

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Hot Air Balloons

**Festival Gains
Popularity**
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Go-Kart Racing
Pages 12-13

*Photo provided by
Petra Wilson, owner
of Western Horizons
Hot Air Balloons.*

Back to School Already?

Laura London
Lake Region Electric

August is Back to School Month. To me, it felt like we didn't get much of a spring this year. We went from complaining about the cold and snow one day right to the heat of summer slamming in out of nowhere. I'm not one to complain about the heat though, I love summertime. But it goes by quickly, making way for autumn which falls just short of tying summer for my favorite season. Saddling the end of summer and the beginning of fall, is the unofficial and unpopular "back to school season," which I detested when my children were going to school; it always seemed too soon to pick up the ever-growing school supply lists and hauling them to the store to try on shoes. Due to the long, cold, icy, snowy winter causing hazardous conditions that lasted through spring, many area schools ended up staying in session just a little longer for make-up days. So, it seems like school just let out and here kids and teachers are getting ready to head back to the classrooms.

You may be wondering what "back-to school" has to do with your power company. Well, just like many parents, grandparents, and teachers, we have to plan for the school year. Lake Region

Electric Association supports our local schools and communities in a variety of ways. We are proud to sponsor athletic and academic activities, proms, groups and individuals raising money for a variety of events and competitions. You can see lake Region throwing candy and novelties at homecoming parades and waving to all the Bearcat, Braves, Lions and Dragons fans. For the past few years, Lake Region has provided bottled water to the schools in order to help them with various fund raisers and events. If you have visited the concession stands or some of the schools vending machines, you have probably purchased one of these bottles featuring the team mascot and an important safety message.

Education, Training, and Information is one of the 7 cooperative principles we are guided by, which goes hand in hand with another principle: Concern for Community. Many children and adults have watched Brett and Leonard, or another of the Member Services team, give the Farm Town demonstration which helps show kids how electricity works and teaches important safety lessons. One of my favorite events is when area schools host Lake Region and East River's Co-ops in The Classroom Program for the 4th graders!

In addition to the education and

support Lake Region provides to the schools and activities, we provide scholarships to children of member-owners. We proudly partner with Touchstone Energy in the Scholar of The Week program. Last school year there were many students nominated from Lake Region territory. Three of them were chosen to be featured on Dakota News Now and received a cash prize. Students are encouraged to contact lake Region about internships or job shadowing if they are interested in the electrical field or one of the other career options there are at an electric cooperative.

I would be remiss if I did not finish this column with a few very important safety reminders! Teach younger children while they are waiting for the bus or walking to school, that electrical equipment can be very dangerous, and they should never play around those "green boxes," don't try climbing poles, and do not throw things up on the wires. Remind older kids not to overload outlets, to use power strips with surge protectors and don't break the ground off of a three-pronged plug. While providing you with electricity is our job, teaching kids about electricity is everyone's job!

Thank you and have a great school year!

Welcome to our new members!

Eric Barona	Richard & Linda Wright
Rodney & Christine Nelson	Kevin Kernosky
Schmidt Spray Foam	Steve Dronen
Ron Flury	Jerry Block
Carla Hardy	Donna Olson

Lake Region Electric area schools starting Dates, according to school websites:

Webster: August 22	Langford: August 23
Britton-Hecla: August 23	Waubay: August 23

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.

Subscription information: As part of their membership, Lake Region Electric members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. (USPS 018-904) Periodicals Postage Paid at Webster, SD 57274 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lake Region Ripples Cooperative Connections, PO Box 341, Webster, SD 57274. Telephone 605-345-3379; Toll Free 1-800-657-5869; Fax 605-345-4442 E-mail: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop

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*fresh veggies
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6 MILES WEST AND 1 MILE NORTH OF BRITTON

Working Out in the Heat

Exercising outdoors is a great way to enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather of summer. But you'll need to take some extra precautions to stay safe. Here are some do's and don'ts for working out when temperatures climb.

DO: Stay hydrated

Drink plenty of water before, during and after your workout to prevent dehydration and help regulate body temperature. Nicole Thompson of the American Council on Exercise recommends slowly drinking water or sports drinks about four hours before exercising. Aim for 1 ounce for every 11 pounds of body weight – so 10 ounces for a 110-pound person or 20 ounces for a 220-pound person.

Weigh yourself before and after working out to determine how much fluid you need to replace. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recommends drinking 2-3 cups of water for every pound lost.

DON'T: Drink products containing alcohol

Alcohol is a diuretic, so it contributes to dehydration.

