

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

## Mitchell Tech Expansion

**Co-ops Support  
New Training Lab**

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**Weather Warnings**

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*Photo submitted by  
Mitchell Technical College*



FEM staff meet with the board of directors at the June board meeting.

## June 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 June 19, 2025, 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 the minutes of the meeting. The following directors were declared present by roll call: Gary Bachman, Paula Petersen, Eric Odenbach, Tom Thorpe, Kelly Melius. Operations Manager Sean Christiansen, Electrical Manager Ryan Holien, Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer, and CEO Scott Moore.

**Guest Employee:** Perry Ptacek

**Changes to the agenda:** Add Hazard Mitigation Grant Program award-4656-HM0019R

**Changes/Additions to Minutes from May 15, 2025, meeting:** None

**Next Meeting Date:** After a review of the calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of the board would be on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

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

administrative business.

The board acknowledges the manager, and staff reports along with East River Electric load management report.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve work Order Inventories:  
#620: \$235,890.78  
#621: \$613,786.69

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve Hazard Mitigation Grant Program award-4656-HM0019R.

May 2025 Cyber Security Report was acknowledged.

### Resolutions and Contracts:

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to approve Policies: #307 Three Phase Large Load, # 309 Irrigation, # 310 Large Power Standby Service, and # 317 Purchase of Interruptible Power 5/7.

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to nominate Tom Thorpe as East River Voting Delegate and Scott Moore as Alternate Voting Delegate.

The board acknowledged receiving notice of Federated board nominations and

election.

### Membership Business:

Board acknowledged membership business.

### New Memberships, Member Cancellations and Contracts:

**Disconnects:** Greg & Donna Gisi, Ipswich, SD, Active Farm; John & Sally Blomster, Wetonka, SD, Active Farm; Tammy Lowe & Bill Kirschenmann, Watertown, SD, Active Farm; Shano'Lea Jeschke, Kalispell, MT, Active Farm; Elaine Geier, Bowdle, SD, Active Farm; Beth Schwab, Aberdeen, SD, Active Farm; Peter Helfenstein Jr., Aberdeen, SD, Active Farm; Scott & Amy Carlson, Seneca, SD, 2x Grain Bin

**Reconnects:** Cody & Kelle Scarrott, Ipswich, SD, Active Farm; SAJO Acres, LLC, Wetonka, SD, Active Farm; Snowy Prairie Farms, LLC, Watertown, SD, Active Farm; Floyd & Bonnie Hoffman, Ipswich, SD, Active Farm; James & Lisa Geier, Bowdle, SD, Active Farm; Kelsea & Gil Schwab, Mina, SD, Active Farm; Becky & Jodie Michaelsohn, Aberdeen, SD, Active Farm; Carlson Farms Specialty Products, Seneca, SD, 2x Grain Bin

**Contracts:** JOCO Farms, LLC, Aberdeen, SD, Shop; Gregg & Darci Zwart, Ipswich, SD, House; Charles Gauer, Ipswich, SD, Shop; Chad Haar, Bowdle, SD, House

**Retired Locations:** Damian & Martha Kappenman, Eureka, SD, Active Farm; James Valley Telephone Co-op, Aberdeen, SD, Commercial; Steve Schurr, Roscoe, SD, Grain Bin

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to approve four line construction contracts with JOCO Farms, LLC, Gregg and Darci Zwart, Charles Gauer, Chad Haar.

*Continued on page 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. Secretary/  
Treasurer  
Vaughn Beck, Attorney

#### CEO/General Manager

Scott Moore  
info@femelectric.coop

#### Management Staff

Sean Christiansen  
*Operations Manager*  
Ryan Holien  
*Electrical Manager*  
Rhonda Tuscherer  
*Director of Finance and  
Benefits*

#### Editor's e-mail:

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



**Scott Moore**  
**General Manager/CEO**

If you attended FEM Electric's annual meeting on June 24, 2025, thank you. Board President Gary Bachman announced this will be his last year to serve on FEM Electric's board, Gary plans to step down in June 2026. If you have an interest in serving it would be best to reach out to Gary Bachman or Scott Moore for more information. At FEM Electric's July board meeting the board will set the date for the 2026 annual meeting. There are two processes for getting on the ballot through the nominating process and a petition process. The FEM Electric board and management would encourage anyone with an interest in current and the future of energy production to come and have a conversation.

