



Cooperative Connections

SDSU Extension
Master Gardener
Program

**Growing Master
Gardeners in SD**

Pages 8-9

**Rodeo School is
in Session**

Pages 12-13

Summertime Success



Jordan Lamb

jlamb@oaheelectric.com

We take great pride in the company we all own together, and we appreciate everything you do for us as our members!

Living in an area that offers many recreational outdoor activities is one of the perks of living in central South Dakota. As many of you are doing, I began planning an outdoor activity that started with purchasing the most reasonably priced fishing pole I could find at a local sporting goods store, some live and plastic bait and a five-gallon bucket in hopes to bring home a few prizes!

My sidekick, Louie, a 4-year-old male Corgi, and I loaded up and headed down near the train bridge in Pierre to try our luck. I carefully baited a Jig Head with a worm and cast out as far as I could. Swoosh! Off flies the worm, I had donated my first and was down to eleven left in the box. I chuckled and re-baited my hook for a second attempt. Success! Right where I wanted it placed, I began to reel in and feel something hit my lure. I set the hook and reeled in my first catch of the day... weeds! I was down to 10 worms and losing faith in my fishing abilities. I rebaited my lure for the third time, cast out again and began to reel in. Another bite! Except this time it wasn't reeling in. Snagged on a rock, I was forced to cut my line.

While Louie and I did not have any success fishing, we did get back to what we do best! With his head out the window and both our faces covered in ice cream from the two cones we had purchased, we drove back home and enjoyed the calm sunny evening.

Sometimes it is hard to accept failure at something new, especially when the conditions are perfect for whatever activity you are pursuing. Often, we take the things others are great at for granted. Whether it is city and county workers maintaining roads and infrastructure, water treatment facilities purifying and delivering clean drinking water, or the perfect swirl a Zestos employee puts high on a crispy cone.

In our case, the primary activity we strive to be successful at is delivering affordable and reliable electricity to our members at the convenience of a light switch inside your home. Our line crews hustle to provide this service to you – our members – around the clock, day or night, rain or shine. While I do not enjoy fishing or golfing in the middle of the night or during poor weather conditions, I do enjoy providing this service to our members during these times. We take great pride in the company we all own together, and we appreciate everything you do for us as our members!

This summer, we ask that you appreciate great weather, be open to trying new activities, give myself fishing tips if you are a superb fisher, and appreciate the successes others have so you can savor free time with family and friends while enjoying the many conveniences in life. Thank you for being our members and allowing us to 'perfect' providing your electric service! Have a great summer!

BUILT by our community.
SHAPED by our community.
LED by our community.

**WE'RE PROUD TO
POWER YOUR LIFE.**

Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 019-042)

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605-962-6207

Blaine Livermont – Treasurer

605-945-2910

Ryan Noyes – Assistant Secretary

605-280-3500

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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.

Annual Meeting Set for Sept. 18, 2021 in Onida

It's hard to believe, but "that time of the year" has come around very quickly! It's time to start planning the annual meeting!

As a member of a cooperative, it is important to attend annual meetings in order to keep abreast of the happenings occurring here. Because remember – it's your cooperative and you are a member owner. Also, Oahe Electric is very interested in your thoughts or ideas concerning our annual meeting. If there is something that you would like to share, any ideas for changes, etc., please let us know! Our plan as of now is to host a "hybrid" meeting – you will have the option of a traditional meeting or a drive-thru meeting.

So please mark your calendars for Oahe Electric Cooperative's 70th annual meeting in September!

Congratulations to Graduating Seniors

Oahe Electric would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to our graduating seniors. This is a wonderful time for you. It is great that you all have earned your diplomas after years of such hard work and long hours of study. You will now start the next phase of your lives and we wish you all the very best for the future!

Statement of Non-Discrimination

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, audiotope, 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 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. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Eight Tips to Help You Grow Your Garden Safely

Gardening may seem like a safe hobby - and for the most part it is. But it can potentially lead to injury. Emergency rooms treat more than 400,000 injuries each year related to outdoor garden tools, reports the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Trimming trees and tall bushes can take a deadly turn when electricity is involved. Never trim a tree that has grown into a power line. Metal and wood ladders can transmit electricity into your body if you come into contact with a live wire. Instead, ask your electric cooperative to send a professional to trim the tree.

