

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Mitchell Technical College launches careers in a wide range of fields including training for linemen like Lacreek Electric's Matt Kruid.
Photo by Billy Gibson

Tech Training

Mitchell Technical College
Pages 8-9

Promoting tribal tourism
Pages 12-13

BOARD REPORT



FEM Board and staff prepare to start the board meeting after being in a strategic planning session most of the day.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, South Dakota at 2:15 p.m. on December 20, 2022, pursuant to due call and notice. It being determined that a quorum was present, President Gary Bachman called the meeting to order. Secretary Eric Odenbach kept the minutes of the meeting. The following directors were declared present by roll call: Gary Bachman, Paula Petersen, Kelly Melius, Eric Odenbach, Tom Thorpe, General Manager/CEO Scott Moore, Line Superintendent Rob Vetch, Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer.

Ryan Holien and Jesse Brown were present until their board reports and 2023 budget were given.

Gary Bachman welcomed guest employee Journeyman Lineman Chad Dutenhoffer.

Angie Sieh and Sonje Oban were present until the 2023 budget was approved.

Changes to the agenda: added SDREA Meeting Report by Tom Thorpe

Changes/Additions to Minutes from November 15, 2022, meeting: none

Next Meeting Date: After a review of calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of the board would be

on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to approve administrative business.

Motion by Paula Petersen, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to acknowledge manager, staff, and electrical department reports.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to approve the Four-Year Construction Work Plan developed and presented by Star Energy at November board meeting.

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to approve the 2023 budget with changes that were presented by General Manager/CEO Scott Moore.

The board acknowledged the RUS approval of a One-time Economic Revenue Deferral.

The board acknowledged reviewing the November 2022 Cyber Security Report.

Resolutions, Contracts, and Nominations:

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to approve the

following committees for 2023:

2023 Safety Committee: (Sonje Oban, Sean Christiansen, Chad Dutenhoffer, Angie Sieh, Dan Feldhaus, Rob Vetch)

2023 Grievance Committee: (Ryan Holien, Angie Sieh, Jesse Brown)

2023 Scholarship Committee: (Crystal Thorson (Chair), Sonje Oban, Dan Feldhaus, Josh Weigel, Gregg Zwart)

The board acknowledged NRTC Board nomination notice.

The board acknowledged notification of NISC Director Election Results.

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to approve using Eide Bailly for 2023 NRECA Participant Review Engagement.

Kelly Melius nominated Gary Bachman as NRECA Voting Delegate with no Alternate Voting Delegate motion seconded by Tom Thorpe. Motion for nominations to cease and unanimous ballot was cast for Gary Bachman as NRECA Voting Delegate.

Membership Business:

Board acknowledged membership business.

New Memberships, Member Cancellations and Contracts:

Disconnects: Kathleen Isaak, Eureka, SD, Active Farm; Ipswich Flying Club, Ipswich, SD, Vacant Farm; Doris Connell, Aberdeen, SD, Vacant Farm

Reconnects: Jammie Smith & Clay Christiansen, Blue Jay, CA, Active Farm; William & Lesia Rappe, Ipswich, SD, Vacant Farm; Patricia Volk, Aberdeen, SD, Vacant Farm

Contracts: None

Retired Locations: Tim Rott, Ashley, ND, Pasture Pump

Continued on pg 10



FEM Electric General Manager Scott Moore enters his first term in the state Legislature. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

Co-op GM hopes to take the 'D.C.' out of state politics

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Some people seem to enjoy playing in the political sandbox, and then some people have to be persuaded to seek public office.

Scott Moore, the general manager at FEM Electric based in Ipswich, falls into the second category. Last November, Moore was elected to serve as the state representative for District 23, but it took a lot of cajoling and arm-twisting to get him to seek the seat.

Moore joined the cooperative as an apprentice lineman in 1993 and worked his way up to the top of the figurative power pole to become general manager in 2006. Along the way, he'd been approached about running for elected positions on the city council, school board and other public service organizations but always balked at the idea.

