

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Mitchell Tech Expansion

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*Photo submitted by
Mitchell Technical College*

Looking Ahead



Jeremy Lindemann
CEO/GM

Hello fellow members of Lake Region Electric! As I'm writing this article, I'm being asked to perform a little bit of magic, or future forecasting, if you will. No, I'm not pulling rabbits out of a hat or looking into a crystal ball. I'm simply writing an article at the end of June that you will be reading in a little over a month for our August issue of the Cooperative Connections newsletter. You see, we need to get everything together and polished up ahead of time in order to get the information to print so that it can be distributed to you, our members. As you can imagine, it is sometimes difficult to look into the future and know what is going to take place between the time I write this in June until the time you read it in August. But that is what I try to do so that the information is relevant and appears that it is written just a few days before you read it when in actuality, it is over a month old! I do this by gathering information based on past trends and experiences that can help me form an idea of what is going to happen. So, while this article, or newsletter, isn't magic, it is a sort of attempt at an illusion. You see, not everything is as it appears to be!

Electricity isn't magic. The people who work with electricity are pretty magical and amazing people, but they aren't magicians. I recently had a call from a concerned member wondering why some of our crew was parked in a field approach

looking at their iPad or cell phone. The illusion was that the guys were messing around, maybe trying to get the latest Tik Tok or YouTube video when, in fact, they were filling out "paperwork." The reality is that now a majority of our work is done electronically. Crews now fill out their time sheets electronically. They also charge out materials electronically and all our service orders are electronically completed by the field crews. So, when you see them parked on the side of the road, they are inputting data to complete the necessary forms for the job, and they are also pulling up the next job to go to. We are well on our way to becoming paperless at Lake Region Electric! After completing a job in the field, our crews need to head off to the next job. And how do they know where to go and the fastest route to get there? Well, I am glad you asked. All of our mapping is on our cell phones and iPads. Our trucks also come equipped with GPS capabilities that not only help keep our crews safe in emergencies, it helps with outage events so we can dispatch the closest service crew to you to get you back on as quickly and as safely as possible! We are next level when it comes to technology and efficiency! The staff at Lake Region do an excellent job utilizing technology to better serve our member owners. They put a lot of work into serving you, but they make it look so easy! As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, not everything is as it appears and there is more work going on behind the scenes to make sure you have power. If you ever have questions or concerns, please give me a call.

Until next time, we will keep the lights on for you!

Jeremy Lindemann
CEO/General Manager

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Chris Bronson
Travis & Tiffany Hoeft
Aaron Andrews
Brody Kirkeby
Jeff Rich

Everett Blackthunder
Jordan & Greg Brooks
Angela Fifield
Eric & Andrea Thomas
Dustin Harr

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LAKE REGION ELECTRIC RIPPLES

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives



Kid's
Activities
Prizes &
Give-aways



EV
Interactions

Lineworker
Demonstrations

Thursday, August 28th 9am - 5pm
Horticulture Park on the SD State Fairgrounds

Step into South Dakota's Touchstone Energy interactive tent at the State Fair and experience fun, learning, and excitement for all ages!

There's something for everyone under our tent — don't miss it!

**Day County
Fair**



August

5-10



BROWN COUNTY FAIR

**FARM
SAFETY
PARTY**

Thursday, August 14

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Brown County Fair

Kids' Zone Tent

Staying Alert With Kids in Hot Cars

Source: National Safety Council

Since 1998, more than 1,010 children have died from vehicular heatstroke, an average of 37 per year. Parents and caregivers can act immediately to end these preventable deaths.

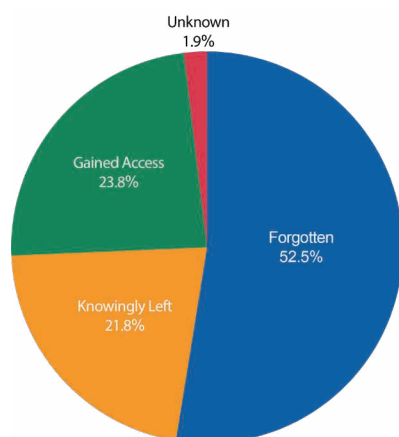
How Does It Happen?

