

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Building a Dream

South Dakota's
Unique Getaway
Pages 8-9

CPR & AED
Training
Pages 12-13

Oahe Springing Into Summer Construction & Long-Term Plans



Jordan Lamb
Chief Executive Officer

What a ‘Spring’ it has been thus far! We saw rapid thawing across our Hughes and Sully County Service Territory that has drastically improved what we thought would be snow packed until May. We started trenching in our new underground line beginning the week of 4/24/2023 and feel confident moving forward with ground temperatures. Large Bull Dozers are utilized to put wire deep into the ground directly behind a narrow plow (very similar to drain tile installations). This significantly increases the number of miles we can convert – bringing more reliability to our membership in shorter time frames.

Ways we have been offsetting high-rate increases include applying for overhead to underground grants through both the state and the federal government. Our most recent submission was accompanied by a large number of East River Electric Cooperative’s membership in both South Dakota and Minnesota, totaling over 1400 miles of line across the two states and over \$100M in investment. This investment is an 80% match from the federal government, Oahe’s portion of the submission included 110 miles of three-phase underground at a price of \$11.8M. If awarded, Oahe would be required to pay \$2.36M over a five-year period and construct the facilities. Our total gross plant is approximately \$36M with a 40% equity on our debt. If awarded this grant, our gross plant would increase to \$47.8M while only increasing debt by 2.36 million, resulting in an increase in Oahe’s net equity to just under 50% (half of our assets paid off). Most Generation and Transmission cooperatives operate in the 14%-20% net equity on total assets while distribution cooperatives such as Oahe, your cooperative, operate in the 25-35% range. An increase in equity helps our loan interest rates and also will substantially improve reliability to our members in our effort to bury all 3 phase circuits across Hughes and Sully Counties.

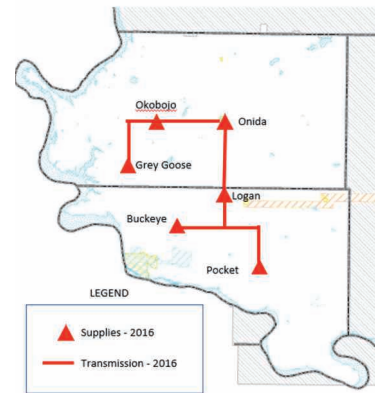
Eide Bailey, an accounting firm based in Sioux Falls, performed our Audit for year 2022 and found no issues (great news!). We have finalized our upcoming five-year work plan and will have access to funds late 2023 for projects occurring Q3/4 2023 and all of 2024, 2025, 2026, and part of 2027.

Our transmission system that serves our member substations underwent drastic planning improvements to the rural communities. Oahe and East River

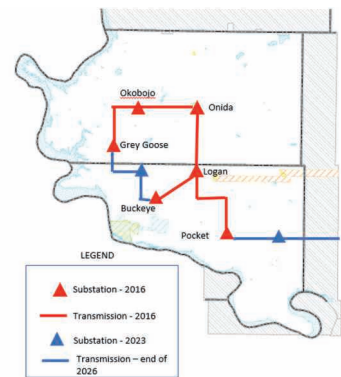
Cooperatives have been working diligently to weigh costs with improving reliability to our membership. A few snapshots in time to put into perspective:

Transmission System – 2016

Upgrades through the upcoming work plan will feature 2 new distribution substations to serve member loads allowing for additional growth and improved reliability. It also features an additional high voltage source coming from the East into our territory complete by 2026, as you drive north on 1804 toward Spring Creek, you can see some of the transmission already in service.



Large construction on 1950s, 1960s and 1970s results from an exhausted equipment life. Typically, we finance these ‘lifespans’ at 30 years. With our rigorous maintenance programs, we have expanded these lifetimes to often twice the amortized life.



The great news for our construction plans includes better reliability to our membership, additional capacity to allow for member load growth, and most importantly, our rate projections remain relatively flat and still outpaced significantly by inflation when including all construction in our financial forecasts – excluding any additional grant dollars we may be fortunate enough to receive - for the foreseeable future!

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

OAHE ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 019-042)

Board of Directors:

James Feller – Vice President
605.962.6207
Brandon Haag – Assistant Secretary
605.215.6758
Ryan Noyes – Treasurer
605.280.3500
Ross Sperry – Secretary
605.280.7770
Kirk Yackley – President
605.258.2412

Employees:

Tyler Arbach – Journeyman Lineman
Austin Bergeson – Journeyman Lineman
Mark Bruning – Line Foreman
Matt Eldridge – Chief Operations Officer
Trudie Feldman – Custodian
Brady Gaer – Journeyman Lineman
Sidney Geigle – Journeyman Lineman
Sam Irvine – Administrative Services Specialist
Megan Jaeger – Membership Director
Les Job – Journeyman Lineman
Jordan Lamb – Chief Executive Officer
Dan Lettau – Journeyman Lineman
Steve Long – Power Supply Specialist
Valerie Marso – Chief Financial Officer
Tory Smith – Journeyman Lineman

OAHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 216, 102 S. Canford, Blunt, SD 57522, for its members. Families subscribe to Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to Oahe Electric Cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living. Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Blunt, SD 57522 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 216, Blunt, SD 57522-0216; telephone (605) 962-6243; fax (605) 962-6306; e-mail oahe@oaheelectric.com; www.oaheelectric.com

Our Mission

Oahe Electric delivers high quality, low-cost electric service to our local member-owners. As a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, we are committed to meeting the highest standards of customer satisfaction. We do business with accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community. As an electric co-op, we are part of America's most trusted network of high quality energy providers.



