

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Small Town, Big Dreams

Tucker Kraft's
Road to the NFL

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Electrical Safety in
Action

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Oahe Electric Employees



Valerie Marso
Office Manager

Recently, I was presenting at a meeting and got mentally sidetracked as I was introducing some of our employees. As I was saying names, I started to identify that there are several people with a LOT of experience that work at your electric cooperative! It felt like five minutes with all the thoughts that were going through my head but in reality, it was probably more like five seconds. When I was a newbie, I heard the phrase “once you start working for a cooperative, you are here for life,” but never really thought much about it. But of course, being a numbers person, I had to look into it for myself and here is what I found. “They” weren’t wrong! In the last 20 years, your employee base had at its peak, years of service experience totaling 248 years, which averaged out to 19 years per employee. The least amount of experience over the course of those same years was 144 and averaged out to 11 years per employee -- which is still a lot. Currently there are 14 employees totaling 207 years of experience. What makes that even more interesting to me is that the average age of our employees is 40. Young but experienced.

We can’t forget about your directors! Over that same 20-year time span, the greatest amount of experience your five-person board had was 83 or 16+ years of experience per member. The least amount was 43 which averages out to 8+. Currently the cumulative years of service for your board is 56 years or 11+ years of experience.

Obviously, there will be ebbs and flows, but we hope you take comfort in knowing that even though we are small, historically there is always a wealth of knowledge, resources, experience and dedication on your team here working for you!



Left to right: Matt Eldridge (Chief Operations Officer), Megan Jaeger (Membership Director), Sam Irvine (Administrative Services Specialist), Valerie Marso (Chief Financial Officer), and Jordan Lamb (Chief Executive Officer)



Left to right: Directors Ryan Noyes, Brandon Haag, Jim Feller, Ross Sperry and Kirk Yackley



Left to right: Austin Bergeson (Lineman), Steve Long (Power Supply Specialist), Tyler Arbach (Lineman), Sid Geigle (Lineman), Brady Gaer (Lineman), Tory Smith (Lineman), Dan Lettau (Lineman), Mark Bruning (Line Foreman), and Les Job (Lineman)

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

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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.

Calling All Future Electric Lineworkers!

Oahe Electric invites you to participate in our Job Shadow Program! Students looking to begin a career in Power Line Construction and Maintenance will have the opportunity to explore their career path by walking through a work day with one of our Journeyman Lineman. This provides students the chance to gain a realistic experience of a day in the life of a lineworker outside of the classroom.

If you are interested in scheduling a job shadow day, please contact our Chief Operations Officer, Matt Eldridge at 1-800-640-6243.

Who's Graduating This Spring?

We know we have many seniors in our service territory who will be graduating in the near future, and we want to hear from you! Send Oahe Electric a graduation announcement at PO Box 216, Blunt, SD 57522, and you might just receive a graduation gift back!

OCR Maintenance

Oahe Electric's linemen spend many hours maintaining lines and equipment. An example of this commitment to continuity of service is the OCR maintenance program.

OCR stands for oil circuit reclosers. An OCR is an electrically driven hydraulic mechanism that functions like a circuit breaker, protecting the lines and equipment if a blink occurs on the line feeding your home, farm or business. The OCR automatically restores power if the loss of power is temporary. Incidents such as falling tree branches, ice, lightning, or animals can cause temporary faults.

Like any mechanical device, the OCR requires periodic maintenance. Oahe Electric has teamed up with EIR Testing and Maintenance Co. out of Minnesota to complete this project. In this interesting process, existing OCR's are swapped out with one that has been cleaned and checked. The first step is removing the old oil, followed by a thorough cleaning of the mechanical elements and an inspection for any damaged or defective parts. The revitalized OCR is then reassembled, filled with new oil and painted. It is tested to make sure the timing of the device is correct and the results documented. Only then is the OCR ready to be returned to service.

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.

