

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Barb Gross, Adele Enright and Jean Tehle have all worked hard to facilitate free and fair elections for registered voters in Dewey County

Poll tenders rock the vote

Election workers are dedicated to the task
Pages 8-9

Freshman Impact teaches sound decision making

Pages 12-13

Continuing to Learn & Grow



Michelle Fischer
Communications &
Member Services
michellef@bhec.coop

Education and training is a priority at your co-op. Actually, Education, Training, and Information is the fifth principle of the Seven Cooperative Principles. By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the quality of service our members expect and deserve.

All of our operations and engineering employees participate in monthly safety meetings and trainings.

The apprenticeship standards to become a journeyman lineman were developed by your co-op in association with the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) and approved by the U.S. Department of Labor. The apprenticeship standard at Black Hills Electric Cooperative include four years of on-the-job training with a ratio of 1:1 (apprentice to journeyman lineman), which results in 8,000 hours of documented training in 14 separate job disciplines. In addition to the 8,000 hours of on-the-job training, our apprentice linemen must successfully complete a four-year educational self-study curriculum. The apprenticeship program is fully accredited and includes coursework for approximately 144 hours per year, resulting in 576 hours of curriculum coursework prior to an apprentice sitting for their final exam. Two employees, Danny Dooley & Carlos Rodriguez, recently completed the apprenticeship program. Danny began his career here in 2016, and Carlos in 2019. Congratulations Danny & Carlos!



L-R: Danny Dooley, Manager of Operations - Bill Brisk, and Carlos Rodriguez.

All of our operations and engineering employees participate in monthly safety meetings and trainings. Each year, SDREA sponsors a hotline rubber gloving course. This course is hosted by Mitchell Technical Institute and focuses on working on energized lines. Kenny Parker and Carlos Rodriguez were the two linemen that participated in the rubber gloving course training this rotation.

There has also been a fairly new addition to the line crew. Eli DeNeui joined the Black Hills Electric Cooperative's workforce permanently on May 1st, 2022, after being a temporary 1,000-hour employee. Eli graduated from Mitchell Technical College in 2020, earning his Power Line Construction & Maintenance degree. Eli was born in Custer but grew up in Platte, South Dakota. We are excited to have Eli on our crew.



We are thankful to have such great employees and directors. We will continue to encourage growth and education with our employees and directors to ensure success in your co-op's future.

Blessings to you all – give thanks!

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC

(ISSN No. 1531-104X)

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- Dave Lindblom - Asst. Secretary
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BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Black Hills Electric Cooperative, 25191 Cooperative Way, P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730-0792. Black Hills Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to their cooperative and living better with electricity. Also available at www.bhec.coop.

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WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE GREAT DEEDS YOU'VE DONE FOR OUR COUNTRY.

Our office will be closed Friday, November 11th.

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★



A heaping helping of holiday home safety

Nearly every household uses extra electricity during the holidays for cooking, decorating and heating.

Take extra care to use electricity safely and to ask family members and house-guests to do the same. Here are some helpful tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when broiling or doing any stovetop cooking.
- Keep children well away from cooking appliances while in use.
- Keep towels, potholders and curtains away from hot surfaces.
- One of the riskiest holiday behaviors is overloading your electrical outlets. You will overload your wall outlets if you string strand after strand of holiday lights together and plug them into an extension cord that you plug into an outlet. Plugging multiple strands of cords into a power strip does not add any juice to the electrical circuit that powers the outlet you plug the strip into.
- Check decorative lights for damaged cords, plugs and sockets. Replace anything that's frayed, cracked or broken. Buy cords that are certified by UL; look for the UL symbol on the package.
- Don't run extension cords under rugs, carpets or baseboards, or anywhere they can be a tripping hazard.
- Only use decorations and cords outdoors that are properly rated for outdoor use.
- When you put up outdoor decorations, do not string lights in trees near power lines. Fasten outdoor lights carefully and securely with clips, never nails or tacks.
- Keep electric lights away from decorative metal trees.
- Keep all light strings and other decorations away from pets so they don't get tangled in them or chew the wires.
- Keep all decorations - and everything else - at least 3 feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces and space heaters.
- Always turn off your decorations when you leave home and when you're sleeping.
- Make sure smoke detectors are present and working properly.
- Use space heaters properly and safely. Keep them out of high-traffic areas and at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Do not leave a space heater running unattended. Turn off space heaters and unplug them when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Never leave an open flame, including your fireplace or a candle, unattended.

