



# Cooperative Connections



**New Solar  
Coming to S.D.**

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**Saving Lives:  
Grain Bin  
Safety**

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# Lacreek Electric's Annual Meeting to be Held

Due to COVID-19, Lacreek Electric's 72nd annual meeting will be a "business" meeting only on Friday, Sept. 25 at 1 p.m., at the old American Legion Auditorium in Martin, S.D., with NO meal and NO prizes. We ask that members practice social distancing at the meeting and masks will be provided as a courtesy. As a reminder, the capital credit checks were mailed in April.

## Directors will be elected from the following zones.

- Zone 1 Clarence Allen
- Zone 5 Jerry Sharp
- Zone 6, Clifford Lafferty
- Zone 9, 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 can be picked up starting July 27, 2020, and must be filed with the board secretary no later than Aug. 25, 2020.

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 5** shall consist of all that portion of Jackson County (including the former Washa-baugh 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 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 there-after. Failure of an election for a given year shall allow the incumbents whose director-ships 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 in 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.

**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.

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 director 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 whosoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election.

# Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-912)

## Board of Directors

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

## Management Staff

Josh Fanning –  
General Manager  
Sherry Bakley –  
Work Order and Billing Manager  
Anna Haynes –  
Finance and Benefits Manager  
Mike Pisha – Operations Manager  
Stacey Robinson – Member Service  
Representative Manager and Editor

## Office Personnel

Tracie Hahn – Accountant II  
Amy Pisha – Right of Way Specialist  
Kasi Harris – Benefits Specialist  
Terri Gregg – Billing Specialist  
Jessica Cook – Billing Specialist  
Lisa Jensen –  
Member Service Representative  
Ashley Turgeon –  
Member Service Representative

## Operations Personnel

Line Foreman: Jesse Byerley  
Journeyman Linemen:  
Dane Claussen – Ryan Pettit  
Aaron Risse – Lonny Lesmeister –  
Jordon Bakley – Garrett Metzinger  
Apprentice Linemen:  
Tyler Brown – Alex Christensen –  
Brad Hahn – Trace Scott  
Journeyman Electrician: Roy Guptill  
Warehouse Man: Cody Larson  
Maintenance Man: Justin Smokov

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

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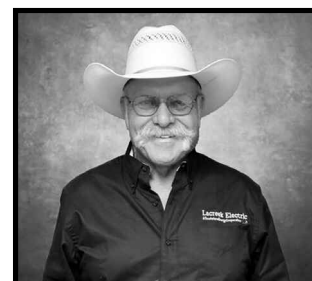
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 220, Martin, SD 57551; telephone (605) 685-6581; fax (605) 685-6957

## Cole Lange Becomes New Director for Zone 9 – West Oglala Lakota County.

Lacreek Electric's board of directors have selected Cole Lange to replace the late Melvin Cummings' board seat for Zone 9 West Oglala Lakota County.

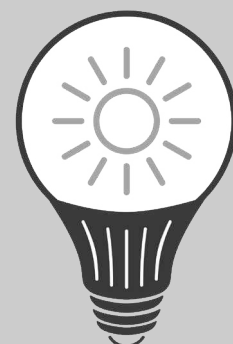
Cole has ranched his whole life in Oglala and is also a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

We want to welcome Cole to the Lacreek Electric Family!

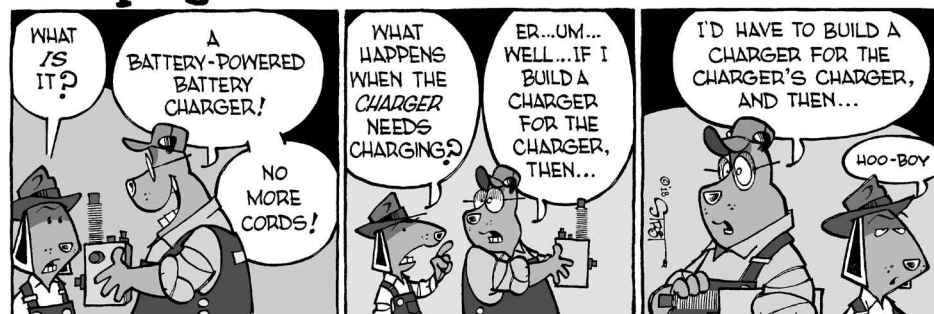


## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode. *Source: energy.gov*



## Murphy



## Find Your Account Number:

## It's Worth \$20!

A member's account number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your account number, call the office before Aug. 3 and you will receive a **\$20 credit** on your next month's billing.

Congratulations to Carleen Crow who found her account number in the June magazine. It was worth \$10.





## Focus on These Safe Practices Away From the Workplace

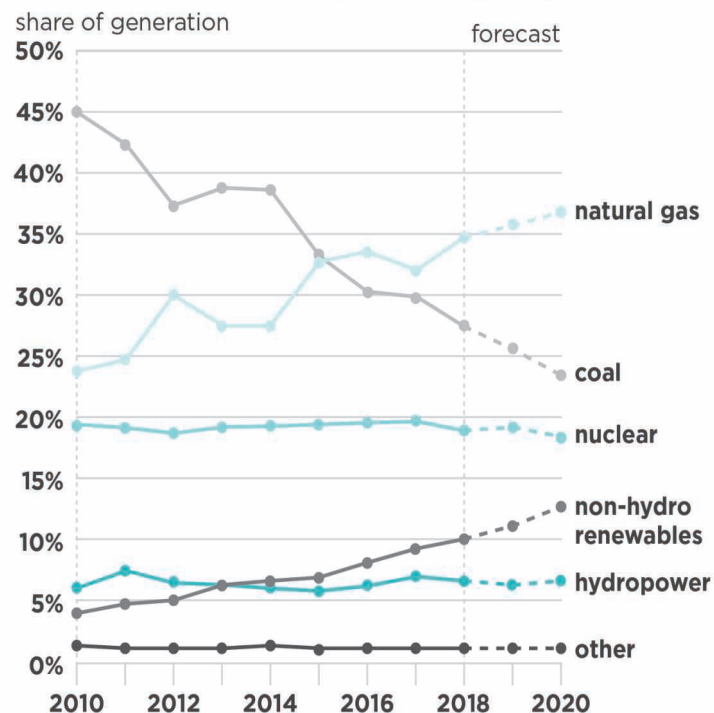
While your local electric cooperative often focuses on electrical safety and provides reminders to keep you free from harm, there are many other dangers lurking out there that don't necessarily pertain to electrical power.

