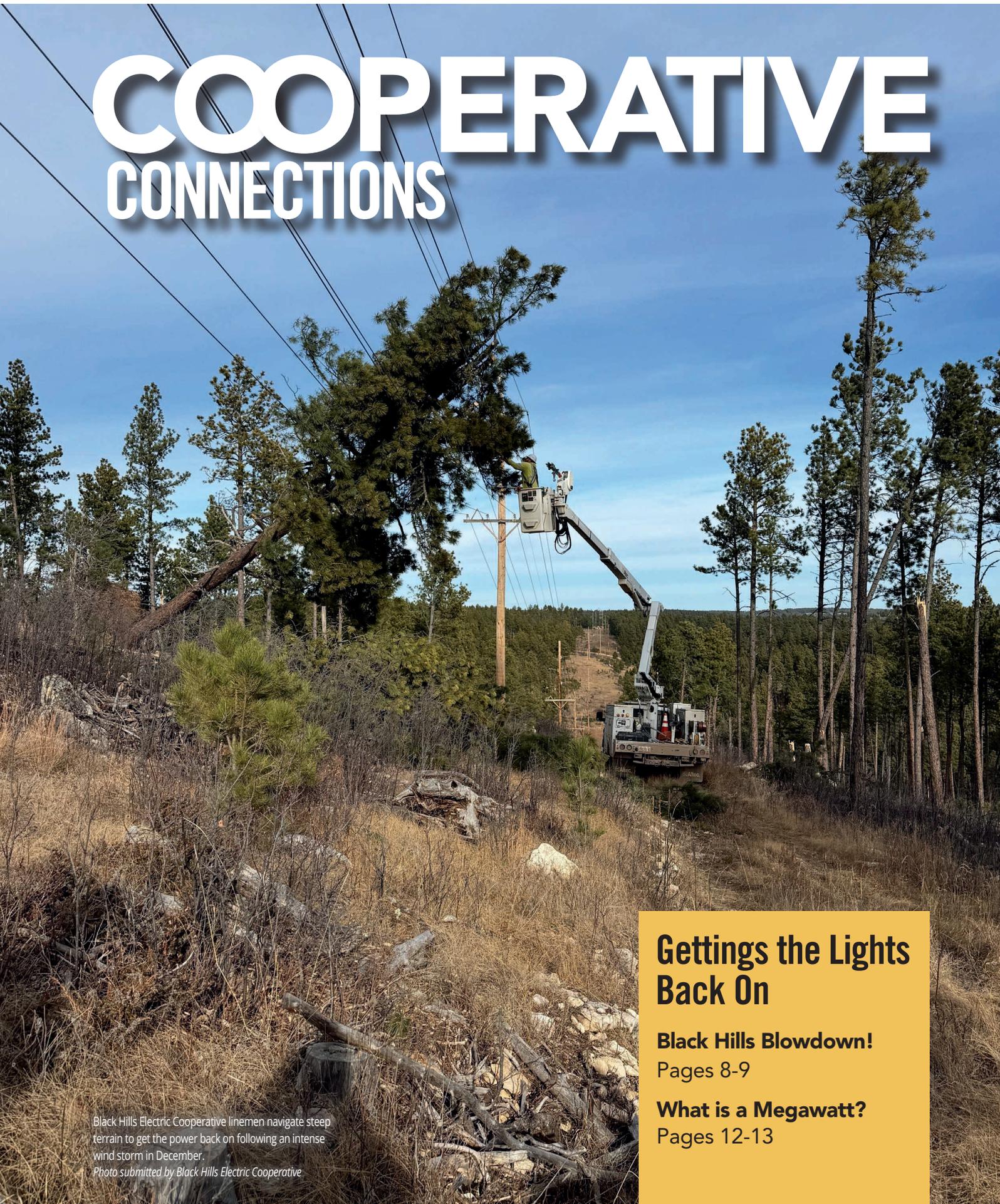




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

DAKOTA ENERGY
MARCH 2026 VOL. 26 NO. 11

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Black Hills Electric Cooperative linemen navigate steep terrain to get the power back on following an intense wind storm in December.
Photo submitted by Black Hills Electric Cooperative