Oahe Electric Member Appreciation Lunches

Tuesday, May 23 ~ 11:30am-1pm
Phoenix Center, Onida, SD

Thursday, May 25 ~ 11:30am-1pm
Hughes County Highway Shop, Pierre, SD

Enjoy a free taco bar, drink and a dessert!

All attending members will leave with a gift!

We hope to see you there!



Congratulations to Graduating Seniors

Oahe Electric would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to our graduating seniors. This is a wonderful and exciting time in your life! It is great that you have all earned your diplomas after years of such hard work and long hours of study. Now you will start on the next phase of your lives and we wish you all the very best for the future!

Statement of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: 1.) mail - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; 2.) fax: (202) 690-7442; or 3.) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Home Electrical Safety Tips

Electricity always seeks the easiest path to the ground. It tries to find a conductor, such as metal, wet wood, water – or your body! Your body is 70% water, so if you touch an energized bare wire or faulty equipment while you are grounded, electricity will instantly pass through you to the ground, causing a harmful – or fatal – shock.

The amount of electricity used by one 7.5 watt Christmas tree bulb can kill you if it passes through your chest. Even if it isn't fatal, electrical shock can easily cause serious falls, burns, or internal bleeding.

Your Home Wiring is just a number of loops, or circuits. A “live” wire brings current to a light or an outlet. A “neutral” wire returns current to its source. Between inside wiring and outside power lines is a service panel.

Most service panels have a main switch. Use it to cut all power when changing a fuse or in case of fire or shock. If you don't have a main switch, turn off all circuit breakers. Don't tamper with your electric meter. You'll risk shock, explosion, or fire.

Your service panel contains fuses or circuit breakers which interrupt power to specific circuits in case of a short circuit or overload. If this happens:

- Unplug appliances.
- Switch off power at the main switch.
- Try to determine the cause of the problem and correct it if possible.
- Replace the fuse that has a broken metal strip with a new fuse of the same rating – typically 15 amperes.
- If you have circuit breakers instead, switch the one that's “off” to “on.”
- Restore power.

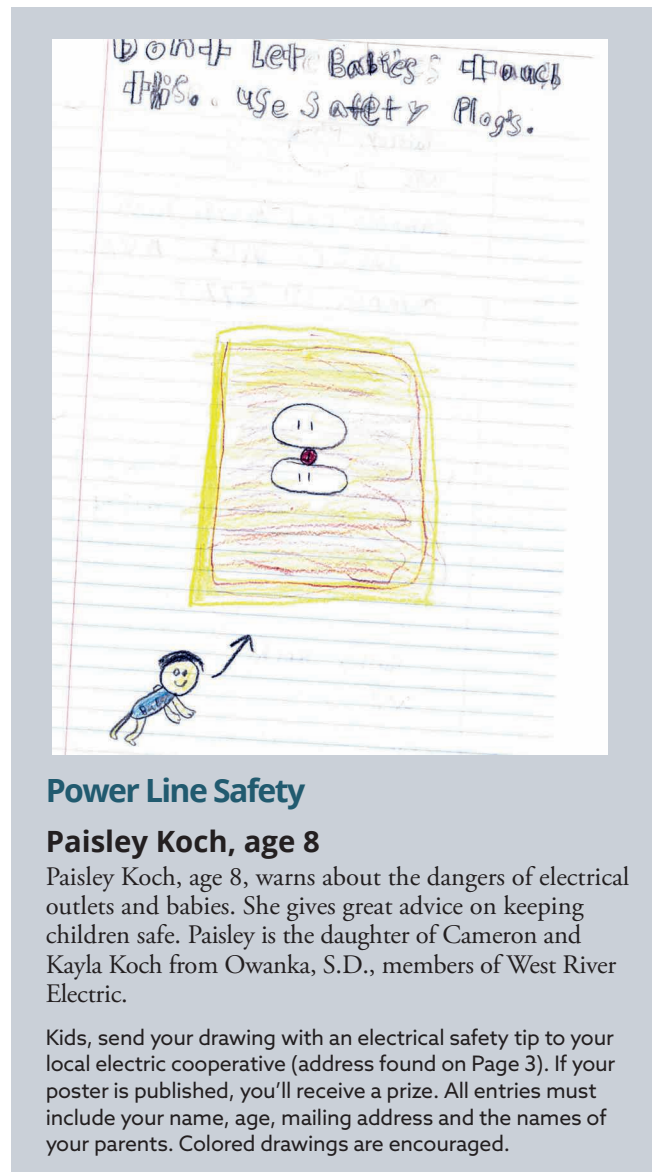
Never use anything other than a fuse to replace a fuse – you could cause a fire. If fuses blow or a circuit breaker trips often, contact a qualified repairman.

