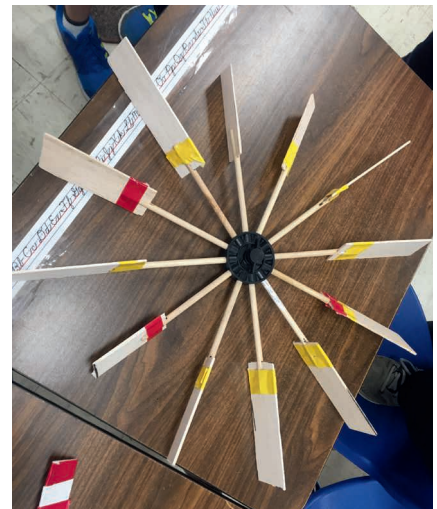
Megawatt is joined by U.S. Air Force personnel enjoying the Annual Base Picnic.
Photo by Amanda Haugen

Gross said the students and the project have a lot in common. Once the building begins, the students' minds begin to whirl – just like a turbine. The activity prompts question after question: Why does the wind blow? How does a wind turbine work? How does the shape and weight of the blade influence the experiment?

“The students enjoy being engineers for this project,” Gross said. “They enjoy having the freedom to choose their materials and design. There's no right or wrong way to do it, and they enjoy that. I mention to the students that careers in wind energy are in high demand and some are 4-year degrees and others are fewer years, but the push for renewable energy sources is growing and our state produces plenty of wind.”

Whether it's through a hands-on activity or an engaging mascot, cooperatives aim to not only educate but inspire, ensuring that today's students can become tomorrow's linemen, engineers, communicators or member service representatives. By

sparkling curiosity and introducing young people to the world of cooperatives early on, they're opening the door to careers that keep communities powered and connected.



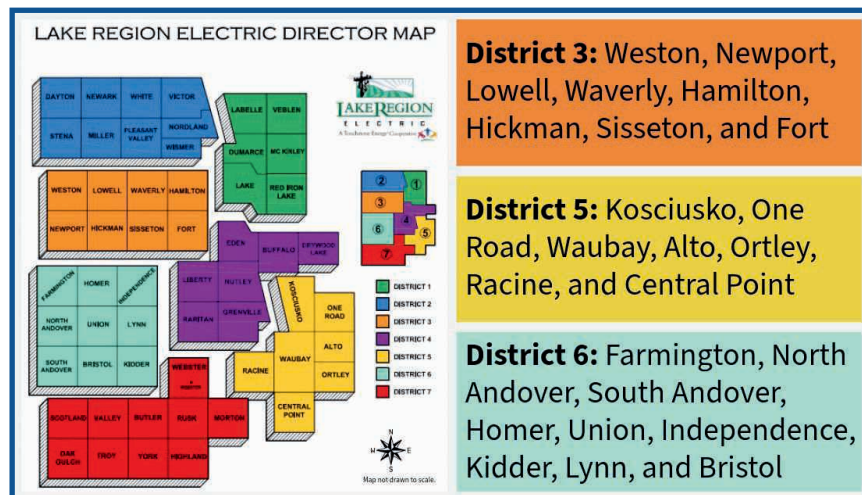
This is just one example of how students create wind turbines using materials such as balsa wood, foam, card stock, cardboard and paper cups.

Photo by Jennifer Gross

Election to be Held at 2025 Annual Meeting

Lake Region Electric Association's 84th Annual Meeting of Members is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2025, at the Armory in Webster, SD. Three Director seats will be up for election at this year's annual meeting: District 3, District 5, and District 6.