LINEMEN PARTICIPATE IN RUBBER GLOVING SCHOOL



Roughly 50 electric cooperative linemen from across the state recently participated in a Rubber Gloving School at the Mitchell Technical College training facility. The program included simulating maintenance and repair work on energized power lines, awareness of proper safety procedures, grounding and insulation of vehicles, operation of aerial lift devices and more.

To see a video of this event and learn more about how electric cooperatives serve our members, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



Don't play on transformer boxes

Traci Tschetter

Traci, 11, warns readers to stay away from transformer boxes, which contain high-voltage underground electrical equipment inside. Traci is the child of Ryan and Elaine Tschetter and they are members of Whetstone Valley Electric.

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

CROCKPOT CREATIONS

SLOW COOKER CHILI

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. lean ground beef
- 1 pkg. McCormick Slow Cookers Chili Seasoning
- 2 cans (14.4 ozs. each) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 cans (16 ozs. each) kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15.5 ozs.) tomato sauce

METHOD

Brown ground beef or turkey in large skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat. Place cooked beef, Slow Cookers Chili Seasoning Mix, tomatoes, beans and tomato sauce in slow cooker. Stir until well mixed. Cover. Cook 8 hours on low or 4 hours on high. Stir before serving. For best results, do not remove cover during cooking.

McCormick.com

SLOW COOKER TURKEY BREAST

Ingredients:

- 2 tsps. McCormick Garlic Powder
- 2 tsps. McCormick Paprika
- 2 tsps. McCormick Rubbed Sage
- 2 tsps. Sicilian Sea Salt
- 1 tsp. McCormick Pure Ground Black Pepper
- 1 tsp. McCormick Whole Thyme Leaves
- 1 turkey breast, (about 6 lbs.) fresh or frozen, thawed
- 3 tsps. butter, melted

METHOD

Mix seasonings in small bowl; set aside. Rinse turkey and pat dry. Brush turkey with melted butter. Sprinkle seasoning mixture over entire surface and under skin of turkey. Place turkey breast in slow cooker. Cover. Cook 1 hour on high. Reduce heat to low; cook 7 hours longer or until turkey is cooked through (internal temperature reaches 165 degrees). Transfer to platter or carving board and slice.

McCormick.com

SLOW COOKER MASHED POTATOES

Ingredients:

- 5 lbs. Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and cut into cubes
- 1 c. chicken stock
- 2 McCormick Bay Leaves
- 1/2 c. (1 stick) butter, cut into chunks
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. McCormick Pure Ground Black Pepper
- 1/2 tsp. McCormick Garlic Powder
- 1/2 -1 c. milk
- 1 tsp. McCormick Parsley Flakes

METHOD

Spray inside of 6-quart slow cooker with no-stick cooking spray. Add potatoes, stock and bay leaves. Cover. Cook 4 hours on high or until potatoes are tender, stirring after each hour. Remove bay leaves. Stir in butter, salt, pepper and garlic powder. Cover. Let stand 5 minutes. Beat potatoes with electric mixer on medium-high speed or mash with potato masher, gradually adding milk, until smooth. Stir in parsley. Top with additional butter, if desired. Serve with McCormick Brown Gravy or Perfect Brown Gravy.

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 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

DO WE OWE YOU MONEY?

THIS FOLLOWING LIST CONTAINS the names of former Black Hills Electric Cooperative members whose capital credit checks have not been cashed or were returned to us. Please review the list and if you know anyone listed, or his or her heirs, please contact BHEC at 605-673-4461 or 800-742-0085. **A-O was published in the October edition.**

