

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## Hooked on Fishing

**South Dakota Fish  
Hatcheries**

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**Methods of  
Moving Structures**

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*Photo Credit:  
Markus Erk*



# Economic Development



**Jeff Birkeland**  
CEO/Manager

While our main goal at West Central Electric is to keep the lights on, we also strive to do more. One area we have put extra effort into is economic development. In January 2002, West Central started its first economic development loan with Philip Health Services for \$716,000. The money was used for a remodel and expansion of their current facilities. \$650,000 of this loan came from USDA, United States Department of Agriculture, and West Central contributed \$66,000. This loan provided two purposes. One, The Philip Hospital received a low-interest loan; two, this loan provided West Central money to start an economic development loan fund. Of this \$716,000 loan, \$450,000 was paid back to USDA, and \$266,000 was paid to West Central Electric. The \$266,000 paid to West Central serves as our revolving economic development loan fund. This is money West Central's board of directors has to loan to local organizations for economic development.

Since 2001, we have expanded our economic development loan program and helped our members secure over 4 million dollars in low-interest loans. In 2019, West Central joined the Rural Electric

Economic Development Fund, (REED), a nonprofit corporation governed by 26 electric cooperatives. Joining the REED Fund gave our members access to a larger pool of dollars. We have helped our members receive 2.5 million dollars in economic development loans from the REED Fund.

West Central helped Philip Health Services acquire \$1,500,000 in economic development loans. \$300,000 of this amount was interest-free. Philip Health Services used this money to build the Scotchman Living Center. This facility employs about 48 people from Philip and the surrounding area and can house up to 42 residents. The facility has two different areas. The long-term care portion can house up to 30 residents, and the Paulson Family Memory Care area can accommodate 12 residents.

We don't have a lot of growth in our communities, so when a project such as the Scotchman Living Center comes along, West Central is more than happy to help where we can. If you know of any projects that may qualify for our economic development loan funds, please give me a call.



Scotchman Living Center



Left to right: Jeff Birkeland, Jeremy Schultes, Denise Buchholz, Cindy Pfeifle, Don Burns and Shad Riggle

## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### WEST CENTRAL ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 018-988)

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Design assistance by SDREA

# The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Your Cooperative



**Kitt Talich**

Staff Engineer

As you may recall, way back in November of 2021, the folks in Washington, D.C., passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (affectionately referred to as the IIJA). This bill included \$1.2 trillion in spending, including \$14,250,000,000 for Electric Infrastructure for projects that improve resiliency, energy efficiency and cybersecurity, as well as smart grid projects. The legislation also stipulates that the money is given out over the span of five years.

Obviously, there are a lot of parts and pieces to the Act, but the portion that has the best potential to benefit West Central Electric has an annual award amount of \$500 million and is being administered through the Department of Energy (DOE). This amount is available nationwide and it had been decided that the minimum grant size

would be \$100 million, and the applicant would be responsible for 30% of the costs. There are also a bunch of considerations to who would receive the grant. Factors include community benefit (including increased reliability and wildfire mitigation), the potential to lead to additional private sector investment, the likelihood of success, financial feasibility, investment in America's workforce, and contributing to the Justice40 initiative. Among other things, the Justice40 initiative stems from an Executive Order that specifies that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. They are also focusing on smaller utilities that sell less than 4,000,000 MWh a year. As a comparison, West Central Electric sold 136,600 MWh in 2022. The biggest takeaway is that the suppliers in the major cities are not going to have much of a chance at this pot of money. Of course, your cooperative cannot afford to put in for a \$100 million project all by itself! This is where our membership in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) comes in. Through them, we are able to join a group of about 50 other cooperatives to combine projects into one big application.

As they typically do, the Federal government passed this legislation without any processes to grant the money to entities. Fast forward to November of 2022, and the powers that be decided that they needed to get the 2021 and 2022 funds out the door, so they created a fast-track process to get those grants pushed out. So in December of 2022, we quickly came up with a project to submit. The DOE would then review and suggest whether to continue with a full application or to abandon that project. I am happy to report to you that they told us to continue with a full application. Starting in February, we began gathering all the information needed for the full application and we should have all that data to them by mid-March. This process has kept your cooperative quite busy trying to figure out the rules as we go and get the information they requested in time to get the application done.

With the two years of money, the short time frame for application, South Dakota's status in the Justice40 initiative, and the focus on small utilities, we think there is a very good possibility that we will get our projects approved.

West Central has applied for a total of 18 miles of three-phase line between the Philip Rural Substation (located approximately nine miles south of Philip on HWY 73) and the Hilland Substation (on Hilland Road, about 16 miles north of Philip). The total for these projects is estimated at \$2,570,000, of which West Central would be responsible for \$771,000. We should know around January 2024 if we get approval or not.

These projects fit perfectly into our plans to continue burying the old overhead line, and going after this money makes sense for the members. It would allow us to bury a lot of line with minimal costs to the membership, helping us keep rates as low as we can! Your friends at the cooperative will continue to monitor the next three rounds of grant money as well to see if we can bring home some more bacon!

# Practicing Electrical Safety Inside and Outside the Home

Electricity is a vital resource South Dakotans depend on daily, but when used unsafely, the consequences can be costly and sometimes even deadly.

