

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Gardening Greats

**Master Gardeners
Cultivating Community
Growth**

Pages 8-9

Bridging History
Pages 12-13

Photo courtesy of SDSU Extension.



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

March 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 March 18, 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. Electrical Manager Ryan Holien, Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer, Operation Manager Sean Christiansen and CEO Scott Moore.

Guest Employee: Logan Gruenstein

Changes to the agenda: None

Changes/Additions to Minutes from February 14, 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, April 15, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to approve administrative business.

Motion by Eric Odenbach, seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to acknowledge manager and staff reports.

Rhonda Tuscherer e-mailed form 990 board information sheets to be completed by individual board members and returned.

February 2025 Cyber Security Report was acknowledged.

Resolutions and Contracts:

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to approve a revision to Policy #405 Sick Leave.

Membership Business:

Board acknowledged membership business.

New Memberships, Member

Cancellations and Contracts:

Disconnects: Larry Mettler, Eureka, SD, Active Farm; Robert Schumacher, Hosmer, SD, Vacant Farm; Sharon Beitelspacher, Bowdle, SD, Pasture Pump

Reconnects: Michael & Liza Mettler, Eureka, SD, Active Farm; Kim & Shirley Preszler, Hosmer, SD, Vacant Farm; Lance Beitelspacher, Aberdeen, SD, Pasture Pump

Contracts: Agtegra Cooperative, Aberdeen, SD, Grain Bin

Retired Locations: None

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to approve one line construction contract with Agtegra.

Capital Credits:

Estates – March 2025 – None

73 & Older – March 2025 - None

Board acknowledged receipt of following financial business.

Financial Business: The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information: The check register for the month of February 2025 contained information on checks #35073 through #35149 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for February 2025 totaling \$384,152.09.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve board expense reports and attorney fees.

Legal Update: none

Meeting Report:

East River monthly board report was given by Gary Bachman along with a video report.

Gary Bachman and Ryan Holien reported on NRECA Annual meeting.

Safety meeting minutes from February 13, 2025, were acknowledged.

Adjourn: President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.



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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Design assistance by SDREA

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



Scott Moore
General Manager/CEO

With some luck, by the time this article arrives we will see a hint of green in our lawns and pastures, have received some much-needed moisture, and agricultural equipment will be moving across the fields either planting or preparing to plant the 2025 crops. The northern region of South Dakota experienced an extremely dry winter in January and February of 2025. We appreciated the temperatures, which were extremely nice, but some moisture would be welcome.

FEM office personnel have closed our annual audit for 2024 with Eide Bailly of Sioux Falls. The auditors will be presenting their findings in April to the FEM Electric board and staff. We are anticipating a clean audit.

The operations department is reaching out, discussing, and asking for right-of-away easements as we close in on the 2025 construction plan. Crews will be installing around twenty-five miles of underground cable. Five miles will be

replacing underground cable that is over forty years old. Crews will also convert around twenty miles of aged overhead line to new underground. There is a process FEM Electric operations goes through when looking at facility replacement with our short- and long-term goals. Our main objective is to provide Safe, Reliable, and Affordable power to our members three hundred and sixty-five days a year. Without these objectives, it would be hard for our members to grow their operations and maintain a strong rural economy.

Line crews have had good weather to patrol and complete maintenance on our system, and FEM will be starting pole and ground testing in early summer. This is completed by a contractor. When completed, FEM Electric crews will follow and replace failed poles and ground rods. New or old line: it all needs to be maintained for proper operations and safety for the public.

As spring work begins, please remember

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

May 28, 2025 for May's energy

June 27, 2025 for June's energy

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

Power Life Safely

May is Electrical Safety Month

Every May, Electrical Safety Month serves as a vital reminder of the importance of preventing electrical hazards at home. Electricity powers nearly every aspect of modern life, but if handled improperly, it can pose serious risks, including injuries and property damage.

Your electric cooperative understands the risks associated with improper electricity use, which is why we're committed to reminding you to stay vigilant and practice electrical safety not only in May, but year-round.

By following key safety practices, you can reduce the risk of electrical hazards and ensure your family stays protected. Here are five essential tips for powering up safely at home.