Gettings the Lights Back On

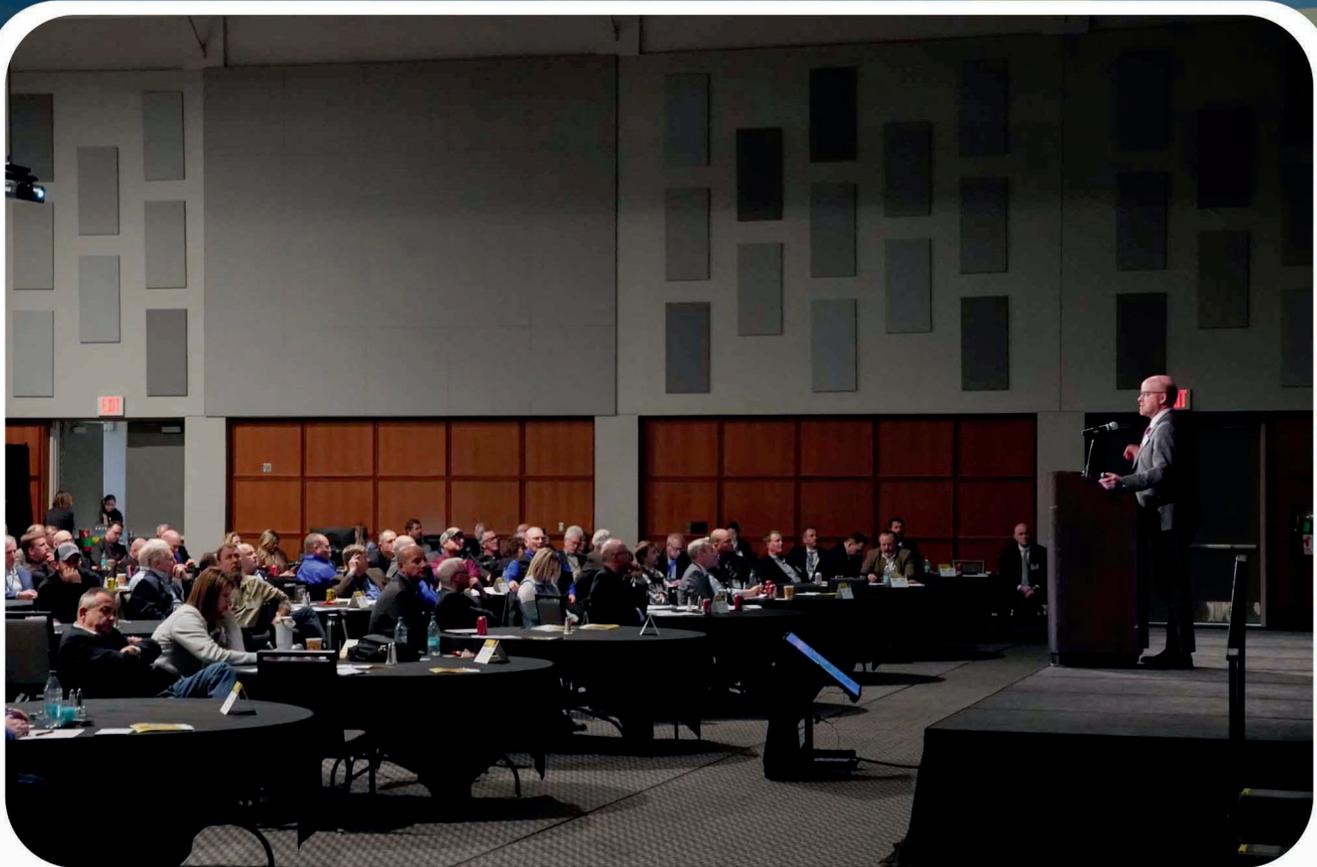
Black Hills Blowdown!
Pages 8-9

What is a Megawatt?
Pages 12-13

2026

ENERGIZE
FORUM

EAST RIVER



Dakota Energy representatives joined electric cooperative leaders and board members from across the region February 4–5 for the East River Energize Forum. The two-day event focused on current issues shaping the future of the electric industry and the service cooperatives provide to their members.

Industry experts covered topics that directly impact cooperative operations, including the economy, increasing electricity demand, power supply trends, load management, electric rate design, emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, renewable and traditional energy resources, and legislative updates.

Staying informed on these developments helps Dakota Energy anticipate changes, plan ahead, and make decisions that benefit members.

As a member-owned cooperative, thoughtful planning and learning from others in the industry are essential. The event provided opportunities to connect with specialists and other cooperatives, share ideas, and explore best practices.

Attending the Energize Forum reinforces Dakota Energy's commitment to staying informed and prepared as the electric industry continues to evolve.

APPRENTICESHIP MILESTONE ACHIEVED



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

DAKOTA ENERGY

(USPS No. 018-949)

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Manager of Finance & Administration:
Eric Hasart

Communications & Marketing Specialist:
Samantha Brodeen

Manager of Member Services: Jeff Gilbert

Dakota Energy Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Dakota Energy Cooperative, PO Box 830, 40294 US Hwy 14, Huron, SD 57350. Members subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Dakota Energy Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

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Recognizing a major milestone in safe, reliable service.

Dakota Energy Cooperative is proud to announce that Daniel Vetsch has successfully completed the Line Installer Repairer apprenticeship program. This accomplishment reflects years of hard work, hands-on training, and a strong commitment to safely serving our members.

Daniel attended Mitchell Technical College and finished more than 8,000 hours of on-the-job training, preparing him to build, maintain, and restore power across our service area.

Completing this program is a major accomplishment and an important step in a career dedicated to powering our communities. We congratulate Daniel on reaching this important achievement and thank him for his continued dedication to Dakota Energy and the members we serve.

Please join us in wishing him continued success in his career.

Welcome Our New Team Members



Carson Zomer
Apprentice Electrician



Kramer Eaton
Bookkeeper



Sam Brodeen
Communications & Marketing Specialist

Ensuring Drone Safety Near Power Lines

As drones continue to gain popularity for recreational and commercial use, their integration into our daily lives should not lessen the consideration of safety – particularly when it comes to flying near power lines. The intersection of drone technology and electrical infrastructure necessitates adherence to safety protocols, regulations, and best practices to protect both pilots and the integrity of electrical systems.

Power lines are essential components of our electrical grid, delivering energy to homes and businesses. However, they can pose serious hazards for drone operators. Collisions with power lines can cause significant equipment damage, leading to costly repairs or replacements. More critically, such incidents can disrupt service for hundreds of members, creating outages that could last for hours or even days.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has established regulations governing drone use, including restrictions on flying in proximity to power lines. According to FAA guidelines, drone pilots must always maintain a visual line of sight with their aircraft and avoid flying over people. When operating near electrical infrastructure, it is crucial to adhere to the regulations pertaining to altitude and no-fly zones.

Drone operators should also be familiar with state and local laws, as some municipalities have designated specific areas as no-fly zones, particularly near critical infrastructure like power facilities. Understanding these regulations is not only a legal requirement but also an essential step in ensuring the safety of all involved.

