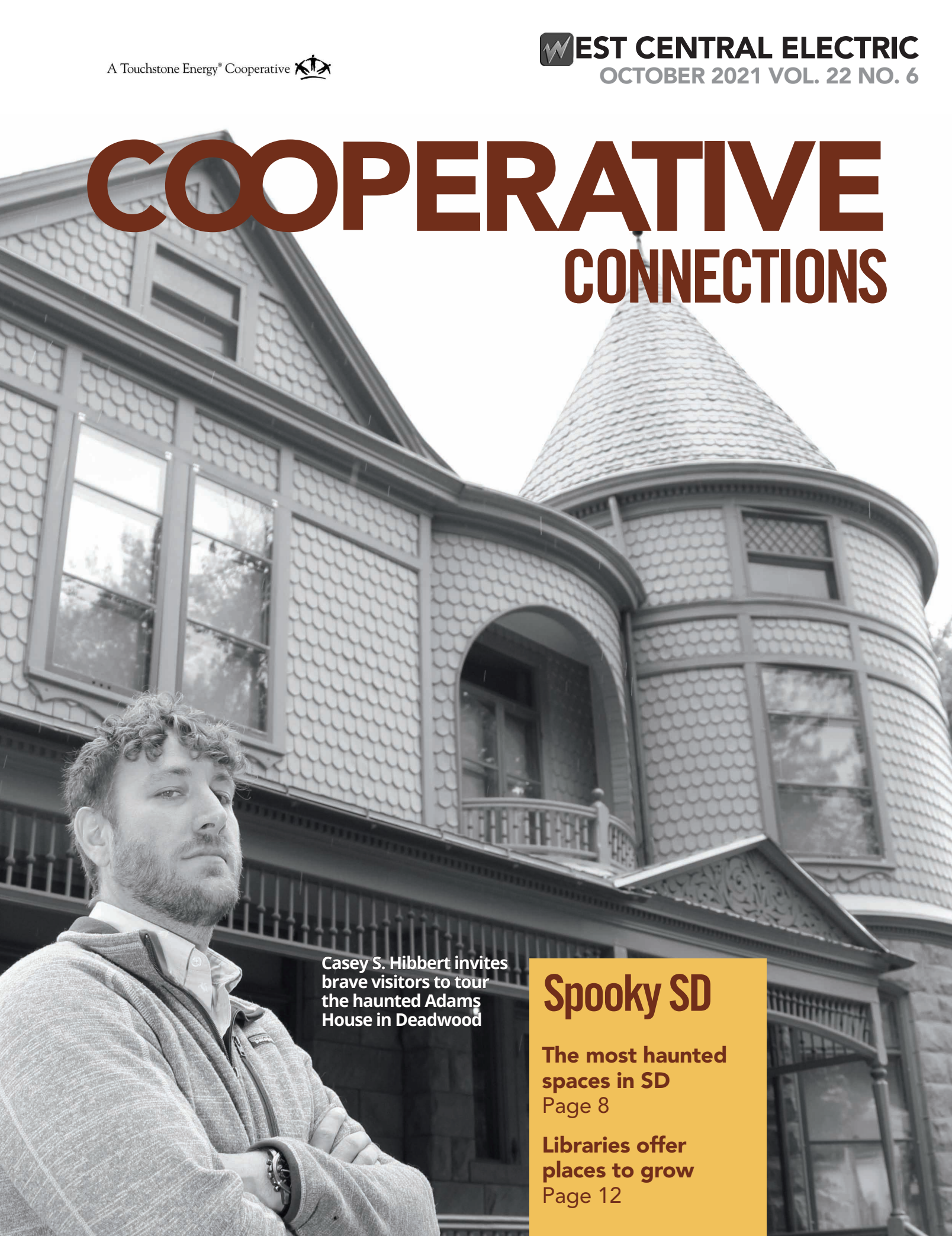


COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



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

Spooky SD

**The most haunted
spaces in SD**

Page 8

**Libraries offer
places to grow**

Page 12

August 2021 Board Minutes and June 2021 Financial Information

The August 17, 2021, board of directors' meeting was held at the Timber Lake office with the following directors present: Bartlett, Clark, Hieb, Keckler, Landis, Lawrence, Maher, McLellan, Walker and Wall, and others present: Manager Maher, and Finance Officer Dahlgren (Delegated Recorder of Minutes).

