

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



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

Hook, line and auger

Inside the Mobridge ice fishing tourney
Pages 8-9

Shake the blues with winter outdoor fun
Pages 12-13



We Want to Hear From You



Brad Kool
CEO

We live in a device-driven world. Our smartphones, tablets, laptops, and other devices help us communicate and connect. Companies spend billions pushing out a steady drumbeat of messages and information, and we are constantly bombarded with one-way communication. But is anyone listening on the other end?

At Butte Electric Cooperative, we are not only listening, we are eager to hear from you. Whether you text us, respond to a survey or social media post, send an email, or stop by and chat in person, we thrive on your feedback. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with our community's priorities and needs.

Because we are a cooperative, we have a different way of operating. Butte Electric Cooperative exists to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve. We hope you will consider us more than your energy provider, but instead, as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

Throughout the year, you will notice we create opportunities for you and other community members to attend co-op gatherings and events to hear from you. This includes our annual meeting and other events

like the Annual Butte/Lawrence BBQ and high school tailgate parties.

We also conduct an annual survey to gather feedback in order to plan for new initiatives, technical upgrades, and improvements on existing co-op programs and services. Our planning is led by elected board members who understand the needs of the communities and are looking out for the long-term interests of the larger community.

We are in the midst of significant changes in the energy sector, as technology and the drive for more renewables are impacting long-term planning. These are complex issues that we are navigating in the coming months and years. Hearing from you and other community members play a critical role as we plot our course for the future.

Butte Electric Cooperative works to continually learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. But we can only improve, adapt, and effectively plan for the future if we have two-way communication.

For our co-op and community to thrive now and in the future, we depend on hearing from you. I hope you will connect with us and let us know your perspective.

COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONSBUTTE
ELECTRIC

(ISSN 1531-1031)

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Butte Electric Beacon Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 137, Newell, SD 57760. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

Subscription information: Cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals postage paid at City, SD 57427.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to Butte Electric Beacon, PO Box 137, Newell, SD 57760; telephone (605) 456-2494; fax (605) 456-2496; email butte@butteelectric.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Butte Electric Scholarship Program

Butte Electric Cooperative values leadership development in our service territory by helping our community youth obtain a higher education. The Butte Electric Scholarship Program is designed to recognize and encourage the achievements of the members and their children.

Scholarship applications for 2023 are now available to Butte Electric members and their dependents. Butte Electric will award four \$1000 scholarships to students who plan to pursue a degree or certification from an accredited post-secondary school. These applications are judged based on community involvement, work experience, future plans, and a short essay.

Butte Electric Cooperative will also award a Technical School Scholarship for \$1000 that comes with an apprenticeship to a student residing in Butte, Lawrence, or Meade County. This student must be currently enrolled in or planning to attend a qualified program below:

- Electrical Utilities & Substation Technology
- Power Line Construction & Maintenance
- Utilities Technology-Power Line
- Electrical Construction & Maintenance
- Information Systems Technology
- Telecommunications

All scholarship applications are due February 17, 2023, by 3:00 PM to 3540 Old Belle Rd, Spearfish, SD 57783. To view a complete list of requirements and applications, visit www.butteelectric.com/scholarships. Please contact Laine Mitchell at lainem@butteelectric.com or (605)269-0680 or contact the guidance counselor at your school for more information.

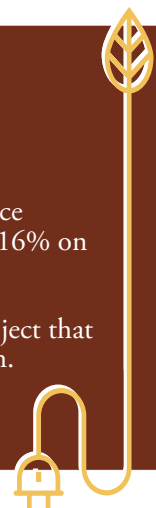


Energy Efficiency

TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know insulating your electric water heater could reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. *Source: energy.gov*



Tips to use your electric blanket wisely

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

Learn how to stay safe and injury-free.

