



# Cooperative Connections

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A Mark of  
Safety**

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# Summer Electrical Safety



**Russell Hohn**

Member Services Advisor  
rhohn@oaheelectric.com

As temperatures begin to warm up, people will start spending more of their summertime outside. But let us not forget about electrical safety around our homes and yards. If you understand the dangers associated with electricity, please share the info with family and friends. Go for a walk or a drive around your property or neighborhood and point out the various pieces of electrical equipment. Utility poles, wire, underground cabinets and meters are located within eyesight of everyone's dwelling and should be treated with a great deal of respect. If you would like to be educated on electrical equipment near your home or property, please call Oahe Electric Cooperative and make the request – 1-800-640-6243.

Never throw objects onto a power line and never attempt to remove an object from a power line. Immediately, call your utility and report the issue or concern that you have. If you do not know the phone number for the utility, call 911 and they will assist you.

Never fish near an overhead power line. Each year people are injured or killed when their fishing line becomes tangled in a power line. Please stop anyone that is casting near a power line and tell them to STAY AWAY!

Never touch a power line with any part of your body and never attempt to touch a power line with any object. Always tell yourself and others that the power line is energized and please stay away. No matter if the line is near the ground or lying on the ground, YOU MUST STAY AWAY!

Never attempt to climb a utility pole! Never attach anything to utility poles. Line workers can be injured by these objects.

To avoid getting kites, model aircraft and drones from being tangled in power-lines, fly these devices in wide open spaces far away from power lines.

Never allow anyone to climb trees near power lines. The extra weight can cause branches to touch the power line and become a very dangerous/fatal incident. If you notice trees that are near power lines, please report them immediately to the local electric utility (Oahe Electric at 1-800-640-6243), or 911 if you do not have the utility number. When you make the call, give the most accurate location/description possible. This ensures that professionals will arrive at the correct location to fix the problem.

Check the weather regularly if storms are predicted. Each year, more than 100 people are killed due to lightning strikes and more than 500 are severely injured. When a storm presents itself, find shelter and stay there until the danger passes.

Always remember that water and electricity is a very dangerous combination. Keep all electrical devices/components away from the water. Never touch anything electrical if you are wet or standing in water. Electricity travels very quickly through water and often leads to death by electrocution. If you own a pool or hot tub, make sure that all electrical equipment work is performed by a local electrician.

Do you know where your electric breaker panel is located? Every homeowner should know its location and how to operate the individual breakers behind the lid. A local electrician can help educate you! Please educate yourself and others in your household on breaker panel location/operation.

**Utility poles, wire, underground cabinets and meters are located within eyesight of everyone's dwelling and should be treated with a great deal of respect.**

# Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 019-042)

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Russ Hohn and Sam Irvine

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Rodney Haag

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## Our Mission

Oahe Electric delivers high quality, low-cost electric service to our local member-owners. As a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, we are committed to meeting the highest standards of customer satisfaction. We do business with accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community. As an electric co-op, we are part of America's most trusted network of high quality energy providers.

## ACH Winners Named

Congratulations to **Cassie Auxt** and **Mike Wells**!

Their names were drawn from the numerous members who either had ACH or signed up for ACH during our promotional period. Oahe Electric's ACH Program allows consumers to pay their electric bill directly from their checking or savings account or with a recurring credit card payment. Cassie and Mike don't have to worry about mailing their electric bills ever again and they won some extra cash. Can't beat that!

## Supporting Our Schools

In February, Oahe Electric, along with cooperatives throughout the state, submitted their reports to the South Dakota Department of Revenue for our Killowatt Hour Tax Liability.

At the beginning of June, payment was made to each county treasurer's office, which will then be forwarded directly on to the school districts. ABO Schools, Pierre School District and the Highmore-Harrold school will receive a combined total of almost \$394,000 in tax revenue from Oahe Electric and their power suppliers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and East River Electric Power Cooperative.

Commitment to Community – just another important aspect that sets your electric cooperative apart.

## Allocation Notice Sent to Oahe Electric Co-op Owners

Did you know that each year, your member-owned cooperative that sells you your electricity returns their profits back to you – the member-owner?

Oahe Electric allocated its 2019 margins of almost \$742,000 to its member-owners.

While Oahe Electric had a positive year, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and East River Electric Power Cooperative also had financially successful years, which accounted for almost \$282,000 of the total allocation.

Oahe Electric member-owners received their notices of capital credit earnings for 2019 on their May electric bill that they received at the beginning of June.

## Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your very generous donation to Ranch Ministries through Operation Round Up®. Your donation will help our wounded veterans have a more successful pheasant hunt.

Please come out this fall during hunting season and see how your donation touches the lives of our veterans. It should prove to be a great experience for everyone.