The Large Power Users monthly report was given by Linda Dahlgren, which included topics on large power usage and payments.

The Member Services report was given by Roger Lawien, which included annual meeting, back to school newsletter, tours to power plants, ice cream socials, SDREA Editors Workshop, large power meter testing, and SDRE annual Charity Ride.

The Operations report was given by Kent Larson, which included Dupree substation transformer, OCR maintenance, pole changes, bid for bucket truck #8 replacement, pole treatment, Miller Construction started site preparation for new headquarters building, Badger Park project update, tree trimming, underground outages, discussed underground fault locator, cost of repairing an underground fault, and Federal Motor Carriers Zoom meeting.

Manager Maher gave the Managers report that included a Basin news release on the potential sale of DGC, new Basin CEO, Rushmore Electric advertising for new CEO, underground outages, Dupree substation transformer has been ordered, July demand charges, Rushmore Load Management report, solar inquiries, SDREA Editorial Board meeting selecting subjects for the generic pages in the Cooperative Connections, Basin Board summary, Basin YTD financial report and SDREA News Bulletin.

The Board reviewed the Director candidate petitions received in Districts 1, 3 & 4.

The Board discussed and registered for the Basin annual meeting scheduled for November 9-11.

The Board discussed the NISC Director position and there was no interest among the board in the position.

Director Lawrence gave a Rushmore Board meeting report that included discussion on CEO qualifications and requirements, will meet after the application deadline to review applications, and decided to decline lease request for the credit union building.

Directors Walker and Keckler gave the SDREA Leadership Summit report that included a presentation on the Billie Sutton Leadership Institute, presentation on Ensuring Board Continuity in a Divided Society and Membership, presentation on How to Build and Maintain a Values Based Cooperative and a round table discussion.

Manager Maher presented the CFC KRTA report to the board and highlighted several ratios.

Manager Maher reported that Upper Deck Architects has provided a first draft for the new headquarters building.

Board approved the following: the agenda, the minutes from the July meeting, new members, refunds, line extensions, financial statistics, disbursements, annual meeting meal bid from St. Mary's Catholic Church Ladies Guild, safety report, director petitions for Districts 1, 3, & 4, Form 990, resolution to approve the 2022 Load Forecast, annual donations to the area fire departments, Director Maher as the delegate and Director McLellan as the alternate for CFC at the NRECA Region 6 meeting, Director McLellan as the delegate and Director Maher as the alternate for Federated and RESCO at the NRECA Region 6 meeting, Director Walker as the delegate and Director Bartlett as the alternate for the Basin annual meeting, NRECA medical insurance rates for 2022 and NRECA R&S pension plan rates for 2022

The next board meeting was scheduled for September 21, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. in the Timber Lake office.

LOCATE YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER



If you locate your account number anywhere in this issue of Moreau-Grand Electric's Cooperative Connections, you will be a winner. If you spot your account number and notify our office before the 10th of the next month, you will receive a **\$25 credit on your next bill!**

June 2021 Financial Information

	June 2021	June 2020	YTD 2021
Operating Revenues	\$1,032,633	\$950,409	\$6,347,729
Cost of Power	\$503,826	\$492,937	\$3,010,470
Cost of Electric Service	\$940,944	\$942,047	\$5,886,203
Margins	\$82,323	\$17,554	\$475,503
kWh Purchased	7,990,115	7,438,943	54,926,205
kWh Sold	7,847,045	7,154,006	50,528,563

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 018-951)

Manager: Melissa Maher

Editor: Roger Lawien,
Member Services & IT Director

Directors

Larry Hieb, President
Kerry McLellan, Vice President
Kelly Landis, Secretary-Treasurer
Lois Bartlett
Clint Clark
Bob Keckler
Paul Lawrence
Ryan Maher
Royce Walker
Troy Wall

Attorney: John Burke

Management Staff:

Kent Larson,
Operations Superintendent
Linda Dahlgren, Finance Officer
Kyrie Lemburg, Accountant

MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, PO Box 8, 405 Ninth St., Timber Lake, SD 57656-0008, for the members of electric cooperatives across South Dakota. Families subscribe to Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living.