Read on to see the National Safety Council's list of the top causes of preventable injuries and death away from the workplace. Keep these in mind and help protect you and your family from danger.

- **Poisoning.** In 2011, accidental poisonings overtook car crashes for the first time as the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for all ages combined. Poisoning deaths are caused by gases, chemicals and other substances, but prescription drug overdose is by far the leading cause.
- **Vehicle crashes.** Roadway crashes are the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death overall in the U.S. Impaired driving, distracted driving, exceeding the speed limit and inexperience can often cause a life to be cut tragically short in the blink of an eye.
- **Falls.** Falling is the third-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death over all age groups across the country, but it's the No. 1 cause of death for those who are 65 and older who sometimes have health complications and problems with balancing.
- **Choking and suffocation.** Choking on food or other objects is a primary cause. Suffocation and choking rank higher among the elderly and infants.
- **Drowning.** This is the No. 1 cause of death for children ages 1-4, mostly due to children falling into pools or being left alone unattended in bathtubs.
- **Fires and burns.** Fires often start at night, when families are asleep and most vulnerable. A working smoke alarm will cut in half the chances of dying in a fire.
- **Natural and environmental incidents.** Weather-related disasters claim hundreds of lives per year. You should learn all you can about emergency preparedness and always have an emergency kit on hand.

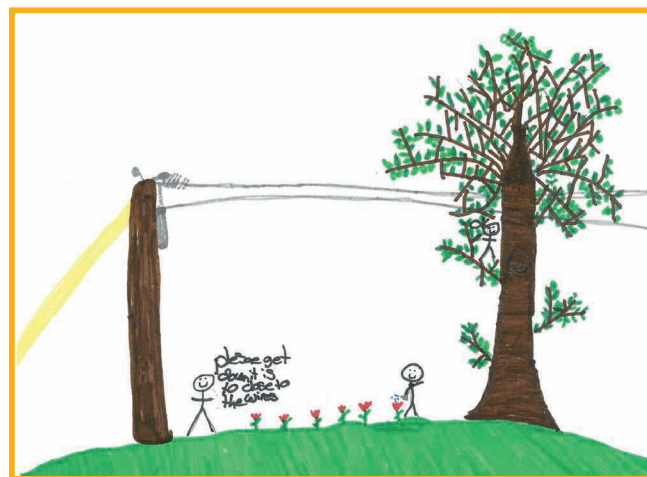
Source: National Safety Council

## U.S. ELECTRICITY GENERATION BY ENERGY SOURCE (2010-2020)



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Short-Term Energy Outlook*, January 2019  
 Note: Confidence interval derived from NYMEX options market information

## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Please get down - it is too close to the wires!"**

**Forrest Hawk, 9 years old**

Forrest Hawk is the grandson of Steve and Pru Hawk. They are members of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc., Martin, 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.



# Protein-Packed Salads

## Ranch, Bacon, Parmesan Salad

1 16 oz. Farfalle (bowtie) pasta	½ cup shredded Parmesan cheese
1 cup prepared ranch dressing	1 carrot, peeled and diced
6 slices bacon	1 stalk celery, diced
	1 red onion, diced

Fill large pot with lightly salted water, bring to rolling boil over high heat. Once water is boiling, stir in bow tie pasta and return to boil. Cook pasta uncovered, stirring occasionally, until pasta has cooked through, but still firm to the bite, about 12 mins. Drain well in a colander set in the sink. Transfer to a bowl, refrigerate until cool, at least 30 mins. Place bacon in a large, deep skillet, cook over med.-high heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned, about 10 mins. Drain bacon slices on a paper towel-lined plate, let cool, and chop. In a large salad bowl, stir together the ranch dressing, bacon, Parmesan cheese, carrot, celery, and red onion. Lightly stir in cooled pasta to coat with dressing, and refrigerate 2 hours.

Cortney Reedy, Tea, SD

## Rotini Salad

1 box rotini	sliced turkey, deli style
celery, green pepper, radishes, cucumber, onion, carrots	mushrooms, chopped
	cheddar cheese, shredded

Cook rotini as directed on package. Chop vegetables. Put all ingredients into a large bowl. Add 1 bottle zesty Italian dressing. Let chill, enjoy. Can add almost any fresh vegetable.

Mary Jessen, Holabird, SD

## Broccoli Bacon Salad

Dressing:	2 T. vinegar
1 cup real mayo	Brown 1 pkg. bacon, break into pieces
1/4 cup sugar	

Wash two fresh heads of broccoli and cut into bite size pieces. Add 1/2 cup raisins, 1/4 cup purple onion, 1 cup shredded cheese, pepper to taste. Mix well.

Karen Jacobs, Tolstoy, SD

## Ring Tuna Salad

1 pkg. ring macaroni cooked and drained	1 cup green olives sliced
4 green onions chopped	2 6 oz. cans Albacore tuna
1 cup frozen peas cooked and drained	2 T. salad dressing mixed with 1 tsp. olive oil

Cook, drain and cool macaroni. Mix first 5 ingredients then add salad dressing and olive oil, which has been whipped together. Store in refrigerator.

