

# 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

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you! We are ready to take on 2023, but like many of you, I'm asking myself, where did 2022 go?

First and foremost, I want to Thank ALL our members for your cooperation and involvement in your electric cooperative. We know that you take us for granted when you flip that switch and your lights, heat, motors, pumps and electric equipment come on to do the work you need them to do at your home, farm or business big or small! Your participation in our off-peak programs, bill paying arrangements and a variety of other programs helps us help you keep your electric rates stable and power available when and where you need it. Thank You from your elected Board of Directors and all of your employees at your electric cooperative.



**Brad Schardin**  
General Manager

This month I chose a check list of items to review with you, so here we go:

- 2022 is another record year for your electric cooperative! It appears that we have sold the most electricity we have ever sold in our history, installed the most new services in our history and repaired/upgraded and replaced the most electric lines in our history, with the help of some top-notch employee groups and our contractors.

- 2022 had a mixture of extreme cold, extreme hot, rain, drought, and mild fall weather pattern to finish things out. We anticipate those same extreme conditions again in 2023. We have worked with our Cooperative Power Supply systems, Basin Electric in Bismarck, ND, and East River in Madison, SD, to make sure we have the electric power you need.

- Basin sells its power into a Regional Transmission Organization to deliver throughout the Midwestern U.S. Recent articles have raised questions about electric generation available to meet the coldest periods of winter. We want you to know that your Cooperative Power Supply system has the power needed to meet your needs. Severe storms, equipment failures and a variety of scenarios can impact our electric system, but we work hard to make sure that your electric power is there when you need it. Please give us a call with

any questions you may have.

- 2023 material cost increases, supply chain restrictions/delays, and a host of other service-related items can and will impact our ability to deliver dependable, reliable and affordable power. We don't take things for granted and we are working hard to make sure we have the materials, supplies and resources available to meet your current and growing electrical needs. Please make sure to give us a call early about your expansion plans, new building, or upgrades to your electrical system so that we have the materials and equipment available when you need it.

- Our 2023 budget is tight, and we will be looking at our overall costs and revenue early in 2023. We will be working on a study analyzing our costs, revenue and rates. We are not planning on any major changes at this time, but we are planning ahead to minimize future rate changes if needed.

- Your elected Board of Directors set the 2023 85th Annual Meeting for June 8, 2023 at the Lennox High School Auditorium in Lennox, SD. Again, this year the Director Districts up for election will be in the Sioux Falls, Harrisburg, and Tea areas. Discussions with your Directors included looking at future annual meeting sites to rotate locations to match director elections with member voting opportunities.

- Expansion at the Sioux Falls Office (I-29 & Exit 68) will begin showing some sizeable changes over the next couple of months as Jans Corp. moves into full construction mode. We look forward to an open house and viewing of your expanded facility at our 2023 Member Appreciation/Pancake days.

As we go into the final stages of closing out 2022, we will provide more information on the growth and financial condition of your cooperative, early in 2023. The New Year will bring about a whole new list of opportunities and challenges for us to deal with but by working together and planning for the future we will continue to meet those opportunities and challenges head-on like we have done in the past. Again, thank you so much for your participation in your cooperative! Please go to our website at [southeasternelectric.com](http://southeasternelectric.com) or on our Facebook page to view our Christmas and New Year greetings, blessings, and wishes for you, the member/owners of Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc.!

## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC

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Design assistance by SDREA

# Scholarship opportunities

## WHAT IS THE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

Basin Electric Power Cooperative developed the Scholarship Program; Basin is one of Southeastern Electric's power suppliers. The program is designed to encourage and recognize the academic achievements of the children of rural electric cooperatives. The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college in the fall of the school year of which the scholarship is given. Checks will be made payable jointly to the student and the college, and must be endorsed by both parties. The scholarship will be paid in August.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE SCHOLARSHIP?

Only dependent children of member/consumers of Southeastern Electric Cooperative are eligible. Also eligible are the natural or adopted children of a member/consumer. The applicant must also be a U.S. citizen.

The applicant must be a student who is planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school. Scholarships will be awarded without regard to other awards, loans, or financial assistance the applicant may have obtained. Previous SEC scholarship winners are not eligible.

## HOW ARE THE RECIPIENTS SELECTED?

Awards are based on academic excellence which includes the following criteria: grade point average (with transcript), work experience, participation in school and community activities, a statement by the student explaining his/her educational and career goals, and a written recommendation by a third party.

