



# Cooperative Connections

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## Reflect and Honor

# May is Military Appreciation Month



**Rodney Haag**

rhaag@oaheelectric.com

**Oahe Electric Cooperative is proud to be a part of the electric cooperative network that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks and branches of the military.**

This month, I hope you will join me in pausing to reflect on the sacrifices of our country's veterans and their families. I am especially thankful for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us in this great country of ours.

May is Military Appreciation Month and in the words of John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

At Oahe Electric Cooperative, we are grateful to have a veteran within our ranks and we are proud to serve veterans and their families within our local community. In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we care for the veteran community and show our appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to them and their families.

We are not alone in our efforts to honor and serve veterans. Oahe Electric is part of a network of more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country that support and honor our nation's veterans of all generations. As part of our national association of electric cooperatives, spanning 48 states and serving 13 percent of U.S. consumers, there are countless programs that our family of electric co-ops has initiated.

At the national level, we support the Vets Power Us program, which is aimed at employing and honoring veterans, active military and their spouses. This effort helps veterans understand potential career paths with electric co-ops and in turn, provides co-ops with best practices in attracting, onboarding and retaining veterans.

The Department of Defense is one of the largest energy consumers worldwide and the single largest energy consumer in the U.S. Electric co-ops across the country work closely with military installations, providing electricity and partnering on various projects.

Not only do we pause on Memorial Day to remember the sacrifice and service of those who gave all, but the month also holds several other military anniversaries and events, including Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 8 and Armed Forces Day on May 16.

Oahe Electric Cooperative is proud to be a part of the electric cooperative network that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks and branches of the military.

Please join us in taking a moment to show your appreciation to a veteran – not just this month, but every month.



# Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 019-042)

## Editors

Russ Hohn and Sam Irvine

## General Manager

Rodney Haag

## Oahe Electric Board of Directors

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James Feller, 962-6207

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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.

## Oahe Electric is Here for You Through the COVID-19 Pandemic

Russ Hohn, Member Services Advisor

rhohn@oaheelectric.com

These are unprecedented times in our region, country and across the world. From social distancing to homeschooling your children due to school closures, we know you are dealing with many life changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As an essential services provider, Oahe Electric is here to continue powering your life.

To continue providing essential electric services, we have adapted several business practices. We've taken the following measures to keep our employees safe and healthy so that your co-op can continue providing the high level of service that you expect:

- Front entry allows UPS delivery and member access to "drop box" (no access to office)
- All other doors remain locked/employee access only
- All employees are capable of working remotely if deemed necessary
- All meetings will be attended via telecommuting

When you receive your next power bill from Oahe Electric Cooperative, we want you to be prepared for your bill to be a little higher than normal if you have been spending more time than usual at home. Many of our member-owners are currently working from home or are staying at home with their children and this increased amount of time at home requires an increased use of electricity.

Here are several quick and easy ways to begin conserving your home's energy use today to minimize your next bill:

- Reduce your thermostat. A one degree decrease in heating setpoint can decrease energy use by 3 percent to 5 percent.
- Wash clothes with cold water. Only use hot water for very dirty loads.
- Change your central HVAC system filter when dirty by the manufacturer's recommendations. Dirty filters can impact your home comfort and increase your electricity bill.
- Set both the upper and lower water heater thermostats no higher than 120°F.
- Open your blinds and use natural light as much as possible during the day.
- Turn computers and monitors off when not in use.
- Enable auto power down feature on gaming consoles.
- Unplug battery chargers and other cords when not needed.
- If you don't unplug them, use energy-saving modes or automatic sleep function on electronics.
- Set the refrigerator temperature to 34° to 37°F and freezer temperature to 0° to 5°F.

Everything you do – from flipping a switch to upgrading your lighting – can add up to big savings. Oahe Electric understands that there may be circumstances now and in the future that will impact the financial situation of our member-owners due to COVID-19. We ask that if you are having trouble paying your electric bill, that you contact us at 605-962-6243 to work out a payment plan.

As your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, Oahe Electric is here for you through these trying times. The seventh cooperative principle is Concern for Community. By pulling together as a community, we will emerge from this stronger. Take care and stay healthy.



## 10 Steps to Avoid Scams

There are thousands of new scams every year and you can't keep up with all of them (we know, we try!). But if you can just remember these 10 things, you can avoid most scams and help protect yourself and your family.