Darlene Price, Prairie City, SD

## Chicken, Onion, Quinoa Salad

Dressing:	1 tsp. canola oil
1/4 cup apple cider vinegar	1 white onion, sliced
2 T. olive oil	3 cups baby kale
1 T. lemon juice	1 red skinned apple, chopped
1 tsp. honey	2 cups cooked chicken, chopped
1 tsp. Dijon mustard	1/2 tsp. salt
1-1/2 cups red quinoa, rinsed	1/4 tsp. pepper
2-1/2 cups vegetable broth	

To make the dressing: In a large bowl, whisk vinegar, olive oil, lemon juice, honey and Dijon mustard until well combined. Set aside. In a saucepan, bring quinoa and broth to boil. Simmer, covered, for 12-15 minutes, or until all of the broth has been absorbed. Let cool completely. In a medium skillet, heat canola oil over medium-high heat. Sauté onion for 3-5 minutes, or until it is softened and translucent. Remove from heat; let cool completely. In a large bowl, toss onion, kale, apple, chicken, salt and pepper with dressing. Stir in cooled quinoa. [www.onions-usa.org](http://www.onions-usa.org).

Please send your favorite vegetarian, garden produce and pasta 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 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

# Sealing Air Leaks Step-by-Step



**Pat Keegan**

Collaborative Efficiency

**Exterior doors and windows that open deserve your attention.**

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency.

For more information on sealing air leaks, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).

**Dear Pat and Brad: I love my older home, but it's drafty and uncomfortable at times. What can I do to reduce drafts that won't cost me an arm and a leg? – Cris**

Dear Cris: This is a common problem, particularly in older homes. In many homes, about half of the conditioned air leaks to the outside every hour. The good news, especially if you don't want to spend a lot of money, or if you're hesitant to invite contractors into your home right now, is that you can seal air leaks on your own with a little time and effort.

Here are three steps to get you started.

## Step 1: Find the Leaks

The first step is a thorough search of the interior and exterior of the home. Look for gaps and holes in exterior walls, flooring and ceiling. These will often occur where different building materials meet, such as the top of cement foundation walls or around windows and doors. Another common source of air leaks is where pipes or wiring penetrate a wall, floor or ceiling. Ductwork located in unheated crawl spaces or attics can also contain air leaks.

Exterior doors and windows that open deserve your attention. Open each door or window and place a dollar bill between the door or window sash and the frame. If you can pull the bill out easily when the door or window is closed again, the seal is not tight enough. Also, a window that rattles when it's closed or when it's windy probably isn't sealed sufficiently.

The best way to find all air leaks is to hire an energy auditor to do a blower door test. The blower door is a large fan mounted in a doorway to depressurize the house. The auditor can then find the leaks and may even be able to recommend ways to seal them.

It's possible to conduct your own pressure test. The Department of Energy provides detailed instructions at [www.energy.gov/energysaver/weatherize/air-sealing-your-home/detecting-air-leaks](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/weatherize/air-sealing-your-home/detecting-air-leaks).

## Step 2: Gather the Materials You'll Need

Here's a quick list of materials to get you started:

- **Caulk:** You'll need a caulk gun (\$4+) and caulk (\$4-\$10). We recommend indoor/outdoor waterproof silicone or latex caulk that is water-soluble until it cures and is paintable when dry.
- **Expanding spray foam:** One can typically costs \$4 to \$6. This is an effective way to plug leaks, but keep in mind, it's a messy job.
- **Weather stripping:** Prices vary depending on type and length of the materials, but there's a variety of weather stripping options made of vinyl, metal and felt, or open-cell foam.
- **Pre-cut foam socket sealers:** You can typically purchase a pack of 24 sealers for about \$3.
- **Chimney plug balloon:** Prices range from \$50 to \$90. You may need one of these if your chimney flue doesn't seal well. Buy a square or round one to match the shape of your flue.
- **Adhesive plastic window insulation sheets:** Prices range from \$2 to \$14 depending on size. You may use these later in the year for windows that can't be sealed and don't have storm windows.

## Step 3: Do it!

If you are unfamiliar with how to apply any of these materials, we recommend watching online tutorial videos. Sealing air leaks is one of the best ways to boost your home's energy efficiency. Whether you're a DIY pro or novice, with a few simple steps (and low-cost materials), you'll be well on your way to a sealed, more efficient home.





The Woman Suffrage Monument, located in Nashville's Centennial Park, features five women who were in Nashville during the final ratification effort: Anne Dallas Dudley, Frankie Pierce, Sue Shelton White, Abby Crawford Milton and Carrie Chapman Catt. Photo by Robin Conover

# Co-ops Celebrate the 19th Amendment

## Women Played Instrumental Role in Cooperative Movement

The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was approved by Congress on June 4, 1919, but it took more than a year for the measure granting women the right to vote to gain ratification by 36 states. On Aug. 18, 2020, the nation marks the centennial of this human rights milestone.

Rural America was built on family-run farms and businesses. While dads and husbands are often celebrated throughout history and heritage, wives and mothers have been full partners in creating thousands of communities. In fact, electric co-ops have served as incubators for the leadership skills that guide our communities today.

"Historically, rural wives were isolated and only had interaction with their husbands and children, but they helped run farms, ranches and their homes," said Betsy Huber, CEO of the National Grange.

Founded in 1867, the Grange chapters took root as fraternal community organizations committed to promoting sound agricultural concepts.

"Women could hold any office in the Grange," said Huber.

By the early 1900's, organizations like the Grange were providing rural women meaningful leadership opportunities and fueling passions for full engagement in public life that included political participation.

With the rise of suffragist sentiments, in the early 20th century, the Grange routinely included women in governance decisions. When electric cooperatives were organized years later, many of the principles honored by rural organizations were among the fundamental tenets included in co-op charters. Family memberships were vested in heads of households, regardless of gender, and women were among the founding members of many co-ops.

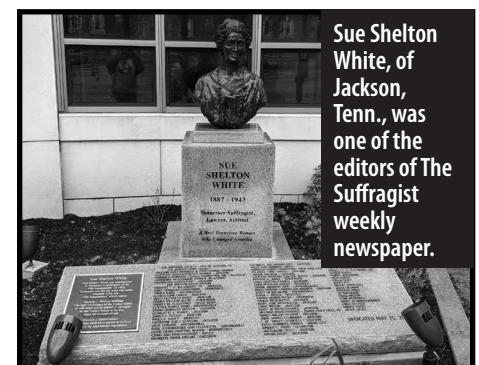
When President Franklin Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration in 1935, farm magazines published stories about the news. Maye Shaw of Quitman, Texas, was a former teacher and regular reader who knew life on the farm would be easier with electric power.