District 3 consists of Weston, Newport, Lowell, Waverly, Hamilton, Hickman, Sisseton and Fort. District 5 consists of Kosciusko, One Road, Waubay, Alto, Ortley, Racine and Central Point. District 6 consists of Farmington, North Andover, South Andover, Homer, Union, Independence, Kidder, Lynn, and Bristol. Incumbent directors Kermit Pearson (District 3), Cody Paszek (District 5) and Rodney Tobin (District 6) are all eligible for re-election. At the time of this publication, no formal announcements have been made by incumbent directors about seeking re-election, nor has the Lake Region office received notification from any other member expressing interest in representing any of these districts on the Board of Directors during this year's election.



Lake Region Electric is governed by a board consisting of seven directors representing each of the districts that make up our territory. The Directors are democratically elected to serve a term of 3 years and are accountable to the members of Lake Region Electric. Serving on the board of directors is a commitment that requires representatives to attend local meetings on a monthly basis as well as state and national meetings. Board members attend trainings and pursue educational opportunities so that they are well informed on regulations and industry trends in order to best serve the members of Lake Region Electric Association. Directors do not receive any salary for their services, rather, they receive a per diem fee for attending all meetings of the Board of Directors.

Active members living in these districts who are interested in serving on the Lake

Region Electric Association Board of Directors are encouraged to call 605-345-3379 toll free: 1-800-657-5869 or stop by our office at 1212 Main Street in Webster for more information or to request a petition. According to current LREA bylaws, the final date that petitions can be received by the cooperative is no less than 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting. This year, the deadline for petitions is Monday, April 21, 2025. It is recommended that all petitions be returned by April 16th so that the office can verify the signees are current, active members of the cooperative and to allow time for the petitioner to gather more signatures if necessary. Nominations can be accepted from the floor during the annual meeting. Those wishing to make a nomination from the floor must call the office in advance of the annual meeting to pre-check the candidate for eligibility.

LREA Qualification and Nomination Bylaws

Bylaws

A full and true copy of the Bylaws of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. is available to all members in a 20-page booklet. The document can be viewed in digital format by visiting the website: Lakeregion.coop and clicking on "Cooperative Mission and Guiding Principles" from the drop-down menu of the "My Cooperative" tab near the top of the home page. Any member who wishes to receive a printed copy can stop by the LREA office at 1212 Main Street, Webster, or call and request that one be mailed to you: 605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869.

Section 3. Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative who is a close relative (father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandchildren, first cousins or stepchild) of an incumbent director or of an employee of the Cooperative, or is not a member in good standing of the Cooperative and receiving service at his/her primary residential abode or primary business, which must be located in the directorate district that the director is to represent; PROVIDED, that the designated representative of any non-human member, such as a corporation or its designee, shall notwithstanding that he/she does not receive

services from the Cooperative at his/her primary residential abode, be eligible to become a director if (1) he/she is in substantial permanent occupancy, direction or use of the premises served by the Cooperative, and (2) is a permanent and year-round resident within the Cooperative's service area or residing not more than fifty (50) miles from the principal location of the non-human member that is being served by the Cooperative; BUT PROVIDED FURTHER, that no more than one such person as the designated representative may serve on the Board at the same time and in the event that he/she should resign or is unwilling to so act, that directorship shall become vacant. No person may become or remain a director of, or to hold any other position of trust in the Cooperative who does not have the legal capacity to enter into a binding contract, or is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise, or a business providing electric services to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electric appliances, fixtures or supplies to, among others, the members of the Cooperative. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of, or to hold any other position of trust in, the Cooperative who is not at least eighteen (18) years of age. No ex-employee, either retired or terminated, will be eligible to become a director of the Cooperative for at least 5 years after their employment ends. If a nominee for director lacks eligibility under this paragraph or as may be provided elsewhere in these bylaws, the chairperson presiding at the meeting at which such nominee would otherwise be voted upon shall disqualify such nominee.

If any person being considered for, or already holding, a directorship or other position of trust in the Cooperative lacks eligibility under this paragraph, the Board shall withhold such position, or cause such person to be removed therefrom, as the case may be. Nothing contained in this paragraph shall, 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 paragraph and in which one or more of the directors have an interest adverse to that of the Cooperative.

