

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

## Hot Air Balloons

**Festival Gains  
Popularity**  
Pages 8-9

**Go-Kart Racing**  
Pages 12-13

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

# Rebates and Incentives



**Valerie Marso**  
Office Manager

Seems like it took a while this year, but construction season is now in full swing! Just a couple of things to keep in mind if you are building anything in your electric cooperative's service territory.

With some of our equipment taking over a year to arrive, let us know as soon as possible if you will be needing a new service so we can plan accordingly. We have inventory on hand but don't ever want to get to the point where we aren't able to accommodate a service request.

Remember certain equipment qualifies for a CASH rebate. There is also certain heating and cooling equipment that can be placed on a reduced rate. If you are replacing equipment, there are also rebates available.

Check out the criteria and let us know if you have any questions. Once the equipment is installed, give us a call to get scheduled to have load control equipment installed and to receive your rebate and special rate.

## INCENTIVES AND REBATES FOR OAHE ELECTRIC MEMBERS

### Electric Heating Systems

All heating equipment must be new. Members are eligible for one heating rebate once every 10 years per structure.

#### Electric Furnace OR Electric Boiler OR Resistance Heat (8 KW minimum)

- 100% efficient
- \$200 Rebate
- 5.5 cents per kwh for heating usage

#### Air Source Heat Pump WITH Electric Furnace Backup

- 250% efficient
- \$600 Rebate
- 5.5 cents per kwh for heating and cooling usage
- Must be energy star rated and meet current DOE standards

#### Ductless Air Source Heat Pump (Minisplit)

- \$300 Rebate
- 200% Efficient
- 5.5 cents per kwh for heating usage
- Must be under two tons

#### Geothermal Source Heat Pump

- 350% efficient

- \$600 Rebate
- 5.5 cents per kwh for heating and cooling usage

### Sub Meters

All electric heating and cooling systems will have their usage recorded by a sub meter. Oahe Electric must be notified by member or electrician of the need for sub meter installation.

- Sub meter must be installed on the outside of the structure
- If breaker to sub meter is turned off, all usage will be billed at the regular rate of 9 cents per kwh, instead of the reduced rate of 5.5 cents per kwh
- Air conditioning must be controlled by load management to receive reduced rate of 5.5 cents per kwh. Minisplits are not able to be controlled.

### Water Heaters

All water heaters must have a lifetime warranty (i.e.- Marathon, Westinghouse or Vaughn), have a minimum of 50-gallon capacity,

and be controlled by load management. Members are only eligible for rebates once every 10 years per structure.

- \$6 per gallon rebate
- \$4 monthly bill credit

### Commercial Lighting

Commercial accounts are eligible when replacing less efficient lighting with more efficient lighting. Must have a minimum of 250 watts in lighting reduction to qualify.

- 20 cents per watt reduction rebate
- Maximum payment per structure is \$1,000

### Third-Party Irrigation and/or Grain Dryer Management Systems

Must be able to receive notice regarding load control via email, text or voice with less than a 15-minute delay. Also must provide Oahe Electric with customer bypass information. One-time, \$750 rebate per device

## 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

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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.

# Outage and Life Support Equipment

If someone in your household depends on in-home life support equipment, please notify us immediately. Oahe Electric maintains a record of members who use devices such as respirators, supplemental oxygen, heart assistance devices, etc. These consumers are high priority during power restoration.

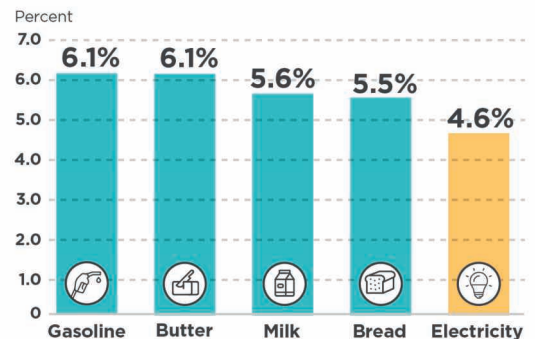
Because we cannot guarantee uninterrupted service, we strongly recommend these consumers have a backup power source and an emergency plan for extended power outages.

Members with special life-support needs should contact our office at **1-800-640-6243** and inform us of their situation so they can be included on our list.

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Inflation has led to increasing costs in many areas of our lives, but the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common goods.

### Average Annual Price Increase 2017-2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

## 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](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

# 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

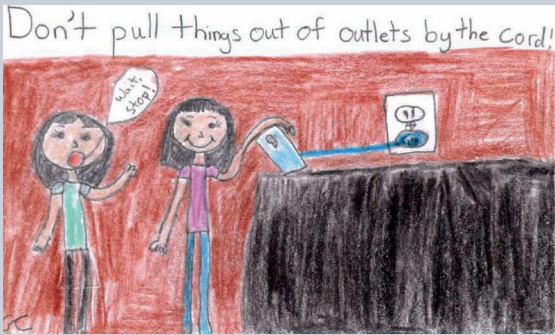
Headache, dizziness, nausea or confusion

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 Ruiters**  
 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](http://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](http://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 pole-top and bucket rescue training with employees.