She wrote Rep. Morgan G. Sanders for information and persuaded her husband Virgil Shaw to look into it. By 1937, they both were riding through the surrounding countryside recruiting members and collecting \$5 sign-up fees. Mr. Shaw eventually became the founding general manager of Wood County Electric Cooperative, which now serves nearly 36,000 members.

Today, America's electric cooperatives support Co-ops Vote, a grassroots movement designed to encourage voter registration, political engagement and participation in local, state and national affairs for everyone.

"We provide the information to co-op consumer-members to find out how, where and when to vote, and information on the issues that affect rural communities," said Laura Vogel, an NRECA senior political advisor. "We do not tell people who to vote for, and we don't endorse candidates."

Many electric co-ops are supporting National Voter Registration Day,



Sue Shelton White, of Jackson, Tenn., was one of the editors of The Suffragist weekly newspaper.

September 22, to encourage political participation leading up to the November elections.

"With so many uncertainties brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic fueling concerns about how voting will proceed this fall, electric co-ops can play vital roles in reminding members of important dates and explaining rule changes," said Vogel. "There will be great opportunities to meet community needs."

Wild Springs Solar Farm will capture the sun's rays to produce electrical power for South Dakota homes, farms and businesses.

# CATCHING RAYS

## Wild Springs Solar Farm to Produce Renewable Power

**Billy Gibson**

Contributing Writer

Business leaders know that diversification is the key to containing costs and surviving sharp economic slumps over the long haul.

That's especially true when it comes to producing the power that keeps South Dakotans supplied with the juice they need to run their homes, farms, irrigation pumps, offices and shops.

Those utilities tasked with keeping the power flowing day and night look for diversification when determining the raw materials they'll use to generate electricity.

The ability to draw from a variety of available resources – coal, natural gas, solar, wind, hydro, biomass, etc. – stabilizes the production process and helps to levelize costs as market rates for any or all of these resources rise and fall over time. This “all-of-the-above” strategy, in turn, makes it easier for producers to engage in long-range forecasting, planning and purchasing for the ultimate benefit of consumers.

That's why it made perfect financial sense for Basin Electric to strike a power purchase agreement with Geronimo Energy, a renewable power generation developer based in Minnesota.

Geronimo Energy is in the early phases of constructing a solar farm called Wild Springs that is expected to generate 128 megawatts (MW) of clean renewable power. When construction is completed in 2022, the \$190 million facility will be the largest grid-scale solar installation in South Dakota.

According to Basin Electric officials, the not-for-profit wholesale power provider jumped at the opportunity to join forces with Geronimo Energy and expand its renewable power portfolio.

“We are excited about adding large-scale solar to our already



Vic Simmons, CEO of Rushmore Electric, delivers a presentation on the Wild Springs Solar Farm.

diverse generation mix,” said Basin CEO and General Manager Paul Sukut. “The board’s decision to add solar to our resource portfolio is to continue with our all-of-the-above strategy, as well as solar generation becoming a more economic energy source.”

Basin Electric transmits electricity to 141 member co-op distribution systems in nine states. It also transmits wholesale power to two South Dakota generation and transmission (G&T) co-ops: Rushmore Electric and East River Electric. Those two G&Ts then transmit the power supply to their respective distribution cooperatives. Rushmore Electric is the power provider for West River Electric, which is the closest distribution co-op in proximity to the solar farm. West River Electric owns more than 2,500 miles of power lines and poles in western South Dakota.

Wild Springs will be built on more than 1,000 acres within West River’s service area near the town of New Underwood in Pennington County and will help stabilize costs for thousands of



ratepayers throughout the region.

West River CEO/General Manager Dick Johnson said he's happy to have a new neighbor and that the project has garnered the support of community leaders as it will create roughly 150 construction jobs. But he said he's even happier for the members who will benefit from the renewable power generated by the solar farm.

The facility is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 85,000 metric tons annually, which is the equivalent of taking 18,000 cars off the road every year.

"We're excited that West River's service area will be home to the Wild Springs Solar Project," said Johnson. "This solar energy project will benefit our cooperative family, as well as our local communities. As not-for-profit co-ops that are owned by our members, everything we do goes back to the people we serve."

Johnson pointed out that the project is expected to produce \$17 million in economic benefits through its first 20 years in terms of tax revenue, job creation and contributions to charitable funds. The list of benefits also includes an education fund that plans to donate \$500,000 to local school districts.

Officials at Rushmore Electric said the power purchase agreement is a perfect fit in line with the cooperative's mission and long-term strategy.

"Our cooperative network is always looking to ensure we have a mix of power resources to meet the needs of our membership and renewable energy is an important part of that strategy," said General Manager Vic Simmons. "This project is an important strategic step as we look to the future in continuing our strong history of providing safe, affordable and reliable power."

Geronimo Energy recently completed the 200 MW Crocker Wind Farm in Clark County and also developed the Pierre Solar Project, a joint effort with the City of Pierre and Missouri River Energy Services in Hughes County.

Geronimo Energy President David Reamer said industry analysts often tend to doubt the viability of solar power in the region, but he said the Wild Springs project shows that consumers in more northern climates can also benefit from the renewable resource.

## 7 Efficient Home Improvement Projects to Help Save Money

The best home upgrades make spaces more livable and energy-efficient and are also cost-effective. Making energy-efficient improvements is a savvy way to save money on utility bills, curb energy consumption and add to the house's value. Consider a variety of home improvement projects, both big and small, that can reduce the financial burden of maintaining your home throughout the year and improve energy efficiency.

**Add Insulation** - A cost-effective way to save on heating and cooling bills is adding a layer of insulation in the attic where heat loss is typically greatest due to hot air rising. While many newer homes are adequately insulated, those that are several decades old (or older) may benefit from an upgrade in not only the attic but other common problem areas where air can escape such as basements, crawl spaces, fireplaces and ductwork.