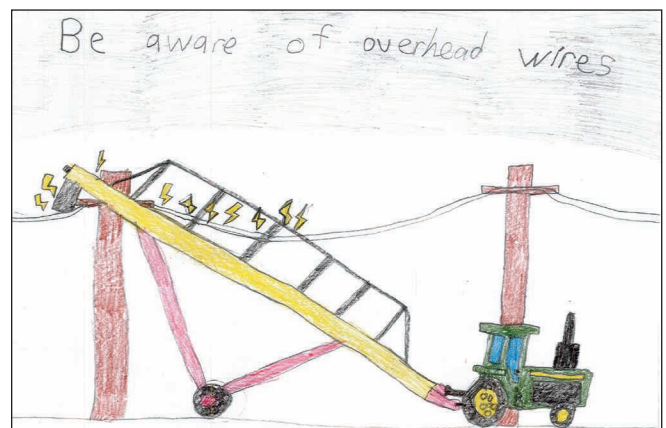
- At least three days before you begin a landscaping project that entails digging, call 811 to have underground utility lines marked.
- Never garden, trim trees or cut the lawn in bad weather. Wet and windy conditions can cause slipping and other hazards. Go inside immediately if you see lightning.
- Outlets protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters should be used for electric tools and trimmers. Never use tools outdoors when it's wet.
- Whenever possible, work in pairs so you're not using electrical equipment when nobody else is around - in case of an accident. And hire a professional if you doubt your ability to complete the job safely.
- Always wear the proper clothing and safety equipment for the task at hand. Gloves, eye and hearing protection, and dust masks can help prevent injuries and illnesses.
- Use the right tools for the job and use them safely. If you are using electric tools, watch where the cord is and unplug tools when not in use.
- Keep garden tools and equipment in proper working order. Equipment that is not maintained properly leaves the door open for potential accidents.
- Stay hydrated, use insect repellent and sunscreen (don't forget your face, neck and ears), and take breaks as needed to rest those hard-working muscles.

Did You Know?

- All thunderstorms produce lightning.
- Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and can strike as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.
- If you hear thunder, you're in the danger zone.

#StormSafety

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



Be Aware of Overhead Wires

Carter Intveld, 11 years old

Carter is the child of Glenn and Darci Intveld of Sioux Falls. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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.

Dig in to These Dairy Recipes

Tuna Cheesettes

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ½ c. American cheese | 2 tbsp. chopped dill pickles |
| 2-3 hard boiled eggs, chopped | ½ c. salad dressing |
| 1 can (7 oz.) tuna | ½ tsp. salt |
| 2 tbsp. chopped onion | ¼ tsp. pepper |

Preheat oven to 350. Mix ingredients and pile on ½ of a hamburger bun to make an open-faced sandwich. Bake for 30 min. Serve warm.

Ruth Schilberg, Viborg

Crustless Cheddar Mini Quiches

- | | |
|--|--|
| Non-stick cooking spray | 1 egg |
| 1/2 teaspoon olive oil | 1/3 cup sun-dried tomatoes, plus additional tomatoes for garnish |
| 1 leek, cleaned and finely chopped (about 1 cup) | 1/2 teaspoon fresh or dried thyme |
| 1 cup reduced-fat shredded Cheddar cheese, divided | |
| 1 cup fat-free milk | |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightly spray a 12-cup muffin pan* with non-stick cooking spray. Heat oil in a small skillet over medium heat. Cook leeks until softened, stirring frequently, about 5 minutes. Divide leeks among muffin cups and top with 2/3 cup of Cheddar cheese. Blend milk, egg, sun-dried tomatoes and thyme in a blender or food processor for about 20 seconds or until tomato is minced. Pour milk mixture over cheese in muffin cups and top each with remaining cheese. Bake 30 minutes or until tops and edges are browned. Cool in pan for 3 minutes; serve warm or cold. Top with additional pieces of sun-dried tomato, if desired.

*May substitute with aluminum muffin cups or individual custard cups, if desired.

usdairy.com

Scalloped Eggs and Bacon

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1/4 cup chopped onion | 6 hard boiled eggs, sliced |
| 2 tablespoons butter | 1/4 teaspoon pepper |
| 2 tablespoons flour | 1/4 teaspoon salt |
| 1 1/2 cups milk | 1 1/2 cups crushed potato chips |
| 1 cup shredded American cheese | 12 bacon strips |
| 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard | |

Cut bacon strips into 1 inch pieces and fry until crisp. Sauté onion in butter until tender. Stir in flour, gradually add milk and cook, stirring until thickened. Add cheese and mustard stirring until cheese melts. Place half of the egg slices in a greased 10 X 6 baking dish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cover with half of the cheese sauce, potato chips and bacon. Repeat layering. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. Tips: Prepare eggs and bacon the night before and put together the next morning to save time. May also use ham cubes instead of bacon. Double the recipe and use a 9 X 13 baking dish.

