



# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Anglers from across the region compete in the Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament each year to try their luck and test their skills

## Hook, line and auger

Inside the Mobridge ice fishing tourney  
Pages 8-9

Shake the blues with winter outdoor fun  
Pages 12-13



# All is well on the Codington-Clark front



**Dave Eide**  
General Manager  
C. 605-350-2765  
davee@ccelectric.coop

We've been making plans for 2023. We're going to have a good 2023, that might sound presumptive but a lot of things in the co-op world are looking very positive right now. I'll talk about that more next month. A light capital budget was approved by the board at the November meeting. We're currently working on the 2023 operating budget. Even though the budget isn't complete, I do not foresee the need to increase rates. We should be able to maintain the current rate schedule for some time to come.

### CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The employees at Codington-Clark had an extremely busy year this year. We had a number of new services that needed line extensions plowed in, we upgraded some tie lines between substations, replaced some overhead line with underground and along with that replaced over 18 miles of older failing underground cable. Our line crews with the help of contractors plowed in over 60 miles of new line this year. That's an incredible amount. During the week of Thanksgiving, we plowed in the last portion of line to a new service. With the ground freezing up and delayed cable deliveries, I didn't know if we'd get that one done, and the member really wanted it in before freeze up. We went through over \$2.5 million of inventory this year and only had to do

a slight inventory adjustment. I'm so proud of the accomplishments of the cooperative employees this year that I'm beside myself. We have a great group of employees that work well as a team.

### CAPITAL CREDITS RETIRED

At the November board meeting action was taken to make a general retirement of capital credits to the membership. The board chose to retire the entire year 2001 capital credit balance of \$448,826. The retirement checks will be mailed to members in December that purchased electricity from the cooperative during 2001. The retirement amount for each member is based on the number of kWh purchased per member during this time frame.

Speaking of capital credits, Codington-Clark Electric received a capital credit retirement from our power suppliers Basin and East River Electric in May in the amount of \$79,770. In September, we received another capital credit retirement from Basin and East River in the amount of \$74,051. To top that off, we will be receiving a third capital credit retirement from Basin and East River in December in the amount of \$168,953. That's a total of \$322,774 for 2022, a testament to cooperative principle number three; "Member Economic Participation." The cooperative business model is working well.

As always please call, email, or text me anytime with any questions or problems you might have. Merry Christmas and have a great 2023!

## ORU applications being accepted

The Codington-Clark Electric Board of Directors made the decision to implement the Operation Round-Up program in adherence to the cooperative principle "Concern for Community." Through the program, Co-op members volunteer to "round up" the amount owed on electric bills to the next highest dollar and contribute the change to the ORU Fund. The purpose of the program is to provide charitable contributions that promote the welfare of people in the community and improve their quality of life.

Since 2011, numerous Codington-Clark members and employees have opted to participate and have generously contributed to the fund. If you are interested in applying for funds please call 886-5848, stop by the office to pick up an application or go online to [www.ccelectric.coop](http://www.ccelectric.coop), click on the community tab and look for Operation Round Up. Any application that would positively affect the general welfare of the community will be considered. Deadline for applying is Feb. 9, 2023.



**Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year**

**CCEC will be closed the  
following days:**

- Christmas – Dec. 26
- New Year's Day – Jan. 2

**COOPERATIVE  
CONNECTIONS****CODINGTON-CLARK  
ELECTRIC**

(USPS 019-073)

**Board of Directors****President:**

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**Vice President:**

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Manager

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Manager

Jared Terhark, Distribution System

Manager

**To report a power outage:**

1-844-968-1976

**Office Hours:**

Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative Connections is published monthly by Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, PO Box 880, 3520 9th Ave SW, Watertown, SD 57201-0880. Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Watertown Post Office, Watertown, SD 57201 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 880, 3520 9th Ave SW, Watertown, SD 57201-0880; telephone (605) 886-5848; fax (605) 886-5934.

**[www.ccelectric.coop](http://www.ccelectric.coop)**

Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**New number for reporting outages****1-844-968-1976****Huber named Scholar of the Week**

Trey Huber, a Clark High School senior, was selected the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week for Dec. 11-16 and featured on Dakota News Now.

Trey's parents are Nick and Jessica Huber, rural Conde.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives (including Codington-Clark Electric) and Dakota News Now have joined together to recognize high school seniors throughout the region. Recipients are highly motivated seniors who excel in the classroom and community. Trey received \$250 and a chance to win a \$500 or \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded at the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year banquet.

He is pictured with Board Director Russ Hurlbert.

**\$5,000 in scholarships available**

Codington-Clark Electric and its partners are offering \$5,000 in college and tech school scholarships for the 2023-24 school year. Information and application forms are available from Codington-Clark's website [www.ccelectric.coop](http://www.ccelectric.coop) or from area high schools. The deadline for all applications is 4:30 p.m. Feb. 13, 2023.

**CODINGTON-CLARK ELECTRIC  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Codington-Clark Electric will award (4) \$500 scholarships and again partner with CoBank to award (2) \$1,000 scholarships for the 2023-24 school year. The program is designed to recognize certain academic achievements by children of member-consumers of Codington-Clark Electric and to encourage students to attend a South Dakota post-secondary institute.

Scholarships must be used for educational costs and the student must enter school in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given. The applicant must be a student planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two- or four-year college, university, or vocational/tech school in South Dakota. Codington-Clark Electric will pay scholarships after completion of the

first semester. Checks will be made payable to the student and will be distributed by Codington-Clark Electric.