**Seal Doors and Windows** - Windows and doors are common culprits for energy loss. While a complete replacement of doors and windows can be pricey, adding exterior caulk and weather stripping to fill in gaps where air can escape around these openings can make a noticeable difference for a fraction of the cost and make it cheaper to heat and cool your home.

**Install Skylights** - Skylights are a cost-effective option for transforming any room with natural light while also saving energy. For example, Sun Tunnel Skylights can be installed in 90 minutes and funnel natural light from the roof through the attic and into the room below with an aesthetic that resembles recessed lighting. Customizable with six diffuser film styles to complement interior design, the skylights can make a home more energy-efficient by reducing reliance on artificial lighting.



**Reflective Window Film** - When the sun shines through windows, it can heat up the home's interior quickly and trigger the air conditioner to turn on. Window coverings, such as blackout curtains, can help, but adding low-e reflective window film to your windowpanes, particularly southern-facing ones, can provide an additional shield from the sun and reduce energy costs.

**Install a Programmable Thermostat** - A programmable thermostat is an efficient way to control the climate inside your home. Today's smart thermostats not only let homeowners control temperatures from their smart devices but can also learn daily habits and adjust the temperature accordingly with no other manual adjustments necessary.

**Replace Appliances** - Because appliances like refrigerators and ovens are major energy users, investing in more efficient models provides both cost and energy savings. Additionally, homes more than 15 years old could benefit from updates to the air conditioner or heater as systems 15-20 years old or older may be candidates for replacement.

**Ceiling Fans** - In comparison to running your air conditioner consistently, the cost of running a ceiling fan (or several) is significantly less. Particularly on days that may not require cooling the entire house completely, fans can provide a gentle breeze and circulate air in the spaces you use most often. Simply adjust the switch to the counterclockwise position to ensure it's pushing air downward during warmer months.

For more information and home improvement ideas, visit [whyskylights.com/livelifghter](http://whyskylights.com/livelifghter).

# May 2020 Board Meeting

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., May 19, 2020, beginning at 4 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Allen and the following directors were present: Tom Schlack, Brent Ireland, Scott Larson, Marion Schultz, Connie Whirlwind Horse, Troy Kuxhaus, Jerry Sharp via WEBEX and Donovan Young Man via Conference Call. Absent was Neal Livermont, Wade Risse and Clifford Lafferty. Also present were General Manager Josh Fanning, Operations Manager Mike Pisha, Finance & Benefits Manager Anna Haynes, Work Order and Billing Manager Sherry Bakley and Member Services Representative Manager Stacey Robinson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Allen.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to have Member Service Representative Manager Stacey Robinson record the board minutes.

Additions to the agenda:

## 1. Equipment Committee Meeting Report

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the April 2020 minutes with President Allen also verifying that going forward no motion is needed to adjourn a board meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Operating Report for March that was presented by Finance & Benefits Manager Anna Haynes.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the checks and disbursements for April. (Scott "chairman" and Troy) The June Check Audit Committee will be (Brent "chairman", Clarence and Wade).

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the April Analysis of Investments that was presented by Finance and

Benefits Manager Anna Haynes.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the list of new members, attached hereto.

Sherry reported that RUS is doing an audit.

Stacey reported that the North Dakota trip has been canceled.

Mike reported about work in progress and on equipment.

Tom reported on the Rushmore Electric Board Meeting he attended.

Josh reported that RUS is doing an audit for the years December 2013-March 2020; about COVID-19; on disconnects; about Truck #16 replacement; that looking into Front Lobby updates; on the Amendments to the work plan; that will need to set up new Annual Meeting date; on Basin and the Federated Safety Lab Meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the purchase of an Altec Truck #16 based on the Equipment Committee's recommendation.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the additional projects to the amendment for the workplan to improve plant.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve a Sept. 25, 2020 annual meeting beginning at 1 p.m.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve an April 22, 2021 annual meeting date.

Discussion was held on the new Rushmore Electric annual meeting date with a motion being made, seconded and carried designating Tom Schlack as the Delegate and Josh Fanning as the Alternate. 1262800112

Meeting was adjourned.

Next board meeting – June 16, 2020, at 4 p.m.

# What Are Capital Credits?

An electric cooperative operates on an at-cost basis by annually “allocating” to each member. Based upon the member’s purchase of electricity, operating revenue remaining at the end of the year, and as financial condition permits, these allocated amounts – capital credits – are retired. Capital credits represent the most significant source of equity for Lacreek. Since a cooperative’s members are also the people the co-op serves, capital credits reflect each member’s ownership in and contribution of capital to the cooperative. This differs from dividends investor-owned utilities pay shareholders who may or may not be customers of the utility.

Each year, the Lacreek Electric board of directors makes a decision on whether to retire capital credits based on the financial health

of the cooperative. During some years, the co-op may experience high growth in the number of new accounts, or severe storms may result in the need to spend additional funds to repair lines. These and other events might increase costs and decrease member equity, causing the board not to retire capital credits. For this reason, Lacreek’s ability to retire capital credits reflects the cooperative’s strength and financial stability. The board alone decides whether to retire capital credits.

The checks listed issued in 2020 have not been claimed. If you know any of the members listed below and have the ability to contact them, please have them call our office or if you see your name on this list, please contact us at 605-685-6581.