P

PACE, JON G.
 PACLI, DENNIS/CATHY
 PAIGE, THOMAS E.
 PALMER, ERVINE E.
 PARKER, DAVID A.
 PARKER, PATRICIA
 PARKS, MICHAEL/JACQUELINE
 PARLIAMENT, ELEANOR
 PARSONS, BILL
 PARSONS, DAVID A.
 PARSONS, STAN/TEDDI
 PATENAUDE, GERALD W./BARBARA J.
 PATERSON, ELIZABETH ESTATE
 PATRICK, CONNIE
 PATTON, DOROTHY A.
 PAVER, MIKE/DAWN
 PAVLICK, THOMAS/CHRISTINE
 PEARSON, JAMES R./CHIE
 PEARSON, LOUIS W.
 PEARSON, M. M.
 PECHA, GORDON
 PEDERSON, RON
 PELCHAT, LAUREN
 PENLAND, JUDY
 PERLI, DAVID M.
 PERLI, HELEN
 PERRETT, JEROLD M.
 PESICKA, RICHARD A.
 PETERS, ETHEL
 PETERS, WAYNE
 PETERSEN, DAN
 PETERSEN, DON/TANYA
 PETERSON, CARL H. JR.
 PETERSON, CLIFFORD A.
 PETERSON, GARY O./KAREN R.
 PHALLON, TOM/GAYE
 PHILLIPS, CORBIN
 PHILLIPS, PAUL E.
 PIGSLEY, ELRA E.
 PINKERTON, WILLIAM W./DONNA
 PINSON, ANNA M.
 PISTORIO, ELENA
 PLAZA, ANTHONY/EILENE A.
 POCHARDT, CURT/KAREN
 POLK, RANDY E./DEE A.
 POND, GERALD/KEE S.
 POOL, GREGORY/KATHY
 POPE/TALBOT
 POTTHOFF, MARVIN
 POTTHOFF, RANDY

POULIN, DARYL/DEBORAH
 POUNTAIN, JOHN G.
 POWELL, EVELYN
 PRATER, MARGARET
 PRENTICE, SCOTT
 PRINCE, JANE
 PROSOSKI, THEODORE
 PROSPERI, ROBERT/SUSAN
 PUCKETT, LARRY
 PULLEN, PAMELLA
 PUSHKAR, GEORGE/VICKI

Q

QQZ PROPERTIES INC.
 QUELCH, DEBORAH
 QUINN, DANA
 QUINN, RHONDA L.

R

RADERMACHER, JAMES A.
 RAGELS, VINCENT R./DEBORAH
 RAINFORD, ROCKYTINA
 RAKER, MICHAEL R./JUDITH L.
 RAMOS, HUGO A.
 RANDLEAS, RICHARD/NANCY
 RANSOM, DOROTHY S.
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 RAPID RIDE GO KART PARK
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 REES, JACQUELINE
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 REMILY, JAN
 RENCOUNTRE, GAYLE
 RENFRO, REBECCA D.
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 REUB, SANDY
 REYNOLD'S STAGE STOP
 REZAC, JOHN

RHEAD, BRAD
 RICE, RICHELLE
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 RYAN, MICHAEL
 RYAN, NANCY/BRIAN
 RYTTER, DEANNA D.

S

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 SCHUMACHER, JOYCE
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 SEIDLER, DAN/CAROLYN
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 SNYDER, LYNN
 SNYDER, LYNN/CINDY
 SNYDER, RICHARD/ALLEN
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 SORENSON, KELLY/MARIE
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 SPEASE, JOHN C. ESTATE
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 SUMMY, GENEVIEVE
 SUND, CHARLES

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 SURDEZ, MAIA/TODD
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 SUTTERFIEELD-GARDN, PAMELA
 SWAHLEN, CINDY
 SWAIN KEARNS, MARIA
 SWAIN, JAMES L.
 SWAN, DAWN
 SWEETWOOD, SCOTT
 SYVERSON, JON/LORELEI
 SZMANIA, ROBERT J.

T
 TAFF, W GERALD./CARLA K.
 TAGGART, FRANK E.
 TARRELL, STEVEN
 TATRO, LEANN
 TAUTKUS, MARY
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 TERBORG, RON W./JUDE L.
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 TERRY, RICKY L.
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 THOMAS, JACK
 THOMAS, ROB M.
 THOMAS, STACY A./POLLY J.
 THOMAS, WILLIAM R.
 THOMPSON, JOSEPH/ROBIN
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 THORELL, DAVID W.
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 THORPE, GARRY/JANET
 THORSON, BASIL/MARIE
 THORSON, GERALD/PATRICIA
 TIESZEN, VELNA M.
 TIMM, R. J. ESTATE
 TISH, JONATHAN P.
 TISH, KEVIN/CAROL
 TISTHAMMER, JOHN
 TOBIN, RICHARD/KAY
 TOMASHEK, THOMAS D.
 TONUCCI, RONALD/KATHLEEN
 TORREY, MARYANN L.
 TRAVERS, RICHARD J./DONNA M.
 TREFZ, ROBERT J./BARBARA J.
 TRESMOTT, BRIAN E.