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

Gums wins Connections annual recipe contest

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

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

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

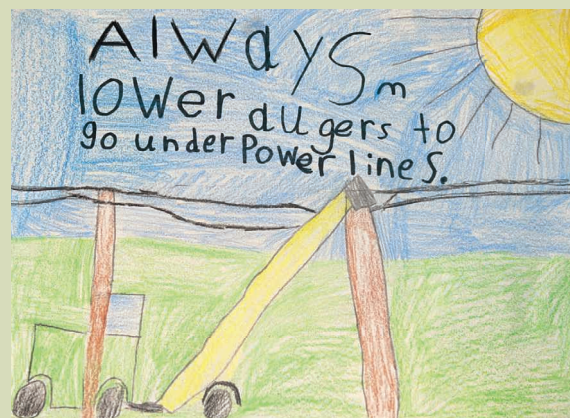


CO-OP LEADERS SERVE THEIR MEMBERS AND CONSTITUENTS



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

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



Be safe around power lines

Weston Kling

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

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

SUPER SOUPS

VEGGIE CHEESE SOUP

Ingredients:

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

METHOD

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

Nancy Stenson, Fort Pierre

CHEESEBURGER SOUP

Ingredients:

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

METHOD

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

Kathleen Meier, Firesteel

CHICKEN FAJITA SOUP

Ingredients:

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

METHOD

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

mccormick.com

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

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



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

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

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

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

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

SMART UPGRADES FOR THE ENTIRE HOME

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SMART STREAMING FOR THE LIVING ROOM

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

SAVE ON SUDS IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM

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

SMART SAVINGS IN THE KITCHEN

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

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



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

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

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

with those other adventures.

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

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

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

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

ICE FISHING IN MOBRIDGE



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

Mobridge Ice Fishing Tournament offers fun and friendly competition

Billy Gibson

editor@sdrea.coop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Vinson Dargatz is shown with one of his prize catches.

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

Number of two-person
fishing teams competing

551

in last year's Mobridge
Ice Fishing Tournament

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

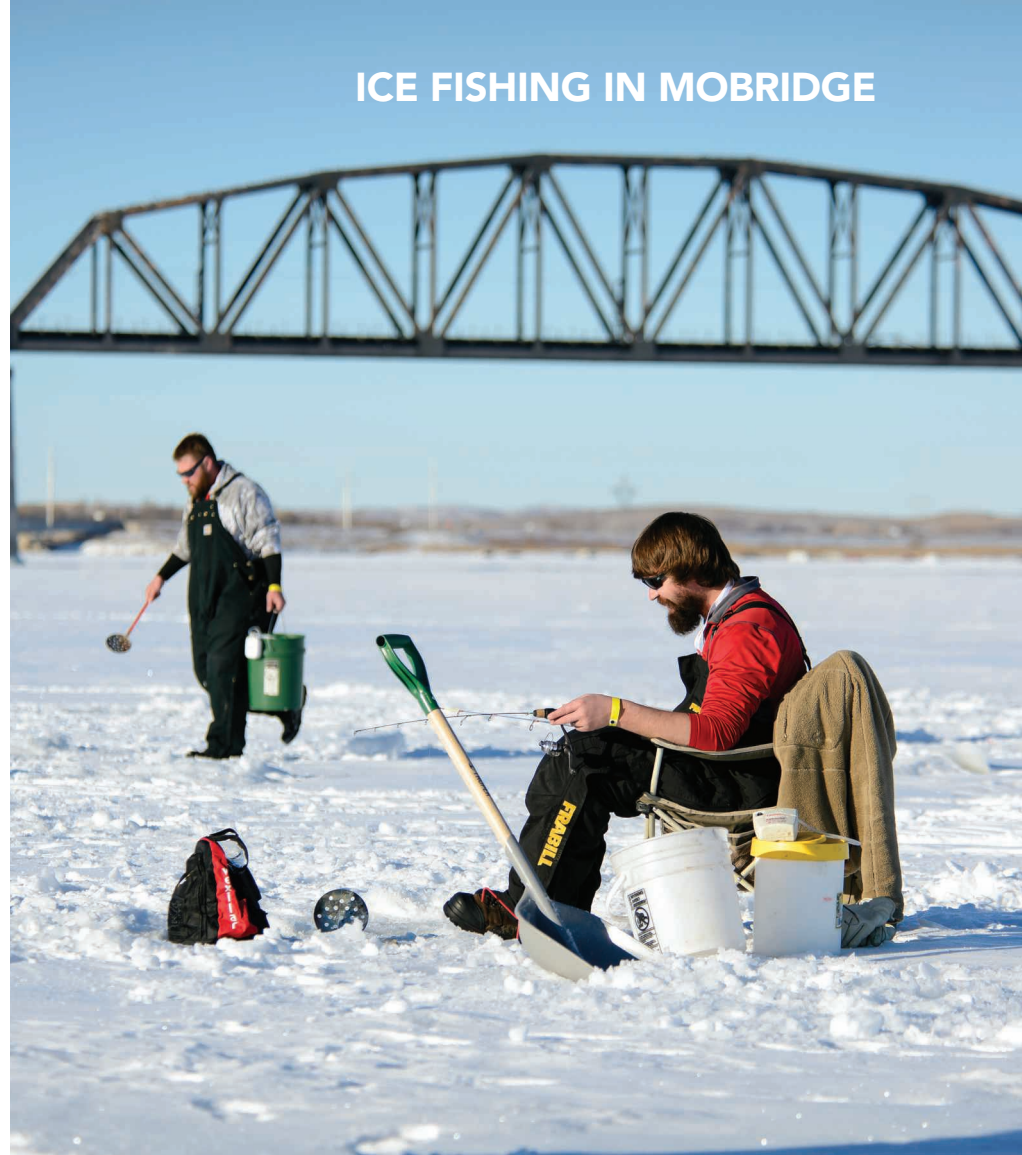
But Dargatz said when it comes to the annual winter escapes to Mobridge with the fellas, the family has to find something else to do. Besides, the town already doubles in size during tournament weekend and if every angler brought hangers-on in tow, Mobridge might expand to the size of Sioux Falls.

