

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Pick of the Patch

**Pumpkin Patches Offer
Plenty of Reasons to Get
Outside this Fall**

Pages 8-9

**Ghost Town Under
Lake Oahe**

Pages 12-13

August 2026 Board Minutes & June 2026 Financial Information

The Aug. 19, 2026, board of directors' meeting was held at the Timber Lake office with the following directors present: Clark, Hahne, Jewett, Lawrence, Lesmeister, Maher, McLellan, Schweitzer, Walker and Wall, and others present: Manager Larson and Finance Officer Lemburg (Delegated Recorder of Minutes).

The Large Power Users monthly report was given by Stephanie Bartlett, which included large power usage and payments.

The Member Services report was given by JJ Martin, which included the 2026 annual meeting logo and theme, annual meeting gift ideas, the ice cream socials in Eagle Butte, Timber Lake and Isabel were well attended, lower attendance at the ice cream social in McIntosh, it was the consensus of the board to continue the ice cream socials, will attend the Takini homecoming trunk-or-treat, Staking Foreman Jace Vrooman and JJ will attend an energy efficiency training in Sioux Falls, and preparing for the 2026 annual meeting.

The Operations report was given by Josh Lemburg, which included underground line projects, new service updates, transmission pole changes, utilized the Basin Electric SRS Dispatch auto-dialer feature for the transmission line outage on the Dupree, Cherry Creek and West Cheyenne substations, RESAP on-site inspection went very well, storm damaged poles near Cherry Creek, and Journeyman Lineman Tyler Larsen started at the Eagle Butte outpost this month.

Manager Larson and Operations Superintendent Lemburg reported on cooperative property being vandalized and stolen.

Manager Larson, President Maher, and Directors Clark and McLellan discussed a Basin Electric informational meeting they

attended regarding a proposed 345kv transmission line that would run through western South Dakota.

The directors gave the Basin Electric annual meeting report, which included Director Lawrence enjoyed the power plant tour, and President Maher enjoyed North Dakota U.S. Senator John Hoeven's speech.

Manager Larson gave the Manager's Report, which included not implementing the Operation Roundup program and receiving capital credits from CFC in September.

Manager Larson gave the Basin Electric Managers' meeting report, which included the 2027 rate increase and a holistic rate study.

Director McLellan gave the Rushmore Electric board meeting report, which included a Basin Electric bylaw amendment and an upcoming meeting with U.S. Senator Mike Rounds and Attorney General Marty Jackley.

Board approved the following: the agenda, the minutes from the July meeting, new members, refunds, line extensions, financial statistics, disbursements, safety report, utilizing Power System Engineering for a cost-of-service study, 2027 NRECA insurance and RS plan rates, donation to the S.D. Department of Tribal Relations, President Maher as voting delegate and Director Clark as alternate voting delegate for the CFC District 6 election, vote for Mylo Einarson for the CFC District 6 position, 2025 IRS Form 990, and September board meeting will be Sept. 15, 2026.

The next board meeting was scheduled for September 15, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the Timber Lake office.

JUNE 2026 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	JUNE '26	JUNE '25	YTD 2026
Operating Revenues	\$1,181,950	\$1,061,439	\$8,286,911
Cost Of Power	\$564,449	\$516,059	\$3,855,691
Cost Of Electric Service	\$1,125,598	\$1,057,811	\$7,474,970
Margins	\$109,901	\$40,819	\$908,041
Kwh Purchased	7,438,100	7,039,383	55,882,157
Kwh Sold	7,200,562	6,865,365	51,241,516

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 018-951)

Manager: Kent Larson

Editor: JJ Martin, Member Services
and IT Director

Directors

Ryan Maher, President
Kerry McLellan, Vice President
Geraldyn Hahne, Secretary-Treasurer
Clint Clark
Cody Jewett
Dee Ann Lawrence
Oren Lesmeister
Brent Schweitzer
Royce Walker
Troy Wall

Attorney: John Burke

Management Staff:

Josh Lemburg,
Operations Superintendent
Hunter Smith, Asst. Ops Supt and
Staking Engineer
Kyrie Lemburg, Finance Officer
Jamie Jones, Accountant

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MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CERTIFICATE OF DELEGATION

Annual Meeting, _____, 20__

In order to vote on behalf of an organization, this form must be completed and submitted prior to or at the Annual Meeting.

I. MULTIPLE PERSON ORGANIZATION (E.G., CORPORATION, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, CHURCH, AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION).

[NAME OF ORGANIZATION]

I hereby certify that _____ has been duly appointed by the foregoing organization to be the sole delegate to attend the Annual Meeting of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. and is authorized to vote on behalf of the organization on all matters presented during such Annual Meeting.

By:

[PRINTED FULL NAME]

[TITLE / POSITION / ROLE]

[SIGNATURE]

[DATE]

Attested By:

[PRINTED FULL NAME OF ADDITIONAL
OFFICER, DIRECTOR, OWNER, OR EXECUTIVE
OF ORGANIZATION]

[SIGNATURE]

II. ONE PERSON ORGANIZATION (E.G., SINGLE MEMBER LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY).

[NAME OF ORGANIZATION]

I hereby certify that _____ has been duly appointed by the foregoing organization to be the sole delegate to attend the Annual Meeting of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. and is authorized to vote on behalf of the organization on all matters presented during such Annual Meeting.

By:

[PRINTED FULL NAME]

[TITLE / POSITION / ROLE]

[SIGNATURE]

[DATE]

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for the membership of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held at the MGE Headquarters Building in Timber Lake, S.D., on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, with a plated pulled pork dinner beginning at 5 p.m. (MDT), with the meeting to follow the meal. Note: Membership registration will be open at 5 p.m. and will close 15 minutes after the start of the meeting.

The meeting will be for the following purposes:

1. Reports on business for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.
2. For the purpose of electing directors in Districts 2, 3, and 5. If you are disabled and require a special accommodation to have full and equal participation in this Annual Meeting, call 1-800-952-3158.