God's Blessings,  
**Ken and Liz Korkow**

## Summer Electrical Safety Tips

The summer is a season almost everyone looks forward to – after all, who doesn't love the warm temperatures that summer brings? Hanging by the pool, summer cookouts, and barbeques bring family and friends together. However, safety should still be your priority. If you don't want to ruin your summer fun due to the lack of electrical safety in your home, we've put together a list of summer electrical safety tips to follow:

- **Keep electronics away from the water** – If you've got an outdoor pool, then you might be thinking about throwing a little get together with friends and family – a pool party if you will. However, think twice about putting your new speakers or mp3 player right by the poolside. All electronics should be kept at least 10 feet away from the pool or any other water source. It doesn't matter how careful you are, accidents can and do happen.
- **Use outdoor-rated extension cords** – If you're going to set up your mp3 player or smartphone outside to play some music while you grill out, make sure that you are using the right extension cord. What is the right extension cord? One that is rated for outdoor use. There's a good chance it will be exposed to moisture outside – and an outdoor-rated extension cord will be able to handle small exposure to water.
- **Inspect your extension cords for damage** – Before using an extension cord, inspect it carefully for damage. The last thing you should do is use a damaged cord as it presents a safety risk – especially if you plan on using it outdoors. Any cracked extension cords or exposed wires should not be used outdoors.
- **Install GFCIs** – A GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) is a device that can help improve the safety of your outlets. Outlets that are near water sources, such as outdoor outlets or bathroom outlets, should have GFCIs installed. A GFCI will shut off the power to the outlet if the circuit is compromised, such as if it gets exposed to water, a spilled drink, etc. This will help to improve the security of your electrical appliances as well as the safety of those in your home.
- **Trim your tree branches** – If the branches on your property are growing a little too close to any power lines, have them trimmed to prevent any downed power lines during high winds or thunderstorms.
- **Don't fly kites or drones near power lines** – If you have power lines that are located relatively close to your home, instruct your children (if you have any) not to fly their kites or model drones in this area. These types of airborne toys should be reserved for flight in wide open spaces, like the park.
- **Know where your breaker box is** – If there's an electrical emergency in your home, then you'll need to know where the breaker box is so that you can shut off the power in a hurry.

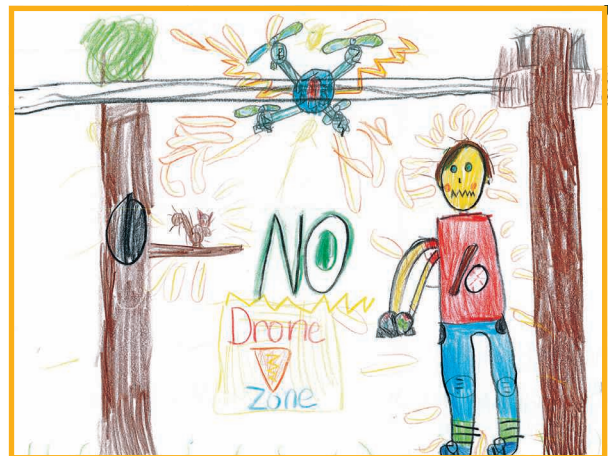
Source: [www.jaffeelectric.com](http://www.jaffeelectric.com)

## Four common culprits of electrical fires

There are 24,000 electrical fires per year across the country. To reduce your risk for damage, check the following areas of your home:

- **Electrical outlets:** Faulty outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.
- **Electrical wiring:** Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, contact a qualified electrician.
- **Overloaded cords and outlets:** Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into extension cords, it's time to have additional outlets installed.
- **Old appliances:** Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets.

## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"No drone zone."

Alli Bares, 9 years old

Alli is the daughter of Tony and Angie Bares, Sioux Falls, S.D. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, S.D.

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



# Delectable Desserts

## Aloha Cake

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 pkg. (2-layer size) yellow cake mix                                 | instant pudding mix                                |
| 4 tsp. McCormick® Coconut Extract with Other Natural Flavors, divided | 1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained          |
| 1 pkg. (4-serving size) vanilla                                       | 1 (8 oz.) container frozen whipped topping, thawed |

Prepare cake mix as directed on package, stirring in 3 tsp. of the coconut flavor. Pour into greased and floured 13x9-inch baking pan. Bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely in pan. Prepare pudding mix as directed on package, stirring in remaining 1 tsp. coconut flavor. Spread pineapple and pudding over cake. Frost with whipped topping. Refrigerate 1 hour or until ready to serve. Makes 24 servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 188, Total Fat 8g, Cholesterol 28mg, Sodium 221mg, Carbohydrates 27g, Fiber 0g, Protein 2g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Buster Bar Dessert

- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1/2 cup butter                      | 1/2 gallon vanilla ice cream         |
| 2/3 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips  | 1-1/2 cups Spanish peanuts, optional |
| 2 cups powdered sugar               | <b>Crust:</b>                        |
| 1-1/2 cups evaporated milk, divided | 1 lb. Oreo cookies                   |
| 1 tsp. vanilla                      | 1/4 cup melted butter                |

Melt butter in heavy saucepan. Add chocolate chips, stirring constantly. Put powdered sugar in mixing bowl; add 1/2 cup evaporated milk, stirring well. Add remaining evaporated milk. Pour mixture into melted butter and chocolate chips, stirring constantly. Bring to a boil, turn heat to medium and boil 8 minutes, stirring often. Remove from heat; add 1 vanilla. Cool completely. **For crust:** Crush Oreo cookies; add butter, mixing well. Press into a 9x13-inch pan. Put pan into freezer. When frozen, quickly spread ice cream over cookie crust. Sprinkle peanuts over crust, if desired, before adding ice cream. Freeze for at least 2 hours. When ice cream layer is completely frozen, quickly pour cooled chocolate layer on top; return to freezer. Can be prepared several days ahead of time.

**Betty Leuthold, Magnolia, MN**

## Summer Peach Dessert

- |                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 14 graham crackers, finely crushed | 24 large marshmallows  |
| 1/2 cup sugar                      | 1/2 cup milk           |
| 1/4 cup melted butter              | 2 cups whipped topping |
|                                    | 3 cups chopped peaches |

Mix graham cracker crumbs, sugar and butter until well blended; reserving a few crumbs for top. Press mixture into a 9x9-inch pan. Heat marshmallows and milk until melted; cool. Fold in whipped topping and peaches. Spread over crust, sprinkling reserved crumbs over all. Chill.