- 1) Never send money to someone you have never met face-to-face.** Seriously, just don't ever do it. And really, really don't do it if they ask you to use wire transfer, a prepaid debit card or a gift card (those cannot be traced and are as good as cash).
- 2) Don't click on links or open attachments in unsolicited email.** Links can download malware onto your computer and/or steal your identity. Be cautious even with email that looks familiar; it could be fake.
- 3) Don't believe everything you see.** Scammers are great at mimicking official seals, fonts and other details. Just because a website or email looks official does not mean that it is. Even Caller ID can be faked.
- 4) Don't buy online unless the transaction is secure.** Make sure the website has "https" in the URL (the extra s is for "secure") and a small lock icon on the address bar. Even then, the site could be shady. Check out the company first at BBB.org. Read reviews about the quality of the merchandise and make sure you are not buying cheap and/or counterfeit goods.
- 5) Be extremely cautious when dealing with anyone you've met online.** Scammers use dating websites, Craigslist, social media and many other sites to reach potential targets. They can quickly feel like a friend or even a romantic partner, but that is part of the con to get you to trust them.
- 6) Never share personally identifiable information with someone who has contacted you unsolicited, whether it's over the phone, by email, on social media, even at your front door.** This includes banking and credit card information, your birthdate and Social Security/Social Insurance numbers.
- 7) Don't be pressured to act immediately.** Scammers typically try to make you think something is scarce or a limited time offer. They want to push you into action before you have time to think or to discuss it with a family member, friend or financial advisor. High-pressure sales tactics are also used by some legitimate businesses, but it's never a good idea to make an important decision quickly.
- 8) Use secure, traceable transactions when making payments for goods, services, taxes and debts.** Do not pay by wire transfer, prepaid money card, gift card or other non-traditional payment method. Say no to cash-only deals, high pressure sales tactics, high upfront payments, overpayments and handshake deals without a contract.
- 9) Whenever possible, work with local businesses that have proper identification, licensing and insurance, especially contractors who will be coming into your home or anyone dealing with your money or sensitive information.** Check them out at BBB.org to see what other consumers have experienced.
- 10) Be cautious about what you share on social media and consider only connecting with people you already know.** Be sure to use privacy settings on all social media and online accounts. Imposters often get information about their targets from their online interactions and can make themselves sound like a friend or family member because they know so much about you.

Source: [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)



**Utility service has never been more important.**

If you're planning landscaping or any other digging projects, contact 811 first – the kids telelearning and adults telecommuting will thank you.

Call 811 or go to your state 811 center's website before digging.

Call811.com/811-your-state




Stay safe during social distancing by calling 811 before starting any new project, so you can stay connected to the internet and utility services you rely on.

Call 811 or go to your state 811 center's website before digging.

Call811.com/811-your-state



## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Do not play around electrical boxes."**

Kayla Engelbrecht, 9 years old

Kayla is the grand-daughter of Alan and JoAnn Engelbrecht, Brandon, 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.

# Comforting Casseroles

## Chicken-Broccoli-Rice Casserole

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 lb. chicken tenders or boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch strips | 2 tsp. onion powder                     |
| 1 cup long grain rice  | 1-1/2 tsp. rosemary leaves, crushed     |
| 1-1/2 cups Kitchen Basics® Original Chicken Stock                                  | 1/2 tsp. pepper                         |
| 1 cup milk   | 1/2 tsp. salt                           |
| 2 tsp. garlic powder   | 2 cups fresh or frozen broccoli florets |
|  | 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese           |

Spread chicken and rice in greased 2-quart baking dish. Mix stock, milk and seasonings in medium bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Slowly pour over chicken and rice. Cover with foil. Bake at 400°F. for 45 minutes. Remove foil. Stir in broccoli. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, 15 minutes longer or until rice has absorbed all the liquid and broccoli is tender. Makes 6 (1 cup) servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 317, Total Fat 9g, Cholesterol 69mg, Sodium 492mg, Carbohydrates 31g, Fiber 1g, Protein 28g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Ham and Rye Casserole

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 cup chopped onion                                      | 1 (8 oz) pkg. American cheese, cubed |
| 1/2 cup chopped celery                                   | 2-1/2 cups milk                      |
| 1/4 cup butter   | 3 eggs                               |
| 4 cups cubed rye bread                                   | 1-1/2 tsp. prepared mustard          |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. ham, cut into strips or may use cubed ham | Salt and pepper, to taste            |

In a saucepan, saute onion and celery in butter until tender. In a 2-quart buttered baking dish, combine onion, celery, bread, ham and half the cheese. In a bowl, beat together milk, eggs, mustard, salt and pepper until well blended. Pour over all; top with remaining cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour or until golden brown and puffed.

**Martha Mehlhaff, Aberdeen, SD**

## Corn Casserole

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 cup broken spaghetti, uncooked | 1/2 cup milk             |
| 1 can cream-style corn           | 1 can whole kernel corn  |
| 1 cup cubed processed cheese     | Diced onions, optional   |
|                                  | Salt and pepper to taste |

Combine all ingredients in a 1.5-quart casserole. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour, stirring after the first 30 minutes.