Workplace Safety: Avoid Common Electrical Hazards

Contact with or exposure to electricity is one of the leading causes of workplace fatalities. Follow these tips to avoid electrical injury:

Overhead Power Line Contact

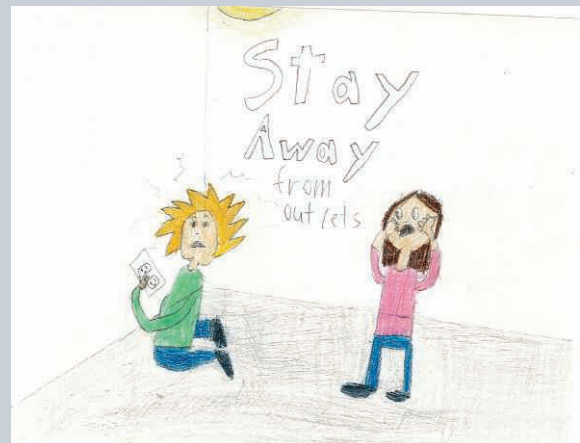
- 46% of all electrical fatalities are caused by contact with overhead power lines
- 57% of overhead power line fatalities were in non-electrical occupations
- Always assume all lines are live and dangerous
- Always look up; be aware of overhead power lines
- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines
- Do not touch anything that is in contact with overhead power lines
- Carry equipment, including ladders, horizontally to avoid contact with power lines
- Stay at least 35 feet away from downed lines

Accidental Contact with Energized Conductors or Parts

- 45% of all electrical fatalities were caused by working on or near energized conductors or parts
- 74% of these fatalities were in electrical occupations
- Always test for voltage before you perform work. Be sure to also test the area around the equipment you are working on to avoid accidental contact with energized equipment
- Always perform a site and risk assessment before conducting work. Hazards exist on and near the equipment you are working on
- When possible, turn off power before conducting work
- Follow proper lockout / tagout procedures
- Avoid complacency. Every job is different, make sure you follow the hierarchy of controls and other electrical safety work practices on every job

Electrical Safety in the Workplace

- 69% of all electrical fatalities involved non-electrical occupations
- Know when to say when. If you feel unsafe performing a job, say something
- Be aware of potential electrical hazards in the workplace. Avoid electrical rooms and other potentially hazardous areas
- All electrical work should be completed by qualified workers with proper training
- GFCI protection should be installed where electricity and water may come in contact
- Five sources accounted for 92% of all electrical fatalities
 - Overhead power lines
 - Unexpected contact with electricity
 - Working on energized parts
 - Ground faults
 - Damaged wiring



Power Line Safety

Serena Dekrey, age 9

Serena Dekrey, age 9, gives wise advice to readers on electrical safety. She cautions us to be careful around power outlets. Serena is the daughter of Don and Cassandra Dekrey, members of Sioux Valley Energy based in Colman, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

COMFORTING CASSEROLES

PHEASANT CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 1 pheasant
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- Bacon grease
- 1/2 cup flour
- 4 cups milk
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

METHOD

Mix flour, salt, pepper, and roll pieces of pheasant in the mixture. Brown in bacon grease. In separate pan, mix butter, milk, and 6 T flour. Stir and bring to a boil. Pour over the pheasant that had been put in a baking dish with bacon laid over it. Bake until tender.

Gail Klipfel
Ellendale, N.D.

TACO CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 package taco seasoning mix
- 1 can (16 ounces) pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 can (11 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup crushed tortilla chips

METHOD

Preheat oven to 400°F. Brown meat in large skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat. Stir in seasoning mix, beans, tomato sauce and corn. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Spoon into 2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese and tortilla chips. Bake 5 to 10 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with assorted toppings, if desired.

mccormick.com

CHICKEN, BROCCOLI, AND RICE CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. chicken tenders
- 1 cup long grain rice
- 1 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tsps. garlic powder
- 2 tsps. onion powder
- 1 1/2 tsps. whole rosemary leaves, crushed
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

METHOD

Preheat oven to 400°F. Spread chicken and rice in greased 2-quart baking dish. Mix stock, milk and seasonings in medium bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Slow pour over chicken and rice. Cover with foil. Bake 45 minutes. Remove foil. Stir in broccoli. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, 15 minutes longer or until rice has absorbed all the liquid and broccoli is tender.

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.

OAHE ELECTRIC AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO AREA YOUTH



Autumn Iverson

Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. has awarded **Autumn Iverson** a \$2,000 scholarship, which is funded by Oahe Electric and Basin Electric Power Cooperative of Bismarck, N.D., and is for use during the 2023-2024 school year.

