



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**LACREEK ELECTRIC**  
APRIL 2023 VOL. 23 NO. 12

# 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*

# Lacreek Electric's Annual Meeting to be Held

Lacreek Electric's 75th annual meeting of the members is scheduled for Thursday, April 27th at the old American Legion Auditorium in Martin, S.D. The evening will begin with a meal being served at the New American Legion dining room from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. After members are finished eating, they will need to go to the American Legion Auditorium for the business meeting which will start at 7 p.m. There will be no capital credit checks at the meeting, as they are mailed out to the members in the first part of April and should be received prior to the meeting. Directors will be elected from the following zones:

- Zone 1 – City of Martin, Clarence Allen
- Zone 5 – Jackson County, Jerry Sharp
- Zone 6 – Todd & Mellette County, Clifford Lafferty
- Zone 9 – West Oglala Lakota County, Cole Lange.

All positions are for three-year terms. Candidates must live in the zone they plan to represent. The petitions must be signed by at least 15 members living in the zone the candidate is running in. Petitions were available February 27th, 2023 and must be filed with the board secretary no later than March 27th, 2023. Lacreek's board of directors currently consists of 13 members representing nine zones. If you choose to run for a board of director at a non-profit organization such as Lacreek Electric, you have inherently accepted fundamental responsibilities in addition to a commitment of time and accountability to the cooperative on behalf of the members it serves. Keep in mind, the board has ultimate legal responsibility for the cooperative. A director must act in good faith, in the best interest of Lacreek Electric. A director possesses a fiduciary duty to Lacreek Electric and its members. A director has accountability for the assets and resources of the cooperative. They should never use their position on the board to advance their own private interests. A director should concentrate on the goals and vision of Lacreek Electric.

## Article IV – Director Bylaws

**SECTION 1. General Powers.** The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of thirteen (13) directors which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative, except such as are by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members. Section 2. Zones and General Qualifications of Directors. For the purpose of election and qualification of directors, the service area of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc., shall be divided into nine (9) Zones each to have the number of directors indicated:

- **Zone 1** shall consist of territory within the corporate limits of the City of Martin and shall be entitled to two directors.
- **Zone 2** shall consist of territory designated as East Bennett and shall consist of all that portion of Bennett County east of the Range Line between Range 37 and 38 west of the Sixth Principal Meridian with such line extended north and south to the north and south boundaries of Bennett County, respectively, and shall be entitled to one director.
- **Zone 3** shall consist of territory designated as West Bennett, west of the Range Line between Range 37 and 38 west of the Sixth Principal Meridian with such line extended north and south to the north and south boundaries of Bennett County, respectively, and shall be entitled to one director.
- **Zone 4** shall consist of territory designated as East Oglala Lakota County and shall include all of that portion of Oglala Lakota County east of the Range Line between Range 42 and 43, and shall be entitled to two directors.
- **Zone 5** shall consist of all that portion of Jackson County (including the former Washabaugh County) served by the cooperative and shall be entitled to two directors.
- **Zone 6** shall consist of all of the Lacreek area in Todd and Mellette Counties combined, and shall be entitled to one director.
- **Zone 7** shall consist of all the Lacreek area in Cherry County, Nebraska, and shall be entitled to one director.
- **Zone 8** shall be considered as a zone at-large consisting of all of the Lacreek Association territory and be entitled to one director elected from any place in the entire area including any of the zones heretofore defined.
- **Zone 9** shall consist of territory designated as West Oglala Lakota County and shall include all of that portion of Oglala Lakota County, west of the Range Line between Range 42 and 43, and shall be entitled to two directors.

In the event the territory of the Lacreek Electric Association, Inc., should be enlarged in the future, the enlarged portion shall become a part of the Zone numbered from one to nine, excluding eight as above described with the exterior boundary of which it has the greatest distance of its own exterior boundary contiguous.

## SECTION 3. Tenure of Office.

- (a) Director shall be elected to serve a three-year term, with director terms staggered in such a manner that no more than five (5) directors are up for election in any one year
- (b) All directors shall serve until the close of the annual meeting in the year in which their successors have been elected and qualified. If an election of directors is or cannot be held, a special meeting shall be held for the purpose within a reasonable time thereafter. Failure of an election for a given year shall allow the incumbents whose directorships would have been voted on to hold over only until the next meeting at which an election shall be conducted.
- (c) In the event that the election results in a tie between two candidates, the winner shall be decided by the flip of a coin. In the event that there is a tie between three candidates, three coins shall be flipped, one by each of the candidates or their representatives, until an odd man shall have been established, and said odd man shall be declared the winner. In the event that more than three candidates are tied, the winner shall be determined by drawing lots in the form of slips of paper to be drawn from a hat, one of which shall be marked to designate a winner.

