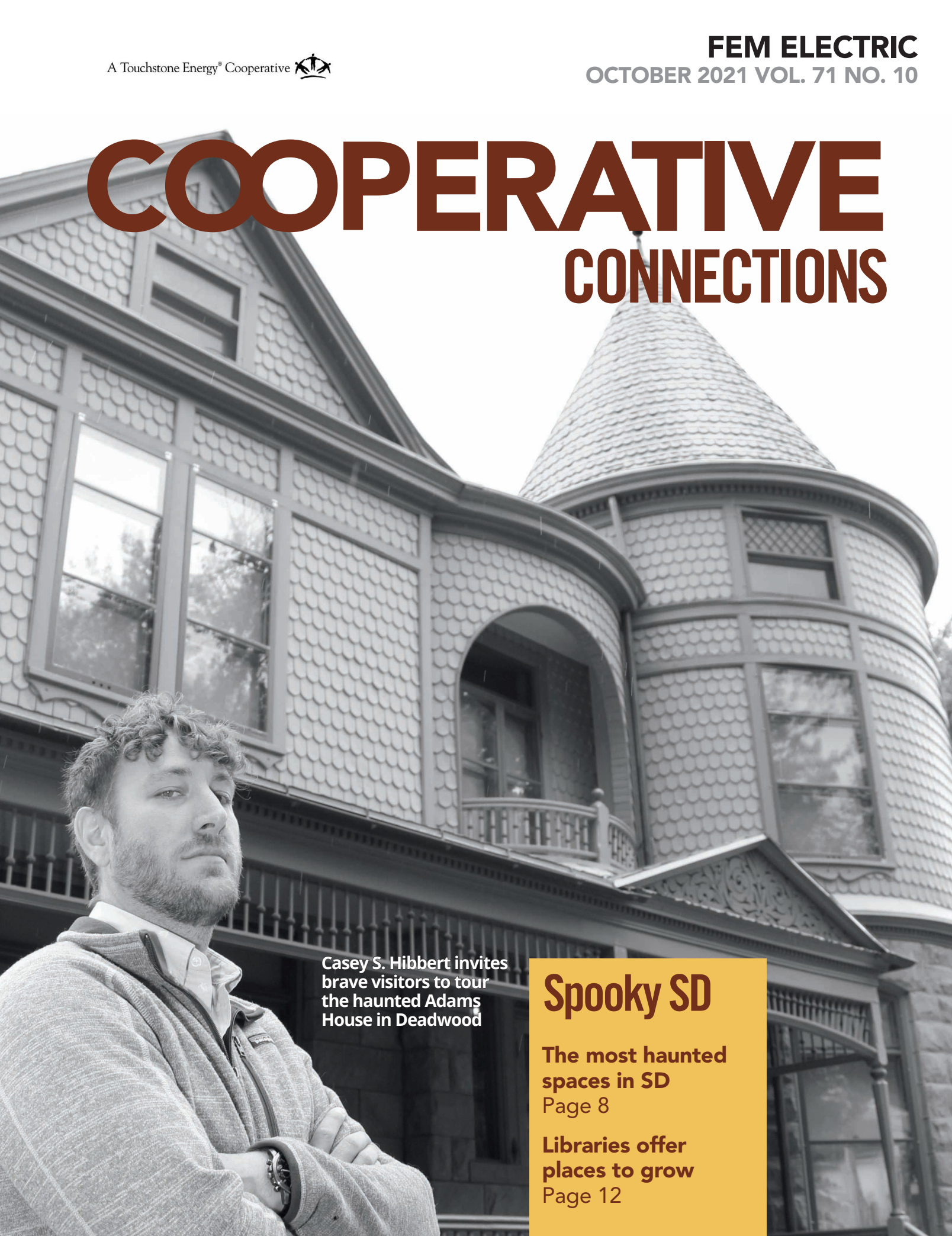


COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Casey S. Hibbert invites
brave visitors to tour
the haunted Adams
House in Deadwood

Spooky SD

**The most haunted
spaces in SD**

Page 8

**Libraries offer
places to grow**

Page 12

BOARD REPORT



A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, South Dakota at 8:30 a.m. on August 24, 2021, pursuant to due call and notice. It being determined that a quorum was present, President Gary Bachman called the meeting to order. Secretary Eric Odenbach kept minutes of the meeting. The following directors were declared present by roll call: Gary Bachman, Tom Thorpe, Paula Petersen, Kelly Melius, Eric Odenbach (Teleconference), General Manager/CEO Scott Moore, Line Superintendent Rob Vetch, Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer, Lineman Ryan Holien, and Journeyman Lineman Jesse Brown. President Gary Bachman welcomed guest employee Barb Schaefer.

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to approve administrative business.