"I just never had any interest," he said while gearing up for his first

legislative session in Pierre. "But people kept asking me about running for the Legislature, so I thought I'd give it a try."

He talked it over with the FEM Board of Directors to seek their approval and recruited his wife, Beth, to serve as his de facto campaign advisor. She had been elected to two terms on the Ipswich City Council, so she knew the ropes.

Last spring, Moore hit the campaign trail with optimism and zeal, zipping from one end of the seven-county district to the other and engaging with the public through a series of forums and cracker barrel events. When the ballots were tallied, Moore led the pack with more than 3,100 votes.

Approaching his first session, Moore anticipates it might be like "drinking from a fire hose." It's an analogy that he also applies when thinking back to his days running a family-owned gas station and restaurant when he was 20 years old and back when he first took over as FEM's general manager. He notes that it didn't take him long to find his footing

with those other adventures.

Bearing down on the age of 60, Moore said he recognizes there will be a learning curve, but he feels no trepidation about taking on the responsibility of playing a role in crafting the laws that all citizens of the state are bound to follow.

"There are a lot of people to talk to and resources available if I have questions or need help," he said. "I'm pretty upfront and people usually know where I stand, but I don't come into this with any kind of political agenda."

Even though he'll be a legislative neophyte, that doesn't mean he has no opinions or points of view when it comes to the state political scene.

"We seem to be playing a lot of D.C. politics, and I would like to get rid of that," he said. "If you're not trying to find a way to compromise and work with people across the hallway, that's not real politics. That's just saying, 'It's my way or the highway.' That's not going to work. You can compromise without abandoning your principles. It didn't start happening overnight, so it's not going to be fixed overnight. But you have to start someplace."

Check out this handy electrical fire check list

Electrical Fires do not have to happen. Use this checklist to help you find and fix electrical fire hazards in your home before they can start a fire.

Smoke Alarms – Smoke alarms save lives!

- ✓ Do you have enough smoke alarms?
- ✓ Are they working?
- ✓ Do you test them?

Switches and Outlets – Be on the look-out for signs of trouble.

- ✓ Are they working?
- ✓ Do they make crackling, buzzing, or sizzling sounds?
- ✓ Are they warm to the touch?
- ✓ Do plugs fit snugly?

Cords – Never use damaged cords.

- ✓ Is there fraying or cracking?
- ✓ Are they pinched or pierced?
- ✓ Do you use extension cords all the time?
- ✓ Are cords getting enough air?

Lamps and Appliances – Use them safely.

- ✓ Are you using the right bulbs?
- ✓ Do you use space heaters safely?
- ✓ Are appliance cords protected from damage?

Electrical Panel – Know the basics.

- ✓ Do you have AFCIs?
- ✓ Have you tested your AFCIs?
- ✓ Are all circuit breakers and fuses the proper size?



KEEPING UP WITH ELECTRIC METERING TECHNOLOGY



South Dakota's electric cooperatives recently held an electric meter school in Pierre where more than 45 co-op employees learned about the latest technology in residential and industrial kilowatt hour metering processes. Metering is a key component of providing reliable, safe and affordable power to cooperative members all across the state.

To view scenes from this important training program and learn more about how electric cooperatives work to improve our communities, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



Take care when flying kites

Jaclyn Koistinen

Jaclyn Koistinen, 11, is already thinking ahead to spring when kite-flying is a popular activity. She warns kids and adults both to take care when putting that kite in the air. Jaclyn is the daughter of Patrick and Jenilee Koistinen, members of H-D Electric based in Clear Lake.

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.