TRETT, MARTY/MARY
 TRIMBLE, THOMAS P.
 TRODE, THOMAS
 TROJANOWSKI, KATHLEEN/WANTHONY
 TROTTER, GAYLE
 TROYER, JOHN A./ANNIE F.
 TRUHE, MARV/NICKI
 TSCHETTER, DONALD E.
 TUGGLE, TERRI ESTATE
 TURNER, TONY C.
 TUSKO, CHRIS
 TWETO, JOHN

U
 UHL, DAN/CATHY
 ULMER, ANTHONY/LEANN
 ULVESTAD, LONNA
 UNDERWOOD, JIM E.
 USTRANSFORMERS
 USERA, JULIO/CHARLENE

V
 VAN BUREN, SHELLEY
 VAN EKEREN, BARBARA/DANNY
 VAN METER, SPENCER
 VAN SPEYBROECK, THERESA L./JOHN
 VAN STRYDONCK, JOHN/MARY A.
 VANDE HOEF, JAKE
 VANDEEST, ORVAL
 VANDERWAAAL, ROBER E.
 VANTAGE CABLE ASSOC.
 VAUGHN, MICHAEL/VIRGINIA
 VAVICK, MITCHELL G.
 VECH, LOIS
 VEERKAMP, ALLEN R.
 VERBURG, STEVE/CINDY
 VERHAGE, JOHN M./ALISHIA C.
 VEURINK, SHAWN/DARLENE
 VIGER, DAVID
 VILLALOBOS, RAFAEL/MARIA
 VOCI, ANTHONY/JOLENE M.
 VOGEL, DAVID W./MARVA L.
 VOIGT, THOMAS J./JANE
 VOLK, BRADLEY W.
 VOLLMER, DEB
 VOSHALL, CJ (CLAIR)/LYNDA
 VOSS, ROY D./CRYSTAL

(continued on page 10)



Jamalia Franzen, auditor deputy in Dewey County, encourages all eligible citizens to register to vote. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

Poll workers urge voters to stay active in the election process

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

About 10 years ago, Michele Moore was newly retired and looking for something interesting to occupy her time. Out of the blue, she received a call from the Clay County elections auditor.

“She wanted to know if I was interested in working the elections and I told her I’d do it. It’s been very rewarding and it feels like I’m doing something important and worthwhile,” Moore said.

When she’s not facilitating the election process, Moore takes care of the bookkeeping for the family’s welding and manufacturing business operated by her husband, David.

While election work isn’t a full-time gig, poll tenders put in long hours on voting day. They typically report to the local precinct at 6 a.m. before the polls open an hour later. The shift goes straight through to 7 p.m. when the polls close, although any voters still

standing in line at that time are allowed to cast their ballots. Workers have to stay on duty the entire time and often pack their own lunch and dinner.

After the last voter is done, all the sealed ballots and accompanying paperwork are brought to the auditor’s office for verification and certification to ensure the election is “free and fair.”

Moore said all the workers at her precinct located at the National Guard Armory in Vermillion are diligent, dependable, thorough and conscientious. She said they take their jobs very seriously and are careful not to be “political” in any way, a guideline contained in the orientation and training process that workers go through before each election regardless of one’s years of service.

The training material requires that workers be professional, punctual, respectful to voters, team-oriented and “leave partisan leanings at the door.” Anyone concerned about the validity of the election process can appear at



the precinct as a “poll watcher” or “poll observer,” however, those individuals must adhere to a separate set of guidelines as set forth by the Secretary of State’s Office.

“We’re not here to change anyone’s mind or influence how anyone votes,” Moore said. “We’re just here to do anything we can to help them vote as quickly and smoothly as possible and make sure the process goes well. We try to make it easy for them.”

That doesn’t mean everything always goes according to plan. As the political passions and divisions have grown more intense over recent years, Moore said she’s encountered some fairly tense situations. But she said she generally



Poll workers are on the job from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time. If the polls close while you are in line, you will still be permitted to vote.

Here is a breakdown of party identification as of Sept. 1, 2022:

- Republican - 291,956
- Democrat - 150,760
- No party/Ind. - 142,538
- Libertarian - 2,733
- Other - 1,376

Total - 589,363

**V
O
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E**

Election poll workers see themselves as doing something helpful to support and facilitate the democratic process.

feels safe while doing her work inside the armory.