FILLED TO CAPACITY

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

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

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



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

Photo by Travel South Dakota

River and Lake Oahe have to offer.

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

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

final spot is raffled off.

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

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

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

Help us Find These People

The following members were unable to receive their capital credit checks. If you know the current address or phone number of anyone listed here, please contact Butte Electric Cooperative at 605-456-2494, 1-800-928-8839, or email butte@butteelectric.com. Thank you for your help.

Abel, Bill
Aberle, Mary
Adams, Allen
Ager, Dave
Ager, Silvie
Albers, Kevin
Albright, Greg
Alcorn, Diane
All American
Inn-Ridgepoint LLC
Allen, Carolyn
Anderson, Edith G
Anderson, Jacques
Anderson, Patsy
Anderson, Ryan
Antuna, Raymond
Archer, Terry
Arnold, M.F.
Aspen, Lucille
AT&T Bldg Operations
Atchison, Susan
Auen, Hugo or Jeanette
Austin, Loretta
Aye, Willis

Bairst, Tim or
Marjorie S
Barber, Stanley
Barnes, Billy
Barnette, Ken
Bartels, Dale
Bartlett, Carl
Barton, Gary or Robin
Bartsch, Sandra
Bauman, Karon
Beck, Randy or Glea
Beck, Renel
Bellemore, MJ
Bendewald, Gaylen
Bendickson, Lisa
Bennett, Lucille
Benson, Dale or
Tammy
Berlinger, Jim
Bernard, Larry
Bertsch, Gary or Susan
Bertsch, Steve or Karen
Best Western
Beyer, Kristi
Biberdorf, Lowell
Biggins, June
Blackburn William or
Jeanne
Blakeman, Barb
Blakeman, Jamie
Bleige, Jim or Renee
Blumenstock, Nancy or
Ann Morell
Boblett, Richard
Bond, Jack
Boortz, Ron or Janet
Bordewyk, Lyle
Bosch, Brian
Bowar, Donald
Brakeman, Maurice
Brandenburg, Dorothy
Brence, Melinda