BRUNCH SWEET BRUNCH

CRAB QUICHE**Ingredients:**

- 1 (6 oz.) can crab meat (rinsed and drained)
- 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/4 c. chopped green onion (or fresh chives)
- 4 eggs.
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 c. milk (or half-n-half)

METHOD

Grease or spray pie pan. Combine crab, cheese and onion. Press into pie pan and up the sides. Whisk together the milk, eggs, salt and mustard. Pour mixture into pan. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake in 400 degree oven about 30 minutes or until set. Let set 5 minutes before cutting and serving.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis

PRALINE PECAN CRUNCH**Ingredients:**

- 1 (21 oz.) box Quaker Oat Squares cereal (about 8 c.)
- 2 c. pecans
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 c. light corn syrup
- 1/4 c. margarine
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda

METHOD

Heat oven to 250 degrees. Mix cereal and pecans in 9x13 inch pan. Set aside. Mix corn syrup, brown sugar and margarine in glass bowl. Microwave on high 1-1/2 minutes. Stir. Microwave 1 to 1-1/2 minutes more or until boiling. Stir in vanilla and baking soda and pour over cereal mixture. Stir to coat evenly. Bake 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes. Spread on baking sheet to cool. Break into pieces and store in airtight container.

Nancy Stenson, Fort Pierre

CINNAMON APPLE BRUNCH BAKE**Ingredients:**

- 1 can (21 oz.) apple pie filling
- 1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 3 tbsp. butter, melted
- 2 tsp. McCormick® Ground Cinnamon
- 1 1/2 tbsp. McCormick® All Natural Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1 can (12 oz.) refrigerated biscuits
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts

METHOD

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix apple pie filling, brown sugar, butter, cinnamon and vanilla in medium bowl. Spread 1/2 of the apple mixture in 2-quart shallow baking dish. Cut each biscuit into quarters. Arrange biscuit pieces, points up, over apple mixture. Spread remaining apple mixture over biscuits. Sprinkle with nuts. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

mccormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

FEM ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

(USPS 189-720)

Board of Directors

Gary Bachman, President
Tom Thorpe, Vice President
Eric Odenbach, Secretary
Paula Petersen, Treasurer
Kelly Melius, Asst. Sec./
Treasurer
Vaughn Beck, Attorney

CEO/General Manager

Scott Moore
info@femelectric.coop

Management Staff

Rob Vetch
Line Superintendent
Rhonda Tuschner
Director of Finance and
Benefits

Editor's e-mail:

oban@femelectric.coop

FEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc., 800 5th Ave., Ipswich, SD 57451.

FEM Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

Subscription information: As part of their membership, FEM members devote \$1.00 from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$15 annually. (USPS 189-720) Periodical Postage Paid at Ipswich, SD 57451 and at additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FEM Electric Cooperative Connections, Box 468, Ipswich, SD 57451-0468.

How to contact us:

FEM Electric
PO Box 468 Ipswich, SD
57451
Phone: 1-800-587-5880 or
605-426-6891
e-mail: info@femelectric.coop
Website:
www.femelectric.coop
Design assistance by SDREA

**FEM Electric is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer.**

STATEMENT MAILING DATES

January 26th, 2023 for January's energy

February 28th, 2023 for February's energy

Regardless of the statement mail out date, payments are due in the office by the 9th of the following month.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@FEMElectric on 

@fem_electric on 

@FEMElectric on 

We'll post outage updates, safety tips, news and more to keep our members informed on all the latest from FEM Electric.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



Carol Schaffner, Work Order Clerk, retired January 13th, 2023 after nearly 13 years with FEM Electric.

Carol started shortly after the 2010 ice storm after FEM experienced extensive damage, requiring an extraordinary amount of work, not only on the line, but also in the office. Her addition was extremely valuable through the restoration efforts, and beyond.

"It has been a very enjoyable experience working at FEM for these past 12+ years. I have learned so much about electricity and the function of Coops from generation to distribution. I have also really enjoyed working with and getting to know all of the employees! It's a great group of co-workers! Thank you – I will miss you all!" Carol

GIFT WRAPPING



As part of Hometown Holiday in Ipswich, FEM Electric hosted free gift wrapping services. Everyone was welcome to bring in their presents for the FEM elves to wrap.