Mary Jo Semmier, Chancellor

Very Berry Ice Cream

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 2 lbs frozen berries (raspberries, blueberries, strawberries or blackberries) | 1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk |
| 1 tablespoon honey | 1/2 teaspoon salt |

In blender, pulse berries, condensed milk, honey and salt until smooth, scraping down sides. Pour mixture into 5-by-9-inch loaf pan. Freeze uncovered 4 hours, or until set.

Culinary.net

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

Accounting, Auditors and Allocation Notices – Oh My!



Valerie Marso

Office Manager

vmarso@oaheelectric.com

So, numbers it is for me! And here are a couple of notable things going on in the accounting department at your cooperative.

Auditors

Your cooperative's financial statements are audited every year by an outside firm, Eide Bailly.



**Megan Thompson, Eide
Bailly Auditor**

Accounting

Some people couldn't think of anything more boring than numbers. I am not one of those people and find algebra, statistics and comparisons to be extremely fascinating. To be fair, math wasn't always exciting to me. When I was five years old, I wanted to be a vet. For some reason I thought a vet takes care of animals. Which they do obviously but when I found out that "taking care of" didn't just mean holding them, feeding them and playing with them, I was out.

In their independent auditing report, they found Oahe Electric and the results of its operations and its cash flows to be free of any material misstatement and to be in compliance with the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States as well as with the generally accepted accounting principles.

That's a lot of words that basically say your electric cooperative received a clean audit again this year! For the second year, the audit was done completely remotely. Thank goodness for technology (specifically Document Vault and web portals) because without it, remote wouldn't have been an option.

Allocation Notices

Each year, your electric cooperative returns their profits back to you – the member-owner. Any margins (what is left after all the bills are paid) get distributed to the members back in the same fashion it was contributed. For instance, if I paid \$1,000 for electricity for the year and Jane paid \$10,000, Jane would receive a larger allocation than me because she contributed more towards the margins.

Oahe Electric allocated its 2020 margins of just over \$1.3 million 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 just over \$547 thousand of the total allocation.

Oahe Electric member-owners will receive their notices of capital credit earnings for 2020 on their May electric bill that they receive at the beginning of June.



**Nathan Schroeder, Eide
Bailly Auditor**

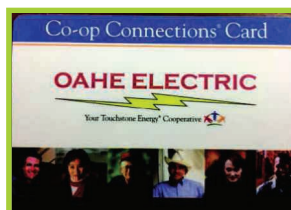
Attention Irrigators!

Just a friendly reminder regarding cutting seals on load management devices: if you cut the seal for any reason, make sure to call Oahe Electric and let us know. Please give the reason for cutting the seal so we can fix the problem, should one exist.

As we have for many years in the past, we will be reading irrigation meters at the end of the season. If any seals are found cut on the receivers at this time and we have not been notified, you will be billed the higher demand for the entire pumping season!

Thank you for your attention in this matter.





Cooperative Connections Card Program Vendors

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.
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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.
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Retail

Fastenal	605-224-4060	Pierre	10% off of fasteners and 5% off on all other products
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Thank You!

Oahe Electric would like to thank all our members that were able to attend our Member Appreciation Lunch for our 75th birthday, held on April 26! It was great to have a chance to visit with so many of you that we haven't been able to see for the past year!



Question of the Month

This month's question is: When is this year's annual meeting?

Please submit your answer via email to oahe@oaheelectric.com with the subject line of "Question of the Month." A surprise gift will be sent to the winner!

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!



SDSU Extension Master Gardener Ruth Smith prepares for a local spring plant sale. Photos by Billy Gibson.

MASTER GARDENERS

Extension Program Seeks to Spread the Love of Gardening

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Sorry, Walt Disney. The happiest place on earth for Ruth Smith isn't located in Florida or California. It's found in the serene confines of her garden in Pierre, S.D.

A retired educator, Smith experiences relaxation and contentment while growing herbs, vegetables and florals in her terraced backyard garden. After spending a career in public education and dedicating herself to the development and guidance of local students, Smith now finds her bliss by focusing her efforts on cultivating fresh produce and plants.

She even confesses a proud affinity for something that most people absolutely abhor – weeding.

"I actually like weeding. I like tending to the plants and bringing them up with some tender loving care," Smith said. "I always tell people this is my happy place. Some people like to take a boat out on the river or go hunting. This is what we like to do."

The "we" Smith refers to includes her husband, Mark. Both enjoy gardening and both have been through the Master Gardener program administered by South Dakota State University Extension.

As current president of the Prairie Potters Master Gardeners Club based in Pierre, Smith is an enthusiastic proponent of serving as an ambassador for horticulture education both locally and throughout the state. She and Mark completed the training

and course work required to become Master Gardeners about 10 years ago, although Mark is currently on "inactive" status.