Section 4. Nominations

Any fifteen (15) or more members acting together may make nominations for Board of Directors by a petition filed not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting. If no nominating petitions are filed, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than thirty (30) days before the annual meeting at which directors are elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than four (4) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected from districts in which the vacancy exists so as to insure equitable representation. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on the committee. The committee shall prepare and file a report, at least twenty (20) days before the annual meeting, of a list of nominations for directors in such districts where no nominating petitions have been filed.

The secretary shall mail, with the notice of meeting or separately but at least seven (7) days before the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of candidates.

At the annual meeting, the chairman or his/her designee shall read the statement of the secretary as to number of directors to be elected and the names of nominees.

The chairman or his/her designee shall call for additional nominations from the floor and nominations shall cease after a reasonable time. No member may nominate more than one candidate. Any member intending to nominate a candidate from the floor shall notify the Cooperative prior to the opening of the meeting, to verify qualifications and willingness to serve.

COOPERATIVES
PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

ANNUAL
MEETING

JUNE
5th
2025

Registration
6:00PM
Business Meeting
7:00 PM

Webster Armory
120 W 11th St
Webster, SD

LAKE REGION
ELECTRIC
A Touchstone Energy
Cooperative



DIGGING SAFELY

Call 811 Before You Dig Every Dig. Every Time.

Jocelyn Johnson

jocelyn.johnson@sdra.coop

Every year, underground utility lines are damaged by homeowners and contractors who dig without calling 811. This single call is a crucial step in any project. Striking a water, gas or power line can cause serious injuries, costly repairs and service outages for an entire neighborhood. Whether you're beginning construction on a major project or are simply planting a tree, calling 811 before you dig is a free and simple solution to what could potentially be considerable damage.

What is 811?

The South Dakota One-Call System, or 811, is a mandatory statewide

one-call notification system that was established by South Dakota Statute in 1993. 811 is now recognized as the national "Call Before You Dig" number in the U.S., designed to safeguard people and protect underground utilities. It's a free service that coordinates with your utility providers to help locate and mark underground lines.







Codi Gregg, executive director for South Dakota 811, said, "The main purpose of the program is to avoid digging into any utility and potentially causing a loss of life, loss of property, or any infrastructure buried in the ground."

"We are fully funded by the utilities who want to protect the services they provide," Gregg continued. "It is



GET TO KNOW THE COLOR CODE

Below are The American Public Works Association (APWA) Uniform Color Codes for temporary marking of underground utilities.

 <p>Proposed Excavation</p>	 <p>Electric</p>
 <p>Water</p>	 <p>Communication / CATV</p>
 <p>Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, Slurry</p>	 <p>Temporary Survey Marking</p>
 <p>Gas, Oil, Steam</p>	 <p>Sewer / Storm Drain</p>

South Dakota state law that you contact 811 two business days before you dig.”

South Dakota has underground utility lines for electricity, gas, water, sewage and telecommunications. Inadvertently hitting one of these lines could cause power outages, property damage, water contamination, gas leaks, legal liabilities and injury.

Gregg explained that when an excavator makes the 811 call before they dig, utilities receive the locate and have 48 hours to mark all lines in the designated area with color-coded flags or paint.

“If you happen to dig into a utility or find one that was not located while excavating, you have to report that to 811. If you happen to dig into a gas line or anything toxic, you must call 911 first, then 811.”

How It Works

Contractors, homeowners, ranchers and farmers can easily make a request for underground utility lines to be marked by

following these steps before every project.

1. Call 811 or submit an online request at least 48 hours prior to your project.
 - Information can be found online at www.sdonecall.com.
2. Wait for utility markings.
 - Utility companies will send professionals to mark buried lines using color-coded paint or flags.
3. Get locates on secondary or privately-owned lines if needed.
4. Check markings.
 - Confirm all utility companies listed on your ticket have responded to the request after the two-business days have passed.
5. Dig safely.