Changes to the agenda: Revised agenda was handed out

Changes/Additions to Minutes from June 14, 2021, meeting: none.

Next Meeting Date: After a review of calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of

the board would be on Monday, September 20, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Paula Petersen, seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to acknowledge manager, staff, and electrical department reports.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to enter executive session at 9:57 a.m. Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to leave executive session at 11:32 a.m.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve 2022 benefit package as presented.

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Paula Peterson to approve Manager/CEO performance appraisal.

The board acknowledged completing and performing board self-appraisals.

The July East River Cyber Security Report was acknowledged.

Resolutions, Nominations, and Contracts: Motion by Paula Petersen, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve

review of policies 601 Membership in Affiliated Organization, 602 Pole line Attachment, 603 Donation and Advertising, 604 Meeting Room Policy, and 605 Emergency Services.

Eric Odenbach nominated Tom Thorpe as NRECA Region 6 Voting Delegate and Paula Petersen as Alternate Region 6 NRECA Voting Delegate; motion seconded by Kelly Melius and unanimous ballot was cast.

The board acknowledged receipt of District 6 NISC notice of board nominations.

Paula Petersen nominated Gary Bachman as Basin Annual meeting Voting Delegate and Tom Thorpe as Alternate Voting Delegate; motion seconded by Kelly Melius and unanimous ballot was cast.

The board acknowledged Notice of CFC Regional Meeting.

Kelly Melius nominated Tom Thorpe as CFC Region 6 Voting Delegate and Paula Petersen as Alternate Region 6 Voting Delegate; motion seconded by Eric Odenbach and unanimous ballot was cast.

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve Basin Load Forecast resolution.

Motion by Eric Odenbach, seconded by Kelly Melius to approve Justin Larson, Angie Sieh, Jesse Brown, Perry Ptacek, Josh Weigel, and Crystal Thorson as 2022 Wellness committee.

Board report continued pg 6

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS**

**FEM ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION**

(USPS 189-720)

Board of Directors

Gary Bachman, President
Tom Thorpe, Vice President
Eric Odenbach, Secretary
Paula Petersen, Treasurer
Kelly Melius, Asst. Sec./Treasurer
Vaughn Beck, Attorney

CEO/General Manager

Scott Moore
info@femelectric.coop

Management Staff

Rob Vetch, Line Superintendent
Rhonda Tuscherer, Director of
Finance and Benefits

Editor's e-mail:

schaffner@femelectric.coop

FEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc., 800 5th Ave., Ipswich, SD 57451. FEM Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

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Design assistance by SDREA

**FEM Electric is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer.**



Scott Moore
General Manager/CEO

At the end of August, Mother Nature reminded us that the skies can open up and it can rain. Unfortunately, along with the moisture, some areas in our service territory got hit with damaging wind and hail which has never been a productive weather event.

If you read this article often, you may notice I usually don't write about our monthly or year-to-date financials. We report this at the end of the year and in the annual report. I believe that is why you vote for directors, and they hire a manager to make sure we are providing safe, reliable, and affordable power. At this time, I want to do a mid-year financial update. Here is where we have been and where we are in 2021.

In 2019, FEM Electric's year-to-date financials ran in the red for twelve months until the books were closed on December 31, 2019. With record sales in November and December, we ended 2019 with an allocated margin of \$210,032.00, meeting our banking requirements. In 2020, we started the year strong and kept strong sales throughout the year and finished with allocated margins of \$664,496.00. As of the end of July, we are operating in the red \$210,000.00. We have decreased sales and I do not look for record

breaking crop or a drying season, but only time will tell.

Management, staff, and your board review the financials each month and will continue to have discussions as we work through the 2022 annual budget. We have no plans to make any electrical rate adjustments in 2021, but there is a possibility we may need to adjust electrical rates early in 2022.

As I attended several of our national association's meetings virtually, I concluded phrases must be in for speakers. "Make your own headlines" one speaker said. Today I believe we have many great headlines; we just have to be willing to open up and find the good news/headlines. Local or family headlines are different from regional or national, but just as important. Telling the kids or grandkids "good job". Is there a better headline? When younger, I tried to stay out of the headlines, or coffee shop talk, as my mother and grandmother were not usually impressed with my late-night activities/headlines.

"The good old days", this can mean many things to almost everyone. It depends on if you are referring to the 1930's, 40's, maybe the 60's and 70's.

Manager's report continued pg 7

**Statement
Mailing Dates**

Sept. 29, 2021 for Sept.'s energy

Oct. 28, 2021 for Oct.'s energy

Regardless of the statement mail out date, payments are due in the office by the 9th of the following month.

Practice fire safety this fall and winter

When the weather turns colder, you inevitably start hearing more news about house fires. Even a small fire can be devastating.