Many tragedies involve common items such as power outlets, appliances, power cords, power equipment and extension cords. Sadly, most of these deaths and injuries are preventable.

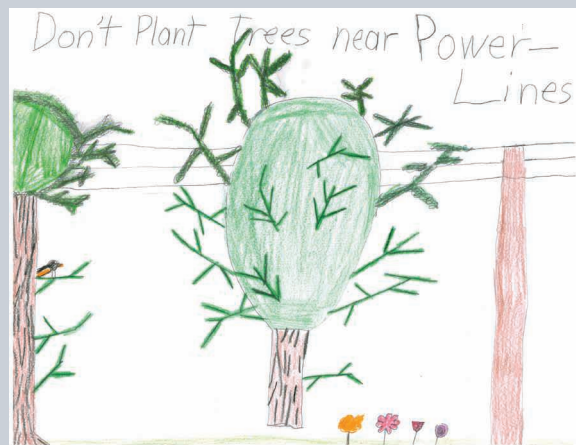
To help reduce electric safety casualties and injuries, South Dakota's electric cooperatives are dedicated to raising awareness of electric safety information to educate people of all ages on the dangers of electricity.

### Inside the Home:

- Inspect electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying. Throw away any worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire.
- Don't overload power outlets.
- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- When trying to unplug something from an outlet, pull on the plug, not the cord.
- Keep in mind that turned off appliances are still connected to electricity until they are unplugged. Always unplug appliances before cleaning or repairing.
- Use extension cords only for short-term purposes, and make sure the cord is adequately suited for the amount of electricity it will be transferring.
- Turn off and unplug all portable electrical appliances, like hairdryers, irons and shavers, when you're finished using them.
- Be familiar with the location of your breaker box and make sure the switches are clearly labeled so you can shut off electricity quickly in the event of an emergency.
- Teach children never to put their fingers in electrical outlets and appliances.
- Keep appliances and cords away from children and use plug covers in outlets.

### Outside the Home:

- If there is a downed power line nearby, leave the area immediately and notify your cooperative or call 911. If others are around, let them know that they need to stay away.
- Teach children to stay away from power lines and substations and make sure they can recognize "Danger-High Voltage" signs.
- Never use electrical equipment near any wet areas, such as pools or ponds.
- Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a wet kite string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path and if you are holding one of these items, you could become a part of that path.
- "Call Before You Dig." Dial 811 before starting a digging project, and workers will be sent to your home to mark utility lines in your yard. This service is free, and it has the potential to save your life.



### Power Line Safety

#### Annette Tschetter, age 9

Annette Tschetter, age 9, offers a great safety tip for power lines. Planting trees near power lines can be dangerous and problematic. Annette is the daughter of Ryan and Elaine Tschetter, members of Whetstone Valley Electric based in Milbank, 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.



# SMOOTHIE SENSATION

## WAKE UP COFFEE SMOOTHIE

### Ingredients:

1 cup milk  
1/8-1/4 cup instant coffee granules  
1 envelope chocolate or vanilla instant breakfast drink mix  
3 cups ice cubes

### METHOD

In a blender, combine all the ingredients except the ice. Blend until well mixed. Add the ice and blend until well mixed and slushy.

**Catherine Peterson**  
Viborg, S.D.

## STRAWBERRY SMOOTHIE

### Ingredients:

2 cups fresh strawberries, stemmed and halved  
1 cup plain yogurt  
1/2 cup ice cubes or chips  
1/2 tsp. ground cardamom  
1/4 tsp. ginger

### METHOD

In a blender, combine all of the ingredients. Blend on high speed until it has a smoothie texture. Makes two 12 ounce glasses.

**Dar Duncan**  
Milbank, S.D.

## MINT CHOCOLATE BREAKFAST SMOOTHIE

### Ingredients:

1 cup ice  
1/2 medium avocado, peeled, pitted and chopped  
1/2 cup frozen sliced banana  
1/2 cup packed baby spinach leaves  
1/2 cup reduced fat milk  
1 tablespoon agave nectar  
1/2 teaspoon Pure Vanilla Extract  
1/4 teaspoon Pure Peppermint Extract  
2 tablespoons finely chopped chocolate

### METHOD

Place all ingredients except chocolate in blender container; cover. Blend on high speed until smooth. Stir in chocolate. Serve immediately.

[mccormick.com](http://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.

# Easy Behavior Changes to Save Energy



**Miranda Boutelle**  
Efficiency Services  
Group

**Q:** I want to lower my energy use, but I don't know where to start. How can I find out how much energy I use? What are some ways I can save energy without spending a lot of money?

**A:** You can change your energy use by changing your behavior.

When looking at electric bills, many people focus on the total dollar amount of the bill. When trying to manage your energy costs, I suggest changing your focus to energy use.

While you don't have control over the cost of the energy, you can control how much energy you use.

## Set Goals.

Instead of thinking about your bills in terms of dollars, think about them in terms of kilowatt-hours. A kilowatt-hour is the unit of energy used for most electric bills. Review your monthly kWh use to get an idea of how much you use every month.

Once you've reviewed your energy use, set goals for the next month. Try to use less energy than the month before, and check your results on your next bill.

