

## Cooperative Connections



**Ready to Run:  
Road Races,  
Marathons,  
and Half-  
Marathons  
Hit Region**

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**Celebrating  
Midsummer  
at Dalesburg**

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# Co-op Programs Recognize and Educate Local Students

## Cooperatives Are Committed To Our Youth



**Ben Dunsmoor**

[bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop](mailto:bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop)

**Electric co-ops are committed to our youth because they will be our future co-op members, board members, and community leaders.**

Spring can be a busy time for parents and teens. As students count down the last few days of the school year there are papers that need to be written, tests that need to be taken, and summer plans that need to be made.

Spring can also be a busy time at Northern Electric Cooperative as we continue our commitment to the youth of our communities. Electric cooperatives across South Dakota have many programs which honor and empower the students in our service territories. Some of those programs culminate in the spring with the end of the school year while others continue into the summer to educate our local teens.

I attended the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year banquet in April at South Dakota State University. This event recognizes all the high school seniors across eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota who were named Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week throughout the 2018-2019 school year. This program has been a partnership between your local Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and KSFY Television since 2002. Students are nominated to be the scholar of the week by their teachers and school counselors and then one student is selected every week throughout the school year. That student is featured on the six-o'clock news on KSFY. It is incredible to meet these talented teens who are excelling in the classroom and doing great things within our communities. Two of the Northern Electric representatives were honored with awards during the banquet on April 27. You can read more about those students on page 10.

Electric cooperatives are also committed to giving students educational opportunities throughout the summer. The annual Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington D.C. will kick off in the middle of June. Aberdeen Central High School senior Aryan Jamal was selected to represent Northern Electric during the 2019 Youth Tour. Electric co-ops across the country have been giving teens the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital since the late 1950's so they can engage with government. More than 1,500 teens are now traveling to Washington D.C. every June to attend Youth Tour.

Northern Electric Cooperative will be sending more than a half dozen high school students to North Dakota in July for the 2019 South Dakota Rural Electric Youth Excursion. During this trip, students learn about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers. The students also tour the resources which generate the electricity they use every day. There are also fun and interactive activities planned during Youth Excursion so students can make connections with other teens from across South Dakota.

All these programs are free to the students and are sponsored by South Dakota electric cooperatives. Electric co-ops are committed to our youth because they will be our future co-op members, board members, and community leaders. If we recognize them for their accomplishments and give them opportunities to learn and grow today, the future of our communities will be a lot brighter. Electric cooperatives have known that – and have been doing that – for decades and we will continue to do it into the future.



(USPS 396-040)

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NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Northern Electric Cooperative, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

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Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held April 18, 2019, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. Eide Bailly LLP, CPA, Audit Manager Kellen Garrison and National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (RUC) Director Candidate for District 6, Anthony Larson, were guests for the meeting. As the first order of business, the Board approved the March 21, 2019, minutes and March expenditures. The Board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management.

Directors viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative video report. East River Director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the April 4, 2019, meeting. General Manager Char Hager reported on the April 2, 2019, East River MAC meeting in Madison, SD. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported on the SDREA board meeting held March 28-29, 2019, in Pierre. Director Ronald Kaaz reported on the 2019 NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) courses which he attended March 26-27, in Pierre, SD. Directors Donna Sharp, Wayne Holt, Attorney Harvey Oliver and Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor reported on the LAMONT-RHODES Lecture Series, which was held March 26, 2019, at Northern State University.

**Manager's Report**

General Manager Char Hager's report to the board included the following items:

- Update and discussion on development projects and activities.
- Brief update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund.
- Legal and Legislative report.
- CFC Director Candidate for District 6 Anthony Larson spoke to directors.
- Informed directors that 2019 District 2, 5 and 9 candidate petitions need to be submitted by July 5, 2019. Wayne Holt - District 2- has

**APRIL BOARD REPORT**

reached his term limit.

- Reminded board of the 2019 VIP Tour to Bismarck/Beulah, ND on June 25-26.

**Board Report**

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, May 23, 2019.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$2,417.74.
3. Approved Work Order Inventory #19-03 for \$162,912.68 to be submitted to the RUS for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
4. Received and approved the 2018 Audit Report presented by Kellen Garrison of Eide Bailly, LLP.
5. Approved allocating \$3,716,371.67 of NEC's combined 2018 margins to member patronage capital credit accounts.
6. After repeated failed attempts by the cooperative to collect unpaid balances, the board approved a resolution to write off 19 uncollectable accounts in the amount of \$20,906.15. Any members remaining capital credit balances will be assigned against the outstanding amounts.
7. Approved resolution for bridge line of credit with CFC.
8. Approved \$500.00 donation to SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center for Special Olympics.
9. Approved resolution to borrow an amount not to exceed \$24,825,000.00 from the Federal Financing Bank to fund the RUS Construction Work Plan.

Questions or more details on any of these matters? Please ask your cooperative manager, staff member or director.

Financial Report	March 2019	March 2018
kWh Sales	28,807,739 kWh	27,247,881 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,478,449	\$2,366,931
Total Cost of Service	\$2,488,958	\$2,464,707
Operating Margins	(-\$10,509)	(-\$97,776)
Year To Date Margins	\$510,349	\$353,643

**Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill**

	Usage	Cost	Rate
March 2019	2,915 kWh	\$257.82	.0884 per kWh
March 2018	2,600 kWh	\$238.25	.0916 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 81.2% of NEC's total cost of service.

# Summer Electrical Safety Tips for Kids

As school begins to let out, families are starting to enjoy some outdoor time with their young children. Backyards, local parks and pools are great places to spend your summer days, but to ensure a happy, healthy and safe summer, parents should be aware of a few electrical safety basics to share with their children.