Briscoe, Sean or
Richard
Britton-Schaible,
Monica
Broadhurst, Eileen or
Tom
Brodeur, Bob
Brooks, Gerri
Brotsky, Ken
Brown, Don
Brown, Robert or Rita
Bruno Inc %Marlis
Brunson
Brunson, Marlis
Buchholz, Ron or
Connie
Burd, Mary
Burdick, Tom
Burg, Julie
Burger King
Burk, Willie or
Marjorie
Burkinshaw, Clark
Burleson, Don or
Janice
Burrington, Kevin or
Deb
Bushnell, Dawn
Bussan, Lisa
Busse, Richard
Byrider, JD

Cablevision Galaxy –
Paulette
Calvert, Marilyn
Campbell, Anthony
Canyon Inn % Bruno
Inc
Capp, Lee or Melinda
Card, Craig
Carlson, John – Wolf
Creek Enterprise
Carlson, Steve
Carmichael, Doug
Carpenter, Julie or
William
Carr, Michelle
Carter, Ray E, Jr
Case, Gary
Chamberlain, Diane
Chambers, Edward
Charter, Chet
Chavez, Joseph or Tami
Chipman, Jason or
Christi
Chriske, Greg
Christensen, Bryce
Christensen, Layne
Cinch Buckle Ranch –
Moore M
Clark, Brett or Jeanie
Clauser, Marilyn
Claussen, Shawn or
Cheryl
Clemetson, Daric or
Dana
Coe, Helen
Colling, Larry or Jane

Collins, Joe or Kristin
Collins, Paul Jr
Colonel of Spearfish
Conrad, Christopher
Cooper, Lori
Corbin, Deloris
Cornell, Dalene
Corral West Ranchwear
Cowles, Sam or Cheryl
Crawford, Lauri
Crist, Lester
Croft, Jerry
Current, Michael

DG's Auto Trim,
D'Spain, Bob or
Tamara
Dachtler-Egan,
Donnalea
Dakota Mining &
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Daniels, Charlean
Darland, Danielle
Darland, Guy or
Danielle
Dateline Drilling
Davenport, Brenda
Davies Development –
Krystal Simons
Davis, Curt
Davis, Jennifer
Davis, Kurt
Davison, Phillip or
Janet
Davy, Jeff
Debray, DeeAnn
Dee's Ultalights
Degroat, Robert
Deibel, Jack – Wheat
& Cattle Co
Dejong, Allen
Dejong, Arlan or Jean
Delameter, Jay
Delaney, Bill
Delannoy, C.W.
Deleo, Carol
Delilla, Ed or Helen
Demarais, Louis or
Gloria
Desimone, Anthony
Dexter, Roger
DG's Auto Trim –
Delayne Holmes
Diedrich, Scott
Digges, Ronald
Dingeman, Bruce
Dirksen, Janae
Ditty's Diner
Dominick, Terry
Dowdy, Randall or
Darlene
Downing, Tim
Dress Barn/Maurice's –
Heritage Plaza
Duffield Construction
Duling Optical
Dutton, Lee

Eaton, Melvin
Eddy, Sheilah
Edwards, Toni
Elliott, Ricky
Elshire, Glen
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Erickson, Laurie
Erion-Johnson,
Marjorie or David
Evans, Larry or Dixie

Farmer, James
Farrar Outdoor Adver-
tising
Fees, Randy
Fenenga, Jim or Kay
Finck, Ken
Finck, Rocky or Cathy
Fischer, Albert
Fish, Hunter
Fish, Wesley J
Fisher, Jim
Follum, Earl
Forsythe, Howard or
Kim
Forthman, Karen or
Dennis
Foster, Lisa or Jay
Frame, Jim or Thelma
Frankfurt, Marva
Frehe, Leo
Fry, Teresa
Fuller, Susan
Fundaun, Parnell