## Know When to Use Less Energy.

Some electric utilities offer time-of-use rates, which means electricity costs are dependent on the time of day. This pricing structure more closely reflects the cost to electric utilities and helps consumers understand that energy costs more when the demand for it is higher.

Even if your electric bill does not include time-of-use rates, it can be beneficial to delay energy-intensive chores or tasks to when demand is lower. Peak hours are typically in the morning as we prepare for work and in the evening when we get home and start preparing food and turning on entertainment devices. Doing laundry and running the dishwasher are easy activities to delay until after peak hours.

## Power "Off" for Energy Savings.

When looking for energy savings, remember that

"off" is the most efficient setting. Turning off lights is a classic strategy, especially if your lighting is incandescent. Consider switching to energy-saving LED lightbulbs.

Computers and gaming systems can waste energy even when in sleep mode. The higher the wattage and the more hours the device is on, the more energy used. Laptops use the least energy, followed by personal computers at about 200 watts. Gaming consoles typically use less energy than gaming PCs. Don't forget to turn off the monitor as well.

You can lower your energy use even more with smart power strips, which cut power to devices that are not in use. Many electronics continue to draw power even when they are turned off. This could add 5% to 10 % to your monthly bill, according to the Department of Energy. Installing smart power strips is an easy way to ensure devices are completely turned off and not drawing power.

## Adjust the Temp.

When it comes to lowering your energy use, the settings on your thermostat are another great place to check. Keep in mind, the weather affects your electric bill for heating and air conditioning.

The closer you can keep the indoor temperature to the outdoor temperature, the more you will save. You want to protect your home from damage in extreme heat and cold, but if you can turn the temperature down a few degrees in winter and up in summer, you will save on energy costs.

Ensuring your filters in your heating and cooling system are clean is an easy way to keep your system maintained and operating efficiently. Adding annual servicing by a professional maximizes the efficiency and can lengthen the life of your system.

Understanding your energy use and making small adjustments to your routine will help you reach your energy use goals.







Macie Luce, 2022 Snow Queen, crowns Addison Kuecker as the 2023 South Dakota Snow Queen in January. Photo credit: South Dakota Snow Queen Festival

## South Dakota Snow Queens Keep Rich History Thriving

Jocelyn Johnson

jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop

It's not your typical pageant. Getting to the top depends on the pageant participant's goals, ambitions, knowledge and talents. Involvement in community and school functions as well as their success in the interview process is how the winning young women are crowned.

The first South Dakota Snow Queen Festival was organized by Aberdeen's Jaycees and Jaycettes after World War II in 1946. From there, it has grown across eastern South Dakota with the hope of even more involvement across state. Today, approximately 30 communities send contestants, and the program has continued to thrive due to the scholarships and former snow queens who advocate for the program.

Scholarships are given to the winners of the festival – Snow Queens receive \$3,500, Junior Snow Queens receive \$2,000, and Snow Princesses are offered \$200 for any school and any program.

Don Bremer, former president of the South Dakota Snow Queen Committee,

said, "Once the festival is over, the winning Snow Queen and Junior Snow Queen begin their year representing South Dakota at various other festivals – including St. Paul Winter Carnival, Minneapolis Aquatennial, Montevideo Fiesta Days, Willmar Fest, Gypsy Days, Bands Brews & BBQs, the Brown County Fair, and more. They represent their communities and the state of South Dakota and build lasting friendships and skills for their future."

The community gathers behind these young women to make the program special and meaningful. It's a tradition full of history and fun for all.

"We even have an important mascot named Frosty," Bremer said. "Frosty is typically a local businessperson who supports the festival...he or she has six guards, and their identity is revealed only at coronation. Notable past Frosty mascots were Joe Foss and Tom Daschle"

Gabriella Premus, weekend morning anchor and live reporter for television news in Green Bay, Wis., was crowned Junior Snow Queen in 2013. She recounted moving to Webster, S.D., from California and



Gov. Kristi Noem was crowned the South Dakota Snow Queen in 1990.

jumping into the program as a way to get acquainted with the community.

"I would definitely recommend this program – it shaped me as a young woman and gave me confidence," Premus said. "I was able to succeed in the profession I am in today as a television news anchor because of the experience I gained as Junior Snow Queen."

"My highlight was being able to represent my state when we traveled and establish comradery with others involved in the program," Premus continued. "I hope the legacy continues."



# HOOKED ON FISHING

A Game, Fish and Parks employee consolidates fish in a raceway at McNenny State Fish Hatchery for loading and stocking.

## South Dakota Fish Hatcheries Meet Growing Demand

**Frank Turner**

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Fishing guide Dave Spaid, of Pierre, has a passion for helping anglers pull fish out of South Dakotan waters. When a customer catches a memorable monster along the banks of the Missouri River, Spaid knows he has had a successful day.