**Emily Luikens, Tea, SD**

## Cheesy Potato Beef Bake

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef                                      | 2 tsp. butter                 |
| 2 (4 oz. each) cans mushroom stems and pieces, drained | 1 tsp. salt                   |
| 2 (5-1/4 oz. each) pkgs. au gratin potatoes            | 1/2 tsp. seasoned salt        |
| 4 cups boiling water                                   | 1/2 tsp. pepper               |
| 1-1/3 cups milk  | 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese |

In a skillet over medium heat, cook beef until no longer pink; drain. Place in a greased 9x13-inch baking pan. Top with mushrooms. Combine potatoes and contents of sauce mix packets, water, milk, butter, salt, seasoned salt and pepper. Pour over beef and mushrooms. Cover and bake at 400°F. for 30 minutes or until heated through. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, for 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

**Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, SD**

Please send your favorite dairy, dessert or vegetarian recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

# Sign Up for Auto Pay and Win \$50

## Auto Pay

Are you interested in making your life easier and maybe putting some extra cash in your pocket? Sounds like a dream, right? Make this dream a reality by signing up for auto pay for your electric bill and you will be entered into a drawing to receive \$50!

With the automatic bill payment plan, you won't have to spend time writing or mailing checks. Plus, your bill will be paid on time, even when you are on vacation. Actually, paying your utility bill won't take any time at all! Each month, the amount due for your electric bill will be paid automatically from your checking/savings account or credit or debit card. The payment will be listed on your monthly account statement and on your next bill from Oahe Electric.

Members who have already discovered how easy auto pay is have already been entered in to a separate drawing for a chance to win \$50! No additional work required! This is just our way of saying thank you for participating in the program.

## SmartHub and Online Bill Pay

You can also view and pay your bill online the day they are generated. Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc members have the opportunity to view their bills online. Subscribers are able to sign up to receive an e-statement and access our new account manage-

ment tool by going to our website – [www.oaheelectric.com](http://www.oaheelectric.com), clicking on the Payment Options box and then on the SmartHub link. Once you have registered as a new user, you can easily access your account. The SmartHub option offers features such as viewing previous month's bills, downloading billing data, payment history and paying your bill via credit card. You can also sign up for automatic payments on SmartHub. You will still receive a paper statement unless you request otherwise. When the new bills are calculated for the month (around the 10th), you will receive notification via e-mail that your new account information is available online.

## Budget Billing

Discover the convenience of having 12 equal monthly payments for your electric bill. The sign-up months for budget billing are May and June. If you would like more information, would like to sign up or if you would like to have your budget bill amount calculated, please call the office at 1-800-640-6243.

**Auto Pay, SmartHub/Online Bill Pay and Budget Billing** are just a few ways to make bill paying more convenient – use them together or separately. Just fill out the form below and return it to Oahe Electric, PO Box 216, Blunt, S.D., 57522 by May 22, 2020, to have your electric bill deducted from your checking or savings account and for your chance to win \$50!

(Please Print)

Since your electric bill will vary in amount, Oahe Electric will send you a statement showing the amount to be deducted from your account. The deduction will occur on the 20th of each month or the closest business day if the 20th falls on a weekend or holiday. Automatic bill payments will commence the month following receipt of this form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Member Account Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(List all account numbers you want paid automatically)

Please deduct my Automatic Bill Payment from my:

Checking Account (or)  Savings Account (or)  Credit/Debit Card

Be sure to include a voided check with this form.

Bank Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Name \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Address \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Routing Number \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Type of Card Used for Payment:  Mastercard (or)  Visa (or)  Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. to deduct my utility payment(s) from the checking/ savings account or Credit/Debit card listed above. I understand if at any time I wish to discontinue this service, I will notify Oahe Electric.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Winner of Question of the Month

The Question of the Month winner for the March 2020 publication was Korina Deal.



She correctly responded to, "Name one of the seven cooperative principles." Those seven principles are: voluntary and open membership, democratic member economic participation, autonomy and independence, education, training and information, cooperation among cooperatives and concern for community.

Congratulations for providing the correct answer, Korina! She received an insulated grocery tote full of great prizes!

## Question of the Month!

This month's question is:

**Tell us one thing you are grateful for.**

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.



## Member Messages

# Thank You

Dear Oahe Electric,

Thank you so much for selecting me to receive this scholarship. The money is greatly appreciated as I will be paying for most of my college on my own. I am excited to attend Black Hills State University this fall for environmental science. This scholarship will help me to achieve my education goals. With the degree I receive from BHSU, I hope to find a job in the environmental field that will make a difference in the planet's health and the people who live on it.

Sincerely,  
Maria Noyes

Scholarship Selection Committee,

I would like to thank you for selecting me to receive the Oahe Electric Scholarship. This scholarship will help me financially in pursuing my degree in secondary mathematics education at Black Hills State University.

Mikah Moser



Oahe Electric Cooperative and its members say CONGRATULATIONS to Gage Cumbow, son of Ryan and Kyle Cumbow of Pierre, S.D.