Our elves helped enough people to keep them busy for most of the day, and we hope to be able to continue the tradition for years to come!



Scholarships *Available*

Attention Member Parents and Students!

The Basin Electric Power Cooperative and FEM Electric scholarship application is now available!

Graduating seniors or college freshmen can submit ONE application for a chance at THREE different scholarships!

Applications are available at your local high school counselor's offices, via the FEM electric website (femelectric.coop), or at the FEM Electric office at 800 5th Ave. Ipswich, SD 57451.

Scholarships Available:

\$1,000 from Basin Electric Power Cooperative

\$500 from FEM Electric Cooperative

\$500 from FEM Electric Cooperative

Deadline to apply is February 10th, 2023





Mitchell Tech facilities were used for the annual electric cooperative rubber gloving school last summer. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

Mitchell Tech prepares linemen to deliver the 'right stuff' for members

Billy Gibson

editor@sdrea.coop

It's rare that you find a cooperative lineman in the state of South Dakota who hasn't been through the training program at Mitchell Technical College.

Mike Puetz doesn't remember all the names and faces, but his mentorship has played a key role in turning loads of wannabe linemen into highly skilled craftsmen over the past 25 years.

Puetz serves as head of the lineman training department at MTC and is giving some thought to hanging up his hooks in the next year or so. When he reflects on his teaching career, he swells with pride at how the program has improved exponentially over time.

There have been many milestones in the emergence of the lineman education program rising to become one of the best of its kind in the country.

Back in 2018, for instance, the power line construction and maintenance school was named winner of the inaugural Siemens-Aspen Community College

STEM award. The honor is given by the Aspen Institute to eight colleges nationwide that provide "outstanding preparation" for students in high-demand jobs and provides selected schools with \$50,000 to apply toward scholarships and other forms of financial assistance.

"That was definitely a shock," Puetz said. "There's a lot of good programs out there, and for us to be chosen for that prestigious award was unbelievable. We work hard to be able to say we have a very strong program, and that just gave us some validation that we're moving in the right direction. It's icing on the cake."

Mark Patterson, manager of loss control services at the South Dakota Rural Electric Association based in Pierre, has worked with Puetz for 15 years. He's hard-pressed to find many co-op linemen who haven't trained under Puetz.

"Mike has been around so long, and I'd estimate about 80 percent of the electric co-op linemen out there today have been trained by him," Patterson said. "They do a fantastic job of teaching the fundamentals, whether a student ends

up at a municipal, an investor-owned or a co-op. And our superintendents do an exceptional job of working with the graduates to help them gain the field experience they need to serve our members with a mindset of safety and efficiency."

Over the years, Puetz said, MTC has not only distinguished itself among similar programs but has also greatly expanded its array of academic and technical career tracks. There are tracks for construction and manufacturing, business and service industries, health sciences, engineering technologies and agriculture and transportation.



Sioux Valley Energy's Cole Anderson learned his trade at MTC.



At left, Mike Puetz has trained hundreds of future linemen. Above, Mitchell Technical College is well equipped to give electric linemen the real-world skills they need to succeed. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

Cole Anderson is a lineman at Sioux Valley Energy based in Madison. He graduated from the training program four years ago and recalls why he selected MTC to learn the ropes of line work.

"I had an uncle who was a lineman in another state and I knew that's what I always wanted to do," said Anderson, a graduate of Chester Area High School. "I started looking at schools and noticed they had limited positions open and they were always taken very quickly. That told me how good their reputation was."

Anderson received his certification in May of 2018, joined the cooperative as a 1,000 hour lineman, and eventually worked his way into a journeyman position.

Oddly enough, he met Puetz a year before he enrolled at MTC. While still in high school, Anderson was on a tour of the facility when he happened to encounter Puetz in the hallway. The two shook hands and after a brief conversation, Puetz said: "If I don't see you here next year, I'm coming to track you down."