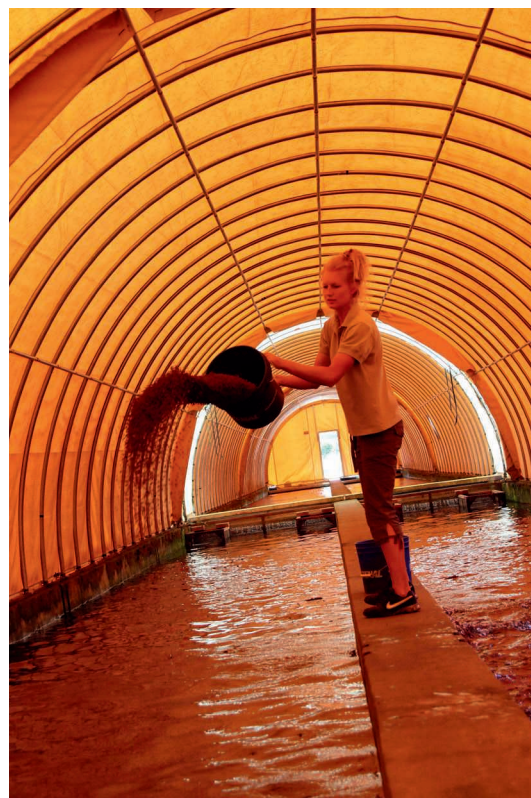
“I basically enjoy watching other people catch fish,” said Spaid, who has been a guide for fishermen from across the Midwest for more than 37 years.

Over the course of his long-standing career, Spaid says he observed more anglers on the water and improved fishing technologies and capabilities, yet fewer sizable fish. “There’s a growing amount of people out there that are fishing every day and having success,” said Spaid. “It puts a detrimental dent in our fishery and sometimes the fish just don’t have a

chance to grow to those bigger sizes.”

According to data from Game, Fish and Parks (GFP), fishing continues to be an important part of South Dakota’s outdoor heritage, confirming Spaid’s suspicions. And while fishing guides, like Spaid, have earned a living by taking fish out of the water, managers of fish hatcheries have taken on the responsibility of putting new fish back in.

Fish Hatcheries administrator Mike Barnes said GFP is being proactive in the development of its three hatchery locations to meet the needs of South Dakota’s anglers. Recent improvements to South Dakota’s three hatcheries located in



Regular feedings help bolster fish before their introduction to South Dakota lakes and rivers.



Spearfish, Rapid City and Waubay have significantly improved the state's abilities to produce and rear mass quantities of fish – everything from walleye to rainbow trout to largemouth bass – for stocking across the state.

The fish produced at these state hatcheries can even bolster South Dakota's larger fisheries, and without them, there would be significantly fewer fish to catch. In 2022, GFP and other entities stocked a total of 66 million fish, including 19 different species, in 138 lakes and streams in South Dakota. Over 60% of the walleye fisheries in South Dakota depend on stocking, and walleye stocking is increasing in Lake Oahe, South Dakota's largest reservoir. Other fisheries, like those for Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, and paddlefish, only exist because of hatcheries.

So how does the state manage to raise millions of fish? When raising walleye, hatcheries collect and fertilize fish eggs collected during the spawning season in the spring. The eggs incubate in upwelling jars, which circulate fresh water and gently roll the eggs. When the eggs hatch,

the small fry are either stocked directly into lakes or kept for further growth in ponds or newly installed re-circulating aquaculture system (RAS) tanks.

Due to the recent addition of RAS technology in 2019, Barnes said it is now possible to grow more fish and different species of fish to sizes never before possible. "Anglers are going to feel a huge impact from what we have done with these new systems, even as soon as this summer," said Barnes. "We are increasing small walleye production, and will be stocking bass at 10 inches or bigger, bluegills at eight inches, and muskies at 16 inches or longer – we've never had the opportunity to grow and stock these species of fish at these sizes before. This is all happening at the same time as increased numbers of walleyes returning from traditional rearing ponds and trout production at record levels. I'm extremely proud of the people I am privileged to supervise."

Rearing fish in RAS is complex, and Barnes compares the process to a factory. The scale of production is massive and energy intensive. Barnes is also the

manager of McNenny Hatchery in rural Lawrence County. As a co-op member of Butte Electric, Barnes said the McNenny hatchery in Spearfish has had consistent support from its local co-op to keep the operation rolling.