**SECTION 4. Qualifications.** No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or hold any position in the Association who is not a member and bona fide resident of the area served or to be served by the Association, and in the case of a director, a resident of the zone from which elected. No person who is a close relative of an existing director, as the term "close relative" is defined by Section 9, may be elected to serve on the board of directors during the term of such close relative then serving. No person is eligible to become or remain a director who has been convicted of a felony criminal violation under Federal or State law within the 24 months before their election as a director or during their term(s) as a director. No person is eligible to become a director who is or has been an employee of the Association within the prior three years. No person may become a new director of the Association if they refuse to take or if they fail a drug test administered by the same Association's staff that also administers drug testing of the Association's employees.

**SECTION 5. Nominations.** Directors of the Cooperative shall be nominated by petition, signed by at least fifteen (15) members of the Cooperative, residing in the zone from which the candidate is to be elected, and stating the candidate's name, post office address, and zone which said candidate is to represent. Such petition shall be filed with the Secretary, not more than sixty (60) days no less than thirty (30) days before the day of the annual meeting. Not less than twenty (20) days before the annual meeting, the Secretary shall post at the front door of the principal office of the Cooperative, a list containing the name, post office address and zone of each person so nominated. A true copy of such list shall be posted by the Secretary prior to the commencement of the annual meeting at the site thereof. The Secretary shall mail with the Notice of Meeting, or separately, but at least seven (7) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names, post office addresses, and zone of the candidates. 1051900402

In the election of directors, each member shall be entitled to cast the number of votes but no cumulatively which correspond to the total number of directors to be elected, but no member may vote for more nominees than the number of directors that are to be elected from or with respect to any particular Zone. Ballots marked in violation of the foregoing restriction with respect to one or more Zones shall be invalid and shall not be counted with respect to such Zone or Zones. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in the Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election.

## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### LACREEK ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 018-912)

#### Board of Directors

Wade Risse – President  
Brent Ireland – Vice President  
Scott Larson – Secretary  
Tom Schlack – Treasurer  
Clarence Allen – Troy Kuxhaus  
Cole Lange – Clifford Lafferty  
Neal Livermont – Marion Schultz  
Jerry Sharp – Connie Whirlwind Horse  
Donovan Young Man

#### Management Staff

Josh Fanning – General Manager  
Sherry Bakley – Work Order/Staff Assistant  
Tracie Hahn – Office Manager  
Anna Haynes – Finance Manager  
Mike Pisha – Operations Manager  
Ashley Turgeon – Administrative Assistant  
Jessica Cook – Member Services/IT

#### Office Personnel

Amy Pisha – Right of Way Specialist  
Kasi Harris – Accountant II  
Terri Gregg – Member Service/  
Billing Specialist  
Katrina Fish – Member Service/Billing Specialist  
Lisa Jensen – Member Service Representative

#### Operations Personnel

Line Foreman: Jesse Byerled  
Journeyman Linemen:  
Jordan Bakley – Dane Claussen – Lonny Lesmeister –  
Garrett Metzinger – Ryan Pettit – Aaron Risse – Trace  
Scott – Damon Wangerin  
Apprentice Linemen:  
Tee Allen – Les Cuny – Kody Hagen – Matthew Kruid  
Warehousemen: Henry Johnson – Cody Larson  
Maintenance Man: Justin Smokov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

This publication is mailed the 15th of the month prior to the issue date. Layout is at least three weeks prior to mailing. LACREEK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Lacreek Electric Association, Inc., PO Box 220, Martin, SD 57551 for its members. Families subscribe to Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Martin, SD and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 220, Martin, SD 57551; telephone (605) 685-6581; fax (605) 685-6957

# January 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. was held in the office of the cooperative, located in the Town of Martin, S.D., on Jan. 17, 2023, beginning at 1 p.m. The meeting was then called to order by President Wade Risse and the following directors were present: Brent Ireland, Donovan Young Man, Jerry Sharp, Marion Schultz, Neal Livermont, Cole Lange, Troy Kuxhaus, Clarence Allen, Tom Schlack, and Scott Larson. Also present: General Manager Josh Fanning, Finance Manager Anna Haynes, Operations Manager Mike Pisha, Office Manager Tracie Hahn, Member Services/IT Jessica Cook, Work Order/Staff Assistant Sherry Bakley, Administrative Assistant Ashley Turgeon, and Accountant Kasi Harris. Absent were Connie Whirlwind Horse and Clifford Lafferty.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Wade Risse.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve Administrative Assistant Ashley Turgeon to record the board minutes.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the December 2022 Board Minutes.

Additions to the agenda were asked for by President Risse.