At the annual meeting I asked members to call the office if their contact information changed such as phone number or email address along with reminding members to contact the office if you have or are experiencing power interruptions. I also mentioned

phone, email, or mail scams. You may think this can't happen in South Dakota, but it does. FEM Electric contracts with our power provider East River Electric for IT services which include monitoring and protecting FEM Electric and our members' information. About ten years ago, East River IT was capturing several hundred thousand suspicious emails per day. Last month the numbers were 14.2 to 19.1 million emails per day. With all the new technology and artificial intelligence (AI) I believe the numbers will continue to climb.

Summer construction projects are going well, and with recent rains, pastures and crop lands are looking good also. FEM Electric was notified that we were awarded a State Hazard Mitigation grant to install three miles of three phase line in Faulk County to replace aging overhead line. This grant is 85% paid by FEMA mitigation money and 15% FEM Electric funds. This grant fund was created to replace infrastructure in South

*Continued on page 6*

#### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@FEMEelectric on

@fem\_electric on

@FEMEelectric on

We'll post outage updates, safety tips, news and more to keep our members informed on all the latest from FEM Electric.

## Statement Mailing Dates

August 28, 2025 for August's energy  
September 30, 2025 for September's energy

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

# 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.

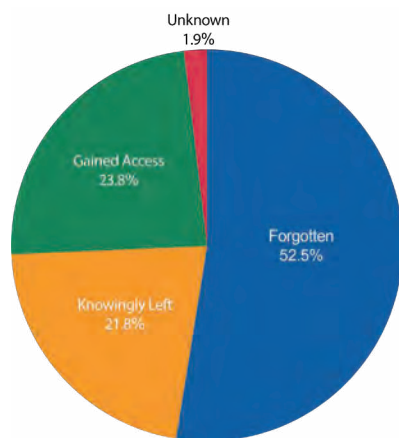
## How Does It Happen?

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.



**"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 Tuscherer  
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.





FEM Scholarship,

Thank you for awarding me the FEM Scholarship and Scholar of the Week. Both are a prestigious honor! Your generous scholarships will be used for college tuition at SDSU.

Thank you for your generosity,  
Max Kulesa

HELLO  
SUMMER

## GRILL SMART:

### Tips for a safe BBQ



Grilling outdoors saves energy and makes summer meals more fun. Grill safe with these simple tips:

#### LOCATION MATTERS:

- Place grills on a stable, flat surface.
- Keep away from homes, decks and branches.
- Grill outdoors only — never inside garages or enclosed spaces.
- Keep kids and pets at least 3 feet away.
- Never leave the grill unattended.

#### FOR GAS GRILLS:

- Check for gas leaks before each season.
- Open the lid before lighting to prevent gas buildup.
- Turn off gas if the flame goes out; wait five minutes before relighting.

#### FOR CHARCOAL GRILLS:

- Only use charcoal starter fluid.
- Never add lighter fluid to a lit fire.
- Let coals cool after use, then dispose in a metal container.

#### FOR ELECTRIC GRILLS:

- Use outdoor-rated grills when cooking outside.
- Never grill in rainy or wet areas.
- Plug into a GFCI outlet for shock protection.
- Check cords for damage before use.

#### CLEANING & MAINTENANCE:

- Clean grease buildup to prevent fires.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- A clean grill = fewer fires + better flavor.

Safe  
Electricity.org®



# 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

### TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Delete deceptive emails. If you receive an email that appears to be from your electric utility but you are unsure about it, delete it. Never click on a link, open an attachment or send a reply to an untrusted source. When in doubt, contact your utility directly to report suspected email scams.

*Source: Utilities United Against Scams*



# DORM ROOM ELECTRICAL SAFETY:

## TIPS FOR A SAFE SEMESTER



Be smart and stay safe. Share these tips with your campus-bound students.