Our monthly *Cooperative Connection* magazine features a safety poster in each publication and Gage's poster was selected last month.

For Gage's achievement, a gift bag was presented by Russ Hohn from Oahe Electric Cooperative. Gage's little brother, who is sitting, wanted to be in the picture also!

### 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)  
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# A DEADLY MISTAKE

## Family Shares Grief to Teach Others

**Shayla Ebsen**

sebsen@eastriver.coop

June 7, 2016, is a day that will be forever imprinted in Greg McCann's mind. It began as a normal June day on his farm in southeastern South Dakota. The crops had been planted and, like every year in June, they were needing to be sprayed. Greg's 35-year-old son, Grant, helped out on the farm and planned to spray the fields that day.

"He went and got the sprayer filled and ready. After he got the sprayer ready and conditions were right, well, then, he went to spray," said Greg. "He called me to see if I could move an irrigator for him and that was the last time I talked to him. He entered the field and the driveway to the field went under a power line."

Unfortunately, Grant didn't drive far enough into the field. He stopped at an angle close to the power lines. As he began unfolding the 90-foot sprayer booms, they touched the energized power line, which instantly electrified the tractor.

"He tried to call Wayne, the young man who runs my farm, but he wasn't able to get through because there was so much static, so we don't know what happened after that," said Greg.

The sprayer was caught in a Bon Homme Yankton Electric Cooperative distribution power line. Co-op Electrician Kevin Meyer was just a few miles away when he and his apprentice received an outage call.

"A radio call came across that another neighbor farmer was out of power as it started out as an individual outage," said Meyer. "We packed up our tools and stuff and left the yard. As we were leaving the yard, I received another call from a supervisor saying that we got a call that there's a



Thirty-five-year-old Grant McCann was involved in a fatal accident involving a sprayer and a power line in 2016.

**There's  
no fix.  
There's no  
second  
chances."**



sprayer that looks like it might have made contact with a line that's probably the first place to go and it's looking like we have more consumers out."

Meyer and his apprentice didn't know what they might discover but knew they had to move fast.

"As we're rolling up on scene, one neighbor was there sitting on the road on his four-wheeler and he just said someone is down in front of the tractor," said Meyer. "It was very tough to see other than you could see someone was there but didn't know who it was and at that particular time, I knew that it could be Greg, Grant or my cousin, Wayne. So, in all that, you're mentally preparing yourself for what you're about to discover."

What they would discover is that Grant made a mistake that would end his life. Rather than staying in the cab and waiting for help, he had stepped out of the sprayer.

"The consequences of that mistake took my only son," said Greg. "He was my friend, my partner, my confidant. Now every day I remember that terrible morning and I see Grant lying dead on the ground. There's no fix. There's no second chances."

No one can know what was going through Grant's head at the moment he left the cab. But Greg wants others to learn from that mistake, so it doesn't happen to anyone else.

"If Grant would've stayed in the tractor and not touched anything, I think he'd be here today. But he didn't," said Greg. "I don't want anyone to have to experience the sadness and the emptiness that I and Grant's family and friends are experiencing and will be experiencing for a long, long time."

## The consequences of that mistake took my only son.

Do you know what to do if a vehicle you're in contacts a power line? First, stay in the vehicle and call 911 for help. If you must exit the vehicle because of a fire, tuck your arms across your body and jump clear of any wires with your feet together, never touching the equipment and ground at the same time. Then shuffle or hop at least 40 feet away with your feet together. Stay away

from the equipment until the authorities tell you it is safe.

"People get in a hurry and they don't regard the risk as a risk and one mistake and it's too late," said Greg. "The consequences are so grim and terrible, that there's no good reason not to be really careful and be aware of where you're at and the machinery you're using and where it's located. Once it's done, there's no turning back."

With the spread of COVID-19 into our region as well as the pandemic's financial impacts, everyone has a lot on their mind this year. Letting distractions take your mind away from work in the fields significantly increases the likelihood of farming accidents. Minimize distractions and stay focused in the fields. If you notice your mind wandering at any point, bring it back to the task at hand.

As we enter this year's planting and spraying seasons, remain aware of where electrical equipment is located when you're working on the farm and remember the steps to take if your equipment contacts a power line. You could save your life, or the life of someone you love. Visit [poweringyoursafety.com](http://poweringyoursafety.com) to learn more.



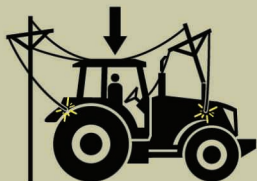
Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives



# PoweringYourSafety.com

KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE

## STAY PUT



If your equipment contacts a power line, stay inside.  
**DO NOT EXIT. Call 911.**

## JUMP CLEAR



If you must exit due to a fire, jump from the equipment so that no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time. Hop or shuffle with your feet together at least 40 feet away.