Grounding: The Third Prong

When you use a plug with three prongs, the third prong connects inside the outlet with a “ground wire,” which usually connects to a water pipe or a ground rod at the service panel. As a result, in case of a short circuit, electricity should flow through the grounding system instead of through you. Never remove the third prong.

Appliance Safety

Remember the most important rule for appliances – electricity and water don't mix. Keep appliances, especially hair dryers, away from bathtubs, puddles, sinks and wet hands. Wet skin increases the risk of shock, so unplug an appliance before cleaning – even if off, it can shock. Never put metal objects in live parts of appliances or in outlets. If an appliance overheats, unplug it and have it checked. Don't overload outlets. Use only appliances that are approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories.



Power Line Safety

Paisley Koch, age 8

Paisley Koch, age 8, warns about the dangers of electrical outlets and babies. She gives great advice on keeping children safe. Paisley is the daughter of Cameron and Kayla Koch from Owanka, S.D., members of West River Electric.

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.

DAIRY DESSERTS

RHUBARB STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE

Ingredients:

Rhubarb Sauce
 2 1/2 cups thinly sliced fresh rhubarb
 1/3 cup sugar
 2 tbsps. orange juice
 Crust
 2 cups finely crushed oreo cookies, (about 18 cookies)
 1/3 cup butter, melted
 Filling
 9 oz. white baking chocolate
 3 packages (8 oz. each) cream cheese, softened
 1 container (7 oz.) sour cream, at room temperature
 1/2 cup sugar
 1 tsp. cornstarch
 2 tpsps. pure vanilla extract
 1/2 tsp. salt
 3 extra large eggs
 Topping
 1 pint strawberries, remove tops
 1/4 cup strawberry jelly
 2 tbsps. water
 Prepared whipped cream

METHOD

Preheat oven to 350°F. For the Rhubarb Sauce, mix rhubarb, sugar and orange juice in a medium saucepan. Bring just to boil and reduce heat. Cook about 5 minutes or until rhubarb is tender, stirring occasionally. Set aside to cool. For the Crust, mix cookie crumbs and butter in a medium bowl. Press mixture evenly into bottom of 10-inch springform pan sprayed with no stick cooking spray. Set aside. For the Filling, melt chocolate according to package directions and set aside. Beat cream cheese, sour cream, sugar, cornstarch, vanilla and salt on medium-high until well blended (about 5 minutes). Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each addition just until blended. Gradually beat in chocolate. Add cooled Rhubarb Sauce to the filling mixture, stirring gently to incorporate. Pour Filling mixture over cookie crust. Bake 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until edge of cheesecake is firm and center is almost set. Allow to cool 30 minutes. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight. When cheesecake is completely cooled, place strawberries on top cut side down. Mix strawberry jelly and water in a small bowl. Brush over strawberries. Pipe whipped cream border around the cheesecake before serving.
mccormick.com

NO-CHURN BLACK FOREST RIPPLE ICE CREAM

Ingredients:

12 oz. Pitted cherries (fresh or frozen) thawed, halved
 1/4 cup sugar
 2 cups very cold heavy cream
 1 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
 4 oz. bittersweet choc. chunks

METHOD

Place the cherries, sugar and 2 tbsps. water in a large sauce pan. Bring the mixture to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer, stirring often, until the cherries break down and the liquid turns to a thick syrup, 10 to 12 minutes. Transfer to a bowl and refrigerate until cool, about 15 minutes. Using an electric mixer, beat the cream, condensed milk and vanilla in a large bowl on medium/high until stiff peaks form, 3 to 4 minutes. Gently fold in the choc. chunks. Spoon half the cream mixture into a 4 1/2 x 8 1/2 loaf pan or 1 1/2 qt. freezer safe container. Spoon half the cherry mixture on top. Using a knife, swirl the cherry mixture through the cream. Repeat with the remaining cream and cherry mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and freeze until set. Keep frozen for up to 2 weeks.

Sue Hove
 Sioux Falls, S.D.

SWEDISH CREME

Ingredients:

2 cups heavy cream
 1 cup plus 2 tpsps. sugar, divided
 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
 1 tsp. almond extract
 1 tsp. clear imitation vanilla extract
 2 cups sour cream
 1 cup fresh or frozen red raspberries

METHOD

1. In a saucepan, combine cream and 1 cup sugar. Cook and stir constantly over low heat until candy thermometer reads 160 degrees, or steam rises from pan. (Do not boil). Stir in gelatin until dissolved; add extracts. Cool 10 minutes.
2. Whisk in sour cream. Pour into eight dessert glasses or small bowls. Chill at least 1 hour.
3. Before serving, combine raspberries and remaining sugar; spoon over each serving.