- Be aware of power lines around you and always assume that wires are "live and dangerous." Never touch an outdoor wire with any part of your body, toys or other objects.
- Do not throw items such as gym shoes onto electric lines and equipment or try to retrieve items from around overhead power lines.
- Fly kites and model airplanes and other toys in large open areas such as a field or a park – safely away from trees and overhead power lines. Also, do not attempt to retrieve balloons, kites or other objects that may get stuck on power lines or other electrical equipment.
- Do not climb trees near power lines. Even if power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch during climbing when more weight is added to a branch.
- Never climb a utility pole or play on or around electrical equipment.
- Never post or tie signs, hang banners or tie ribbons or balloons onto utility poles or other electrical equipment. This can be dangerous to you and endanger utility workers.
- Do not go into an electric substation for any reason – even on a dare. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Also, never attempt to rescue a pet that goes inside. Instead, call your local utility company.
- Never try to rescue a family member, friend or pet that has come into contact with any electrical equipment – Call 911 immediately.
- Keep electrical toys, appliances and tools at least 10 feet away from pools and wet surfaces.
- Never touch any electrical toys, appliance and tools while you are wet or standing in water. Energy flows easily through water, like a puddle or a pool.

Source: [www.ehstoday.com](http://www.ehstoday.com)



## Hazard Recognition

**HAZARDS ARE EVERYWHERE. WHAT RISKS AREN'T YOU SEEING?**

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2019  
nsc.org/nsm

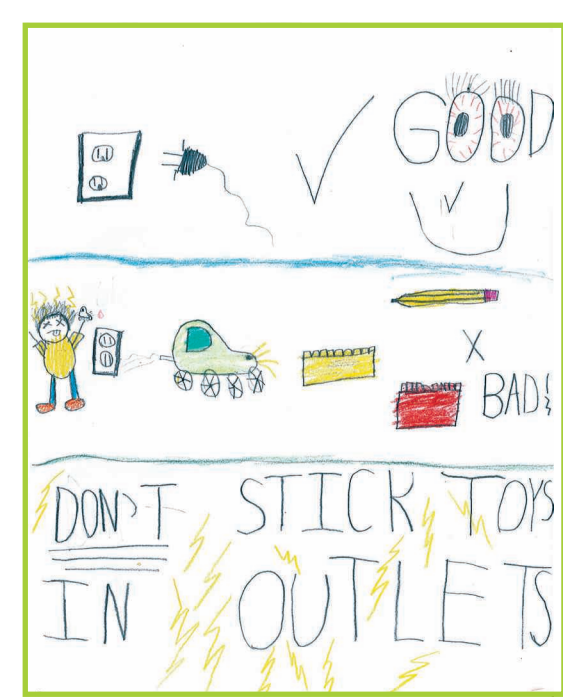



## Falls

**DON'T GET TRIPPED UP! CLEAN UP SPILLS IMMEDIATELY.**

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2019  
nsc.org/nsm

### KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Don't stick toys in outlets"**

**Jarron Kruger,**  
8 years old

Jarron is the son of Jarrod and Cadgie Kruger, Dell Rapids, S.D.

They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, 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.

# Dairy Delicious

## Orange Cream Chiller

3 oz. orange juice concentrate  
1 cup milk  
1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt

1 small frozen banana  
1 tsp. honey  
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Combine all ingredients; blend until smooth. Serves 2.

**Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, SD**

## Rhubarb Dessert

2 cups flour  
2 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. salt  
4 T. butter  
4 T. milk  
2 eggs, beaten

**Filling:**  
3 cups rhubarb  
1 (6 oz.) pkg. red gelatin

**Topping:**  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup flour  
1/3 cup butter

Combine first 6 ingredients. Pat into a 9x13-inch pan. Distribute rhubarb over crust. Sprinkle gelatin over rhubarb. Mix together topping ingredients. Sprinkle over rhubarb. Bake at 350°F. for 45 minutes.

**Roxanna Streckfuss, Mansfield, SD**

## Butter Pecan Pumpkin Dessert

3 cups pumpkin  
3 eggs  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. nutmeg

1/2 tsp. cloves  
1 (13 oz.) can evaporated milk  
1 butter pecan cake mix  
1/2 cup butter, sliced thin  
1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

Combine pumpkin and eggs. Add spices and salt to sugar. Blend sugar mixture and milk with pumpkin mixture. Pour into a 9x13-inch pan. Sprinkle cake mix over all. Top with butter slices and pecans. Bake at 350°F. for 40 to 45 minutes. Serve with whipped topping or ice cream.

**Arlene BaanHofman, Corsica, SD**

## Monkey Bread with Sausage

3/4 cup milk  
1 pkg. McCormick® Original Country Gravy Mix  
1/4 cup melted butter  
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese, divided

3 (7.5 oz. each) cans refrigerated buttermilk biscuits  
1/2 lb. ground breakfast sausage, cooked and drained

Mix milk, gravy mix and melted butter with whisk in large bowl until well blended. Reserve 1/2 cup of gravy mixture; set aside. Cut biscuits into quarters. Add biscuit pieces to gravy mixture in large bowl; gently toss to coat. Stir in 1-1/2 cups cheese and cooked sausage until well blended. Place biscuit mixture into greased 10-cup bundt pan. Pour reserved gravy mixture over top. Bake at 350°F for 35 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Bake 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Cool in pan 5 to 10 minutes. To unmold, loosen sides of monkey bread from pan with a knife. Invert, cheese side up, onto serving plate. Makes 12 servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 321, Total Fat 17g, Saturated Fat 8g, Sodium 855mg, Cholesterol 37mg, Carbohydrates 31g, Protein 11g, Dietary Fiber 1g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Goat Milk Fudge

1 lb. powdered sugar  
1/2 cup cocoa powder  
1/2 cup butter

1/4 cup whole goat milk (may use cow milk)  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1/2 cup nuts, optional

Combine sugar and cocoa in large microwavable bowl; make a well in the center. Place cut-up butter and milk in well; do not stir. Microwave on HIGH for 2 minutes; add vanilla. Blend with stick blender or mixer until smooth; stir in nuts. Pour into greased 8x8-inch square pan. Refrigerate until firm; cut into squares.