## WHAT ARE THE RECIPIENT'S OBLIGATIONS?

Except for the requirements outlined in this brochure, no obligations will be imposed upon the student as a scholarship award winner. Other than payment of the scholarship, no obligations or liability are assumed by SEC. **Application deadline is February 3, 2023.**



## Send us your favorite recipes!

We are looking for original or your favorite recipes that are a hit at your house. Each month we hold a drawing from the recipes that are submitted for a \$20 credit on the winner's electric account. Last month's winner was Betty Elts of Spencer, SD. Congratulations, Betty! All recipes submitted will be entered in a yearly drawing for a grand prize at the Annual Membership Meeting held each June.

All recipes we receive are forwarded to SDREA for possible publication in Southeastern Electric Cooperative Connections. Recipes for the February 2023 magazine should be submitted by Jan. 1. You may e-mail your recipes to [brett@southeastern.coop](mailto:brett@southeastern.coop). Upcoming recipe topics are brunch in February and seafood in March.

## 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.

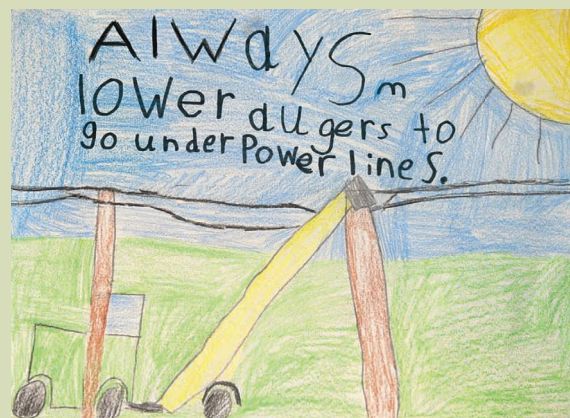


## CO-OP LEADERS SERVE THEIR MEMBERS AND CONSTITUENTS



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.



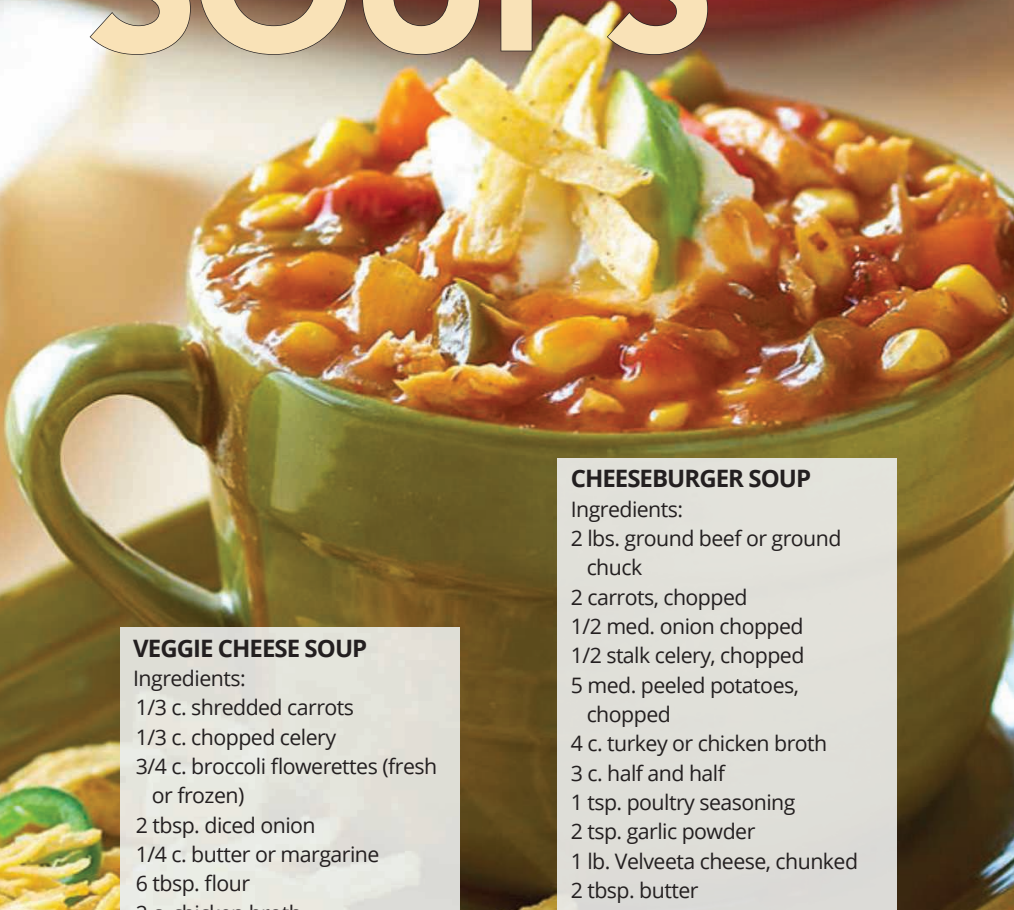
## Be safe around power lines

### 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.**

## F-150 LIGHTNING

Best to the Small Town Dealer



Curt Lukes, owner of Parker Ford (left), hands the keys to SEC's new F-150 Lightning to General Manager Brad Schardin.