Joanne Singrey-Johnson
 Watertown, S.D.

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.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW LENDING LIBRARY!



Valerie Marso
Office Manager

Look at this ADORABLE new lending library we have in the entryway of our headquarters! Tory, one of our handy dandy linemen, constructed this library from

an actual bucket from one of our trucks. Unfortunately, the bucket had a crack in the fiberglass and didn't pass inspection so had to be replaced. And what better way to repurpose it?

What is a lending library? Ideally you bring a book that you already have and exchange it for one on

the shelf that you haven't read yet. Easy peasy! But what if you don't have a book to leave? That's ok too! Reading improves comprehension, vocabulary, grammar (one of my personal favorites), spelling and writing style so we will do our best to keep the shelves stocked!

We need your help! As you can see, we have some books on the shelves but we definitely need more! If you have any adult or children's books that you don't need any longer, please drop them off at our office to

help us get jump started.

The front entryway is always open so come whenever it is convenient for you. We are excited to have this addition to offer the community and our members.



Annual Meeting Set for Saturday, Sept. 18

It's hard to believe, but "that time of the year" has come around very quickly! It's time to start planning the annual meeting!

As a member of a cooperative, it is important to attend annual meetings in order to keep abreast of the happenings occurring here. Because remember – it's your cooperative and you are a member owner. Also, Oahe Electric is very interested in your thoughts or ideas concerning our annual meeting. If there is something that you would like to share, any ideas for changes, etc., please let us know!

So, please mark your calendars for Oahe Electric Cooperative's 72nd annual meeting!

Oahe's Annual Audit Completed

Your cooperative's financials statements are audited every year by an outside firm, Eide Bailly. In their independent auditing report, they found Oahe Electric and the results of its operations and its cash flows to be free of any material misstatements and to be in compliance with the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States as well as with the generally accepted accounting principles.

That's a lot of words that basically say your electric cooperative received a clean audit again this year! For the fourth year, the audit was done completely remote. Thank goodness for advancements in technology (especially Document Vault and web portals) that make this process simple and efficient!

Understanding Your Oahe Electric Energy Bill

Use this guide to better understand the information found on your monthly electric bill.

Did OEC receive my last payment?
This section shows total activity since your last bill, ending with your balance forward, if any. If any of this information does not match your records, call the Oahe Electric office.

Operation Round Up*
For those who participate, this is your contribution into the Operation Round Up fund. Each month, your bill is rounded up to the nearest dollar, so the maximum contribution would be less than \$11.88 annually.

Questions?
Call Oahe Electric at the number indicated or stop by the office.

Our service location, meter and submeter information
We don't use physical addresses but use our own mapping system. This location identifies where your meters are located. The main meter accumulates the usage of your lights, electric water heater, stove and such. The submeter (located on page two of your bill) tracks the usage of heating and air conditioning in order to be billed at the special rate.

Account Information:
Account Number: [Redacted]
Statement Date: 05/07/2020 Due Date: 05/22/2020

Billing Summary:

Balance From Last Billing	2014.00
Payment Received 04/02/2020	2014.00 CR
Balance Forward	0.00
Current Charges	1668.90
Round Up Contribution	0.01
Amount Due	1669.00

Page 1 of 3

Messages:
Statement reflects payments received through 5/7/20. Delinquent & subject to penalties if not paid by 5/22/20. Access SmartHub on our website @ www.oaheelectric.com to manage your account, bill notifications, payments and more.

Service Details:
Loc: [Redacted] Dep: [Redacted] M: MAIN

Meter Reading Details:
Meter: 95862274
Current Reading: 04/02/2020 98177
Previous Reading: 03/31/2020 98298
Total Usage: 2679
Billed Usage: 872

Detail of Charges:

400M MV Security Light (Qty: 1)	10.00
Water Heater Credit	-4.00
South Dakota Tax	10.48
KWH Charge	127.48
Meter 1 of 15	143.96

Usage Graph:
Monthly Usage (Apr to Apr): [Bar chart showing usage trends]

Period	Daily kWh	Cost/kWh	kWh	Daily Cost
This Year	95	\$0.0521	2679	\$7.30
Last Year	131	\$0.0796	3812	\$10.43

Detail of Charges Summary:
Amount Due: \$1,669.00
Account Number: [Redacted]
Statement Date: 05/07/2020 Due Date: 05/22/2020

DO NOT PAY - Amount is automatically deducted from bank account

Additional messages:
This section shows additional messages regarding your bill, such as whether it is being paid via ACH or if you have a credit and do not need to remit a payment.

Security Light
If you have a security light, this area indicates the size (175 watts or 400 watts) and whether it is metered or unmetered. Metered means that all kilowatts used are billed to the member.

Water Heater Credit
This is a flat monthly \$4 credit for participating in the load management program with your electric water heater.

More Information... Other important information is noted on the reverse side of the bill.