One application covers both scholarships.

**BASIN ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP**

Codington-Clark Electric will again partner with Basin Electric to offer a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2023-24 school year.

Applicants must be enrolling or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited college, university, or vocational/tech school for the 2023-24 school year.

The \$1,000 award is part of the Rural Electric Cooperative Scholarship Program developed and funded by Codington-Clark Electric's power supply partner, Basin Electric, which operates a generation fleet producing about 75 percent of the electricity used by Codington-Clark Electric members.

Each of Basin Electric's member co-ops will award a scholarship to a dependent of a consumer. That means one student whose parents are Codington-Clark Electric members will win a \$1,000 scholarship.

Applications will be considered by Codington-Clark Electric and then submitted to Basin Electric for scholarship distribution.



### Tips to use your electric blanket wisely

Heating pads and electric blankets cause around 500 fires throughout the U.S. each year. Almost all of these fires involve electric blankets more than 10 years old.

Learn how to stay safe and injury-free.

- Heating appliances should never be left unattended or used while sleeping.
- Do not plug electric blankets into an extension cord or power strip, as they could overheat and cause a fire.
- Look for dark, charred, or frayed spots or electrical cords that are cracked or frayed. Replace any worn or old heating pads or electric blankets.
- Never fold electric blankets when in use. Folded or tucked-in electric blankets could overheat and cause a fire.
- When purchasing electronics, including electric blankets, be sure to only purchase from reputable retailers. Purchase devices that have been approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Do not allow anything to rest on top of a heating pad or electric blanket when it is in use. It may cause the device to overheat.
- There are two types of personal heating appliances: electric blankets and heating pads that are placed directly on the mattress. They are not meant to be used interchangeably or at the same time.

### Gums wins Connections annual recipe contest

Lily Gums of Clear Lake has been selected winner of the annual *Cooperative Connections* member recipe contest.

Gums submitted a beverage recipe she calls "Swamp Water" that was published in the April 2022 issue of the magazine. She received a \$25 gift card for her submission. Congratulations, Lily!

She is a member of H-D Electric Cooperative based in Clear Lake.

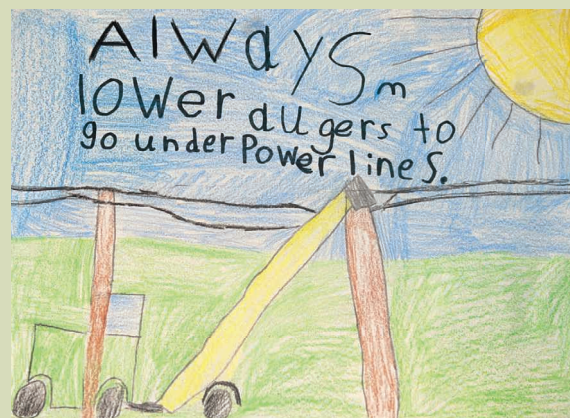


### CO-OP LEADERS SERVE THEIR MEMBERS AND CONSTITUENTS



Ryan Maher is both a state senator and a board member at Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative in Timber Lake. He is one of three cooperative leaders who play unique roles in serving their co-op consumers while also serving their constituents as state lawmakers during the legislative session in Pierre.

To view the comments and insights of these lawmakers and learn more about how electric cooperatives work to improve our communities, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



### Be safe around power lines

#### Weston Kling

Weston Kling, age 7, urges equipment operators to always lower augers to accommodate for overhead power lines. Weston is the son of Tyler and Alexis Kling of Rapid City. They are members of West River Electric based in Wall.

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.

# SUPER SOUPS

## VEGGIE CHEESE SOUP

### Ingredients:

1/3 c. shredded carrots  
1/3 c. chopped celery  
3/4 c. broccoli flowerettes (fresh or frozen)  
2 tbsp. diced onion  
1/4 c. butter or margarine  
6 tbsp. flour  
2 c. chicken broth  
2 c. milk  
2 c. Velveeta cheese, cubed

### METHOD

Cook carrots, celery and broccoli in 1 cup water until tender crisp. Saute onions in butter. Add flour to blend. Add milk and stir to make white sauce then add cheese and stir until melted. Add chicken broth and vegetables in remaining water. Blend until smooth.

**Nancy Stenson, Fort Pierre**

## CHEESEBURGER SOUP

### Ingredients:

2 lbs. ground beef or ground chuck  
2 carrots, chopped  
1/2 med. onion chopped  
1/2 stalk celery, chopped  
5 med. peeled potatoes, chopped  
4 c. turkey or chicken broth  
3 c. half and half  
1 tsp. poultry seasoning  
2 tsp. garlic powder  
1 lb. Velveeta cheese, chunked  
2 tbsp. butter  
salt and pepper to taste

### METHOD

Brown ground meat in large pot. Drain and return to pot. Add butter, onion, carrots, celery and potatoes. Cook for 5 minutes. Add broth, poultry seasoning, garlic powder and continue cooking until vegetables are tender. Add half and half and Velveeta cheese and continue heating until cheese has melted. Salt and pepper to taste.