DO: Wear lightweight and breathable clothing

Choose light-colored and loose-fitting clothes made of moisture-wicking materials. This'll help keep you cool and dry.

DON'T: Wear dark colors or heavy fabrics

Dark-colored clothing can absorb heat and trap it against your body.

DO: Wear sunscreen

The key number to look for on your sunscreen is the sun protection factor. An SPF of 15 filters out about 93% of UVB rays, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, while an SPF of 30 will filter out around 97%. Look for "broad spectrum" on the label to protect against UVA and UVB rays.

Apply sunscreen 15 or 20 minutes before going out (check the instructions on the label). Reapply every two hours – or more frequently if you're sweating a lot. Don't forget about your ears, lips and any bald spots on your scalp – they need protection, too.

DON'T: Work out during the hottest times of the day

The sun is at its strongest between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., so try to schedule workouts for earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. Remember, you can always work out inside and in an air-conditioned area if needed.

DO: Know the signs of heat-related illness

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Nausea and dizziness
- Headaches
- Feeling weak

A weak or rapid pulse

Cold, clammy skin

If you experience any sign of heat exhaustion, move to a cool place, loosen your clothing, put cool and wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath, and sip water, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says. Get medical help if your symptoms don't go away after an hour, if your symptoms worsen or if you're throwing up.

Symptoms of heatstroke include:

A body temperature of 103° F or higher

Hot, dry, bright red or damp skin

Labored breathing

A fast, strong pulse

Headache, dizziness, nausea or confusion

Loss of consciousness

Heatstroke is an emergency. If you suspect it, call 911 immediately.

DON'T: Overdo it

Adjust your workout intensity to account for the heat and listen to your body's cues. Shorter workouts are good when temperatures rise. Allow your body to get used to the heat. Then you can gradually increase your time outdoors and exercise intensity.



Don't pull the cord!

Gabrielle Clement, Age 10

Gabrielle Clement advises people it's not safe to pull the cord when disconnecting appliances from an outlet. Gabrielle is the daughter of Dustin and Michelle Clement from Box Elder, S.D., members of West River 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.

Savory Summer SALADS

GRAPE SALAD

Ingredients:

2 lbs. red seedless grapes
2 lbs. green seedless grapes
1-8 oz. cream cheese (softened)
1 cup sour cream
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup chopped pecans

METHOD

Wash and dry grapes. Mix cream cheese and sour cream. Add sugar and vanilla. Mix well. Fold in grapes. Place in 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with brown sugar and pecans.

Angie Ruiter

Sioux Falls, S.D.

CHICKEN SALAD

Ingredients:

1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt
2 tbsp. mayonnaise
1 tsp. parsley flakes
1/2 tsp. seasoned salt
1/4 tsp. pure ground black pepper
1/2 rotisserie chicken, cut into bite-size chunks (about 2 cups)
1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
1/4 cup chopped red onion

METHOD

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.
mccormick.com

CORN CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients:

2 cans whole kernel corn (drained)
1 cup diced, unpeeled and seeded cucumbers
1/4 cup chopped red onion
1/3 cup mayonnaise
2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
2 tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
2 tbsp. lime juice
1 tsp. paprika
1/2 tsp. garlic salt
1/4 tsp. ground cumin

METHOD

Mix corn, cucumber and onion in large bowl. Set aside. Mix remaining ingredients in small bowl until well blended. Add to corn mixture; toss lightly to coat. Cover. Refrigerate 2 hours or until ready to serve.

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.

Employee Spotlight: Nick Kvernevig

Laura London

Lake Region Electric

Nick Kvernevig, Journeyman Electrician at Lake Region Electric did not set out to become an electrician. In fact, his junior year of high school he had plans of becoming a Lineman. A foot injury that occurred during an adventure with some high school buddies set him off course and he decided to continue with the electrical field but would stay a little more grounded and become an electrician. Even at a young age, Nick was thinking about job security and stability, and he figured out that learning a trade was the best route for him and since people will always need electricity, he should always be able to find a job.

He attended Mitchell Technical Institute (now Mitchell Technical College) where he studied Electrical Construction and Maintenance, then began working on his apprenticeship.



After graduation Nick moved to Des Moines, Iowa before returning home to Webster. Nick was working at Mereen Johnson, assembling motors and control panels for a variety of products when the opportunity to work at Lake Region Electric Association opened up. Nick said that he didn't even think twice about it, he knew that Lake Region was a reputable place to work with job stability, good pay, and benefits, so he applied. Nick joined the LREA team in June, 2011.