Most house fires are caused by cooking that gets out of hand, according to the National Fire Protection Association. But the second most common cause is materials in the home that catch fire. This often occurs when a heat source, such as a space heater or flying embers from a fireplace, comes into contact with fabric or paper, which then ignite. Once a fire starts, it can move so rapidly that even the best efforts to put it out may fail.

When it comes to old houses, the risks are even higher. The older the wood is that a house is constructed of, the faster it burns. Once flames invade the walls of an old house, they move with frightening speed.

Fire protection in any home is absolutely necessary, but even more careful precautions should be taken if your house is older. Here's how to help ensure the safety of your house and everyone in it.

Smoke detectors. These are the first and best line of defense; they allow you to get out of the house at the first whiff of smoke. The NFPA found that six in 10 deaths in house fires occurred in homes that did not have working smoke detectors. Go beyond the federal recommendations and put a smoke detector in every room. Stay on the even safer side by opting for those that detect both smoke and carbon monoxide.

Fire extinguishers. Keep small fires from getting out of control with fire extinguishers that are easily accessible. Choose several fire extinguishers that are light enough for even kids to handle. Make sure they have simple pull mechanisms that don't require much strength. Look for fire extinguishers that work for various parts of the house; for instance, an extinguisher in the kitchen should be able to handle grease fires.

Install arc-fault interrupters. These ingenious little gadgets detect the electrical arcing that occurs when an old wire buried deep in your wall begins to fail. Speak with an electrician about where best to install interrupters and how your particular ones work.

Maintain it all. Finally, test everything on a regular basis. Smoke detectors should be tested every month, their batteries replaced every six months, and old smoke detectors replaced every 10 years. Opt to purchase an extra fire extinguisher so your family can take it to the backyard and practice using it.

Have a plan. What if the worst happens and those smoke detectors go off? Have a plan to get out fast. Make sure those on upper floors have a fire ladder that can get them safely to the ground. Designate a meeting place for all family members, and practice your safety plan at least once every six months.

Does all of this sound like overkill? It's not! Fire safety is imperative year-round for every home. Your home deserves to have the care required to keep it safe and sturdy, but more importantly, your family deserves the peace of mind that comes from knowing they are protected in an emergency.

WE'VE GOT SD COVERED



South Dakota's electric cooperatives deliver affordable, reliable power to our members in every corner of the state. But we do so much more!

Visit our Co-op Connections Plus YouTube channel and you'll see co-ops in action providing valuable consumer information at Dakotafest and the South Dakota State Fair. You'll see co-ops at local community events and youth leadership programs. We've got South Dakota covered!

Simply scan the QR code to the right and be sure to subscribe!



Call 811 before you dig!

Fletcher Nutt

Fletcher reminds readers of Cooperative Connections to be sure to call 811 before digging. Fletcher's parents are Donald Nutt and Amanda Larron of Sioux Falls.

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.

PERFECT PASTA PICKS

RATTLESNAKE PASTA

Ingredients:

1/4 c buttery spread
 2 T all-purpose flour
 3/4 c dairy milk
 1/2 c vegetable broth
 1 T vegetable base
 1/2 c Parmesan cheese, shredded
 salt, to taste (optional)
 pepper, to taste (optional)
 1/4 c pickled jalapeno slices
 3 T minced garlic
 10 oz. cooked rotisserie chicken, shredded
 1 green bell pepper, sliced
 1 red bell pepper, sliced
 1 handful fresh cilantro, minced
 1 pound whole-wheat linguini, cooked

METHOD

In medium pot, melt buttery spread then add flour; mix well. Slowly add dairy milk and vegetable broth, stirring well. Add vegetable base and Parmesan cheese; heat slowly until thickened. Add salt and pepper, to taste, if desired. Add jalapenos, garlic, bell peppers and roasted chicken; heat thoroughly. Serve over cooked linguini.

Family Features

HERB BAKED CHICKEN AND PASTA

Ingredients:

2 cups uncooked medium pasta, such as rotini, penne or ziti
 1 pound uncooked boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch cubes
 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
 1 1/2 cups water
 1 package McCormick® Italian Herb Baked Chicken & Pasta Seasoning Mix
 1 can (14 1/2 ounces) petite diced tomatoes, undrained

METHOD

Preheat oven to 375°F. Place pasta, chicken and 1 cup of the cheese in 13x9-inch baking dish. Mix water, Seasoning Mix and tomatoes until well blended. Pour over pasta and chicken. Stir to coat well, making sure most of the pasta is covered with sauce. Cover with foil. Bake 45 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Remove foil and stir. Sprinkle with remaining 1 cup cheese. Bake, uncovered, 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Let stand 5 minutes. (Sauce will continue to thicken upon standing.)
mccormick.com

SPAGHETTI PIE

Ingredients:

6 oz. spaghetti
 2 T. butter
 2 well beaten eggs
 1/3 c. Parmesan cheese
 1 c. cottage cheese
 1 lb. ground beef
 1/4 c. chopped green pepper
 1/2 c. chopped onion
 2 c. chopped tomatoes
 1 tsp. sugar
 1 tsp. oregano
 1/2 tsp. garlic salt
 1/2 c. shredded mozzarella

METHOD

Cook spaghetti, drain. Stir in butter, Parmesan cheese and eggs. In buttered 10 inch pie plate, form the mixture into a crust. Spread the cottage cheese over crust. Cook beef until browned. Drain fat. Stir tomatoes, sugar, oregano and garlic salt into cooked beef. Put all in spaghetti crust. Bake 350 degrees for 25 minutes. Add mozzarella and cook five minutes more or until cheese is melted. Bulk sausage may replace ground beef.

Linda Sherry, Sioux Falls

Please send your favorite dairy 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 2021. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Board report continued

Board acknowledged Notice of East River Annual Meeting.

Motion by Paula Petersen, seconded by Kelly Melius to leave RESCO voting Delegates as required.

Membership Business: The board acknowledged the following membership business as presented:

New Memberships, Member Cancellations and Contracts:

Disconnects: Martha Finkbeiner, Pierre, Active farm; Corey Eberhart, Java, Vacant farm;

Reconnects: Michael Finkbeiner, Roscoe, Active farm; Josh Raile, Eureka, Vacant farm;

Contracts: Jordan Holt, Mina, House; Pat Zens, Redfield, Pasture Pump; Greg Preszler, Roscoe, 3 phase bin site

Retired locations: none

Capital Credits: Estates – August 2021 – one = \$295.40

73 & Older – August 2021 - one = \$78.64

Financial Business: The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information: Check register for the month of July 2021 contained information on checks #31735 through #31824 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for July 2021 totaling \$470,520.15.

July 2021 financials were reviewed.

The board acknowledged receipt of 2020 Form 990 and it was reviewed. Capital Credits from NRTC were reviewed.

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve director and attorney fees.


Legal Update: none

Meeting Report: East River board update was given by Gary Bachman. Paula Petersen and Gary Bachman gave a report on SDREA Co-op Board Leadership Summit.

The board acknowledged the receipt of the Safety Meeting Minutes from June 26, 2021. The board also acknowledged receiving written minutes of August 13, 2021, Employee meeting minutes. The board packet also included current accident and near miss reports.

Adjourn: President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Manager's report continued

I do think most people have memories of the good old days, but probably talking about different decades depending on their age. If old enough to remember, think of 1990, thirty-one years-ago, what and how you operated or lived. It is amazing how things changed in many aspects of your life.

One speaker said, "The best days are in front of us." The speaker may be right, but my question is, "What is wrong with today?" We are extremely fortunate to live in the greatest country and state. If you don't believe that, you are free to move. No matter what your religion, gender, financial situation, or political beliefs, you can get an education and improve your life if you choose to. We may not agree on every topic, but we are free to have the conversation.

I believe we need to learn from the past, plan for the future, but live for today. We need to continue to open opportunities for our young adults entering the work force and keep South Dakota economy strong. South Dakotan's urban/rural working together will only make our state better and stronger.

If you have the chance to give an acquaintance a positive comment or encouragement, please take the time and do it. We can live for today and make someone else's day a good day.

Fall harvest will be starting shortly, so please do a safety inspection around your equipment and bin sites so we can have a safe fall harvest.

As we start to wrap up construction projects for 2021 and look towards 2022, please call early if you are planning on adding any electrical load. Many supply lines have not caught up to demand, so planning early is your best option for a successful project completion.



Scott Moore

FEM Electric Manager/CEO

This is an odd subject, but as I passed by a well-kept cemetery, I had a flash back of a good friend of mine who started a lawn care business, Ken's Lawn Care, while in junior high. He had a push mower, a NEW John Deere #68 riding mower, probably with a 30-inch cut, and lawn scissors. These scissors had about a six-inch cut and were hand operated. He then took on a contract to mow not one, but two cemeteries in our community. Trimming each headstone by hand, while employing his younger sister, now a FEM Electric member, Mary Beth (Mertens) Hoffman, Leola, SD, to complete the mowing multiple times throughout the summer.

I know Ken, many homeowners, and lawncare professionals can appreciate George Ballas of Huston, Texas. George invented and patented the first weedeater in 1972. By 1977, sales exceeded eighty million dollars; what a concept!

Due to the weed eater, we no longer had to crawl on our knees and operate the lawn scissors with our hand muscles. Ken's mowing service was the owner of the first weedeater in Kennebec, SD and I'm sure in Lyman County. Thank you to George Ballas and Ken Mertens for showing us a better and more efficient way to trim around our landscaping.