1. **Be vigilant.** Regularly inspect your home's electrical system for any signs of damage or outdated components and replace any frayed electrical wires or cords. The Electrical Safety Foundation International estimates roughly 3,300 home fires originate from extension cords every year, either from overloading, overheating or fraying. If you're relying on extension cords as permanent power solutions, consider contacting a qualified electrician to install additional outlets where you need them.
2. **Use Surge Protectors.** Safeguard your sensitive electronics and appliances from surges with surge protectors. These handy devices help divert excess voltage away from your electronics, reducing the risk of damage or electrical fires. Not all power strips include surge protection, so read the product label carefully. Additionally, surge protectors can lose effectiveness over time and should be replaced when damaged or outdated.
3. **Practice Safe Power Strip Use.** Avoid overloading electrical outlets with power strips that exceed the outlet's capacity. High-energy devices, like heaters, microwaves and hairdryers should be distributed across multiple outlets. Overloading an outlet with a "busy" power strip can lead to overheating and create a fire hazard, so be sure to check the power strip's wattage rating before plugging in items.

4. **Water and Electricity Don't Mix.** It may seem obvious, but accidents involving water contact with electrical items happen. Always keep electrical appliances and devices away from water sources, like sinks, bathtubs or swimming pools. Make sure your hands are dry before touching any electrical switches or appliances – never handle electrical devices with wet hands. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) should be installed in areas where water and electricity are typically in close proximity, including kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor outlets.
5. **Educate Family Members.** One of the best ways to ensure the safety of everyone in your household is to talk about electrical safety. Teach children not to play with electrical outlets or appliances and ensure they understand the potential dangers of electricity. Create and practice a home fire escape plan that includes electrical safety precautions in case of emergencies.

Practicing electrical safety at home is essential for protecting your family, property and peace of mind. Remember, electrical safety isn't just a one-time effort – it's a year-round responsibility. Taking these steps can help ensure a safer, more secure home for you and your loved ones.



"Don't plant trees near power lines."

Jeremiah Barlow

Jeremiah cautions readers not to plant trees near power lines. Thank you for your picture, Jeremiah! Jeremiah's parents are Mosiah and Cristine Barlow, members of West River Electric Association.

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 CHICKEN

CHICKEN BREAST SUPREME

Ingredients:

4 chicken breasts
(boned and halved)
8 strips bacon
2 pkgs. chipped beef
8 oz. sour cream
1 can cream of chicken soup
6 oz. evaporated milk

Method

Wrap each half of chicken breast in a piece of bacon. Place in a baking dish lined with two layers of chipped beef.

Blend sour cream, soup, and milk. Pour over chicken.

Bake uncovered at 300°F for three hours. Serve over rice.

*Makes 8 servings.

Sharon Houchin
Central Electric Member

CHICKEN ROLLUPS

Ingredients:

8 oz. tube crescent rolls
4 boneless chicken breasts
(cooked shredded and seasoned to taste)
8 oz. cheddar cheese
(finely shredded, divided)
10 1/2 oz. can cream of chicken soup
1 packet chicken gravy mix
1 cup water

Method

In a bowl, mix the shredded chicken and 1/3 of the cheese. Take a scoop of the mixture and roll it into a crescent roll then place in a greased 9" x 13" pan. Bake at 350°F until the crescent rolls look browned on top. Mix the soup, gravy mix, 1/3 of the cheese, and enough water to make the mixture pourable. Pour over the crescent rolls. Sprinkle the remaining 1/3 of the cheese on top and bake again until the cheese melts and starts to brown.

Nicole Einrem
B-Y Electric Member

SMOKY CHICKEN TACOS

Ingredients:

1 tbsp. oil
1 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breast, cut into thin strips
1/4 cup Flavor Maker Taco Night Topping Seasoning
1/2 cup water
12 (6-inch) flour or corn tortillas, warmed

Method

Heat oil in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add chicken; cook and stir just until browned.

Stir in Flavor Maker Seasoning and water. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes or until sauce has thickened and chicken is cooked through, stirring occasionally.

Spoon chicken into warm tortillas. Serve with desired toppings, such as shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, sour cream, guac or salsa.

McCormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Manager's Article Continued from page 3

to be safe in your own operation and be aware of your surroundings.

If you are planning to add any additional electric load, please call Sean Christiansen or Ryan Holien 605-426-6891 early in the planning process.

Mina Lake

Thank you for your generous donation to the 2025 Mina Lake Casino Night. This years event was extremely successful. We truly appreciate your support!

Mina Lake Celebrations

Honoring the brave heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

FEM Electric will be closed May 26th, 2025 in observance of the holiday.

FEM WELCOMES CODY SCARROTT

On April 1st, FEM welcomed Cody Scarrott to the team as a journeyman lineman. Cody originally grew up in Ipswich before moving away for a period of time. He comes with experience from working at other electric cooperatives.