Geraldyn Hahne, Secretary-Treasurer, Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 8, Timber Lake, SD 57656-0008

SAFETY IS ALWAYS IN SEASON

Fall hunting is a core memory treasured by many in South Dakota. It's a family and friend tradition that should be kept safe. This is your caring reminder to stay safe and enjoy a great hunt this season.

Simple Safety Rules for All Hunters

- Watch for posted warning signs and stay clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land you hunt.
- Be careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be easy to see.
- Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles; energized lines can shock or kill you.
- Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment; they can block lines and create hazards for crews.

Pheasant hunting often takes place in open fields with hedgerows and grassy strips, while dove hunting centers on fast, aerial crossings across agricultural landscapes. In both scenarios, lines may be hidden by trees or tall grass, especially near field edges and canal banks. Staying alert in these transition zones reduces the risk of an accidental encounter with electrical infrastructure.

Practical Rules for Pheasant and Dove Hunts

- Plan ahead: Check maps or ask landowners where lines and equipment are located.
- Keep a safe distance: Stay away from overhead and buried lines near fields and edges.
- Hunt with a partner: A second person can help spot hazards.
- Speak up about hazards: If you see lines or equipment, treat it as a hazard and avoid the area.
- Follow rules: Respect any posted electrical safety warnings or access restrictions.
- Share safety: Tell fellow hunters and guests about these tips.

Why These Safety Tips Matter

Power lines conduct large amounts of electricity and contact with lines or equipment can cause serious injury or death. Maintaining distance, avoiding contact with poles or lines, and not placing gear on equipment are effective practices that protect you, your hunting partners, and the line workers who keep power on.

Your electric cooperative remains committed to safe hunting. We encourage members to stay informed about local electrical safety rules and to know line locations on the lands they hunt. If you encounter hazards, report them right away so they can be addressed. Sharing these safety practices help create a culture of safety that benefits everyone.



The poster features a green camouflage pattern at the top, followed by a yellow and black diagonal hazard stripe. Below this, a target icon is positioned to the left of the title "Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters". The text below the title reads: "We encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors." A list of six safety tips follows.

Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters

We encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.

- Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know where power lines and equipment are located where you hunt.
- Be vigilant in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- Never place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment.



The drawing is a simple line drawing on a light blue background. It shows a person standing on the ground, holding a string that goes up to a diamond-shaped kite. The kite is positioned near a horizontal line representing a power line. Above the power line, there is a yellow sun and the handwritten text "Don't dig or fly kites by wires!". To the right of the drawing, the text "Don't dig or fly kites by wires!" is written in a bold, red font.

"Don't dig or fly kites by wires!"

Seth Raak, age 7

Seth cautions readers to not dig or fly kites around power lines. That is great advice, Seth! Thank you! Seth's parents are Nathaniel and Katie Raak, members of Central Electric Cooperative.

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.

Let's Eat CAKE

SWEDISH PANCAKES

Ingredients:

1.5 cups flour, sifted
3 tbsps. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
3 eggs
2 cups milk
2 tbsps. butter, melted

Method

Sift together flour, sugar and salt. Beat in 3 eggs until thick and piled softly. Beat in milk and butter until blended. Lightly grease griddle with butter. For each pancake, spoon about 1 tbsp. of batter on skillet. Cook over medium heat until lightly brown on each side.

Lois J. Larson
Clay-Union Electric

CREAM CHEESE CUPCAKES

Ingredients:

1 box chocolate cake mix, prepared
1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese
1/3 cup sugar
1 egg
Dash of salt
1 (6 oz.) package chocolate chips
1 can cream cheese frosting

Method

Mix cake mix according to package directions. Fill cupcake liners 1/2 full. mix the cream cheese with the sugar. Beat in egg and salt, then add chocolate chips. Drop a teaspoonful of cream cheese mixture into each cupcake. Bake as directed on package. Frost with cream cheese frosting when cool.

Elaine Rieck
Southeastern Electric

CHOCOLATE ZUCCHINI CAKE

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
2 tsps. baking soda
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. espresso powder (optional)
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup canola or vegetable oil
1 cup granulated sugar
3/4 cup brown sugar, packed
4 large eggs, room temperature
1/3 cup sour cream or Greek yogurt, room temperature
2 tsps. vanilla
3 cups shredded zucchini (about 3 medium)
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Method

Preheat oven to 350 °F. Grease two 9x2 inch cake pans (make sure they're at least 2 inches high or one bundt pan). Whisk the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, espresso powder (if using) and salt together in a large bowl. In another large bowl using a handheld or stand mixer, beat the oil, granulated sugar, brown sugar, eggs, sour cream, vanilla and zucchini together until combined. Pour dry ingredients into the wet ingredients and beat on medium speed until completely combined. Beat in chocolate chips. Batter will be thick. Pour batter evenly into cake pans. Bake for around 25-32 minutes for round pans; 45 minutes for bundt pans or 9x13 pan; 18-22 minutes for cupcakes (24-30 cupcakes). To test doneness, insert a toothpick into the center of cake. If it comes out clean, it is done.

Ginny Jensen
Sioux Valley Energy

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 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

RECIPE CORRECTION THE BEST APPLE CRISP

Ingredients:

6 cups sliced apples
1 1/2 cups white sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
6 tbsps. flour

Topping (makes enough for two pans)

2 cups flour
2 cups brown sugar
2 cups soft butter
1 tsp. baking powder
3 cups oatmeal

Method

Mix ingredients in a bowl and place in a 9x12 glass baking dish. Mix topping ingredients together until crumbly and sprinkle over apple mixture. Don't pack. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour or until apples are done.

Ginny Jensen
Sioux Valley Energy

Good Neighbors

It Always Comes Back to You!



JJ Martin
Member Services &
IT Director

When MGE created the Good Neighbor Award, we envisioned members who took ownership of their community, helped neighbors out, and exemplified Cooperative Principle #7: Concern for Community. Roy and Ann Crance of Timber Lake do just that.