## Southeastern Electric receives new Ford F-150 Lightning pickup truck

It seems electric vehicles are all the talk these days, but are they the future for everyday transportation and will they surpass the traditional gas-powered vehicles? How do you answer that question? By getting one yourself, of course.

That's why Southeastern just took delivery of a new Ford F-150 Lightning pickup from Parker Ford. Curt Lukes, owner of Parker Ford in Parker S.D., was excited to help with this new purchase. Parker Ford is a certified Ford dealership with mechanics that are trained to work on the Ford Lightning and other EV Ford vehicles.

"To become a certified dealer, all employees, not just the technicians, must be certified. That includes the parts and sales departments as well. This is a big commitment, but one I feel is worth it as EVs become more and more popular," stated Lukes.

The Ford Lightning is Ford's first all-electric pickup, with claims that the EV pickup is just as good as gas-powered pickups, if not better. Space and performance numbers are impressive. A max of 10,000-pound towing capacity, room for 5 passengers and a torque rating of

775 lb.-ft gives the Ford Lightning an A rating in the pickup division.

Also, despite being the truck of the future, Ford made sure they are built with a high-strength, military-grade aluminum-alloy body and an all-new frame made of the strongest steel in an F-150 pickup. From the outside looking in, the pickup is quite impressive, but is it as good as the advertisements say? And will it be something Southeastern can rely on for the day-to-day tasks that is required of it? That's the million-dollar question.

General Manager Brad Schardin is taking more of a cautious look at how EVs will play a part at Southeastern Electric.

"We want to make sure that EV technology will be practical and beneficial for us and our members. I think as an electric distribution cooperative we have an obligation to test this technology out and see how it will fit in with our industry. What better way to see if it will work for us than to put it to a real test. We will be able to see how it performs in the worst climate conditions to the everyday traveling to and from jobs,"



stated Schardin.

Southeastern isn't the only cooperative in the state that feels this way. Many other cooperatives across the nation have ordered or will be jumping on the EV wagon, so to speak.

"We very much appreciate working with Parker Ford to purchase the Lightning and trust that Curt and his mechanics will help down the road. Knowing that they will be able to service it gives us peace of mind," explained Schardin.

Southeastern is excited and hopeful that EV technology will continue to grow and evolve to be even more beneficial into the future.

## Board summary report for November 2022

The Board of Directors of Southeastern Electric Cooperative met in Marion on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, with all directors present. Also, present were Manager Brad Schardin, Attorney Mike Nadolski and staff members John Euchner, Jon Wunder and Todd Nelson.

Manager Schardin in his report reviewed with the board the following items:

1. Reviewed the safety “sundae” meetings that were held for the employees and details about recent legislative meetings.
2. Updated the board on WAPA hydro-electric renewable energy credits, the 85th St and 1-29 overpass, how things are progressing with East River’s maintenance outpost that will be built on the southeast portion of SEC’s land and meetings about potential large loads.
3. Discussed topics from Basin Electric’s Annual Meeting that included SRS services summary, capital credit retirements, electric bill credits and global macroeconomics.
4. Reviewed the circulation folder and various member-related issues.

CFO Jon Wunder reviewed his written report, including the preliminary financial report, the budget comparison report, RUS loan status update, a review of the preliminary 2023 budget and general plant additions and the status of current FEMA projects.

Operations Manager John Euchner reviewed his written report, which included any close calls, recent safety meetings, outages, and the construction work plan status. He also commented on the number of new services, future large projects

and services and the status of job openings.

Member Services and IT Manager Todd Nelson reviewed his written report, how the electric school bus project is coming along, recent meter tampering incident, the Sioux Falls Sustainability committee meetings and member appreciation days. He also touched on outage reporting, disconnects, bad debt write-offs, cybersecurity and load management issues.

In his legal report, Attorney Nadolski provided updates on recent capital credit matters related to corporate assignments. A motion was duly made by Terveen and seconded by Ostraat to communicate with the member’s attorney that additional information is needed from the member to determine the member’s ownership in the unclaimed capital credits. Motion carried.

The board acted on the following motions:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the management reports as presented. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to hold the 2023 annual meeting in Lennox, South Dakota at the Lennox High School. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept Eide Bailly’s A-133 audit for the calendar year 2022. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept Eide Bailly’s NRECA participant review proposal. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to rescind the prior motion and

resolutions related to the changes in benefits so that the benefits will not be changed for 2023 as it relates to the 401(k)-pension plan and medical premiums. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed revisions to Policy 307-Vacation. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve Board Resolution #2022-08, Approval of 2023 Load Forecast. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to adopt Board Resolution #2022-09, Revenue Deferral related to power bill credits from East River Electric and Basin Electric Co-operatives. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to select Holmberg and Terveen as the SDREA Annual Meeting voting delegate and alternate, respectively and authorize all directors to attend on behalf of the Cooperative. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to set the January board meeting for Thursday, January 19, 2023. Motion carried.