**Jersi Kruger, 5 years old, Dell Rapids, SD**

Please send your favorite dessert, vegetarian or garden produce 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 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

# What Happens When You Call 811?

## Property Owners Must Call 811 Before Any Digging Project

**Ben Dunsmoor**

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Call 811 before you dig. It is a simple request which sets in motion a string of crucial notifications to local utilities.

Once that call is made, utilities have the responsibility to identify buried infrastructure in an effort to protect homeowners and contractors from potential injury and damage to underground utilities.

“It’s all automatic,” South Dakota 811 Executive Director Larry Janes said. “Once that ticket is entered it goes out.”

Homeowners and excavators must call 811, or fill out a utility-locate ticket online at [www.southdakota811.com](http://www.southdakota811.com), at least two business days before they begin any digging project of 12 inches or deeper. When a request is made from South Dakota it is received by a dispatch center in Texas. The 811 database automatically identifies all utilities that may have infrastructure in the proposed digging area.

“Any facility that crosses that property is either notified by email, a fax, or call,” Janes said.

If Northern Electric Cooperative has lines located near the area an email is automatically sent to the dispatch center at the co-op headquarters in Bath.

“We go through every one of them and look them up to see if we need to respond to the ticket,” Northern Electric Cooperative Dispatch and Engineering Aide Rene



Northern Electric Journeyman Lineman Sean Schwartz marks an underground electrical line with red paint.

Waldman said.

Waldman estimates Northern Electric receives 20 to 30 requests to locate buried electrical lines every day during the prime digging season in South Dakota. Every digging request is mapped by Waldman and Operations/Dispatch Aide Aaron Nuhsbaumer. They look at the co-op’s maps to determine if Northern Electric has underground infrastructure in the excavation area.

“We have a map of our lines and we know where they are,” Northern Electric Operations Manager Jerry Weber said.

If there are lines in the area, a crew member is sent out to locate the lines within two business days of the request. One Northern Electric line crew member is typically designated to locate



Buried electrical lines are marked with red paint and red flags.

## Locating Private Utility Lines

Utilities are required to locate underground lines which they own, operate and maintain any time a property owner or contractor calls 811. However, utilities do not locate private secondary lines when a South Dakota 811 ticket is filed.

Here are some key points to remember regarding privately-owned utility lines:

- Private utility lines may be buried between the meter and a home or another facility on the property.
- If there are no red markings or flags between an electrical meter and a home, shop, or barn which has power following a South Dakota 811 locate, it is likely private secondary lines are buried on the property.
- Locating private lines is not coordinated by South Dakota 811 and may come with a fee.
- It is the property-owners responsibility to contact a contractor to locate privately-owned utility lines before any digging project.

**The graphic below identifies the difference between utility-owned lines and privately-owned lines.**



Northern Electric dispatch employees Rene Waldman and Aaron Nuhsbaumer review locate tickets. The co-op typically gets 20 to 30 locate requests every day during the summer and the prime digging season.

underground utilities every day during the summer and the digging season.

When the Northern Electric crew member arrives at the property of the proposed excavation, they will open up the green pad-mount box where the underground connections are located and connect an inductive clamp around the line. The clamp sends a signal through the buried line so the crew member can mark a more precise location of the line. All buried electrical lines are identified with red spray paint and red flags. Any digging within 18 inches of that area must be done by hand with a shovel.

### Privately-Owned Utility Lines

Northern Electric Cooperative only locates electrical lines that the co-op has buried, mapped, and registered with South Dakota 811. This is a free service for homeowners and contractors.

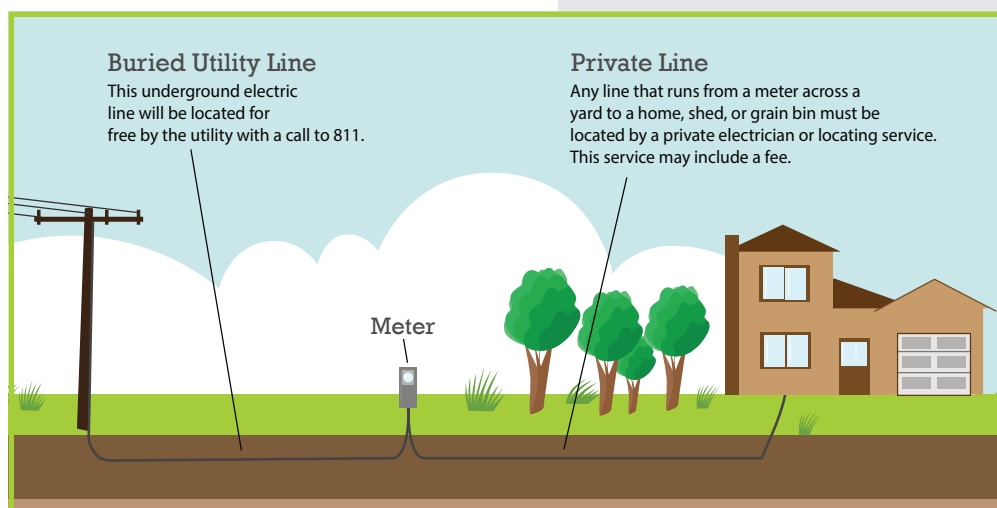
“Every utility, that enters the public right of way is required by law to provide maps of their facility,” Janes said.

However, secondary electrical lines and utilities that are buried by private contractors on private property, and are not registered with South Dakota 811 are not located for free with a call to 811. Property owners must hire a private contractor to locate underground lines which may be buried from the main meter to a home, shop, or another facility with electricity.