While both Roy and Ann were born in Mobridge and grew up in Timber Lake, they didn't really know each other until they were freshmen in high school. Roy attended public school his whole life, and Ann attended Holy Cross school until high school. This was during a time when people seldom left town – everything they needed was here, so kids often didn't mingle with anyone outside their social circle within the school they attended.

Everything changed freshmen year. Roy and Ann have been together ever since and built their life (with the exception of their first year of marriage in Rapid City) in Timber Lake and haven't looked back. Roy worked at the elevator for Ann's dad before they bought that business, and Ann ran a daycare while they began raising their young family.

They wouldn't want to raise their kids anywhere else. "Everybody knows everybody. Everybody looks out for everybody. You could send your kid downtown on their bike and not be worried about them," Roy said.

"Bigger towns and cities have more to do, but there is enough to do here to raise well-rounded kids," Ann added.

Keeping kids busy when you own a business must not be too difficult. After running the elevator for 10 years, Crances owned Dakota Silk Screen for over 30 years, serving not just Timber Lake, but the entire North Central region of South Dakota. There was plenty of work to go around.

It took a while to expand the number of services they provided to the area, originally just being a silk screen business in the back room of Conoco. They eventually sold just about any clothing, boots, gloves, hats, cups, plaques, trophies, and whatever you needed out of their store. If they didn't have it, they would order it. They customized innumerable hats and shirts for all the



Roy and Ann Crance of Timber Lake will receive the Good Neighbor Award from Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative at the annual meeting.

area schools, churches, and anyone who needed a large order filled.

"Schools and surrounding communities supported us very well," Roy explained. "You just give back when they need a donation for this or that, or for a rodeo, or whatever. You just donate and try to help them out. It always comes back to you."

"We'd make the shirts for Vacation Bible School, and I would donate them. He'd look at me cross-eyed," Ann said jokingly, "and I'd always say, 'It's going to come back.' The next week would just be busier than busy."

Their willingness to help out illustrates what it takes to keep a community going. "If people were in need because of a personal disaster or something, we would let them come in and 'shop'," Ann said.

"Whatever they want. We did that a few times," Roy added.

It always comes back to you isn't just a financial figure of speech. Helping neighbors out in times of need is a cornerstone of community, especially

in these small towns. That assistance Crances provided without hesitation came back to them over the last few years. Roy and Ann both battled cancer after selling Dakota Silk Screen. The community paid them back for their years of support.

Roy explained, “Both being cancer survivors in this community...it was very supportive.”

“A very generous community. People always calling and sending cards,” Ann said.

“Doing whatever. It was amazing. Absolutely amazing,” Roy continued.

I asked, “Why is community so important to you?”

Ann responded thoughtfully, “It’s your family. If something happens to somebody, you want to help them because they are part of your family; you know them so well. I was just raised with that. I always had a feeling that you wanted to do something for your community.”

Roy and Ann stayed in Pipestone for their medical treatments. It highlighted the difference between a small town and a city. “You go to the big town where we lived this last year – there were people that were good to us there too, but, you know, you just don’t get as close as you do here.”

“Even people in neighboring towns here,” Roy added.

Although they are retired (mostly), Roy and Ann are still active in their community.

Roy continues to drive a bus route, something that they have always been a part of. “We both drove bus when we first moved back here. All stick shift.”

Ann chimed in, “Mine was five on the floor!”

Roy managed the buses for Timber Lake School for a time, keeping up with maintenance and ensuring all routes and activities had a driver ready to go. “It was a lot. I passed that on to somebody else now. I drive my route twice a day, and I’m done. That helps me stay connected with the school. I care about the kids on my route.”

“I do little cleaning jobs. I clean the school part-time a couple hours a day. I used to clean the bank but that’s where I had my accident... I fell and broke my shoulder. I had a shoulder replacement this summer. Roy had an infusion one day, and the next day I had my shoulder replaced.” Ann continued, “The community garden is a big thing for me, and the gardens around the church – I do those. Going to grandkids’ activities helps, too! Gotta go to the football game tonight!”

Roy and Ann have worked hard their whole lives and are taking a well-deserved step away while maintaining that connection to the community. Between involvement with the school and church, they have their fingers on the heartbeat of the town.

P.O. Box 823, Eagle Butte, S.D. 57625

That hard-working and community-minded spirit was

certainly passed down to their kids. It’s no coincidence that these two raised five successful kids:

- Becky is an attorney in Denver
- Sarah (former principal) is the Special Education Director at Timber Lake School
- Theresa owns a physical therapy business in Pipestone
- Josh is a paramedic firefighter in Fargo
- Luke is a Physician’s Assistant at the Mayo hospital in Mankato

It is easy to see why Roy and Ann Crance are your 2026 Good Neighbors. While there are so many options in our service area, it was an easy choice. “I always thought, ‘How are you going to pick,’” Ann mentioned. “If you look at each community, it’s like, ‘wow, there are a lot [of good people].’”

Ann concluded, “I think when Moreau-Grand started the Good Neighbor Award, we made the first plaques for it at Dakota Silk Screen.”

It always comes back to you.



UTILITY SCAMS

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, which is the perfect time to take a fresh look at your passwords.

Forget the old advice about cramming passwords with symbols and random capitalization. Today’s cybersecurity experts recommend using longer passphrases. A password made up of four or five unrelated words is easier to remember and much harder for criminals to crack than a short, complex password.

Use a unique passphrase for every account and enable multi-factor authentication whenever available for added protection.

Source: NIST



PICK OF THE PATCH

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sirea.coop

South Dakota Pumpkin Patches Offer Plenty of Reasons to Get Outside this Fall

Cooler air, changing leaves and the search for the perfect pumpkin all mark the arrival of the autumn season. Across South Dakota, fall weekends bring families to farms and orchards for corn mazes, apple picking and hayrides.