**Kathleen Meier, Firesteel**

## CHICKEN FAJITA SOUP

### Ingredients:

1 tbsp. oil  
1 med. green bell pepper, cut into 1/2-inch chunks  
1 med. red bell pepper, cut into 1/2-inch chunks  
1 sm. onion, finely chopped  
3 tbsp. tomato paste  
1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1/2-inch cubes  
1 pkg. McCormick® Organics Fajita Seasoning Mix  
3 c. chicken stock  
1 can (14.5 ounces) petite diced tomatoes, drained  
1 c. frozen corn  
1 c. tortilla strips

### METHOD

Heat oil in large saucepan or Dutch oven on medium-high heat. Add peppers and onion; cook and stir 2 minutes. Add tomato paste; cook and stir 2 minutes. Stir in chicken, Seasoning Mix, stock, tomatoes and corn. Bring to boil. Reduce heat; simmer 20 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Ladle soup into bowls. Sprinkle with tortilla strips. Serve with desired toppings.

**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.

# Q: Are smart home technologies energy efficient? Will making these technology upgrades save me money?



**Miranda Boutelle**  
Efficiency Services  
Group

A: You've probably heard the term "smart home" a lot in recent years. If you're curious about what makes a home smart, how it can boost energy efficiency and help you save money, you have come to the right place.

"Smart" was originally an acronym for self-monitoring analysis and reporting technology. This refers to technology that can be programmed for automation or controlled remotely using Bluetooth or Wi-Fi from a smart phone app or online. A smart home is one with automated control of appliances and systems, such as lighting fixtures and heating and cooling systems.

There are multiple reasons people choose to automate their homes, including convenience, energy efficiency and security. Just because a product is smart, don't assume it's energy efficient. Added connectivity, lights and touchscreens can actually increase your energy use. Always look for the ENERGY STAR® logo, which certifies the products meet standards for energy efficiency.

Energy savings typically come from automating the systems, devices and appliances in your home to use less energy or use energy when it costs less. Here are a few ways you can start implementing smart technology at home.

### SMART UPGRADES FOR THE ENTIRE HOME

Because heating and cooling account for the most energy use in a home, these systems are the best place to look for energy savings.

Smart thermostats offer features and functionality that can help you save energy and money without thinking about it, including learning preferences and automatically setting temperatures. Geofencing is a feature that uses your phone's location to gauge your distance from home and adjusts the temperature accordingly.

Smart thermostats also let you control the thermostat from anywhere with an internet

connection, and automatic software updates use new algorithms to maximize energy savings. Features vary by product, so be sure to choose the one that's right for you.

Smart window coverings are increasing in popularity. They can help save energy both in the winter and summer by operating based on the temperature of the room or a preset schedule.

Smart lighting can help you remotely control lights in your home, based on occupancy or a preset schedule. Lighting also can be paired with home security systems.

You can use smart outlets and power strips to control devices from outside the home or manage use based on load. For example, you can plug your devices into a load-sensing power strip that turns off peripheral devices, such as monitors and printers, when your computer is not in use.

### SMART STREAMING FOR THE LIVING ROOM

Many people use Wi-Fi to stream TV shows and movies. Smart TVs with built-in streaming functionality offer the most efficient way to stream content. If your TV cannot connect to the internet for streaming, opt for a streaming media player, such as Roku or Apple TV. They use 15 times less energy than a gaming console to stream the same shows and movies.

### SAVE ON SUDS IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM

Smart washing machines can be scheduled for off-peak energy times (when people in your community use less energy), which is helpful if your electric rate is based on the time of day energy is used. Smart clothes dryers can shut off automatically when your clothes are dry.

### SMART SAVINGS IN THE KITCHEN

There are many options for smart appliances in the heart of the home. Smart refrigerators offer energy-saving features, such as notifications when the door is left open. Digital screens show the contents to keep you from opening the door.

Smart ovens let you preheat when you are on your way home or check if you forgot to turn off the oven when you are away. Toasters, range hoods, microwaves and countertop ice makers are among the growing list of additional smart kitchen gadgets available.





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](mailto: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."



## ICE FISHING IN MOBRIDGE



The annual Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament attracts more than 1,000 avid cold-weather anglers. *Photo by Mobridge Outdoors*

## Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament offers fun and friendly competition

**Billy Gibson**

editor@sdrea.coop

Last fall, the world of competitive walleye fishing was shaken with a startling saga of deception and skulduggery worthy of a Tom Clancy novel.

Social media lit up showing the dramatic moment a tournament director in Ohio shouted at the top of his lungs with horror and disgust: “We got weights in fish! We got weights in fish!”

Suspicion had long surrounded a pair of locals who ultimately got nabbed stuffing lead weights down the gullets of their walleye. After the two sparked skepticism with a catch of nearly 36 lbs. - one-third heavier than the runners-up - the director gutted the fish right in front of the entire field of wary competitors and held aloft several shiny orbs the size of steel ping-pong balls.

The viral video received more than 10 million views as cameras captured the chaotic scene with one of the accused hanging his head in shame (his partner had slithered away to his truck) while fellow competitors cursed and threatened to inflict bodily harm upon the sly anglers who were later indicted on four felony counts.

Vinson Dargatz is pretty sure nothing close to that degree of high drama will be replicated at the 22nd Annual Mobridge Walleye Ice Fishing Tournament set for Jan. 14. Based on his experience participating in the event over the past 12 years, this competition is more fisherman-friendly and the atmosphere is much more focused on fun.

Dargatz, an apprentice electrician at Lake Region Electric based in Webster, has continued to make the four-hour trip from his home to Mobridge mostly

because of the fellowship and the relaxed, laid-back vibe of the festivities.