Gabert, Jammey
Gage, Kandace
Gallagher, James or
Linda
Gardner, Brian
Garland, Matthew
Geyer, Scot
Gibson, Pete or Alicia
Gifford, Don
Gilbert, Jerry
Gilger, Paul
Gilles, Hobert or
Kathleen
Gillette Dairy Inc
Gleason, Randy or
Marcie
Gliedt-Peter, Jean
Good, Margorie
Goodale, Rory or Mary
Graczyk, Alan
Granite Peak Develop
Corp
Griffith, Jackie
Grisel, Hilton or Myra
Guernsey, Stone
Guilmette, Phil or
Elizabeth

Haak, Laurie
Haffner, Jacob or
Sonya
Halbmaier, Norman

Hall, Kirby
Hall, Lynelle
Hall-Gross, Connie
Hallock, Joyce
Hammer, Gary
Hannah, Ron
Hannah-Spencer,
Mellissa
Hansen, Corinne
Hanson, Bruce
Hanson, Cliff
Hanson, Jim or Jan
Hanson, Tara
Hanzlik, Sam
Hanzlik, Wayne
Hardy, Lynn or Kya
Harper, Renee
Harris, Dennis
Harris, Henry
Harris, Reed
Harrison, Porter
Harty, Jane
Harwood, Charity
Hasvold, Robert
Havens, Timothy or
Marilyn
Heckert, Mark
Heemstra Lumber
& Equip – Wayne
Heemstra
Helkenn, Ted or
Tamera
Hernandez, Falira
Herren, Lillian
Hershey's General Store
Hersrud Company
Hertel, Mandy
Hesse, Carol
Hewitt, Cheryl
Hewitt, David or
Candace
Hill, Herb or Lois
Hill, Marilyn
Hindman, John or
Marlys
Hirsch, William
Hitchrick, Cheryl or
Todd
Hix, Michael or Karla
Hoffman, Bill J
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Holso, Jim
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Hornak, Rick
Hotvedt, Alfred
Houck, David
House, Merton
Hudson, Harold
Huff, Shirley
Hughes, C.M.
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Shauna

Humann, Dean
Hummel, Lora
Hunter, M.L. or James
Husband, Tom
Huyck, Philip

Ideal Insurance Co of
Am – Wendt Insurance
Ihle, Patty
Ingelfield, Bert
Inman, Randy
Irving, Toni
Iverson, Tammie

Jackson, Carol or WR
Jackson, Lynell
Jacobs, James
Jacobs, Roger or
Michelle
Jarvis, Cindy
Jeffery, Vicki
Jeffries, Larry
Jehovah Witnesses –
Sturgis Congregation
Jelkin, Roger
Jennsen, Scott
Jensen, Steve or Jetta
Jewitt, Keith
Johnson, Bill
Johnson, Dennis
Johnson, Donn
Johnson, Dorothy
Johnson, Jerry or
Robbin
Johnson, Robin
Johnson, Sean or Jolene
Johnson, Steve
Johnston, Carol
Jones, Donald or
Tammy
Jones, Zach

Kaizer, Joe or Brenda
Karels, Gordon or
Earla
Kaul, Kay
Keith, Leola
Kellem, Ola
Kelley, Doug
Kelly Inn – Spearfish
Kelly, Robert I
Kennedy, James
Kinney, Bob
Kirchgesler, Diane
Kirscher, Ray
Kleinheksel, Ed
Kleysteuber, Fred
Knapp, Charles
Knaub, Trish
Knight, Dwayne
Knott, Colleen
Knudson, Cindy
Koerber, Meri
Kopel, Les
Kramer, John or Tonya
Kratz, Shendra
Krmptotic, Mick