#### ⚡ **DON'T OVERLOAD OUTLETS**

Too much power draw = fire risk.



**Tip:** Plug dorm room fridge directly into wall outlet.

#### ⚡ **UNPLUG WHEN NOT IN USE**

Even when off, devices can still draw power or overheat.



**Tip:** Unplug fans, chargers and appliances when you're out.

#### ⚡ **DECORATE SAFELY**

Don't use nails or tacks to secure cords or light strands.



**Tip:** Use plastic hooks to hang string lights.

#### ⚡ **NEVER CHARGE A PHONE UNDER PILLOWS OR BEDDING**

It could overheat or catch fire.



**Tip:** Create a dedicated charging station in your room.

#### ⚡ **NEVER USE DAMAGED CORDS**

Frayed or cracked cords can spark a fire.



**Tip:** If a cord looks worn, replace it — don't tape it!

#### ⚡ **KEEP CORDS COOL & CLEAR**

Don't run cords under rugs, beds or doorways.



**Tip:** Keep cords visible to avoid overheating.

#### ⚡ **REPORT ELECTRICAL ISSUES FAST**

Flickering lights? Warm outlets?



**Tip:** Tell campus maintenance ASAP; don't wait.

Learn more:

 **Safe  
Electricity.org**



# FARM SAFETY PARTY RETURNS

**ELECTRIC CO-OPS TEAM UP WITH AGTEGRA TO HOST A FARM SAFETY EVENT AT THE BROWN COUNTY FAIR**

The Farm Safety Party is becoming an annual tradition at the Brown County Fair. Joining FEM to celebrate and educate safety will be Lake Region Electric, Northern Electric and Agtegra to host the event.

On August 14th, in the Kid's Zone, there will be safety demonstrations from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. If attending, head southwest of the Odde Ice Arena towards the tent to find the four cooperatives set up and ready to educate.

Eight stations will be set up this year, including electrical PPE, power town, grain safety, ATV safety, fire extinguisher safety, helmet safety, stop the bleed and truck blind spots safety. FEM, Lake Region and Northern Electric will focus on electrical safety for their stations. New in 2025 will be an interactive electricity station set up by East River Electric.



**Thurs Aug 14th  
10 AM - 2 PM  
Brown County Fair  
Kid's Zone (SW of the Odde Ice Arena)**

Each station is geared towards children of all ages. After they make their way through all stations, they'll earn a prize. Be sure to stop by for a chance to learn a bit about safety or get a refresher on staying safe on the farm.



# 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.



FEM Electric held the 77th Annual Meeting of the membership on June 24th, 2025 at the Ipswich School. 140 members attended with guests, and enjoyed meals from Big Fellas of Aberdeen, Pickled Pig of Mellette, and from the Tiger Basketball Group of Ipswich. Dessert was furnished by Anderson's Baking Company of Roscoe.

President Gary Bachman brought the meeting to order and Kelly Melius presented the invocation, and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

President Gary Bachman gave the president's report where he discussed growing costs and power demands within the energy industry.

Paula Petersen reviewed the treasurer's report, and Charli Rawden, who attended the 2025 Youth Tour, thanked the board of directors and members of FEM for allowing her to attend the trip to Washington DC.

Charli Rawden gives a brief recap of her favorite places she toured while on the 2025 Youth Tour. She and three other students in FEM's territory attended the week before the meeting.



Tom Thorpe presented Reese Hadrick and Maxwell Kulesa with certificates for scholarships awarded over the past year. Noah Ingerson, out of nine entries, was awarded the \$500 "Young Adults Light the Way" scholarship drawing for attending the meeting with his parents, Brian and Francie Ingerson of Eureka, SD.

The lucky cash door prize winners were: \$250 - James or Joy Goehring of Ashley, ND, \$100 - Larry or Cheryl Bowar of Faulkton, SD, \$100 - Ron or Patricia Kadlec of Ipswich, SD and \$50 Linderman Farm, LLC of Ipswich, SD.

At the conclusion of the meetings, attending members turned in their last ticket for a \$40 bill credit on their July statement, and were provided with ice cream and bars for dessert.