**Elaine Rowett, Sturgis, SD**

## Raspberry Delight

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2-1/4 cups flour                      | 1/4 tsp. salt                                  |
| 2 T. sugar                            | 2 cups Cool Whip                               |
| 3/4 cup butter, softened              | Topping:                                       |
| <b>Filling:</b>                       | 1 (6 oz.) pkg. raspberry gelatin               |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened | 2 cups boiling water                           |
| 1 cup powdered sugar                  | 2 (10 oz.) pkgs. sweetened, frozen raspberries |
| 1 tsp. vanilla                        |  |

In a bowl, combine flour and sugar; blend in butter with wooden spoon until smooth. Press into an ungreased 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 300°F. for 20 to 25 minutes or until set (crust will not brown). Cool. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, powdered sugar, vanilla and salt until smooth. Fold in Cool Whip. Spread over crust. For topping, dissolve gelatin in boiling water; stir in raspberries. Chill for 20 minutes or until mixture begins to thicken. Spoon over filling. Refrigerate until set. Cut into squares; garnish with additional Cool Whip, if desired. Makes 12 to 16 servings.

**Becki Hauser, Tripp, SD**

Please send your favorite vegetarian, garden produce and pasta 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 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

## Operation Round Up® Disburses Funds

Members of Oahe Electric's Operation Round Up® Board of Trustees awarded funds to three area organizations.

Operation Round Up® is a fund of money generated by Oahe Electric members and overseen by a four-member board of trustees. The four trustees are all members of Oahe Electric.

Oahe Electric members contribute an average of \$790 per month to the program with an individual's total contribution ranging from 12 cents to \$11.88 per year.

This year, three applications with requests totaling almost \$10,000 were received. The board of trustees awarded \$7,000 split between the following organizations:

- **South Dakota Guardianship Program** Assist with paying for guardian/conservator services for South Dakotans with disabilities.
- **The Ranch Ministries** Installing four handicap accessible bathrooms.
- **Trail Life USA SD-1884** Troop expenses, including camping fees, camping food, bows, canoes and derby cars.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## Oahe Electric Director Elections to be Held

The annual meeting of the members of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the gymnasium in Onida, S.D., at 7 p.m. on **Oct. 3, 2020**.

During the annual meeting, the members present will be electing two board members to fill two, three-year positions. Any individual who satisfies the qualifications and complies with the nominating procedures set forth below, should be prepared to serve a minimum of 24 to 36 days per year attending meetings on behalf of the cooperative.

Petitions are available at the headquarters in Blunt.

Should there be any questions concerning the bylaw procedures or if you would like to request a petition, feel free to call or stop in at the office. Petitions are due by Aug. 19, 2020.

### Bylaws Governing Election of Directors

**Section 3 – Qualifications:** No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who:

- A. is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative; or
- B. is in any way employed or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electrical or plumbing fixtures or supplies to members of the Cooperative; or
- C. is an employee of the Cooperative.

Upon establishment of the fact that a director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the Board of Directors, by official motion shall remove such director from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatever the validity of any action taken at any meetings of the Board of Directors.

**Section 4 – Nominations:** Any fifteen (15) or more members acting together may make nominations by petition not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the principal office of the Cooperative. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting or separately but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting at statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by petition. There shall be no nominations from the floor unless no petition has been filed for a vacancy. In that event only, nominations shall be taken from the floor for that vacancy, and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nomination has been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate.


### Statement of nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)  
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Co-op Connections Card			
 <b>Cooperative Connections Card Program Vendors</b>			
Automotive			
Graham Tire Company	605-224-8643	Pierre	Receive a 10% discount on regularly priced service work. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
Lamb Motor Company	800-952-2222	Onida	Receive a free alignment check with the purchase of 4 new tires.
Napa Auto and Truck Parts/Farnam's Genuine Parts, Inc.	605-224-8624	Pierre	Receive 10-50% off retail price.
Food/Convenience Store			
Branding Iron Bistro	605-494-3333	Pierre	Enjoy \$1 off your order. Limit one per visit.
Gator's Pizza Pasta and Subs	605-224-6262	Pierre	Purchase any large pizza at regular price and receive a FREE order of breadsticks.
Grey Goose Store	605-945-0794	Pierre	Receive a free 20 oz. fountain soda or coffee with the minimum of a \$30 gas or diesel purchase.
The Corner	605-258-2400	Onida	Buy one breakfast sandwich at regular price, get second half off.
Health/Fitness and Beauty			
Anytime Fitness	605-224-4011	Pierre	Receive a free two-week mini-membership.
Home/Garden			
The Pink Petal	605-224-1775	Pierre	10% discount on cash and carry purchases - fresh floral only.
Slumberland Furniture	605-945-1997	Pierre	20% off any regular priced Lazy Boy items. Excluding special orders.
Services			
Airtech Heating and Cooling	605-945-0160	Pierre	\$50 discount on any new heat pump OR \$15 discount on any service call.
Apryl's Animal House	605-224-9203	Pierre	10% off a grooming or boarding.
Inman's Water Technologies	605-224-5111	Pierre	Receive a 15% discount on the rental price of a water softener and/or reverse osmosis drinking water system by paying a year in advance. Receive 10% off of the purchase price of a new Water Softener or reverse osmosis drinking water system when you mention this ad. Payments made by credit cards do not qualify for discounts/specials.
Olson Plumbing Inc.	605-224-6436	Pierre	\$50 discount on any electric boiler, Marathon water heater, or fireplace.
Small Engine House	605-224-5815	Pierre	10% off parts and labor.
Sports/Recreation			
Teton River Traders Gun Shop LLC	605-224-1371	Ft. Pierre	2% discount. Payments made by credit cards do not qualify for discount.
Retail			
Fastenal	605-224-4060	Pierre	10% off of fasteners and 5% off on all other products.