Some voters can get upset when they try to make requests that violate the voting rules, such as attempting to change their party affiliation on voting day or not providing the proper identification. She said tensions can run high during contentious presidential or mid-term elections.



“Sometimes people get angry and you just try to calm them down. They don’t know how things work and what’s required because they’re not paying attention,” she said. “Social media and TV stirs up their passion and they don’t always know how to control that.”

She recalled one particular fellow who insisted on voting without presenting the proper identification. When he was

told he would have to use a provisional ballot, he became agitated and stormed out of the precinct. Moore was “a little nervous” about the man returning and what he might do, but she took comfort in the fact that the National Guard soldiers were right there in the building.

Cris Sichmeller, a resident of Webster, signed on to join her local precinct in Roslyn six years ago and enjoys the



Michele Moore

social aspects of the assignment. A self-described “farm wife,” Sichmeller said she doesn’t often have an opportunity to sit down and visit with friends, but being at

the polling place means visiting with folks and catching up on current events.

“People used to spend time just visiting with one another, going to houses and having coffee and playing cards, but that doesn’t happen a lot these days,” she said. “There’s a lot of camaraderie that comes with being around people you know in the community that you have something in common with.”

She said at her precinct things normally proceed “without a lot of drama,” but she remembers that the Covid pandemic did cause a few wrinkles. Several workers contracted the virus, along with the precinct deputy.

The workers had to wear face shields, and Plexiglas was set up in the voting area and at the registration tables.

“I remember a man who had just retired from the military and he came in and saw the face shields and just laughed,” Sichmeller recalled. “He said that wasn’t going to keep us from getting the virus or passing it on to others. He said we needed a hazmat suit for that. I guess he was right.”

Barb Gross recently retired after tending the polls in Dewey County since the 1980s. She describes herself as a stickler for adhering to the rules and buttoning everything down.

“We always made sure everything tallied up because we knew we were going to be audited and we invited that because it was a challenge to see if we could pull it off without a hitch and without anything slipping through the cracks,” she said.

Secretary of State Steve Barnett emphasized the fact that poll workers serve a very valuable role in society.

“They’re on the front lines of the election process. You couldn’t run an election without them,” he said.

Barnett stressed importance of voters meeting their obligation to stay actively involved and make sure they are familiar with the rules and regulations. To find out more about voting rights and responsibilities, visit www.sdsos.gov.

(continued from page 7)

W

WACHENDORF, TERRY/MARY
WACHHOLZ, WALLACE R./NANCY
WAGNER, JOSEPH
WAGNER, SAMUEL/ALICE
WALKER, DANIEL R.
WALKER, RICHARD C.
WALKER, RONALD E.
WALKER, RUSSELL A./RUTH
WALLACE, BEULAH/JOSIAH A.
WALLACE, BRENDA
WALLS, CAROL A.
WALMSLEY, J. T.
WALSH, DANIEL L.
WALSH, EILEEN
WALSH, JOYCE
WALTER, SUSAN K.
WANNARKA, MAX J./KATHERINE
WANTTIE, MICHELLE/BRIAN
WARD, KRISTOPHER C.
WARREN, MARGARET R.
WARRICK, KREG S./KEENA
WATERMAN, RON/PATTY
WATKINS, DAVE
WATSON, CHESTER R.
WATSON, ROBERT M. JR.
WATTAWA, LEROY/JUDY
WATTLEWORTH, P. A.
WATTS, BEVERLY
WEATHERHOLD, GLORIA W.
WEATHERS, FAITH T./RICHARD
WEAVER, DARROW L./CLEONE
WEBB, CHARLES B.
WEBBER, LAURA M.
WEBSTER, LEOTA
WEICHMAN, DOUGLAS
WEINBRECHT, JOHN/PAULETTE