Best Practices for Safe Operations

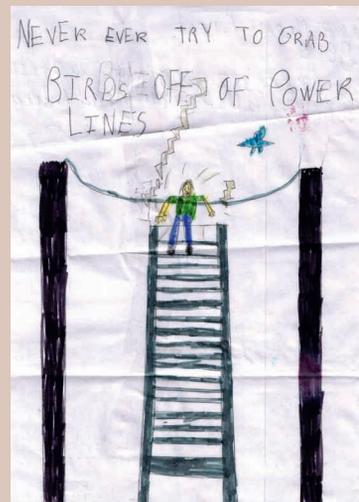
To minimize risks when flying drones near power lines, operators should adopt several best practices:

1. **Pre-Flight Planning:** Before taking off, thoroughly assess the flight area. Identify the location of power lines, potential obstacles, and any relevant no-fly zones. Consulting local maps and aerial photography can aid in understanding the landscape.
2. **Maintain Safe Distances:** When operating near power lines, always keep a safe distance. The FAA recommends a separation of at least 500 feet from energized power lines to avoid potential collisions. Keeping a safe buffer not only protects the drone but also mitigates risks to nearby electrical infrastructure.

3. **Use Technology Wisely:** Many modern drones come equipped with GPS and obstacle avoidance systems that can aid in safe navigation. Utilize these features and ensure that your drone's software is updated to reduce the likelihood of malfunction.
4. **Operating in Controlled Conditions:** Avoid flying drones in poor weather conditions such as high winds, rain, or reduced visibility. Harsh weather not only affects flight stability but can also lead to loss of control over the drone, increasing the risk of accidents.
5. **Emergency Procedures:** In case of a malfunction or loss of control, having an emergency plan in place is vital. Be prepared to communicate with local authorities if a drone becomes entangled in power lines or presents a safety concern.

As the popularity of drones continues to soar, awareness around safety protocols, especially near power lines, has become increasingly critical. By understanding the risks involved, adhering to regulations, and implementing best practices for safe drone operations, pilots can ensure the protection of themselves, others, and vital electrical infrastructure. Responsible drone use fosters innovation while ensuring safety remains paramount in our evolving technological landscape.

"Never ever try to grab birds off of power lines!"



**Naomi Krcil,
Age 8**

Naomi warns readers to never EVER grab birds off of a power line. Great picture, Naomi! Naomi's parents are Andrew and Andrea Krcil from Dante, 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.

Scrumptious SALADS

MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

2 cups macaroni (cooked, drained, rinsed and cooled)
 2 or more cups of carrots (chopped or shredded)
 1 small chopped onion (optional)
 1 cup chopped green pepper (optional)

Dressing

1 cup mayonnaise (Hellmans)
 1/4 cup vinegar
 1/2 cup sugar
 7 oz. sweetened condensed milk
 1/4 tsp. salt
 1/4 tsp. pepper

R. Gregg Fritz
 H-D Electric

KARI REDER'S POTATO SALAD

Ingredients:

7-8 lbs. potatoes, Yukon gold or red
 1 dozen eggs
 1 med. sweet onion
 2 cups Mayo
 1 tbsp. cream
 1/4 cup of apple cider vinegar
 1/2 cup of sugar or splenda
 1 1/2 tbsps. mustard
 2 tbsps. celery seed
 Celery salt, salt and pepper to taste

Method

Boil potatoes and eggs, peel and dice. Add the chopped onion. Mix together mayo, cream, apple cider vinegar, sugar, mustard, celery seed, celery salt, salt and pepper. Mix all together well and refrigerate.

Kari Reder
 Northern Electric

SUMMER GARDEN PASTA SALAD

Ingredients:

1 lb. thin spaghetti, broken into 1" pieces
 1 pt. cherry tomatoes, halved
 2 med. zucchini, peeled & diced
 2 med. cucumbers, diced
 1 green pepper, diced
 1 red pepper, diced
 1 - 16 oz. can sliced black olives, drained

Dressing:

1 - 16 oz. bottle Italian dressing
 1/4 cup parmesan cheese
 1 tbsp. sesame seeds
 1 tsp. paprika
 1/2 tsp. celery seed
 1/2 tsp. garlic salt

Method

Cook pasta; drain. Drizzle with 1-2 tsps. olive oil. In large bowl, combine pasta, tomatoes, zucchini, cucumber, peppers and olives.

Whisk dressing ingredients together. Pour over salad ingredients and toss to coat.

Cover and refrigerate for three hours.

Jane Ham
 Cam Wal 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.

INVESTING IN RELIABILITY: 2026 CONSTRUCTION PLAN



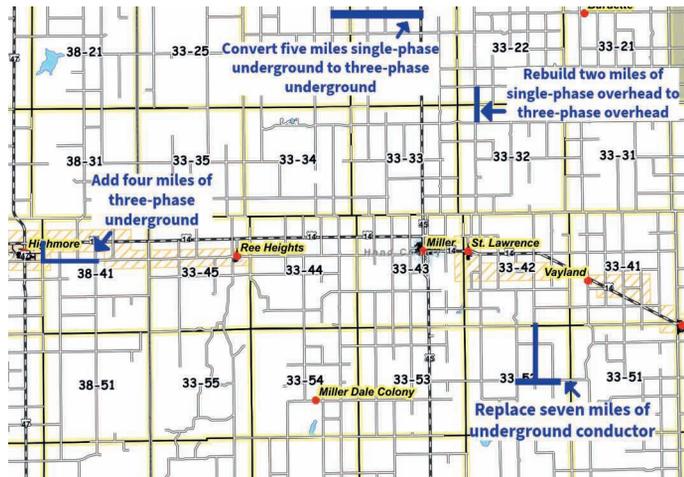
Matt Zomer
Operations
Manager

Seven construction projects are planned for 2026. These upgrades will help improve system reliability, support future load growth, and reduce the risk of outages across our service territory.

These projects include:

- Converting eight miles of aging three-phase overhead line to underground
- Upgrading five miles of single-phase underground to three-phase
- Adding four miles of three-phase underground east of Highmore
- Rebuilding two miles of single-phase overhead to three-phase overhead
- Rebuilding three miles of aged single-phase overhead line

These seven projects were pulled from Dakota Energy’s Work Plan, which is a detailed outline of maintenance and construction projects being considered over the next four years.