## Returned Capital Credit Checks

Allison, Janice  
American Horse, Ramona  
Angel, Adelia  
Angel, Jessica  
Angel, Lenora  
Apple, Alissa  
Apple, Tyrone  
At The Straight, Royce  
Attack Him, Lisa  
Auld, Donald  
Bad Milk, Richard  
Bad Wound, Elgin Jr  
Bailey, Dorothy  
Barber, Barry  
Barker, Maynard  
Beres, Patrick  
Black, William  
Black Bear, Victoria  
Blue Bird, Gilbert  
Blue Horse, Esther  
Brings Plenty, Duane  
Brown, Jeff  
Brown bull, Jerome  
Brown Bull, Laretha  
Buckman, Gerald D  
Buckman, Patricia  
Burnette, Theresa  
Bush, Nancy  
Chase Alone, Adrean  
Clifford, Rueben

Conroy, Opal  
Coon, Mark  
Cuny, Francis  
Decory, Perry III  
Dubray, Mary A  
Dubray, Myrna  
Enyeart, David  
Escamilla, Sabrina  
Fast Horse, Marina  
Featherman, Martha  
Foote, Patricia  
Foster, Allan D  
Gonzales, Irene  
God Shield, Clara  
Gravholt, Shirley  
Hartman, Walter  
Hatfield, Heather  
High Hawk, Melvin  
Hill’s Material  
Hollow Horn, Stanley  
Horton, Lucy  
HUD/FHA  
Hunts Horse, Glenda  
Ice, Gerald  
Iron Cloud, Lester  
Irving, Marvin  
Johnson, Ralph  
Jones, Lorrie  
Kain, Nancy  
Kamerzell, Susan

Keele, Connie  
Kills In Sight, Lila  
Kjerstad, Lenden  
Knutson, Scott  
Kreitman, Wanda  
Kuhlman, Todd  
Kurkrall, Wilbert  
Lake, Robert  
Lamont, Jamie  
Lapointe, Charlene A  
Larsen, Greg  
Larson, Floyd  
Larvie, Iva R  
Larvie, Zabe  
Leach, Bernice  
Leach, Betty  
Little, Francis Sr  
Little Crow, Virginia  
Lohmeier, Stephanie  
Loos, Trent  
Lunderman, Richard  
Lyon, Craig  
May, Patricia A  
McCollam, Steven  
McCroskey, Dan  
Merkel, Kim  
Merrival, Evangeline  
Miller, Jean  
Mittleider, George  
Morrison, Wilbur Sr

Mousseaux, Barbara  
Naylor, Patricia  
Never Miss A Shot, Lenford  
New Holy, Raymond  
Newman, Amy  
O Conner, Rose L  
Olson, Robert  
Oordt, Vince  
Pacheco, Vicentia  
Pack, Sherry  
Polzen, Steven  
Pourier, Pamela  
Powers, Darrell  
Provancial, Bernard  
Puckett, Van E  
Quick Bear, Caroline  
Quigley, David  
Quiver, Clayton A  
Red Bow, Becky  
Red Elk, Louise  
Red Feather, Frances  
Red Owl, Guy  
Red Shirt, Lori  
Rendon, Andrew  
Ridgely, Gail  
Roger, Margaret  
Rogers, Gilbert  
Rouillard, Clarence Jr  
Rowland, Thomas G  
Running, Angela

Schmidt, Janis  
Schwarzrock, David  
Schutterle, Susan  
Shangreaux, Sophia  
Sheridan-Jensen, Michelle  
Shott, Phyllis  
Sitting Up, Isabelle  
Spencer, Regena  
Spotted Elk, Bobbie  
Standing Soldier, Richard  
Terry, Madeline  
Thunder Shield, Brian K  
Tobacco, Jessica  
Twiss, Nicole  
Two Eagle, Anzonetta  
Utecht, Robert  
Vach, Steven J  
Walker, Kathleen  
Western Wireless  
Wilsey, Vern  
Woihanble Yuwita-Habitat for Humanity  
Wooden Knife, Constance  
Yellow Boy, Phillip  
Yellow Cloud, Beverly  
Yellow Cloud, Steve  
Yellow Hair, Monte  
Yellseagle, Rachel  
Young, William  
Zarek, Glennis



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# GRAIN BIN SAFETY

Unusually wet year makes grain bin safety on the farm more important than ever

**Susan Smith**

Contributing Writer

Wet conditions during last year's harvest meant grain went into bins under conditions that aren't ideal.

Wet grain can cause crusting or bridging in bins. Producers try to scrape the crust away from the side, causing a landslide of grain sucking the producer in as it falls. Or they could be working in a bin not realizing they are standing on a bridge of grain that when it falls has nothing beneath it but air. This can also cause entrapment.

Many of these accidents happen in winter and early spring, said Beth Locken, director of safety and environmental at Agtegra Cooperative in Aberdeen. She calls that time period the second harvest when farmers are cleaning out bins for the coming year's crops. While South Dakota and North Dakota don't see the number of entrapment accidents as corn-belt states like Iowa and Illinois, grain bin entrapments are not picky, Locken said.

"We've already seen one (death in South Dakota) in 2020 already and that's too many," she said.

During the third week in February 2020, decreed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue as National Grain Bin Safety Week, Christopher Bauman died at his farm near Elkton while emptying corn. Bauman had a wife and three children.

After Bauman died, Locken and Scott Wheelhouse, safety director of the Agfirst Farmers Cooperative in Aurora, began

Training is an important element in responding to grain bin accidents on the farm.





talking about creating a local day-long seminar on grain bin safety. The morning would focus on a refresher course for first responders who already are trained to rescue someone trapped in a grain bin but maybe haven't had hands-on experience recently, Wheelhouse said. In the afternoon, producers from the area would get information on general grain bin safety and use of rescue equipment.

"We really want to emphasize we don't just want your business, we want your friendship," Wheelhouse said. "We want you alive."

AgTegra sold grain bin entry kits at cost to local producers this year, a service Wheelhouse would like to offer his customers as well. The kits sell for \$460 and include resources on how to use them.

"Mostly the benefit we get out of it is hoping we can educate the family and keep them safe," Locken said.

Purdue University releases an annual report on entrapment injuries and fatalities. The number increased by 9.8 percent in 2019. From 2017 to 2018 the number jumped 23 percent. In the last decade, 370 people died in grain bin accidents.

The number of grain bin accidents increased nearly 10 percent in 2019.



About 10 years ago, Agtegra donated to fire departments in its coverage area grain bin rescue tubes that fit around a submerged person. That includes about 70 departments in northeast and northwest North Dakota and areas along Highways 12 and 281 and I-90. Agtegra deployed a technical rescue team for the last 10 years.

## Training paid off during a March grain entrapment.

The team membership and training is widespread for Agtegra employees and first responders.

"Immediate response is of the essence," Locken said. "If something happens on a farmer's bin site, they're not going to call AgTegra, they're going to call the fire department," Locken said.