## Question of the Month!

This month's question is:

**How much did our area schools receive for Oahe's Kilowatt Hour Tax Liability?**

Please submit your answer via e-mail to [oahe@oaheelectric.com](mailto:oahe@oaheelectric.com) with the subject line reading: Question of the Month. A winner will be chosen and surprise gift will be sent to them.

## Like Us!

You can now keep in touch with your cooperative on Facebook! We will share with you the latest news, events, power outage updates, energy efficiency tips, money-saving rebates, load management information, legislative alerts, safety tips and much more!

We hope you "like" Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. on Facebook.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**





The Old Fort Meade Museum details the history of Fort Meade, its residents, life as a cavalry officer and military history throughout the 66-year history of the fort.

# FORT MEADE

## Historic Outpost Has Varied Past

Susan Smith

Contributing Writer

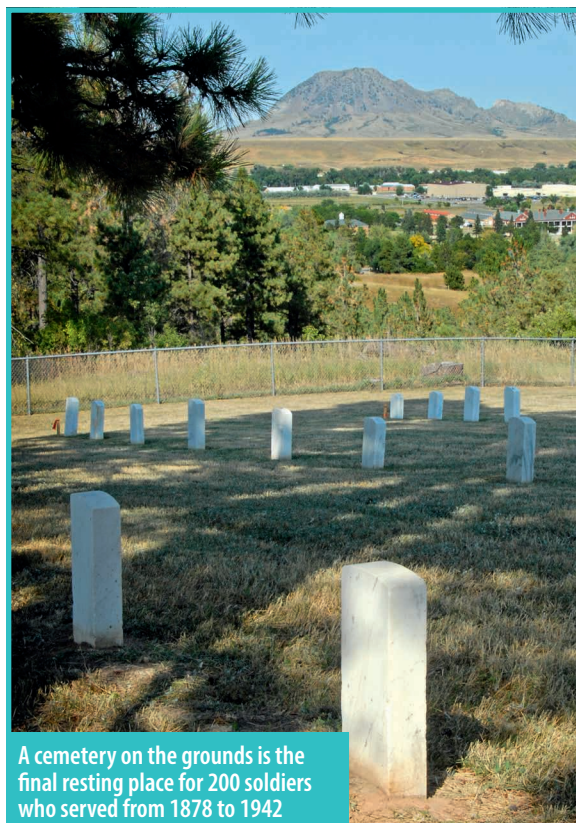
Named for Civil War Gen. George Meade, Fort Meade was built as a peacekeeping military outpost in 1878, two years after the infamous Battle of the Little Bighorn.

The fort provided an early customer base to the town of Sturgis, named for 7th Cavalry commander Col. Samuel Sturgis. According to [fortmeademuseum.org](http://fortmeademuseum.org), General Phil Sheridan, a Civil War Cavalry leader, selected the location after riding around the then-envisioned mile-square grounds and pointing to the location of future buildings with his saber.

“The fort was established to provide protection for the stage lines and freight routes that came in here as well as the miners and the settlers that came into the area for the many gold locations in the Black Hills and the Deadwood area,” said Robert Kusser, current president of the Fort Meade Museum Board.

Many of the buildings on the grounds of Fort Meade are from the 1900s. One building remains from 1878 and stables that were there from the beginning were rebuilt from wood to stone. Kusser said cannon wheels that are rimmed in steel but have wooden spokes were refurbished and ready for the coming tourist season. Artist Len McCann created figurines of soldiers that are on display in the museum. An exhibit of the U.S.S. Constitution is also on display. Unfortunately, COVID-19 sidelined many plans for the 2020 season, Kusser said. The museum will be opening for the summer 2020 as soon as possible.

Unlike most forts of the era, where hardly anything of significance remains, Fort Meade is still involved with military training with the South Dakota Army National Guard, which holds officer candidate training each summer. When the fort was officially deactivated in 1944, the Veterans Administration was approached to take over the post hospital, the VA Black Hills Health Care System, which cares for veterans in a 200-mile radius and also maintains the complex. A cemetery overlooking the fort is the final resting place for 200-plus



A cemetery on the grounds is the final resting place for 200 soldiers who served from 1878 to 1942

**Fort Meade is still attached to the South Dakota National Guard, which holds officer candidate training at the fort each summer.**



soldiers, family members and employees who served from 1878 to 1942, Kusser said. Streets that pass around the original parade field and buildings are still occupied and historically maintained.

"We're fortunate to still be able to maintain a visual presence of history," Kusser said.

The 4th Cavalry, one of the units stationed longest, and two separate times at Fort Meade, provided security when President Calvin Coolidge was at the game lodge in Custer State Park, a summer White House in the Black Hills, in 1927. The cavalry unit was deployed to the European theater in World War II.