BUILDING A DREAM

J. Dylan Moro and his cousin, Knut Finnevolden, stand outside Moro's family-built treehouse yurt.

Moros' Treehouse Yurt Offers Unique Dakota Getaway

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

From the vast, open prairies of the east to the towering Black Hills in the west, South Dakota's diverse landscape presents a breathtaking tapestry of natural beauty for camping enthusiasts to explore. With 13 state parks, six national parks, and numerous recreation areas at their disposal, visitors and residents alike are always within arm's reach of a world-class camping experience, complete with the guarantee of an unforgettable sunset.

The allure of South Dakota's outdoors extends well beyond aesthetics. Outdoor enthusiasts can also find a plethora of adventure by rock climbing the steep quartzite cliffs of Palisades State Park or catching a glimpse of a wild buffalo or bighorn sheep in Custer State Park.

Given the abundance of breathtaking

locations, it comes as no surprise that many enthusiasts desire a camping experience that matches the splendor of their natural surroundings. Simply put, sometimes a basic tent just doesn't suffice. Campers have embraced a variety of specialty camping styles, such as staying in treehouses and fully furnished cabins. With options ranging from off-grid yurts to glamping tents outfitted with complimentary Wi-Fi, these innovative accommodations elevate the traditional outdoor experience, catering to each individual's preference, comfort, and style.

J. Dylan Moro and his wife, Keena Byrd-Moro, both residents of Spearfish,



Moro's treehouse yurt is fully furnished, complete with tables, couches and a wood stove.

S.D., erected one such location on the outskirts of Lead, S.D., with the help of their family and neighbors in 2015. After both serving in the military as Army Reserve Nurses, Dylan and Keena saved up enough money to purchase a lot of land and realize their dream of building a treehouse yurt in the Black Hills.

“It was always my dream to build up there,” said Dylan. “We wanted to create an experience where people could escape and reconnect with nature.”

Their dream became a reality thanks to the amazing effort put forward by their family, friends and neighbors. More than 10 individuals contributed to the project, assembling the yurt in just two days despite a snow storm during the construction process.

“I remember being so close to finishing the project in one day,” he recalled. “Despite the snow, I could see the finish line and wanted to keep going, but the conditions were getting slippery. For safety, my wife convinced us to wait, and she was right, of course.”

Even Keena’s late father, who had Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s during

the project, assisted how he could by peeling logs and building railings for the treehouse yurt. Dylan shared that having Keena’s father as part of the project made the experience even more special for their family. The structure now stands as a testament to his memory and provides a connection with their family’s past.

“He loved being up there and part of the project,” he shared. “I can honestly say that we built this structure by hand without any machinery. We relied on the many hands of our friends and family to get the job done.”

When the family finished, the end result was a rustic treehouse yurt perched between two pine trees on a mountain slope, overlooking the Mickelson Trail. Today, the Moros’ treehouse yurt guarantees a remote escape, free from nearby tents or campers. And while it’s only accessible by dirt road, the location still offers easy access to some major attractions of the Black Hills, including Deer Mountain Ski Resort and Pathways Spiritual Sanctuary.

“It’s a really cool spot, and for me, I love having access to the trail for easy

biking and running,” said Dylan. “And it’s not unusual to catch a glimpse of an ongoing bike race or marathon on the Mickelson Trail from the deck of the yurt.”

Listed on Airbnb, the location has garnered over 241 reviews and 4.83 stars from campers from all over the United States, featuring two beds, a wood stove, and an indoor fireplace. Even still, the getaway location isn’t for the faint of heart. With no running water or onsite electricity, campers must rely on the yurt’s amenities, which cater to campers seeking a balance of comfort and authenticity in their outdoor experience.

“Part of the beauty of the yurt is that it’s totally off-grid, but people need to know what they are getting into,” he said. “But that shouldn’t scare anyone away. We have hosted people from all walks of life: people who have never camped before, people who are driving across the country and want a unique stay, and even locals who just want to get away. Everyone finds something here that they enjoy.”



Perched between two trees, the Moro family yurt provides a unique getaway location for visitors to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

OAHE ELECTRIC DIRECTOR ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

During your 72nd annual meeting, members will be electing two board members to fill two, three-year position. Any individual who satisfies the qualifications and complies with the nominating procedures set forth below, should be prepared to serve a minimum of 24 to 36 days per year attending meetings on behalf of the cooperative.

Petitions are available at the headquarters in Blunt.

Should there be any questions concerning the bylaw procedures or if you would like to request a petition, feel free to call or stop in at the office. Petitions are due by **Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023.**

Bylaws Governing Election of Directors

SECTION 3 – QUALIFICATIONS:

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who: (A) is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative; or (B) is in any way employed or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electrical or plumbing fixtures or supplies to members of the Cooperative; or (C) is an employee of the Cooperative.

Upon establishment of the fact that a director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the Board of Directors, by official motion shall remove such director from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatever the validity of any action taken at any meetings of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4 – NOMINATIONS:

Any fifteen (15) or more members acting together may make nominations by petition not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the principal office of the Cooperative. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting or separately but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting at statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by petition. There shall be no nominations from the floor unless no petition has been filed for a vacancy. In that event only, nominations shall be taken from the floor for that vacancy, and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nomination has been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate.