The following additions were made: 5A. To amend Nov. 22, 2022, board minutes and add Director Scott Larson. He was left out of the roll call but he was actually present via WebEx.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to amend the previously adopted November 22, 2022, Board Minutes and add Scott Larson to the roll call via WebEx. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Operating Report for November that was presented by Finance Manager Anna Haynes.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the checks and disbursements for December, the checks ran from number 78267 to 78426 along with the electronic checks which ran from 4142 to 4187 (Tom “chairman”, Donovan, and Jerry). The January Check Audit Committee will be (Connie “chairman”, Marion, and Neal).

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the December Analysis of

Investments that was presented by Finance Manager Anna Haynes.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the list of new members. Jessica reported that Ellen McDonnell was selected to attend the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.; that scholarships for seniors are now available and must be submitted by February, 15th; that Meter Data Management is close to going live, and that Outage Management System could be implemented in June; started to discuss meal options and registration gifts with the board deciding to table it until next month. Mike reported on the recent winter storms; work in progress; contractor help with the clearing of right of ways in Oglala; how helpful the snowblower has been; and four personnel are in Sioux Falls this week for Joint Utility Training School. Mike gave the safety report.

Clarence, Troy, Jerry, Marion, Tom, and Wade reported on the SDREA Annual Meeting they attended.

Josh reported about the Basin Members-Only meeting next week; the RUS Inventory normalization drawdown; and the CEO Close-Up Meeting he attended.

Discussion was held on Co-op Day at the Capitol in Pierre, SD on Feb. 21, with the board agreeing to change Lacreek’s Board of Directors Meeting to Monday, Feb. 20, 2023, so it would not interfere with anyone planning to attend Co-op Day. More information will be provided to the board about Co-op Day at a later date.

Discussion was held on the Economic Development Committee’s activities regarding last year’s donations. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to donate \$5,000 to Lacreek Electric Youth and Community Support, Incorporated.

Finance Manager Anna Haynes advised the board of the required IRS 990 forms which the board filled out and completed. Discussion was held on ACRE Membership. The Staff was excused from the meeting and the General Manager and Board went into executive session from 3:07 p.m. until 4:09 p.m.

No further business was brought before the board and the meeting was adjourned. Next board meeting – Feb. 20, 2023, at 1 p.m.

# 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.

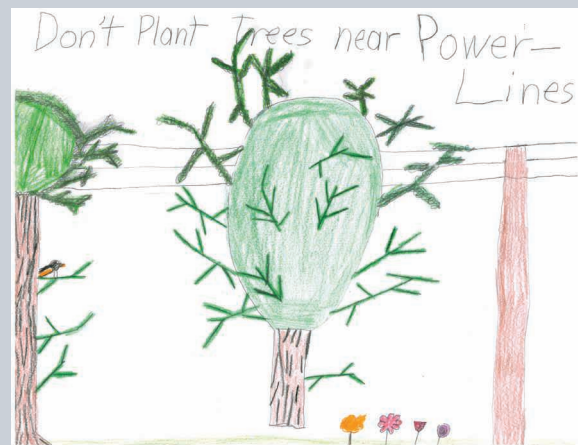
To help reduce electric safety casualties and injuries, South Dakota's electric cooperatives are dedicated to raising awareness of electric safety information to educate people of all ages on the dangers of electricity.

## 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**

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

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

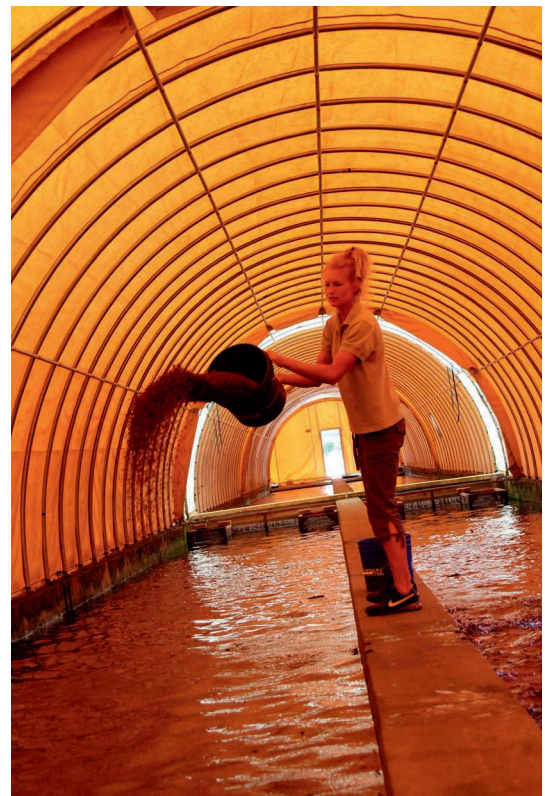
“I basically enjoy watching other people catch fish,” said Spaid, who has been a guide for fishermen from across the Midwest for more than 37 years.