“We do not locate beyond the meter. We do not locate the consumers’ wires,” Weber said.

Many electricians or private locating companies can identify privately-owned buried utilities. It requires an extra call, and private contractors usually charge a fee for the service, but it is a small price to pay to avoid the damage and potential injury that would be caused by contacting a buried utility line.

Homeowners and excavators should remember that safety needs to be the top priority of any digging project where underground utilities may be buried. Calling 811 to have those utilities located is always a good way to start a safe and successful project.





The Mickelson Trail Marathon takes runners through the scenic Black Hills.

# RUNNING FOR FUN

## Marathons, Road Races and 5Ks Provide Challenge

By Jocelyn Romey

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Among the runners lining up for the start of a well-known South Dakota marathon – the Deadwood Mickelson Trail Marathon – will be a first-time runner with co-op ties.

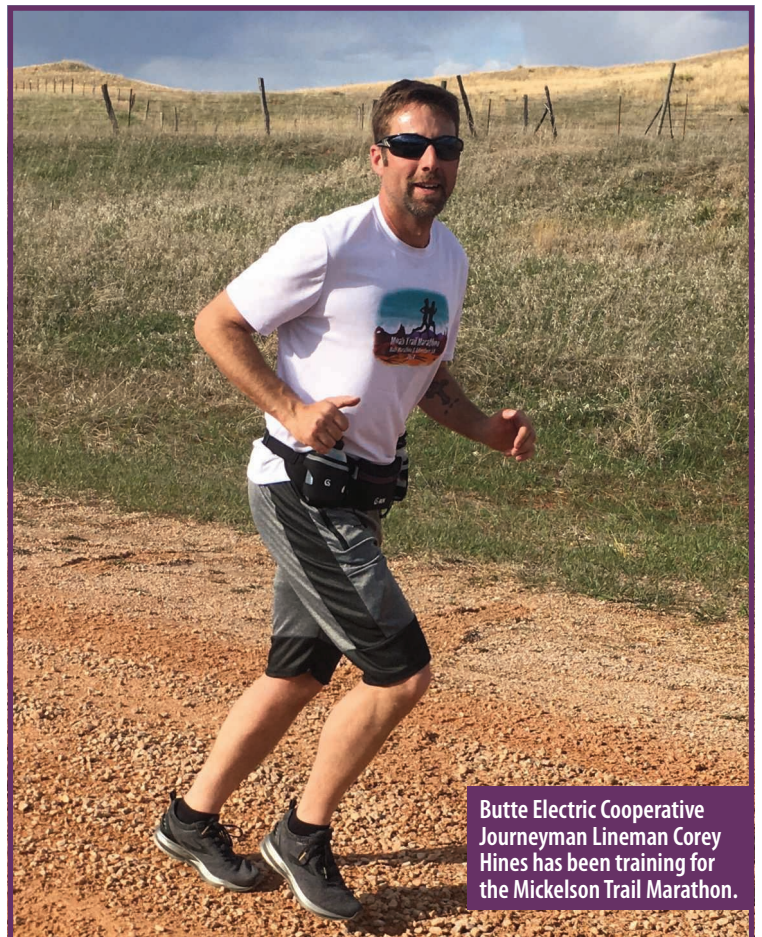
Corey Hines, journeyman lineman from Butte Electric Cooperative in Newell, S.D., will be running the full Mickelson Trail Marathon for the first time this year. He started running recently for the fun of it and it snowballed into a marathon challenge, one he hasn't backed down from.

Previously, Hines ran a half marathon in the same race eight years ago. Otherwise, he has had no competitive racing experience.

"I figured for whatever reason, God gave me the ability to run, so I will enjoy it while I can," Hines said.

On June 2, Hines will be racing with more than 3,000 runners from across the nation as well as Canada, Germany, Russia and Denmark. These runners have the option of competing in the Mickelson Trail full marathon, half marathon or relay race. Beginning in Rochford, S.D., runners will experience the beauty of the Black Hills before finishing at the historical Engine House in Deadwood. Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, S.D., is a sponsor of this event.

Other prominent co-op runners throughout the state are Russell Gall, manager of Charles Mix Electric Association in Lake Andes, S.D.; Dick Johnson, general manager and CEO of



Butte Electric Cooperative Journeyman Lineman Corey Hines has been training for the Mickelson Trail Marathon.



### Did you Know?

The modern marathon that many competitive runners enjoy has historical roots. The name itself is derived from a Greek legend in 490 B.C. that tells the story of a messenger who raced nearly 25 miles from the site of Marathon to Athens to deliver news of a Greek victory over invading Persians. Unfortunately, the story ends poorly for the messenger who died from exhaustion after delivering his news.

From this legend, a formalized race called a marathon was created. The official length we know today of 26.2 miles was originated in the 1908 Olympics hosted in London when Queen Alexandra planned the route – which was consequently 26.2 miles. Since then, the length of the race stuck.

West River Electric Association in Wall, S.D.; and Tim McCarthy, general manager and CEO of Sioux Valley Energy in Colman, S.D.

Gall has a history of competing in Tough Mudders, which entail a 12-mile run through various obstacles that include racing with a partner through mud, water, ice and electric fencing while climbing barriers, swinging from ropes, pushing blocks and lifting a number of heavy items.

“My training was foremost running. I tell anyone wanting to do a Tough Mudder that the first thing you have to do is be able to run a 5k without stopping,” Gall said. “The second part of training for the Tough Mudder is upper body strength, as in lots of push-ups and pull ups.”

Johnson is another runner who began running half marathons around his 50th birthday during the half Mickelson Trail Marathon. He finds enjoyment in running to relieve stress.

“It’s something I can do pretty much whenever I can fit it in, although I do most of my running early in the mornings,” Johnson said. “I don’t especially like later in the day as I struggle to motivate myself to do it then.”