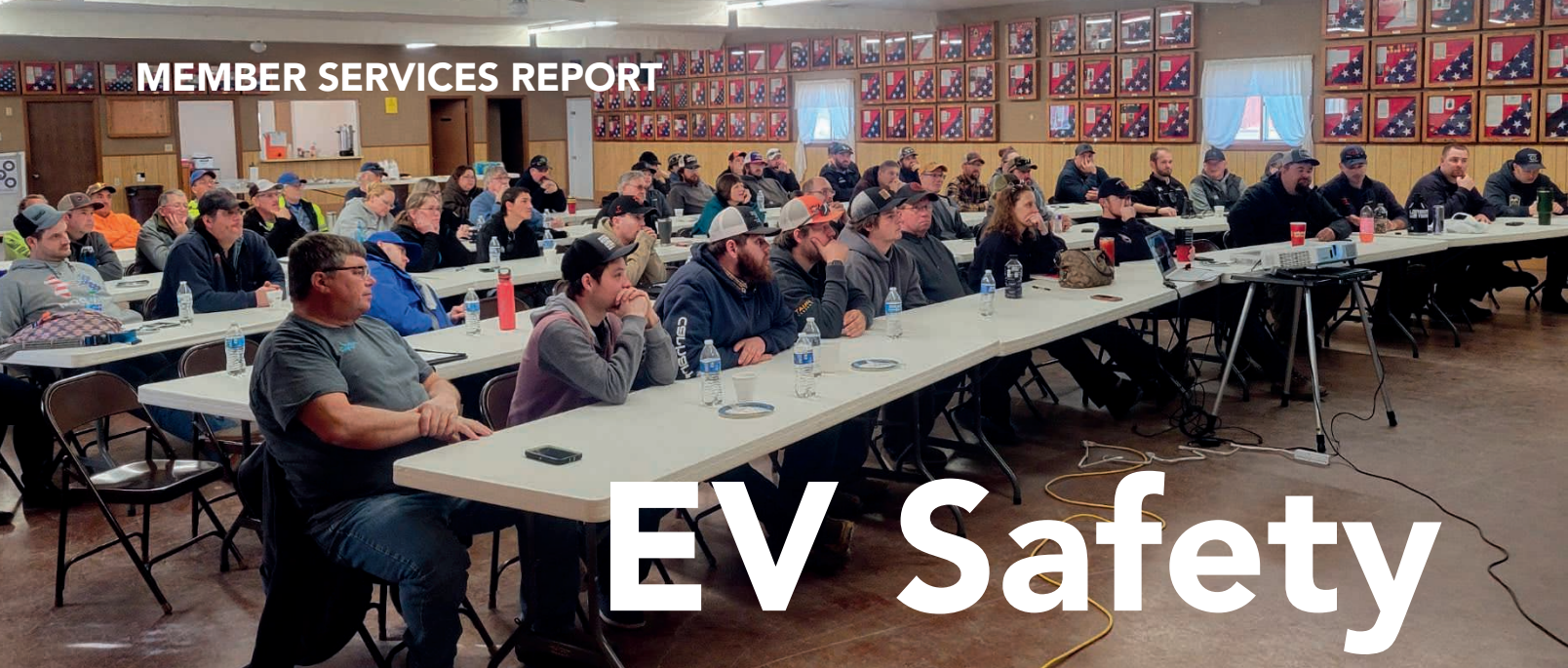
"There is no way we could do what we do without reliable electricity," said Barnes. "It's just a tremendous blessing for us to have Butte Electric as our provider. They are just so good to work with and so responsive and helpful."

The state is keen on keeping the momentum rolling. In fact, GFP has plans for a new hatchery facility on SDSU's campus. Increasing production, increasing rearing efficiencies, saving money, developing student interns, and enhancing fisheries education, are all reasons for the new facility. Barnes estimates that the project could be completed within the next three years.

"Keep an eye out for new projects because they are happening and underway," he said. "And at the end of the day, it's all about maximizing the satisfaction of our customers, South Dakota's anglers."



Game, Fish and Parks uses trucks equipped with livewells to stock fish directly into South Dakota fisheries across the state.



**Jessie Tucker**  
Member Services

As many of you have noticed, many auto manufacturers are transitioning most, if not all, of their vehicle models to all-electric in the next 10 years. From your local co-ops' point of view, there are many things that we need to learn before this drastic change. For this reason, West Central purchased an all-electric Ford F150 Lightning on February 1st from Scott Peterson Motors in Belle Fouché, SD. I want to stress that it is not because we are trying to push electric vehicles (EVs) but that we must learn from them. Equally important as our learning, we will then share this information with our membership. We intend to gather many things from it, such as how they charge, the difference in charging speeds, how residential charging works, how EVs work or do not work in our part of the country, and many more questions our members have (or we have). One of the most important reasons is that we will need to develop a residential charging rate to ensure that they are not on our peak. However, the first thing I would like to touch on is EV safety.

To use the Ford Lightning as a demonstration tool, West Central was invited to attend an EV fire safety class in Philip on 2/18/2023. With over 70 first responders, firefighters, and towing personnel in attendance, Matt Bowman and Kris Lanning from Energy Security Agency presented different things to consider when dealing with EVs. Energy Security Agency tests batteries in real-life scenarios. What they taught the group was not something they had read and then shared with us, but rather what they have learned from real crashes, fires, and other events. Here are some of the highlights I took away from the class.

EV safety class attendees - Photo credit: Kathy Chesney

- First responders must know how to identify and properly disable an EV. Since you cannot hear the engine run, you don't know if it is actually off. A bump of the accelerator pedal could put everyone in danger if the vehicle is still running.
- EVs have Emergency Response Guides that highlight key points of the vehicles. These are something that every EV owner should be familiar with.
- Rescuing someone from an EV can be completely different from a combustion engine vehicle. Vehicle frames are made from much stronger steel, making extraction much more difficult.
- Some EVs don't have mechanical door handles, which can make them extremely difficult to access during an emergency. Additionally, many EVs have glass roofs. This can be used as a good access point, but the glass may be laminated, so it would need to be sawn out to gain access.
- Flooding, crashes, and other battery damages, such as improper towing, can make them ignite.
- During an EV battery fire, white fog-like smoke will be present before flames. This smoke is a telltale sign of burning batteries and what is to come.
- Once the white smoke is present, the battery may ignite. Just before the battery ignites, it is commonly reported that the smoke smelt sweet, like cherry bubble gum. If the white smoke or sweet smell is present, stay away from the EV as best as you can.