Ellie Noyes Wins Basin Scholarship

Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. would like to congratulate Ellie Noyes, senior at TF Riggs High School, on



being awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Ellie is one of only 20 students in Basin Electric's eight-state service area to receive this scholarship.

Ellie has been involved in theater, National Honor Society, Student Council, Pierre Youth Orchestra, LYF Church Youth Group and Culinary II class. She plans to attend Black Hills State University to obtain her degree in Business Administration with a focus on Human Resources. Ellie is the daughter of Oahe Electric Director Ryan Noyes and his wife Ann of Pierre, S.D.

Now, in its 31st year, the Basin Electric Scholarship program is designed to encourage and recognize academic and community achievements of students throughout their service area. It is also considered an investment in the economic future of rural areas. The scholarship is based on many factors, including an essay explaining, "What challenges face rural electric cooperatives in the coming years and how do you think challenges should be addressed?"

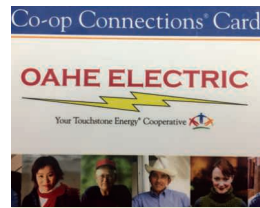
Congratulations, Ellie! We wish you the best of luck with your future goals!

Thank You Messages

On behalf of LifeScope, the employees of East River Electric Power Cooperative would like to thank you for your support and generous donation for the 59th Annual LifeScope Benefit. This year was a great success! The support and dedication of businesses like yours is truly appreciated, not only by the East River employees, but also your community. With your help, almost \$38,000 will be donated to LifeScope.

We look forward to your continued support for this worthy organization. The funds we raise help local children lead normal lives. We are looking forward to next year's 60th annual benefit!
Sincerely,
East River Employees' Committee

The Post Prom Committee and Highmore-Harold Sophomore class would like to thank you for your generous donation to the Post Prom fun night event. With the help of your contribution the event turned out to be a great success and fun was had by all. Thank you for supporting the students of Highmore-Harold High School.



Cooperative Connections Card Program Vendors

Automotive

Graham Tire Company	605-224-8643	Pierre	Receive a 10% discount on regularly priced service work. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Lamb Motor Company	800-952-2222	Onida	Receive a free alignment check with the purchase of 4 new tires.
Napa Auto and Truck Parts/Farnam's Genuine Parts, Inc.	605-224-8624	Pierre	Receive 10-50% off retail price.

Food/Convenience Store

Branding Iron Bistro	605-494-3333	Pierre	Enjoy \$1 off your order. Limit one per visit.
Gator's Pizza Pasta and Subs	605-224-6262	Pierre	Purchase any large pizza at regular price and receive a FREE order of breadsticks.
Grey Goose Store	605-945-0794	Pierre	Receive a free 20 oz. fountain soda or coffee with the minimum of a \$30 gas or diesel purchase.
The Corner	605-258-2400	Onida	Buy one breakfast sandwich at regular price, get second half off.

Health/Fitness and Beauty

Anytime Fitness	605-224-4011	Pierre	Receive a free two-week mini-membership.
------------------------	--------------	--------	--

Home/Garden

Slumberland Furniture	605-945-1997	Pierre	20% off any regular priced Lazy Boy items. Excluding special orders.
Lee Real Estate	605-222-6003	Perre	Receive a FREE Comparable Market Analysis for real estate properties, which gives members current market values for home, land and commercial properties.

Services

Apryl's Animal House	605-224-9203	Perre	10% off a grooming or boarding
Inman's Water Technologies	605-224-5111	Pierre	Receive a 10% discount on the rental price of a water softener and/or reverse osmosis drinking water system by paying a year in advance. Receive 10% off of the purchase price of a new water softener or reverse osmosis drinking water system when you mention this ad. Payments made by credit cards do not qualify for discounts/specials.
Olson Plumbing Inc.	605-224-6436	Pierre	\$50 discount on any electric boiler, Marathon water heater, or fireplace
Small Engine House	605-224-5815	Pierre	10% off parts and labor

Sports/Recreation

Teton River Traders Gun Shop LLC	605-224-1371	Ft. Pierre	2% discount. Payments made by credit cards do not qualify for discount.
---	--------------	------------	---

Retail

Fastenal	605-224-4060	Pierre	10% off of fasteners and 5% off on all other products
-----------------	--------------	--------	---



Photo Credit: Nate Breske

Essential No Matter What Field You Work In Or Play On

Laura London

Lake Region Electric Association

Millions of sports fans who tuned into Monday Night Football on January 2nd watched in shock as what had moments before appeared to be a regular night of sporting rivalry, turned into a heroic lifesaving response. Buffalo Bills defensive safety Damar Hamlin, a strong, athletic 25-year-old, suddenly collapsed on the playing field seconds after making a routine play against the Cincinnati Bengals. Almost instantaneously medical personnel sprang into action. The grave situation was reflected in the faces of the players, coaches, staff and fans. While Hamlin had no underlying medical condition, it was later determined that he had

experienced an often-fatal condition called commotio cordis, which is a rare disruption of the heart rhythm caused by a blunt, nonpenetrating impact to the chest that causes arrhythmia without structural damage to the heart. The quick response and administration of CPR saved Hamlin's life.