Even on mild or cloudy days, temperatures inside vehicles can reach life-threatening levels. Leaving windows slightly open doesn't help. Children should never be left unattended or be able to get inside a vehicle. Three primary circumstances resulting in deaths of children in hot cars are:

- A caregiver forgets a child in a vehicle - 53%
- A child gains access to a vehicle - 24%
- Someone knowingly leaves a child in a vehicle - 22%

NSC advises parents and caregivers to stick to a routine and avoid distractions to reduce the risk of forgetting a child. Place a purse, briefcase or even a left shoe in the back seat to force you to take one last look before walking away. Keep car doors locked so children cannot gain access and teach them that cars are not play areas.

There is no safe amount of time to leave a child in a vehicle, even if you are just running a quick errand.



NSC
National Safety Council

Child Passenger Safety
Child Passenger Safety Council
VEHICULAR HEATSTROKE PREVENTION



"Never fly a kite by a power line!"

Kasen Tikka, Age 9

Kasen warns readers about the dangers of flying a kite near power lines. Thank you for your picture, Kasen! Kasen's parents are Corey and Marcel Tikka from Lake Norden, 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.

Delicious DESSERTS

STRAWBERRY ANGEL FOOD DESSERT

Ingredients:

1 angel food cake
(baked and cut in pieces)
3.9 oz vanilla pudding
1 3/4 cups milk
3 cups sliced strawberries
1/4 cup sugar
8 oz. Cool Whip, thawed

Method

Put the angel food cake in a 9"x13" pan. In a separate bowl, combine vanilla pudding and milk; whisk together until thick; set aside. In another bowl, combine sliced strawberries and sugar; pour over the cake. Spread pudding over strawberries. Top with 8 oz. Cool Whip. Add more strawberries on top. Chill 1 hour before serving.

Gladys Bauer
Cam Wal Electric

MONSTER COOKIE BARS

Ingredients:

1 stick butter
1 1/2 cups peanut butter
1 cup sugar
1 cup brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
3 eggs
2 tsps. baking soda
4 1/2 cups oatmeal
12 oz. chocolate chips
12 oz. plain M&Ms

Method

Mix butter, peanut butter, sugar, brown sugar, vanilla and eggs. Add dry ingredients and mix in chocolate chips and M&Ms. Bake at 350°F for 15 minutes (no longer) in a large jelly roll pan. They may not look done but they are. Enjoy!

Rhonda Tuschere
FEM Electric

BLUEBERRY TORTE

Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 tbsp. sugar
8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
1 cup powdered sugar
8 oz. Cool Whip (reserve part for topping)
1qt. blueberries (fresh or frozen)
1 cup water
1 cup sugar
3 tbsps. cornstarch

Method

Cut butter into flour and sugar. Press into a 9"x13" pan and bake at 350°F for 20 minutes. Chill. Beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until light and fluffy. Fold in Cool Whip. Spread over crust. Simmer one cup blueberries and 2/3 cup water for five minutes. Blend sugar and cornstarch; add 1/3 cup water and mix until smooth. Combine with cooked berries and boil until thick and transparent. Cool and add remaining berries. Chill thoroughly and spoon over cream cheese mixture. Chill several hours or overnight. Top with Cool Whip.

Janet Lefers
Douglas Electric

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 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

Help Us Get Our Member's Money to Them

One thing that sets Lake Region Electric Association apart from other electric companies is that we are a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative. LREA allocates any excess margins to our consumers after paying all the bills, reinvesting in infrastructure, and meeting our financial obligations. Lake Region tracks the allocations and refunds the money, back to our member-owners, as cash positions allow. Active Members saw their refund as a credit on their bill that was sent out at the beginning of May. **Inactive members were mailed a check in June. A number of checks were returned to Lake Region as undeliverable by the post office. We are asking for your help getting unclaimed payments to previous account holders.**

Here's where you can help your fellow cooperative members:

If you know the current address or phone number of anyone listed here, please notify them to contact us: Lake Region Electric Association by calling 605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869 or by sending an email to lakeregion@lakeregion.coop. Thank you for your help!