In his free time, Cody enjoys being outdoors, hunting, fishing and spending time with his wife Kelle and 1.5 year old Jhett. They're expecting another little one in June of 2025.

Please join us in welcoming a great addition to the FEM crew!



CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATIONS

By the end of April, FEM will have sent Capital Credit Allocations to all active and inactive members.

Take some time to review your April statement for your Capital Credit balance. Under the "Message from FEM" section, you will see your beginning balance, your 2024 allocations from FEM, East River and Basin, and your updated balance.

Allocations are not the same as retirements. Capital Credit retirements occur in June if the FEM Board of Directors feels the financial health of FEM Electric is in good standing. Retirements are made from allocations from previous years.

If you have questions, contact FEM at 605-426-6891 or 1-800-587-5880.

FEM ELECTRIC

PRESENTS THE 2025 YOUTH TOUR JUNE 15 - 21, 2025

THREE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SELECTED TO REPRESENT FEM ELECTRIC ON THE 2025 YOUTH TOUR TO WASHINGTON D.C.



Charli Rawden submitted one of three winning applications for the 2025 Youth Tour. She is a junior at Ipswich High School, and is the daughter of Jeremy and Amanda Rawden.

Charli is involved in volleyball, and is the team captain, track and field, golf, 4-H and the Ipswich Snow Queen contest. She has been involved in yearbook for the past 3 years, and is currently the editor.

She has an interest in history and government, and hopes to learn more about our national government on this trip.

Ella Batie was selected as another Youth Tour attendee for 2025. She is a senior at Eureka Public School, and is the daughter of Alison and Dale Batie.

Ella is involved with basketball, volleyball, golf, track and field, band, choir and has been her class officer since 7th grade. Her other extra curricular activities include FCCLA, NHS, e-club, and yearbook. She also enjoys volunteering at school and in her community.

While in Washington D.C., Ella hopes to expand her leadership skills, network with people her age, and make lasting memories.



Jana Dignan also submitted a winning application to attend the Youth Tour. She is a senior at Aberdeen Central, and is the daughter of Jason and Jenny Dignan.

At school, Jana is taking dual credit courses through USD. She is looking at majoring in psychology in the future, and dual credit courses will help with her course load. She also enjoys listening to music and singing.

Jana believes she will enjoy this trip, and hopes to get out of her comfort zone and meeting new people.



GARDENING GREATS

Missouri Valley Master Gardeners remove invasive bellflower and other non-desirable plants at the Dorothy Jenks Memorial Garden in Yankton.
Photo courtesy of SDSU Extension.

How Master Gardeners are Cultivating Community Growth

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdua.coop

After years of tending to her garden, Codington-Clark Electric member Dianne Rider of Hazel can confidently say she is an expert in horticulture. However, her extensive experience of working with the earth isn't the only reason she is considered a soil savant.

In 2016, Rider earned the prodigious title of Master Gardener through the South Dakota State University Extension's Master Gardener Volunteer Program. This program provides in-depth horticultural training – covering topics like plant science, soil management and sustainable gardening practices – so enthusiasts like Rider can share their extensive gardening knowledge with their communities.

Becoming an Extension Master Gardener volunteer is a commitment. Applicants must complete horticulture classes, pass the course test and contribute 40 hours of volunteer service

during the first year of involvement. Despite the challenges, Rider had aspired to this achievement for decades, but it wasn't until she retired from her teaching career that she was able to dedicate herself fully and earn her place as a Master Gardener.

Reflecting the adage, “once a teacher, always a teacher,” Rider continues to educate and influence those around her, even after retirement, through gardening.

“Becoming a Master Gardener has always been on my bucket list since they organized,” Rider said. “I’ve always been a teacher, so finding a way to help others through gardening is probably what’s most rewarding.”

As a Master Gardener, Rider plays a key role in organizing annual gardening events for SDSU Extension, including the Master Gardener Annual Update Conference at Joy Ranch near Watertown. This event, attended by more than 125 Master Gardeners, serves as a thriving forum for gardening clubs to exchange ideas on the latest and greatest

projects they are tackling.

“The event is a lot of fun, because when you get 125 Master Gardeners in one room – let me tell you, the conversations are riveting,” Rider laughed.