Next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, December 22, 2022, at the Marion office.

## Holiday notice

**Southeastern Electric’s offices will be closed**

**Dec. 26 for Christmas and Jan. 2 for New Year’s Day.**

## 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.

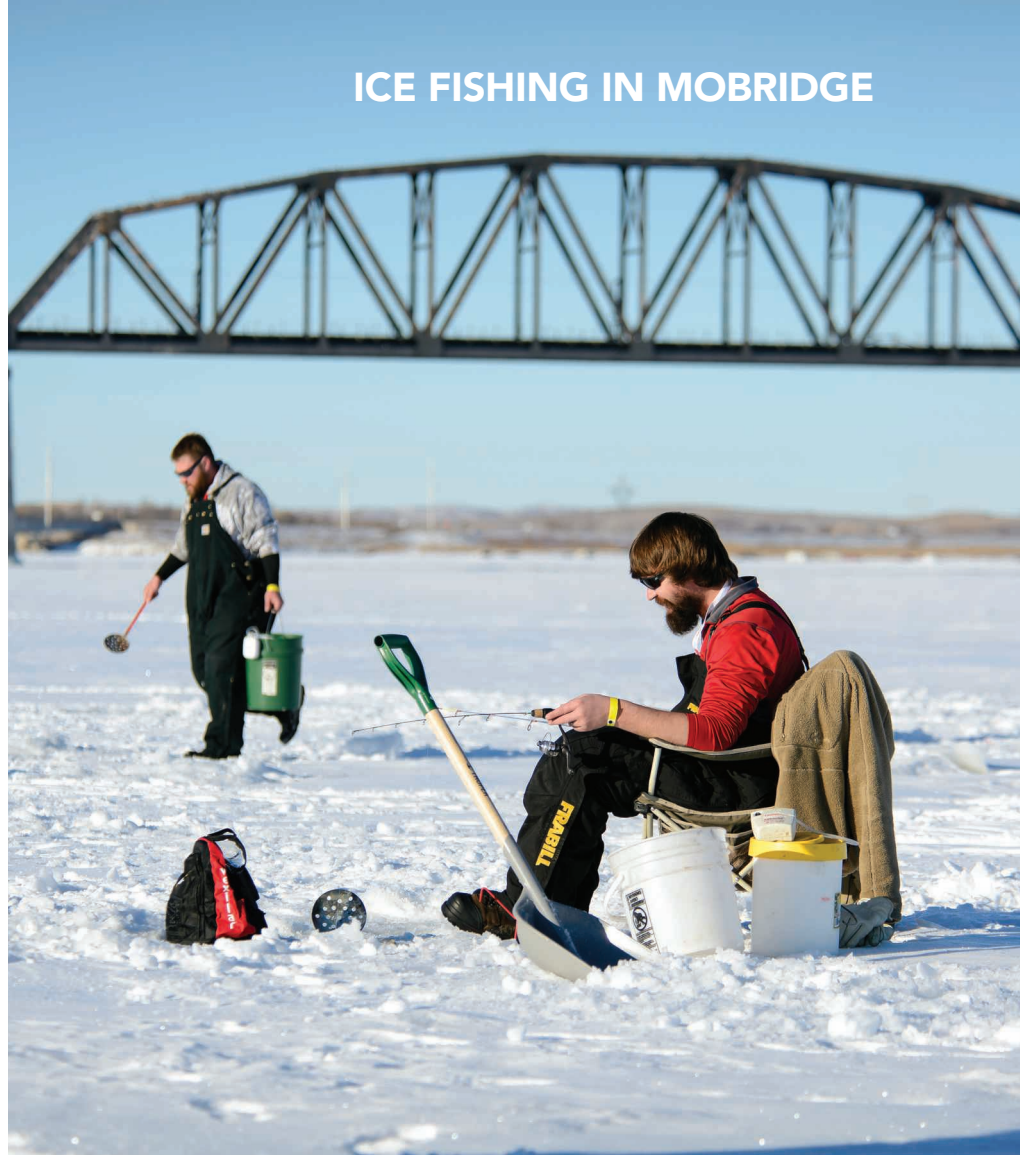
But Dargatz said when it comes to the annual winter escapes to Mobridge with the fellas, the family has to find something else to do. Besides, the town already doubles in size during tournament weekend and if every angler brought hangers-on in tow, Mobridge might expand to the size of Sioux Falls.