## STAY AWAY



When you are clear of the area, call for help and keep others away. **DO NOT** approach your vehicle again until utility crews and emergency responders tell you it is safe.

# Onida Senior Scholar of the Week

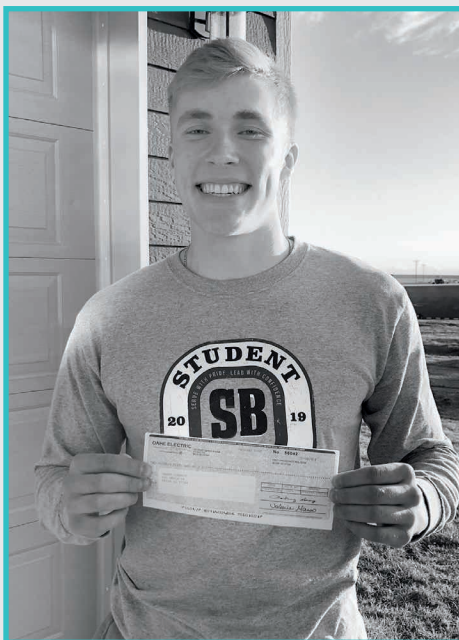
Oahe Electric Cooperative is proud to announce its Touchstone Energy® Scholar of the Week award. The recipient of this honor is Grant Johnson, a senior at Sully Buttes High School in Onida.


The honor, bestowed by Dakota News Now, gave Johnson bragging rights for the week of April 5-11.

Johnson boasts a 3.97 grade-point average. He is active in football, basketball, track and student council. His accomplishments include: National Honor Society member, All State Football, and Basketball State Champion Team.

Johnson received \$250 from Oahe Electric Cooperative to reward him for his academic achievements.

The “Scholar of the Week” is an ongoing joint effort between Touchstone Energy® co-ops, like Oahe Electric Cooperative, and Dakota News Now. The program recognizes the achievements of high school seniors throughout the region. The honor is awarded to highly motivated seniors who excel in the classroom as well as in their community.



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



# Oahe Awards \$3,500 in Scholarships



**Morgan Jones**  
Pierre

Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. has awarded Morgan Jones with a \$1,000 scholarship, which is funded by Oahe Electric and Basin Electric Power Cooperative of Bismarck, N.D., and is for use during the 2020-2021 school year.

Morgan is a senior at TF Riggs High School in Pierre. Some of the activities she participates in are Pierre Swim Team, track and field, National

Honor Society, student council and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She plans on attending Dixie State University in St. George, Utah, majoring in exercise science with a pre-medicine emphasis and a minor in Spanish. She is the daughter of Nathan and Marva Jones of Pierre.

Congratulations, Morgan! Keep up the great work.

In addition to the \$1,000 scholarship with Basin Electric, Oahe Electric also awarded five \$500 scholarships. The scholarships were awarded to Angela Guthmiller, William Kessler, Mikah Moser, Maria Noyes and Ethan Ogan.

Angela Guthmiller is a senior at Sully Buttes High School in Onida. She has been involved in volleyball, track and field, band and chorus. She has also been part of National Honor Society, student council and Youth for Christ. Angela plans on attending Dakota State University, majoring in digital arts and design: digital sound design, and minoring in digital photography. She is the daughter of Clark and Lisa Guthmiller of Onida.



**Angela Guthmiller**  
Onida

Congratulations, Angela! We wish you the best in your future goals.



**William Kessler**  
Pierre

William Kessler is involved in football, track, pep, jazz, marching and symphonic band, acapella chamber choir, 4-H and Tri-M. He is, as of yet, undecided between the University of South Dakota and South Dakota State University. However, he knows he will be exploring classes in economics, business, government and political

science. William is the son of Ernest and Colette Kessler of Pierre.

Congratulations, William! We wish you the best of luck in your career goals!

Mikah Moser is a member of National Honor Society and also participates in volleyball, track and gymnastics. She plans on attending Black Hills State University in the fall to major in secondary math education, with her goal being to one day return to Pierre to both teach and coach. Mikah is the daughter of Brian and Cori Moser of Pierre.



**Mikah Moser**  
Pierre

Congratulations, Mikah! We hope you realize your dreams and find much success.



**Maria Noyes**  
Pierre

Maria Noyes is a member of National Honor Society, student Senate and competes in cross country. She spends her extracurricular time with the Pierre Youth Orchestra and Lutheran Youth Fellowship. Maria also works as a lifeguard at the YMCA and the Fort Pierre Pool. Maria plans on attending Black Hills State University to major in environmental science. Maria is the daughter of Ryan and Ann Noyes of Pierre.

Congratulations, Maria, and good luck achieving your goals. We wish you the best of luck on your journey!