Inactive Member Name		Last Known Address
Bonnie	Anderson	Webster, SD
James	Batterton	Colorado, Springs, CO
Eric	Becking	Aberdeen, SD
Nathan	Boe	Erhard, MN
Karen	Bremmon	Roslyn, SD
Michael	Brzica	Sioux Falls, SD
Fred	Chaloupka	Twin Brooks, SD
Justin	Cimburek	Veblen, SD
Dave	Davis	Fort Smith, AR
Christopher	Felicia Jr	Veblen, SD
Alan	Franka	Britton, SD
David	Hegge	Ortonville, MN
Kangi	Hisgun	Veblen, SD
Mary	Huxhold	Mesa, AZ
Arlette	Jensen	Roslyn, SD
Jeremy	Johnson or Marcia Johnson	Salem, SD
Nathan	Johnson	Webster, SD
Robin	Keeble	Sisseton, SD
Virginia	Koenig	Webster, SD
Jane	Larson	Langford, SD
Susan	Lufkins	Sisseton, SD
Leon	Marks	Sisseton, SD
Sharon	McMurtry	Webster, SD
Derek	Moe	Watertown, SD
Constance	Moen	Paynesville, MN
Nancy	Olsen or Joe Olsen	Harrisburg, SD
Lois	Olson	Fargo, ND
Gene	Paulson or Gloria Paulson	Bristol, SD
Willis	Quinn	Sisseton, SD
Lane	Rademacher	Amherst, SD
Earlynne	Redday	Veblen, SD
Jeff	Ringenberg	Watertown, SD
Basil	Robertson	Pickstown, SD
Randall	Roehr or Karen Roehr	Britton, SD
John	Rondell	Waubay, SD
Patricia	Schmidt	Webster, SD
Victor	Simon	Waubay, SD
Barbara	St John - Heminger	Sisseton, SD
John	Vrchota or Jerry Vrchota	Watertown, SD
David	Wade or Sharon Helgeson	Langford, SD
Jason	Wagner or Mara Wagner	Webster, SD
Vern	Wampler or Virgie Wallace	Britton, SD
Allan	Weismantel	Watertown, SD
Donald	Zubke	Waubay, SD
Business Name	Contact Person	Last Known Address
Andrews Welding	Roger Andrews	Britton, SD
Oxy-Gen Xtra	Jim Bush	Britton, SD
Freiss Family Land Trust		Britton, SD
Robert Wehrkamp Est	Dorothy Wehrkamp	Sioux Falls, SD
Maurice E Webb Trust		Aberdeen, SD
Tvinnereim Farms	Lee Ann Tvinnereim	Webster, SD



FUNDING FUTURES

Rural Electric Cooperatives Support New Training Facility

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Mitchell Technical College is well known among the region's rural electric cooperatives for its industry-leading lineworker training programs.

Now, that program is about to get even better, as MTC begins construction on a new, state-of-the-art underground cable equipment training facility.

The Power Line Underground Lab will allow students to learn how to trench, bore, and connect cables in an environment away from other labs and courses.

Additionally, being indoors and having a dirt floor, instructors have the added benefit of being able to plan courses without worry regarding outside weather and frozen ground during winter.

"The new facility allows us to be able to use our underground curriculum and teach it all throughout the school year, instead of just the beginning and the end when the ground is thawed out," MTC's president, Theresa Kriese said about the space.

"They get more equipment time because we're not trying to

A render showing Mitchell Technical College's new Power Line Underground Lab. MTC says students will practice underground utility work in this new facility, away from other courses' labs to reduce crowding. Submitted Photo



Construction of MTC's Power Line Underground Lab began this spring. MTC expects students beginning in the fall semester of 2026. Submitted Photo

share a lab where we're also planting poles."

Kriese hopes spreading out the curriculum over the semester will allow MTC's instructors to dive deeper into certain course topics with their students, making them overall better candidates for employment when they enter the workforce.

"We're seeing the energy industry making another transformation where underground is really gaining a larger presence than it had in the past", Kriese added, noting the Federal Emergency Management Agency's push to replace downed overhead lines with resilient underground cables after storms.