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Design assistance by SDREA

Official Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the membership of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held at the Isabel Community Center, Isabel, South Dakota on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021, with a prepared box dinner beginning at 5:00 pm (MT), with the meeting to follow the meal. Note: Membership registration will be open at 5:00 pm. 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 1, 3 and 4. If you are disabled and require a special accommodation to have full and equal participation in this Annual Meeting, call 1-800-952-3158.

*Kelly Landis, Secretary-Treasurer
Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 8, Timber Lake SD 57656-0008*

MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. CERTIFICATE OF DELEGATION

This form is to designate the voting delegate of an organization. This form should be completed and signed by an officer of the organization and brought to the meeting.

Voting Authorization Necessary for Organizations

Non-Individual members such as schools, municipalities, churches, organizations, and corporations are entitled to representation and one vote, but the proper procedure must be followed to exercise this right.

Each member organization should designate a representative who is an officer, shareholder, or member of their organization. This form must be signed by an officer of the governing body.

Authorization to Vote

I, _____, do hereby certify that I am a(n) Officer, Shareholder, or Member (CIRCLE ONE) of said organization and the duly authorized delegate to the Annual Meeting of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc., to be held on October 6, 2021, in Isabel, South Dakota. I request the right to exercise the authority of the membership vested in the:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

SIGNATURE OF DELEGATE

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that we comprise the governing body of the above referred organization and that the above referred person is the sole, duly authorized delegate to the Annual Meeting of
MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(TWO OR MORE SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED)

DATE _____

Practice fire safety this fall and winter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WE'VE GOT SD COVERED



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

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

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



Call 811 before you dig!

Fletcher Nutt

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

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

PERFECT PASTA PICKS

RATTLESNAKE PASTA

Ingredients:

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

METHOD

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

Family Features

HERB BAKED CHICKEN AND PASTA

Ingredients:

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

METHOD

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

SPAGHETTI PIE

Ingredients:

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

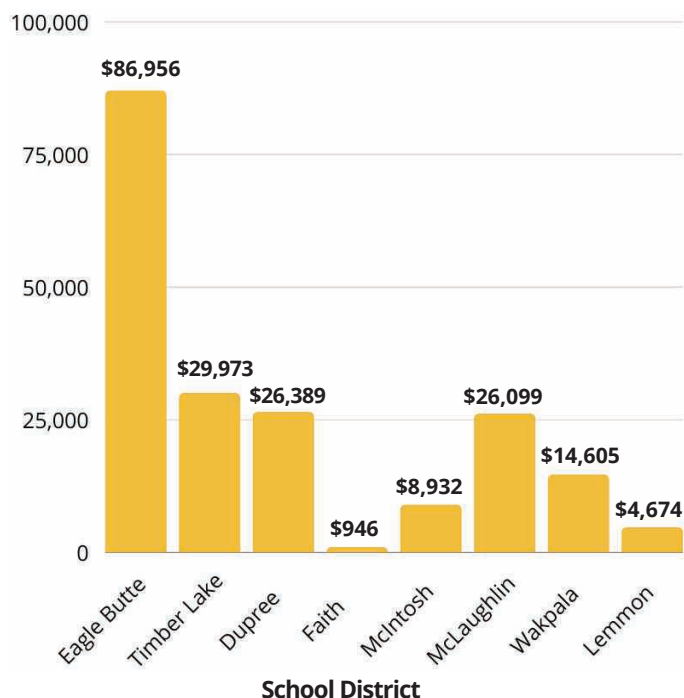
METHOD

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

Linda Sherry, Sioux Falls

Please send your favorite dairy recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2021. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

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 2020 taxes paid in 2021 were \$198,573.66

2020 Year End Statistics

Members.....	3,962	Average Residential	
Meters.....	7,046	Usage.....	805 kWh
Service Area.....	6,950 sq mi	Average Residential	
Cost of one mile		Statement.....	\$108.48
single-phase line:		Average Residential	
Underground.....	\$44,500	kWh.....	\$0.13
Overhead.....	\$31,000	Average Commercial	
Cost of one mile		Usage.....	3,631 kWh
three-phase line:		Average Commercial	
Underground.....	\$75,000	Statement.....	\$370.52
Overhead.....	\$43,000	Average Commercial	
Transmission line.....	210 mi	kWh.....	\$0.10
Underground line.....	439 mi	Average Revenue/	
Overhead line.....	3,238 mi	kWh.....	\$0.12