He typically gets together with his two brothers and three cousins for the tournament that he describes as a “yearly ritual.”



Vinson Dargatz is shown with one of his prize catches.

“We always have a lot of fun” he said. “We used to just bring a portable shack out on the ice and sit on some buckets while we fished. But now that we’ve gotten older, softer and a little smarter, we have an Ice Castle and we fish and hang out and grill some burgers.”



Number of two-person  
fishing teams competing

# 551

in last year's Mobridge  
Ice Fishing Tournament

Dargatz confesses that the purchase of the 8 x 16-foot Ice Castle was actually his wife's idea. When it's time for an outdoor fishing excursion, the entire family with two boys and a girl always likes to come along. And mom insists on having adequate accommodations.

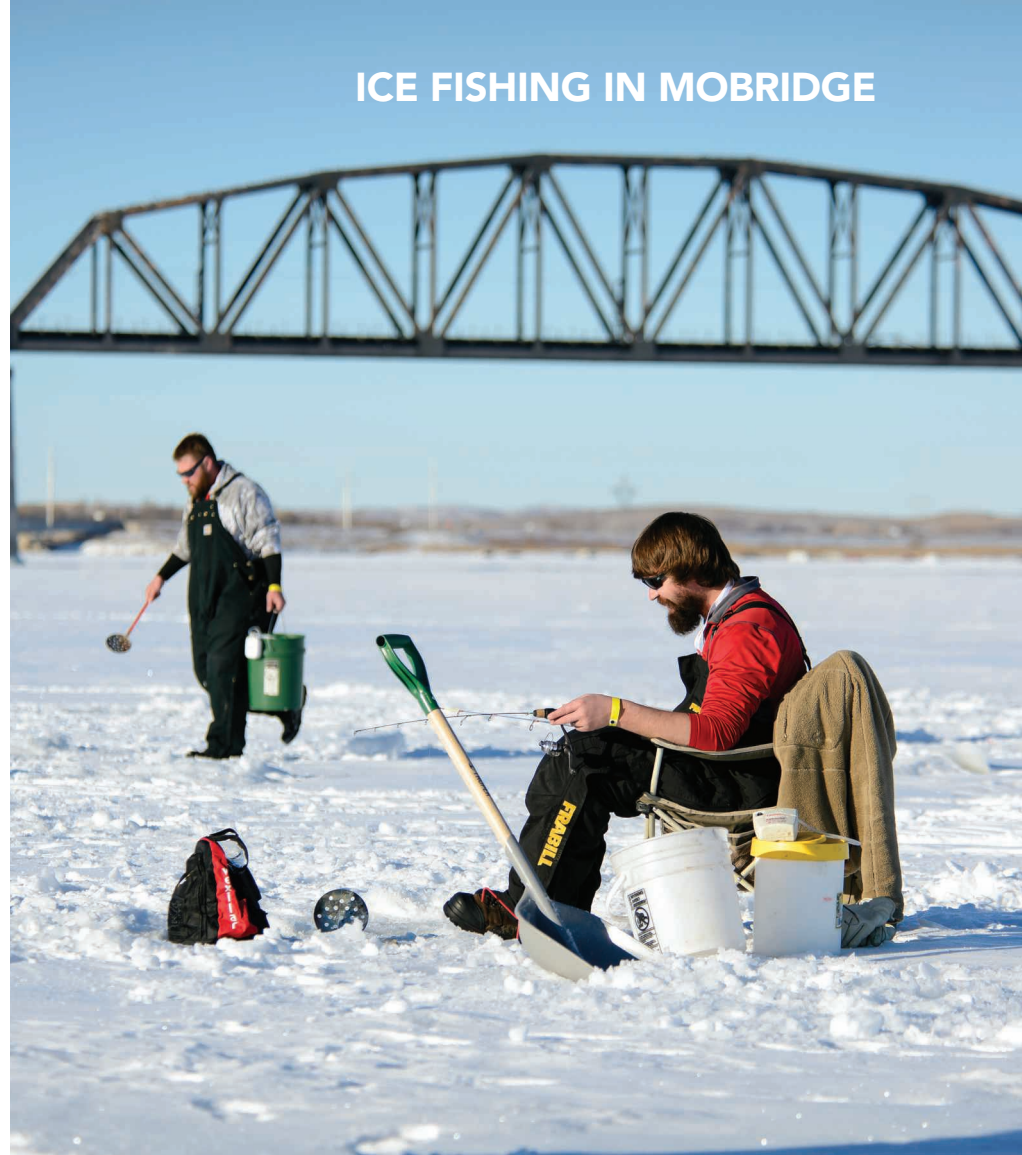
But Dargatz said when it comes to the annual winter escapes to Mobridge with the fellas, the family has to find something else to do. Besides, the town already doubles in size during tournament weekend and if every angler brought hangers-on in tow, Mobridge might expand to the size of Sioux Falls.

### FILLED TO CAPACITY

Lately, the walleye population is standing less of a chance for survival against the increasing number of competitors testing their luck and skill in the annual tournament. The field has ballooned to the point of being capped at 551 two-person teams with fishermen swarming in from 16 different states.

Only so many humans can be stuffed into the town's expo center where the group events are held.