"We're finding that if we can have our students trained in both (overhead and underground), it opens some opportunities for them, because they may not be able to climb that pole their entire life," she continued. "It gives some flexibility to the employer, because I can hire somebody that can climb but they can also do that underground connection. So wherever I need them, I can have them work in my employment area."

Central Electric Cooperative General Manager Ken Schlimgen agrees, adding that with more and more electric co-ops working to replace their aging overhead infrastructure with underground line, MTC's new underground focus will help alleviate future workforce challenges.

"When we support Mitchell Tech programs, it's an investment into our most important asset: our workforce," Schlimgen said. "Workforce challenges will continue for decades, and having a competent, qualified team of lineworkers to serve our members and keep the lights on is vital to our success."

Central Electric is just one electric co-op providing financial support for the expansion.

At the time of writing, more than 20 electric co-ops in South Dakota have pledged over \$460,000 to MTC in support of the facility.

"Power line personnel are the backbone of our cooperative family, keeping the lights on for our members and being leaders in our communities," said Steve Barnett, general manager for the South Dakota Rural Electric Association.

"Mitchell Technical College is a workforce pipeline for this profession and is vital to cooperatives across our region."

Kriese said staff and student excitement is growing ahead of the facility's expected 2026 completion and expressed appreciation to electric

co-ops for their support.

"Mitchell Tech is making a statement and a commitment to the energy industry that we are your partner in developing and training employees for you," Kriese said.

"Without the partnership of the electric cooperatives, we really

wouldn't be able to make this expansion."

The project is slated to celebrate its grand opening in the Fall of 2026, when students and Mitchell Tech faculty will begin using the facility to train tomorrow's electric cooperative workforce.



MTC's current plan for the Power Line Underground Lab shows a 34,000 square foot facility, made up of a 23,500 square foot underground lab, a 7,755 square foot vehicle and equipment storage area and a 1,000 square foot classroom.

Submitted Photo



Theresa Kriese
President
MTC



Steve Barnett
General Manager
SDREA



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager
Central Electric



Mike McCreary, Day County
Fair Demo Derby

Demolition Derby Is About Building for Destruction

Laura London

It seems contradictory to work countless hours building a car with the sole intention of crashing it, but that is exactly what demolition derby is about. This motorsport has been around since at least 1947, or earlier, depending on which historical source you choose to believe. Local derby



Jaiden McCreary works on a derby car.

enthusiast, participant, and promoter Mike McCreary says he isn't sure when exactly this event started at our own Day County Fair, but he remembers going to the fair to watch the derby as a little kid, so let's say it's been around at least a half-century. This timeline seems to make sense, as the demolition derby was in its prime during the seventies. According to McCreary, the event stalled out and was stopped a few times at our local fair but was restarted by local enthusiasts Tim Eisenbraun, Travis Ascher, and himself. "We really wanted to keep our fair going. There are so many little fairs closing, and we wanted another aspect to our fair, along with the 4-H Achievement Days. Something for everyone in the community to get out and enjoy." McCreary's theory that this event can be for everyone is reflected by the number of spectators who show up. McCreary and fellow driver Hayden McCarlson claim that derby night at the Day County Fair "has been standing room only for at least the past 8 years!"

Derby racing can sometimes be portrayed as a redneck, or hillbilly

activity but it really is a motorsport that involves a lot of skill and grit with participants from all walks of life. While it looks as though some guys climb into an old car that they just pulled out of a junk yard and barely got started, the truth is that competitors spend a lot of time and effort building a machine that they hope will dominate the arena. It is also a big investment; engines can cost over ten thousand dollars.