## EV Safety, Continued

- Once the EV has caught fire, and if it is possible to do without additional damage to property or others, let the EV burn.
- If EV fire must be fought or suppressed, only water applied to battery vents will work. The vents are made from when the battery ignites and blows fire out of the battery case. (Proper techniques of how to fight fires were discussed in detail at the class.)
- Even done properly, there is a good chance that more than 1000 gallons of water will be needed. You may need to dispatch multiple trucks to fire.
- Fighting the fire will also release many chemicals into the nearby ground. This may require cleanup, but at whose expense? It seems simple that it should be on the owner of the vehicle, but the local fire departments could also be held responsible for the proper cleanup of the area.
- EVs may reignite sometimes days or weeks later after the initial fire. Properly storing EVs after these events is also crucial due to how they can reignite at a much later time.

These few notes are an abbreviated version of what Matt and Kris presented. I strongly urge all local fire departments, first responders, and towing companies to have some type of training on EVs. If you would like to get contact information with the crew at Energy Security Agency, then give me a call and I can put you in touch with the correct people. Energy Security Agency offers free 24/7 assistance for everyone, not just first responders and fire departments. They have extensive knowledge and are willing to help.

While at this training, I had the opportunity to visit with a few West Central members that had a common comment. They were glad that West Central purchased the Lightning to get some real information and data from our area rather than hearing information from companies that may be pushing their own products. We are and will continue to be your trusted source of information. Watch for future articles in the *Cooperative Connections* as we learn more about the Ford F150 Lightning and share it!

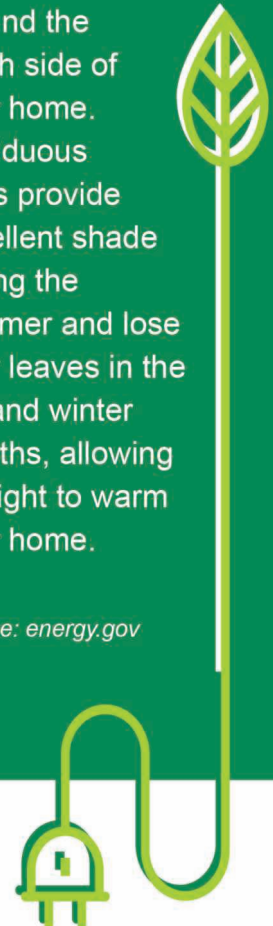


Ford Lightning on display to discussed certain safety components  
Photo credit: Kathy Chesney

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

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







A home is moved in Fargo, N.D., due to flooding.

# Reasons to Move and Methods to Get it Done

**Jocelyn Johnson**

jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop

You found your dreamhouse. It's affordable and everything you ever wanted. The catch? You must move it across town.

It's not an easy thing to do, but moving a complete structure from the past to its future home can be done and is done for the right reasons.

Milbank House Movers, Inc., located in Milbank, S.D., has been in business since 1965 and serves all of South Dakota, North Dakota, and the Mid-Western parts of Minnesota.

Josh Wendland from Milbank House Movers said, "The demand for moving structures remains high across all of our service area...we have multiple crews, that, at times, move multiple houses every week."

A house, sentimental barn or historical

church are all structures that people have moved in South Dakota. Sentiment, safety, time, cost, convenience, and restructuring could all be reasons why this occurs.

Throughout the United States,

intimidating structures are moved regularly – lighthouses, hotels, movie theatres, airport terminals, barges, ships, bridges, grain elevators, houses, libraries, transformers, draglines, and viaducts are a few examples.

"Relocating structures is the world's oldest and largest recycling industry," Wendland stated. "Why people move structures varies greatly, but a few of the most common reasons occur in a



Two buildings are moved from Augustana University campus due to expansion of the college athletics complexes.



vast state like South Dakota. People that would like a home built may have difficulty finding builders that will work in their parts of the state, or the local builders are simply booked out and cannot help in the timeframe that works for them.”

In these circumstances, ready-built companies offer pre-built homes that could be moved to the customer’s site and set it on their basement as if it were built there all along.

A homeowner wanting to upgrade homes in their current location while also wanting to make a profit over the home they currently live in, is another example to move a home. Out with the old and in with the new! This philosophy can be true with barns, buildings, garages, and other types of structures that are in the way of new opportunities, but still hold value.

Flooding is an additional reason why some in the Midwest may want to move their homes to higher ground. Wendland observed that structural movers have seen an increase in the number of requests to elevate houses permanently, so owners

would not have to pay for expensive flood insurance. This move would elevate the long-term value on their home.

“We also work with numerous historical societies to help preserve historic structures, trains, churches, hotels, and schoolhouses by moving them to historical society grounds where they can be saved for future generations to learn from and enjoy,” Wendland stated. “We like to say, Moving the Past to the Present for the Future!”

## Things to Consider When Moving a House

Despite professionals making it look somewhat easy, getting from Point A to Point B may not be that simple. It requires constructive planning and forethought. The following are just a few considerations to take before any structure is moved.