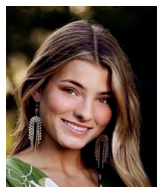
Autumn is a senior at TF Riggs High School in Pierre. Some of the activities she participates in are student council, FBLA, NHS, Gov2Gov, Cross Country, Track and Field, TATU and Circle of Friends, as well as many other community involvement endeavors. She plans on attending South Dakota State University, majoring in Business Economics and minoring in Accounting. She is the daughter of Doug and Terri Iverson of Pierre.

Congratulations, Autumn! Keep up the great work.

In addition to the \$2,000 scholarship with Basin Electric, Oahe Electric also awarded an additional \$4,000 in scholarships. The scholarships were awarded to Jenna Kruger, Remington Price, and Kate Mullett, seniors at TF Riggs High School in Pierre; Reese Voorhees, a senior at Sully Buttes High School in Onida; and Sawyer Lee, a freshman at SDSU.

Jenna Kruger is involved in FFA, 4-H, High School Rodeo, Pierre Jr. Shooters and NHS, as well as volunteering at Feeding South Dakota. Her intention is to attend the University of Minnesota-Crookston and study Animal Science and/or Ag Business, as well as Equine Science. Jenna is the daughter of Sean and Shana Kruger of Pierre.

Congratulations, Jenna! We wish you the best of luck in your career goals



Remington Price

Remington Price

participates in volleyball, basketball, track, Gov2Gov, NHS, National Society of High School Scholars, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, as well as volunteering at Edgewood Assisted Living. She plans on attending Augustana University to obtain a degree in Biology, Pre-Dental, as well as a minor in business, with the goal of opening her own dental practice. Remington is the daughter of Craig and Kami Price of Pierre.

Congratulations, Remington! We hope you realize your dreams and find much success!

Sawyer Lee is a member of SDSU's Investment Club, as well as the Finance, Insurance and Real Estate



Sawyer Lee

Club, as well as being the treasurer for SDSU's fishing team and an ambassador for the Ness School of Management and Economics. Sawyer plans on continuing his education at SDSU, where he is majoring in Business Economics and minoring in Land Valuation and Rural Real Estate. Sawyer is the son of Steve and Halley Lee of Pierre.

Congratulations, Sawyer, and good luck achieving your goals! We wish you the best of luck on your journey!



Kate Mullett

Kate Mullett is

the president of both the TF Riggs chapter Tri-M Music Honor Society and their Art Club, as well as being involved with Chamber Choir, Allstate Choir, Theater, National Art Honor Society, Colorguard, Oral Interp and the Pierre Youth Orchestra. She also spends time volunteering with United Way and has received the Rotary Youth Leadership award. Kate plans on attending University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire where she will major in International Relations and minor in Spanish. She is the daughter of Shawn Mullett and Meredith Lee of Pierre.

Congratulations on your achievements, Kate, and best of luck with your future goals!



Reese Voorhees

Reese Voorhees

has been involved in football, golf, baseball, basketball, FFA, student council (class president for four years), band, chorus, NHS, as well as spending time with the Youth Faith Formation. His plan is to attend South Dakota State University majoring in Animal Science/Pre Veterinary and minoring in Agricultural Business. Reese is the son of Pat and Tacea Voorhees of Onida.

Congratulations, Reese! We wish you the best of luck in achieving your ambitions!

Oahe Electric Awards \$1,000 Lineman Scholarship



Tyler Payer

Oahe Electric is pleased to announce that it has awarded its \$1,000 Lineman Scholarship to Tyler Payer!

Tyler is a senior at TF Riggs High School in Pierre. Tyler has been involved in 4-H rodeos and bull riding, he enjoys hunting and fishing and is a certified SCUBA instructor. He spends a lot of his extracurricular time working at Butler Machinery. Tyler has been accepted into the Mitchell Technical College's Power Line Construction and Maintenance Program for the 2023 fall semester. Congratulations, Tyler! We are very excited for you to begin your journey and we hope you'll find success and happiness in the Journeyman Lineman profession!

Know What's Below

Steps for Safe Digging



Matt Eldridge
Operations
Manager

Spring is just around the corner, and there's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to re-

vamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects – especially those that require digging near underground utility lines. Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want – trust us! Oahe Electric reminds all members who are planning a digging project to call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting SD811

Portal (southdakota811.com). Here's how the process works. After you call 811 or submit your request online, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so please be patient. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. If you placed your request by phone, use the process explained by your 811 Call Center representative. If you submitted your request online, refer to your 811 Center ticket to confirm everything. By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging.