Anderson said he finds himself frequently relying on his lineman education and remembering the things Puetz taught him, including those lessons that don't necessarily have to do with line work.

"I think he's awesome. He's big on work ethic and he always told us that no matter what we did in life, a good work ethic will allow you to accomplish your goals and stand out from the rest," Anderson said. "He also had a thing about belts. You had to wear a belt. If he saw you and you didn't have one on, he'd take his off and give it to you."

Anderson and his wife, Sarah, recently built a new home outside of Madison and are expecting a baby boy in March. He said he's grateful for the outstanding

instruction he received during his education phase and is also thankful to have a position at an outstanding organization within the electric cooperative system.

"I just feel fortunate. It's been a great experience all the way through," he said. "I think it's a privilege to be able to do a job I enjoy and to work with professionals who know their craft, and an organization that is focused on delivering the highest quality service to its members."

For more information about MTC, visit www.mitchelltech.edu.



MTC is a prime training ground for future co-op linemen. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

Continued from pg 2

Capital Credits:

Estates – December 2022 – three = \$1,066.06

73 & Older – December 2022 – three = \$3,252.47

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Tom Thorpe to hold 2022 Basin capital credits received until June 2023 general capital credits retirement.

Motion by Tom Thorpe seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to leave the December 2022 \$364,855.71 bill credit from Basin Electric/East River Electric in FEM's 2022 margins.

Financial Business: The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information: November 2022 financials and check register for the month of November 2022 contained information on checks #32987 through #33047 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for November 2022 totaling \$418,570.35.

The 3rd quarter 2022 RUS/CFC Loan Summaries, 2022 Y-T-D Aid to Construction collected in the amount of \$193,859.75 and the 2022 Bad Debt/Midwest Collections (None) were reviewed.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve director and attorney fees.

Legal Update: none

Meeting Report:

East River board update was given by Gary Bachman.

Mid-West Annual meeting update was given by Gary Bachman and Eric Odenbach.

Paula Petersen discussed two NRECA Board Leadership courses she attended in Pierre.

Tom Thorpe provided the SDREA Board Report posted in Call to Order for director review. He didn't have anything more to add.

The board acknowledged the receipt of the November 9, 2022, Safety Meeting Minutes, and accident reports. Board also acknowledged December 5, 2022, employee meeting minutes.

Adjourn: President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



OUTAGE REPORTING REMINDER

If you experience an outage, the best way to report it to FEM Electric is to call 605-426-6891 or 1-800-587-5880. This allows FEM staff, or dispatch, to make sure it's properly recorded in our outage management system, and helps us coordinate restoration efforts.

Please DO NOT call staff or linemen on their personal numbers. Linemen often times are working in difficult conditions, and need to maintain their focus on safety. Do not report an outage through SmartHub as submissions through SmartHub are only monitored during office hours.

GOLF VIEW ACRES

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Realtor: Beck Law Office
Call 605-426-6319



© 2007

We often take for granted
the very things that most
deserve our gratitude.
— Cynthia Ozick



Thank You!

Your kindness is greatly appreciated.
I want to thank you so very much
for removing the tree branch from
my line after our recent ice storm.
Also, I want to thank you for
turning some more branches
from the tree for me. Your
kindness + generosity is greatly
appreciated. It is truly and a
wonderful to be part of a great
+ caring Cooperative.

Donna



NATIVE TOURISM

Native Tourism Alliance shines spotlight on tribal nation culture

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Sure, many of the 15 million travelers who visit South Dakota each year may have marveled at the Mount Rushmore Memorial, snapped a selfie at Wall Drug or beheld the fast-moving waters in Falls Park.

But how many of them have witnessed the whirling splendor of a wacipi, the traditional Native American celebration of life? How many have paused to watch a Native artist crafting a colorful piece of beaded jewelry?

Several years ago, a blind spot was noticed in the Department of Tourism's efforts to attract visitors – not much attention was being focused on the state's nine federally-recognized tribal nations.