Nick grew up in this area, attending school in Bristol until he was in 6th grade, then moving to Webster. He enjoys hunting, fishing, trapshooting, and many can attest to his mad grilling skills! Nick is also well known in the trapshooting community as he is the club president here in Webster and is very involved in

the high school trap team. Nick and his wife Alaina are members of Lake Region Electric. They appreciate the beauty and peace of rural living with their children, who they encourage to spend time outdoors, enjoying nature and wildlife. Nick is the father of five: four daughters and one son, all who share Nick's sense of adventure and love of the outdoors!

He has many stories to share but there are a couple of times that really stick out in Nick's mind. The ice-storm of 2016 was terrible; they worked from about 6 in the morning until 10 at night getting power restored for folks up by Sicca Hollow. Nick said, "It was an incredible feeling to get the power back on for those people!" There are other times that really get to the heart of what Nick does for the members at Lake Region, "We were out trying to fix a problem for a member. This family doesn't have a lot and it looked like they were going through a tough time, but they were so incredible grateful that we were out there taking care of them. They just kept saying 'Thank you! Thank you!' and it really made me feel like I made a difference for them that day." Nick really enjoys working for the members of Lake Region Electric. "Working one-on-one with our members, determining their needs and building lasting relationships is the best part of this job!"



UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

Help Us Get Our Member's Money to Them

One thing that sets Lake Region Electric Association apart from other Electric companies is that we are a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative. LREA allocates any excess margins to our consumers after paying all the bills, reinvesting in infrastructure, and meeting our financial obligations.

Lake Region tracks the allocations and refunds the money, back to our member-owners, as cash positions allow. The Lake Region Board of Directors approved more than \$832,000 in 2023. Active Members saw their refund as a credit on their bill that was sent out at the beginning of May. Inactive members were mailed a check in June.

Here's where you can help your fellow cooperative members:

A number of checks were returned to Lake Region as undeliverable by the post office. We are asking for your help getting these payments to these previous account holders.

If you know the current address or phone number of anyone listed here, please notify them to contact us, or contact Lake Region Electric Association by calling 605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869 or by sending an email to lakeregion@lakeregion.coop. Thank you for your help!

First Name	Last Name	& / Or	City/State
Alfred	Alcoren		Browns Valley, MN
Cheyenne	Barse	or Mary Barse	Breckenridge, MN
Marty	Binger		Willcox, AZ
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
Bonnie	Erdahl		Sisseton, SD
Wayne	Erickson		Sisseton, SD
Pat	Falk	or Diane Falk	West Fargo, ND
Eunice	Fosheim Est.	or Sharon Fosheim	Webster, SD
Greg	Frazier		Waubay, SD
Jon	Harris		Fergus Falls, MN
Ellen	Owens Hauser		Waubay, SD
Beverly	Hawkins		Britton, SD
Chad	Haber		Tea, SD
James	Halsam Jr.	C/o Julie Huso	Sioux Falls, SD
Barry	Hoag		Big Stone City, SD
Ted	Horn		Britton, SD
Amanda	Holy Bull		Fargo, ND
Robert	Jepsen		Aberdeen, SD
Robert	Knuton		Miller, SD
Alfred	Lamee		Britton, SD
Joyce	McKay		Sisseton, SD
Lona	Miller		Peever, SD
Lynnelle	Plenty Chief		Sisseton, SD
Craig	Rickert		Sioux Falls, SD
Bill	Rosenau		Groton, SD
Herbert	Samson	or Abigail Samson	Aberdeen, SD
Douglas	Sea		Sioux Falls, SD
Thomas	Smith	or Inga Smith	Forman, ND
Harold	Solem		Montevideo, MN
Dennis	Reiprich		Webster, SD
Melanie	Renville	or Vernon Renville	Sisseton, SD
Joseph	Shortall		Roslyn, SD
Susan	Spence		Clear Lake, SD
Dawn	Turner		Great Falls, MT
Business/Organization	Contact Name		City/State
Hwy 10 Steakhouse	Diana Dawley		Britton, SD
Jacobs Construction			Aberdeen, SD



TAKING TO THE SKY

Balloons light up the night during the night glow event of the festival.

Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival Gains Popularity

Jocelyn Johnson

jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop

It's a picturesque and dramatic spectacle that's awed most people for several hundred years. Yet, spectators and pilots alike have not tired of the image. Hot air balloons have that quality of enchantment. And what better way to be enchanted than to see dozens of these balloons floating up into the sunrise of a South Dakota sky?