The goal of the program is to turn gardening enthusiasts into expert volunteers who share their research-based knowledge with community members across the state.

Since the program's inception in 1985, more than 400 Master Gardeners have logged nearly 80,000 hours of volunteer service answering questions from the public and hosting community programs.

It's that public interaction that interests Smith. She enjoys attending local farmer markets, plant sales, workshops, school programs and other community events.

"The fun part is getting out among people and helping them solve



Mark Smith repairs a retaining wall in front of his home in Pierre.

Master Gardener Clubs in SD

Club Name	Area
Brookings Area Master Gardeners	Brookings
Coteau Prairie Master Gardeners	Watertown
Custer County Master Gardeners	Custer
Dakota Prairie Master Gardeners	Miller
Fall River Master Gardeners	Hot Springs
Garden Gate Master Gardeners	Winner
Harding County Master Gardeners	Buffalo
Huron Area Master Gardeners	Huron
Minnehaha Co.	Sioux Falls
Missouri Valley Master Gardeners	Yankton
Northern Hills Master Gardeners	Spearfish
Pennington County Master Gardeners	Rapid City
Perkins County Master Gardeners	Bison
Prairie Partners Master Gardeners	Aberdeen
Prairie Potters Master Gardeners	Pierre
South Central Master Gardeners	White River

any problems they're encountering and giving them suggestions on how they can get better results for their efforts," she said. "We love to have conversations with people and we're not afraid to say we don't know something. We can always find out the answers and get back with them."

So, what's the question she gets asked the most? "Hmmm. It's probably, 'Something is wrong with my tomato plants. What should I do?'"

Rhoda Burrows is a horticulture specialist with SDSU Extension and works frequently with Master Gardeners. She said interest in the program has grown since the pandemic struck in March of 2020. While participants weren't allowed to attend in-person events as representatives of the program through most of last year, online teleconferences were held with many new prospects joining in.

"It's just such a fun group to work with," she said. "They're so enthusiastic and they have a deep hunger for knowledge and a heart for helping out each other in their communities. After the pandemic when people were restricting their movements, they discovered that gardening can be a good, wholesome family activity. Gardening is a source of fresh produce and more people are appreciating the benefits of healthy eating."

More information about the Master Gardeners program can be found by visiting www.extension.sdstate.edu. Those interested in becoming part of the program can contact SDSU's Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Aimee House Ladonski at 605-782-3290.

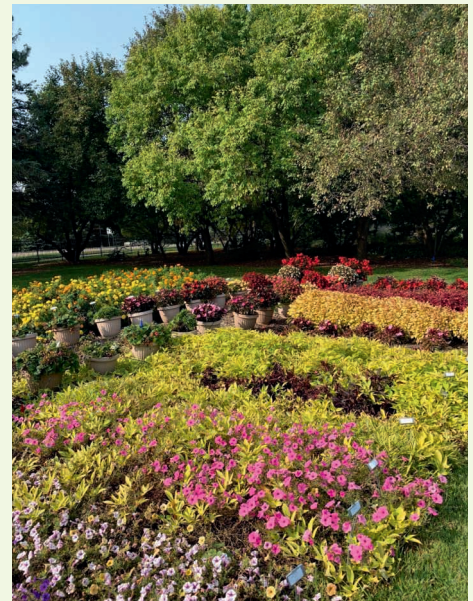
McCrory Gardens is an Inspiration for Horticulture Hobbyists

Gardeners are typically passionate self-starters and don't require much outside motivation. But McCrory Gardens is an ideal place to go for those gardeners looking for an ounce of inspiration over the summer months.

Created in 2012 on the Brookings campus of South Dakota State University, McCrory Gardens features a 25-acre garden and 45-acre arboretum along with a 9,300-square-foot Education and Visitor Center.

While visitation was down in 2020, McCrory Gardens is expecting a busy summer and welcomes gardening enthusiasts to see the ever-changing display of flowers, vegetables, herbs and more.

New to the facility this summer is a Native American medicinal garden area, a "three-sisters" garden with beans, corn and squash, as well as a pollinator garden designed to attract bees and butterflies. Professors and instructors from the Native American studies department collaborated as consultants on the project.



McCrory Gardens is open to visitors on Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"There is always something new that's growing and blooming, and we have numerous annual beds that are planted each year," said Director Lisa Marotz.

What is expected to be a spectacular summer will culminate in the annual Garden Party held each year on the first Friday in August. While plans are still being finalized, past events have included food vendors, live music, games and free admission for the day.

"Pretty much everything we have is in bloom at that time. We want to invite everyone to come out and see what we have to offer," Marotz said.