Taxes Paid by Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative in 2020

S.D. Generation Taxes	\$198,573.66
Real and Personal Taxes	10,082.03
Sales, Use and Excise Taxes U.S.	453,163.29
Unemployment Taxes	2,408.54
Employers Share FICA	141,177.27
TOTAL TAXES PAID	\$805,404.79

Balance Sheet

What we own as of Dec. 31, 2019, and Dec. 31, 2020

	2019	2020
ASSETS		
Electrical system that costs:	\$54,075,199	\$56,425,886
Plus construction in progress:	2,306,799	2,154,040
Less depreciation to date:	(21,026,652)	(21,654,782)
Our net plant is:	\$35,355,346	\$36,925,144
IN ADDITION:		
Non-utility plant:	—	—
Cash on hand and checking deposits:	227,435	249,684
Time and savings deposits:	329,799	833,524
Owed to us for electricity and other supplies:	1,445,895	1,306,951
Material on hand:	1,100,307	1,092,946
Investments in associated organizations:	5,927,009	6,020,366
Other investments:	495,236	391,806
Deferred debits:	410,308	292,543
For Total Assets Of:	\$45,291,335	\$47,112,964

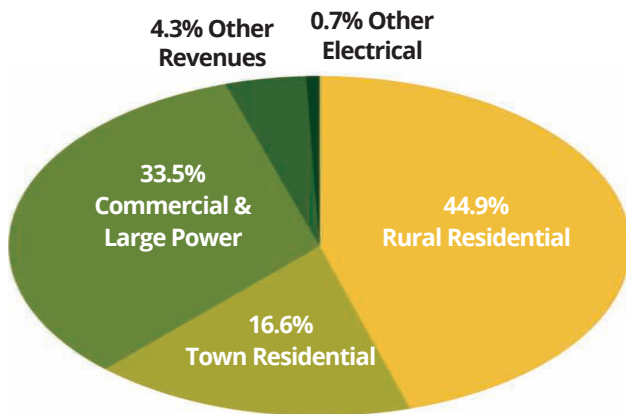
What we owe as of Dec. 31, 2019, and Dec. 31, 2020

LIABILITIES		
RUS and CFC:	\$25,640,058	\$26,679,940
Power bill, short-term notes, accrued taxes and supplies:	2,410,402	2,526,194
Consumers and others for deposits:	464,453	494,703
Deferred credits:	269,762	181,691
Total Liabilities Of:	\$28,784,675	\$29,882,528
NET WORTH		
Patronage capital credits:	\$13,966,080	\$14,202,083
Other equities and donated capital:	2,540,580	3,028,353
Total Net Worth:	\$16,506,660	\$17,230,436
Total Liabilities And Net Worth:	\$45,291,335	\$47,112,964
Percent Equity:	36.45%	36.57%

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

What we took in as of Dec. 31, 2019, and Dec. 31, 2020

	2019	2020
OPERATING REVENUE:		
Farms	\$5,837,188	\$5,695,292
Residential	2,168,321	2,112,731
Commercial	4,250,873	4,250,575
Street Lights	91,887	92,005
Penalties	89,168	60,717
Miscellaneous Revenues	459,765	479,661
Total Operating Revenue	\$12,897,202	\$12,690,981



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 and CFC

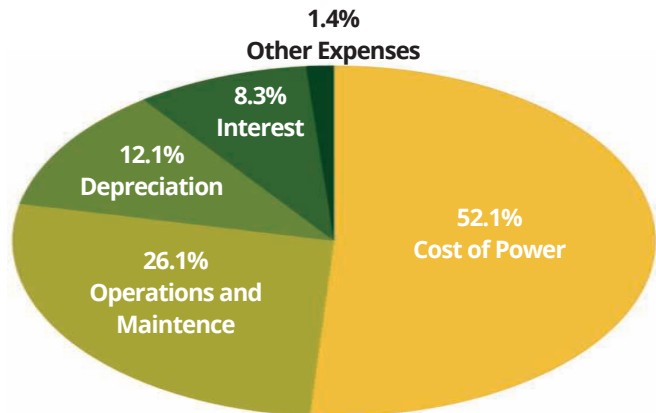
What we spent as of Dec. 31, 2019, and Dec. 31, 2020