There are certain professions where the possibility of using life-saving interventions such as CPR and AEDs is more likely than others, and training is necessary. Certain risk factors, whether it be profession, age or health condition, can also increase the likelihood of someone experiencing a cardiac event. The fact is that cardiac arrest can happen anywhere, at any time, to any person.

CPR and AED training is vital regardless of what field you work in or play on.

Nate Breske, a Webster graduate, and member of Lake Region Electric Association is the head athletic trainer for the Buffalo Bills NFL franchise. Breske's affable personality and engaging smile can seem out of place when pictured amongst the hard appearing coaches and personnel of the NFL, but there he is shining bright on the sidelines and behind the scenes to make sure the program runs smoothly. The multi-faceted position of head athletic trainer comes with a load of responsibility, including looking out for the health and safety of the athletes, designing rehabilitation programs for injured players, working closely with the performance and coaching staffs to get the most out of each player on gamedays, managing the medical

staffs, administrating care for injured players, and working with the GM and upper management to bring in players through free agency and the draft. Breske never expected that one of his players would suddenly collapse on the field from cardiac arrest seconds after attempting a tackle, but Breske and his team were prepared.

Breske described what went through his mind when he saw Hamlin collapse on the field, “I instantly knew that it was a major medical issue that would require our assistance and expertise to help. We were prepared, willing and able to help do whatever we could to help save his life.” Lifesaving action was taken and CPR was performed by multiple people on the field in what Breske describes as “a complete team effort.” An AED was also used before Hamlin was transported by ambulance to the hospital. Something that Breske would like others to know: “You have permission to help out to the best of your ability when there is an emergency situation that may make you uncomfortable. Doing something is better than doing nothing at all!”

Breske says the Bills organization requires even non-medical personnel

to have CPR training “Everyone is certified, and we practice our EAP regularly to ensure that we are prepared for emergency situations such as this. The non-medical personnel are educated and will continue to be educated in the importance of knowing what to do in an emergency situation.” Breske has never had to personally perform CPR but recalls performing the Heimlich maneuver on Andy Meek, a high school classmate. Breske said the incident with Hamlin taught the Bills, “It is important to be prepared for situations like this. You never want to be put in this situation, but if you are, being prepared will help to give you the best chances for a good outcome. Not everything was perfect, but we had the best outcome that we could have hoped and prayed for.”

Due to the quick response and efforts by everyone on the field and the medical staff in Cincinnati, Hamlin was recently cleared to return to the game. Breske travelled with him to several heart specialists around the country to make sure all of the doctors were in agreement that Hamlin was physically and mentally healthy enough to return to action.

Damar Hamlin has teamed up with the American Heart Association to encourage people to learn how to perform CPR. Breske calls this a great thing. “The more people that know what to do in this situation will help save lives.” You can join Damar Hamlin’s #3forheart CPR Challenge by visiting the American Heart Association website <https://www.heart.org/en/damar-hamlins-3-for-heart-cpr-challenge>.

Electric Cooperatives in the state of South Dakota require all linemen to be CPR trained and get a refresher every year per OSHA regulations. Mark Patterson, Manager of Loss Control Services at South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) said that not all co-op staff are required to have the training, but the majority are trained because emergencies don’t just happen in the field.

AED devices are recommended at each work site through the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP.) Patterson concurs with Breske that CPR is a good skill to have and refresh. He said employees go through the training “hoping that you never have to use it but if you do, it will come back to you automatically.” While there have been a number of electrical contacts during Patterson’s 13-year career with SDREA, only one time has CPR been performed and in that case, saved the life of a lineman.



American Heart Association

Damar Hamlin's #3forHeart™ CPR Challenge

Join Damar in taking 3 simple steps to support CPR education and training, research and other lifesaving programs. You can help save lives today.

TAKE THE CHALLENGE

WWW.HEART.ORG/3



BISON CENTER

The annual buffalo roundup is the most popular event each year at Custer State Park. This year's roundup is Sept. 29. Photo courtesy of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

New Attraction Draws in Crowds

Scott Waltman

While spring was delayed across much of South Dakota, the tourist season is nonetheless quickly approaching.

In other words, it's time for families to start planning vacations and for the state to prepare for the millions of visitors who stop in South Dakota when the weather is warm.

While iconic Most Rushmore is immensely popular and the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally draws hundreds of thousands of visitors, there are scores of other places worth visiting for those who live in or travel through the Black Hills region.

One of the newer attractions is

the Custer State Park Bison Center, which opened last year.

When it comes to attendance, the center more than held its own in 2022. About 300,000 people visited, said Lydia Austin, interpretive program manager for Custer State Park.

Part of the draw was that the Bison Center was a new feature and something different, Austin said. But she doesn't expect much of a drop-off in attendance this summer.