WEINELL, FERN H.
WEISCHEDEL, CECIL/PATRICIA
WEISS, CHARITY
WELCH-PATTERSON, KATHLEEN
WELDY, LARRY/SUSAN
WELLING, J. H.
WELLINGTON, DAVID/CHARLOTT
WELLMAN, GREG/DEBBIE
WELLMAN, THOMAS M.
WELLS, G. V. ESTATE
WELLS, PATTY
WELTZER, LONNY/DEBORAH
WENDELL, JOEL/TAMMI
WENDT, DONALD F./GRACE
WENZEL, DARREL/DEANNE
WENZEL, LANA
WEST, DOROTHY M.
WESTEL INC. -GODSELL, LEROY
WESTERN WIRELESS CORPORATION
WETMORE, WAYNE
WHEELER, MARK A./JANEEN
WHIPPLE, SYLVIA/VINCENT
WHITE, DOUG/EVELYN
WHITE, STANLEY/JANICE
WHITING, W.T./JUDITH B.
WHITMAN, SUANNA
WHITMAN, TERRY
WHITMORE, JANET L.
WHITNEY, EVELYN M.
WHYTE, STANLEY/SCOTT
WIBBENS, ROGER/KAREN
WIBERG, LARRY/CINDY
WIERDA, BRADLEY/NANCY
WIGER, MONTE
WILCOX, DAVID J./PAMELA A.
WILDEMAN, TOM ESTATE
WILKINS, JOHN W./NANCY
WILKOWSKI, DEB

WILLENBRINK, SUSAN
WILLIAMS, BENJAMIN L.
WILLIAMS, DONALD E.
WILLIAMS, FRANCES/MARGARET
WILLIAMS, LARRY
WILLIAMS, PAUL S./BETTY
WILLIAMS, RONNIE D.
WILLIAMSON, DONALD/DIANNA
WILLIAMSON, JILL
WILLIAMSON, MARILYN
WILLSON, JOSEPH
WILLSON, ROBERT A.
WILMOT, DAVID M./JANICE
WILSON, DONLEY J./MARY
WILSON, SUSAN A.
WILSON, TERRIE/MARK
WILSON, WILLIAM
WIMMER, STEPHEN/THERESA
WIMP, MAX/LOUANN
WINCKLER, LEA
WING, RANDY J.
WINGATE, ROBERT E./EVELYN M.
WISE, RICHARD S.
WISE, VICKY/RYAN
WISHARD, LINDA
WITLOCK, JODY L./LORETT
WITTE, KAY A.
WITTROCK, ROBERT
WOELKERS, PETER N./MONICA
WOJACK, JOHN L./KIMBERLY A.
WOLF, GARY/JANELYN
WOLF, JANELYN
WOLFF, DIANE
WOLFGRAM, DONNA
WOOD, GENE/KATHY
WOOD, KEN/THERESA
WOOD, ROGER/JACKIE
WOODS, WILLIAM E./LAVADA J.

WOODWORTH, JAYDA
WOOSTER, DEBBIE/GRANT
WOOSTER, GREG/ALEXIS
WRIGHT, BRENDA L.
WRIGHT, CYRUS W./JOANNE
WRIGHT, MELVIN R.
WRIGHT, RICHARD A./LORI A.
WRIGHT, RICHARD L.
WRIGLESWORTH, DENNIS
WURST, PAUL/SIRI
WYATT, FRANK
WYDAK CABLE TV
WYNIA, DONNA

Y

YANTZER, HENRY/MARSHA
YELLOW HORSE, LINDA
YOUNG, JAMES A.
YOUNG, RAE A.
YOUNG, RENE L./DAVID G.
YOUNG, SHANE A./SHELLEY
YOUNG, W. K.
YOUNGBERG, JOE/KARIN
YOUNG-CONDOS, DOROTHY M.

Z

ZACHARIAS, JACOB R.
ZAFFT, BRYON T./SUSAN Z.
ZARLING, RICK
ZEEB, DAVID W./SANDRA
ZEHR, DAVID/MELISSA
ZEIMET, MICHAEL J.
ZEITLER, CRAIG/VERLA
ZIEMAN, DALE
ZIMDARS, ROGER L./PATTI
ZIMMERMAN, ROBERT G.
ZORNES, JULLIAN
ZUKOWSKI, STEVEN J.

Fall Back

Remember to set your clocks back on
Sunday, November 6th.

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Happy Thanksgiving!



Our office will be closed:
November 24th-25th



Black Hills Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



SOUND DECISIONS

Central Electric lineman Cody Riggs uses a hot stick to simulate de-energizing a power line during a Freshman Impact emergency exercise at Hanson High School in Alexandria. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

Freshman Impact program promotes sound safety practices for students

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The students at Hanson High School were stunned and aghast at the horrific scene unfolding right before their eyes.