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Purchased Power	\$6,366,728	\$6,250,325
Transmission Expenses	48,297	76,393
Distribution – Operations	1,078,976	845,903
Distribution – Maintenance	640,986	703,156
Consumer Accounting	547,183	506,889
Customer Service and Information	123,547	109,102
Sales Expense	9,866	8,580
General and Administrative	925,627	880,889
Depreciation	1,426,843	1,445,256
Taxes	165,376	160,600
Interest	1,076,166	999,130
Other deductions	11,764	6,579
Total Operating Expenses	\$12,421,359	\$11,992,802

What we have left as of Dec. 31, 2019, and Dec. 31, 2020

Operating Margins	\$475,843	\$698,179
Non-Operating Margins	68,937	104,762
G & T Capital Credits	269,326	335,051
Other Capital Credits	92,415	79,565
Total Margins	\$906,521	\$1,217,557



WHOLESALE POWER COSTS

2010	\$4,179,604
2011	\$4,639,760
2012	\$5,210,090
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

TOTAL KWH USED

2010	86,003,683
2011	91,324,176
2012	90,244,095
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



SEARCHING FOR SPOOKS

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

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

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Visit these haunted sites if you dare

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

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



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

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

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

Theatre in Yankton, Eastons Castle in Aberdeen and others.

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

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

2021 DIRECTOR CANDIDATE PROFILES



Clint Clark, District 1

Clint Clark, Morristown, is a rancher who has a degree in animal science from SDSU. Clint and his wife, Narcel, have been married for 31 years. The couple has raised three children – Courtney, Garrett and Paige – and are proud to have three grandchildren. In his down time, Clark enjoys spending time with his

family and traveling.

Clint has been an extensions educator for 23 years. He also served three years as livestock herdsman for NDSU. Clark has served on Moreau-Grand's board since 2013.

Clark is running unopposed for the District 1 director position. He enjoys learning about rural electric cooperatives and their benefits to rural America.

"Providing reliable and affordable electricity," is one of the challenges Clint says is facing the board of directors.



Larry Hieb, District 3

Larry Hieb, Timber Lake, a past line superintendent of Moreau-Grand, is now retired. Larry and his wife, Darlene, have been married for 46 years. The couple has raised four children – Jim, Michele, Teena and Corey – and are proud to have 15 grandchildren. In his free time, Larry enjoys woodworking.

Hieb was previously the mayor of Timber Lake and held that position from 1976-1980. He has been on Moreau-Grand's board of directors since 2000 and is currently the president of the board.

Hieb is running unopposed for the District 3 director position. He enjoys serving the members of Moreau-Grand and is happy to be able to help lend some of his experience while serving on the board.

Larry says that there are several things that make being a director challenging such as, "Keeping rates as low as possible, keeping good employees and safety programs, all of which make for happy consumers."

Robert Keckler, District 4

Robert Keckler, Eagle Butte, is a rancher who lives with his wife of 60 years, Arliss. The pair raised their four children –Kevin, Justin, Dean and Jess –and are proud to have 14 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

Keckler enjoys horses, ranching and spending time with friends and family. Robert is also a Dewey County Commissioner. He has served on Moreau-Grand's board since 2000.

Keckler is running unopposed for the District 4 position. He enjoys being a director and finds it rewarding when "people thank you for helping them and working for them."



Committed to Serving Your Cooperative

Employee	Years of Service
Melissa Maher , General Manager.....	37
Kyrie Lemburg , Accountant.....	1
Linda Dahlgren , Finance Officer.....	35
Roger Lawien , Member Services & IT Director.....	22
Shayla Beer , Operations Clerk.....	1
Kent Larson , Line Superintendent.....	29
Hunter Smith , Staking Foreman.....	9
Jessica Keller , Material-Work Order Clerk.....	2
Josh Lemburg , Timber Lake Line Foreman.....	16
Jamey Pateneau , McLaughlin Line Foreman.....	18
Justin Thorstenson , Eagle Butte Line Foreman.....	21
Neil Hahne , Eagle Butte Service Lineman.....	32
Sue Sherwood , Billing Supervisor.....	10
Tammi Ducheneaux , Consumer Clerk.....	6 months
Wendy Shupick , Eagle Butte Member Service Representative.....	28
Deb Thill , Custodian.....	3
Chad Mettler , Journeyman Lineman.....	22
Garret Simon , Journeyman Lineman.....	7
Troy Long , Journeyman Lineman.....	7
Jace Vrooman , Journeyman Lineman.....	9
Brock Fischer , Apprentice Lineman.....	3
Tyler Olson , Apprentice Lineman.....	1
Camdon Sawvell , Apprentice Lineman.....	1
Jody Pateneau , Mechanic/Groundman.....	20