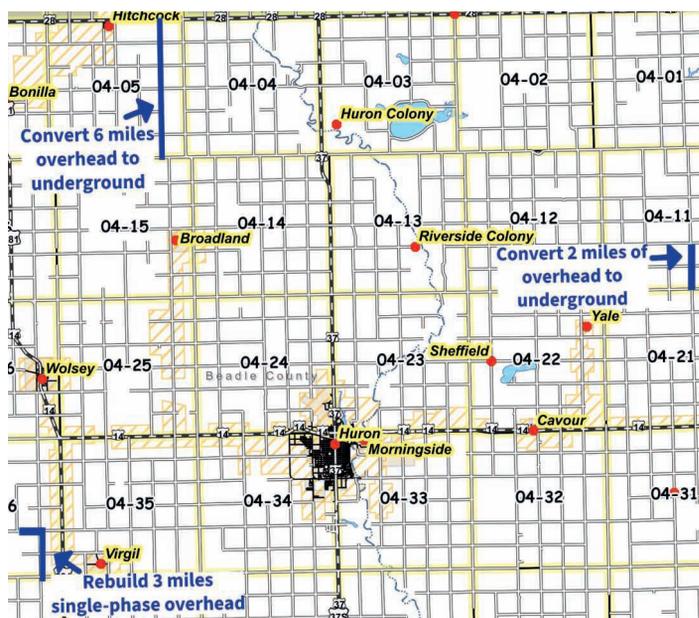
The plan includes budget estimates, project locations, and the equipment needed to complete the work. Developing the Work Plan requires careful evaluation of areas experiencing load growth or needing system upgrades to ensure the best use of cooperative resources.

The 2026 construction plan was reviewed and approved by Dakota Energy’s Board of Directors last fall, with an estimated total cost of \$2.5 million. While supply chain lead times are improving, material costs remain higher than in previous years, making careful planning more important than ever.

In addition to these upgrades, new services may also be requested by members in 2026. Dakota Energy’s Aid to Construction policy ensures that those who directly benefit from new infrastructure cover the associated cost, so the broader membership is not subsidizing projects that serve a single customer or group.

If you anticipate needing a new service, please contact Dakota Energy well in advance. Early planning helps us secure materials and schedule work efficiently.

These investments help us build a stronger, more resilient system for everyone we serve.



DECEMBER 2025

The Board of Directors met on Thursday, December 18, 2025, with Directors Langbehn, Morford, Nemec, Raschke, Schaefer, Schnathorst, and Wangness present. Manager Felderman and Employees Brueggeman, Decker, Gilbert, Hasart, McCarty, Picek, Rakness, and Zomer were present.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Felderman reported on the following items:

- Monthly kWh sales and revenue
- Basin Electric capital credit retirement
- Renewable energy credits
- Greater Huron Development Corporation (GHDC)
- Medicine Creek substation
- Basin generating facilities

OFFICE SERVICES REPORT

Manager of Finance and Administration, Hasart, reported on the following items:

- Financial reports
- Year end preparation
- Federated insurance visit
- National Information Solutions Cooperative and demand billing
- Electric account write-offs
- Capital credit requests

OPERATIONS REPORT

Manager of Operations, Zomer, reported on the following items:

- Construction, maintenance, and retirement activities
- Pole changes
- Completed underground projects
- Service rebuilds

- Cooperative Response Center
- Turkey plant transformer testing

MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

Manager of Member Services, Gilbert, reported on the following items:

- Wiring department workload
- Potential hazards
- Load control savings
- Air conditioning load control removal

HUMAN RESOURCES/ COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Manager of HR/Communications, Decker, reported on the following items:

- Youth Tour
- Community events
- East River 2025 market survey results
- Dakota Energy member survey results
- Parade of Lights

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Information Technology Administrator, Rakness, reported on the following items:

- Security news
- Website/Cybersecurity
- Demand billing promotional materials and communication timeline

BOARD ACTION

The following items were acted upon:

- Approved the reports presented
- Approved policies include Policy No. 10 Conflict of Interest/Ethics, Policy No. 11 Confidentiality, Policy No. 12 Tobacco-Free Workplace, Policy No. 13 Board Nominations and Elections, Policy No. 202 Board Meetings, Committees and Board Minutes, and Policy No. 28 and 404 Technology Use.

BOARD REPORTS

Director Nemec reported on SDREA's December 2025 regular board meeting.

Director Raschke reported on East River's December 2025 regular board meeting.

Directors who attended reported on the Mid-West Electric Annual Meeting.

Year-to-Date Financial Report

	Dec-25	Year-to-Date
Total Revenue	\$1,936,592	\$25,350,872
Cost of Power	\$1,535,221	\$17,592,996
Operating Expenses	\$688,670	\$7,718,146
Total Margins	\$1,139,164	\$2,853,532
KwH's Purchased.....	23,372,323	241,740,869
Services in Place		3,645
Miles of Line		2,531
Members per Mile		1.44

Wholesale power costs, taxes, interest, and depreciation account for **79.77%** of DEC's total cost of service.

NOTICE:

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING DATES

10:00 AM - HURON

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

TUESDAY, MAY 26



Intense wind left the crossarm of a broken three-phase pole hanging after a holiday storm.
Photos submitted by Black Hills Electric Cooperative

GETTING THE LIGHTS BACK ON

Black Hills Electric Cooperative Works Tirelessly Following Holiday Storm

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

In the early morning hours of Dec. 18, powerful winds swept across western South Dakota, leaving much of the Black Hills without electricity. The outage included the home of Bill Brisk, manager of operations at Black Hills Electric Cooperative.

Through wild winds, Brisk set out for his office at the cooperative at 3 a.m., where he discovered that the windstorm was unlike anything he had seen in his 36 years with the cooperative.