FEM Electric's board and staff would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting, Big Fellas, Pickled Pig, the Tiger Basketball group, Anderson's Baking Company, the Ipswich Snow Queens, Nate Collins - music teacher at Ipswich School, as well as the Ipswich School for all the services each provided to make the annual meeting a success. We hope to see you all again next year!



Kelly Melius presents Noah Ingerson with the "Young Adults Light the Way" scholarship.



# SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIPS

School buses are among the safest vehicles on the road — but the greatest risk comes when children are getting on or off the bus. **Whether you're a driver, parent or student, knowing these safety tips will help keep everyone safe.**

## FOR DRIVERS:

- **Slow down:** Reduce speed in school zones and near bus stops.
- **Keep your distance:** Stay back at least 10 feet from a school bus — this is the most dangerous area for children.
- **Know the signals:**
  - Yellow flashing lights: bus is preparing to stop. Slow down.
  - Red flashing lights + stop arm: bus is loading/unloading — stop and wait until the bus moves again.
  - Never pass a stopped bus on an undivided road — it's illegal in most states.
- **Stay alert:** Watch for kids who may unexpectedly enter the road, especially near bus stops.
- **Respect the zone:** When flashers are blinking in a school zone, stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and take extra care to look for children near playgrounds, parks and residential areas.

## FOR PARENTS:

Teach your child to arrive at the bus stop at least 5 minutes early, and how to play it SAFE:

- **Stay back at least 10 feet**, or five giant steps, from the curb.
- **Always wait for the bus to stop** and the driver to signal before boarding.
- **Face forward** and buckle up if seat belts are available.
- **Exit carefully**, look both ways and cross in front of the bus — never behind. Make eye contact with the driver before crossing.

As students head back to school, remember: **a moment of caution can prevent a lifetime of regret.**

Learn more:

 **Safe Electricity.org®**

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



*Photo courtesy of Travel South Dakota*

**AUG. 27-SEPT. 1**  
**South Dakota State Fair**  
Huron, SD

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

### **SATURDAYS UNTIL SEPT. 13**

#### **Buggy Museum**

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

### **UNTIL AUG. 10**

#### **Annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show**

Painting, photography,  
beadwork, quillwork  
Red Cloud Indian School  
100 Mission Dr.  
Pine Ridge, SD 57770  
(605) 867-8257

### **JULY 26**

#### **South Dakota Chislic Festival**

Freeman, SD  
[www.sdchislicfestival.com](http://www.sdchislicfestival.com)

### **JULY 26**

#### **Richmond Lake Association's**

**Annual Pontoon Poker Run**  
Aberdeen, SD  
605-225-0609

### **JULY 26**

#### **Fort Sisseton Lantern Tour**

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

### **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. 1-10**

#### **85th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally**

Sturgis, SD

### **AUG. 7-10**

#### **South Dakota Senior Games**

Huron, SD  
605-295-2039  
[southdakotaseniorgames.org](http://southdakotaseniorgames.org)

### **AUG. 9**

#### **Raise 'Em Rank Bull Riding and Breakaway Roping**

Geddes, SD  
605-680-2763

### **AUG. 9**

#### **Day Cty Demolition Derby**

Day Cty Fairgrounds  
6:30 p.m.  
Webster, SD  
605-680-2763

### **AUG. 14-17**

#### **Watertown Senior Games**

Watertown, SD  
605-949-0028

### **AUG. 16**

#### **Black Hills Super 6 Mountain Bike Race**

Big Hills Trails  
[bhsuper6.com](http://bhsuper6.com)

### **AUG. 16**

#### **Extreme Bull Riding Tour**

7:30 a.m.  
Yankton, SD  
605-760-2153

### **AUG. 21-24**

#### **Steam Threshing Jamboree**

Prairie Village  
Madison, SD

### **AUG. 23**

#### **Eureka Farmers Market**

8 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Eureka, SD  
209-728-5744

### **SEPT. 5-7**

#### **EurekaFest**

Eureka, SD  
209-728-5744

**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.**