### 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."

# Attention high school juniors and seniors

*SEC is taking applications for a free trip to D.C., June 17-23, 2023*

**Who is Eligible:** All high school juniors and seniors whose parent or guardian is a member of Southeastern Electric.

**What does it Cost?** Airfare, hotel and meals are FREE. The only expense to attendees are extras such as snacks, souvenirs and shopping.

**When:** June 17- June 23, 2023.

### HOW DO I ENTER TO WIN?

1. Must be the dependent of a current Southeastern Electric Cooperative member.
2. Must complete and submit the application and a 50-question test on the history of Electric Cooperatives.
3. Application Deadline is March 17, 2023.

4. There will be a random drawing for three (3) eligible applicants after the deadline date.

Go to our website: [www.southeasternelectric.com](http://www.southeasternelectric.com) or contact Brett Snyders at 800-333-2859 or email [brett@southeastern.coop](mailto:brett@southeastern.coop) for more information. Deadline to enter is March 17, 2023.

## Unclaimed capital credits

Capital credit checks for the individuals listed here were returned as undeliverable. If you or someone you know is on this list, please contact SEC at 1-800-333-2859.

AANENSON, GERTRUDE I  
ABATE, SOSSINA L  
ABBOTT, TRACY L  
ABDINASIR, AIDARUS  
ABDUL-MALIK, HAMZAH R  
ACKMAN, NIKOLE L  
AHRENDT, VALORIE J  
ALEXANDRIA, DRAYTON  
ALLEN, JOHN J  
ALMONT, SARAH R  
AMBERG, ALAN L  
AMERICAN CAR WASH INDUST.  
AMICK, KAYLA  
ANDERSON, LINDSAY A  
ANDERSON, LISA M  
ANDERSON, TODD  
ANDRING, KEVIN T  
ANDRIST, GRAHAM J  
ARELLANO, STEVEN  
ARENDS, GLENN B  
ARNESON, SARA  
ARSENEAU, RYAN  
AULNER, KRISTEN S  
AUSEN, WES A  
AUTRY, DEANA L  
AVERY, ROBIN R  
BACHMEIER, ANTHONY  
BAGHERPOUR, DAWN D  
BAHNSON, DEAN T  
BAILEY, JOEL W  
BALSTER, TROY A  
BARMAN, CHAD  
BARNHARDT, RANDY A  
BARNT, CLIFFORD K  
BART, EST OF ANNE  
BARTUNEK, SYDNEY  
BAUMGARTEN, ANJA  
BAUTCH, MATT  
BEASLEY, MISS DANIELLE N  
BECHTOLD, JOSEPH C  
BECKMAN, GREG K  
BEELER JR, GEORGE W  
BELL, CHRISTOPHE G  
BENDA, LAUREN K  
BENDEWALD, JEANNE M

BENNETT, BRANDON  
BENSON, CAITLIN M  
BENSON, NICHOLAS A  
BENTHIN, PAM  
BENZEL, SHANE L  
BERKHOF, HEATHER B  
BERTELSEN, BROOKS L  
BERTSCH, CASSIE D  
BIEBER, SARAH C  
BINFET, WAYNE F  
BLACK, KILEY  
BLADT, DONALD C  
BLUE, NIKKI  
BOGGS, WAYNE G  
BOLSCHILING, COMFORT  
BONG, RICHARD M  
BONNEMA, NANCY  
BORCHARDT, CHRIS J  
BOUMA, CATHERYN A  
BOURDEAUX, DAVID P  
BOUSSARD, HUBERT R  
BRANDENBURG, WAYNE  
BRANNAN, ADRIENNE R  
BRINKER, MARCIA  
BROOKS, DAVID E  
BROWER, KENNY J  
BROWER, RYAN G  
BRS LIVESTOCK LLC  
BRUNA, PATRICIA  
BRUNS, ZANE R  
BUCKLEY, PATRICIA A  
BULTENA, LOREN G  
BURGETT, LYNDSEY K  
BURLAGE, TYLER N  
BURRER, CONNIE S  
BURROW, KRISTI L  
BUSBY, LINDA F  
BUSZKO, NICK  
BUTLER, ADAM K  
BYINGTON, JAMES P  
CALLAGHAN, JOSEPHINE M  
CAMODECA, ALYSSA L  
CAREY, MATTHEW  
CARLSON, RICHARD W  
CARLSON, TRACY M  
CARRICK, JENNIFER M  
CARRIG, VINCENT J  
CARSON, LYMAN D  
CASE, PATRICIA  
CAVANAUGH, SHEILA A  
CAWTHORNE, KELLY L  
CENSKY, ADAM R