“We get wind in the Hills,” Brisk said. “But nothing like that. In all of the time that I’ve been at the cooperative, I’ve never seen wind that strong.”

Wind gusts were later estimated at more than 100 mph, tearing through the Black

Hills with unprecedented force.

When Brisk arrived, the scope of the damage became clear. Nearly the entire system was down, and more than 11,000 of the co-op’s approximately 11,500 meters were without power. By daybreak, more than 96% of Black Hills Electric Cooperative’s system was dark, the largest outage event in the cooperative’s history.

Although an influx of outage calls from members came in around midnight, Brisk made an early and critical decision; crews would not be sent out while the storm was still raging.

“We began receiving calls around midnight, but I did not have our crews go out, just for the fact that it was just too dangerous,” Brisk said. “Trees were breaking off, conditions were hazardous, and I didn’t want to put our crews in any

dangerous situations.”

Instead, crews waited for daylight, when conditions allowed for safe assessment – the first step of getting the lights back on.

Assessment almost always begins with reporting from the community. Due to an overwhelming call volume during storm events, local reports of outages are forwarded to Basin Electric Power Cooperative’s Security and Response Services. These services relay important updates to electric cooperatives. Dispatchers communicate with linemen via push-to-talk radios and cell phones, tracking linemen from the time they leave the shop until the outage has been restored.

In addition to local reports, linemen also conduct their own assessments. That morning, linemen reported countless uprooted and snapped trees, downed poles and even wires lay broken across forest floors and roadways. In some areas, trees fell into other trees, creating dangerous conditions for anyone working below.

“I believe this was one of the worst storms in our cooperative’s history, including winter storm Atlas,” said Brisk.

As the assessment was underway, line

crews worked to bring downed substations back online first, then main three-phase feeders, followed by smaller distribution lines that bring power directly to homes and businesses. That order helps restore electricity to the greatest number of members as quickly as possible.

In the Black Hills, terrain adds another layer of complexity. Many lines run through dense forest, steep canyons and areas far from maintained roads.

“This isn’t square-mile territory,” Brisk said. “You might have to drive five or six miles just to get around a canyon.”

By midday Dec. 18, it was decided the damage was too widespread for Black Hills Electric to tackle alone. Brisk reached out to Mark Patterson, South Dakota Rural Electric Association’s manager of loss control, to request mutual aid from neighboring cooperatives – reinforcing a long-standing cooperative tradition built on neighbors helping neighbors.

Within hours, assistance began mobilizing. Crews, trucks and equipment arrived from across western South Dakota. Six electric cooperatives and a contractor ultimately sent help, bringing 55 additional linemen to the Black Hills. Those crews came from Butte Electric Cooperative, Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative, Lacreek Electric Association, West Central Electric Cooperative, West River Electric Association, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative and Kainz Power Lines, a local contractor based out of Custer.

“I had each operations manager of the responding cooperatives call me and ask what we needed,” Brisk said. “We asked for bucket trucks, digger trucks, chainsaws, attachments for skid steers, and extra line crews, and they sent everything we asked for.”

Days began early and ended late with crews often working 12 to 16-hour shifts. Brisk emphasized safety repeatedly to the crews as they worked among unstable trees, high winds and rugged terrain.

Behind the scenes, the restoration effort extended beyond the field. Office staff coordinated logistics and prepared meals. Lunches were packed daily for crews heading out before dawn. Supplies

were tracked, equipment was staged and communication updates were shared with members.

“It wasn’t just the line crews,” Brisk said. “Everybody stepped up.”

As crews continued working and Christmas approached, it appeared unlikely that power would be fully restored in time for the holiday. The visiting crews made it clear they were willing to stay through the holiday.

“All the outside crews said they weren’t leaving,” Brisk said. “They stayed to help us finish.”

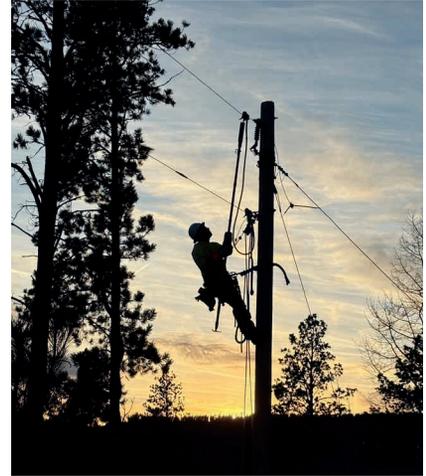
By Christmas Eve, most members had power for the holiday and visiting crews were able to return home. Even still, Black Hills Electric crews continued limited work through the holiday, work that continues today.

“To be truthful, we are still cutting trees, setting poles and repairing lines from this storm,” said Brisk.

The storm was later designated a FEMA-eligible event, requiring detailed tracking of labor, equipment and materials.

Looking back, Brisk said the restoration efforts relied heavily on cooperation and dedication among crews from the assisting cooperatives.

“It’s good to know you’ve got great neighbors,” he said. “When you need help, they come.”



An assisting lineman from West River Electric Cooperative installs a ground on the line to be further worked on.



Damage from the storm not only affected poles, but also uprooted trees.



Bill Brisk, manager of operations at Black Hills Electric Cooperative, gives a morning briefing, updating the cooperative and assisting crews with storm recovery assignments.

SAFETY TIP



**STAY AWAY
FROM DOWNED
POWER LINES.**

'WATT' DOES DEMAND COST?