Ethan Ogan spends his time with the TF Riggs golf and trap-shooting teams. He also volunteers with the Victory Center Bible Camp, Vacation Bible School and Awana Club. Ethan plans on attending Black Hills State University to major in pre-optometry. He is the son of Colin and Sara Ogan of Pierre.



**Ethan Ogan**  
Pierre

Congratulations on your achievements, Ethan, and best of luck with your future goals!



# 3M ABERDEEN PLAYING CRITICAL ROLE IN COVID-19 RESPONSE

Plant Is Producing Millions of N95 Respirators

**Ben Dunsmoor**

[bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop](mailto:bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop)

Standing outside the 430,000-square-foot 3M plant in Aberdeen, S.D., you can hear the whirl of productivity. The Aberdeen plant makes N95 masks which have been one of the most crucial pieces of personal protective equipment for frontline personnel responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Andrew Rehder, the manager of the 3M Aberdeen plant, told *Bloomberg Businessweek*, in a story published in March, that the Aberdeen plant has been operating at ‘surge capacity’ since the end of January.

“I just think as we’ve continued to see things spread across the world, it’s put more responsibility on us to make sure that every day and every minute we’re making every mask we can,” Rehder told Bloomberg.

It has also put a responsibility on Northern Electric Cooperative to ensure the 3M plant has a consistent and reliable source of power. Northern Electric has served the plant with electricity since it was constructed in 1974.



N95 respirators are loaded onto a jet at the Aberdeen Regional Airport in April. The masks produced at the 3M Aberdeen plant are being shipped directly to areas of the country that need them the most. (Photo Courtesy: 3M Twitter account / twitter.com/3M)



“We know the 3M plant in Aberdeen is playing a critical role in the response to this global pandemic,” Northern Electric Cooperative CEO/General Manager Char Hager said. “Northern Electric also recognizes that our co-op plays a crucial role in supplying 3M with reliable electricity and we take that responsibility seriously.”

The masks being produced in Aberdeen are being shipped across the country just as fast as they are being manufactured. A jet has been sitting at the Aberdeen Regional Airport during April to transport N95 respirators from the Aberdeen plant directly to areas of the country that need them most.

3M CEO Mike Roman said in a blog post on the company’s website that 500,000 masks were shipped from the Aberdeen plant at the end of March to New York and Seattle. Both of those cities have recorded some of the largest number of COVID-19 cases in the country. 3M expects a total global output of 1.1 billion masks this year and they are planning investments in the next 60 to 90 days that will double that capacity to 2 billion masks globally within the next 12 months.

“We continue to act with urgency to address this crisis from every angle and do all we can to protect our heroic nurses,

doctors and first responders,” Roman said in a statement on the company’s website.

This isn’t the first time the Aberdeen plant has been called upon to increase production during an emergency. The plant has also played a critical role in making masks for the SARS, bird-flu and H1N1 outbreaks, as well as the Mount Saint Helens’ eruption, Hurricane Katrina and numerous forest fires.

**“We know the 3M plant in Aberdeen is playing a critical role in the response to this global pandemic.”**

– Char Hager, Northern Electric CEO/General Manager

Northern Electric Cooperative has been in contact with local and corporate 3M managers and executives to ensure the Aberdeen plant has the power supply it needs as the company responds to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We have communicated our response plans to 3M officials and have assured them that our crews will be ready and

available to respond to any emergency or outage,” Hager said. “We have also been in contact with our wholesale power supplier, East River Electric Power Cooperative, and we have told 3M that supplying their plant in Aberdeen with reliable electricity is the top priority for our cooperatives.”

The Aberdeen 3M plant is the city’s second-largest employer with 650 employees. But, Rehder told *Bloomberg Businessweek* that the plant now has more than 700 employees who are working around the clock to make sure health care workers and first responders across the country have the masks they need to protect them from COVID-19.

“People are very proud to work in a place that is making respirators, especially with the need that is out there now,” Rehder said.

Hager said the increased production at the plant in Aberdeen and the hard work of 3M employees is a perfect example of rural America stepping up to help the country during this time of uncertainty.

“We are proud of the work they do at the plant and we are proud of our co-op employees who are dedicated to keeping the lights on for 3M and for all our co-op members,” Hager said.



Northern Electric Cooperative is the power supplier for the 3M plant in Aberdeen which has been operating at ‘surge capacity’ since January in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.





# Understanding OPIOID ADDICTION

Jocelyn Romey

jocelyn.romey@sdrea.coop

One in four people who are prescribed opioids struggle with addiction. This is only one statistic from the South Dakota Department of Health that resonates how powerful and potentially dangerous opioids can be.