1. Size – the bigger the house, the more expensive it is to move.
2. Obstacles – trees, overhead utility lines, bridge weight limitations, traffic signals, and railroad crossings should be considered

with every route taken.

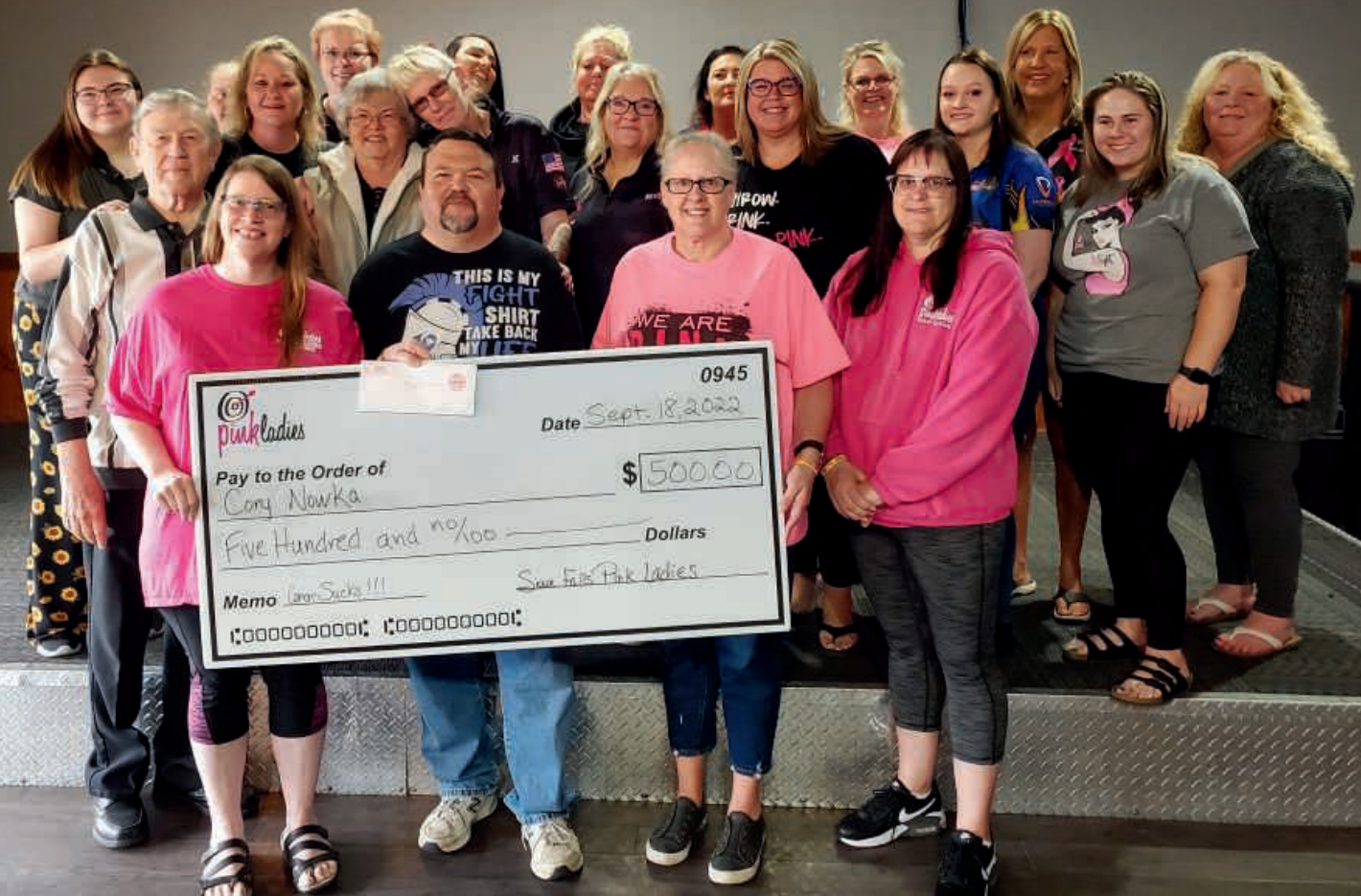
3. Price of moving the house
4. Distance of the move
5. Cost of the new lot
6. Cost to purchase the house or building
7. Fees associated with moving overhead utilities, tree trimming, and any permits or inspections required to move and place the house
8. Fees associated with disconnecting all of the current utilities, HVAC, and electrical and plumbing systems
9. Remodeling costs
10. Financing costs

Moving a structure can be an exciting process if done correctly. It’s saving a piece of history from destruction or putting in something new without the headache of waiting. Whatever the reason behind the move, the ability to do it is astounding. Homes can be saved, history can be preserved, and future options are made more available.



A home is moved due to flooding near Waubay, S.D.

## DART LEAGUE



Members of the Sioux Falls Pink Ladies Dart League present a \$500 check to area residents fighting cancer.

# PINK LADIES DART LEAGUE

## Looking to Make a Difference

**Frank Turner**

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Clad in pink, one nonprofit organization in Sioux Falls is making a difference in their community one dart at a time. The Sioux Falls Pink Ladies Dart League, alongside other Pink Ladies chapters in South Dakota, has a goal to support and raise funds for area community members who are battling cancer and undergoing

treatment.