The annual Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival is attracting nearly 30 balloons and thousands of spectators on Aug. 25-27, 2023. The event is taking place at the airport outside of Hot Springs, S.D., where it will celebrate its 8th year of growing popularity. Festival sightseers can pack all-day-fun into their festivities by visiting the vendors, obstacle courses,

bouncy houses, and performances in Hot Springs by Magician Jared Furnau and the Wild Blue Band.

Petra Wilson, a local commercial pilot, founded the festival in 2016 before opening her own flying business – Western Horizons Hot Air Balloons.

“The way I got introduced to ballooning is a tale of serendipity,” said Wilson. “Almost 20 years ago, my husband and I attended a hot air balloon festival in Peoria, Ill., where we are asked to become crew members for a weekend. On the last flight of the weekend, he asked us if we wanted to go for a ride. The ride was absolutely stunning and from that point on we were hooked.”

Wilson became a private pilot in 2014 and a commercial pilot in 2017. In 2015, Wilson and her husband moved to Hot Springs, where she discovered she was the

only hot air balloon pilot flying in the area.

I introduced many different people to ballooning by inviting them out to watch and even crew,” Wilson said. “Some of those people became my students and eventually became hot air balloon pilots in the Hot Springs area.”

When asked how she started the festival, Wilson replied, “I decided this area was such a beautiful place to fly that I wanted to share it with all my ballooning friends and their friends, as well as locals who might appreciate the beauty of the balloons in the sky, so what better way to do this than having a balloon festival.”

The festival started with the partnership between Wilson and Olivia Mears, Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce in Hot Springs.

Mears said, “Folks from South Dakota, California, Nebraska, Colorado, and more attend this festival. We attract private pilots who fly for their own enjoyment and commercial pilots who are licensed to carry passengers.”

Tamie Shrum, current balloon-meister for Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival, is a commercial pilot overseeing the safety and regulation of the participating balloons. She travels the world to fly, including six countries and 37 states. Shrum owns three of her own balloons and earns her living flying passengers and training students how to fly.

"I like to do long jump flying, which is long distance flying," said Shrum. "My longest distance is 137 miles in a three-hour flight with a top speed of 78 mph."

Shrum explained that a considerable amount of studying goes into the preparation for a long jump flight. Everything matters – the time of year, time of day, location, and weather patterns.

"We work off of a microscopic level," Shrum said. "A regular person might say, 'It's not that windy today,' but a balloon pilot might say, 'It's too windy to fly today.'"

Describing how balloons fly, Shrum said, "In layman's terms, hot air rises and cold air sinks. You put heat in the

envelope, making it hotter than ambient temperatures which allows it to lift the massive weight it's carrying."

We use a burner with regular propane," Shrum continued. "The amount of propane needed changes based upon ambient temperature, altitude of flight, and how much passenger weight is being carried."

Balloons are simplistic in design but can be challenging to fly.

"You don't steer a balloon...while airplanes fly against the wind, balloons fly with the wind, which can be unpredictable," Shrum explained. "Sometimes you land in a park and sometimes you land in main street."

"I've flown over Pikes Peak in Colorado



Commercial Pilot Tamie Shrum looks below on other balloons while flying.

and in Japan along with many other places," Shrum said. "I've been fortunate to sightsee all over the world from 1,000 feet in the air while others are sightseeing from the surface...but South Dakota is one of the most gorgeous places to fly in."



Commercial Pilot Petra Wilson inspects her balloon.



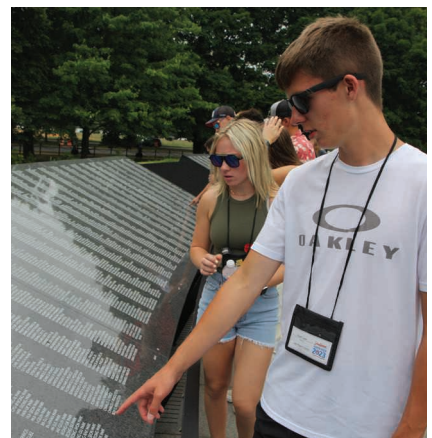
Students gain knowledge and form friendships on trip to D.C.

Four area students represented Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. in Washington D.C. as part of the 2023 Rural Electric Youth Tour. Maggie Kilker and Wyatt Tosse from Britton and Rylee Huwe and Tommy Vergeldt of Webster were part of a group of 40 teens representing 20 electric cooperatives from South Dakota. The program, which can trace its existence back to a 1957 speech by Lyndon B. Johnson where he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youth to the nation's capital so that they “can actually see what the flag stands for and represents,” encourages teens to engage in their communities and learn about the importance of political involvement. More than 1,300 teens have represented the Rushmore State since South Dakota sent its first group in 1963.