All of these developments have bewildered Jeff Jackson, one of the tournament's founders and owner of the Wrangler Inn in Mobridge. He recalls more than two decades ago sitting around the table with a group of town leaders who were trying to figure out a way to attract visitors to the area and capitalize on all the outdoor adventure the Missouri



The Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament draws eager competitors from 16 different states.

*Photo by Travel South Dakota*

River and Lake Oahe have to offer.

In the first year, 50 eager contenders were lured to the event by the opportunity to claim the super grand prize of a Mr. Heater. These days, the prize list represents more than \$225,000 in assorted items such as Ice Castles, four-wheelers, a Polaris Ranger, clam shacks, \$8,000 worth of outdoor gear from Scheel's and Runnings, and more.

Anglers can keep their spot in the field if they register early in mid-July, otherwise their spot will be thrown into a lottery. Three guaranteed positions are drawn each year for those who participate in the town's summer fishing tournament, the Annual Denny Palmer Memorial Walleye Classic. Three spots are auctioned off on Ebay, which typically fetch up to \$4,000 apiece, while a

final spot is raffled off.

Last year's winners were Travis Bergstrom and Tate Merchant, who registered four fish weighing a total of 15.8 lbs. including one lunker that tipped the scales at 9.33 lbs. Jason Converse and Josh Spilde finished second with five fish weighing in at 13.4 lbs.

Dargatz already has the July 2023 registration date on his calendar and reminder notifications set to make sure he doesn't miss out. He's anticipating another adventurous outing in this year's tourney.

"I think it's great for the town to have so many people visiting and spending money. It's pretty wild that a small town can pull something like that together. They run it like a well-oiled machine and make sure everyone has a good time."

## Summary About Directors

### GENERAL POWERS

A board of nine directors manages the business and affairs of the Cooperative. The board exercises all of the powers of the Cooperative except those conferred upon or reserved to the members by law, the articles of conversion or the bylaws. The board hires a general manager to run the business on a day-to-day basis.

### DISTRICTS

The Cooperative's service area is divided into nine districts, each with defined boundaries. One director represents each district.

### NOMINATIONS

Any fifteen (15) or more members of the same district affixing their signatures to a petition provided by the Cooperative can nominate a qualified person as a candidate for director from their district.

### DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

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

- Is not a member and bona fide resident physically residing in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative and in the district which the member is to represent; or
- Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative; or
- Is an employee of the Cooperative or was an employee of the Cooperative and less than three (3) years have passed since the last day of employment; is a close relative of an employee of the Cooperative; or is a close relative of an incumbent director. As used by these bylaws, close relative means a person who, by blood or in-law, including half, foster, step and adoptive kin, is either a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece of the principal; or
- Does not have the legal capacity to enter into a binding contract.

### ELECTION

The Cooperative's members attending the annual membership meeting elect directors by printed ballot. The candidate from

each district receiving the highest number of votes is declared the elected director from the particular district. Drawing by lot resolves tie votes.

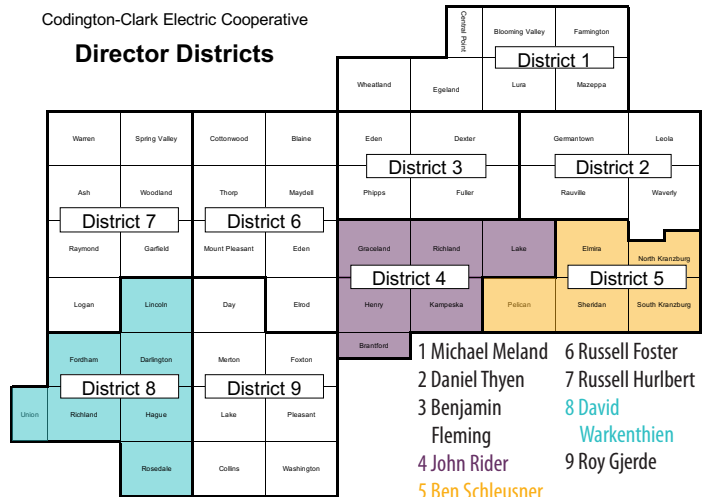
### TENURE

Elected directors serve a three (3) year term. Upon election, directors serve until the annual membership meeting of the year in which their terms expire or until their successors are elected and qualified.

### COMPENSATION

Directors do not receive any salary for their services as directors. Directors do receive a fixed sum and expenses while on Cooperative business as a member of the board.

No director receives compensation for serving the Cooperative in any other capacity, nor does any close relative of a director receive compensation for serving the Cooperative, unless the payment and amount of compensation is specifically authorized by a vote of the members or the service by such director or close relative is certified by the board as an emergency measure.



## Board director candidates sought

Codington-Clark Electric Co-op Secretary Dan Thyen announces nominating petition forms are available from the Co-op's office in Watertown for any co-op member residing in District 4, 5 or 8 interested in serving on Codington-Clark's board of directors.

Deadline for submitting nominating petitions is 4:30 p.m., Thursday, February 16, 2023. A valid petition needs the signatures of at least 15 members from the district. Secretary Dan Thyen will only accept petition forms supplied by the Co-op.

The names of qualified candidates will

appear on the director election ballot at the Co-op's annual membership meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at the Codington County Extension Complex in Watertown.

District 4 includes all area served or to be served in Lake, Richland, Graceland, Henry and Kampeska townships in Codington County; Brantford Township in Hamlin County; and all area south of the above named townships that adjoins the boundary line of Codington County. John C. Rider, Brantford Township, represents District 4.