Any given night, if you drive south of Webster to the McCreary place, you will hear the clang of metal, see the spark of a welder or two, and hear the chatter of men working to an eclectic music playlist. One particular June evening, I decided to satisfy my curiosity and take that drive so I could find out what this derby talk was all about. What I learned was that "derbying" is a lot more complex than I imagined and that there was no way I could have gotten a sense of what was happening without being there and watching the group of young men who were working under the guidance of McCreary to build their derby cars. Mike and his wife Cheryl greeted me as I approached, encouraging me to take a look around and ask questions. Cheryl, who is a teacher and coach at Webster Area School used to help out quite a bit in the shop, Mike credits her for helping build quite a few

cars. Cheryl even shyly admits to having driven “once,” but now mainly helps out with food and drinks and making sure they have safety measures handy; I witnessed as she advised Hayden about having water ready in case things get a little too heated. Mike got a little nostalgic as he spoke of Cheryl’s parents, praising the late Herb and Donna Gelhaus, for supporting and helping with the derby hobby. “Donna was my right hand man for over 25 years. She would be out here with me until 3 in the morning just working away.”

As I approached the shop, I observed three young men smiling and joking around, covered in grease and soot working on derby cars. McCreary’s youngest son Jeron, still in high school, welcomed me with a broad smile and warm handshake. Jeron is a busy young man who when he isn’t working on cars, maintains good grades in school, holds a job, and participates in many extracurricular activities. Hayden McCarlson is there, welding on his derby car, and what appears to be some motor mounts. Noah Duenwald, roommate of McCreary’s son Jaiden, was sweating over welding the “cage” inside the frame of his car. Cages are a safety feature designed to keep the driver safe. The group points out a few other safety features built into the cars and McCarlson explains that he wears a fire suit, neck brace, and full face helmet. “It’s so fun to see the cars come together!” said Jeron as he picked up a mallet to help Noah out. And while he really enjoys building and watching the cars come together, Mike admits the real thrill is watching the cars crash into each other.

The work these young men are doing inside their cars demonstrates just a small portion of skill required to participate in the sport. The cars start off as older model, heavy-bodied vehicles, most notably the old Chevy Impala, though Mike prefers the 1974 Olds 98. Mike says derbying differs from racing in that you don’t have to be quite as

precise when building, but like racing, it can cost a lot of money. This group fabricates a lot of their own parts, but the high school welding class has built some for them as well. Fred Zenk taught Hayden to weld, while Beau Larson taught Jaiden and Jeron this valuable trade. Seeing young people get out and do something, using their brains and their hands, instead of staring at a screen is one of the things Mike McCreary loves most about derbying. It’s also one of the reasons Cheryl doesn’t mind hearing the noise outside sometimes until the wee hours of the morning; though the McCreary’s admit that some nights they do have to go out and shut it down.

This shop, reminiscent of many older farm shops, with dirt floors and that old familiar smell of years’ worth of oil and elbow grease, has been the birthplace to many derby cars in the area. McCreary says that everyone involved in demolition derbies around here pretty much started in this very shop. Mike says, “We want people involved and we enjoy helping them get started. We have donated cars or sold them cheaply in order to help people out.” He fondly remarks that Dave Skeide helped him get started and really taught him a lot about derby life.

The derbying community is widespread, and you might be surprised at the people who enjoy participating in this hobby. Jeron says he’s met a lot of people and has made friends with almost everyone; claiming that making friends is one of his favorite things about derbying. Mike is proud of the way his sons Jaiden and Jeron are so well liked and are cheered for when they enter the arena. “People like them because they build fair and they race fair.” He gets a little sparkle in his eye as he says, “I usually get booed by the crowds. I’ve been doing this a while.”

Mike, who has been recovering from hip problems has been working on derby promotion. He is the promoter for two derbies in Florence and one in Webster, as well as assisting with others as far away as Watford, North Dakota. The derby at the Day County Fair will be Saturday, August 9th in Webster. This is one of the most sought after titles in NE South Dakota, with people traveling an average of 100 miles, some as far as 8 hours, for some wholesome fun and entertaining competition.

The premise of demolition derby is to destroy but the best part of it is building. Those involved in this sport don’t just build cars, they build friendships and communities.



Hayden, Jeron, Noah and Mike tell derby stories in the shop.

WEATHER WARNINGS

Getting Ready for Severe Summer Storms

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Midwest summers have a certain notoriety for their extreme summer weather events.

South Dakota is no exception. Between May 2015 and June 2025, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported more than 200 tornadic events in South Dakota.