The students spent five fun-filled and fast-paced days in Washington D.C.. The 2023 group visited many of the historic sites the region has to offer, including the National Archives, Library of Congress, Mount Vernon, U.S. Supreme Court, several memorials and many more. Tommy said, “Seeing beautiful landmarks from our nation’s past and present was a remarkable experience. Overall, the Youth Tour Washington D.C. formed wonderful memories in my mind which I will cherish forever.”

One special stop was the Flag Day visit to Baltimore’s Fort McHenry. The fort’s bombardment in the War of 1812 was captured in Francis Scott Key’s poem, which would eventually become the national anthem. Old Glory would play a recurring theme in the trip as students could see it at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History and also hear an inspirational message centered on the flag from Youth Day keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist in U.S.A. men’s wheelchair basketball.

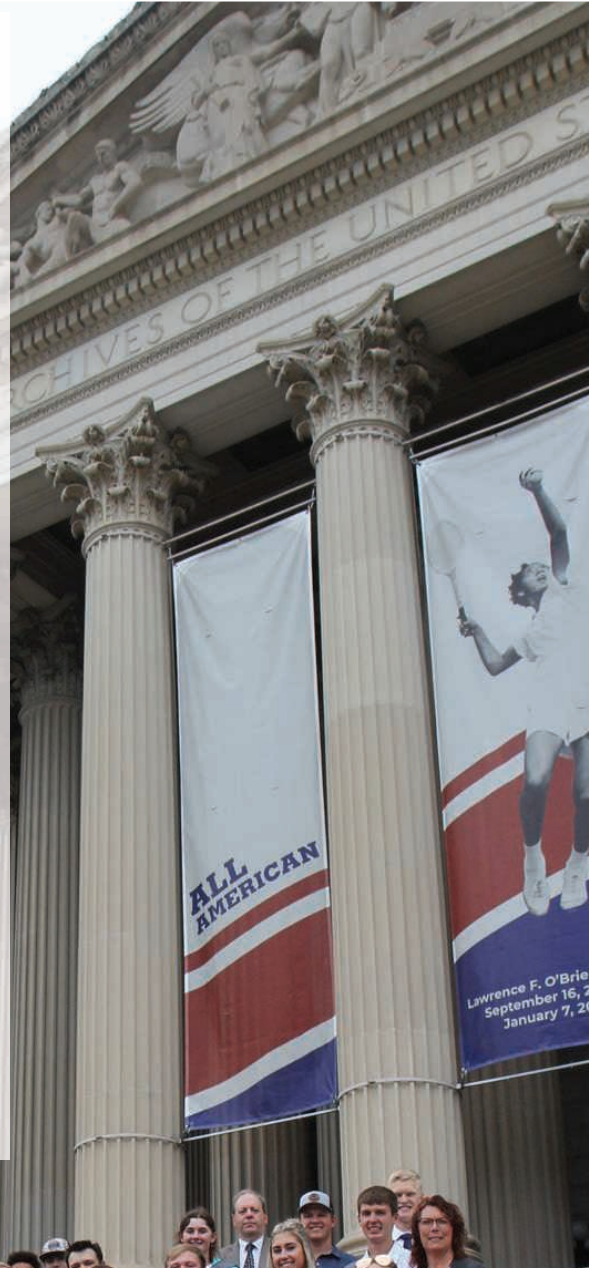
Students had the opportunity to meet with the state’s congressional delegation while touring our nation’s capital. Senator John Thune and Representative Dusty Johnson



made sure to take a few minutes to welcome the young visitors from South Dakota to Washington.

The participants joined up with students from across the country, forming new friendships while seeing the sights and learning about history and current government. Rylee, a recent graduate of Webster Area High School, had a great experience while in Washington DC. "Not only did I get to see and learn about important times in our nation's history, but I had the chance to meet so many new people and friends. This trip gave me the opportunity to meet others from different states and was the experience of a lifetime!"