But putting together a few weeks of fall fun takes months of work behind the scenes.

Pumpkin patches and orchards are preparing to welcome visitors for another season of pumpkins, games and family traditions.

Country Apple Orchard – Harrisburg, S.D.

By the time visitors arrive at Country Apple Orchard near Harrisburg, owner Greg Jones and his crew have already brought in three semi loads of straw bales and about 6,000 bushels of corn.

It's all part of preparing for a fall season

that lasts just a couple of months but requires work throughout the year.

"The property is kind of a full-time, year-round job," Jones said.

The orchard has been around for more than 30 years, and Jones is six years into owning the operation. Since taking over, he has expanded the pumpkin patches and added many of the attractions that now make up the orchard's fall festival.

The season opens Sept. 4 and runs through October, beginning with apple picking in September before pumpkins take center stage in October. Weekend festivities include zip lines, apple cannons, hay bale mazes, corn mazes, corn pits and, new this year, fresh-cut flowers.

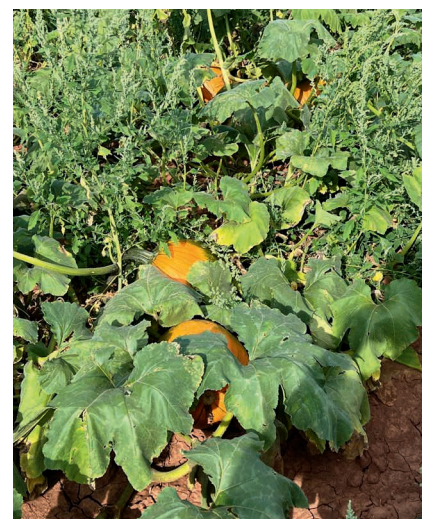
Country Apple Orchard is also a member of Southeastern Electric Cooperative, which helps power the operation through the busy fall season. Keeping everything running takes about

Lucas Hartshorn, owner of Lil' Harvester's Pumpkin Patch, and his family opening the patch for last year's fall season.
Photo submitted by Lucas Hartshorn

60 seasonal employees. Once the crowds disappear, that workforce drops to Jones and one other worker.

The effort appears to keep families coming back.

"They love coming out and they come out multiple times," Jones said, adding that some families with season passes



Pumpkins grow in the field at Lil' Harvester's Pumpkin Patch near Rapid City.
Photo submitted by Lucas Hartshorn

return nearly every weekend throughout the season.

Mazing Acres – Yankton, S.D.

What started as a small family project has grown into roughly 35 acres of fall festivities outside Yankton.

Scott and Molly Nedved opened Mazing Acres with their family in 2020. At the time, the idea was to create a small hobby farm that could teach their children the value of hard work while giving the community something new to enjoy.

“It’s grown more than we thought it would,” Molly laughed.

Today, Mazing Acres, a member of Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, includes six acres of pumpkins, a five-acre corn maze, a flower patch and several attractions. Visitors can take a hayrack ride, watch pig races, play in the corn pit or try the apple cannons.

The corn maze, sponsored by First Dakota National Bank, changes design each year. For 2026, the design celebrates the nation’s 250th anniversary.

Although the festival lasts only several weekends, planning starts almost as soon as the previous season ends. The family reviews what worked, attends industry



A family poses for a photo in the giant pumpkin chair at Mazing Acres.

Photo submitted by Molly Nedved

conferences and selects the next year’s pumpkin varieties in late fall. By August, Scott said preparing the farm becomes “an all-day affair every day until we open.”

Visitors will notice a few changes this year. Saturday hours are being extended until 8 p.m., allowing families to experience the farm after dark, and a new tiny-town area will feature themed playhouses for younger children.

Mazing Acres opens Sept. 19 and runs through Halloween.

“We want to be something for every age,” Molly said. “Not just for the kids.”

Lil’ Harvester’s Pumpkin Patch – Rapid City, S.D.

At Lil’ Harvester’s Pumpkin Patch south of Rapid City, the Hartshorn family’s fall tradition started in 2013 with pumpkins planted by hand.

Since then, owner Lucas Hartshorn said the patch has grown to about 11 acres.

Hartshorn started the pumpkin patch with his parents, Lyle and Donna, after his father retired. The family wanted a way to keep farming while creating an event they could enjoy with their children.

“We were looking for something to do with the kids in the fall,” Hartshorn said.

At the time, pumpkin patches were harder to find around Rapid City. After

visiting one themselves, the family decided they could create a similar experience on their own farm.

Each year brought something new. Planting pumpkins by hand eventually gave way to a planter, while the patch grew to include a petting zoo, bounce houses, wagon rides, a sandbox and other activities.

Lil’ Harvester’s, a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative, also opens during the week for school field trips, where students get a closer look at agriculture. Hartshorn said demonstrations may focus on pumpkins or the differences between sweet corn, field corn and popcorn, including how each is grown. For Hartshorn, that mix of farming, education and family time remains at the heart of the patch.

“They get to come out to the farm and learn something,” Hartshorn said.