Master gardeners also help SDSU Extension achieve its broader goal: to make cutting-edge research easily accessible to the people who can benefit from the findings. Master Gardeners have regular continuing education opportunities with experts from the SDSU Horticulture team, such as Professor John Ball, a SDSU Extension Forestry Specialist and South Dakota Department of Agriculture Forest Health Specialist. Once equipped with this information, volunteers can share the most significant takeaways from research being conducted across the state through the university, providing a bridge between research and practical application.

“Dr. John Ball’s presentation on how to trim a tree after planting it is one of the best things that I’ve learned that I can now share with others,” said Rider. “He says that raising a tree is just like raising a kid: you have to shape your tree when

they are young, otherwise they turn into ugly adults.”

Master Gardener Field Specialist Prairey Walkling emphasizes that the connection between research-based information and enthusiasts is what the Master Gardener Volunteer Program thrives on. And the research goes far beyond just trees. SDSU’s horticulture research also extends into innovative mulching techniques, soil care and even studies on the growth and quality of four popular zinnia varieties.

“SDSU Extension wants to empower individuals to reach their gardening goals through providing science-based information. Each person has different pieces of land, resources and goals for their gardens and landscapes,” she said. “We strive to provide them with trusted, research-based information to help them make decisions.”

Walkling said the impact of these volunteers cannot be understated. According to Walkling, there are more than 400 Master Gardeners across the state and 14 Master Gardener clubs. In 2024, these vital volunteers hosted 153 gardening events, including farmers market booths, gardening workshops and demonstrations, reaching nearly 10,000 South Dakotans. Regardless of the event or what is being discussed, Walkling said Master Gardeners carry an infectious love of digging in the dirt.

“These volunteers help get people excited about gardening,” she said. “There are so many volunteer opportunities – teaching youth, teaching adults, maintaining demonstration gardens, answering questions, organizing events, engaging in horticultural research, writing horticulture articles – the sky is the limit.”



SDSU Extension Master Gardeners host an educational booth at the SD State Fair. From left: Lael Abelmann, Sharelle Meyer and Nancy Kadous.



Coteau Prairie Master Gardener Club (Watertown area) hosted the 2024 state conference at Joy Ranch. | Photos courtesy of SDSU Extension.

11 ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR SENIORS

Electrical safety is crucial for everyone, but especially important for seniors. Adults over the age of 65 are at the greatest risk of death from fire and this risk increases with age, according to the National Fire Protection Association. As we age, our reflexes slow down, eyesight decreases and senses become less acute, making it essential to take extra precautions when handling electrical appliances.

Here are 11 ways for older adults to maintain a safe living environment:

1. Ensure that electrical appliances are in good working condition. Regularly inspect cords and plugs for damage or wear and tear.
2. Don't overload sockets or extension cords. Plugging too many appliances or devices into a single outlet can cause overheating and increase fire risk.
3. Limit the use of carpets and rugs, which are tripping hazards, and avoid placing extension cords under them to prevent overheating. To help prevent trips and falls, cords should not stretch across a room. For a safer and more permanent solution, consider having an electrician install additional outlets where needed.
4. Unplug appliances when not in use and before cleaning or repairing them.
5. Keep electrical appliances away from water and wet surfaces to prevent electric shock.
6. Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), which are designed to prevent electric shock by shutting off power when a ground fault is detected. Install them in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity, such as kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor spaces.
7. Ensure proper lighting in all areas of the home, especially in hallways and staircases, to prevent trips and falls. Consider installing nightlights in bedrooms and bathrooms for better visibility.
8. Set hot water heaters to lower settings to prevent scalding.
9. When cooking on the stove, never leave pots and pans unattended, and avoid wearing loose clothing when cooking. Never open the oven

door if something catches fire inside the oven. Consider using toaster ovens and small appliances that come equipped with an auto shut-off feature for added safety and convenience. This feature is designed to turn off the appliance automatically after a set amount of time or when a task is completed, reducing the risk of overheating or fire.

10. Use space heaters with caution. Space heaters can offer added warmth to a senior, who may get cold due to circulation issues that are common with aging. Use space heaters with built-in safety features such as an automatic shut-off switch. Keep space heaters on a steady surface and at least three feet away from flammable objects such as curtains, bedding or furniture. Plug them directly into an outlet — do not use an extension cord or power strip — and unplug them when not in use.
11. Install smoke detectors on every floor and carbon monoxide detectors near all bedrooms. Test and replace the batteries twice a year — once in the spring and once in the fall.

And don't miss this bonus tip: If someone in the home uses a medical device that requires electricity, have a backup power source ready in case of a power outage and be sure to alert your local electric utility for priority restoration.