ABERLES SELECTED AS 2021 GOOD NEIGHBORS

"Concern for Community" is one of the seven basic principles that guide Moreau-Grand Electric. It's the same principle that has guided Andy and Keva Aberle for decades as leaders of the Timber Lake community and the surrounding area. In recognition of their service and positive contributions to their fellow citizens, the Aberles have been selected as this year's winners of Moreau-Grand Electric's Good Neighbor Award.

Andy Aberle is a Korean-era military veteran and attorney who represented members on the MGE Board of Directors for 20 years. He describes his approach to public service as leading by example.

"Community service means going beyond what people think you should do and teaching by example," he said. "You don't have to tell people what to do. Just show them. They'll observe you and they'll come up with it themselves. Someone once said that if somebody has to keep telling you how great they are, they're not worth listening to."

When Aberle went into the military in March of 1951, the family farm was still without electricity, but that had changed by the time he returned on furlough the following

December. "I got home and they pulled a prank on me," he remembers. "I went in the barn to milk the cows and went to light the lantern so I could see, and when I struck the match they flipped the lights on. It lit up the whole barn and caught me by surprise."

At the age of 92, Aberle not only remembers when the family farm became energized, he's also quick to recall the cadence used while executing military drills: "Get your eyes up off the ground/there ain't no discharge laying around/sound off one, two, once more three, four..." A native of Landeau and childhood resident of Trail City, Aberle provided general legal services throughout the area for 60 years, including many hours of pro bono work. #16484

He was always quick to support local businesses and recalls a simpler time when there was a greater sense of cohesion in the country. "People stuck together and worked together and played together. They depended on each other and needed each other. Now there are so many distractions with the internet and satellite television and transportation. People go off in all different directions," he said.

For her part, Keva was a homemaker who served the community in various ways, including opening her home as a hub of activity and hangout spot for neighborhood youngsters.

"We always had the neighborhood kids at our house, and they all grew up to be really good people," she said, noting she and Andy have been married 62 years. "I took care of all the kids that came by, but really we were all working together to raise our kids as a community. If someone got out of line, I'd let their parents know. And if mine got out of line, they'd let me know."

MGE General Manager Melissa Maher said the Aberles exemplify the community-minded cooperative principles and she congratulated them on being selected as this year's Good Neighbors.

"Andy and Keva have given so much to so many and it's an honor for the cooperative to recognize them for all of their contributions, they have personally been lifetime family friends. The world would be a better place with more people like Andy Aberle. I'm certainly better off for having their friendship over the years!" Maher said.

A PLACE TO GROW

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

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

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

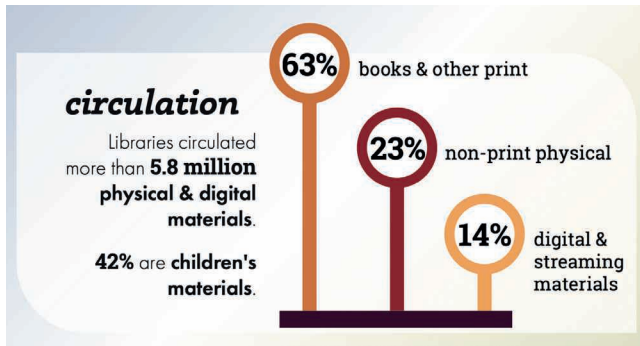
Schlim said her facility is open six days a week with more than 14,000 books on the shelves, five public

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

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

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

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



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

Grant-funded items include the following:

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

STATE LIBRARY DIGITIZES 41 VOLUMES OF SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS



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

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

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

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

CRAZY ABOUT CO-OPS



Entertainer and Mount Vernon Mayor Weston Frank bears a co-op logo on his forearm in memory of his great grandfather.