- 1. NOTIFY**
Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.
- 2. WAIT**
Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.
- 3. CONFIRM**
Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.
- 4. RESPECT**
Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.
- 5. DIG CAREFULLY**
If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET.

*We salute you.
We thank you.*

Let us remember those who courageously gave their lives this Memorial Day.

TUCKER KRAFT



SMALL TOWN, BIG DREAMS

Kraft refuses to go down amongst a group of Redbird defenders.

Tucker Kraft's Road to the NFL

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sirea.coop

With a population of 500 residents, Timber Lake, S.D., may seem similar to many small-town communities across the state. The town is known for its scenic beauty, outdoor recreational opportunities, and rich history. However, what really sets Timber Lake apart from the rest is a homegrown NFL prospect: Tucker Kraft.

At an impressive 6-foot-5 and weighing 254 pounds, Kraft has proven himself to be South Dakota's latest up-and-coming football star. Ask any fan of college football and they will tell you that Kraft has the size and skill set to make waves on a professional level.

Luckily, Kraft's talents haven't gone unnoticed. During his latest breakout season as SDSU's All-American tight end, Kraft left an impression on NFL

scouts with his ability to outrun opponents, snatch incredible catches and charge through multiple tackles. A top contributor in nearly every game, Kraft led the Jackrabbits to their first-ever FCS National Championship. The historic season quickly cemented Kraft's place as a top tight end in the NFL Draft.

Kraft recalls the moment everything fell into place: "I just realized that when I had the ball, no one could touch me," he said. "I knew after that season that I was completely capable of playing with the pros."

Timber Lake High School head football coach Ryan Gimbel says he is not surprised to see his former stu-



Tucker Kraft

dent and player on the doorstep of the NFL. Countless hours in the weight room and gym, he said, revealed Kraft to be a student-athlete with incredible drive.

“Seeing the raw natural talent of Tucker spoke for itself and what he could accomplish, but he also had the dedication to take it to that next level,” said Gimbel. “To me, it wasn’t a surprise, and that was our running joke when he left high school – ‘I’ll see you playing on Sundays.’”

Kraft’s journey to the NFL, however, was not without its fair share of adversity. Growing up in Timber Lake, Kraft lost his father to a plane crash when he was only 12 years old. Kraft overcame the childhood tragedy with his two brothers and mother by working tirelessly on and off the field. Honoring his father’s legacy, Kraft followed in his father’s footsteps to become an All-American college star like his father had done before him.

“My brothers took a big part in raising me after my dad died,” said Kraft. “My mom, my aunts and uncles all played a role, but I pride myself on getting a lot of things done independently.”

Steely determination has carried Kraft to the highest level of football, and not even dramatic injury has been able to slow him down. In November Kraft officially declared his name in the NFL draft. Kraft’s friends and family cheered him on as he showed off his incredible strength and skill on national television at the NFL Combine. There, Kraft proved his ability to play alongside the likes of Dallas Goedert, Riley Reiff and South Dakota’s other pro footballers.

“I was kind of star-struck walking in,” said Kraft. “Sitting down with the head coaches of the NFL franchise, you realize that you are at this level now. This is a job interview.”