McCrory Gardens is a privately-funded \$4.2-million facility that was the vision of founder and SDSU professor S.A. McCrory.

Last August, McCrory Gardens was named as a benefactor of an endowment from the estate of Frank and Mildred Denholm. A gift of more than \$422,000 went to the gardens while an additional gift of the same amount went to The South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum, which is hosting an exhibit entitled, "Electrifying Rural South Dakota," through Sept. 1.

Staying Connected



Russ Hohn

Member Services Manager
rhohn@oaheelectric.com

**We are here to
help educate
and keep you
safe!**

A member-owned electric cooperative is truly blessed when their service territory is diversified amongst many professions. Central South Dakota is home to the beautiful Missouri River, rolling pastures and abundant farm ground. People travel from near and far to enjoy the place we call home.

Farming and ranching has been the heartbeat from the very beginning. Over time, the farming operations have changed dramatically. Equipment manufacturers continue to make it bigger every year. Approaches allowing access into fields with overhead powerlines nearby are often forgotten and serious accidents can happen. Ranchers constructing buildings, new fences or repairing existing ones should be aware of underground utilities. Call 811 and request a locate. Construction of new facilities on your farm or ranch must be mentioned to your electric co-op!

Hunting and fishing lodges, either along the river or secluded amongst farmsteads, must maintain communications with your electric cooperative. New buildings or additions to existing structures are sometimes completed before electric power requirements are discussed. Call 811 and request a locate. This can be very costly to the owner, should powerline infrastructure need to be relocated. Make sure to contact your co-op!

Residential/urban members are busy with yardwork. Gardens, flower beds, lawns and trees require lots of attention. When digging be very careful! At times, underground utilities lurk under the surface and for an eager digger this can become a serious accident. Make sure to call before you dig! The number is 811. This simple process may save someone's life. New construction for buildings may require changes in cooperative equipment. Call your co-op and share thoughts and ideas!

Rural water facilities, ethanol plants and machinery dealerships are also part of Oahe's portfolio. These businesses were large from the beginning and as demand for their products increase, their footprint expands. These members must also stay connected with their cooperative. At times, a brief phone call can make the difference between smooth sailing or a wreck.

Oahe Electric wants our membership to stay connected. Phone calls, emails, text messages or Facebook, whatever platform you are comfortable using, please use it and reach out to us. We are here to help educate and keep you safe!

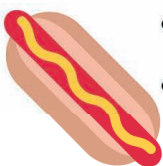
Take Care and God Bless.

Member Appreciation Lunch

A big thank you to all of our members who attended our member appreciation lunches in Blunt and Onida earlier this spring!

We hope to see you in Pierre on the 27th - join us for a grilled hamburger or hot dog while social distancing or taking your order to go!

- **What:** A free lunch for Oahe Electric members!
- **When:** May 27 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Where:** Pierre, location TBA
- **Why:** Because we appreciate you and all you do!



Oahe Electric Director Elections to be Held

The annual meeting of the members of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held in Onida, S.D., on **Sept. 18, 2021**.

During the annual meeting, the members present will be electing two board members to fill two, three-year position. 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. 4, 2021**.

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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary.

Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source:
www.energy.gov





A student at the Korkow Rodeo School learns the "lift, charge and stay back" method of saddle bronc riding under the watchful eye of former champion Chad Ferley. Photos by Billy Gibson

Class is in Session

Rodeo School Teaches Youngsters the Basics of the Sport

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Jeff Reis saw that his son was in big trouble, so he quickly hurled himself over the heavy metal railing and sprinted across the rodeo arena toward the bucking chute.

That's where Casey, a high school senior bull rider and student at the Korkow Rodeo School, was getting set for his final run of the day. But things weren't proceeding as planned. While Casey was going through his preparations, the agitated bull began climbing up the railing and turning toward the unwelcomed antagonist straddling his back.

Casey was able to get a grip on the top rail of the chute and the spotters eventually pulled him free, but not before his father had gotten halfway across the arena floor.

"Bulls have done this before, but I haven't seen one get that high or be able to turn the way this one did," Jeff recalled. "When it spun and belly rolled and started pulling Casey away from the spotters, I panicked because I thought something truly catastrophic was about to happen."

Thanks to the spotters and handlers and his own quick reflexes as a multi-sport

athlete, Casey escaped the few seconds of terror injury-free. The recalcitrant animal got everyone's attention and made a big scene, but it did nothing to diminish Casey's grit and determination. Even his father was a bit surprised at what happened next.

Casey made it clear he wasn't nearly finished with that bull.