That widespread training paid off during a March grain entrapment near Pierre.

"We were there providing guidance and additional equipment. We were inside the bin with the fire department just trying to get the victim out of there," she said. "We worked for about five hours and that was a successful response. Not all of them are like that, unfortunately."

The first rule of grain bin safety is not to go into the bin in the first place.

"We always say any time someone needs to go into a bin, stop and talk about it," Locken said. "Have absolutely more than one person there. Make sure the person has a harness and rope attached to the harness and to something attached to the bin that's not going to move."

Locken said turning off equipment like an auger is another good rule of thumb. That way grain isn't being pulled out of the bin as a person works in it.

John Keimig, SDSU Extension Youth Safety Field Specialist, conducts safety programs for 4-H youth. He educates children of producers so they know the rules and can keep an eye on their parents. Most producers know the risks of working around grain bins, he said, but might not consider them during the high pressure of a typical farm day.

"Adults know better," he said. "We get in a hurry. We don't always think and particularly in grain storage that can become very bad very quickly. By working together, we can help each other out if we have to go into a bin and we can save lives."



The risks of working around grain bins may be forgotten during the high pressure of an average work day on the farm.



State officials say the problem of meth addiction disproportionately affects women and Native American populations.

# METH. WE TREAT IT.

## Front Line Treatment Providers Stay Focused on Their Goal

By Billy Gibson

Contributing Writer

To a public growing desensitized to increasingly sensational news accounts, one particular police report stood out.

Probably because of the cattle prod.

Back in June, Sioux Falls police arrested a couple accused of using a cattle prod to discipline their four children, ages 11 to 17. The astonishing accusations also included the couple giving methamphetamine and marijuana to the youngsters in their charge.

It was another in a steady stream of stories serving as an indication of the widespread use of methamphetamine and the deleterious effects of drug abuse in the state.

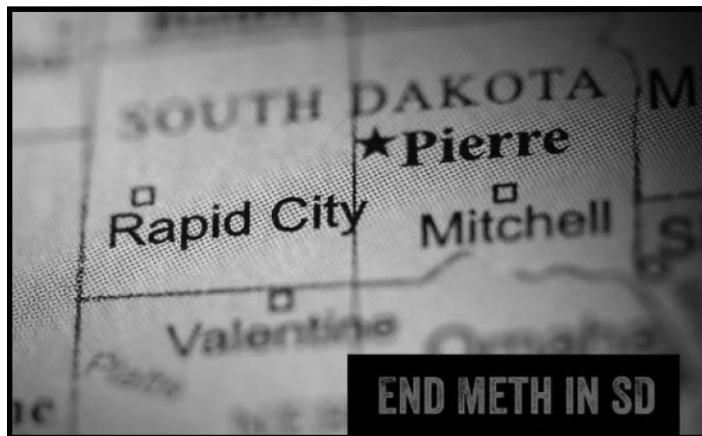
Meth, especially, is a social and public health menace that has not mysteriously disappeared since the coronavirus outbreak, although it has morphed a bit as the pandemic has spread.

State and federal officials report that the impact of the virus has brought both good news and bad news.

On one hand, the curtailing of international and national travel, the economic downturn and the tightening of borders have all combined to reduce the supply of the powerful drug on city and rural streets.

On the other hand, the street price for the drug is escalating due to increased demand and shortened supply. As those hooked on the drug seek any means of securing it and as general anxiety levels rise, officials fear that a jump in criminal activity is inevitable.

In Los Angeles, for example, meth prices doubled recently as narcotic traffic from Mexican cartels slowed down significantly.



Price increases were also seen in states like Virginia, West Virginia, New Mexico, Kentucky, Tennessee and many others.

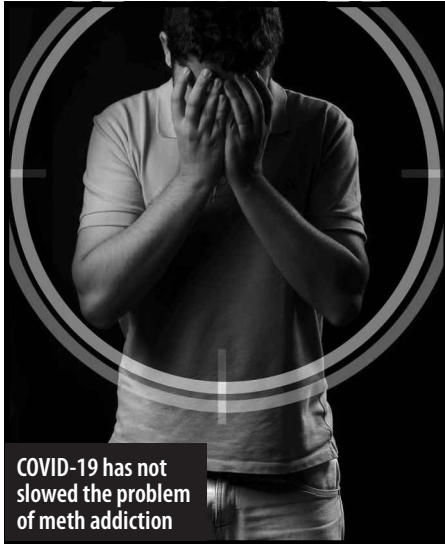
While the world turned its attention to the coronavirus earlier this year and now braces for a second wave, others dedicated to battling meth abuse over the long haul have never steered their focus away from their goals.

A statewide campaign to raise awareness of the meth problem was launched last fall as officials began recognizing that the manufacture, distribution and consumption of meth was becoming a plague for far too many South Dakotans. The troubling trend was placing both rural towns and the larger population centers at risk.

The campaign was in response to disturbing figures that painted the picture of a national and international progression that was finally at the point of breaching the state's borders in record numbers.

For instance, officials reported that in 2018 more than 3,600 individuals were arrested in the state for possessing, transporting or





COVID-19 has not slowed the problem of meth addiction

distributing a collective 100 lbs. of methamphetamine. The Centers for Disease Control proclaimed that meth was taking the lives of more South Dakotans than any other illegal drug and that twice as many teens from 12 to 17 years old were using meth compared to the national average.

Additionally, 83 percent of court admissions for controlled substances in 2019 involved meth, as the state saw a 200 percent increase in people seeking treatment with the primary diagnosis of meth addiction between 2014 and 2018.

Meanwhile, law enforcement seized 24 lbs. of meth in the Rapid City area in 2018, over 20 lbs. in Sioux Falls, and almost 1 lb. in Pierre. It takes just .0003 lb. of the drug to cause a fatal overdose. From January to August of 2019, there were 2,243 meth-related arrests across 50 counties. In 2002, that number was just 467.

More recently, figures show that meth is impacting Native American and female populations at a disproportionate level.