In an effort to address that oversight, the department teamed up with the George Washington University International Institute of Tourism Studies

and the tribes to develop a sustainable indigenous tourism industry by letting visitors know there are many points of interest available for exploration far beyond the beaten paths.

The five-year plan has been described as a “groundbreaking endeavor” and is one of the first initiatives of its kind under the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act and was unveiled in August of 2021. More than 60 state, local and federal organizations collaborated to formulate the strategy as a catalyst for economic growth.

“I think the Alliance is a potential revenue source for our tribes, and it's a way for us to generate income, alleviate poverty and help conserve our natural resources and culture,” said Dew Bad Warrior-Ganje, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

The plan identified five guiding principles:

Native Tourism Alliance

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 590, Eagle Butte, SD 57625
605-964-4155

CROW CREEK SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 50, Fort Thompson, SD 57339
605-245-2221

FLANDREAU SANTEE SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 283, Flandreau, SD 57028-0283
605-997-3891

LOWER BRULE SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 187, Lower Brule, SD 57548
605-473-5561

OGALA SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 2070, Pine Ridge, SD 57770
605-867-5821

ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 430, Rosebud, SD 57570
605-747-2381

SISSETON WAHPETON OYATE

PO Box 509, Agency Village, SD 57262
605-698-3911

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box D, Fort Yates, ND 58538
701-854-8500

YANKTON SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 1153, Wagner, SD 57380
605-384-3641

- Unity - Reunification of the Očhéthi Šakówi Oyate through shared history, commonalities, and collaboration on developing regional tourism.
- Preservation - Promotion of art and culture in order to enhance self-identity and pride as well as preserve the culture, including language and traditional knowledge.
- Woksape - Recognition of Elders as the driving force of traditional knowledge and wisdom in the development of regional tourism and educating the youth to be stewards of the language and culture.
- Education - Creation of cross-cultural bridges and educating the World about Native American communities.
- Self-sufficiency - Development of opportunities for Tribal Nations to become self-sufficient and create pathways to enhance livelihood.

Organizers gathered together and developed detailed goals and methods to achieve those goals. Planners were forced to start from the ground floor as not much data existed to determine the present status of Indigenous tourism.

They initially identified a “rich mix” of 145 existing natural, cultural and heritage attractions and special events to promote, in addition to potential agritourism initiatives.

Nearing the halfway point in the plan’s prescribed timetable, stakeholders report substantial progress and greater interest from visitors seeking an authentic cultural experience.

Calvin Bloemendaal, who has represented the South Dakota Department of Tourism in the Alliance from its inception, pointed out several specific measures of success.

Chief among them is the creation of a nine-day motorcoach tour of tribal territory that starts in Rapid City and terminates in Bismarck. The tour, coordinated with assistance by the tourism department, will begin this summer and will be operated through Destination America and Trafalgar Tours.

“It’s one of the first tours of its kind,” Bloemendaal said. “Destination America caters to an upscale clientele of individuals who like to travel a lot and have been to a lot of places. They’re looking for something unique and interesting they haven’t seen before.”

He also mentioned the progress that has been made in building a network of support for tribal tourism and the development of themed destination experiences.

There’s also a marketing guide that is part of the department’s general ongoing promotional efforts. More than 30,000 of the helpful guides were printed and are being distributed at visitor centers, trade shows and other industry events.

“I was at a trade show in Denver and people were extremely interested in this idea and gravitating toward it. The guide is an effective tool that inspires people to visit,” he said. “We’re making a lot of headway as far as putting together pitches and itineraries to attract more tour operators to the state.”



UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

IF YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE PAST MEMBERS OR BUSINESSES, PLEASE HAVE THEM CALL FEM ELECTRIC AT 605-426-6891 OR 800-587-5880 AND ASK FOR ANGIE.