There were two wrecked sedans, a downed utility pole and tangled wires strewn across the road. Emergency responders were swarming everywhere as a fire truck barreled onto the scene with its sirens blaring. And the most unsettling sight of all: four of their fellow students lying in the crumpled cars with massive wounds and barely clinging to life.

Fortunately, it turns out the accident scene was just a drill staged by a group known as Freshman Impact: Caught in the Moment, and coordinated as part of Cornbelt Program Day at the school located in Alexandria.

Nearly 200 students came from surrounding schools for a full slate of

learning opportunities centered around vehicle safety, first aid, emergency response, drug abuse awareness and much more. Participating schools were Hanson High School, Armour, Bridgewater-Emery, Ethan, Marion, McCook Central, Plankinton and Wessington Springs.

Local organizers Yolanda Price and Don Huber worked with Freshman Impact Executive Director Rick McPherson, local school officials and emergency response agencies to plan the event.

The morning session included seven separate stations scattered throughout the school's parking lot and in the gymnasium. The learning stations focused on the following subjects: teen mental health; healthy relationships; jaws of life and ambulance demonstration; seatbelt awareness; drug dog; social media dangers; and a distracted driving course where the



West River Electric is one of several electric cooperatives that support the Freshman Impact program.

students wore goggles simulating drug and alcohol impaired vision and attempted to navigate a short course behind the wheel of an ATV.

Taking part in the program was Central Electric Cooperative, which provided the downed power pole and wires. Once the emergency exercise was set into motion, two co-op linemen promptly arrived on the scene to de-energize the lines and worked with other responders to secure the area and form a safe perimeter.

Central Electric's Manager of Communications Tara Miller helped



A Hanson High School student takes on the role of an accident victim during a recent mock emergency scenario. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

facilitate the partnership while working alongside local organizers.

“This is an incredible opportunity for area students to learn about good decision-making, safety and the real dangers that are out there,” Miller said. “Concern for community is one of our guiding principles as a cooperative. This experience serves to educate first responders and students. It aligns with our values, and we are pleased to support it.”

The day’s program covered just about all the bases. The schedule included a poignant perspective of loss and grief from LeAnn Moe, who lost her teenage daughter to an automobile accident. During the mock accident response, one of the crash victims was carried away in a hearse furnished by a local funeral

home. And after all the activity settled down outside, the students returned to the gymnasium to observe a mock legal trial and sentencing hearing over the car accident they had witnessed.

The day ended with the distribution of educational materials by CORE (Community Organized Resources for Educating), the parent organization of Freshman Impact.

McPherson said he has found that the teaching method employed by Freshman Impact is successful in driving the message home to students, and they also develop a rapport with local

agencies and emergency responders.

“The students see up close and learn through hands-on activities the possible consequences of wrong choices and the lasting effects physically and emotionally on their bodies, their families and friends and their community,” he said, noting that West River Electric based in Wall is also an event sponsor. “It’s all about making safe choices and preventing destructive behaviors, and it’s important our teens learn the life-long skills and values to help them make the best possible decisions.”

Visit www.freshmanimpact.com.

Central Electric Cooperative of Mitchell presented CORE with a \$2,500 Operation Round Up grant to help fund the local program. Pictured left to right are Freshman Impact founder Rick McPherson, CORE Coordinator Yolanda Price, CORE Coordinator Don Huber, Operation Round-Up Trustee LeAnn Moe, Central Electric Director Merl Bechen and Hanson County Chief Deputy Mike Brown. *Photo by Tara Miller*





ACT OF KINDNESS

Michelle Fischer
michellef@bhec.coop

I believe doing good deeds for others can make a difference not only in one's life but also in the community. When people throughout a community see good deeds being done, it may inspire them to go out and do a good deed themselves. Sometimes people need to be reminded that good deeds and good people still exist in today's world.

Hurricane Ian left almost 4 million people without power in the state of Florida. The American Muscle Car Museum's facilities located in Melbourne, Florida, on a 42 acre site (founded by entrepreneur Mark Pieloch) accommodated over 1,000 lineworkers while they restored electricity throughout central Florida. Mr. Pieloch's facilities provided enough room for sleeper units, portable showers and toilets, water trucks, mobile office units, and a large food tent able to hold up to 900 people. They were stationed there for almost a week during restoration efforts.