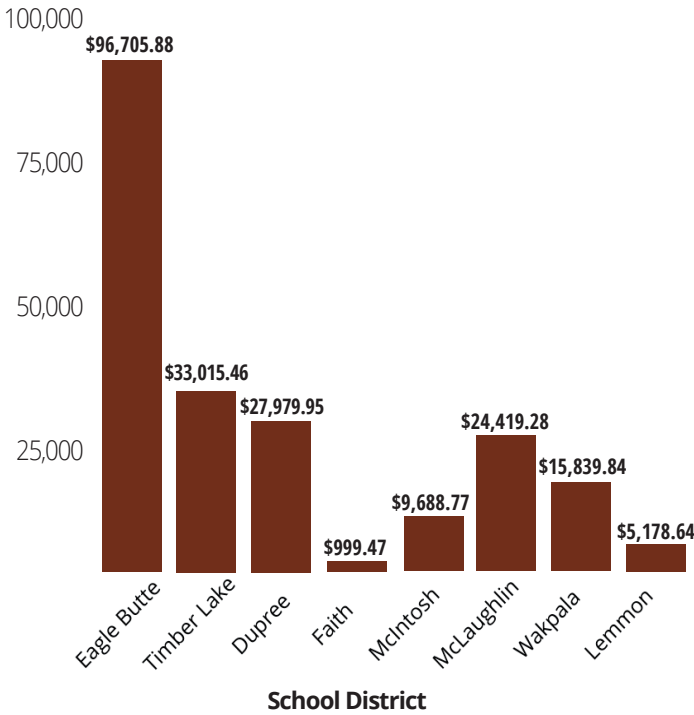
Across South Dakota, there are several more pumpkin patches and fall festivities similar to those put on by Country Apple Orchard, Mazing Acres and Lil’ Harvester’s Pumpkin Patch. Whether it’s a small hobby farm or a dedicated agritourism operation, each one offers its own take on fall traditions that continue to draw families back year after year.



Visitors of all ages can find something to enjoy at Mazing Acres near Yankton, including the farm’s giant slides.

Photo submitted by Molly Nedved

Cooperative Taxes Benefit Schools



Your electric cooperative pays a generation tax in lieu of real and personal property taxes.

The tax is .016 percent of the kilowatt sales in each school district of Moreau-Grand’s service area.

All of this tax amount is allocated directly to the school districts and is used for school purposes.

Total 2025 taxes paid in 2026 were \$213,827.29.

2025 Year End Statistics

Members.....	3,874	Average Residential	
Meters.....	7,175	Usage.....	802 kWh
Service Area.....	6,950 sq mi	Average Residential	
Cost of one mile		Statement.....	\$125.27
single-phase line:		Average Residential	
Underground.....	\$66,100	kWh.....	16¢
Overhead.....	\$53,300	Average Commercial	
Cost of one mile		Usage.....	3,594 kWh
three-phase line:		Average Commercial	
Underground.....	\$98,400	Statement.....	\$410.32
Overhead.....	\$88,500	Average Commercial	
Transmission line.....	210 mi	kWh.....	11¢
Underground line.....	446 mi	Average Revenue/	
Overhead line.....	3,149 mi	kWh.....	14¢

Taxes Paid by Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative in 2025

S.D. Generation Taxes	\$213,827.29
Real and Personal Taxes	\$63,500.71
Sales, Use and Excise Taxes U.S.	\$513,598.83
Unemployment Taxes	\$1,790.64
Employers Share FICA	\$154,179.17
TOTAL TAXES PAID	\$946,896.64

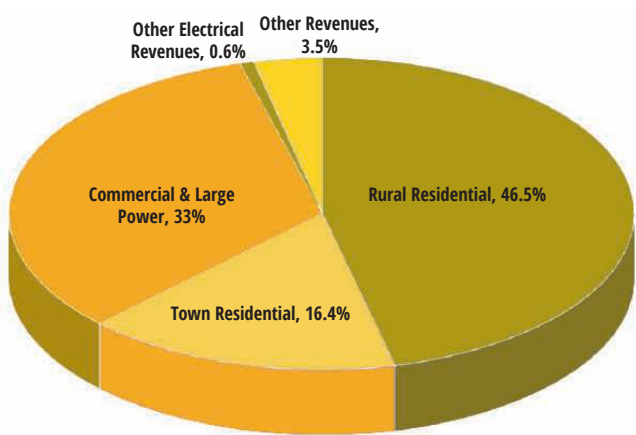
Balance Sheet

What we own as of Dec. 31, 2024 and Dec. 31, 2025

What We Own	2024	2025
We have an electrical system that costs:	\$71,126,779	\$73,417,125
Plus construction in progress:	\$3,641,626	\$1,475,516
Less Depreciation to date:	(\$25,807,452)	(\$26,086,516)
Our net plant is:	\$48,960,953	\$48,806,125
IN ADDITION		
Non utility plant:	-	-
We have cash on hand & checking deposits:	\$259,711	\$319,222
We have time and savings deposits:	\$407,357	\$674,885
We have owed to us for electricity & other supplies:	\$1,474,191	\$1,709,066
We have material on hand:	\$1,232,637	\$1,422,898
We have investments in associated organizations:	\$7,093,575	\$7,225,439
We have other investments:	\$283,983	\$325,388
We have deferred debits:	\$132,406	\$108,840
FOR TOTAL ASSETS OF:	\$59,844,813	\$60,591,863
Liabilities	2024	2025
We owe RUS, CFC and CoBank:	\$35,311,130	\$35,503,317
We owe power bill, short-term notes, accrued taxes & supplies	\$3,570,934	\$3,362,796
We owe consumers & others for deposits:	\$532,802	\$537,752
We owe other deferred credits:	\$154,900	\$162,038
FOR TOTAL LIABILITIES OF:	\$39,569,766	\$39,565,903
Net Worth	2024	2025
We have patronage capital credits:	\$16,724,148	\$17,143,750
We have other equities & donated capital:	\$3,550,899	\$3,882,210
FOR A TOTAL NET WORTH OF:	\$20,275,047	\$21,025,960
WE HAVE A TOTAL OF LIABILITIES & NET WORTH OF	\$59,844,813	\$60,591,863
PERCENT EQUITY:	33.88%	34.70%

Statement of Revenue & Expenses

Operating Revenues	2024	2025
Farms	\$6,366,426	\$6,824,121
Residential	\$2,249,403	\$2,405,883
Commercial	\$4,479,254	\$4,840,166
Street Lights	\$93,117	\$94,407
Penalties	\$84,143	\$90,558
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$401,770	\$416,421
Total Operating Revenue	\$13,674,113	\$14,671,556