He also noted that running was good for his overall health, even while jokingly stating that you cannot “outrun a bad diet!”

McCarthy is a well-known runner in many national marathons and was featured in the October 1996 edition of Runner’s World magazine after participating in a marathon in Illinois.

“On any given day, I will run about three miles up to about a half marathon (13.1 miles) depending on the time I have and how I feel,” McCarthy said.

“Running is a place I can go to sort out a lot of things whether the issues I’m facing are personal or professional.”

Even though he has retired from his more competitive marathons, McCarthy is still addicted to running and says he runs for physical and mental health.



Medals commemorate some of the races Tim McCarthy has run over the decades.

## Tough Mudder

Russell Gall, manager of Charles Mix Electric Association in Lake Andes, S.D., is a veteran of Tough Mudder races which combine a 12-mile run with an obstacle course. Gall said the obstacles encountered in the race rely on that strength. “The Tough Mudder had lots of obstacles with funky names.”

### Here is a list of Gall’s (least) favorites:

- **Funky Monkey** – 30 feet of monkey bars over a pool of muddy water.
- **Augustas Gloop** – traverse a small pool of muddy water, duck under obstacles and then climb the inside a 20-foot tube with water cascading down.
- **Hold Your Wood** – Carry a big hunk of log for 300 feet
- **Artic Plunge** – slide down a 10-foot tube that ends in ice water. “And I mean ICE – as in bags and bags of ice are poured into the small pool of water so you have to swim through the cubes, and duck under two obstacle walls. I drank a lot of muddy water on that one since I kept inhaling as I tried to catch my breath.”
- **Hero Carry** – carry one of your team mates for a couple hundred feet then switch off. “My daughter had blisters by the time we hit this obstacle, so I just carried her the whole way.”
- **Electro Shock Therapy** – This obstacle is just as it sounds: you run through a 50- to 75-foot of mud over hay bales. There are electric fencing strings hanging down every three feet and yes they are connected to an electric fencer. “That one is tough as the first time I went through it, it knocked me down to my knees.”
- **Berlin Wall** – A 20-foot high wooden wall that you have to ascend on one side, using a rope, go over the top and down the other side with another rope.
- **Block Ness Monster** – Two 4-foot by 4-foot rolling pin blocks that are half submerged in a pool of muddy water. The teams have to push the block from one side and hang on it as you go over the top. This keeps it rotating so your team can make it over.

And a tie for the worst obstacle goes to:

- **The Death March** – In Colorado it was a 5 mile trek up the side of a mountain. “By the time we made it to the summit we were all sunburned and tired.”
- **Everest** – It’s a half pipe about 15-foot high (Google Tough Mudder Everest) that you have to try to get over. “Mind you are wet and usually covered in mud so this obstacle is definitely a team effort. I would never have made it was it not for the group of strangers that pulled me up.”

[https:// toughmudder.com/obstacles](https://toughmudder.com/obstacles)

## Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week

# Houghtaling and Haven Take Home Scholar of the Year Honors

**“When I was younger, I would look up to the kids that were the scholars of the week, so it is pretty cool.”**

Doland High School senior Danielle Houghtaling and Northwestern Area High School senior Jarret Haven were both honored with Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year awards on April 27.

Both students were Touchstone Energy Scholars of the Week during the 2018-2019 school year and attended the Scholar of the Year Banquet at South Dakota State University in April. Houghtaling’s name was drawn for the \$1,000 Scholar of the Year award and Haven had his name drawn for the \$500 award. All Scholar of the Week recipients attending the banquet had the opportunity to win the awards.

Houghtaling was featured on KSFY-TV on May 6 as the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week. She took on many leadership roles at Doland High School during the past school year. The high school senior served as the student council president

and is the vice president of the Doland Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter. She was also involved with organizing homecoming activities and school fundraisers which benefited the Children’s Miracle Network.

Houghtaling’s leadership is just one of the reasons she was named the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week during the 2018-2019 school year.

“When I was younger, I would look up to the kids that were the scholars of the week, so it is pretty cool,” Houghtaling said of the accomplishment.

Houghtaling also excelled in the classroom and participated in several extracurricular activities outside of her roles with the student council and the local FFA chapter. Houghtaling had a 4.0 GPA, ran for the Doland track team and was involved with band and choir. The Doland senior said

her success comes from making the most of her time.

“Time management is a big part of it,” Houghtaling said.

Houghtaling plans to attend South Dakota State Univer-

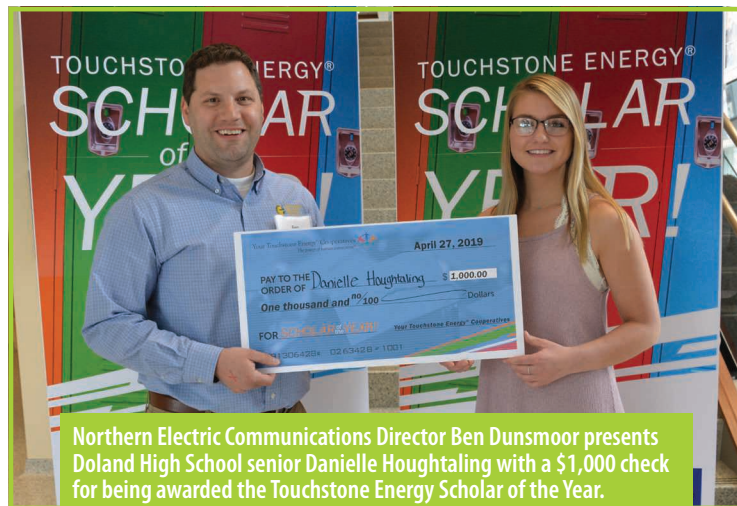
sity and major in animal science in the fall.

In December, Houghtaling was the winner of the South Dakota BIG Idea Marketing Design competition for her advertisement for ‘Houghtaling Ultrasound’ which is a livestock ultrasound business. She currently shows sheep and serves as a livestock judge and would like to be involved in agriculture after she gets her degree from SDSU.