Kusser said beginning in June 1945, 113 POWs were housed at the fort. That number grew to 600 by 1946. They worked in the



Belle Fourche region in agriculture, mainly to help with beet farming. They also did community work and helped convert the fort from an active military post to a veteran's hospital by doing stonework and creating sidewalks.

After his retirement from state government, Kusser was director of the Fort Meade Museum for several years. The three-story building he still oversees as board president houses numerous artifacts commemorating the history of the fort and recreating what life was like as a cavalry soldier.

The museum is organized around the 66-year history of the fort, with most of that information on the main floor, Kusser said. The lower level includes more military displays and the top floor features a ballroom and views of Bear Butte, the parade field and a view of the prairie. The museum also contains information about the early days of the town of Sturgis.

The Old Fort Meade Museum is located in the historic headquarters building 55, Sheridan Street on Fort Meade, one mile east of Sturgis on Hwy. 34.

## Co-ops and the Old Nut Box

There are few things more satisfying for a pack rat than to find just the right thingamajig at the bottom of a growing pile of doodads.

I know a guy who has so much stuff stashed in his storeroom, it's like walking through a dense jungle forest. You never know when you might need a backup buggy whip. Or the crusty mother-board of a Commodore C64. Or a clutch release bearing for a 1956 Farmall tractor.

Every now and again, I'll put him to the test...

"I was looking for a book of Green Stamps from June of 1975. Can you sort through all that clutter and see if you can find one for me?"

Or, "Hey, I need a 26-inch inner tube for a 1962 Huffy Aerowind bicycle. Can you help me out with that?"

He hasn't managed to fulfill any of my quirky requests so far, but he'll spend all day and half the night searching.

While my own garage is only mildly untidy, I did have one of those pack rat discovery moments recently when I was working on my son's 2000 Honda 80R. Not that I'm much of a motorcycle mechanic, but I had to crack the carburetor open to clean out the pilot jet and discovered I needed a replacement bolt.

I contemplated a trip to my local Hanks Hardware, but then I remembered what my Dad used to call "the nut box." Not a very descriptive name, to be sure, but this nut box has some unique characteristics. First of all, it's not really a box. It's a round container made of heavy metal that my father had back when he was a young man and a pretty decent mechanic.

And like any good pack rat, I've been hanging onto that thing through every change in address and spring cleaning session for decades.

Another unique quality of the nut box is that over the years it has been repainted many times and many colors with the kind of paint that would trigger a code-red biohazard alert by today's standards.

But the nut box has been around so long even that super industrial strength paint is peeling off. Though I tried to mitigate the damage, a chunk of dime-thick paint flew off when I wedged open the top of the container.

Clawing through a thousand nuts, bolts, screws and some stray nails, I lucked up and grabbed just the size I was looking for. Small victories, I know.

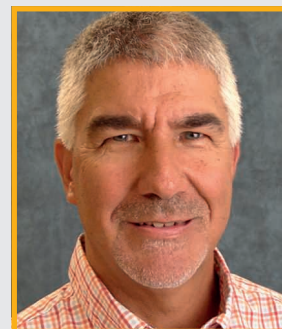
That dip into the nut box came to mind when I received a package from a faithful Cooperative Connections reader. The note inside stated: "I've enclosed an ad from a 1961 newspaper you might be interested in. My mom kept some old newspapers in her boxes and I found it there."

The focal point of this gentle reader's curiosity was a full-page spread featuring a caricature image of the sun wearing a pair of sunglasses, displaying a wide smile and sporting an incandescent light bulb for a nose.

The headline read: "Casting light on what rural electric cooperatives really mean to South Dakota." The page was filled with information about what rural electric co-ops are, what they aren't, and why they're good for the state.

When it comes to the mission of rural electric co-ops, not much has changed through the decades. Our co-ops are still firmly committed to serving our members as they were on the day they were founded.

Serving homes and businesses the safe, affordable, reliable power they need is what we've done and will continue to do. That's a responsibility and a purpose that will be around even longer than that trusty old nut box.



**Billy Gibson**

editor@sdrea.coop

# Understanding Your Oahe Electric Energy Bill

Use this guide to better understand the information found on your monthly electric bill.

## Questions?

Call Oahe Electric at the number indicated or stop by the office.

## Our service location, meter and submeter information

We don't use physical addresses but use our own mapping system. This location identifies where your meters are located. The main meter accumulates the usage of your lights, electric water heater, stove and such. The submeter (located on page two of your bill) tracks the usage of heating and air conditioning in order to be billed at the special rate.

## Did OEC receive my last payment?

This section shows total activity since your last bill, ending with your balance forward, if any. If any of this information does not match your records, call the Oahe Electric office.

## Operation Round Up®

For those who participate, this is your contribution into the Operation Round Up fund. Each month, your bill is rounded up to the nearest dollar, so the maximum contribution would be less than \$11.88 annually.

0000412602

**Oahe Electric** PO Box 216  
Your Tenacious Energy Cooperative Blunt SD 57522-0216

605.962.6243  
605.962.6306 – Fax  
oahe@oaheelectric.com  
www.oaheelectric.com

Account Number [REDACTED]  
Statement Date 05/07/2020 Due Date 05/22/2020

Balance From Last Billing	2014.00
Payment Received 04/20/2020	2014.00 CR
Balance Forward	0.00
Current Charges	1668.99
Round-Up Contribution	0.01
<b>Amount Due</b>	<b>1669.00</b>

Page 1 of 3

**Information and messages** issues pertaining to you and your cooperative will be found in this area.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

**Messages**

Statement reflects payments received through 5/7/20. Delinquent & subject to penalties if not paid by 5/22/20. Access SmartHub on our website @ [www.oaheelectric.com](http://www.oaheelectric.com) to manage your account, bill notifications, payments and more.