Note:

The bigger projects required hand scythes/weed wackers operated by the muscles in your shoulders. Usually in late July, as a young gentleman, title - weed manager, I was sent out to lower the weeds by the outbuildings and grain bins. By this time of year, the kochia weeds were about four feet tall, stems about the size of a pop can, pollinating, one-hundred-degree temperature or hotter, and mosquitoes the size of hummingbirds. Those were the "Good old days".



SEARCHING FOR SPOOKS

Casey S. Hibbert peers out into the natural world through a window in the top floor of the haunted Adams House in Deadwood. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

Paranormal enthusiasts search for signs of the hereafter in SD's haunted spaces

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Those eerie, creaky footsteps heard coming from the stairwell in Deadwood's historic Adams House could be the restless spirit of former owner W.E. Adams. Or they could simply be a figment of the imagination.

Maurice "Mo" Miller isn't going to try to convince you either way. He just wants to collect evidence that there was in fact an unexplained sound and let you draw your own conclusions.

Miller is founder and lead sleuth of the Black Hills Paranormal Investigations team. He and his six-member squad aren't out to bust ghosts or chase mischievous spirits away. They only want to make a friendly connection with inhabitants of the afterlife, maybe say hello and spend some quality time together.

For the past 10 years, Miller and his crew have been conducting their missions all across the Black Hills area and have logged scores of audio recordings and other evidence they offer as possible proof of the existence of the hereafter.

Every October, Miller invites fearless guests to accompany the investigators on their missions. But he often warns visitors beforehand: Don't come dressed in a Dracula costume or some silly getup - this is serious business.

"This isn't a dog-and-pony show," Miller said. "We never do investigations with the public on Halloween because people will come dressed up as a vampire or a witch and think it's the county fair. The shows on TV are for entertainment. We have fun, but we don't contrive things for entertainment value and promise we'll deliver a ghost in a jar or yank one out into the open with a hook."

Miller developed a passion for the paranormal when he had an unexplained experience as a youngster.

"I was in my bedroom and - I don't know how or why it happened - the closet door blew off the hinges and went flying across the room. My parents thought the door came down because I'd been swinging on it like a monkey. I was a little unnerved and slept on the couch for a month. But I started reading academic material on the subject to see if there was really something to this paranormal thing, and it's been my passion ever since."

The BHPI team has several black metal cases, or "spirit boxes" full of devices, contraptions and gizmos they use to detect the presence of wandering ghosts. There are electromagnetic field meters, binoptic cameras, infrared static cameras, digital audio recorders and more.

They've completed investigations of many haunted places in Deadwood and the surrounding area such as the Homestake Opera House, the Bullock Hotel, the Brothel Deadwood, the Lucky Nugget Casino and others.



Black Hills Paranormal Investigations team member LeAnn Harlan keeps an eye out for spirits during a recent visit to a private residence in Spearfish. Above/right, a device used by BHPI triggers when spirits are detected nearby.

As far as the fear factor goes, Miller said during late-night investigations he often finds himself keeping a close eye on BHPI Case Manager Mark Shadley, a retired police sergeant and seasoned law enforcement officer. If the former lawman starts showing

selling author Ann Charles, but there are many other famously haunted places and spaces around the state.

Author Chad Lewis has been researching paranormal activity in South Dakota, across the region, and around world for nearly 30 years and has written 25 books on the supernatural, including *The South Dakota Road Guide to Haunted Locations* as part of his “Unexplained” series. While Lewis has made many television appearances, he often speaks to local audiences and calls attention to some of the lesser known haunted sites such as Devil’s Gulch in Garretson and Spirit Mound State Historic Prairie near Vermillion.

“Spirit Mound’s legends date back as far as Lewis and Clark. In their journals, they wrote that once arriving upon Spirit Mound, their guides would go no further as they feared small creatures that looked like little people and were very good with poisonous arrows.”

He has explored many haunted sites in the Hills such as the Mount Moriah Cemetery and the Keystone Mount View Cemetery at the foot of Mount Rushmore. But Lewis has also studied spooky places in eastern South Dakota such as the Orpheum Theatre and Old Minnehaha Courthouse in Sioux Falls, Mount Marty College and Dakota

Visit these haunted sites if you dare

Here is our Top 10 list of the eeriest, scariest, most haunted places in South Dakota. Enter at your own risk:

- Bullock Hotel - Deadwood
- Adams House - Deadwood
- Old Minnehaha Courthouse Museum - Sioux Falls
- Dakota Theater - Yankton
- Hotel Alex Johnson - Rapid City
- Sioux San Hospital - Rapid City
- Lucky Nugget Casino - Deadwood
- Homestake Opera House - Lead
- Eastons Castle - Aberdeen
- Mount Marty College - Yankton



BHPI lead investigator Maurice “Mo” Miller discusses strategy with Deb Sutton and Kayleigh Johnson.

signs of fright or starts heading for the door, then it’s probably time to scam.