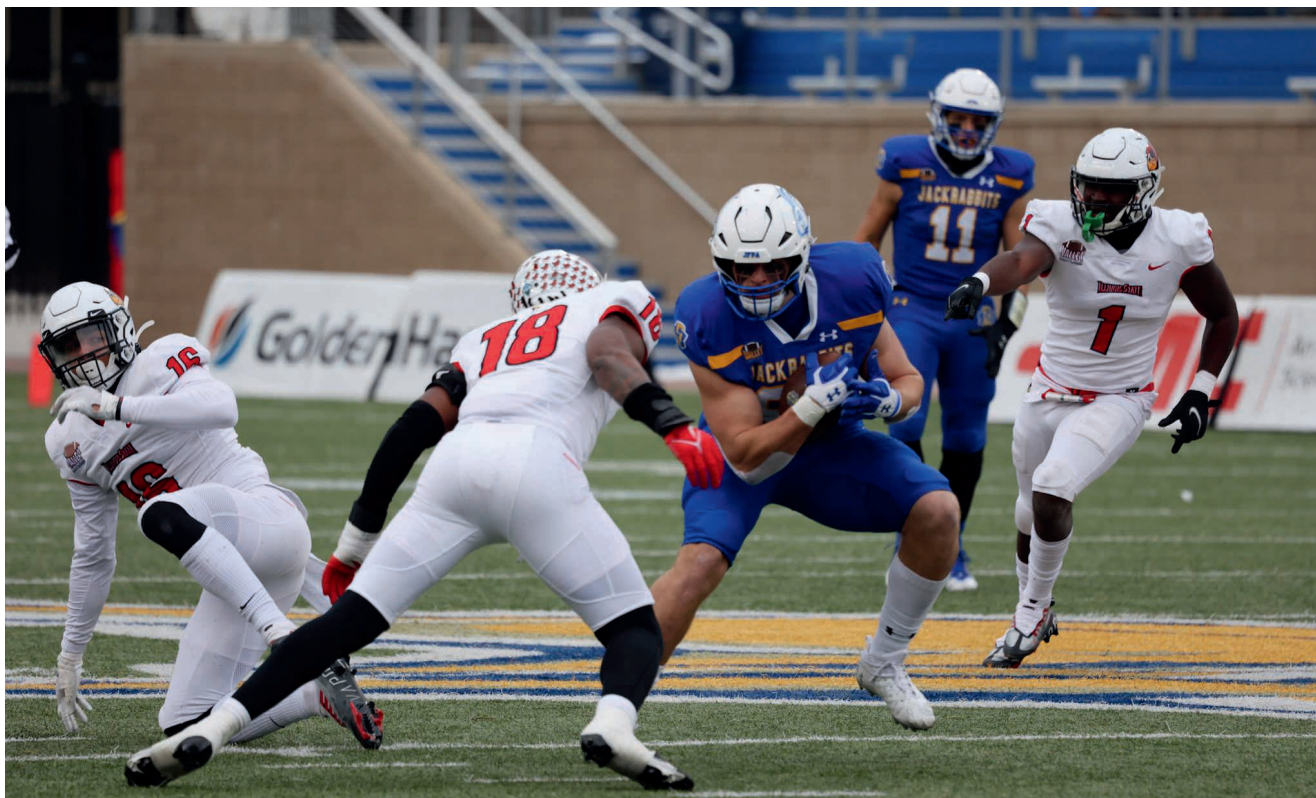
The NFL Combine, however, will

not be the last of Kraft’s time on national television. Ranked as the sixth top tight end, Kraft’s eyes are set on the draft in April. And, although he hails from somewhere small, Kraft plans to loom large on the field as a starting player with great potential.

“I want to go to a team that’s going to use me, whether I’m on the line of scrimmage in the trenches with the big guys or catching balls and getting yards after the catch. I want to make an impact on a team, day one.”

Whatever happens in April, Kraft’s hometown is ready to cheer him on. According to Gimbel, most of Timber Lake is ready to don colors and jerseys that they are not used to wearing to support their hometown kid.

“The buzz in our town has just erupted,” said Gimbel. “Our community, school, and family friends – they all want to see him be successful in the opportunity that he has worked for.”



NFL prospect Tucker Kraft evades a tackler, leading SDSU to a 31-7 win last November against the Illinois State Redbirds.



Have a Successful Planting Season Rooted in Safety

As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, Oahe Electric urges them to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Operating large equipment near these lines is one of the often overlooked, yet potentially deadly, hazards of working on a farm.

Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a 10-foot clearance minimum from power lines. Sometimes, a power line is closer than it looks. Helpful safety steps include using a spotter and designating preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors now have tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines.

Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

Simply working too close to a power line is dangerous as electricity can arc or “jump” to conducting objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call Oahe Electric for help. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path to the ground. Even if a line has landed on the ground, there is still potential for the area to be energized. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until help arrives.

If exiting the cab is absolutely necessary because of fire, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet together, hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Prioritize Safety Year-Round

At Oahe Electric Cooperative, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To us, safety is more than a catchphrase. It's our responsibility to keep other co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why you'll see us hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution students on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools, and appliances, we

would like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard. Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle – by having too many devices running on one circuit.