STAYE HOOSE, MGR
ADM ALLIANCE NUTRITION
KIMBERLY A ALBRIGHT
RENA E. ALLBEE
CALVIN ANDERSEN
ISHMAEL ANTAR
DOUGLAS D ARCHER
ROBERT L. ARCURI
VINCENT AMATO
FRANK BACH
ORPHA BENSEN
GERALD BEUTLER
DREW BEYERS
ALEX BICHLER
DONALD BISBEE
BARON OR JANELLE BRAUSEN
JODI RCARRICO
MIKE CASJENS
WENDY CASTLE
CHAD DAVIS
JOHN DEATON
MICHAEL DEVOSS
MARTHA DOCKTER
MIKE DOSCH
EDNA DUNAWAY
GARY A. DUTENHOEFFER
DALE ENG
GINA ESMAY
WESLEY R. EVANS
MARGARET FEHR
WILMA FINLEY
EDWARD FISCHER
LISA FREWALDT
RICKY GEDITZ
LYNELL GOEHRING
GRAVES BROTHERS INC
VERNA GUSTAFSON
JASON HAAR
OTTO HAGENLOCK
RODERICK HALL
BERNICE HANSEN
FRED HARNER

LOUISE HARTMAN
JACK HEACOCK
REGINA HEIFENREICH
DONALD HEILMAN
PETER GHEILMAN
CLARE HELGELIEN
CLAIR HENDERSON
SHERLOCK HIRNING
OSCAR E. HUBER
ELIZABETH HUBERS
KURT D. HUBERS
INDUSTRIAL PROCESS TECH, INC
WILLIAM OR RACHEL ISHEE
CATHY A. JONES
RONALD JONES
EUGENE JUNG
LLOYD KELLER
RUSSELL & CAROLINE KRONBERG
L & J PROPERTIES
LEE LANGSTON
HELEN LONG
RAYMOND D. LUNDBERG
CRAIG MARTINMAAS
JACK MCCLOUD
KIM MCKITTRICK
JIM MEEHL
NICHOLAS MEIER
MILLIRON H RANCH
EUGENE L. MITCHELL
GARRETT MITTLEIDER
HARRIETTE MOWRY
ELMER MULSKE
DALE OAKLEY
DAWN OHNSTAD
MARLYS PERRY
EDMUND PFEIFLE
MICHELLE PICOTTE
BILLY PIPPIN
EMMA POTTEBAUM
ROBERT PRITCHARD
SHANNON QUENZER
CARL H. REED

VERNE J. REIDT
MARK RETTKE
RICHARD RIEBEN
WILLIAM RIEBEN
REINHOLD RITTER
YVONNE RITTERHOUSE
DEVIN ROGERS
MAUREEN MILLER
RUBIE'S BAR & GRILL
TED SCEPANIAK
ROBERT L. SCHILDER
JACOB SCHILLING
ROGER SCHNABEL
WILBERT SCHNABEL
CHRIST & RUTH SCHUMACHER
SCHUMACHER PLUMBING & HTG
BILL SCHWAB
TAMY SEHNERT
DAVID SELLECK
CAROLE A. STEWARD
MICHAEL STROMAN
ROBERT STROMAN
ALAN STUCKLE
LEROY TIPPPIE
TOLSTOY LIVESTOCK YARDS
EVA ULMER
BRUCE VOEGELE
NAOMI VOEGELE
ALAN WALKER
MONTE WARREN
DAVID WEBER
NORMA WELLER
WESTERN COMMUNICATIONS
MARVIN WEYAND
MATT WHELAN
RICHARD WILLIAMS
ALFRED WILLIAMSON
ALBERT WINKELMAN
KINTON G. WITTROCK
VIOLET B. WOLF

DON'T LET YOUR GENERATOR GENERATE TROUBLE

Having a generator on hand, whether portable or permanent, may sound like a great idea for times when the power goes out, but misusing one is dangerous. Although they can help light your home or cool your perishable food when the neighborhood is dark, if used incorrectly you could have a much bigger problem on your hands.