Real-Life Examples of Hitting Underground Utility Lines

Contractor Hits Unmarked Secondary Line

Tom Lundberg, member services manager from H-D Electric Cooperative in Clear Lake, S.D., gives the following account of a contact made to a secondary line:

“Normal situations start out like this – South Dakota 811 calls are made from an excavator or member (persons doing the work), and flags and paint go on the ground marking the underground services. This is a normal occurrence. However, some digs are more complicated, and there may be what we call secondary wires, pipes, sewer lines, etc. located in the dig area as well. The words primary and secondary are confusing to some people and they assume that all is well after the 811 call is made. Primary lines are owned and operated by the utility. Secondary lines are member-owned lines that are not marked by any utility. They must be marked by the member-owner of the property.

Unfortunately, we have had many of these lines hit during a dig, which makes it an emergency service call. One example is when we had a 600-amp service for a member that was damaged by a contractor. The call came in to us, and we responded to the site. We realized it could have been a very dangerous situation if the contractor would have entered the dig. Luckily, they guarded the hole until we arrived. The underground wires were extremely damaged, and the contact did not take out the transformer fuse or any kind of overcurrent protection. When I arrived, there was water in the hole, and I could hear the muddy water boiling. At that time, I assumed it was still energized. The first thing I did was turn the power off and assess the extent of the damage. The mud and water were so hot that I had to wait for a while for it to cool off. Repairs were made and everything was put back together. I double checked my work, then turned the power back on. This happened because secondary locates were not completed – resulting

in a three-hour delay for the business and a costly repair.

We have had many of these calls over the years, and we want to communicate that anyone digging for a project must ensure all the dig area is marked for primary and secondary functions (wire, pipe, gas, telephone, sewer).

Long story short, the impact of not marking all the dig area can cost you time, loss of production, money and even worse – injury or death.”

Out-of-State Contractor Hits Underground Power Line

Mike Stadler, manager of electric operations from Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison, S.D., gives the following account of a contact made by company digging gravel:

“We had a dig-in a couple of years ago at a gravel pit. The county contracted a crushing company out of state to mine more gravel from an existing pit they had rights to. The crushing company started by digging test holes with a bulldozer. They would take the bulldozer and dig a hole about eight feet deep, just one dozer width wide, to see how good the gravel was before they committed to mining the whole area. We had underground cable around the pit. When they were exploring new areas to mine, they dug right through our cable and didn’t know it (keep in mind the test holes are 8 feet deep, and our cable is four feet deep). They dug the hole, went in and looked at the gravel, decided it wasn’t worth it, and covered the hole back up. Meanwhile, we had an outage.

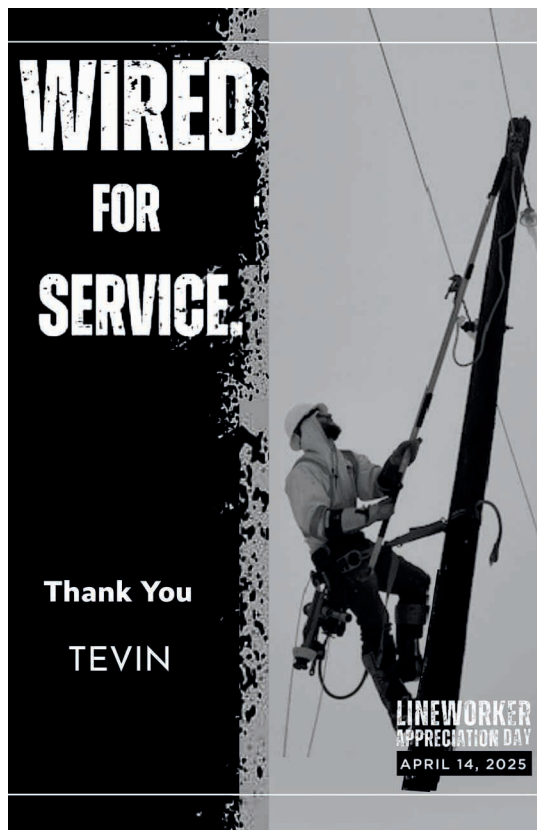
When our crew began searching for the cause of the outage, they discovered the fresh dirt which was moved and had to dig it back up to fix it. When I asked the contractor why he didn’t call a locate, he stated the county superintendent said he didn’t have to because there was nothing there. They were very reluctant to pay the bill and thought the county should be liable. When I explained to them it was the law that all contractors are required to call 811, and it didn’t matter what the county told them, they paid the bill. We have since educated the county on 811 laws.”