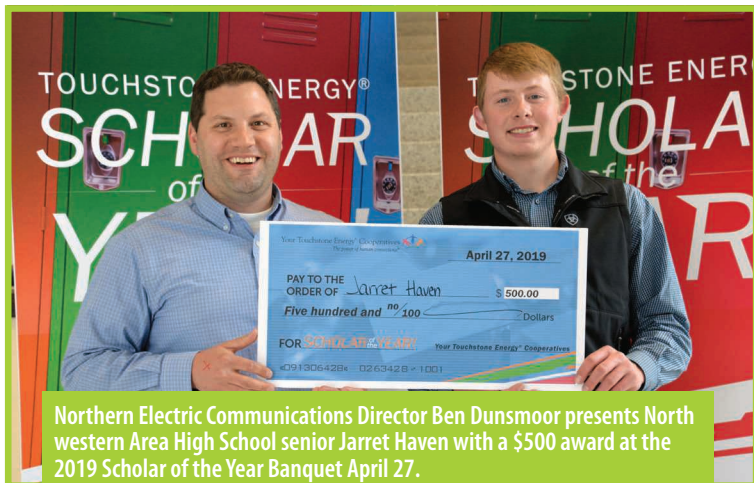
“I have always wanted to come back to the farm and raise sheep because my family raises sheep and cattle,” Houghtaling said.

Haven was the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week on January 28. Haven is from Brentford and maintained a 4.0 GPA while participating in several extracurricular activities at Northwestern Area High School including cross country, basketball, track, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), and FFA. At the beginning of April Haven was also honored with the FFA state Star Farmer Award.

Haven plans to pursue a degree in Farm and Ranch Management at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota in the fall.



Northern Electric Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor presents Doland High School senior Danielle Houghtaling with a \$1,000 check for being awarded the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year.



Northern Electric Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor presents Northwestern Area High School senior Jarret Haven with a \$500 award at the 2019 Scholar of the Year Banquet April 27.



JOIN US ON THE  
**2019 VIP TOUR**



**DATES:**  
 June 25-26, 2019



**WHERE:**  
 Bismarck, ND and Beulah, ND



**TOUR DETAILS:**  
 Tour the facilities, mines, and generating units in North Dakota which produce the electricity you receive from Northern Electric Cooperative. Participants will tour the Garrison Dam, Antelope Valley Station, Great Plains Synfuels Plant, and Freedom Mine. A commercial bus will be used for transportation.



**WHO:**  
 All Northern Electric Cooperative members, even those who have gone on the tour in the past, are eligible to participate in the VIP Tour. Preference will be given to members who have never participated in the tour. Registrants must be current members of Northern Electric Cooperative. Attendees may bring an accompanying partner of their choice on the tour.



**COST:**  
 FREE! Funding for the trip covers each participant's transportation, lodging (double occupancy), meals, and sight-seeing events.



**REGISTRATION FORM**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL FORM BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 29 TO:**

Kay Albrecht  
 Northern Electric Cooperative  
 PO Box 457  
 Bath, SD 57427

**OR REGISTER ONLINE AT:**

**[www.northernelectric.coop/viptour](http://www.northernelectric.coop/viptour)**



# Celebrating Midsommar

For 150 Years, Dalesburg Community Has Gathered in Celebration

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdea.coop

**It was important to the first Swedes who came to Dakota Territory in the 1860s.**

For the past 150 years, the community of Dalesburg in the southeast corner of South Dakota has gathered to celebrate Midsommar with a distinctly Scandinavian flair.

Every summer, the community holds the Dalesburg Midsommar Festival to honor its heritage and to celebrate its future.

The first Swedes arrived in the area of Dakota Territory in 1868, so the first Midsommar was celebrated June 24, 1869, said Ron Johnson, a member of the committee who organizes the Dalesburg Midsommar Festival set for Friday, June 21.

“We have oral history written down in the 1940s that the first Midsommar picnic was held in 1882,” said Johnson, noting that Midsommar was observed before that picnic.

Johnson noted that one settler’s memoir noted that a Swedish man arrived by train in Beresford and then headed southwest until he encountered the Midsommar



A Moeller pipe organ was added to the Dalesburg church in 1916.

gathering at Dalesburg.

By 1896, the festival had expanded to include a ball game and foot races.

“It was considered important to the first Swedes that came to this county,” said Johnson.

Around World War I, the festival moved to the grounds of the Dalesburg Lutheran Church.

“The holiday observance is older than the church,” Johnson said.

The Clay County church, located north of Vermillion, was formed in 1871 to serve a largely Swedish community in what was then Dakota Territory. The congregation first met in a



Dancing around a midsummer pole with ring dances is part of the celebration.



Weather permitting, Midsummer performances take place on the grounds of Dalesburg Lutheran Church.

sod house before building it's first church in 1874. By 1897, the current sanctuary was constructed.

The farming community of Dalesburg (in Swedish: Dalsborg) is from Dalarna – the name of the province from where many of the first homesteaders came in central Sweden. Today the residents of the Dalesburg Community are served by the Vermillion, Beresford, Centerville, and Burbank Post Offices.

About 600 people attend the festival each summer. More than 300 people eat at the Scandinavian smörgåsbord held in the church's basement while others visit one of several food stands on the church grounds at 30595 University Road, Vermillion.

“The smörgåsbord supper features Swedish-American dishes typical of what people ate 100 to 125 years ago,” Johnson said. “We still try to remember these old recipes and things.”

Several community members gathered in May to help make potatis korv, a Swedish potato sausage that will be served in June.

The festival starts at 1 p.m. and concludes with a ballgame that night.

This year's featured performer is Church Suchy, a performer and songwriter from Mandan, N.D.