Label circuit breakers to understand the circuits in your home. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you “daisy chain” them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

We encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Co-op 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



ELECTRIC SAFETY IN ACTION

In a controlled demonstration, Journeyman Lineman Brady Gaer uses life-size equipment on the high voltage demonstration trailer to educate students about electricity.

Empowering the Public to Stay Safe

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sirea.coop

Electric safety is a topic that South Dakota students are excited to engage with. They often ask questions like, “What should you do if your tractor equipment touches a power line?” or “How can birds sit safely on a power line?” or even “What does it look like when something comes in contact with high voltage?”

These are some of the most popular questions Oahe Electric’s Chief Financial Officer Valerie Marso has not only been answering but also demonstrating for more than 20 years.

“They always just have tons of questions,” said Marso. “It’s always fun to hear what they come up with next.”

It’s not just for entertainment, however. Oahe Electric and its employees are committed to realizing their goal of zero accidents at home and at work. Part of preventing tragedy starts with educating the public, especially youth, on how to stay safe around electricity.

In the last year alone, Oahe Electric traveled to nine different schools and led demonstrations for more than 900 students. For Marso, verbal communication is only half the battle when it comes to educating students

about electric safety. The real impact, she said, comes from showing them.

“The visuals and the noise that the high voltage makes really lands in a way that you just can’t convey with words,” said Marso. “It can scare the students a little bit, but I think it gives them a healthy respect for electricity.”

Co-op across the state, including Oahe Electric, use three different interactive safety demonstrations to hone their message about safety: Power Town, Co-ops in the Classroom and the high voltage demonstration trailer.

One of the most popular, Power Town, is a small-scale, tabletop model of a few quaint houses attached to a small power grid. The miniature electrical system shows students how electrical current moves through

various items they may encounter in their daily lives, presented in a fun and easy-to-learn format. Line-workers, who work on the real equipment every day, lead the demonstration and teach students about personal protective equipment worn by co-op employees to complete their jobs safely.

Co-op in the Classroom is yet another powerful initiative South Dakota co-ops engage in to promote safety across the state. Working in conjunction with East River's Education and Outreach Program, co-ops meet the students where they are in the classroom to teach local youth the importance of respecting electricity through hand-on lessons that engage and excite the audience.

Lastly, the high voltage demonstration trailer is a portable unit that carries life-size equipment from events to local schools. It's a demonstration that always leaves an impression. Within a safe environment, students get to see actual equipment, such as utility poles, electrical conductors and distribution transformers, in action. Each hour-long demonstration shows what can happen when objects such as animals, trees, ladders and even fruit come into contact with power lines.

"This is equipment that our linemen work on every day, so they are comfortable showing these students how energy works," said Marso.

These demonstrations not only

entertain, but also promote a healthy and safe environment for co-op members and the public. During one of Oahe Electric's latest outreach events, Marso recalled listening to a small group of kids talk about how they sometimes sit on "the green boxes." They were referring to underground transformers. It became a teachable moment that left an impact on both the students and teachers.

"We told them to never touch them," she said. "You never know what going on in there, and it's always better to be safe than sorry. It was at least one person who took something home and actually used it. Moments like that show we are really making an impact with these students."



Oahe Electric Power Supply Specialist Steve Long teaches electric safety using Power Town, a miniature model used in safety demonstrations.



SEWING MEMORIES

The Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum is located in Vermillion, S.D.

Take a Stitch Back in Time

Jocelyn Johnson

jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop

A stitch in time saves family memories and sews history together at The Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum just outside of Vermillion, S.D. A mom and five daughters hold a passion for sewing and for the history of household sewing machines.

Collecting domestic vintage sewing machines began more than 20 years ago for Sally Abild who visited

auctions with her mom, Evelyn Hanson. There, they found various vintage sewing machines and began collecting them.

"I would see these vintage machines that were being sold for little or nothing," Sally said. "I hurt, in a way, for the families because I thought, 'These are a part of their history.' If I had my grandmother's or my mother's sewing machine, I would be extremely happy to have it."

She purchased 20 machines, not

knowing what to do with them, but wanting to preserve them. They were first stored in an old farmhouse before eventually moving to a milking barn, which was homesteaded by Sally's husband – Dick Abild's great grandfather. The barn was renovated and opened as a museum in 2017.