"I couldn't believe his mentality after that," Jeff said. "He was shook up, but he went out and got a new spur strap that had broken off, fixed all of his equipment, got his rope back on and rode that same bull."

Lots of lessons were learned during that dust-up, but then that's the purpose of the Korkow Rodeo School. Having completed its 36th year in April, the school is one of the oldest and most established of several similar schools operating across the state that offer instruction to hundreds of eager young riders and future champions.

Jim Korkow, owner of the Anchor K Ranch east of Pierre, said the school tends to separate those who are genuinely interested in rodeo from those who "might want to go looking for a set of golf clubs."



Jeff Willert preps a saddle bronc student for the youngster's first ride.

Though last year's school was canceled, dozens of students of various ages and skill levels returned to the Anchor K this time around to learn the basics of saddle bronc, bareback and bull riding, and also ways to stay safe.

Korkow's son T.J. runs the annual three-day school, which is led by a team of skilled riders and instructors as well as a physical trainer and other highly-experienced support staff. Each year the school attracts dozens of riders from several different states.

Instructor Chad Ferley is a two-time PRCA World Champion saddle bronc rider and five-time NFR qualifier from Oelrichs who has participated in the event

**SD HS Rodeo Assn.
Regional Qualifying
Rodeos:**

June 4-6 - Huron,
Highmore, Buffalo, Wall
June 11-13 - Watertown,
Winner, Dupree, Sturgis

State HS Finals Rodeo:

June 15-19 - Ft. Pierre, SD

National HS Finals Rodeo:

July 18-24 - Lincoln, NE

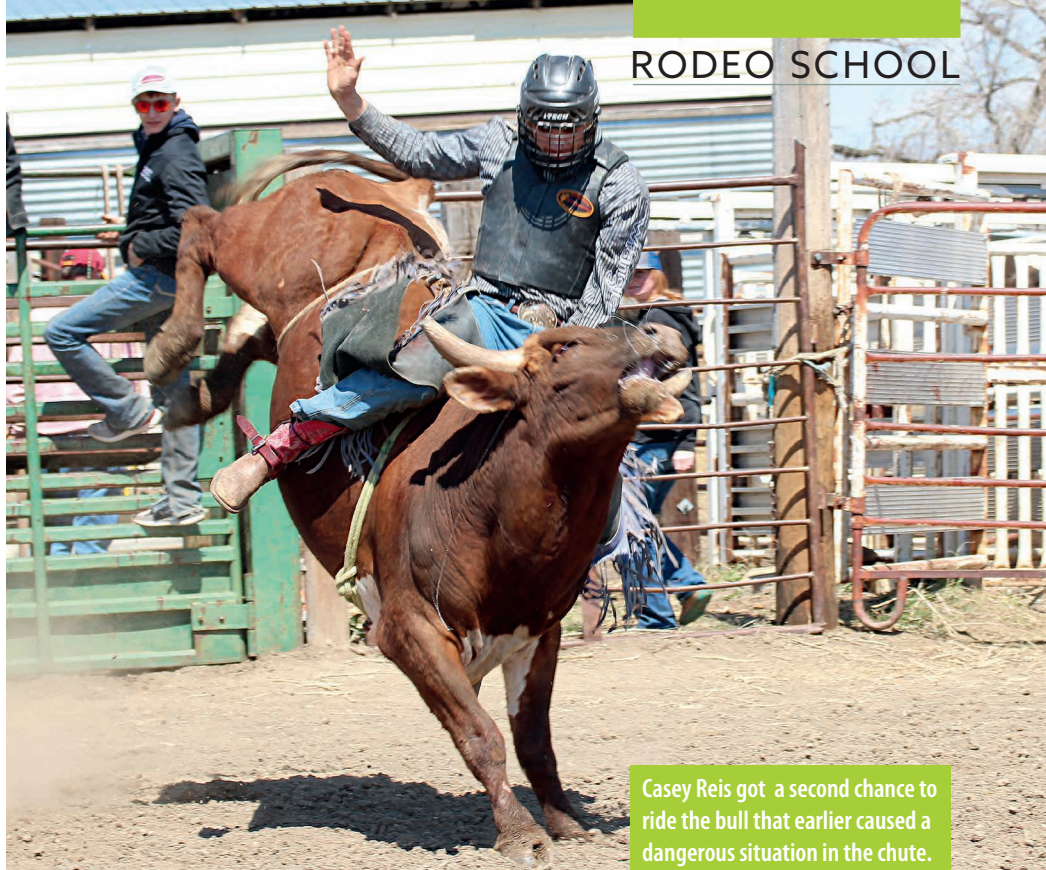
for the past 12 years. Ferley, a member of Black Hills Electric Coooperative in Custer, said students don't leave the school ready for the pro circuit but are there to learn the basics... at least after the initial shock wears off from that maiden voyage that takes the young rider from zero to 90 in a split second.