“He does stories about rural life in the 1950s into the 1970s,” said Johnson, noting that past performers at the festival have included visiting groups from Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

High water in the area will make the trek to the festival a bit tricky, but well worth the drive.

Among the routes Johnson recommended were to turn off of Interstate 29 at the Beresford exit and go west a ways and then south on University Road or alternatively go to Vermillion and head north on University Road.

Johnson had one last bit of advice for those venturing to the 2019 festival.

“It's a good idea to bring your own lawn chairs and insect repellent, especially this year with the water.”

## Midsommar at Dalesburg

Each year the Dalesburg community celebrates the traditional Midsummer (or Midsommar) Festival. The event includes afternoon programs, a Swedish meatball dinner and a free evening concert. It is held on the grounds of the Dalesburg Lutheran Church.

### Schedule

#### Friday, June 21

- 1 p.m. – Food Stand/Inflatables/ Country Store Opens
- 2 p.m. – Afternoon Program
- 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Scandinavian Smorgasbord
- 7 p.m. – Evening Program
- 8:30 p.m. – Ball Game

Nominating Petitions Due By July 5, 2019

# Petitions Now Available For 2019 Board of Directors Seats

**The District 2 seat will be vacant because Board Treasurer Wayne Holt of Aberdeen has reached his term limit.**

During Northern Electric Cooperative's 2019 Annual Meeting (Thursday, September 5, 2019, at the Aberdeen Civic Arena) members will elect Directors for Districts 2, 5, and 9.

Incumbent directors Donna Sharp, Bath (Dist. 5) and Nolan Wipf, Hitchcock (Dist. 9) are eligible to run again and are up for re-election. The District 2 seat will be vacant because Board Treasurer Wayne Holt of Aberdeen has reached his term limit.

Northern Electric Cooperative uses a petition process to nominate directors. The procedure requires all candidates to circulate a petition. Candidates must be cooperative members and reside in the district they wish to represent. Each petition must be signed by at least ten (10) cooperative member-consumers residing

in that candidate's specific district.

For a joint membership, either the husband or wife may sign a petition but NOT both.

Petitions are available at the Northern Electric offices in Bath and Redfield. Director petitions must be submitted at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting to have names placed on the official ballot and the Notice of the Meeting. No petitions filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting shall be considered valid.

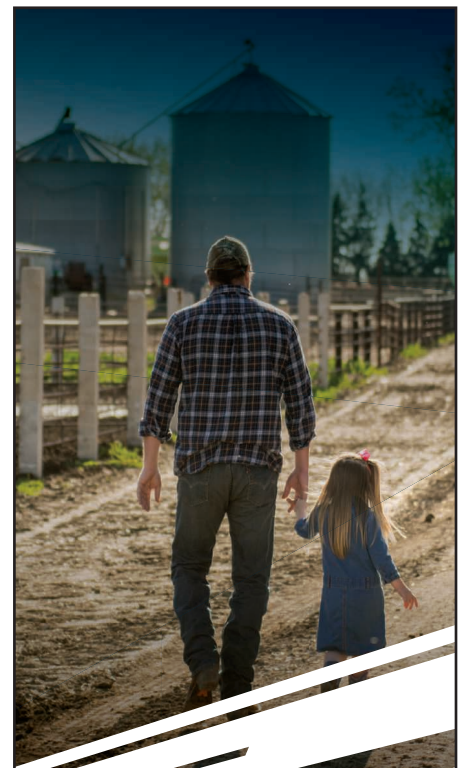
Petitions must be filed at a Northern Electric Cooperative office by close of business (4:30 p.m.) **Friday, July 5, 2019.**

Nominations are not permitted from the floor during the meeting.

Members may only sign ONE nominating petition for a director candidate from their district of record.

**For a complete copy of the Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws contact Northern Electric at 605-225-0310 or stop by one of the offices in Bath or Redfield. The bylaws are also available online at:**

**[www.northernelectric.coop/cooperative-bylaws](http://www.northernelectric.coop/cooperative-bylaws)**



**IT'S YOUR  
CO-OP  
YOU HAVE  
THE POWER**

*You are a member-owner of your electric cooperative. That means you have a say in what happens around here. So, use your power and learn how you can get involved.*

Together we're  
**RE-ENERGIZING  
TOMORROW'S  
LEADERS**



2019 Annual Meeting Scheduled for Thursday, September 5

# Director Qualifications

Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws Article IV Section 3

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- 1) Is an employee of Northern Electric Cooperative.
- 2) Is not a member and bona fide resident of the service area served by the Cooperative located within the particular District up for election;
- 3) Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative;
- 4) Has been previously removed as a Director of the Cooperative in accordance with the procedures provided for removal in these Bylaws;
- 5) Has failed to attend at least 2/3 of all regular board meetings during any consecutive twelve (12) month period.
- 6) Has been employed by the Cooperative in the past five years.
- 7) Has pled guilty or has been convicted of:
  - A felony,
  - Any crime involving dishonesty, or
  - Any crime involving moral turpitude