The Recipe for Severe Weather

According to Peter Rogers, warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service (NWS) Office in Sioux Falls, there are four foundational components for the specific type of thunderstorms that produce tornadoes called supercells.

The first component is moisture – it's needed to form clouds. The second component, lift, refers to an upward motion of the air. In places without mountains like eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota, that occurs when a cold or warm front moves into the area and the laws of physics force warm air upward.

The third component, instability, is the

difference between the two air masses.

"If you have pockets of air that are hotter than the air around them, they'll continue to rise," Rogers explained. "And the instability is the extent to how far those parcels will rise."

The final component, wind shear, is how the wind speed and direction changes with altitude.

"Here, at the surface, we're normally only concerned about what the wind speed is doing at the surface," Rogers explained.

"But as meteorologists, we want to know what's happening at 5, 10, 15 ... feet and so on. The more changes you have with wind speed and direction ... with height increases your chances of going from just your garden-variety thunderstorm to a severe thunderstorm that's more capable of producing strong winds and tornadoes."

Over the last 10 years, South Dakota has seen tornadoes mostly ranking EF-0, EF-1 and EF-2 on the Enhanced Fujita scale.

The scale, named for its developer, meteorologist Ted Fujita, ranks tornadoes on a scale from 0 to 5 based on recorded wind speed and the damage observed that can be attributed to the tornado, with an

Storm clouds gather near Nunda, S.D.

Photo by Jacob Boyko

EF-5 being the most severe.

An EF-0 tornado will leave behind damage indicators showing wind speeds between 65 and 85 mph, while an EF-1 tornado will show damage indicating wind speeds between 86 and 110 mph, an EF-2 111-135 mph, an EF-3 136-165 mph, an EF-4 166-200 mph and an EF-5 being anything over 200 mph.

But weak and strong tornadoes alike can be deadly without proper action.

Working at the National Weather Service, it's part of Roger's job to get severe weather alerts out to the public.

Weather radios are particularly helpful in severe weather scenarios, he explained, because you can set them to alert you any time the NWS sends out an alert for your area.

"Severe weather is not just an afternoon or evening phenomenon," Rogers said.

"We often have some pretty big events in the middle of the night, so you want to have something that's going to wake you up in the middle of the night so you can get to shelter."

NOAA Weather
Radios can tune
to your local
forecast 24
hours per day.



As any Midwest resident knows, there's far more summertime severe weather than just tornadoes.

Derechoes, which decimated much of eastern South Dakota and Western Minnesota in 2022, produces a wall of strong, fast gusts of wind that can be just as dangerous as a tornado.

According to the NWS, for a storm to be classified as a derecho, it must extend 250 miles with gusts of at least 58 mph and produce several gusts of at least 75 mph.

In western South Dakota, the Black Hills help create the optimal conditions needed for severe hail.

"What you need is a really strong thunderstorm that has a really strong updraft," explained Kelly Serr, warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service Office in Aberdeen.

"When that updraft is really strong, it reaches the very coldest levels of the atmosphere where tiny droplets of rain start to freeze."

The stronger the draft, the longer the frozen rain drop will remain in the atmosphere. And the longer it's stuck in the updraft, the more water it collects, growing in size until finally the hail stone is too heavy to be suspended by the updraft anymore, and it plummets to the ground.

In western and central South Dakota, that process is exacerbated by the Black Hills, which help force the air up even higher and create fast-developing thunderstorms.

During severe weather events like thunderstorms, tornadoes and hail, the NWS encourages those in the pathway of the storm to seek shelter in a basement or a room without windows away from outside walls, as hail and other debris can shatter windows.

"Something we always tell people is to pay attention to the forecast," Serr said. "Know before you go: 'Are we expecting severe storms?' And then have a safety plan in place for wherever you are."

Looking Back at Summer Storms

Delmont Tornado – May 5, 2015

At about 10:45 a.m. on Mother's Day, an EF-2 tornado struck Delmont. The tornado's path began in Charles Mix County, making its way north into Douglas County where it reached Delmont and damaged numerous homes, including Delmont's famous Onion House, and destroyed the Zion Lutheran Church and fire station. The NWS reported a peak wind speed of 130 mph, with the tornado covering 17.3 miles and reaching a width of 400 yards.