"After their first ride, they always say it was a whole lot faster than they thought it was going to be," Ferley said. "At first, most of them just black out. We're here to give them the basics, talk to them after each ride and tell them what they did wrong and what they did right, and give them the information they can apply and practice on down the line as they ride more horses."

Fellow instructor Jeff Willert is a PRCA World Champion saddle bronc competitor, five-time NFR qualifier and member of West Central Electric Cooperative. He said he enjoys passing on to youngsters all the tips and tricks that he learned throughout his successful rodeo career.

"With bronc riding, we tell them to lift, charge and stay back," he said. "But things happen so fast, and it's hard for them to pay attention because as soon as that chute opens, they lose their train of thought. You just try to drill things into their head and they eventually get it. It's trial and error. The more you ride, the more you learn."

Ken Korkow said throughout more than three decades of operating the school, one particular student stands out among all the others. An uninitiated 42-year-old gentleman from Alaska came to the ranch



Casey Reis got a second chance to ride the bull that earlier caused a dangerous situation in the chute.

with the intention of checking off an item from his bucket list of things he'd never done before, Korkow recalled. Organizers always make a point to match the stock with the rider's level of experience, so the instructor set up the non-traditional student with a black angus pasture bull.

"He managed to stay on it for longer than I thought he would," Korkow said. "The instructor blew the horn at six seconds when he saw the guy was about to come off, but he blew it early just so he'd think he made it the whole eight seconds. But all the kids who were around got excited for him and went out there and cheered for

him and gave him high-fives. It was quite a moment I'll always remember."

While some express concern about the future of rodeo in the age of youngsters getting more involved in technology, Willert said he doesn't share that concern.

"It can be rewarding from many stand-points," he said. "There are still a lot of kids who don't spend all day playing video games. They see the value of hard work and the farming and ranching lifestyle and they respect the culture. They understand that while some things may be difficult, it's all worth it when you can walk away knowing that you've stood up to the test."



A young rider hangs on just before getting thrown to the ground.



Experts See Potential for Both Good and Bad with Video Games, but Suggest Moderation

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Many parents who have a teenager and a video game console under the same roof have asked themselves the same question: What kind of effect is video gaming having on my child?

When video games made their way out of the arcades and into the living rooms and bedrooms of millions of American households, there was great concern that the games were growing more violent and all of that virtual gore was warping teenage minds.

It seemed every real-world episode of violent behavior exhibited by minors could somehow be traced back to the influence of the gaming culture. But after decades of academic studies, observations and rapidly changing technology, a more evolved and nuanced understanding of recreational video game activity – and its potential impact on developing minds – has emerged.

The landscape has changed so significantly, in fact, that the World Health Organization

– the same group that once alerted parents to the more sinister aspects of pathological video gaming and declared that “gaming disorder” exists – has announced its endorsement of gaming as a useful way for families to face the COVID-19 lockdown. That endorsement came with one important caveat, however: all things in moderation.

Lesley Atkins is a member of the family therapist team at Rising Hope 605 in Burke and also a member of Rosebud Electric in nearby Gregory. Atkins has three children of her own, including a 15-year-old and a 10-year-old, and has worked with many parents and teens to help them gain control over their use of electronics and their total daily exposure to screens of all kinds.

Her best advice to concerned parents is first to recognize that more studies are confirming that video gaming can in fact be addictive and to watch for signs indicating the teen is having trouble pulling away from video screens, smart phones, tablets and other electronic devices.

She also advises that it's imperative for parents to practice what they preach as



Therapist Lesley Holmes recommends moderating screen time for all family members.

teens tend to model the behaviors of the adults around them.

“I see this on a regular basis, where I have to remind the parents that if you want your



child to cut back on screen time, you're going to have to cut back too," Atkins said. "You may tell your teen to get off Instagram or TikTok, but then you stay up watching Netflix all night and you find yourself sleepwalking all through the next day. If you expect them to get out a board game and be content to play with that, then you have to be willing to do the same."

Atkins said it's also essential that parents hold their teens accountable, monitor their screen time, and make sure there are consequences for violating the rules that have been explained to them. Teens can also be empowered by giving them choices, such as telling them how much screen time they will be allowed, but then leaving it up to them whether they spend that time watching TV, playing video games or scrolling through social media account.

Parents, or even grandparents, may not be happy with the fact that youngsters are being raised in an increasingly virtual environment that grows more inescapable and threatens to further tighten its grip on modern society, but Atkins suggests the best response is not to fight it, but to manage it effectively.