When using a portable version, there are two ways to connect it to a home. The first way is with a powered circuit panel that has a power transfer switch, which monitors incoming voltage from the utility line. The circuit panel and transfer switch should always be installed by a qualified electrician. The second option is to plug in a limited number of home appliances directly into a fuel-powered portable generator with heavy-duty extension cords.

Never try to power your home by plugging a generator into a wall outlet. This is known as back feeding, and it could electrocute a neighbor or an electric lineman working to restore power. A permanent generator must also have a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician to avoid back feeding. Because of the harm an incorrectly powered generator can cause, the transfer switch is required by the National Electrical Code.

The primary hazards of using a portable generator are not pretty. They include carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). According to the agency, most of the deaths and injuries associated with portable generators are from CO poisoning when generators are used indoors or in partially enclosed spaces. A permanent or standby generator also has significant risks if not installed by a qualified electrician. Installing one is extremely dangerous and definitely not a DIY project.

Portable versions are less expensive than permanent or standby models and power only select appliances. The most expensive permanent generators—standby versions that are permanently installed and power most of the appliances in

your home—are convenient but pricey. The average permanent system costs around \$10,000.

Safe Electricity points to other important safeguards to take when using a generator:

- Operate a portable generator in well ventilated locations outdoors away from all doors, windows and vent openings to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. The instructions that come with it are not meant for the recycle bin. Read and follow them; they are important.
- Turn the generator on before using it. Once it's running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Generators are for temporary use and limited load; prioritize your needs.
- Never use a generator in a puddle or standing water and never touch with wet hands.
- To protect a portable generator from moisture, operate it on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.
- Never use or install a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Turn off portable generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is running.
- Store fuel for your portable generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.
- Keep children and pets away from all generators, especially portable ones. Many generator components are hot enough to burn you during operation.

Using a generator is serious business and shouldn't be done in haste. Learn more about using electricity safely and efficiently at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).



Feb 16, 2023
Photo Showcasing:
A Path Les Traveled
 Homestake Adams Research
 and Cultural Center
 Deadwood, SD
 605-722-4800

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.

FEB. 3-4
TOOTSIE

Show Dates:
 Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.
 Feb. 4, 2 p.m.
 Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.
 Washington Pavilion
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-6000

FEB. 4
Lake Hendricks Fishing Derby
 9 a.m. registration
 Hendricks City Public
 Lake Access
 Hendricks, MN
 507-828-2113

FEB. 4
James River Gobblers
Hunting Heritage Banquet
 Highland Conference Center
 Mitchell, SD
 605-999-3208

FEB. 10-11
Mardi Gras Weekend
 Mardi Gras Events & Parade
 Sponsored by Deadwood
 Chamber of Commerce
 Main Street
 Deadwood, SD

FEB. 11
Songs of Romance
 7:30 p.m.
 Washington Pavilion
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-6000

FEB. 16
Photo Showcasing:
A Path Les Traveled
 12 p.m.-1 p.m.
 Homestake Adams Research
 and Cultural Center
 Deadwood, SD
 605-722-4800

FEB. 24
Calamity's Shindig
 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
 Homestake Adams Research
 and Cultural Center
 Deadwood, SD
 605-722-4800

FEB. 28
BIG Career & Internship Fair
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Ramkota Hotel
 Sioux Falls, SD

MARCH 4
Annual Ag Day
 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Washington Pavilion
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-6000

MARCH 18
Shamrock Shuffle Fun Run
 12 p.m.
 Main Street
 Presho, SD

MARCH 25-26
Greater Sioux Falls Model
Train Show
 Multi-Cultural Center
 Sioux Falls, SD

MARCH 30
"The Wildest Banquet
Auction in the Midwest"
 5:30 p.m.
 South Dakota Military
 Heritage Alliance
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-339-1203

APRIL 1
Mozart Requiem
 7:30 p.m.
 Washington Pavilion
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-6000

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