District 5 includes all area served or to

be served in Kranzburg, Elmira, Pelican and Sheridan townships in Codington County and all area east and south of the above named townships that adjoins the boundary line of Codington County. Alfred "Ben" Schleusner, Kranzburg Township, currently represents District 5.

District 8 includes all area served or to be served in Lincoln, Darlington, Fordham, Richland, Hague and Rosedale townships in Clark County and all area west and south of the above townships that adjoins the boundary line of Clark County. David M. Warkenthien, Lincoln Township, currently represents District 8.





## WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

# Attention High School Sophomores and Juniors Win a Trip to Washington D.C.

Codington-Clark Electric Co-op will once again sponsor an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for a high school sophomore or junior. Each June, over 1,800 high school students travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. During the week, they learn about Washington, D.C., government, cooperative philosophy and rural electrification. The students are selected and sponsored by their local rural electric cooperatives. The South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) coordinates arrangements for the South Dakota students.

Some of the sites that toured are the Lincoln Memorial, National Cathedral, The White House, Air and Space Museum, Washington Monument, U.S. Capitol, Ford's Theatre, The Kennedy Center, the Metro, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,

The Smithsonian, Iwo Jima Statue, National Archives, U.S. Supreme Court, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Students will participate in a breakfast briefing with the South Dakota Congressional Delegation.

**Who is Eligible?** All area high school sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Codington-Clark Electric.

**What Does It Cost?** Codington-Clark Electric, along with the other local electric cooperatives that participate in the weeklong event, funds the tour. The funding for the tour provides for each participant's transportation, room and board, entertainment, and sightseeing events. Students are required to provide their spending money (snacks and souvenirs).

**When is it Held?** The weeklong trip will be held on June 17-23, 2023. Participants will meet for an orientation meeting on

Saturday, June 17 in Sioux Falls. Then, the group will fly to D.C. on Sunday, June 18, and return to South Dakota on Friday, June 23. A commercial bus will be used for transportation while in D.C.

**How do I Qualify?** Complete the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., application form available at the schools or Codington-Clark Electric's website, [www.ccelectric.coop](http://www.ccelectric.coop). Submit the completed application to Codington-Clark Electric before the Dec. 31, 2022, deadline. For more information, Contact:

Tammy Popham  
tammyp@ccelectric.coop  
3520 9th Ave. SW, PO Box 880  
Watertown, SD 57201-0880  
605-886-5848  
[www.ccelectric.coop](http://www.ccelectric.coop)  
Application Deadline: Dec. 31, 2022

## Codington-Clark Electric Co-op Privacy Notice

Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative Inc. has always been committed to protecting the privacy and security of personal information we collect from or about our member-consumers in the normal course of business. We are providing this notice to you to assure you of our commitment to maintaining the privacy of such information.

### COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

We may collect nonpublic personal information about you from the following sources:

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applications or other forms;

- Information about your transactions with us, our affiliates or others; and
- Information we receive from third parties such as consumer reporting agencies.

### DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about our current or former member-consumers to anyone, except as permitted by law.

### SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about you to those employees

who need to know the information to provide products or services to you.

We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations to guard your personal information.

For any information regarding our privacy policy, please contact:

Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative,  
3520 – 9 Ave SW, PO Box 880,  
Watertown, SD 57201-0880: Phone: (605) 886-5848



# WINTER OUTDOOR FUN

The chill of winter doesn't keep outdoors enthusiasts from finding adventure at Farm Island Recreation Area. *Photos by Travel South Dakota*

## Winter adventure-seekers find wonder in the chilly outdoors

**Billy Gibson**

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

Mental health counselors have discovered that seasonal affective disorder can be much more than just a harmless case of the blahs - it's a real condition that afflicts millions of people when the daylight diminishes and the temps turn colder.

They also agree that one way to defend against the winter doldrums is to get out of the house, embrace the crisp invigorating air and enjoy all the season has to offer.

It doesn't take much time or effort to create a list of fun things to do to get the blood pumping and the spirit soaring. Stepping away from a stuffy den and going outside to build a snowman, hike a nature trail, roast marshmallows over a bonfire and engage in other activities with family and friends can help bring back some

mental and emotional balance.

Nick Harrington of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks said his department is eager to accommodate anyone looking to extract some fun from the chill of winter.

Harrington notes that many of the state's 50-plus public camping and recreation areas are open for attendance during the long winter months, although some facilities are closed in an effort to protect delicate nesting habitats

for eagles and other species of wildlife.

Some comfort stations may close down during winter but the state has modern lodges available with amenities such as heaters and running water, including cabins, suites and group lodges for cold-weather outdoor vacationing.

Harrington said that while many vacationers from far and wide flock to South Dakota in the summertime, the state boasts more than 1,500 miles of nature trails for cold-weather adventurers to discover and is one



Fat-tire biking in Spearfish Canyon



## 8 WINTER WONDERLANDS FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

- ❄ Wind Cave National Park, Hot Springs
- ❄ Snake Creek Recreation Area, Platte
- ❄ Palisades State Park, Garretson
- ❄ Custer State Park Spur, Custer
- ❄ Randall Creek SRA, Pickstown
- ❄ Pelican Lake, Pelican Township
- ❄ Farm Island SRA, Pierre
- ❄ Oakwood Lakes State Park, Bruce



Time spent outdoors during the winter can be beneficial to mental and physical well-being.

of the nation's top attractions for snowmobiling, snowshoeing, hiking, fat-tire biking and many other off-season outdoor adventures.