The Black Hills area is often considered a hotbed of paranormal activity of the kind depicted in local folklore and in the tales spun by best-

Theatre in Yankton, Eastons Castle in Aberdeen and others.

With Halloween coming up, Lewis encourages anyone interested in all things unexplained to get out and explore haunted sites and also to learn more about the history, lore and culture of different locations.

“I think people should venture out and see things for themselves and make their own determinations,” he said. “If you go out to Spirit Mound, make sure to leave an offering like a shiny rock or candy for the Little People. This will protect you from them getting followed home.”



Community born. Community led. Focused on YOU.

October is National Co-op Month!

The cooperative difference is what sets us apart from other businesses.

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and *FEM Electric* all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National

Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, *FEM Electric* was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1946, a group of neighbors banded together and organized

our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee of \$5 to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had, but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include every-

one to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socio-economic status.

Careers in Energy Week is October 18-22

Consider a career in the Energy Industry:
Accountants
Engineers
Mechanics
Safety Managers
Communications
Environmental

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. FEM's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as

a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of FEM Electric. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative princi-

ples, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

FEM Electric is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place.

LET'S GET TO WORK.
THE ENERGY SECTOR OFFERS MORE THAN 100 CAREER SPECIALTIES.





A PLACE TO GROW

Public libraries across the state continue to serve the needs of their communities as places to go for a wide range of experiences.

South Dakota's public library system grows and adapts to an ever-changing cultural and technological landscape

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The state's public library system got its start even before there was a state.

In 1886, three years before South Dakota achieved statehood, the Howard Public Library was chartered and quickly became a point of pride for the people of present-day Miner County.

The contents of the library have long since been relocated to a modern facility in the town's Municipal Building, but the original structure can still be visited at Prairie Village in nearby Madison.

As the first of its kind in the state, the Howard Public Library is still a thriving entity and serves as a testament to the versatility and resiliency of the state's library system. Standing strong through world wars, recessions, depressions, funding pressures, political challenges and

changes in culture and contemporary lifestyles, South Dakota's libraries are still delivering the goods - and the books - in their respective communities.

Mary K. Schlim is the head librarian in Howard and says the community takes a lot of pride in being home to the state's first facility. She takes an optimistic view of the future of libraries...as long as they continue to adapt.

"I think libraries have a bright future," she said. "You just have to keep updating and modernizing and keeping up with the trends and the technology. We have the computers, but we're adding new books all the time. There will always be demand from people who want an actual, physical book to read. There will always be a need for libraries."

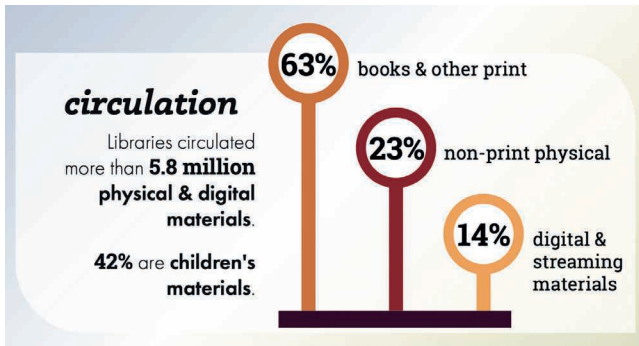
Schlim said her facility is open six days a week with more than 14,000 books on the shelves, five public

computers with internet access, 37 subscriptions to magazines and periodicals, and free WiFi access.

In the year prior to the pandemic, 3.7 million visits were made to the state's 107 public libraries while nearly half the state's residents held a library card. In 2019, more than 600 of the state's citizens were employed at a public library, and a collective 5.8 million digital and physical materials were circulated.

Brenda Hemmelman, access and development services director for the state library system, said libraries return \$4 in various programs and services for every \$1 invested. She describes libraries as a sound investment in communities large and small.

Hemmelman recently announced the distribution of nearly \$2 million in grant money disbursed to a total of 78 public, local school and academic libraries across the state. The grant money came from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.



“This will help our libraries invest in infrastructure, technology and materials that will serve their patrons through modern, innovative facilities and practices well into the future,” Hemmelman said.

Grant-funded items include the following:

- Technology to replace old computer equipment
- Podcasting equipment
- Digitization equipment
- Books, audio books, e-books
- 3D printers and other makerspace equipment
- Furniture with embedded technology
- Library automation software
- SMART boards/Promethean boards for classroom teaching and displays.