The museum's collection of sewing machines grew with contributions from her sisters.

"They would come across machines I had never seen in the Midwest," Sally said. "In the bigger cities, there was more money in the mid-1800s when sewing machines started to pop up. You would find a bigger selection in those areas that you didn't find in rural areas."

Sally and her sisters, Gloria, Marie, Linda and Geri, carefully researched the history of each machine they owned, putting them in order and fixing them up. Today, visitors to The Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum are able to view more than 120 vintage machines along with treasured family mementos. Sally's family has a legacy of sewing their own clothes. She remembers her great grandmother making dresses from feed sacks and her mother, Evelyn, would sew clothes for the family on her treadle machine, since electricity wasn't available on the farm until the 1950s.

"I had to learn how to sew growing up," Sally said. "If I wanted something new, I had to learn how to make it for myself."

The Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum is one of three vintage sewing museums in the United States. "We collect domestic vintage machines – meaning our machines were the first to be used by families in the home and were made of all metal," Sally said. "A machine that has



Sally Abild and her family pose outside of the Farmers' Daughters' Sewing Museum.

plastic in it is not a vintage machine."

One of the oldest domestic, vintage machines on display at the museum is one by Elias Howe, who made the first official patented and manufactured sewing machine in 1846.

"We also have a Singer Model 12, which came out after the Civil War," she said. "Isaac Singer sold them door-to-door to families and was credited with coming up with the first payment plan – allowing up to 10 years to pay for this machine. It's said that Singer's Model 12 was the machine that clothed a nation."

The most unique machine that Sally favors, however, is a Wilcox and Gibbs that came about it the mid-1800s.

"It's a small, chain-stitch machine that was loved by many women back then," Sally said. "They could easily take it

from house to house, and it was easy to use. It's also the symbol we use for our museum."

Most vintage sewing machines tended to be family heirlooms, which were passed down from generation to generation.

"Many women who visit the museum have a machine that was passed down to them by their mothers or grandmothers and want to find out more information on them," Sally said. "Men love to visit too to learn more about the mechanics of these machines."

Sally revealed the transition from vintage sewing machines, made with metal, to newer sewing machines, made with plastic, began when America gave Japan two Singer patents after World War II. Japan capitalized on this and managed to perfect a design that they sold in America for a third of the cost. To compete with this, Singer began to put plastic parts into their machines and before eventually going out of business in 1988. Consequently, the age of vintage sewing machines ended when the convenience and affordability of plastic was introduced.



Evelyn Hanson instilled the love of sewing and vintage machines in her five daughters.



May 28, 2023
Back When They Bucked
 Days of '76 Arena
 Deadwood, SD
 800-344-8826

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.

MAY 6
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
 Lake Farley Park
 Milbank, SD
 605-432-6656

MAY 17
Norwegian Independence Day
 6 p.m.
 Vivian, SD
 605-222-3296

MAY 20
Buggy Museum Open House
 10 a.m.
 Stockholm, SD
 605-938-4192

MAY 20
Booth Day
 10 a.m.
 Booth Fish Hatchery
 Spearfish, SD
 605-642-7730

MAY 20
Frühlingsfest and Spring Market
 1 p.m.
 Main Street Square
 Rapid City, SD
 605-716-7979

MAY 25
Wine Walk
 5 p.m.
 Downtown Businesses
 Aberdeen, SD
 605-226-3441

MAY 26-28
Hidden Treasure Heritage Festival
 Lead, SD
 307-259-4484

MAY 27
Back When They Bucked All-Day Rodeo
 9 a.m.
 Days of '76 Event Complex
 Deadwood, SD
 605-717-7642

MAY 27
Norwegian Constitution Day
 11 a.m.
 Lake Norden, SD
 605-874-2171

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

JUNE 11
River Honoring Community Potluck
 5 p.m.
 Clay County Park River Shelter
 Vermillion, SD
 605-670-0540

JUNE 16-18
Fine Arts In The Hills Show & Sale
 Main Street
 Hill City, SD
 605-574-2810

JUNE 18
Father's Day Fishing
 10 a.m.
 Palisades State Park
 Minnehaha County, SD
 605-594-3824

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

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

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