When the museum was built, Mr. Pieloch wanted the structure to withstand a category five hurricane. The steel-reinforced concrete block structure can withstand hurricane winds of 300 mph, the windows are rated up to 225 mph, and the garage doors up to 160 mph. The museum is also highly energy efficient and well insulated. Mr. Pieloch's facility has opened his museum for utility workers four times since the building was erected in 2016. Mr. Pieloch is a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative who resides in the Rapid City area part of the year.



Although the museum isn't open to the public, it hosts numerous events throughout the year for the community. Those events include charity fundraisers, educational tours, private events, appreciation events, and much more. They focus on helping support aging seniors, veterans, humane societies, women's issues, cancer research & youth. The educational tours help students in the area learn the basics of car operation and maintenance. They also have multiple "thank you" events for first responders, volunteers, veterans, seniors, and youth. Mr. Pieloch supplies food and refreshments at no cost for spectators & visitors. He has five full-time employees and several volunteers. Most of the steady volunteers are retirees who are passionate about an amazing collection of classic and

rare automobiles and helping their community. Since 2016, they've been able to give back almost 1.5 million dollars a year to local charities.

For a list of past and future events, you can visit their website at www.americanmusclecarmuseum.com.

Whether it is our good thoughts, actions, or behaviors, sooner or later, helping one another will return good results. Treat people with respect and kindness, and you will usually be amazed at what returns to you. This is one story that is definitely worth sharing. I hope Mr. Pieloch's story inspires others to help give back to their communities, neighbors, and society.



One of twelve shower units. Each unit has eight shower stalls per unit.



They had 43 sleeper units that slept 24 people per module.



This is one of three mobile office units for staff during hurricane Ian.



A GOOD DEED BRIGHTENS A DARK WORLD.



NOV. 3-5
Huron Ringneck Festival & Bird Dog Challenge
 Huron, SD

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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

OCT. 28-30

ZooBoo
 Great Plains Zoo
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-7003

OCT. 31
Halloween Parade
 Belle Fourche, SD

NOV. 3-5
Yankton's Harvest Halloween
 Downtown, Yankton, SD

NOV. 3-5
Huron Ringneck Festival & Bird Dog Challenge
 100 4th Street SW, Huron, SD
 605-352-0000

NOV. 4-6
Girlfriends' Weekend
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 5-20
Rustic Designs & More Christmas Show
 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily
 Ethan, SD
 605-770-2411

NOV. 5
Fairburn Community Center Bazaar
 Fairburn, SD

NOV. 11-13
Christmas at the Barn
 Front Porch 605
 Groton, SD
 605-216-4202

NOV. 12
Black Hills Meat Festival
 Black Hills Harley Davidson
 2820 Harley Dr.
 Rapid City, SD
 605-390-7917

NOV. 12
Holiday Extravaganza
 Sisseton, SD
 605-698-7425

NOV. 13
Lutefisk, Lefse, Meatball Supper
 Chamberlain, SD
 605-234-6698

NOV. 18-20
Deadwood's Big Whiskey Festival
 Deadwood, SD
 605-578-1876

NOV. 19
Fall Craft Show
 Minneluzahan Senior Center
 Rapid City, SD
 605-394-1887

NOV. 19
Lille Norge Fest
 Canyon Lake Activity Center
 Rapid City, SD
 605-342-4226

NOV. 25
Olde Tyme Christmas Kick-off and Parade
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 25
Trap Shoot
 Izaak Walton League
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-332-9527

NOV. 25
"Light up the Night" Parade and Fireworks
 Belle Fourche, SD

NOV. 25-26
Kris Kringle Kraft Fair
 Hill City, SD

DEC. 2-3
Gregory Mid-Winter Fair
 Gregory Auditorium
 Gregory, SD
 605-830-9778

DEC. 2-3
Christmas in the Hills
 Mueller Center
 Hot Springs, SD
 605-745-4140

DEC. 3
Santa's Thrift Village
 Minneluzahan Senior Center
 Rapid City, SD
 605-394-1887

DEC. 3
60th Annual Wreath and Centerpiece Sale
 Central States Fair Grounds,
 Rapid City, SD
 605-343-0710

DEC. 17
Custer Christmas for Kids
 Custer High School
 Custer, SD
 custerchristmas4kids@gmail.com

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