Krueger, Ken
Kruse, Stanley
Kubo, Tim
Kuchera, Richard
Kuhn, Jeff

Laborde, Jim
Laisy, Norman
Lambert, Don or Barbara
Langenbau, Steve or Kami
Lantz, Brenda
Lantz, Paul
Laparr, Dale
Lapour, Ron or Mavis T
Laron, Rodney
Larry, Trautman
Larson, Loren or Ryan
Lavoy, Deyon
Lawrence, Cindy
Leatherman, Brandie or Buddy
Lee, Lynn
Leetch, Vicky
Lehmann, Kenneth
Leischner, Dennis
Lenzner, Gretchen
Leonhardt, Floyd
Lewis, John or Norma
Lich, Matthew
Linco, Lori
Lindeman, Brian
Lindley, Gary
Linseman, William
Livengood, Julie
Lobbestael, Mark or Beverly
Lopez, Mark
Lore, Howard
Lucas Management Systems
Luce, Robert or Wilma
Lunderby, Steve or Shanna
Lyons, Jim

M.E. Farmer
Machler, Kurt
Madison, Casey
Madson, Carrie
Mahon, Les or Jody
Mahoney, Mitch
Manthei, Dottie
Marler, Dan or Anita
Martin, Callie
Martin, James or Eleanor
Marzolf, Rita
Mason, Lois
McArthur, Bruce
McCaskell, Megan or Mindy
McClary, Earl or Sally
McClean, Louise
McColley, Shawn
McConville, Leo or Kelly
McCullough, Sue Ann
McDaniel, Elizabeth
McDaniels, Tracy
McDonald, Kevin
McDonnell, Tavis
McGrath, Matthew or Janice
McGuigan, Kathleen

McKee, Kenneth
McKeown, Patrick or Debra
McLaughlin, Heather
McLaughlin, Todd
McMurry, Anita
McNeil, Jezal
McPherson, Harvey or Marlene
McPherson, Marlene
Means, James or Dixie
Medicraft, Rich
Meidinger, Tanja
Merrill, Larry or Kevin
Merritt, Carroll
Michael, Gina
Michel, Herbert
Miller, Don
Miller, Ralph or Bonnie
Mitchell, Shirley
Mitchell, Terri or Chris
Moellendorf, Arnold
Mohni, Dennis or Jeanie
Molly B's Motel
Montanio, Michael
Moody, Doug
Morgan, Dawn
Morgan, Faye
Morgan, Randy
Morse, Lawrence or Marsha
Mowery, Jada
Mueller, Ronald
Murphy, Mary
Myers, Thomas

Neal, Melissa
Nearman, Tom or Melinda
Neiswender, John or Claire
Nelson, Carolyn
Nelson, Jim
Nelson, Jon
Nelson, Mike or Shelly
Nelson, Sylvia
Nickelson, Dennis or Jan
Nines Golf Four
Nore, Howard
Northern Hills Signs – Tim Kruse
Nyvold, Elmer or Patricia

O'Connor, Eugene
O'Connor, Eugene
Oliva, Robert or Margaret
Olson, Donna
Olson, Irene
Olson, Malinda
Olson, Terrance
Olson, Tim or Tracy J
Opstedahl, Scott
Osage Construction
Otto, David
Overpeck, Lem

PG Cutright Builders
Pace International LP
Paland, Spring
Papillon, Alfred or Samantha
Patterson, Darci

Pawlowski, Clayton
Peck, Ray
Peltomaa, Mitch
Peters, Candace
Peters, Frances or Mary
Peterson Signs
Peterson, Alan
Peterson, Jim or Tammy
Peterson, Troy
Petik, Bob
Petitt, Shirley
Pfeifle, Joyce
Piccolo's Pizza – Steve Long
Pickett, Donald or Teresa
Piekkola, John or Darlene
Piekkola, Ken
Pierson, Clayton or Lori
Pine Mountain Homes – Bob Bates
Podoll, Don
Pongruber, George
Powers, Ned
Prairie Hills Water
Prentiss, Jake or Teresa
Price, John
Pritchard, Rosie
Proudfoot, Charles
Puetz, Gary or Renee