The state system also purchased an additional \$76,000 worth of audiobooks and e-books for the South Dakota



Titles to Go (SDTTG) consortium with funds from IMLS through ARPA. Hemmelman said SDTTG program usage increased 18 percent from 2019 to 2020 as users checked out more than 400,000 titles.

Hemmelman said libraries face an ongoing challenge to remain relevant and useful in a rapidly changing technological

landscape. She said libraries were fortunate to receive the recent grant money after 96 percent of the state’s facilities closed temporarily during the pandemic.

She was quick to note, however, that 86 percent continued to provide public services even though the physical facility may have been closed. More than 80 percent provided outside or curbside checkout services and all of them increased access to digital materials.

For Hemmelman, those indicators point to a promising future for the state’s public library system.

STATE LIBRARY DIGITIZES 41 VOLUMES OF SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS



As the South Dakota State Historical Society celebrates its 120th year, the South Dakota State Library has digitized all 41 volumes of the South Dakota Historical Collections. From 1902 to 1982, this series was published biennially by the Department of History (now the South Dakota State Historical Society) as part of its mission to collect, preserve and make accessible the history of the state. All 41 volumes are now available via the Featured Collections section of the South Dakota State Library’s Digital Collections.

These volumes cover a wide array of topics and are a valuable resource for students, teachers, and scholarly researchers. Six editors presided over the South Dakota Historical Collections during its run, including Doane Robinson, Will G. Robinson and Dayton Canaday. Their different editing styles and interests are evident throughout the volumes. Taken as a whole, the series represents an evolution in perspectives on the state’s history, heritage and culture. In 1989, an index to the collection was compiled and published to aid researchers.

The South Dakota State Library serves as the state’s depository for current and historical state agency publications, some of which go back to territorial days.

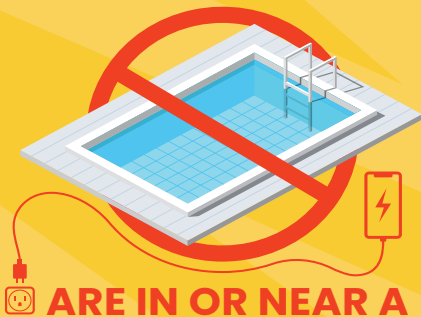
The South Dakota State Library’s Digital Collections reflect the history and culture of South Dakota. Primarily of interest to librarians, researchers, and genealogists, the digital collections include newspaper articles, South Dakota library photographs, state government annual reports and research reports, South Dakota Codified Laws, Session Laws, House and Senate Journals and more. Access the collections at: sdsdl-montage.auto-graphics.com/.

A TIME TO CHARGE AND A TIME TO UNPLUG

FOUR PLACES NOT TO USE A PLUGGED-IN DEVICE

We use our cell phones, tablets and other devices so often that they are often an extension of our hands. There are a few places where using a device that is plugged into an outlet can be hazardous, however.

DO NOT USE A CELL PHONE OR OTHER DEVICE WHEN IT IS PLUGGED INTO AN OUTLET WHEN YOU:



ARE IN OR NEAR A POOL OR HOT TUB
Water and electricity are a deadly combination. Electrical current running through water can cause shock or electrocution.



ARE IN THE TUB OR BY THE SINK
Never extend your cell phone or device so that you can reach it while bathing; also, do not plug it in near standing or running water.



ARE IN BED OR OTHER SOFT PLACES
A device can overheat when placed on or under a pillow or soft bedding. Also, charging cubes and cords can malfunction, causing burns, shock or other serious injuries.



HEAR THUNDER OR LIGHTNING
Lightning can cause power surges that are not only harmful to electrical (charging) devices but also to you.

LEARN MORE AT: 



Pictured left are the newly designed water bottles for FEM's distribution. Students are asked to submit entries from which 4 are chosen to be attached to the new year's supply. The goal is that everyone will read the Safety Message as they enjoy the refreshment.

School year 2021-2022 Water Distribution

August 23rd and 24th, FEM Electric was again busy delivering pallets of water to the area schools in our territory. These bottles contain 'Safety' messages and are provided free of charge for the school organizations to use by selling them at events to make money for the individual organization's needs.