CERETTI, JOE P  
CEVIK, LOKMAN  
CHANDLER, MELISSA A  
CHILDRESS, DOUGLAS W  
CHITTENDEN, MAUREEN  
CHOICE BUILDERS  
CHRISTIANSEN, ROBIN L  
CHRISTIANSEN, RUSTY L  
CHRISTOPHERSON, JESSICA  
CLUBHOUSE EXPRESS  
COFFEE DEVELOPMENT  
COFFEE, HEATHER  
COLLIGNON, JAMES  
COLLIN, MACKENZIE M  
COMSTOCK, CASEY L  
CONLAN, AMEDIA E  
CONSECO FINANCE LOAN CO  
COOPER, LACEY  
CORDIER, ERICA C  
COSAND, KELLY M  
COUNTRY APPLE ORCHARD  
COUNTRY PRIDE COOPERATIVE  
CROSS HARVEST MINISTRIES  
CUDMORE, LISA  
CUMMINS, LYNISE S  
DANIELSEN, TINA M  
DAVAR, BURZIN  
DAVIDS HYDRO VAC, INC  
DAVIS, ANTHONY  
DAVIS, JOHN B  
DAY, CHRIS  
DAYS INN SOUTH OF SX FAL  
DECKER, CORNELIUS  
DECKER, CORNELIUS C  
DECKER, KERINA  
DEDE, VICTORIA L  
DEGROOT, ERIC  
DEGROOT, JONATHAN E  
DEHAAN, CHRISTOPHER L  
DEHN, JIM  
DEJONG, JAMES D  
DEJONG, MADISON  
DEJONG, MARTIN C  
DEKNIKKER, DEBRA K  
DEKNIKKER, RACHEL  
DELGEHAUSEN, JASON  
DENEUI, BRIAN H  
DENTON-PERRY, ARYBELLA  
DERUYTER, JON A  
DESLAURIERS, BRIAN  
DETHLEUSAY, SANYA  
DEVRIES, ROBERT R

DEWEEES, DOUGLAS G  
DEZEE, SONRA R  
DIAZ, ERICKA  
DITTO, SARA R  
DODD, LYNN L  
DOEDEN, NICOLE  
DOHERTY, JENNIFER L  
DOLD, BENJAMIN E  
DOLGE, TYLER J  
DOOM, ALYSSA J  
DORNBUSCH, DUSTIN J  
DOVER, KARRI K  
DUIN, JODI F  
DUNN, CHETT  
DUNN, LAURIE  
DUTCHER, DION R  
DYCE, MARLEE  
EASTMAN, BRIAN J  
EBELING, DOUGLAS D  
EDWARDS, CHARLES J  
EDWARDS, CHRISTA  
EHRESMANN, VIOLET  
EICH, MARY L  
EICHMAN, MALORY M  
ELBERS, MADISON  
ELGERSMA, KIMBERLY R  
ENGELSTAD, ESMERALDA  
ENRIGHT, ALYSON  
ERICKSON, JEROME A  
ERICKSON, SIERRA  
ERIKSON, LESLIE  
EVANS, MS KAY ANN  
EVANS, SACHIKO  
EVERS, BRIAN  
FABER, JAMES  
FAHLEEN-SCHWEER, KESHA  
FAIRCHILD, VERONICA J  
FARES, MOHAMED  
FARLEY, DEAN  
FARLEY, DEAN  
FARRELL, MEGAN  
FEAUTO AUCTION  
FEIGE, DUDLEY J  
FEIKEMA, CHRISTOPHER L  
FELDMAN, EFRAT  
FERWERDA, HARLAN D  
FEYEREISEN, JOE  
FISCHER, COREY D  
FITZER, CHRIS D  
FLEEK, JULIE  
FLOYD, JOE H  
FOLEY, PATRICIA S