**Service Details**

LOC: 01-02-03 Desc: 01-02-03 M MAIN

Meter	95882274
Current Reading:	04/30/2020 89177
Previous Reading:	03/31/2020 86298
Total Usage	2879
Billed Usage	972

400M MV Security Light (Qty: 1)	10.00
Water Heater Credit	-4.00
South Dakota Tax	10.48
KWH Charge	127.48
<b>Meter 1 of 15</b>	<b>143.96</b>

**What do I owe and when is it due?**  
The total amount due upon receipt of this bill is shown. If this amount is not paid, your account is subject to disconnect.

**Usage graph** Explore and compare your usage for the past year.

**Additional messages** This section shows additional messages regarding your bill, such as whether it is being paid via ACH or if you have a credit and do not need to remit a payment.

DO NOT PAY – Amount is automatically deducted from bank account

**Amount Due** \$1,669.00

Account Number [REDACTED]  
Statement Date 05/07/2020 Due Date 05/22/2020

Oahe Electric  
PO Box 216  
Blunt SD 57522-0216

01

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## Security Light

If you have a security light, this area indicates the size (175 watts or 400 watts) and whether it is metered or unmetered. Metered means that all kilo-watts used are billed to the member.

## Water Heater Credit

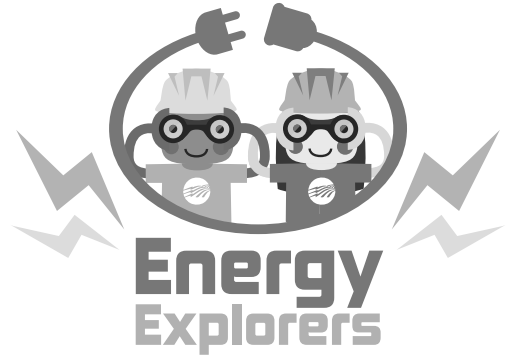
This is a flat monthly \$4 credit for participating in the load management program with your electric water heater.

**More Information...** Other important information is noted on the reverse side of the bill.



# FAMILY PICNIC COLORING SHEET

An outdoor picnic is a great way to spend time with your family! Cooking outdoors also helps you save energy because you don't have to use appliances that heat up your home.





Underwriters Laboratories Inc., (UL) sets safety standards for various products. The UL mark appears on billions of products globally.

# A MATTER OF TRUST AND SAFETY

The UL symbol marks safety of products for consumers across the globe

**Brenda Kleinjan**

Contributing Writer

Have you ever examined the hairdryer you use each morning? How about the coffee pot or the cords of your cell phone charger? Chances are they bear a circle with an “UL” inside. If not, they probably should.

That UL symbol is not a talisman but rather an indicator that the product used has been tested and is designed to operate as intended safely.

“When people see that UL mark on the product when they’re shopping – when they see that mark of safety – they know they can trust it has been certified by a third-party organization as safe,” said Jonette Herman, a Standards Engineer/Project Manager for Underwriters Laboratories Inc., based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Herman, a South Dakota native, develops safety standards. UL maintains more than 1,600 safety standard documents that define how they test and certify that a product is safe.

As an organization, Underwriters Laboratories is dedicated to fostering safe living and working conditions to people throughout the world.

UL is involved with the safety certification of energy storage related products, including photovoltaics.





“We do that through science and hazard-based safety engineering,” said Herman. Simplified, Herman says they look at an object and determine where the hazards might be.

“I grew up in Pierre. In high school, I always thought I’d be good at making sure that things work the way they should,” said Herman. That led her to the University of Minnesota where she pursued a degree in electrical engineering.

“I remember looking at my hairdryer and seeing that UL mark and wondering what it was about. After college, I moved out to North Carolina and found that UL was located there,” Herman said.

That was 27 years ago. Since then Herman has worked on making products from chainsaws to appliances to motors and batteries safer.

“Several years ago, I worked on the chainsaw standards. We were finding a lot of those injuries were due to fatigue and the operators not wearing personal protective equipment (PPE). That’s when accidents were occurring,” Herman said.

UL continued to analyze the equipment.

“Instruction manuals include important information that people should read,” Herman said. But, knowing that many people don’t read the manuals, UL seeks to ensure that “safety is built into the product as much as possible.”

“That’s part of that safety-based hazard approach. We

look at the product and how it’s used,” Herman said.

Worldwide, UL has more than 14,000 employees. In the non-profit portion of UL which Herman works, there are more than 200 people dedicated to research and education.

Today, Herman’s work focuses on wire positioning devices, motors and generators and energy storage, and energy distribution, among other areas.

“We’re constantly seeing new technologies introduced. All this innovation inherently creates risk.”



**Jonette Herman**  
Standards  
Engineer/Project  
Manager  
Underwriters  
Laboratories, Inc.



## Underwriters Laboratories

More than 400 panels and committees work with UL in developing the standards for various products. The panels and committees are comprised of an array of stakeholders including producers of the products, regulators and consumers.

“It’s important for consumers to educate themselves. How do they know a new product is safe? Looking for that certification on the product is helpful to the consumers.”

UL is working to make lithium ion battery storage safer. Herman cautioned that excessive damage to a product with a lithium ion battery, such as caused by repeated dropping, could cause it to go into thermal runaway, causing it to overheat and potentially catch fire.