Your Cooperative

Incorporated: May 6, 1946

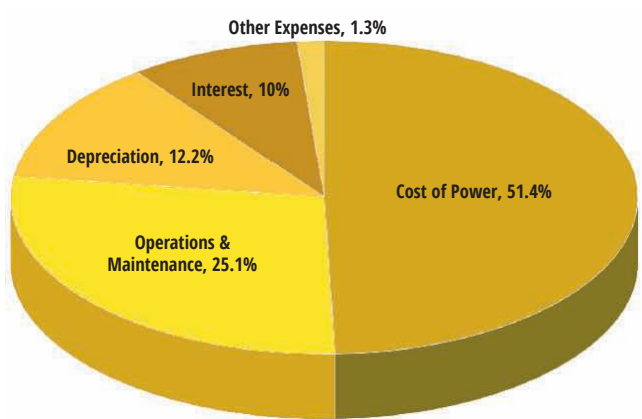
Counties Served: Dewey, Corson and Ziebach

Power Supply: Basin Electric – 85% WAPA – Hydro 15%

Source of Loan Funds: USDA/Rural Utilities Service, CFC and CoBank

Operating Expenses	2024	2025
Purchased Power	\$6,643,871	\$7,242,324
Transmission Expenses	\$41,644	\$59,910
Distribution-Operations	\$1,192,075	\$1,150,226
Distribution-Maintenance	\$714,709	\$542,029
Consumer Accounting	\$570,726	\$560,075
Customer Service and Information	\$125,802	\$147,592
Sales Expense	\$13,006	\$13,021
General and Administrative	\$914,314	\$1,054,661
Depreciation	\$1,625,909	\$1,724,533
Taxes	\$162,745	\$163,631
Interest	\$1,346,618	\$1,403,515
Other Deductions	\$15,027	\$16,109
Total Operating Expenses	\$13,366,445	\$14,077,626

What we have left as of Dec. 31, 2024 and Dec. 31, 2025		
Operating Margin	\$307,668	\$593,930
Non-operating Margin	\$106,661	(\$4,060)
G & T Capital Credits	\$419,495	\$382,080
Other Capital Credits	\$76,581	\$84,820
Net Margins	\$910,405	\$1,056,770



WHOLESALE POWER COSTS

2013	\$5,943,216
2014	\$6,094,754
2015	\$5,565,165
2016	\$6,197,421
2017	\$6,510,770
2018	\$6,492,208
2019	\$6,366,728
2020	\$6,250,325
2021	\$6,162,000
2022	\$6,658,238
2023	\$6,276,002
2024	\$6,643,870
2025	\$7,242,324

TOTAL KWH USED

2013	99,826,108
2014	102,067,527
2015	96,557,188
2016	95,406,619
2017	97,047,679
2018	103,396,323
2019	103,360,213
2020	100,374,906
2021	99,296,260
2022	105,338,954
2023	102,564,085
2024	101,697,841
2025	102,269,143



LOST BENEATH OAHE

The Rise, Fall and Disappearance of a South Dakota Ghost Town

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdsu.edu

Beneath the waves of Lake Oahe lies more than dead trees and walleye. Just below the surface near Akaska sit the remnants of LeBeau, an early 1900s railroad town once filled with immense promise and prosperity, whose story is worthy of its own Wild West feature film.

For years, Caroline Thorsen has collected the history of her great-grandfather, Antoine Le Beau, and the town that bore his name. Through Thorsen's collection and research by railroad historian Don Hofsommer in "A Promise Broken: LeBeau and the Railroad," we can dive beneath the waters of Lake Oahe and dredge up the story of LeBeau's dramatic rise and fall.

A French Fur Trader

The story of the ghost town of LeBeau begins with Antoine Le Beau Sr., a French fur trader whose journey in the mid-1800s took him from France to Quebec, Canada, then to St. Louis, Missouri and eventually up the Missouri River to what is now South Dakota.

"As I unfortunately did not know [Antoine], I hope he is remembered as being a brave gentleman who crossed the ocean from France to come to America and eventually become friends with the Native Americans, married in Native Tradition," said Thorsen, Le Beau's great-granddaughter.

The woman Antoine married was Mary Little Thunder, a member of the Two Kettle Band of Sioux. Antoine himself was later one of several Frenchmen adopted

into the Sioux Tribe at a Great Sioux Council, where he was given the name "Ogless," or "Red Shirt."

Le Beau worked with the American Fur Company before establishing a trading post along the Missouri River near present-day Akaska. The post became the foundation of a small town that would eventually bear his name and become a brief, yet bright, gateway to the West.

The Railroad

By the time the railroad arrived, Antoine Le Beau Sr. was gone, but the town was quickly gaining the reputation of a small metropolis. In 1907, the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway (M&StL) reached LeBeau, connecting the small Missouri River settlement to Watertown and markets farther east.

"As LeBeau prospered, so did the M&StL's westernmost extension; as LeBeau withered, so did its railroad," Hofsommer writes.

Cattle companies from Texas had taken notice of both LeBeau and the grasslands west of the Missouri. Once they learned cattle thrived west of the river, they began moving large herds into the region. Through its railroad, LeBeau offered those ranchers a new route to market.

The next trick was getting the cattle across the river. On the west side of the Missouri, large holding pens could accommodate as many as 3,500 animals. From there, cattle crossed the river aboard the Scotty Philip, a steam-powered ferry. Once across, they could be loaded directly onto eastbound rail cars.

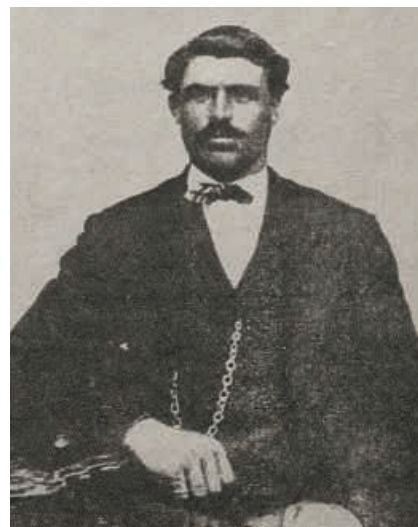
The mouth of Swan Creek on Lake Oahe where the ghost town of LeBeau resides under the waves. *Photo by Frank Turner*

In 1908, roughly 24,000 cattle passed through LeBeau on their way to and from the West River ranges, representing about \$1 million in livestock at the time. The feat helped cement the town's place as a major cattle-shipping point on the Missouri.