Although the Pink Ladies Dart League is mostly noncompetitive when it comes to darts, the group is serious in its efforts to assist those fighting cancer. Funds raised by the ladies through league darts and public events regularly help embattled families during their fight with cancer, easing the financial burden of hospital bills, food expenses, gas money or anything else the family might need.

Despite having only 60 members in their chapter, the Sioux Falls Pink Ladies Dart League has significantly impacted their community in the last decade. Through community events, tournaments and league fees, the group has collectively donated more







Even Santa sometimes visits the Sioux Falls Pink Ladies Dart League, gifting presents to families battling cancer.



Sioux Falls Pink Ladies Dart League Logo

than \$130,000 to those impacted by cancer.

“It’s about giving back to our community and giving love and support to cancer patients,” said Sioux Falls Pink Ladies Dart League President Leann Gabel.

When Gabel joined her chapter in 2015, she had no previous experience throwing darts. For her, it was about trying something new, having fun and making a difference.

### **“It’s about the hearts, not the darts.”**

Every year, Pink Ladies chapters from across the state gather in October during cancer awareness month for the Pink Ladies Darts Tournament. Although the sport is a significant component of the Pink Ladies, Gabel emphasized that their goal is about supporting their community. Anyone,

regardless of gender, age or skill, is welcome to join their chapter.

“I came into the chapter never having thrown a dart in my life and I’m still in the lower division when we play tournaments,” said Gabel. “It’s about the hearts, not the darts.”

For Gabel and the rest of the chapter, each donation serves as a reminder of why they participate in the non-profit. Gabel recalled helping a family with five children during Christmas time in 2021.

The dad was struggling with cancer, and while supporting the father and the family, the mother was unable to work. When the family attended one of the chapter’s events, the group gave the family an abundance of gifts, a Hy-vee gift card and cash for the holidays.

“They were so grateful and they started crying and I couldn’t help but cry too,” she said. “I just thought, wow, my heart is full right now. It doesn’t get any better than that, and

with the kind of passion we have in our chapter, you just can’t beat it.”

Charity from The Pink Ladies Darts League goes beyond just the holiday season. The chapter regularly holds fundraising events and supports area families throughout the year. In fact, the chapter’s next benefit event, Kickin’ Cancer Jam, will take place this month on April 16 at the El Riad Shrine in Sioux Falls. The event will feature five different bands and, of course, a dart tournament. All proceeds from the event will go to local families from the Sioux Falls area.

The Sioux Falls Pink Ladies League, however, is not alone in its efforts. Gabel also encouraged people to watch for events around the state and support the Pink Ladies in their mission to support those with cancer.

“People are more than welcome to attend our Kickin’ Cancer Jam,” she said. “It’s all for the community. No one should fight alone.”



**April 22, 2023**  
**RiverRat Run**  
 Gavins Point Recreation Area  
 Yankton, SD  
 605-660-9483

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.

**MARCH 31-APRIL 2**  
**70th Annual Hayes Play:**  
**Trouble in Tumbleweed**  
 Hayes Community Hall  
 Hayes, SD  
 605-280-6556

**APRIL 1**  
**Hill City Easter Egg Hunt**  
 9:45 a.m.  
 Visitor Information Center  
 Hill City, SD  
 605-574-2368

**APRIL 1**  
**Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt**  
 10 a.m.  
 City Park  
 Groton, SD  
 605-397-8422

**APRIL 1**  
**East Dakota Chapter**  
**NWTF 30th Banquet**  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-940-0702

**APRIL 2-4**  
**"The Psychic-a Murder**  
**Mystery of Sorts"**  
**Community Theater**  
**Performance**  
 Town Players Theater  
 Watertown, SD  
 605-280-6556

**APRIL 8**  
**East Dakota Chapter**  
**NWTF 30th Banquet**  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-940-0702

**APRIL 8**  
**Easter Egg Hunt for Helping**  
**with Horsepower**  
 2 p.m.  
 Reclamation Ranch  
 Mitchell, SD

**APRIL 21**  
**Museum After Dark**  
 7 p.m.  
 Children's Museum of  
 South Dakota  
 Brookings, SD

**APRIL 21-22**  
**Junkin' Market Days,**  
**Spring Market**  
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds  
 Expo Building  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-941-4958

**APRIL 22**  
**RiverRat Run**  
 8 a.m.  
 Gavins Point Recreation Area  
 Yankton, SD  
 (605) 660-9483

**MAY 6**  
**Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**  
 Lake Farley Park  
 Milbank, SD  
 605-432-6656

**MAY 17**  
**Norwegian Independence**  
**Day**  
 6 p.m.  
 Vivian, SD  
 605-222-3296

**MAY 20**  
**Buggy Museum Open House**  
 10 a.m.  
 Stockholm, SD  
 605-938-4192

**MAY 25**  
**Wine Walk**  
 5 p.m.  
 Downtown Businesses  
 Aberdeen, SD  
 605-226-3441

**MAY 27**  
**Back When They Bucked**  
**All-Day Rodeo**  
 9 a.m.  
 Days of '76 Event Complex  
 Deadwood, SD  
 605-717-7642

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