WATTS ÷ 1,000 = kW (DEMAND)

TOTAL kW OF HIGHEST INTERVAL x \$5.00 = DEMAND CHARGE

Demand is billed as the total kW during the highest use interval over the entire billing cycle. To estimate demand charges, use the following average appliance kW (based on 15 minutes of operation). Add up all of the electric appliances you would have running at once and multiply by the current monthly demand charge found on your monthly statement. (2026 demand charge: \$5.00/kW)

Appliance	Watts	kW
KITCHEN		
Blender	500	0.50
Coffee Maker	1000	1.00
Dishwasher	1200-1500	1.20-1.50
Freezer	200	0.20
Fridge	600	0.60
Air Fryer	1500	1.50
Microwave	1000	1.00
Oven - Electric	3000	3.00
Toaster	850	0.85
Toaster Oven	1200	1.20
Stove Top	1500	1.50
HEATING & COOLING		
Box Fan	200	0.20
Ceiling Fan	120	0.12
Central A/C - 24,000 BTU NA	3800	3.80
Central A/C - 10,000 BTU NA	3250	3.25
Furnace Fan Blower	800	0.80
Space Heater NA	1500	1.50
Tankless Water Heater - Electric	18000	18.00
Water Heater - Electric	4500	4.50
Window AC 10,000 BTU NA	900	0.90
Window AC 12,000 BTU NA	3250	3.25
Well Pump - 1 HP	1000	1.00
Garage Heater 17,000 BTU	5000	5.00
LAUNDRY		
Clothes Dryer - Electric	3000	3.00
Clothes Dryer - Gas	800	0.80
Clothes Washer	800	0.80
Iron	1200	1.20
HOME ENTERTAINMENT		
TV - LCD	150	0.15
TV - Plasma	200	0.20

Appliance	Watts	kW
FARM EQUIPMENT		
Air Compressor	5750	5.75
Block Heater	1500	1.50
Cattle Waterer	1000	1.00
Grain Bin Fan Motor 7.5HP	7500	7.50
Grain Bin Fan Motor 10HP	10000	10.00
Grain Bin Fan Motor 15HP	15000	15.00
LED Security Light	73	0.07
On Demand Water Heater	20000	20.00
Welder	9000-12000	9.00-12.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		
Desktop Computer (standard)	200	0.20
Desktop Computer (gaming)	500	0.50
Laptop Computer	100	0.10
LCD Monitor	100	0.10
Modem	7	0.01
Paper Shredder	150	0.15
Printer	100	0.10
Router	7	0.01
Smart Phone - Recharge	6	0.01
Tablet - Recharge	8	0.01
MISCELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD		
Clock Radio	7	0.01
Electric Shaver	15	0.02
Electric Blanket	200	0.20
Hair Dryer	1500	1.50
Hot Tub	4800-12000	4.80-12.00
Vacuum	1000	1.00
ELECTRIC CHARGING - TIME FOR 60 MILES		
12 hrs, Single Phase 120 V AC	1500	1.50
2-3 hrs, Single Phase 230 V AC	10000	10.00

Average appliance wattage is referenced above. To learn more about your appliance wattages or energy usage, a Kill A Watt® meter can measure the wattage of plug-in devices and are available at home improvement stores or online retailers such as Amazon.



Learn more about electric demand

What Can You Do With 1 Megawatt?

Factory

Facilities with heavy machinery can draw 1 MW of power.

Big Box Stores

1 MW will power a typical large retail store.

Office Building

1 MW can power several medium-sized office buildings.

Hospital

1 MW will power a small hospital.

Power Plant

Typical outputs:

Coal: 500 MW to 1 GW

Gas: 50 MW to 1 GW

Nuclear: 500 MW to 1.5 GW

1 MW is 1 million watts of power.

School

0.5 MW will power a medium-size public school.

EV Charging

1 MW can power four Tesla Supercharger V3s simultaneously.

Data Center

1 MW will power one small data center.

Other facilities that can draw up to 1 MW of power:

- High-speed rail
- Large farms
- Wastewater treatment
- Stadiums

Residential

1 MW can power 750 to 1,000 homes.

WHAT IS A MEGAWATT?

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

If you're a regular Cooperative Connections reader, you've probably seen the term "megawatt" countless times. From articles about new power generation facilities, energy-saving tips, major infrastructure projects or energy policy, megawatts come up again and again. But what does a megawatt actually mean?

Watts, Kilowatts, Megawatts & More

A megawatt is a unit of power that measures the speed at which energy is generated or used at a given time. A megawatt is 1,000 kilowatts (KW), or 1 million watts.

You may recognize watts from the labels on everyday household items like light bulbs and phone chargers. These numbers indicate the amount of power the device draws while operating.

Here are the wattages for some common household items:

- LED Light bulb – 5-20 Watts
- Refrigerator – 350-800 Watts
- Desktop PC – 100-800 Watts
- LED Television: 30-300 Watts
- Microwave – 700-1,200 Watts
- Hair Dryer – 1,500-2,000 Watts
- Clothes Dryer – 1,800-5,000 Watts

At East River Electric Power Cooperative, the generation and transmission cooperative that sells power to member co-ops in Eastern South Dakota and Western Minnesota, Jennifer Gross uses a modified bicycle to help put power into perspective.

The bike is stationary – the pedals power a small generator wired to several different kinds of light bulbs. Gross, who is East River's education and outreach coordinator, says the "pedal power bike" demonstrates energy use in a tangible way and highlights the difference of energy-efficient products.

"It's actually quite difficult for the person pedaling to generate electricity consistently for more than a few minutes," Gross said.



"When they're pedaling to power the inefficient, old-school incandescent light bulbs, they can pedal for about one minute and not even keep it at 200 watts the whole time."

The electric grid experiences the most strain during peak demand times – the hours before and after work and school when most people are home doing laundry, watching TV etc.

In communities with hundreds to thousands of homes and businesses, electricity demand grows large enough to be measured in megawatts – the unit equal to 1,000 KW.