For instance, officials report that more than 90 percent of inmates at the South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre are substance abusers. Overall, roughly



**"Don't think you can't get help, because there are many options out there."**

Carol Regier

one-third of those inmates incarcerated in the state prison system are there because of some form of drug addiction.

Recently, the female inmates have campaigned to push for more programs to help addicts within the system.

Inmate Heather Shooter, who belongs to the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe, is one of several convicts who have been instrumental in an initiative called Sober is Sacred, in which inspirational speakers, performers and other guests call for additional counseling and treatment programs to help those hooked on meth. The program follows a similar one launched at the Mike Durfee State Prison for men in Springfield called Fathers Against Meth.

Shooter said that when her time is served this fall she plans to enter the Full Circle Substance Abuse Center in Rapid City and spread the message of a drug-free life.

Dave Flute, the state's Secretary of Tribal Affairs and former Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribal chairman, has described the meth plague as having reached epidemic proportions on the state's reservations. He spoke last fall at the second State-Tribal Meth Summit in Mission and assured the audience that the governor's administration is working closely with Native American tribes to combat the problem.

Carol Regier, CEO of the Keystone Treatment Center with facilities in Canton and Sioux Falls, said her program often works with tribal communities in South Dakota and surrounding states. She echoed Flute's comments that the governor's office has been deeply engaged.

"We've had discussions with the governor and the state has been very supportive of our work, going back to the Rounds administration," she said, noting, "But we did make up our own catch phrase: 'Meth. We Treat It.'"

She pegged meth abuse as "by far" the most toxic culprit when it comes to addiction and the social maladies that

spring from it.

"Besides alcohol, meth is our number one problem. It's very addictive and caustic and people who get hooked rarely defeat it without qualified help," she said.

Regier said the in-patient program offered at Keystone typically lasts a month to 45 days and includes components of the 12-step Narcotics Anonymous plan. It also



focuses on spiritual, physical and mental health, she said. After therapy, patients are supported and encouraged to participate in after-care and continued counseling.

Keystone has 126 beds, and Regier said there is a steady stream of patients seeking treatment for their addiction. The pace hasn't slowed with the coronavirus.

"There was a period where it seemed people were afraid to come in, but they've started to come in now," she said. "We've seen an escalation in alcohol and drug abuse during the pandemic as people are having to deal with loneliness, joblessness, personal relationships and other drastic changes in their lives and in the country."

From her vantage point standing on the front lines of the drug addiction battle, Regier strikes a positive tone. She encourages those who feel they need treatment to get it. She assures that most treatment plans are covered by medical insurance and that grants and other resources are available to help addicts break free from the grip of addictions.

"Don't think you can't get help, because there are many options out there. We hear heartbreaking stories, but on the good side we see people who have turned their lives around," she said. "For all of us committed to helping drug addicts get well, we have the same commitment: getting people back to normal so they can live healthier, more fulfilling lives. Treatment works."

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### September 3-5

South Dakota State Fair:  
Perfect Vision of Fun,  
1060 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD  
800-529-0900  
[www.sdstatefair.com](http://www.sdstatefair.com)

### July 21-25

98th Annual Days of '76 PRCA  
Rodeo, Arena, Deadwood,  
SD, 1-888-838-BULL,  
[www.DAYSOF76.com](http://www.DAYSOF76.com)

### July 26

15th Annual Car Show  
Langford, SD, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
605-493-6597

### July 31-August 1

Senior Games, Yankton,  
SD, Contact Kristi Hauer at  
605-665-4685

### July 31-August 1

Plein Air & Arts in the Garden,  
Wessington Springs, SD,  
605-354-3826

### August 1

Rockin' Ribfest BBQ  
Competition, Wessington  
Springs, SD, 605-505-1135

### August 1

Foothills Classic, Wessington  
Springs, SD, 605-350-1687

### August 1, 22

The Murder of Miss Kitty  
Comedy Mystery Dinner  
Theatre, Holiday Inn Express  
& Suites, Deadwood, SD,  
605-580-5799

### August 8-9

Threshing Show, Twin Brooks,  
SD, [www.threshingshow.com](http://www.threshingshow.com)



**August 8-10:**  
Red Power Round Up  
Fairgrounds, Huron, SD  
605-460-0197

Photo courtesy: South Dakota Department of Agriculture

### August 8-10

Red Power Round Up,  
Fairgrounds, Huron, SD,  
605-460-0197

### August 9

Online Only Bechyn Czech  
Festival, Online Concert,  
7 p.m., Bechyn,  
Minn., 320-522-1218  
[www.facebook.com/Bechyn-MinnesotaWorld](http://www.facebook.com/Bechyn-MinnesotaWorld)

### August 14-16

Astronomy Festival, Badlands  
National Park, Wall, SD,  
605-433-5241

### August 21-22

Harvest Festival, Elkton, SD,  
605-524-2681

### August 22

World of Outlaw Sprint Car  
Races plus Wissota MWM,  
Dakota State Fair Speedway,  
Huron, SD, 605-352-4848

### September 7

Hidewood Valley Steam  
Threshing Show, 1 p.m.,  
47326 183rd Ave., Clear Lake,  
SD, 605-881-8405

### September 12-13

Fall Harvest Festival,  
Delmont, SD, 605-928-3792,  
[www.twintriversoldiron.org](http://www.twintriversoldiron.org)

### September 13

20th Annual Antique Tractor  
and Car Parade, 1 p.m.,  
Farmer, SD, 605-239-4498

### September 25-27

Coal Springs Threshing  
Bee Featuring Massy Harris  
Tractors, Meadow, SD,  
605-788-2229

### September 26

10th Annual ROCS Fall  
Festival, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,  
Springfield, SD,  
605-464-7379

### September 26

Wheelin' to Wall, Wall  
Community Center, Wall, SD

### October 7-8

Energize! Explore Innovative  
Rural Communities  
Conference, Milbank, SD,  
<https://extension.sdstate.edu>

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including date, event,  
place and contact to your  
local electric cooperative.  
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submitted at least eight  
weeks prior to your  
event. Please call ahead  
to confirm date, time and  
location of event.