Quaal, Mick or Jean
Quality Inn %Davies Development
Quinn, Robert

Rachetto, James
Rahn, Guyneth
Ramsey, Dorcie
Rawson, Edward or Genile
Reed, Mary
Reetz, Barb
Reeves, Everett or Melissa
Reichert, Raymond
Reider, Denny
Reifschneider, Jeri
Reiman, Allen
Reimnitz, Gerhard
Rhine, Karen
Richards, Vallin
Richardson, Ted
Richling, Michael
Riebe, Valarie
RJK Builders
Robbennrolt, Robert
Roberts, Lori
Robinson, Frank or Kay
Rogers, Dan or Virginia
Rogers, Levi or Carolee S.
Rogers, Pauline or Scott
Romey, Rose
Ronish, Chad or John K
Rosander, Jon
Rose, Jerry
Rosenau, Kathy
Rosin, Daryl
Ross, Lloyd or Frances

Roush, Robert
Royer, Charles
Rulebaux, Patti
Rushmore Transport Inc
Russ, Greg or Victoria
Russo, Michael or Ruth
Rutkowski, Lisa
Ryan, Greg or Yolanda
Ryan, Richard or Yvonne

Satterlee, Richard
Sawtooth Forest
Products of SD – Randy Neider
Schabauer Investments
Schar, Bob
Schatz, Ray
Scheckel, William or Joy S
Scheele, Carl J
Schell, Larry
Schild, Paul
Schiller, Judi
Schimmelman, Kevin or Nicole
Schindler, Daryl or Gwendolyn
Schmitz, Tom
Schopf, Loy or Sheryl B.
Schommer, Brian or Jessie
Schuft, Rick
Schultz, Chuck or Linda
Schultz, Robert or Rachelle
Schultz, Virgil or Deborah
Schumacher, John
Schunneman, John or Doris
Scott, Cynda
Severson, Dori
Sewright, Betsy
Shacklett, Lawrence or Joyce
Shaffner, Carl or Lee
Shamion, Edward or Yvonne
Shay, Dale
Shear, Burt
Sheely, Marlene
Sheely, Raymond or Alma
Shepersky, Art
Skiff, Gene
Slezak, Penny
Sloan, Jeremy
Sluice Restaurant
Sluice Restaurant – David Gonzalez
Smith, Jeremy or Jodie
Smith, Jerry
Smith, Kathy
Smith, Ron or Pat H
Sneperger, Joe
Snook, Chanda
Snyder, Teri
Somervold, Tawny
Sorge, Kathy
South View Apts – Lewis Kirkeby
Spaid, Krystal or John
Span, Linda

Spearfish Gymnastics Academy
Spearfish Upholstery
%Duane Whartman
Speas, Bradley or Billie
Sprague, Robert
Standing Soldier, Sharon
Stankey, Tiffany
Stark, Betty
Statler, Jerry or Kim
Staufer, Sally
Steele Construction
Steffens, Brent
Steinmeyer, JC or Jim
Stephens, Patti
Stevenson, George
Story, Kent
Sturgis Corner Pantry
Sumners, Danae
Sundberg, Jerry or Elizabeth
Sunrise Construction
Sunrise U.S.A.
Sunset Tinting
Super 8 %Davies Development
Swallow, Lisa
Swanhorst, David or Betty
Swanhorst, John or Donna
Swanson, Oliver or Dorothy
Swanson, Robert
Swatman, Milton or Margaret
Swedlund, Shurald or Nancy

Tammi, Dave
Tennis, Ron or Belinda
Terkildsen, Lavern or Dianne
Thomas, Mary
Thompson, Tom
Thompson, Zane or Debera
Thoresen, Daniel or Geneva
Tisdale Creek Ranch – Jeff G
Tracy, Toni or Michael
Travis, Kelli
Tripp, Edward or Evelyn
Tripson, Liz
Troyer, Bob
Tuel, Roy or Vernita
Turnbow, Cody
Tyler Streff, Connie
Tysdal, Jason or Renae