Human trafficking in South Dakota is showing signs of growing due in part to the coronavirus pandemic. This crime impacts individuals across the demographic and geographic spectrum.

## PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

### Coronavirus emboldens trafficking predators

By Billy Gibson

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

Becky Rasmussen is clear in her contention that her vocation is a clarion call coming straight from her Creator.

In her heart and in her soul, Rasmussen carries a deep concern for those who find themselves victimized by human trafficking - whether it comes in the form of labor or sexual exploitation.

Rasmussen, executive director of Call to Freedom in Sioux Falls, traces the path that led her from a partially satisfying professional position to running a program dedicated to steering victims clear of their perpetrators and helping survivors rebuild their lives.

The journey began when she received what she describes as a direct and unambiguous message from a higher power.

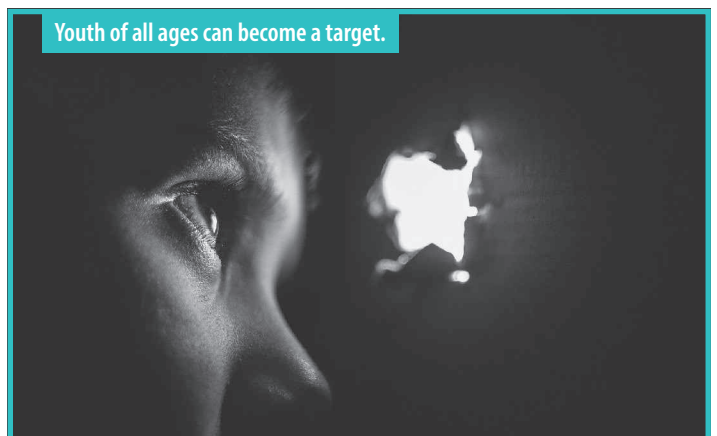
At the time, she was signed on as a volunteer for the program that later became the present-day Call to Freedom non-profit organization. When one of the program leaders appealed to her to take the reins, Rasmussen listened carefully for that still small voice.

"I'm a prayer girl. I'm the type who steps out in faith and sees what kind of plan God has in store for me," she said. "I was prompted by prayer to get involved."

Rasmussen led the program's transition to full non-profit status, attained in January of 2016, and managed to hold down two jobs along the way. Today, Call to Freedom boasts a contingent of 18 staff members - including eight case managers - who facilitate a wide range of services such as victim identification, safety assessment, housing, transportation, medical care, counseling trauma/addiction, education/employment and legal advocacy.

It's a prescribed glide path to freedom that includes the following key components: victim referral, emergency assistance, intake

Youth of all ages can become a target.



and assessment, implementation and referrals, long-term care and self-sufficiency.

### Marissa's Housing Project

It was during a trip to the Sturgis Rally the previous year that Rasmussen discovered her true calling. When speaking to civic groups, she often recounts the story of a young woman named Marissa to illustrate the plight of those who fall prey to trafficking and find themselves in the clutches of an oppressor.

Amid all the frenetic fervor of the 75th anniversary of Sturgis, she noticed a young girl who wore a certain disturbing look on her face. Rasmussen immediately recognized it as the terrified, distance gaze of teenager who had unwillingly slipped under the power of a dark and sinister force.

There was a quick and strong connection.

"Something just prompted me to go up to her and introduce myself," she recalled. "In two minutes she was crying and was scared and was looking around. She said she couldn't talk and she



said I had no idea of how horrible her day had been.”

Working in conjunction with the program Free International, Rasmussen tapped into a database later that day and discovered Marissa was one of 117 girls in the region between the ages of 12 and 18 who were identified as victims. In fact, the teen was reported by family members as missing on two separate occasions, once in October of 2014 and then in May of 2015.

Rasmussen pointed out that the fact Marissa had been reported as missing twice is part of a known cycle of reverting back into victimhood and is a result of traffickers who use a variety of techniques designed to keep their subjects under their control. Some of those nefarious tactics include depriving the victim of housing and financial resources, separating them from their families and devising ways to push them into a legal morass with the judicial system.

The day after finding out more information about Marissa’s background, Rasmussen felt convicted to find her and offer to help. She waded into the massive crowds at Sturgis and went on a determined quest to find the troubled teen.

As Rasmussen describes it, locating Marissa once again set the wheels in motion for the formation of the Call to Freedom non-profit and also the creation of the Marissa Housing Project.

The Marissa Housing Project is a seven-unit apartment complex that provides a safe haven for victims who receive the support, stability and separation from their perpetrators necessary to achieve

**“It’s a problem that’s proliferating.”**

Becky Rasmussen



long-term success and integration back into society.

## Coronavirus Impact

Like many other areas in the post-Covid world, the pandemic has changed the dynamic when it comes to human trafficking. And not in a positive way.

In fact, Rasmussen noted, the impact of the pandemic is creating a situation that has even more traffickers crouching low in the weeds, just waiting for a prime opportunity to pounce.

The financial stress and economic hardship that comes as a consequence of a locked down community only compounds problems for those already susceptible to captivity and emboldens those set on exploiting others.

As the unemployment rolls expand, fraudulent offers of modeling contracts, high-wage processing plant positions and other means of employment look more enticing to those facing financial ruin.

Adding to the problem is the fact that at the same time the potential for trafficking is increasing, services have been more scant. There is a statewide network of safe places where victims can receive assistance in Mobridge, Pierre, Rapid City, Pine Ridge Reservation, Sioux Falls, Watertown, Winner and Yankton.