Lake Region Electric calls for applications each year which include a short essay, then typically chooses one student to represent our cooperative as an ambassador on the Youth Tour. This year, the board of directors decided that it would be a good idea to send four applicants, as the pandemic prevented the trip for the past couple of years. When Wyatt submitted his application he said, "Being selected to take part in a fully funded trip would mean very much to anyone. The opportunity to learn about the rich history of our great nation is something that everyone hears about, however, everyone does not get to see in their lifetime." The trip not only lived up to his expectations but exceeded them. After returning from the trip, Wyatt said, "The Washington D.C. trip that I was selected to go on by Lake Region Electric was an amazing experience. Not only were memories and new friendships made, but I also had the privilege to tour numerous historic monuments along with many buildings where all of the "big decisions" are made. This was a once in a lifetime experience that will not be forgotten. I would like to encourage next year's students along with those in the years ahead to make sure to apply for this opportunity." All H.S. Juniors and Seniors, whose parents are members of Lake Region are eligible to apply for Youth Tour so watch for information starting this fall. "I cannot begin express how much fun I had on the trip to Washington D.C.! I learned so much touring around D.C. & also met so many wonderful people! I would 100% recommend this trip to anyone. I was so honored to have the ability to go on this trip. I will forever cherish the knowledge, experience, and friendships I gained from this trip!" said Maggie.





RACING FAMILY FUN

Go-kart racers in Aberdeen are placed in divisions by age and skill to keep the races competitive. The track usually hosts races twice a month during the summer months. *Photo by Scott Waltman*

Go-kart Racing at Aberdeen Track is a Family Affair

Scott Waltman

Kevin Horn didn't set out to drive to Aberdeen several times a summer so he could race.

Instead, after seeing races on TV, the Waubay mechanic bought a go-kart for his then-9-year-old daughter. But while she was driving, the kart skidded on some wet grass and she hit the kart trailer. After that, she turned the keys over to Dad.

That was about 11 years ago. Horn took his daughter's number 9 and flipped it to make a 6, and he's been racing ever since.

Like others who race at the Aberdeen Karting Club track at the Brown County Fairgrounds, his story has a tie to family, even if it didn't work out exactly as he thought it would.

Karting, racers and organizers say, is a family affair.

Brody Griffin of Watertown is 10 and started karting three years ago.

He makes the rounds, mostly to the closest tracks in Aberdeen, Brookings and Miller. He races just about every weekend during summer, and the allure is simple. Griffin said he just likes driving.

He was named rookie of the year his first season and finished second in his division his second season in Aberdeen.

But it's not all zipping around the track and trying to pass other drivers. Griffin said he helps work on his kart with his father.

That makes sense to Landon Schott, a 24-year-old racer from Aberdeen who is one of the track's most successful drivers. Now that he's a little older, helps with public relations and social media for the track.

When Schott started racing, he said his father made it clear to him that he would be helping work on the kart and had to keep it clean. Karting can be a big financial investment, and his dad wasn't going to spend heaps of money if his son wasn't going to pitch in and be engaged.

Schott, too, said he appreciates the friendly and family atmosphere of karting.

Sponsorships are critical to both the Aberdeen track and its racers, he said. He wouldn't have been able to travel across the country racing without



Josiah Combellick serves as the event's flagman.
Photo by Scott Waltman

having sponsors since he started driving in 2006, he said.

The Aberdeen track doesn't have any employees, and the Aberdeen Karting Club is a nonprofit group, so contributions are important, Schott said.

Rick Cartney is the vice president of the Aberdeen Karting Club and has been involved with the track since it was founded in 1996. His first race was in Aberdeen that first year, and now he gets to the track to start prep work around 9 a.m. on race days. Races usually start around 4 p.m. and last into the night.

For Cartney, the payback comes from the smiles on the faces of young racers.

"Mainly, it's for the kids," he said.

They do their best racing when they don't win, but they learn, grow and mature, Cartney said.

The Aberdeen track is between an eighth and a 10th of a mile long and is great for young racers who are just

starting out, he said.

There are races in Aberdeen a couple of times a month during summer, with the schedules of other tracks in the region taken into consideration so drivers can make it to as many races as possible. Generally, there are 30 or 40 drivers in Aberdeen, most of them young people, Cartney said.

Starting at the Aberdeen track has served Schott well. He has advanced to grand national events with both the International Karting Federation and Maxxis Kart Racing, finishing as in the top five, but never quite nabbing a championship. Last December, Schott said, he traveled to Daytona, Fla., and raced with about 70 other drivers, never finishing outside of the top 14.

"I guess maybe I'm just an adrenaline junkie," Schott said.

In 2013, as a junior driver, he won a Maxxis regional championship. The event drew drivers from across the nation and is called the Maxx Daddy, he said.

Schott said that and winning an end-of-season state championship in 2021 on his home track in Aberdeen are, at least to date, two of the highlights of his career.