Udager, Barb
Ulmer, Judy or Clarence Vail, Robin
Vanbrocklin, Darrell
Vantage Cable Assoc Inc
Veren, Roland or Wade
Veren, Wade
Vice, Dave
Vifquain, Jerry or Valeria
Vig, Denise
Vnasdale, Stephen or Jennifer

Vollmer, Ken
Voorhees, Fred
Voorhees, Jim

Wade, Mrs. Roy
Wagner, Linda
Wainwright, James
Walcker Dennis or Gerry
Wall, Tony
Walters, Dave or Sharon
Walters, Robert
Walz, Marlene
Wang, Peggy
Wang, Robert
Ward, Marian
Washburn, Lisa
Watts, Bryan
Webb, Jim R, Jr
Weber, Bruce or Bonita
Wendy's Wendakota
Spearfish
West, Dusty
Western Gas Resources
Westland, Crystal
Westland, Rosemary
Whartman Duane
White, Rhonda
Whitewood Develop Corp
Whitewood Iron – Rudy & Linda
Henning
Whitford, Susie
Wilhm, Jim
Wilkinson, Heather
Williams, Charles or Kathryn
Wilson, Summer
Winter, Brad or Stacey
Woller, Michael
Wulff, Alfred or Ethel

Yeager, Avis
Yoder, Harold or Betty
Young, Glen
Young, Steve or Billie
Yuil, John or Mary

Zebroski, Amy

WINTER OUTDOOR FUN

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

Winter adventure-seekers find wonder in the chilly outdoors

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

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

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

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

mental and emotional balance.

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

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

for eagles and other species of wildlife.

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

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



Fat-tire biking in Spearfish Canyon

8 WINTER WONDERLANDS FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

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

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

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

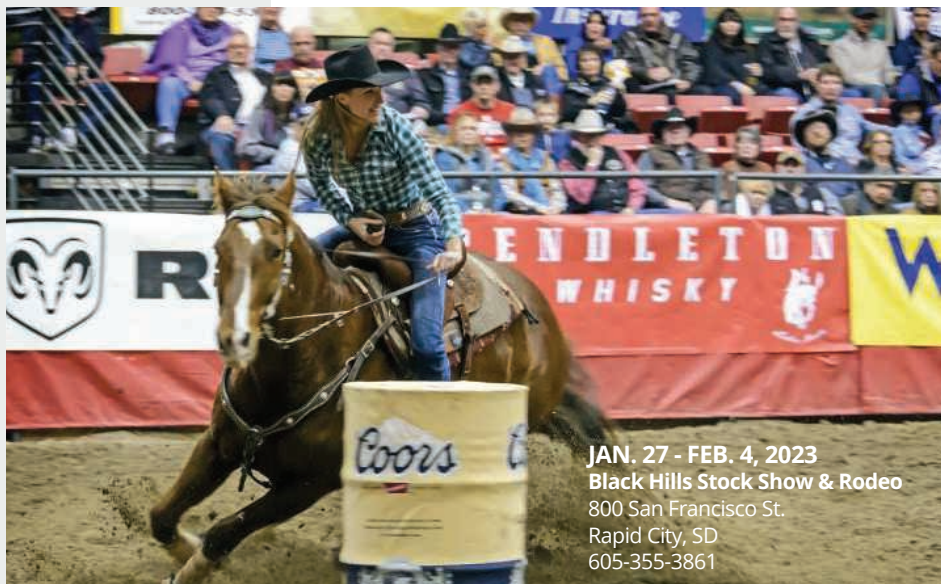


The annual “Nail the Runway” event staged by the Brookings Area HFH is a “fashion show with a twist.”

REGISTER TO WIN!

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

Your Phone Number: _____
Your E-mail Address: _____



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

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

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

JAN. 2
Spearfish High School
Athletic and Fine Arts
Hall of Fame
Inductee applications due
www.spearfish.k12.sd.us
Spearfish, SD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FEB. 3-4
TOOTSIE
Show Dates:
Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 4, 2 p.m.
Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Washington Pavilion
Sioux Falls, SD

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

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

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