By following these safety measures, seniors can significantly reduce their risk of electrical accidents. Family members and caregivers can assist older adults in implementing these precautions to ensure their homes are safe and comfortable.



Uncover Your Energy's Roots!



South Dakota Rural Electric – – – – – YOUTH EXCURSION – – – – – July 21-23, 2025



All area high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors that go to school in FEM Electric's territory are eligible to apply.

- ***Learn where South Dakota's electricity comes from!***
- ***Tour the Great Plains Synfuel Plant, Freedom Coal Mine and Antelope Valley Station Power Plant!***

FEM Electric will provide transportation, lodging, meals, entertainment and sightseeing events. Students are required to supply their own personal/shopping money.

For more information, contact:

Crystal Thorson

thorson@femelectric.coop

FEM Electric Association, Inc.

800 5th Ave.

Ipswich, SD 57451

605-426-6891

www.femelectric.coop/youth-excursion

facebook.com/FEMEElectric

Application Deadline: June 2nd, 2025



Local, state and federal officials celebrate the ribbon-cutting of the new Lieutenant Commander John C. Waldron Memorial Bridge, March 25, 2025. Photo by Marcy Anderson, Courtesy of the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce.

BRIDGING HISTORY

The Demolition of the Waldron Memorial Bridge

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Tons of concrete and steel came crashing down in a planned demolition of the Lt. Cmdr. John C. Waldron Memorial Bridge that connected Pierre and Fort Pierre over a half mile stretch of river. The planned explosion marked a significant historic moment for not only Pierre and Fort Pierre, but also eastern and western South Dakota.

The demolition of the bridge unfolded in seconds. A plume of black smoke erupted from the detonating cord placed at key points in the bridge, quickly followed by a bone-rattling shock wave. Paul Nelson, a recently retired employee of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, witnessed the end of the bridge's 63-year lifespan. Nelson, a member of Oahe Elec-

tric, spent over 40 years with the SDDOT, serving most of that time as the regional bridge engineer. In this role, he was responsible for the maintenance, inspection and upkeep of the very bridge that he saw demolished.

As legacy bridge engineer, this was not Nelson's first experience with such a demolition. "I had actually witnessed the 1986 demolition of the old truss bridge that was just downstream of the current railroad bridge – so I have been around something of this magnitude before," he explained.

Even still, Nelson laughed that the modern demolition had a "pretty good report when it went off."

Although the bridge has been decommissioned, its history endures. In 2002, the bridge was dedicated to Lt. Cmdr. John C.

Waldron, a naval aviator from Fort Pierre who led a torpedo squadron during the Battle of Midway in World War II. His actions proved pivotal in the battle, but led to death of himself and most of his squadron. Of the 30 men who served under his command, only one survived the Battle of Midway.

Waldron's legacy is still commemorated through the new Pierre-Fort Pierre Bridge, which had its ribbon-cutting ceremony last month.

Construction of the new bridge began in 2020, just yards from the old bridge's location. In total, the bridge cost nearly \$50 million and is designed to last a century.

"This bridge is going to be a beautiful and wonderful enhancement to the communities and something that will last more than a hundred years," South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden said at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new bridge that now connects the two halves of the state.

BRIDGE DEMOLITION



The Lt. Cmdr. John C. Waldron Memorial Bridge comes crashing down at 9:03 a.m., on March 13.
Photos by Frank Turner.



2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

AFTER REVIEWING NUMEROUS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS, FEM IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE 2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS.



Maxwell Kulesa submitted the winning application for the \$1000 Basin/FEM Electric Scholarship. He is a senior at Ipswich Public School, and is the son of Angie and Scott Kulesa.

Maxwell is involved in a number of sports and school activities. He is the captain of the football and basketball teams, and is the president for NHS, FBLA, and Student Council. He is also in track, is his class valedictorian, involved in his church youth group, and won other various class awards.

When he graduates this spring, Maxwell plans to attend South Dakota State University where he plans to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Finance. He's also interested in continuing his education so he can practice law.

FEM Electric wishes to congratulate Maxwell Kulesa on his achievements, and wishes him well on his future endeavors.

Katherine Kretchman is one of the recipients of the \$500 FEM Electric Scholarship. She is a senior at Morning Glory Homeschool Academy, and is the daughter of Faune and Jeff Kretchman.