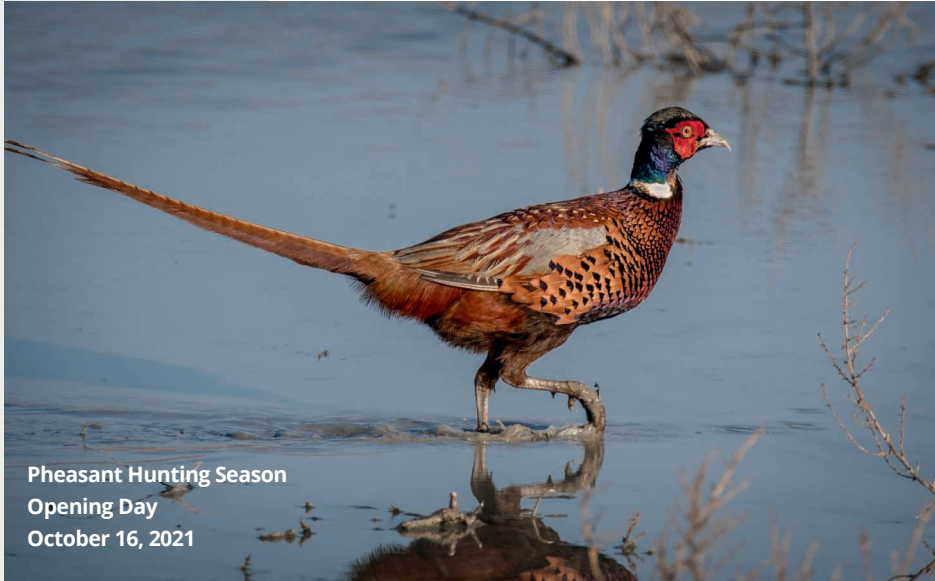
It's a win for everyone involved. The school organizations can use them for fund-raising and FEM gets the opportunity to put a safety reminder in a lot of people's hands. FEM hopes that by distributing these water bottles, the message of electrical safety will be spread through-out the area communities and even further.

Please make sure to purchase these unique bottles of water at your next school event and take special note of the message they share!

*FEM,
Thank you for the water and napkins for the 2021 Leola Rhubarb Festival. The water was very helpful for the workers and kids at the inflatables. Our event went very well. We appreciate your support.
Leola Development Corporation*

*On behalf of the Arts program in Leola. I would like to thank you very much for the donation of bottled water to be used at the Mollie B concert in June. We appreciate your generosity very much. The concert was a huge hit!
Jolene Waltman*

*FEM Scholarship Committee,
I would like to thank you for selecting me to be the recipient of the scholarship for the class of 2021. The scholarship will help to relieve the financial burden of a college education. I look forward to my future and the opportunities this scholarship has helped to provide! Thanks again!
Milly Cunningham*



**Pheasant Hunting Season
Opening Day
October 16, 2021**

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.

SEPTEMBER 25

Great Downtown Pumpkin Festival
526 Main Street, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

SEPTEMBER 25-26

Menno Pioneer Power Show
Menno, SD, contact Daniel at mennopowershow@yahoo.com for more details

SEPTEMBER 25-26

Reza: Edge of Illusion
Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center, Brookings, SD, tickets on sale at <http://www.RezaLive.com>

SEPTEMBER 30

7th Annual Taste of Sioux Falls
Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 3

Festival of Books
Various Locations, Deadwood, SD, 605-688-6113

OCTOBER 1-2

Oktoberfest
Various Locations, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

OCTOBER 1-3

SiouxperCon
1201 N West Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD, visit siouxpercon.com for more details and tickets

OCTOBER 2-3

Fort Pierre Horse Races
Stanley County Fairgrounds, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-223-2178

OCTOBER 7-10

Annual Great Scarecrow Festival
Campbell Park, Huron, SD, 605-354-0491

OCTOBER 8-9

Junkin' Market Days
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-941-4958

OCTOBER 8-10

Pumpkin Festival
Country Apple Orchard, Harrisburg, SD, 605-743-2424

OCTOBER 9-10

Sioux Falls Quilters' Guild Bi-annual Quilt Show - "Fall in Love with Quilting"
Sioux Falls Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD, for more info visit siouxfallsquiltersguild.com or send an email to sfqg2021show@gmail.com

OCTOBER 11

Native American Day Celebration
Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

OCTOBER 16-17

Heartland Quilter's Guild
Highland Conference Center, Mitchell SD, Contact Karen at 605-996-6726 for more info

OCTOBER 16-17

KELOLAND Living Arts & Crafts Show
Best Western Plus Exhibit Hall & Annex, Sioux Falls, SD, email events@keloland.com for more info

OCTOBER 22-23

Governor's South Dakota Showcase
1201 N West Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-773-3301

OCTOBER 29-30

Deadweird
Various Locations, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

OCTOBER 30

16th Holiday Shopping Extravaganza
Davison County Fairgrounds, Mitchell, SD, call Cindy at 605-999-8563 for more info

OCTOBER 30

Scare in the Square
Main Street Square, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

OCTOBER 30

Yankton's Harvest Halloween
Downtown, Yankton, SD, email mandi@bostonsyankton.com for more info

NOVEMBER 13

Sisseton Area Merchants & Crafters Holiday Open House Extravaganza
Sisseton, SD, call Beverly at 605-698-7425 for more info

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