# Director Nomination and Election Process

## Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws Article IV Section 5

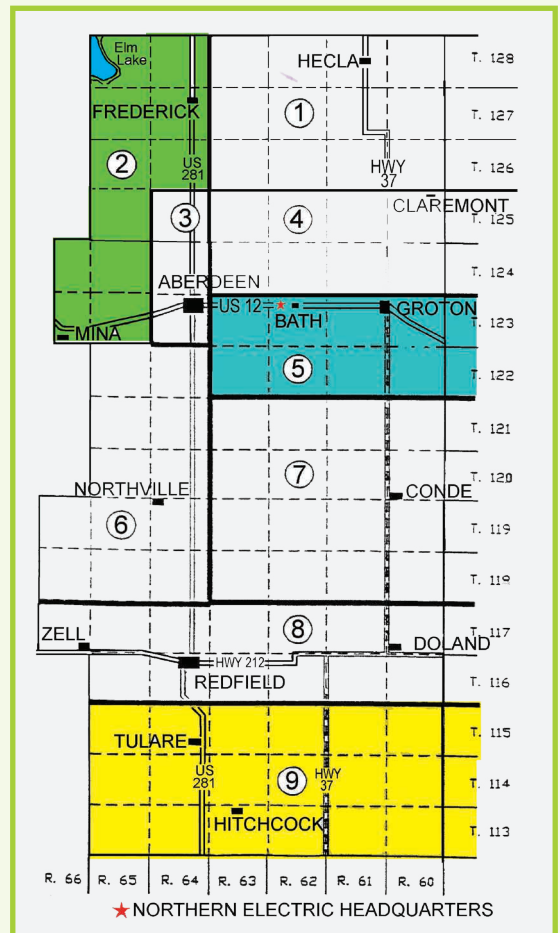
**Section 5. Nomination of Directors.** The nominating process shall be premised on a nine (9) District - nine (9) Director Cooperative. **Any ten (10) or more members residing in such District may file a nominating petition with the Secretary placing in nomination any qualified member from such District. Each signatory shall place the date of signing and his address on said petition. No member may sign a petition to nominate more than one candidate, and to do so shall invalidate the member's signature on the petition signed on the latest date.**

This procedure shall be followed in each Director District in which the Director terms shall expire. Upon receipt of such petition and having found the same to be in order, the Secretary shall post such nomination in the principal office of the Cooperative. Candidates so nominated shall be identified in the Notice of the Meeting and shall also be named on the official ballot.

No petition filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting shall be considered valid. The order in which the nominees shall appear on the printed ballot shall be determined by lot under the supervision of the Secretary. If any nominee should refuse to become a candidate or is not qualified, in accordance with the requirements of the Bylaws, the Secretary of the Cooperative is authorized and directed to remove the name or names from the list of posted nominees and/or from the ballot.

The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the Notice of the

Meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board Members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated. No nominations shall be permitted from the floor. **Each member of the Cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from their specific District from which a director is to be elected. Voting may occur two hours before or during the official meeting in accordance with the procedure established by the board of directors.** The candidate from each District receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as a Board member.



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**May 23-25**

Music Fest, Lake Benton, MN,  
507-368-9627

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**May 24-26**

South Dakota Kayak  
Challenge, Yankton, SD,  
605-864-9011

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**May 25-26**

Annual SDRA Foothills Rodeo,  
Wessington Springs, SD,  
605-770-4370

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**May 30-June 1**

Senior Games, Sioux Falls,  
SD, Contact Nick Brady at  
605-978-6924

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**May 31-June 2**

Fort Sisseton Historical  
Festival, Lake City, SD,  
605-448-5474

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**May 31-June 2**

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD,  
605-353-7340

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**May 31-June 3**

Fish Days, Lake Andes, SD,  
605-487-7694

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**June 1**

Dairy Fest, Brookings, SD,  
605-692-7539

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**June 1**

Annual Casey Tibbs Match of  
Champions, Fort Pierre, SD,  
605-494-1094

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**June 1-2**

Spring Volksmarch, Crazy  
Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

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**June 2**

Mickelson Trail Marathon,  
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

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**June 2**

Buffalo Ridge Chorale  
Concert, 4 p.m., St. John  
Cantius, Wilno, MN,  
605-479-3438

**June 29:**

Rhubarb Festival,  
Leola, SD,  
605-824-0014

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**June 2-August 11**

Red Cloud Indian Art Show,  
Pine Ridge, SD, 605-867-8257

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**June 6-9**

South Dakota Shakespeare  
Festival, Vermillion, SD,  
605-622-0423

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**June 7**

East of Westerville with  
Kenny Putnam Kiwanis  
Club Concert, 7 p.m., Riggs  
Theatre, Pierre, SD,  
605-280-0818

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**June 7-8**

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD,  
Contact Brett Rauterkus at  
605-722-1430

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**June 7-9**

Annual Black Hills Quilt  
Show & Sale, Rapid City, SD,  
605-394-4115

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**June 8**

Festival of Cultures, Sioux  
Falls, SD, 605-367-7401

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**June 8-9**

Siouxland Renaissance  
Festival, Sioux Falls, SD,  
1-866-489-9241

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**June 13-15**

Czech Days, Tabor,  
SD, 605-463-2478,  
[www.taborczechdays.com](http://www.taborczechdays.com),  
[taborczechdays@gmail.com](mailto:taborczechdays@gmail.com)

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**June 15**

International Vinegar Museum  
Festival, Vinegar Museum will  
be open all day, Roslyn, SD,  
320-808-8873

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**June 21-23**

Scavenger's Journey, A  
treasure trove event with  
antiques, rummages and  
more stretching from  
Mt. Vernon to Kadoka,  
SD, Contact Elaine  
Titze at 605-999-7287,  
[www.scavengersjourney.com](http://www.scavengersjourney.com)

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**June 22**

South Dakota Cattlemen's  
Foundation Prime Time Gala,  
Fundraiser for Feeding SD,  
Convention Center and Denny  
Sanford Premier Center, Sioux  
Falls, SD, [www.sdcattlemensfoundation.com](http://www.sdcattlemensfoundation.com), Facebook:  
South Dakota Cattlemen's  
Foundation

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**July 11-13**

Senior Games, Aberdeen, SD,  
Contact Gene Morsching at  
605-626-7015

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**July 13**

Fifth Annual AutoValve Car  
Show, Hav-A-Rest  
Campground, Redfield, SD,  
605-450-0332

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**July 27**

16th Annual Make-a-Wish  
Poker Run, Starting at Biegler  
Motor Sports and ending at  
Harley Davidson, Aberdeen,  
SD, 605-225-7262 or  
605-228-0604

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.