He also won the state championship in 2015 in Brookings.

The state karting championships used to be in Brookings, but have been in Aberdeen in recent years. They return again this year on Aug. 12.

That event will likely draw about 200 drivers from South Dakota and surrounding states, Cartney said. A heavy bronze trophy in the shape of Mount Rushmore goes to the winner.

It will be yet another chance for the karting community to gather. Both Schott and Horn said they have made friends traveling the karting circuit. It's one of the most enjoyable parts of racing, they said, and Cartney agrees.

"These people are like a second family," he said.



Landon Schott helps prepare a go-kart before the races begin in Aberdeen on Saturday, June 17. Schott is one of the most successful racers from the Aberdeen Karting Klub. *Photo by Scott Waltman*



HARVESTING HISTORY

The manual labor of past generations of farmers and ranchers is on display each year at the James Valley Threshing Show each September in Andover.
Photo courtesy of James Valley Threshers Association

Andover Threshing Show Focuses on History of Agriculture With an Eye to the Future

Scott Waltman

Most of the time, the population of Andover hovers somewhere around 65 people.

But during the first weekend of September, there's a parade that usually has four times as many entrants as there are residents.

And when a one-of-a-kind tractor is unveiled, well, the number of visitors swells to a tally approaching 10,000.

The annual James Valley Threshing Show is easily the biggest event in the small Day County town each year. And it's not even close.

In fact, organizers can't think of a bigger threshing show in eastern South Dakota or even across the borders into parts of North Dakota and Minnesota.

Tim Olson is president of the James Valley Threshers Association. He said the show has grown considerably since it moved from a farm just outside of Aberdeen. Most years, he estimates,

about 4,500 people attend.

Olson has been working with the show since it arrived in Andover in 1979. The first event near Aberdeen was in 1974, so he and others who are involved are already looking forward to the 50th show in 2024.

In 2018, a Case 150-horsepower steam-powered tractor that was built from scratch debuted at the James Valley Threshing Show. That year, Olson said, there were probably around 8,000 people who attended. And while many showed up for the impressive tractor, the only one of its kind in the world, they found so much more, he said.

Kevin Anderson has also been working with the event since it moved to Andover. He thinks perhaps 10,000 people attended the 2018 show to see the Case 150.

His son, Kory, led the effort to build the machine. In 2008, he started making wooden patterns out of mahogany that were used to create all of the castings for

the engine. And that was after a trip to the Case plant in Racine, Wisconsin, two years earlier where he was given a tour of the archives and paged through steam engine prints, making all the copies he wanted to guide his endeavor.

Fast-forward to last fall, after heaps of planning and building, and the Case 150 was certified as the Guinness world record for largest steam-powered tractor in operation.

Much of the work on the 750,000 behemoth was done at Anderson Industries and Dakota Foundry, both of which are based in Webster.

It can sometimes overshadow other events at the threshing show. But Olson and Kevin Anderson want visitors to know there are plenty more activities on the 65 acres owned by the threshing association.

There's the parade with more than 250 entries, a working saw mill, steam and gas plowing, threshing, a quilt show, a kiddie tractor pull, antique tractors of all kinds, a car show, spinning and weaving, blacksmith demonstrations, a toy and doll show, live music and more.

And while some people might traditionally associate tractors and fieldwork with men, that's not the case, Anderson said.



It took nearly 10 years to build a Case 150-horsepower steam-powered tractor from scratch. Photo courtesy of Kory Anderson and James Valley Threshers Association

Not with the Ladies of Steam. The program is run by women and offers other women a chance to learn about and ride an old-fashioned steam tractor.

"They don't mind getting greasy," Anderson said of the Ladies of Steam.

The program is a way to attract new and younger members to the association, he said.

Anderson's love of antique tractors, especially steam tractors, is one of the reasons he's remained active in the group through the decades. But the older generation is slowly handing things off to a younger crop of helpers.

Olson agrees. He said he used to be a young buck yelling at the older folks that they didn't know what they were doing. Now, the tables have turned.

The threshing show is a celebration of harvest and history and a chance for friends to gather as summer comes to an end, he said.

"It's a reflection of the past," Olson said. "It's the way all of our ancestors did stuff. Everything was manual labor back then."

Last year, the Case 150 pulled a

50-bottom plow. It's believed to be a world record, though that has yet to be verified.

The tractor will be at this year's show, but there are no plans to attempt more records, Anderson said.