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."

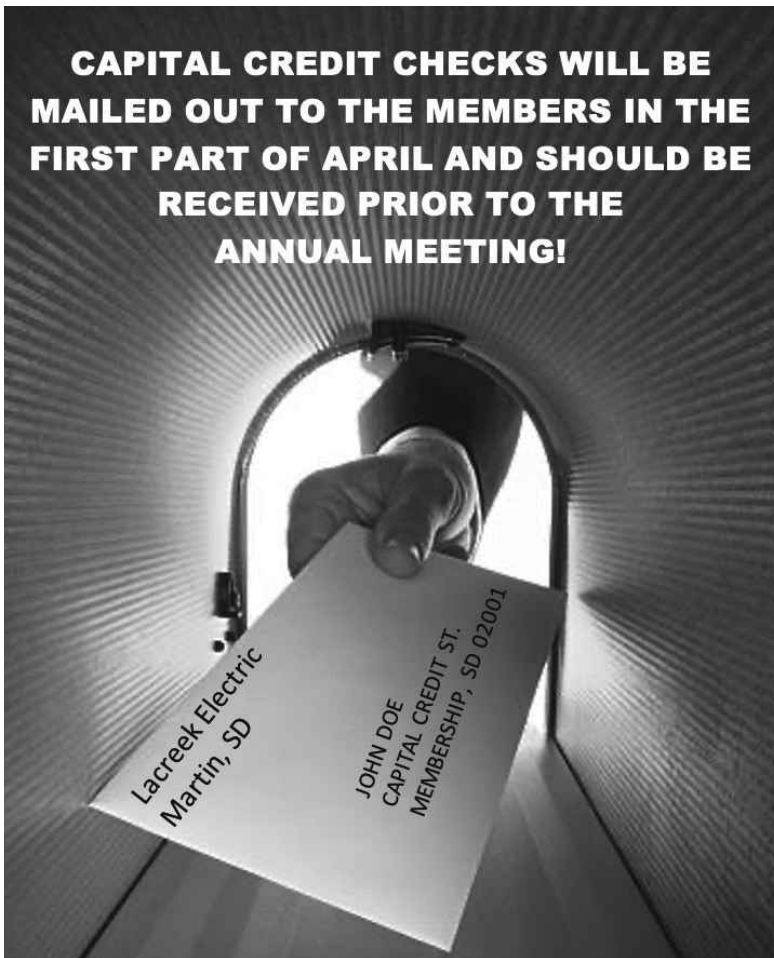


Game, Fish and Parks uses trucks equipped with livewells to stock fish directly into South Dakota fisheries across the state.

**SAVE THE DATE**

LACREEK ELECTRIC'S  
**75<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
WILL BE HELD  
**APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>!**

**CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS WILL BE  
MAILED OUT TO THE MEMBERS IN THE  
FIRST PART OF APRIL AND SHOULD BE  
RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE  
ANNUAL MEETING!**



**Find Your  
Account Number:  
It's Worth \$10!**

A member's account number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your account number, call the office before **April 7, 2023**, and you will receive a \$10 credit on your next month's billing. If no one finds their account number, the credit will be \$20 in the next issue.

**NATIONAL LINEMAN  
APPRECIATION DAY**

**THANK YOU** to  
the select few  
men who keep  
our power on  
through all  
conditions!

**APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>**





REMEMBER TO LOOK UP

## When Operating Large Equipment

Millions of workers operate large equipment every day. Examples include cranes, dump trucks, farm equipment, bucket trucks, hydraulic lifts and cement trucks. If the equipment you are operating raises or extends, make sure you follow OSHA's rules for the minimum approach distance to power lines.

If you are planning to work within 20 feet of a power line, most situations require you to contact the electric utility (in advance) to deenergize the line. On the farm, examples include loading, unloading or moving/relocating a grain bin within 20 feet of an overhead line.



Always use a spotter when equipment could come near overhead power lines. A spotter's view from the ground provides a much better vantage point than what you can see from the cab. Additional safety steps may be required to prevent encroaching on a power line.

If your equipment brushes or contacts a power line or utility pole, knowing what to do saves lives. Unless there is a fire, stay in the cab and alert others to stay far away. Call for help and stay in the cab until utility crews arrive to deenergize the power.

Do not operate a hydraulic/scissor lift near an overhead power line.

Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)



# MOVING STRUCTURES

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

## Reasons to Move and Methods to Get it Done

**Jocelyn Johnson**

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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 Buxked**  
**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.**