A Bustling Town

By the end of the season, LeBeau featured two banks, a newspaper, a drugstore, a general store and a local saloon. The growing town also boasted two lumberyards, a grain elevator and a livery, along with prominent businesses like the Idle Hour billiard and pool parlor, the Hotel LeBeau and Arcade Hotel. For entertainment, residents could even catch a show at Zimmer's Opera House.

As the town grew, M&StL officials planned to continue the rail line west of the



French fur trapper Antoine Le Beau Sr.
Photo submitted by Caroline Thorsen

Missouri by building a bridge across the Missouri, hinting at a long expansion all the way to the West Coast. The excitement only reinforced the idea that LeBeau was destined to become the gate to the west.

The buzz captured the attention of Murdo MacKenzie, general manager of the Matador Land and Cattle Company, and his wealthy son, Dode. Described as a likable and fine young man – while sober – Dode moved to LeBeau in his early 20s to oversee Matador's South Dakota operations.

A Questionable Killing

At the end of the 1909 shipping season, Dode MacKenzie began frequenting LeBeau's saloons. On Dec. 11, he was shot and killed by Bud Stephens, who was tending the bar that morning at Phil DuFran's saloon.

Local accounts of what happened that day – and of Dode MacKenzie's character – differ greatly. One local official described MacKenzie as a stand-up individual, while another local woman said he was known to shoot behind the heels of women in the town when "spirits took him."

Exactly what happened on Dec. 11 will never be known, but according to the version later presented by Stephens' defense at trial, MacKenzie became furious when Stephens failed to hear him order a drink. Rebuffed, MacKenzie crossed the street to purchase what he believed were



The paddle-wheeler Scotty Philip loads cattle at LeBeau, S.D., to be fattened on grasslands west of the Missouri River. For about three years, LeBeau was one of the Northwest's most important cattle-shipping towns.

Photo courtesy of the South Dakota Historical Society

.45-caliber shells, loaded his gun, walked back, pointed it at Stephens and pulled the trigger twice. As the story goes, MacKenzie had accidentally purchased .38-caliber shells, which failed to fire and instead plopped onto the floor. It was then that Stephens reached for his gun and began firing, killing the young MacKenzie.

A Dying Town

The trial resulted in Stephens' acquittal, drawing the ire of Dode MacKenzie's father and the Matador Cattle Company. The company effectively boycotted LeBeau, and no Matador cattle ever entered the town again.

Within months of the trial, a suspicious fire made matters worse. Although fires weren't uncommon in the Wild West, townsfolk discovered that the fire hose, telephone and telegraph lines had all been cut prior to the fire. No arsonist was ever caught.

The bad luck didn't stop there. A competing rail line to the north completed a bridge across the Missouri at Mobridge, undercutting LeBeau's stream of West River cattle. By 1924, M&StL abandoned the town, tearing out its segment of rail line. Within a year, the post office closed.

Beneath Lake Oahe

LeBeau had been a ghost town for decades when Lake Oahe came for what was left.

Construction of Oahe Dam near Pierre began in 1948 as part of a massive federal effort to control flooding and generate hydroelectric power along the Missouri River. In August 1958, the river was closed at the dam and the newly created reservoir began to fill.

As the water rose, it eventually covered the old LeBeau townsite near the mouth of Swan Creek. The empty foundations, cellar holes and remnants of the once-bustling railroad town disappeared beneath Lake Oahe. Unlike most ghost towns in South Dakota that faded away with time, LeBeau vanished beneath the Missouri.



A crowd gathers around a band near the railroad in LeBeau, S.D., with the depot and Missouri River visible in the distance. About a year after this photo was taken, the town installed 10-foot-wide concrete sidewalks along Main Street.

Photo courtesy of the South Dakota Historical Society.

2026 CO-OP DIRECTOR CANDIDATE PROFILES

Ryan Maher, District 2



Ryan Maher, Isabel, is an Insurance Agent and owner/operator of the Occidental General Store. He is returning to the board unopposed. He is the current board chairman and has

served on the MGEC Board of Directors since 2017.

Maher is employed with Insight Partners Insurance with an office in Timber Lake. He sells commercial insurance, property and casualty, and life and health insurance.

Maher graduated from Isabel High School, received a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and Business from BHSU, and achieved his Master's Degree in Colorado Graduate School of Banking.

Maher served in the South Dakota State Senate for 16 legislative sessions, working as Majority Whip, Assistant Majority Leader, and other leadership roles.

When asked why he wants to be re-elected to the board, Maher said:

I want to continue serving on the Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Board because MGEC plays an essential role in the lives of its members and the future of our rural communities. Reliable and affordable electricity is vital to our homes, farms, ranches, businesses, schools, and public services.

As a current board member and chairman, I understand the responsibility of making decisions that affect both today's members and future generations. During my time on the board, we have worked to strengthen the cooperative, invest responsibly in our facilities and electrical system, and plan for the long-term needs of our members.

Electric cooperatives face increasing costs, changing regulations, new technology, and growing demands on the electrical grid. My experience in business, banking, state government, budgeting, and cooperative governance allows me to examine these issues carefully and understand how board decisions affect the people who ultimately pay the bills.

I want to continue helping MGEC provide dependable service while keeping rates as affordable as possible. Most importantly, I want to make sure the cooperative remains financially sound and focused on the needs of its members.

Geralyn Hahne, District 3



Geralyn Hahne (Incumbent) is the unopposed candidate for District 3. She has served on the board for three years. She and her husband, Bill, have four adult children

and nine grandchildren. They live on a 4th generation ranch 5 miles east of Trail City. She has been helping people her whole life, starting out in 1977 as a licensed practical nurse. She worked as an RN from 1989 until she became a physician assistant in 2001. She retired in 2019 and served as a church secretary until the summer of 2023.