# Pole-Top and Bucket Rescue Training

Every month, Oahe Electric hosts a safety meeting for their employees. These safety meetings cover a large number of topics, including CPR and First Aid Training, Office Safety, Flagger Training, Blood Borne Pathogens, and Climber Certification, just to name a few! It is important for us to have these safety meetings to remind and train employees on how to do their job safely.

Recently, Oahe Electric linemen participated in pole-top and bucket rescue training. The exercise is meant to train linemen on how to safely lower an injured co-worker from the top of a pole to the ground. Oahe Electric linemen perform

pole-top and bucket rescue drills once a year.

One-by-one the linemen test their skills on how quickly they can strap on their climbing gear, climb a 35-foot pole and safely rescue a 175-pound dummy. The dummy must be secured with a rope before being safely lowered to the ground where co-workers are prepared to provide emergency first aid care until emergency medical professionals arrive on scene to take over.

Bucket rescue training involves taking over the controls on the body of the truck and bringing the lineman to the ground safely.

Pole top and bucket rescue are an essential part of the safety training at Oahe Electric – safely rescuing a fellow lineman could mean the difference between life and death. Pole-top and bucket rescue training and other safety training ensure our linemen and other employees are constantly reminded of the safety aspect of their job and the importance of using equipment in the safest manner possible.

## Oahe Electric to Host Tour

Members of Oahe Electric Cooperative have the opportunity to tour our transmission cooperative, East River Electric Cooperative, as well as Dakota State University's (DSU) Connected Home Research Project.

East River Electric is a wholesale power supply cooperative headquartered in Madison, S.D., which serves 24 distribution cooperatives and one municipal electric system across eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota.

The Connected Home project

is a partnership between East River Electric Cooperative, DSU and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and is exploring technologies that will be included in the next generation of rural homes. It is also working to find solutions that will allow electric cooperatives to play an integral role in helping consumers optimize their energy use. The project research space resembles a smart home kitchen with additional appliances including a washer, dryer and water heater.

Twenty-five lucky Oahe Electric members will travel to and from Madison, SD on a bus service on October 12. Lunch will be provided on the tour. High school students – accompanied by a parent or legal guardian – are encouraged to attend. At least one registrant must be an active member of Oahe Electric to be eligible. The cost is \$25 per person. Registrations will be accepted on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Portions of the tour require walking, so wear comfortable shoes.

If you would like to attend, please send your name, address, phone number, and \$25 to Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 216, Blunt, SD 57522. For more information, please call **1-800-640-6243**.



## 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](mailto: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.

# 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.

## Thank You Messages

Thank you for the funds. We appreciate all you do for our community. The money will go towards items needed for Beyond the Classroom children.

Thank you,  
Marquette Brink  
Operation Round Up

Just a quick note to thank you for your generous donation to the Sully County Historical Society. Your continuing support is greatly appreciated.

Lew Robbenolt, Treasurer  
Operation Round Up

Thank you for your Round Up investment into our work with combat veterans. Hope you will stop out and see how we work with those that have difficulty processing their combat experiences.

God's blessings,  
Ken Korkow and the team  
Operation Round Up

Dear Oahe Electric,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Sully Buttes post prom event. We heard good feedback that the students enjoyed their evening. Also, the mark of a successful event is that it was well attended and gave the students a fun and safe option.

We really appreciate your support of the community and hope, in turn, that community members will continue to support your business interests. Thank you again!

Sincerely,  
Onida Post Prom Committee

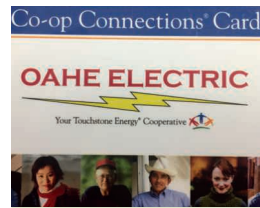
## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler?

To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room.

Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## Cooperative Connections Card Program Vendors

### Automotive

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

### Food/Convenience Store

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

### Health/Fitness and Beauty

<b>Anytime Fitness</b>	605-224-4011	Pierre	Receive a free two-week mini-membership.
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### Home/Garden

<b>Slumberland Furniture</b>	605-945-1997	Pierre	20% off any regular priced Lazy Boy items. Excluding special orders.
<b>Lee Real Estate</b>	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

<b>Apryl's Animal House</b>	605-224-9203	Perre	10% off a grooming or boarding
<b>Inman's Water Technologies</b>	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.
<b>Olson Plumbing Inc.</b>	605-224-6436	Pierre	\$50 discount on any electric boiler, Marathon water heater, or fireplace
<b>Small Engine House</b>	605-224-5815	Pierre	10% off parts and labor

### Sports/Recreation

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

<b>Fastenal</b>	605-224-4060	Pierre	10% off of fasteners and 5% off on all other products
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# 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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August 14-17  
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**JULY 21-23**  
**Winner Elks 54th Annual Rodeo**  
Winner, SD  
605-842-5830

**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

**SEPT 2**  
**Hidewood Valley Barn Dance**  
7 p.m.  
47236 183rd St  
Clear Lake, SD

**SEPT 4**  
**Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show**  
Steam Whistle Blows  
1 p.m.  
47236 183rd St  
Clear Lake, SD

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

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

**SEPT 22-24**  
**Coal Springs Threshing Bee**  
Meadow, SD  
605-788-2229

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