Taylor Studios of Indiana, which works to create engaging exhibits for museums, history centers and other facilities, did a great job in creating a "wow moment" with the Bison Center, Austin said.

The first thing most people

notice when they enter is a mural of stampeding buffalo near the back, she said.

Interactive displays were designed to appeal to both kids and adults.

Austin said one display visitors like tracks grass from the time a buffalo eats it to the time it is discarded was waste. She said she has seen both young and old people spend 15 minutes or more at the display chuckling and having a good time.

There's also a feature where a model buffalo pie can be flipped over so visitors can see what's eating it, she said.

People who stop in can also hear the rumble of a buffalo herd as they walk through the center, she said.

The Bison Center is along the Wildlife Loop at the buffalo corrals within the state park. So many visitors used to stop at the corrals, wander around and ask what they are used for that it's nice to have a place that explains not only the

corrals but so much more, Austin said.

She wants people to stop in, visit the displays and learn all of the little stories that comprise the big story of the bison at the park.

Many people stop at the Bison Center when they take the wildlife loop, she said.

It was designed to add context to what visitors see as they drive through the southern part of the park where they can spot the bison that roam the South Dakota prairie.

Custer State Park's buffalo herd is estimated to be around 1,400, according to information from the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

The biggest day of the year for the Bison Center comes in September during Custer State Park's annual Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival. This year's event is scheduled for Sept. 28-30. The roundup itself is Sept. 29. Parking lots will open at 6:15 a.m. Mountain Time for people



The Custer State Park Bison Center helps educate visitors about the history and importance of the herd of 1,400 buffalo that live in the park. Photo courtesy of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

who would like to watch the animals get tested, branded and sorted.

A main purpose of the roundup is to manage the health of the herd.

Austin said about 20,000 people visit the park the day of the roundup, easily making it the busiest day of the year.

Now, those folks can visit the Bison Center to learn more about the herd and educate themselves on the importance of the massive, brown, fur-bearing bovine.

Feedback from the center's first year has been very positive, Austin said.

"Wow, this is great. Glad you built it," or some variation thereof, is a common response from visitors, she said.

Austin said there have been no regrets about building the Bison Center. It fits the family attraction niche other visitor centers do, she said.

The aim is for the center is to tell the story of the bison and keep it fresh and dynamic. She wants visitors to learn something new whether it's their first stop or their 10th.

Austin said the goal is to have the Bison Center open from April through November.

The cost of the center was \$5.5 million, Austin said, with \$4 million coming from a grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. Another \$500,000 came from the South Dakota Legislature, while \$500,000 was raised by the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

To learn more about the Custer State Park Bison Center, visit gfp.sd.gov/csp-bison-center/.



The Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup each September is popular with tourists and helps the state manage the bison that live in the park. Photo courtesy of the South Dakota Department of Tourism.



June 3-4, 2023
Siouxland Renaissance Festival
 100 N Lyon Boulevard
 Sioux Falls, SD
 866-489-9241

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.

JUNE 3
Health Connect of South Dakota: The Human Race 5K
 9 a.m.
 Sertoma Park
 Sioux Falls, SD

JUNE 3
Lunafest Zonta Women's Art, Music & Film Festival
 2:30 p.m.
 Custer Beacon
 Custer, SD

JUNE 3-4
Siouxland Renaissance Festival
 100 N Lyon Boulevard
 Sioux Falls, SD
 866-489-9241

JUNE 8-10
Black Hills Quilt Show
 2:30 p.m.
 The Monument
 Rapid City, SD
 info@bhquilters.org

JUNE 11
River Honoring Community Potluck
 5 p.m.
 Clay County Park River Shelter
 Vermillion, SD

JUNE 16-17
Czech Days
 All Day Events
 Tabor, SD

JUNE 16-18
Fine Arts In The Hills Show & Sale
 Main Street
 Hill City, SD

JUNE 21
2023 McCrossan Boys Ranch Golf Classic for Kids
 Central Valley Golf Course
 Hartford, SD
 605-339-1203

JUNE 21-24
Crystal Springs Rodeo
 Clear Lake, SD
 605-874-2996

JUNE 23
Flandreau Fridays
 5 p.m.
 Downtown Flandreau
 Flandreau, SD

JUNE 24
Vendor Fair & Farmer's Market
 8 a.m.
 122 Vilas St
 Hermosa, SD

JUNE 30
Gregory Community Foundation Polka Fest Fundraiser
 6 p.m.
 Gregory 4H Building
 Gregory, SD

JULY 4
Philip VFD Firework Display
 Lake Waggoner
 Philip, SD
 605-685-3082

JULY 12
Tracy Area Gardens & Quilts Tour
 2 p.m.
 Tracy, MN

JULY 15
Huron MS Walk/Run
 8 a.m.
 Lake Byron
 Huron, SD
 605-350-5922

JULY 15-16
Charles Mix Saddle Club SDRA Rodeo
 Geddes, SD
 605-680-2763

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

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

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