Geralyn graduated from Timber Lake High School and obtained her LPN license from St. Mary's in Pierre. She then earned her Associate's Degree in nursing from Presentation College through the Eagle Butte campus. Finally, she earned her physician assistant certification from UND in Grand Forks. She is the Vice President of the Holy Rosary Altar Society in Trail City. She is also an active member in the Holy Rosary Catholic Church and Trail

City Community Hall.

When asked why she wants to be re-elected to the board, Hahne said, "Though a far cry from medical, I have appreciated my role on the MGEC board. I have learned so much in the past 3 years and would like to continue serving in this capacity."

Kerry McLellan, District 5



District 5 incumbent Kerry McLellan, Lantry, owns and operates a ranch with his wife, Mariah, and their four children. His family has been ranching there

for four generations, illustrating their commitment and stewardship of the land.

McLellan graduated from Dupree High School in 1999 and from Mitchell Tech's Power Line School in 2000.

McLellan has been a Ziebach County Conservation District Board Member and a Sacred Heart Parish Council Member in the past. He has served on the MGEC Board of Directors since 2014. In his capacity as a Cooperative Board Member, he has served on the South Dakota Rural Electric Association board since 2016, Rushmore Electric's board since 2023, and since this year, has been serving on the board for National Rural Electric Cooperative Association – the first director from western South Dakota to do so.

When asked why he wants to be re-elected to the board, McLellan said, "I have always been passionate about rural communities and powering them. I recognize the importance of electricity, and what it does for rural communities. We always have to look out for the members at the end of the line."

Committed to Serving Your Cooperative

Employee	Years of Service
Kent Larson , General Manager	34
Chad Mettler , Journeyman Lineman	27
Justin Thorstenson , Eagle Butte Line Foreman	26
Jody Pateneau , Mechanic/Groundsman	25
Josh Lemburg , Line Superintendent	21
Hunter Smith , Staking Engineer	14
Jace Vrooman , Staking Foreman	14
Garret Simon , Journeyman Lineman	12
Troy Long , Timber Lake Line Foreman	12
Brock Fischer , Journeyman Lineman	8
Deb Thill , Custodian	8

Jess Keller , Material Work Order Clerk	7
Ethan Aberle , Journeyman Lineman	6
Kyrie Lemburg , Financial Officer	6
Tammi Ducheneaux , Operations Clerk	5
Stephanie Bartlett , Billing Supervisor	4
Jamie Jones , Accountant	4
JJ Martin , Member Services & IT Director	3
Brent Spafford , Apprentice Lineman	3
Collin Grage , Apprentice Lineman	3
Trenton Hansen , Apprentice Lineman	1
Trevor Bad Warrior , Apprentice Lineman	1
Bobbie Traversie , Cashier/Receptionist	1
Tyler Larsen , Journeyman Lineman	New Hire



You are invited!

Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative's

2026 Annual Meeting

October 7, 2026

- Meeting registration and meal start at 5pm
- Business Meeting follows meal
- At MGE Headquarters Building
- Timber Lake, SD
- Pulled Pork Supper
- Members' and Kids' Prizes
- 55" TV and Escooters

LOCATE YOUR ACCOUNT ADDRESS

If you locate your address on any of the inside pages of the Moreau-Grand Electric's Cooperative Connections, notify us and you will receive a \$25 bill credit.

Eligible addresses will not be on the front or back cover.



OCT. 31
Yankton's Harvest Halloween
 Yankton, SD
www.harvesthalloween.com

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.

OCT. 2-3
Public Ghost Investigation
 Fort Sisseton State Park
 Langford, SD
 605-910-4465

OCT. 3
Pumpkin Train/ SoDak Vendor Showcase
 Prairie Village
 Madison, SD

OCT. 3
Fall Harvest Farmers Market
 9 a.m.
 Centennial Park
 Hot Springs, SD

OCT. 3-4
The Black Market
 Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.,
 Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Bldg.
 Sioux Falls, SD

OCT. 4
St. Anthony's Fall Bazaar
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Swiss Steak 12-1:30 p.m.
 Hoven, SD

OCT. 4
Grace Lutheran Church & Little Brown Church Fundraiser
 Meal: 12-1:30 p.m. CDT
 Auction: 2 p.m. CDT
 Grace Lutheran Church
 Hayes, SD
 605-567-3559

OCT. 9-11
S.D. Showdown Truck Show
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Viborg, SD
 605-940-0087

OCT. 14
Soup & Pie Day & Country Store
 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
 First Baptist Church
 105 N. State St.
 Viborg, SD

OCT. 17
Faulkton Area Arts Council Craft Fair
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Faulkton School
 Faulkton, SD
 605-380-8444

OCT. 17
Fabricadabra
 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Dakota Prairie Quilt Guild
 NFAA Easton Yankton
 Archery Center
 Yankton, SD
 605-660-1612

OCT. 23
Monster Mash
 5-8 p.m.
 Box Elder Events Center
 Free Event
 Box Elder, SD
 605-390-9341

OCT. 23
A Night of Laughter & Music
 6 p.m.
 American Legion Post 15
 Sioux Falls, SD
 Tickets & Info: 605-336-3470

OCT. 24
Women of Today Craft Fair
 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 West Central Becker Center
 Hartford, SD
 605-359-2049

OCT. 24
United Church of Christ's Annual Soup & Sweets Dinner
 4-7 p.m.
 105 N 2nd St.
 Hermosa, SD
 605-503-0843

OCT. 31
Treat Street
 Main Street
 Milbank, SD

NOV. 7
Fall Fling Craft/Vendor Show
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Dakota Christian School
 Corsica, SD

NOV. 14-15
Zonta Holiday Craft & Vendor Show
 Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Ramkota Hotel
 Pierre, SD

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