We Appreciate Our Lineworkers!



Jeremy Lindemann
CEO/GM

Hello Lake Region Members!
April is Lineman Appreciation Month! If I could tell you one thing from working in the industry it would be that the linemen of the cooperatives are some of the best people on the planet! Linemen are hardworking, dedicated, and they care about the members. They will go out in the worst weather, at any time of day, to restore power after an outage. Linemen are a special breed with the right mixture of toughness and grit. They are extremely intelligent and just a little bit crazy. Now, do not take that the wrong way; the type of crazy I am talking about is the kind of crazy it takes to climb poles in a thunderstorm and put the wires back up. While the rest of us are heading away from the storm, they are heading into it!



As an electrician in the early stages of my career, I worked side by side with some of the old generation of linemen. They were tough as nails, and they loved to do the work just like our lineman of today. Now, working with these old linemen was at times like trying to hug a porcupine! I don't think any of them had ever been to sensitivity training! To win them over you had to prove yourself; you had to show them that you could work hard and that you were tough like them. If they liked you, they would call you by every name in the book! Those cuss words were terms of endearment, and it meant they cared about you and wanted to see you succeed. If they did not like you, well you would not hear a word from them. I remember working with one old lineman on a project a few weeks before his retirement. He looked me dead in my eyes and said, "You know, I have worked with some pretty good electricians in my day, and you don't compare to any of them." I looked back at him, and with doubt in my voice I said, "Thanks?" He then started to laugh so hard that he almost lost his Copenhagen!

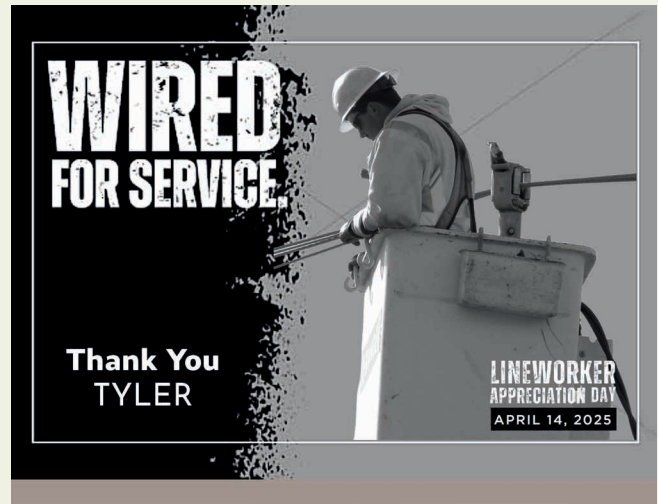
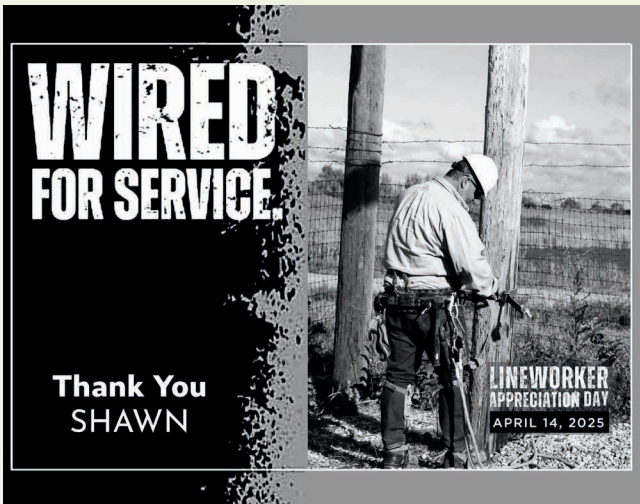
I have some great memories over the years of working with the line crew and I can tell you that I certainly appreciate all of the hard work they do and their dedication to our cooperatives! I can also tell you that here at Lake Region Electric Association, we have a great bunch of linemen. They are hardworking, dedicated, and they are as good as they get! To quote my old lineman coworker, "These guys are pretty good, and nobody compares to them!"