South Dakota's cooperative leaders leave a legacy of service in local communities throughout the state

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Some people place a lot of faith and belief in the cooperative way of doing business.

And then some people don't mind letting the world know exactly where they stand on cooperatives and what they represent.

When Weston Frank pulls up his shirt sleeve, everyone can see how much cooperatives mean to him. He has the word "COOP" tattooed in big, bold letters right there on his forearm.

Frank, who is mayor of Mount Vernon and an entertainer well-known throughout the state, had the cooperative logo inked into his arm for a special reason. He got the tat in memory of his great grandfather,

Howard Frank, who started working at the ag co-op in Wessington Springs after his gas station business burned to the ground. He eventually retired from the co-op in the mid-1990s.

When Weston Frank takes a glance at that image on his arm, he remembers a man who had earned the respect of everyone in his community.

"I love the double circle co-op logo because it's something my great grandfather wore every day. Everyone knew him as a kind and quiet man who would help anyone. He'd stay late to get a job done, then head out to the 281 Junction on Sunday afternoon at the drop of a hat to help a stranded stranger. I never met one person who had something bad to say about him."

As for Weston Frank, the co-op symbol has an even deeper meaning than the memory of his great grandfather.

"That logo stands for a time when men did what they said they would. You could trust the word of your fellow man, and the local co-op board. I have on occasion caught grief from some folks who associate the double circle with poor memories and situations. I always apologize that they feel that way, but the co-op provided for my family for many years without incident. For me, the logo helps me remember the man, the good he did and the love he had for his family."

Cooperatives have been part of South Dakota's landscape for well over 100 years, and have an estimated annual economic impact of \$8 to \$10 billion. Collectively, cooperatives provide an estimated 16,000 jobs for South Dakotans, and contribute almost \$600 million in tax revenue to the state.



The cooperative spirit also runs through the veins of Brenda Forman, executive director of the South Dakota Association of Cooperatives. Her introduction to the co-op world came early in life when she was a girl growing up in Gettysburg where both her grandfather and father served on the Cenex board of directors.

“THAT LOGO STANDS FOR A TIME WHEN MEN DID WHAT THEY SAID THEY WOULD. YOU COULD TRUST THE WORD OF YOUR FELLOW MAN, AND THE LOCAL CO-OP BOARD.”

At the age of 14, Forman landed her first job at the local Cenex station and worked there through high school and college, often filling a spot on the spraying crew. She joined the co-op association 25 years ago and has carried on the mission of serving the association's members and lauding the many benefits of cooperative businesses, including telecommunications, farm supply, marketing and electric organizations.

Her father, Richard Mangin, held a position on the Cenex board for



South Dakota Cooperative Association Hall of Famer Charles Birkholt served as general manager of Cam Wal Electric Cooperative for the last eight of his 45 years there. After retiring from Cam Wal, Birkholt served on the board of Venture Telecommunications.

25 years. At the end of December each year, she would accompany her dad down to the co-op to help take inventory.

“On the way over we’d talk about the co-op and how it got started and why he served on the board, to help people,” Forman recalled. “Something that touched me deeply happened when a gentleman came up to me once and I told him I was from Gettysburg. He said he knew my dad and they worked on the Cenex board together. He looked around at the other people and told them I come from good stock. That was one heckuva of a compliment, coming from someone who thought that much of my dad and granddad and their involvement in the co-op.”

Charles Birkholt is a member of the SDAC Hall of Fame and has served consumers of both a telecommunications co-op and an electric co-op. Back in 1952, Birkholt joined Cam Wal Electric in Selby as a groundsman at the rate of 85 cents an hour. He climbed his way up to manager and recalls farmers complaining about their \$5 monthly power bills. He later retired after 45 years of service at Cam Wal.

But Birkholt wasn’t done yet. Shortly after retiring 20 years ago, he joined the board of Venture Communications.