# Unclaimed capital credits, *continued*

FONDER, KATIE	HELDT, TERESA M	KAPPMAYER, ELLEN K	LYVER, PAUL
FORMEY, ALEX J	HENDRICKS, BECKY M	KARST, KAYLEA E	MACHINE COATINGS LLC
FRANKMAN, JAMES W	HENDRIX, COLTER A	KASS, MARK	MACKINTOSH, NANCY
FRAULY, JOSLYN R	HENDRY, BRITTNEY	KASTEN, GLENN	MALIMANEK, AMY J
FREDERICK, PATRICK D	HENNINGS, OWEN	KASTUR, SABRINA L	MALONE, DEREK D
FREEDOM REALTY	HENSLEY, WILLIAM J	KELDERMAN, CAROL	MANS, DAVID M
FRIEMUTH, DAN	HERMAN, BRANDI N	KELSEY, SANDY A	MARLIN'S FAMILY RESTAURANT
FRIESEN, MEGAN M	HERN, ADAM G	KETCHAM, SARA L	MAROON, CRAIG M
FRIESEN, RICHARD	HERRON, ANGELA	KETTERER, JACOB M	MAROTZ, KRISTYN R
FROLEK, BO	HERTEL, HARLAN J	KIELMAN, TYLER	MARTIN, KATHERINE A
FUERST, VERLYN	HEYER, RAYMOND J	KINCAID, DANIEL E	MARTIN, TONY L
FULLER, KAYLA	HEYER, SUSAN K	KINDVALL, JOE	MARTINEZ, ANNA
FULLER, NATHAN	HIBMA, STEPHANIE	KINGERY, SABRINA R	MARTINEZ, RUDY
GADDIS, LARRY	HIGH TECH AUTO BODY	KIRKUS, ALICIA A	MASSA, GLADYS J
GAIKOWSKI, AMANDA R	HIGHLAND, LACI L	KITTELSON, RONALD D	MATOS, JUAN A
GAMER, DILLON	HILL, JAMES T	KLEIN, KEVIN P	MAUSETH, KEITH R
GARRABRANT, ANGELA	HILSABECK, KYLE G	KLEINSASSER, COREY	MAYS, TRISHA M
GARRED, JOHN	HINTZ, CHRISTOPHER E	KLEINSCHMIT, MATTHEW J	MCCAHREN, JULIE
GASTECKI, RYAN M	HIPPLE, KIM	KLOCK, MARIAN J	MCCLAFLIN, TYLER L
GIBBINS, KENDRA M	HJERMSTAD, STACY R	KNEIFEL, ALICIA M	MCCLELLAN, LINSAY M
GIETZEN, JILL M	HODGDON, ROBERT	KNEIP, BRENDA J	MCCOY, BURD G
GILARDI, JENNIFER E	HOFER, BRADLEY C	KNOCK, RODNEY	MCDERMAID, ADAM
GILLESPIE, GAIL	HOFF, LEONE	KNUDSON, STEVE	MCDONALD, TIM J
GILMORE, JILL M	HOGAN, SANDRA K	KNUDTSON, CAROL R	MCDONNELL, RONNIE
GLEN FAY LLC	HOGREFE, EST OF HAROLD E	KOCH, DEBRA L	MCELVAIN, JEFFREY A
GOFF, RANDY L	HOLLENBECK, JED E	KOCKX, JUSTIN L	MCFALL, BECKY L
GOLD DIRECTORIES INC	HOLM, LORRAINE M	KOELLING, WHITNEY	MCGEE, MOLLY A
GOODALE, DANA M	HOLMQUIST, EREK A	KOHL, PAYTON	MCINERNEY, JOHN
GORRELL, DENISE	HOLTZ, HARLAN R	KOKENGE, MIKE D	MCKENZIE, LINDSEY M
GRAHAM, WAYNE J	HOMAN, BETSY A	KOLBA, JOSEPH C	MCLAUGHLIN, DAVID A
GRAVE, TROY G	HOMEEQ SERVICING	KOLDEN, PETER L	MCNAMARA, MICHELLE E
GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC	HOUTSMA, CHAD M	KONECHNE, WADE A	MEEKS, DIXIE L
GREEN, GREGORY A	HOWARD, HADLEY	KONKEN, HEATHER M	MEIER, VICKY L
GREEN, RACHELLE L	HUBERS, BROCKTON W	KOOIKER, BRADLEY L	MELBYE, KRISTIN L
GREENO, KENNETH	HUETHER, TERRY L	KOOIKER, VERNON G	MELNYK, TETIANA
GRIFE, JIMMY B	HUITINK, KEVIN G	KOPISCHKE, KYLE D	MELTON, PETER C
GRINMAN, MILANA	HUITT, MICHAEL A	KOPPLOW, BRENDON R	MELTON, RANDI
GRISMER, CHARLES	HULING, RANDY W	KRAAI, JILL M	MERIOSE, SADIE
GROTH, TERESA M	HUNNEWELL, ADAM	KRANZ, MIKE J	MERRITT, MARY M
GUDE, RYAN J	HUNTLEY, JAMES J	KROGER, WENDY L	MERWIN, ZACH
GUESS, STEVEN D	HUP, JANA L	KRUETZFELDT, RALYN D	MESSERLI, BRAD
GUNNINK, AMANDA	HUSTRULID, JENNY L	KRUGER, DEAN	MEULEBROECK, PAUL S
HAAR, ALICIA A	IDALOU CARE 2 LLC	KRUMBACH, CARTER	MEYER, CHRISTOPHER C
HAARSMA, GLORIA J	INMAN, CODY	KUCERA, JOANNE M	MID-STATES ASBESTOS REMOVAL
HAASE, DIANE M	IRISH PUB AND FAMILY DINING	KUHLMAN, JEFFREY D	MIEDEMA, PHILIP