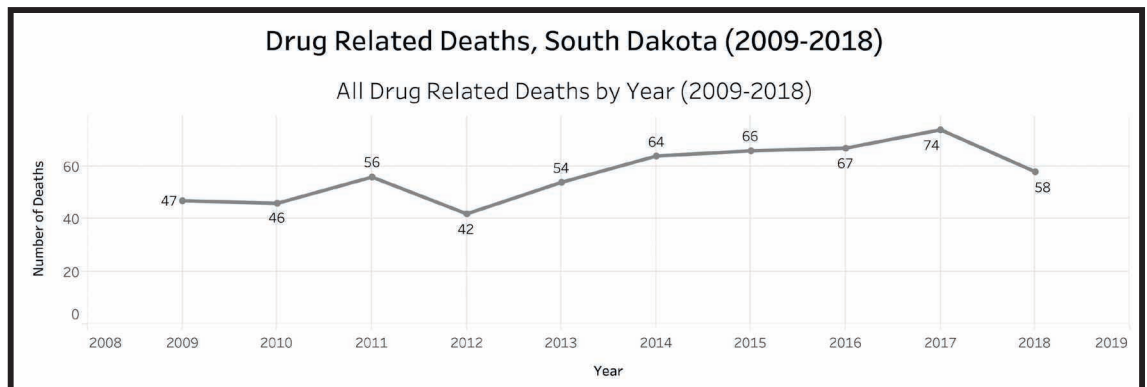
Opioids are a strong narcotic commonly prescribed for chronic pain after injury or surgery. Many know of the extreme addiction and destructive use of heroin – an unlawful opioid, but other opioid addictions may not be as visible if prescribed. A dependency can begin before anyone is aware of an addiction. Unintentional misuse or overdose of prescription opioids are also risks for anyone who takes them.

“My addiction started out very innocently. I had a back issue and so I was prescribed some Vicodin for it...and then I couldn’t stop, I couldn’t turn back. I felt hopeless,” said one woman from Pierre in an Avoid Opioid Prescription Addiction video. “Opioids deserve to be treated with respect. I think the seriousness of it isn’t always understood by people until it’s too late. People do recover and they can recover.”

An opioid addiction is actually considered a disorder and the National Institute on Drug Abuse has labeled drug addiction and opioid use disorder as a chronic disease characterized by drug use that is difficult to control despite harmful consequences. Many people mistakenly think that

## Prescription Opioid Side Effects

- Increased sensitivity to pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Constipation
- Sleepiness and dizziness
- Dry mouth, itching and sweating
- Confusion
- Low energy and depression
- Low levels of testosterone which can result in lower sex drive





those who use drugs lack willpower or moral principles and that they could stop their drug use simply by choosing to. In reality, quitting usually takes more than good intentions or a strong will.

Due to the harmful nature of these drugs, there are risks associated with taking opioids – addiction, long-term health problems, paralysis and death. In South Dakota, opioid-related deaths are lower than the national average, but the numbers have been on a steady rise since 2012.

Research shows that drug overdose deaths tend to overly impact rural communities despite having lower drug use rates than urban communities. In 2009, deaths from drug overdose surpassed deaths from motor vehicle accidents in the U.S. Sixty percent of these drug overdose deaths in rural areas are due to injection-related HIV, hepatitis C and other bloodborne infections while using illicit prescription opioids and heroin.

More in-depth statistics on opioid vulnerability assessments by county are available through South Dakota’s Department of Health website or via <https://doh.sd.gov/statistics/VulnerabilityAssessment.aspx>.

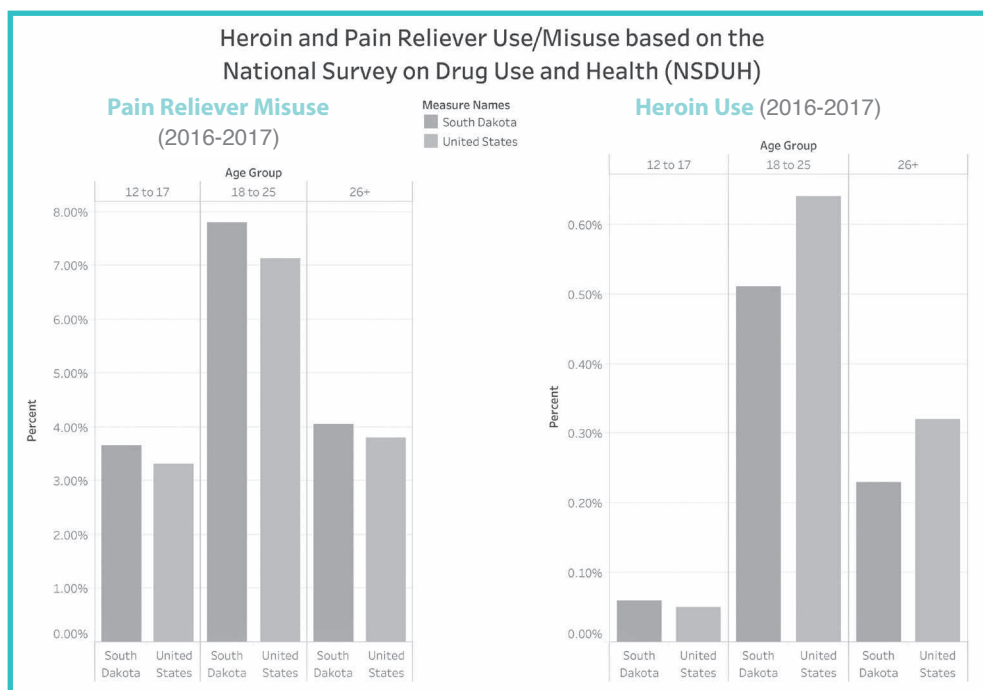
People who are addicted to opioids may seek and use them compulsively despite harmful consequences. The following are common warning signs of misuse, abuse or addiction to opioids given by South Dakota’s Department of Health.