"Some people just enjoy getting out in the cold weather. They like the changing of the seasons we get in our region and they're always looking for new opportunities to explore what we have to offer without a lot of crowds," Harrington said. "It's already a beautiful state, but winter really changes the look of the landscape and is a big draw for many people looking for outdoor fun."

World-renowned summertime attractions such as the iconic Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse destinations take on an entirely different appeal during the snowy season. The Badlands geological formations, Ponderosa pine forests, open prairies, secluded lakes and

scenic waterways become even more alluring for landscape photographers, bird-watchers, hikers and wildlife enthusiasts when set against a charming and aesthetically pleasing wintry backdrop.

One of the most highly-attended state park destinations during both the summer and winter is Custer State Park with its 71,000 acres of trails, spectacular vistas and pristine lakes. The site is open year-round and during winter offers a wide array of things to see and do.

But there is still lots to explore across the state, including the more centrally situated Farm Island Recreation Area located four miles east of Pierre. Considered one of the park system's best-kept secrets, Farm Island sits nestled along the banks of Lake Sharpe

and the Missouri River and welcomes many winter guests who enjoy majestic glowing sunsets, ice fishing, eight miles of hiking trails, cross-country skiing and exploring the perfect natural habitat for birdwatching. There's also RV, primitive and cabin camping opportunities available.

For more ideas on how to plan trip and shake off the winter blues, check out this handy guide: [www.travelsouthdakota.com/winter](http://www.travelsouthdakota.com/winter).

And after deciding on your winter vacation plans, don't forget to pack the following along with the rest of your cold-weather gear:

- Wool base layer
- Fleece mid-layer
- Windproof outer layer
- Waterproof boots
- Warm hat, scarf, gloves and socks.



# BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

Habitat for Humanity is active in all 50 states and 70 countries around the world. *Photos by Habitat for Humanity*

## Habitat for Humanity builds homes and hope one family at a time

**Billy Gibson**

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

Habitat for Humanity homes have walls that can talk. Well, they don't actually vocalize, but they do carry messages of hope and inspiration.

There's a time-honored tradition that calls for Habitat volunteers to take a break from their carpentry work and jot down personal notes on studs and sheets of plywood before the materials are nailed into place.

The simple scribbles are intended to infuse the space with messages of hope, harmony and good fortune showered upon those family members who will soon call the dwelling home.

"May all who enter this home as guests, leave as family," reads one brief affirmation rendered in green with a fat felt-tipped marker.

"Smile through the darkness. It will always bring light," reads another message of encouragement.

Some notes are based on Biblical scriptures: "Walk by faith, not by sight."

Still others recite Bible verses verbatim such as John 3:16, Jeremiah 29:11 and other familiar passages that share the promise of a bountiful future.

School-age volunteers are also quick to get in on the act. While the adults are busy at work with nail guns and power saws, the kids are taking permanent markers and drawing colorful images of sunbeams, flowers, hearts, backyard playgrounds, church crosses and whatever comes to mind. Inside the walls of one Habitat home in Mitchell there happens to be a sketch of a Happy Meal from McDonald's, complete with a fully-dressed hamburger, fries and a drink.

If nothing else, these personal postings serve as reminders of the passion that Habitat volunteers put into their work.

Bon Homme Yankton Electric Board Member Rick Cheloha currently has a compensated "retirement job" as a construction supervisor with his local affiliate but plans to step down soon and continue on as a volunteer.

Before moving to Tabor several years ago, he volunteered with the affiliate in Columbus, Neb., while working full-time as a construction manager with Loupe River Electric.

"I've been involved in 10 projects and none of them would have been possible without the help of volunteers and others who support the program in so many ways. Some people think we build free houses, but that's not true. They have to pay for the house, but they can qualify for a zero percent loan."

Patrick Soukup, manager of member services and marketing at Central Electric in Mitchell, is president of his local Habitat affiliate. Mitchell Regional HFH is one of eight affiliates in South Dakota, representing the global program that was founded in 1976 and serves in all 50 states and 70 countries.

Soukup said the Mitchell crew is on the cusp of completing its ninth home. He remembers the smile on the faces of new homeowner Sonja Wells and her family when they participated in a "nail pounding" ceremony during the construction process last November.

Volunteers, family members and supporters were on hand as Fr. Yamato





Above/left, Patrick Soukup works at the Mitchell Regional HFH plant sale, while volunteers write special messages to future homeowners.

Icochea prayed over the property, the Wells family and the many participants who donated their time and resources to make the project come to fruition.

Soukup said he is sold on the merits of the ecumenical Christian housing ministry, which conducts thorough screenings of housing candidates and requires homeowners to invest considerable “sweat equity” into the homebuilding projects.

“It’s very fulfilling for everyone involved to see a home build take shape and to see so many people put their

hearts and souls into something like this to improve the lives of others. It really makes a difference, it has a direct impact, and you can get a sense of that as you get to know the homeowners and the volunteers during the different stages in the process.”

Local HFH affiliates apply some creativity to raise funds for their projects. The Mitchell affiliate holds an annual plant sale in the town square. The Brookings affiliate stages an annual gala called “Nail the Runway” which is billed as a “construction-based fashion show with a twist.” The twist happens to be that all fashions must be designed from raw construction materials.