Your electric co-op's electricity is generated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which was formed in the 1960s by electric co-ops in the upper Midwest to generate electricity for co-ops. Serving over 3 million consumers across nine states, Basin generates power from its owned and leased assets, which include coal, natural gas, solar and wind. Basin's generation capability is so massive that it's measured in gigawatts – the unit equal to 1,000 MW.

Basin reports a maximum generating capacity of about 8,427 MW – or 8.427 GW. That figure reflects every available generation resource running at full output, including the oil-fueled peaking units used during times of high demand, along with purchases from the Western Area Power Administration and the Southwest Power Pool energy market.

On an even larger scale, the total installed generation capacity in the U.S. reaches the terawatt level, totalling about 1.3 TW, which is equal to 1,300 GW, 1.3 million MW or 1.3 billion KW – enough to simultaneously run about 1 billion hair dryers!

$$\begin{aligned}
 &1 \text{ Million Watts} \\
 &= \\
 &1,000 \text{ Kilowatts} \\
 &= \\
 &1 \text{ Megawatt} \\
 &= \\
 &1/1,000 \text{ Gigawatt}
 \end{aligned}$$

Your Co-op's Megawatts

As a co-op member, you're a part-owner of Basin Electric's generation resources. Here's a look at several of those facilities.



Antelope Valley Station
Beulah, N.D. • 1984
900 MW • Coal



Bison Gen. Station
Epping, N.D. • 2030
1,490 MW • Nat. Gas



Pioneer Gen. Station
Williston, N.D. • 2013
822 MW • Nat. Gas



Crow Lake Wind
White Lake, S.D. • 2011
172 MW • Wind



Wild Springs Solar
New Underwood, S.D.
2024 • 114 MW • Solar



MOVING A MOUNTAIN

Dakota Energy Cooperative raises line so the home can pass underneath.
Photo submitted by Dakota Energy Cooperative

Co-ops Assist Historic Home On Trek Through Rural South Dakota

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Jeff and Sherri Johnson had been waiting for years to build their dream home on their McCook County land, but with ongoing supply chain challenges, it was becoming increasingly difficult – and expensive – to build on their rural acreage.

When Sherri saw the sale listing for a beautiful historic home in northwest South Dakota, she knew that it was more than a house; it was a dream come true.

"I had a dream a few years ago about a blue house moving, and I saw this house that had been on the market for a while in Lemmon," Johnson recalled. "I saw the house, and then I remembered the dream, because when God gives us a dream, it just goes deep in there and you remember."

She knew she had to act, and soon after, the Johnsons were the proud owners of the 1910 prairie-style home. All they had to do was get it to their land north of Montrose.

Sherri and Jeff contacted Milbank House Movers to figure out just how exactly to transport a 100-ton house over 400 miles.

"For a 37-foot tall loaded, 2 ½ story house, this was one of the longest moves we have done," explained Josh Wendland from Milbank House Movers. "We had to reach

out to all of the power companies along the moving route to get their input as to how far they felt we could travel each day with how many power lines we would have to deal with on any give segment of the route. It was determined that the total move of 421 miles should be segmented into seven travel days on the road ranging from 14 miles the first day up to 98 miles on the furthest traveled day."

At Moreau-Grand Electric, crews found the house was too tall to pass under their lines even if they raised them up with their bucket trucks.

"We had to totally just cut some of the lines, the structure was so tall we couldn't lift them up high enough," said JJ Martin, the co-op's member services director.

Martin said power outages were pretty minor in the service territory until the house reached the US 212/SD 63 junction west of Eagle Butte, where the Western Area Power Administration had to cut its transmission line taking the southern portion of Moreau-Grand Electric's service territory offline.

"Once the structure moved through, we put the lines back up, and the outage only took about an hour or two in total," Martin said. "After that, there were a few minor distribution outages until they finally

crossed the Cheyenne River."

At East River Electric, the generation and transmission cooperative serving co-ops in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota, operations dispatch worked in advance to identify power line crossings along the route that would need to be lifted or disconnected.

"We have a lot of our line measurements for these situations, but if it's an odd route, we go and get new measurements of lines that we may not have measured – like if they're trying to go through an area to avoid bigger infrastructure or bridges," explained Clayton Tanner, East River's system operations superintendent. "Depending on how close the load will get to our infrastructure, we decide whether we have to have our guys on scene to watch it go through, or if we have to switch that line out and ground it because there's a chance of it arcing over. There have even been cases where we've dropped the line to the ground and had them drive over it."

The house crossed 12 of East River Electric's transmission lines; nine of the lines had to be de-energized, three of the lines were lifted, and crews watched the house pass underneath in two other locations.

Despite the home's unprecedented journey, spending a week trekking 421 miles across rural highways through eight electric cooperatives, the house arrived in one piece.

The house joins another historic building on Jeff and Sherri's land: a 1903 rural schoolhouse that sat in Turner County for much of its life before being moved to Minnehaha County to serve as a Methodist Church, and finally to McCook County in 2011 when Sherri and Jeff purchased the building to move it and restore it to its former turn-of-the-century glory.

When asked if she had ever thought she'd get this far along with the house moving project, Sherri nodded an affirmative yes.

"We already did it once with the church," she said. "I wished we could have been able to do this about 10 years ago, since it probably would have fit a little better. But you know what? Things work out exactly the way they are supposed to."

History of the House

Known as the Ole Quamman house, the 1910 prairie style foursquare house spent the last 115 years on 2nd Avenue in Lemmon. Ole Quamman was one of the first businessmen to arrive in Lemmon, which was founded just three years before in 1907. Quamman created the town's Petrified Wood Park & Museum in 1933 to showcase petrified wood from Perkins County. At its Lemmon address, the house featured two flowerpots decorated with petrified wood on its walkway – those traveled with the home to McCook County.

The South Dakota State Historical Society writes that the interior of the home is "lavishly styled" and features some of the latest design ideology of the time.