However, most of those services are currently operating with limited resources

and are working to build back up to full strength when possible.

“It’s a problem that’s proliferating as we see our shelter numbers declining and resources designed to help are struggling,” Rasmussen lamented. “It’s important, especially now, that if a recruiter comes up to you and offers a job opportunity that sounds too good to be true, stay away. Be aware of those tactics.”

She pointed out that pornographers are blatantly attempting to capitalize on the pandemic - and consequently creating more victims - by offering “free 30-day memberships” on pornography websites.

One of the more popular websites, Porn Hub, has seen a 12 percent increase in activity over the past few months.

“We see that where there is pornography, especially child pornography, there is human trafficking,” she said.

## How to Help

Recognizing the signs of trafficking can go a long way toward addressing the problem, Rasmussen said. Because human trafficking impacts all levels of society across

IF YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER,  
PLEASE ASK FOR HELP.

**NHTRC**

NATIONAL  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
RESOURCE CENTER

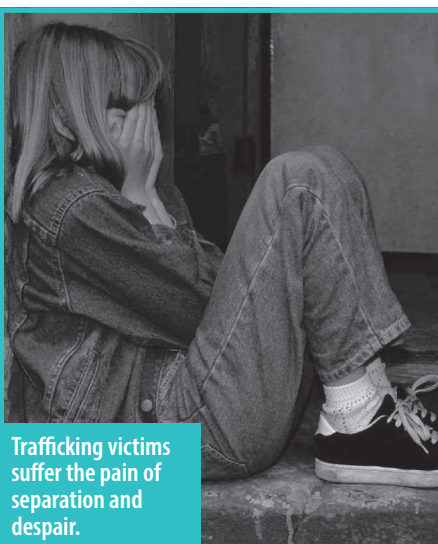
1-888-373-7888

Call 24 hours a day.  
7 days a week.  
Confidential.

Text HELP to  
233733 (BeFree)

Open 2pm-10pm CST

CALL 911 if you are in an emergency.



Trafficking victims suffer the pain of separation and despair.

every demographic and geographic profile, many subtle indications can go unnoticed.

“We see problems in farming communities as well as population centers throughout the state,” she said. “It happens to the poor and the middle-class alike. Everyone needs to stay on the lookout for the signs.”

Those interested in supporting Call to Freedom’s mission can contribute in a number of ways, including purchasing a Freedom Candle, direct monetary donations, in-kind donations of hygiene and household products and volunteering.

Visit [www.calltofreedom.org](http://www.calltofreedom.org) to find out more about the organization’s mission.

## Register to Win!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### August 4-6

Minnesota Farmfest  
28269 Hwy 67, Mole Lake, MN  
800-881-1007  
www.ideagroup.com/farmfest

### September 3-5

South Dakota State Fair:  
Perfect Vision of Fun,  
1060 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD  
800-529-0900  
www.sdstatefair.com

### July 3, 18, 25 and August 1, 22

The Murder of Miss Kitty  
Comedy Mystery Dinner  
Theater, Holiday Inn Express  
& Suites, Deadwood, SD,  
605-580-5799

### June 19, 26 and July 3, 10

River City Friday Nights, 6  
to 10 p.m., Live music, beer  
garden, vendors, food trucks,  
games and activities, Main  
Street, Chamberlain, SD,  
605-683-9051

### June 27

Railroad Day, Prairie Village,  
Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

### June 28

Variety Show, Prairie Village,  
Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

### July 18-19

Charles Mix Saddle Club  
Fourth Annual SDRA Rodeo,  
Geddes, SD, 605-680-1580

### July 18-21

Senior Games, Rapid City,  
SD, Contact Eric Holmes at  
605-394-4175



### July 21-25

98th Annual Days of '76 PRCA  
Rodeo, Arena, Deadwood,  
SD, 1-888-838-BULL,  
www.DAYSOF76.com

### July 23-24

Jr. Miss Rodeo South Dakota  
Pageant, The Lodge and Days  
of '76 Rodeo, Deadwood, SD,  
605-641-8604,  
jrmissrsd@gmail.com

### July 24-25

Senior Games, Brookings,  
SD, Contact Traci Saugstad at  
605-692-4492

### July 26

15th Annual Car Show  
Langford, SD, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
605-493-6597

### July 31-August 1

Senior Games, Yankton,  
SD, Contact Kristi Hauer at  
605-665-4685

### July 31-August 1

Plein Air & Arts in the Garden,  
Wessington Springs, SD,  
605-354-3826

### August 1

Rockin' Ribfest BBQ  
Competition, Wessington  
Springs, SD, 605-505-1135

### August 1

Foothills Classic, Wessington  
Springs, SD, 605-350-1687

### August 8-9

Threshing Show, Twin Brooks,  
SD, [www.threshingshow.com](http://www.threshingshow.com)

### August 8-10

Red Power Round Up,  
Fairgrounds, Huron, SD,  
605-460-0197

### August 22

World of Outlaw Sprint Car  
Races plus Wissota MWM,  
Dakota State Fair Speedway,  
Huron, SD, 605-352-4848

### September 7

Hidewood Valley Steam  
Threshing Show, 1 p.m.,  
47326 183rd Ave., Clear Lake,  
SD, 605-881-8405

### September 12-13

Fall Harvest Festival,  
Delmont, SD, 605-928-3792,  
[www.twinriversoldiron.org](http://www.twinriversoldiron.org)

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.