"You can't really think about taking technology away, you just have to manage it. From a teenager's point of view, if you try to take it away, you're taking them away from a large part of their social interaction with their friends, their peer groups and their social standing," Atkins said. "Like it or not, in today's world trying to disengage with technology puts you at a disadvantage, and we all want our kids to have an opportunity to succeed in life. These days,

if you don't have a social media presence, it's almost like you're hiding something, like there's something wrong with you. The key is setting healthy limits on it and managing it well."

Not all video games focus on brutal acts of violence and mayhem, Atkins noted. One of the reasons the World Health Organization has altered its position on video games is because many developers have found creative ways to use video games to improve useful skills that can help teens prepare themselves for various careers. Atkins points out that many medical procedures are done with the use of robotics and require good hand-eye coordination. There are also many types of training simulators that allow tech students, for example, to learn how to control and operate heavy machinery or farming equipment before actually getting behind the real controls. If they prefer, they can compete against their peers to keep interest level high.

Young people interested in agriculture, for instance, can bale hay, apply fertilizers and harvest crops by using virtual farming programs. While these simulators may not have the high-speed action as Grand Theft Auto or Call of Duty, they're effective in transferring certain manual skill sets from a recreational to a practical application and improving overall cognition. Teachers and instructors are finding plenty of use for these virtual training programs as the video series called Farming Simulator has sold more than four million copies and the market continues to expand at a rapid pace.

The time to call for help, Atkins said, is when a teenager – or an adult – starts

The Positives and Negatives of Video Games

Researchers are discovering there can be both positive and negative effects of video gaming:

POSITIVES

- Uplifts mood, strengthens social skills
- Boosts creativity
- Develops problem-solving skills
- Improves attention, situational awareness and working memory performance
- Enhances hand-eye dexterity
- Develops strategic planning and management of resources

NEGATIVES

- Over-stimulation of the sensory system
- Aggressive behavior
- Association with negative values
- Poor social development
- Mental and physical health risks
- Academic concerns

having a difficult time pulling away from the screen, or starts exhibiting real-time anti-social behavior. Other signs to look for include lower academic performance, increased physical ailments such as carpal tunnel syndrome or a stiff neck and poor appetite and poor hygiene.

"If someone starts fighting and getting very emotional when they don't get their screen time, it's probably a good idea to seek help before the situation gets out of control," Atkins said.

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

May 21-23

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

May 21-23

State Parks Open House and Free Fishing Weekend, All State Parks and Recreation Areas, SD
605-773-3391

May 22

Frühlingsfest and Spring Market, Main Street, Rapid City, SD
605-716-7979

May 22

La Framboise Island Bike Race, Steamboat Park, Pierre, SD
605-224-7054

May 31

PPQG 25th Annual Quilt Show, Harding County REC Center, Buffalo, SD
605-641-5591

June 3-5

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show and Sale, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD
605-394-4115

June 3-6

Wheel Jam, South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD
605-353-7340

June 4-5

State BBQ Championships, South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD
605-353-7354

June 4-6

Black Hills Blues Stomp and Swamp Romp, Rush No More RV Resort and Campground, Sturgis, SD
605-347-2916



Czech Days, June 18-19, 2021 (Photo by Travel South Dakota)

June 4-6

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

June 5-6

18th Annual Wessington Springs Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs Rodeo Grounds, Wessington Springs, SD
605-770-5720

June 5-6

Siouxland Renaissance Festival, W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD
866-489-9241

June 12

Yankton Ribfest, Downtown, Yankton, SD
866-260-2134

June 17-20

South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, Prentis Park, Vermillion, SD
605-622-0423

June 18-19

Czech Days, Lidice Street, Tabor, SD
605-463-2478

June 18, 25

River City Friday Nights, Downtown, Chamberlain, SD
605-234-4416

June 18-19

Wild Bill Days, Main Street, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

June 19

605 Summer Classic Beer and Music Festival, Cherapa Place, Sioux Falls, SD
605-274-1999

June 19-20

Aberdeen Arts in the Park, Melgaard Park, Aberdeen, SD
605-226-1557

June 30-July 4

Annual Black Hills Roundup, 300 Roundup Street, Belle Fourche, SD
605-723-2010

July 10-11

50th Annual Brookings Summer Arts Festival, West Highway 14 and 1st Avenue, Brookings, SD
605-692-2787

August 6-7

Sully County Historical Society Fishing Tournament, West Prairie Resort, Onida, SD
605-258-2541

August 14

Sully County Historical Society 5K Fun Run/Walk, Sully County Courthouse, Onida, SD
605-258-2541

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.