- Neglecting responsibilities at work, school or home because of drug use.
- Using drugs under dangerous conditions or taking risks such as driving while on drugs.
- Drug use that results in legal trouble such as stealing to support a drug habit.
- Drug use that causes problems in relationships such as arguments with family members and loss of friends.
- People affected by drug addiction may stop participating in activities they once enjoyed and may use drugs even when they realize the drugs could be causing problems.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

## Commonly Prescribed Opioids

- Actiq
- Astramorph
- Codeine
- Conzip
- Demerol
- DepoDur
- Dilaudid
- Duragesic
- Duramorph
- Endocet
- Exalgo
- Hydrocodone (Vicodin)
- Hydromorphone
- Fentanyl
- Lorcet
- Lortab
- Meperidine
- Methadone
- Morphine
- MS-Contin
- Norco
- Oxycodone (Oxycontin/Oxecta)
- Percocet
- Roxicet
- Roxicodone
- Tramadol
- Ultram
- Ventura



### Resource Hotline

Call 1-800-920-4343. Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It's free and confidential.

Our trained specialists can connect you with **Opioid Care Coordination**, social support, counseling, treatment options, and services in your area. Find out **what happens when you call the Resource Hotline**, and how we can help you or a loved one.

### Opioid Texting Support

Text OPIOID to 898211 to connect with local resources that best fit your needs. Answer a few questions and get help for yourself or a loved one who is struggling.



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

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### May 2-3

Quilt Guild Show, Brookings, SD, 605-690-3246

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### May 8-9

Craft Beer Fest: Hops and Hogs, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

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### May 9

Art Wine and Food Truck Festival, Spearfish, SD, 605-644-6585

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### May 15-17

Sound of Silence Tesla Rally, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

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### May 15-17

State Parks Open House and Free Fishing Weekend, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

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### May 23-24

Annual SDRA Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-770-4370

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### May 29-30

South Dakota Regional Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Nick Brady at 605-978-6924

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### June 4-6

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show & Sale, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

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### June 5-6

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD, Contact Brett Rauterhaus at 605-722-1430

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### June 5-7

Fort Sisseton Historical Festival, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

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### June 5-7

Fish Days, Lake Andes, SD, 605-487-7694



**May 9:**  
Traditional  
Wacipi at the  
Dignity Statue,  
Chamberlain, SD,  
605-234-5472

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### June 5-7

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

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### June 5-7

Regional Qualifying High School Rodeos:  
■ Rodeo Grounds, Wall, SD, 605-529-5868  
■ Rodeo Grounds, Highmore, SD, 605-529-5868  
■ Tipperary Arena, Buffalo, SD, 605-529-5868  
■ Heartland Arena, Huron, SD, 605-529-5868

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### June 6-7

Siouxland Renaissance Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 866-489-9241

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### June 11, August 13 and October 8

Kids Mystery Dinner Theater, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6700

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### June 12-14

Regional Qualifying High School Rodeos:  
■ Tripp County Fairgrounds, Winner, SD, 605-529-5868  
■ Rodeo Grounds, Sturgis, SD, 605-529-5868  
■ Rodeo Grounds, Dupree, SD, 605-529-5868  
■ Derby Downs Arena, Watertown, SD, 605-529-5868

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### June 16-21

SD State High School Finals Rodeo, Stanley County Fairgrounds, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-529-5868

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### June 25-27

Red Power Round Up, Fairgrounds, Huron, SD, 605-460-0197  
[redpowerroundup2020.com](http://redpowerroundup2020.com)

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### June 26-27

Senior Games, Madison, SD, Contact Bernie Schuurmans at 605-270-3327

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### July 14

Rock Nobles Cattlemen 2020 Summer Beef Tour, Register Before June 1: \$20, After June 1: \$40, Worthington, MN, 507-967-2380, [www.mnsca.org](http://www.mnsca.org)

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### October 7-8

Energize! Explore Innovative Rural Communities Conference, Milbank, SD, <https://extension.sdstate.edu>

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.