Estimated economic
impact

\$8-10

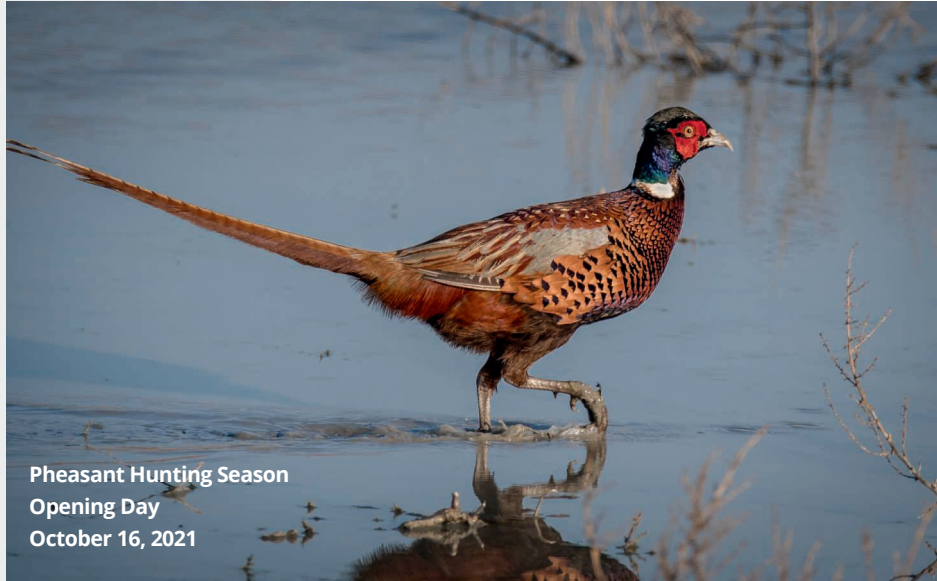
billion

of South Dakota’s
cooperatives

“I enjoyed working at both co-ops and being able to see things on both sides of the board table,” he said. “It gives you different things to think about and makes you understand you have to keep an open mind. But in both positions, you’re working to improve the service and your relationship with your members.”

Birkholt said he encourages all cooperative members, employees and leaders across the state to pause a moment during Co-op Month in October to reflect on the importance of these not-for-profit organizations.

“The consumer is our primary goal, our only reason for existing. That is very unique and isn’t the case for investor-owned enterprises. We’re the underdogs, so that just means we have to work harder,” he said.



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

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

SEPTEMBER 25

Great Downtown Pumpkin Festival

526 Main Street, Rapid City, SD,
605-716-7979

SEPTEMBER 25-26

Menno Pioneer Power Show

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

SEPTEMBER 25-26

Reza: Edge of Illusion

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

SEPTEMBER 30

7th Annual Taste of Sioux Falls

Washington Pavilion, Sioux
Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 3

Festival of Books

Various Locations, Deadwood,
SD, 605-688-6113

OCTOBER 1-2

Oktoberfest

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

OCTOBER 1-3

SiouxperCon

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

OCTOBER 2-3

Fort Pierre Horse Races

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

OCTOBER 7-10

Annual Great Scarecrow Festival

Campbell Park, Huron, SD,
605-354-0491

OCTOBER 8-9

Junkin' Market Days

W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux
Falls, SD, 605-941-4958

OCTOBER 8-10

Pumpkin Festival

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

OCTOBER 9-10

Sioux Falls Quilters' Guild Bi-annual Quilt Show - "Fall in Love with Quilting"

Sioux Falls Convention Center,
Sioux Falls, SD, for more info
visit siouxfallsquiltersguild.com
or send an email to
sfqg2021show@gmail.com

OCTOBER 11

Native American Day Celebration

Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy
Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

OCTOBER 16-17

Heartland Quilter's Guild

Highland Conference Center,
Mitchell SD, Contact Karen at
605-996-6726 for more info

OCTOBER 16-17

KELOLAND Living Arts & Crafts Show

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

OCTOBER 22-23

Governor's South Dakota Showcase

1201 N West Avenue, Sioux
Falls, SD, 605-773-3301

OCTOBER 29-30

Deadweird

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

OCTOBER 30

16th Holiday Shopping Extravaganza

Davison County Fairgrounds,
Mitchell, SD, call Cindy at
605-999-8563 for more info

OCTOBER 30

Scare in the Square

Main Street Square, Rapid City,
SD, 605-716-7979

OCTOBER 30

Yankton's Harvest Halloween

Downtown, Yankton, SD, email
mandi@bostonsyankton.com
for more info

NOVEMBER 13

Sisseton Area Merchants & Crafters Holiday Open House Extravaganza

Sisseton, SD, call Beverly at
605-698-7425 for more info

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