So, if you see a linemen, make sure you thank them for doing what they do!

In closing: I tip my hat to all the linemen, I thank them for their service, and like I always say, these guys will keep the lights on for you!

Until next time!

Jeremy Lindemann
CEO/General Manager





APRIL 11-12
Forks, Corks & Kegs
Food, Wine & Beer Festival
 Deadwood, SD
 605-578-1876

*Photo courtesy of
 Travel South Dakota*

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.

APRIL 3
Viva Las Vegas
McCrossan Banquet Auction
 5:30 p.m.
 Sioux Falls Arena
 Single Ticket \$100
 Tables Available
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-339-1203

APRIL 3
Bachelors of Broadway:
Gentlemen of the Theatre
 7 p.m.
 NSU Johnson Fine Arts Center
aberdeencommunityconcerts.org

APRIL 4
Mitchell Technical College
2025 Alumni Gathering
Cornhole Tournament
 5 p.m. Social
 6:30 p.m. Tournament
 The World's Only Corn Palace
 Mitchell, SD
 605-995-7342

APRIL 4-5
Annual Schmeckfest
 German Heritage Celebration
 748 S Main St.
 Freeman, SD
 605-925-4237

APRIL 4-6, 11-13
Women Playing Hamlet
 April 4-5, 11-12: 7:30 p.m.
 April 6, 13: 2:30 p.m.
 Mighty Corson Art Players
 Corson, SD
www.mightycorson.com

APRIL 5
Dueling Duo Baseball/
Softball Fundraiser
 6-11:30 p.m.
 American Legion Post #39
 Groton, SD

APRIL 6
Pancake Sunday Historical
Society Fundraiser
 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Community Center
 Groton, SD

APRIL 11-12
Junkin' Market Days Spring
Market
 Fri. 4-7 p.m.
 Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
 Sioux Falls, SD
www.junkinmarketdays.com

APRIL 12
Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt
 10 a.m.
 City Park
 Groton, SD

APRIL 24-26
HuntSAFE Course
 Davison County Fairgrounds &
 Mitchell Trap Club
 Mitchell, SD
 605-770-5555
gfp.sd.gov/hunter-education

MAY 2-3
Spring Square Dance Festival
 Fri. 7:30-10:30 p.m.
 Sat. 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
 Faith Lutheran Church
 Sioux Falls, SD
 Call for events & times
 605-360-2524

MAY 3
Lion's Club Spring Citywide
Rummage Sale
 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Groton, SD

MAY 3-4
Prairie Village Events
 Sat. Consignment Auction
 Sun. Season Opening
 Madison, SD
www.prairievillage.org

MAY 3
West River Pheasants
Forever Banquet
 5 p.m. Central Time
 Draper Auditorium
 Draper, SD
 605-516-0143

MAY 3
American Legion Post 15
Just Because It's Time to Dance
 6-10:30 p.m.
 El Riad Shrine
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-336-3470

MAY 31
Auto Parts Swap Meet & Car Show
 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Brown County Fairgrounds
 Aberdeen, SD

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