It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2015, but lost its eligibility after the move. Sherri is applying to get the house back on the list for its architectural significance and level of preservation. She also plans to do the same with her historic church.

Sherri and Jeff Johnson with their new home on its foundation in McCook County. It sits on land that has been in Sherri's family for generations.

Photo by Jacob Boyko



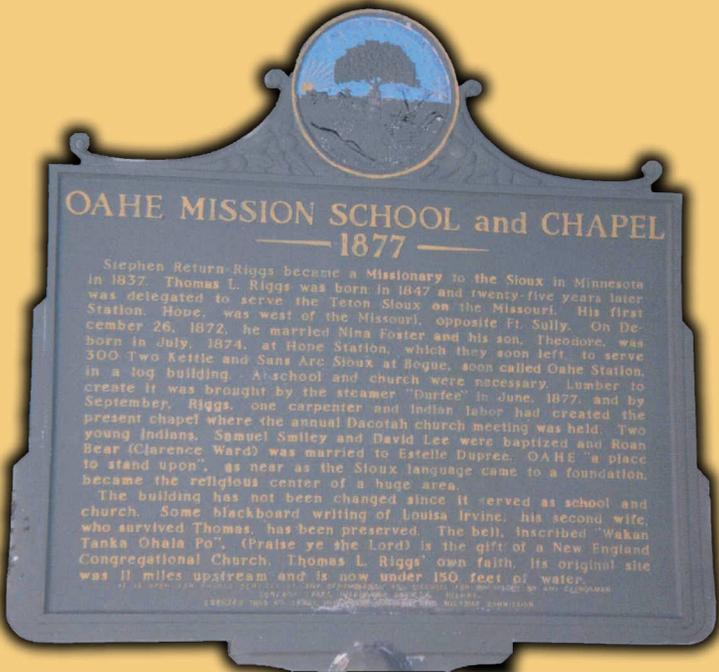
The house crosses the Oahe Dam – officially entering east river South Dakota.
Submitted Photo



The house rounds one of the final corners. Southeastern Electric Cooperative was on the scene to connect power.
Submitted Photo



In the application to add the house to the National Register of Historic Places, the South Dakota State Historical Society writes that the interior of the home has an "elegant Arts and Crafts design."
Submitted Photo



FROM SHERRI'S JOURNAL

The only place I wanted a picture of the house moving along its 400-mile journey was at the Missouri River crossing. I was plenty early on the morning of Nov. 17, 2025, when I parked my car at Oahe Dam Visitor Center. It was cold, windy, and still dark outside as I aimed my headlights at the Oahe Mission School and Chapel historical marker. I started reading the sign, but abruptly stopped when I read '...at Bogue...' Bogue was the maiden name of my 3x great grandma. Not only was I reading a sign about a building being moved as I waited for my historic house to move across the dam, but the name on the sign perfectly connected to a name in my ancestry. Daylight eventually dawned, the clouds broke, and sunlight lit up the house as it crossed the river. I had planned a picture, but God did so much more that morning. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we all ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. (Ephesians 3:20)



MARCH 7
Ag Day
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Washington Pavilion
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-6000

Washington Pavilion Photo

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.

MARCH 5
SD Jazz Festival
 7:30 p.m.
 Johnson Fine Arts Center
 Aberdeen, SD

MARCH 7
Free Christian Men's Event
 The Barn at Aspen Acres
 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
 Spearfish, SD
 Register: RiseUpMen.com

MARCH 7
Southern Hills Holistic Fair
 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Mueller Civic Center
 Hot Springs, SD

MARCH 7-8
The Black Market
 Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 W.H. Lyon Expo Building
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-332-6004

MARCH 14-15
Philip Area Annual Rod & Gun Show
 Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sun. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 American Legion Hall
 Philip, SD
 605-859-2135

MARCH 14
St. Uhro Finnish Festival
 11 a.m. Main Street Parade
 12 p.m. Community Ctr. Lunch
 Lake Norden, SD
 605-881-1758

MARCH 14
SNOLF (Snow Golf) Tournament
 Webster, SD
 Contact: Buster's Resort
 605-345-2787

MARCH 20-21
Badlands Quilters Getaway
 Fri. 5:30 p.m. Start
 Sat. 8 a.m. Start
 Wall Community Center
 Wall, SD
 605-279-2807

MARCH 20-22, 27-29
Mighty Corson Art Players
 March 20-21, 27-28: 7:30 p.m.
 March 22, 29: 2:30 p.m.
 Corson Playhouse
 Corson, SD
 www.mightycorson.com

MARCH 27
East Dakota Chapter NWF 33rd Annual Banquet
 Ramkota Expo Hall
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-940-0702

MARCH 28
Coteau Prairie Masters Gardeners Ready, Set, Grow
 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Codington Cty. Extension Cplx.
 Watertown, SD

MARCH 28
VFW Teener Baseball Benefit Vegas Night
 Social: 4:30 p.m., Meal: 6 p.m.
 Tyndall, SD

APRIL 3
Bachelors of Broadway: Gentlemen of the Theatre
 7 p.m.
 Johnson Fine Arts Center
 Aberdeen, SD

APRIL 5
Easter Sunrise Service
 7 a.m.
 Mount Rushmore
 605-391-9156

APRIL 9
McCrossan Wildest Banquet Auction in the Midwest
 Jimmy Buffett Tribute
 Polynesian Paradise Dancers
 Sioux Falls, SD
 www.mccrossan.org

APRIL 9-11
Annual Schmeckfest
 German Heritage Celebration
 Freeman, SD
 605-925-4237
 www.schmeckfest.com

APRIL 18
Brookings Quilt Show XII
 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Admission: \$10
 Dakota Bank Center
 Brookings, SD
 605-690-3246

APRIL 18
Tri-Valley Chorus 75th Annual Show
 4 p.m.
 Centerville, SD
 605-201-9398

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.