Participants try their best to strut down the runway with grace while outfitted in pieces of tile, wood, landscaping fabric, wallpaper, nails and anything else they can drag out of the tool shed. This year’s event is set for March 18 at the Swiftel Center in Brookings.

Dan McColley is Executive Director and Lead Mission Officer for the Brookings HFH. He admits that he stole – um, “admired and acquired” – the fashion show idea from an affiliate in Rochester, MN. McColley got his start with HFH as a volunteer at the Northwoods ReStore in Bemidji, MN. He gave up his financially rewarding day job as an operations manager to

join Habitat full-time and relocated to Brookings six years ago.

For McColley, his work with Habitat is very personal. He chokes up when describing how his father and mother worked multiple jobs to make ends meet for the family of seven.

“We would have qualified for a Habitat home,” he said, noting that the Brookings group has approved 84 homeowners since 1995. “If I can do anything to lift that burden for another family, that’s what this job means to me. Every day, it’s coming to work and trying to give others an opportunity to have the benefit of home ownership. We celebrate what we’ve done, then we look for ways to do more.”

One family that stands out for McColley involved a mother and daughter who lived together. The daughter required ADA accommodations.

“She told us she needed soft carpeting because her wheelchair wouldn’t fit through the front door and she got rug burns having to crawl around the house,” he said. “We were able to build a home that was ADA compliant where she could use her wheelchair, open cabinets easily and cook without getting burned. The work we do transforms the lives of our homebuyers, our staff, our donors, our volunteers and our communities.”

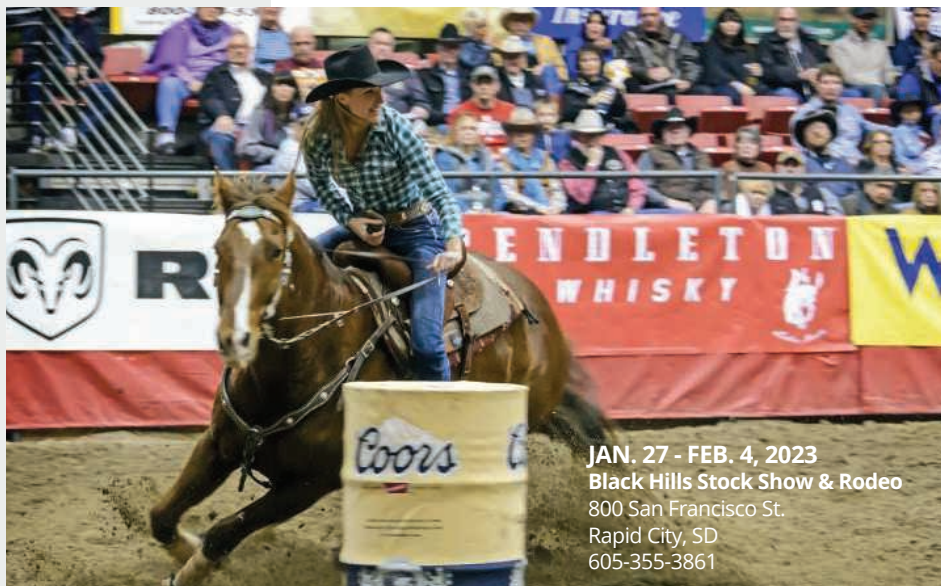


The annual “Nail the Runway” event staged by the Brookings Area HFH is a “fashion show with a twist.”

## REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth in LaCroix Hall at the Black Hills Stock Show to win an electric snow blower!

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



**JAN. 27 - FEB. 4, 2023**  
**Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo**  
800 San Francisco St.  
Rapid City, SD  
605-355-3861

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.

**JAN. 1**  
**American Legion Post 15**  
**Pancake Breakfast**  
8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
South Dakota Military Heritage  
Alliance Building  
1600 W. Russell St.  
Sioux Falls, SD

**JAN. 13-14**  
**ON YOUR FEET! THE MUSICAL**  
Show Dates:  
Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Jan. 14, 2 p.m.  
Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Washington Pavilion  
Sioux Falls, SD

**JAN. 14**  
**Coats for Kids Bowling**  
**Tournament**  
Registration Starts at 1 p.m.  
\$80 for a four-person team  
Meadowood Lanes  
Rapid City, SD  
605-393-2081

**JAN. 14**  
**Chinook Days**  
**Winter Carnival**  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Big Hill  
Spearfish, SD

**JAN. 20**  
**Rapid Valley UMC**  
**Soup Supper**  
4:30 p.m.-7 p.m.  
Rapid City, SD

**JAN. 21**  
**Lakota Games on Ice**  
1 p.m.-4 p.m.  
Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village  
Mitchell, SD

**JAN. 27-28**  
**Annual Deadwood Pro**  
**Snocross Races**  
Jan. 27, 12:50 p.m.  
Jan. 28, 8:25 a.m.  
Days of '76 Rodeo Grounds  
Deadwood, SD

**JAN. 27 - FEB. 4**  
**Annual Black Hills Stock**  
**Show & Rodeo**  
Central States Fairgrounds and  
The Monument  
Tickets may be purchased  
online and at the gate  
Rapid City, SD  
605-355-3861

**JAN. 28**  
**K9 Keg Pull**  
On-site registration  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Deadwood Street by  
Outlaw Square  
Deadwood, SD

**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

**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

**MAR. 4**  
**Annual Ag Day**  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Washington Pavilion  
Sioux Falls, SD

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