The 2023 James Valley Threshing Show will be Sept. 8, 9 and 10 at Thresherman's Park in Andover. Admission is \$10 a day or \$25 for the entire weekend.

There's a smaller threshing show in Twin Brooks, but some of the other regional shows have faded away.

That's why the Andover event keeps looking to the future.

The association awards a scholarship each year that covers the tuition for a young person to attend the University of Rollag Steam School in Minnesota in spring. And organizers send out invitations to all schools within 100 miles of Andover that offer students free admission on the show's first day.

It's a way to share the history of agriculture and, with luck, plant a seed.

"The future of the show is the young kids," Anderson said.



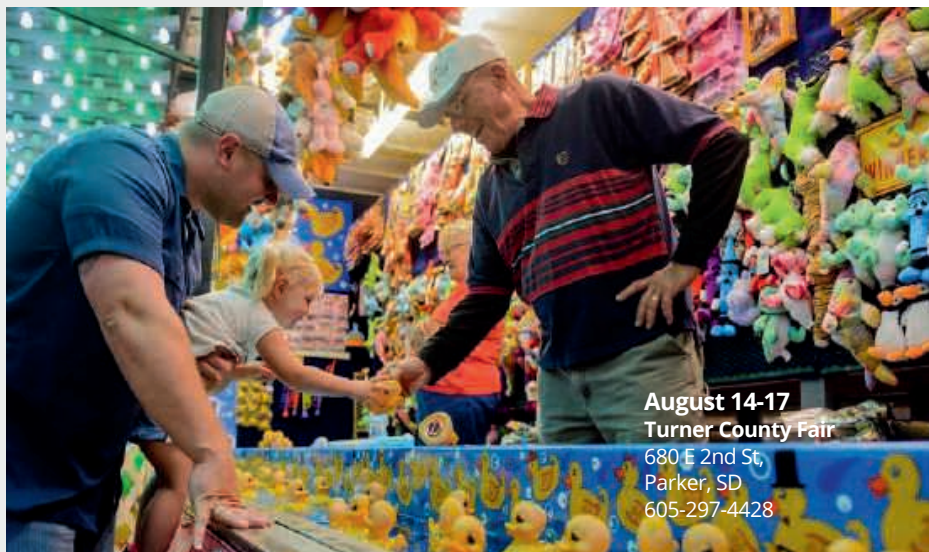
A parade with more than 250 entries each year is one of the most popular events during the James Valley Threshing Show in Andover each September. Photo courtesy of James Valley Threshers Association

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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.

JULY 21-23
Winner Elks 54th Annual Rodeo
Winner, SD
605-842-5830

JULY 23
Langford Car Show
Park of The Pines
Langford, SD
605-493-6597

JULY 28-29
Farley Fest
Lake Farley Park
Milbank, SD
www.farleyfest.com

JULY 28-30
Clear Lake Days
Clear Lake, SD
clearlakedays.com

JULY 29
BBQ Pit Row and Car Show
Winner, SD
605-842-1533

JULY 30
Bergen Threshing Bee
9 a.m.
Bristol, SD
605-237-0310

AUG 5-6
Pioneer Power Threshing Show
MN Machinery Museum
Hanley Falls, MN
507-828-9666

AUG 10-13
Custer County Fair
Hermosa, SD

AUG 11
Northern Bull Riding Tour Finals Bull-a-Rama
Geddes, SD
605-680-2763

AUG 13-14
Twin Brooks Threshing Show
Featuring Allis Chalmers
Twin Brooks, SD
605-880-2884

AUG 19

Yankton Extreme Bull Riding
7:30 a.m.
Yankton Rodeo Arena
Yankton, SD
605-760-2153

AUG 21
30th Annual Bishop's Cup Golf Tournament
Minnehaha Country Club and
The Country Club of Sioux Falls
Sioux Falls, SD
605-988-3765

AUG 26
Veblen Summer Bash
5K walk/run 8 a.m.
Rodeo 5 p.m.
Dance following rodeo
Veblen, SD

SEPT 8-10
James Valley Threshing & Tractor Show
World's Largest Steam Traction
Engine
Andover, SD
605-868-3242

SEPT 16
SD Coin & Stamp Convention
Scherr-Howe Area
Mobridge, SD

SEPT 23
German Fest
Webster, SD
605-380-0588

SEPT 23
Springfield Dakota Senior Meals Fall Festival
9 a.m.
Springfield Community Building
Springfield, SD

SEPT 29-30
Junkin' Market Days
Ramkota Exhibit Hall
Sioux Falls, SD
605-941-4958

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