Derechos – May 12, July 5, 2022

In the afternoon, a wall of straight line wind known as a derecho moved northeastward through eastern S.D. and Western M.N., with wind speeds reaching over 100 mph. The storm brought with it numerous tornadoes, including an EF-2 tornado with wind speeds up to 120 mph in Castlewood. According to the NWS, the derecho was the "most extreme example on record in terms of the measured significant wind gusts." The National Centers for Environmental Information categorized the storm a billion-dollar disaster event. Less than two months after the May event, a derecho moving southeastward produced wind gusts reaching 99 mph in Howard and 96 mph in Huron. In Sioux Falls, the sky turned green – a rare phenomenon caused by refraction, or the bending of light when passing through and being warped by the water and ice contained within the storm system.

Black Hills Hail – June, 2, 2019

In the morning, a supercell thunderstorm moved through Rapid City, Hermosa and Fairburn, producing golf ball-sized hail that damaged vehicles, homes and crops.

Tripp Tornado – May 8, 1965

The strongest tornado ever recorded in S.D. was in Tripp County. The storm produced snow over the Black Hills, with Lead reporting 36 inches of snow. The Tornado touched down east of Wewela, with a maximum observed width of 1,760 yards, and moved northwest 30 miles. The tornado was classified an F-5.

Source: Event Summaries, Weather.gov

Pierre Hail – July 18, 2023

An afternoon warm front heading east across central S.D. developed into a supercell. Around 6:20 p.m. in Pierre, there were reports of softball-sized and larger hail, with one setting a Hughes County record at 5 inches in diameter.

Dupree Tornado – June 16, 2010

In the afternoon and evening hours, a thunderstorm over Dupree produced damaging winds, torrential rainfall and flooding, and at least 16 tornadoes, with multiple tornadoes being simultaneous. The storm damaged roofs, mobile homes and grain bins. The damage observed indicated an EF-2 tornado.

Vivian Hail – July 23, 2010

A S.D. and U.S. hailstone record was set in Vivian after an evening thunderstorm formed a supercell moving southeastward. The NWS reported numerous hailstones exceeding 6 inch diameters as well as a record-setting 8 inch diameter, 18.625 circumference and 1 pound, 15 ounce hailstone. NWS estimates the hail stone fell at about 100 mph.

Sioux Falls Tornado – Sept. 11, 2019

In the late evening hours of Sept. 10 into the early morning hours of Sept. 11, severe thunderstorms moved across southeast S.D. into M.N. and I.A., bringing 80 to 100 mph straight line winds and three brief EF-2 tornadoes in Sioux Falls. The Avera Health Complex, several commercial spaces, and a neighborhood were damaged.

Jerauld Tornadoes – June 18, 2014

In the evening, a thunderstorm over Jerauld County produced an EF-4 tornado that traveled over 11 miles from Lane to Alpena. The tornado measured 880 yards at its widest. The same storm produced several more tornadoes, including an EF-2 that ravaged Wessington Springs.

Bowdle Tornado – May 22, 2010

A supercell in north central S.D. produced multiple tornadoes, including an EF-4 and golf ball-sized hail near Bowdle. NWS reported nearly 100 downed utility poles.



Thirty-six teens representing 22 South Dakota electric cooperatives traveled to the Washington, D.C., area June 15–21 for the 2025 South Dakota Youth Tour. Abby Vanderlinden of Webster represented Lake Region Electric, “The trip was so much fun! I experienced and saw so many new things! We were constantly doing something and there was not time to just chill which I loved.”

The program traces its roots to a 1957 speech by Lyndon B. Johnson, who urged electric cooperatives to send young people to the nation’s capital so they “can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.” Since South Dakota sent its first group in 1963, more than 1,300 students have represented the Rushmore State on this once-in-a-lifetime trip.