Katherine is active in art, and has participated in several competitions locally. She has been on several mission trips around the world, and will be attending another in June to India. In fact, she's so passionate about the struggles of women and children in India, she started her own business selling her art to raise funds for them.

When she graduates, she plans to attend college to earn a degree in Counseling. Her goal is to help victims of trauma. FEM Electric would like to congratulate Katherine on her hard work and dedication, and wishes her luck!



Reese Hadrick also won a \$500 FEM Electric Scholarship. She is a senior at Faulkton High School, and her parents are Troy and Stacy Hadrick.

Reese is involved in track and field, cross country, 4-H, FFA, her youth group and has also done a mission trip. She was a 2-time MVP, 5-time letter winner, and 5-time state qualifier for cross country, and a 4-time letter winner for track.

After she graduates, Reese plans to attend South Dakota State University for a degree in Human Development and Family Studies, with a minor in mental health services and criminal justice. She then plans to pursue a master's in Social Work so that she can work with foster children. Congratulations to Reese, and FEM wishes her the best of luck!

77TH ANNUAL MEETING 06.24.25

Dinner @ 5:00 pm - Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Ipswich School

**DON'T MISS THE 77TH ANNUAL
MEETING OF THE FEM MEMBERSHIP**

District Directors 1 and 4 up for Election

Dinner provided to all attendees

\$500 YOUNG ADULTS LIGHT THE WAY SCHOLARSHIP

High School Junior and Seniors eligible

Must attend the entire meeting with at least one member parent

**\$40 ENERGY CREDIT TO ALL MEMBERS WHO
ATTEND THE ENTIRE MEETING**

**PLUS \$500 IN GRAND PRIZE DRAWINGS WILL BE
GIVEN AWAY. *MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!***

Keep Up to Date with Your Cooperative



MAY 31, JUNE 28, JULY 26
Fort Sisseton Lantern Tour
 Lake City, SD
 605-910-4465

*Photo courtesy of
 Travel South Dakota*

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.

APRIL 27
Country Roads
 2 p.m. Matinee
 Gayville Music Hall
 Gayville, SD
 605-760-5799

MAY 2-3
SD Spring Square Dance Festival
 Fri. 7:30-10:30 p.m.
 Sat. 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
 Faith Lutheran Church
 601 N. Cliff Ave.
 Sioux Falls, SD
 Call for events & times
 605-360-2524

MAY 3-4
Prairie Village Events
 Sat. Consignment Auction
 Sun. Season Opening
 Madison, SD
www.prairievillage.org

MAY 3
West River Pheasants Forever Banquet
 5 p.m. Central Time
 Draper Auditorium
 Draper, SD
 605-516-0143

MAY 3
American Legion Post 15
Just Because It's Time to Dance
 6-10:30 p.m.
 El Riad Shrine
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-336-3470

MAY 3
Rummage & Bake Sale
 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
 5103 Longview Rd.
 Rapid City, SD

MAY 6-7
7th Annual Energize!
Exploring Innovative Rural Communities Conference
 Hosted by SDSU Extension
 Community Vitality
 Platte, SD
 605-626-2870

MAY 10
Cinco De Mayo
Falls Park Fiesta
 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
 Sioux Falls, SD

MAY 17
Norwegian Independence Day
 Vivian, SD
 605-222-3296

MAY 17
Annual Plant Sale
 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
 Codington Co. Extension Complex
 Watertown, SD
 830-534-5359

MAY 23-25
Brandon's Big Car Show
 Carnival & Car Show
 Fri. 6-11 p.m.
 Sat. 1-11 p.m., Car Show 1-4 p.m.
 Sun. 12-5 p.m.
 815 McHardy Rd
 Brandon, SD

MAY 31
Auto Parts Swap Meet & Car Show
 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Brown County Fairgrounds
 Aberdeen, SD

MAY 31
Miss Prairie Village Pageant
 6:30 p.m.
 Lawrence Welk Opera House
 Madison, SD
www.prairievillage.org

MAY 31
Hay Country Jamboree
 7 p.m.
 Gayville Music Hall
 Gayville, SD
 605-760-5799

JUNE 5
Danish Constitution Day Celebration
 6:15 p.m.-9 p.m.
 Danish Folk Dancing & Music
 Daneville Heritage Museum
 Viborg, SD
 605-766-1312
danevilleheritage.com

JUNE 7
Eureka Citywide Rummage Sale
 Eureka, SD
 605-230-1777

JUNE 11
Agricultural Women's Day
 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Agar-Blunt-Onida School
 Onida, SD
 605-769-0013

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.