The 2025 group visited many historic and impactful sites in Washington, D.C., including Ford’s Theater – the site of President Abraham Lincoln’s assassination in 1865. Their visit, which took place on Juneteenth, added a layer of reflection on the nation’s path toward emancipation and equality. The group continued to explore themes of patriotism and national history throughout the week, viewing the Star-Spangled Banner at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, the Declaration of Independence at the National Archives, and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing where a significant amount of the nation’s money is printed.

Students also met with South Dakota’s congressional leaders, including U.S. Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds,

and had the chance to connect with Youth Tour participants from 44 other states. Together, they toured many of the nation’s most treasured landmarks, including the U.S. Supreme Court, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, and more.

At the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, students concluded their trip with NRECA-led events, where they heard an inspiring message about perseverance and leadership from Youth Day keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist in U.S.A. men’s wheelchair basketball.

“The Youth Tour was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said Abby. “There are so many opportunities you get to partake in that you can’t experience on a regular family trip. My favorite part was the Holocaust Museum and being able to talk to two ladies that survived. It was the most eye-opening museum, and it changed my perspective on life.”

Area students who will be Juniors or Seniors in High School during the 2025-2026 school year who are interested in the trip can contact Laura at Lake Region to get on the application list by emailing: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop.



Webster Area Farmers Market Tuesdays 4-6 PM

2025 Grand
Opening May 27

Vegetables
Handcrafted Gifts
Beef
Eggs



Bakery Items
Canned Goods
Honey
Art

Held weekly Memorial Day to Pumpkin Fest in the railroad parking lot on Main Street Webster S.D.
Market continues in October with nice weather

MARKET AT THE HILLTOP

BY PICKEREL LAKE

LOCAL

VENDORS OFFERING A
VARIETY OF GOODS

BEGINNING

14
JUNE

10AM - NOON
SATURDAYS

FRESH PRODUCE, FRESH EGGS, CANNED GOODS,
BAKED GOODS, HANDMADE GOAT MILK SOAP,
ARTWORK AND MORE!!



EVERY FRIDAY
FROM 1:00 PM-5 PM

41632 109TH ST. BRITTON, SOUTH DAKOTA
6 MILES WEST AND 1 MILE NORTH OF BRITTON
JUNE 27 - SEPTEMBER 26

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



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.

SATURDAYS UNTIL SEPT. 13

Buggy Museum

Free Buggy Rides, Concerts, Chuckwagon Foods + More
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Stockholm, SD
605-938-4192

JULY 26

South Dakota Chislic Festival
Freeman, SD
www.sdchislicfestival.com

JULY 26

Richmond Lake Association's Annual Pontoon Poker Run
Richmond Lake
Aberdeen, SD
605-225-0609

JULY 26

Fort Sisseton Lantern Tour
11907 434th Ave.
Lake City, SD
605-225-0609

JULY 31

Pancake Breakfast

7-9:30 a.m.
Spink Cty Fairgrounds
Redfield, SD

JULY 31

SPURS Grand Classic Horse Show

9 a.m.-4 p.m.
SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center
1006 130th St.
Aberdeen, SD
605-226-1099

AUG. 1-3

Fort Sisseton Escape Room

11907 434th Ave.
Lake City, SD
605-225-0609

AUG. 1-2

Armour Prairie Festival
Armour, SD

AUG. 5-10

Day County Fair
Webster, SD

AUG. 7

Family Fun Fest

5:30-7:30 p.m.
Downtown Main Street
Groton, SD

AUG. 8

Ranch Rodeo

6 p.m.
Day Cty Fairgrounds
Webster, SD

AUG. 9

2nd Annual Celebration in the Park/Rib Cook-off

1-9:30 p.m.
Groton City Park
Groton, SD

AUG. 9

Raise 'Em Rank Bull Riding and Breakaway Roping

Geddes, SD
605-680-2763

AUG. 9

Duck Stamp Celebration

USFWS, SDGFP, Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl Games, events, prizes
Adam Grimm
Wallace, SD
440-225-2267

AUG. 10

Czech Heritage Festival

Bechyn, MN
320-522-1218

AUG. 14

Farm Safety Party

10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Kids' Zone Tent
Brown County Fairgrounds
Aberdeen, SD

SEPT. 5-7

James Valley Threshing Show & Tractor Club

Andover, SD

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.