HABER, CHAD D	IVERSON, ROGER N	KUMLIEN, DYAN M	MILES, KRISTI L
HACKETT, KATHY L	J & S CABLE	KUMMER, LYLE	MILLER, JASON A
HAGEMANN, MARTIN E	JACKSON, TREVOR E	KUNZMANN, DAWN	MILLER, MCKENZIE
HAKEN, KRISTIN N	JANISH, BRITTANY	KVIDERA, STAN E	MINOR, DAVID O
HALL, TIFFANY M	JANOUSEK, KASSI A	KW SIOUX FALLS	MITZEL, ROBERTA T
HALVORSON, DENNIS R	JASMER, RENEE H	KWIK KERB	MOERMAN, DAVID
HAMLING, KAYLEE	JAVERS, TERRY G	LAFRENZ, TANA R	MOFFITT, WILLIAM S
HAMMERS, JASON	JENSEN, CHANTEL	LAMMI, KIRK A	MOLER, EVELYN
HAMMERS, KIMBERLY K	JENSEN, JOYCE A	LANE, KURTIS G	MOLLER, LEAH J
HANISCH, DENISE	JENSON, THOMAS C	LANG CONTRACTING INC	MOLSEED, MEREDITH
HANSELMAN, STACIE L	JERVIK, LEO	LANGLAND, NICHOLAS G	MONAHAN, ANDREW M
HANSEN, MICHAEL	JESSUP, TAYLOR	LARSEN, BRIAN C	MOOTHART, KARLA
HANSON, OLAF AND BEATRICE	JOHANNSEN, JUSTIN T	LARSEN, MARIAM	MORALES, KAREN M
HARALDSON, COMET H	JOHNS, VICKI L	LARSON, AUSTIN M	MORGAN, MARK W
HARDEN, ELI	JOHNSON PLUT, GLORIA A	LARSON, GEORIGA A	MORK, WENDY S
HARDIE, TRAVIS V	JOHNSON, ALEXANDRIA A	LAUCK, TIM	MORRIS, PHILLIS J
HARMER, REBECCA D	JOHNSON, ANDY E	LAUGHLIN, NANCY K	MORRIS, TABELA
HARRINGTON, KATHRYN L	JOHNSON, CHRIS J	LEISCHNER, MICHAEL	MOUW, DAVID
HARTMAN, ALEX	JOHNSON, DON L	LENNING, TAYLOR J	MUCHOW, SHAWN
HARVEY, ZACH	JOHNSON, ELAINE A	LEUTH, PAMELA	MULDER, TIM J
HASENMUELLER, EST OF STEVEN T	JOHNSON, GERALD	LINDAHL, AMBER	MULLER, ARDELL
HASTAD, PATRICIA K	JOHNSON, MARISSA E	LINDBERG, MARCELLA	MURPHY, KELSEY
HAUGEN, OBED	JOHNSON, MONICA M	LITTLE, ROCHELLE M	MURRAY, TRICIA L
HAUGO, ALISON E	JOHNSON, ORVILLE E	LOFF, THOMAS R	NAATJES, ANTHONY D
HAVARD, STEVE	JOHNSON, ROBERT C	LONG, JORDAN	NAATJES, DOROTHY A
HAYES, JAMES T	JOHNSON, SARAH G	LOWRIE, AMBER L	NALKIN, ELEONORA
HEDEEN, GLENN D	JOHNSON, TIFFANY M	LUCENA, EIRIS	NANNEN, ALEX L
HEEZEN, CRAIG	JOHNSON, TRICIA C	LUDENS, MARY E	NAVARRETTE, ERIC
HEIMBIGNER, CONRAD C	JONES, CORY	LUKE, CAROL A	NELSON, KEITH
HEINE, MEGAN A	JUDD, BETH R	LUNDBERG BROTHERS	NELSON, KENNETH AND MIRNA
HEITER, LYNN R	JUFFER, PEGGY A	LYNDE, SARAH M	<i>(Continued next page)</i>



# WINTER OUTDOOR FUN

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

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

**Billy Gibson**

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

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

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

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

mental and emotional balance.

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

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

for eagles and other species of wildlife.

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

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



Fat-tire biking in Spearfish Canyon

## 8 WINTER WONDERLANDS FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Unclaimed capital credits, *continued*

NELSON, JOSHUA  
 NELSON, MICHELLE  
 NELSON, NENA P  
 NELSON, RYAN  
 NESS, SARA J  
 NEUHARTH, TROY C  
 NEWMAN, THOMAS J  
 NGUYEN, MARIA  
 NGUYEN, VIVIAN  
 NIELSEN, JADE  
 NIELSEN, JORGEN B  
 NIELSEN, LARRY N  
 NIEWOHNER, ANDREW  
 NIGHTINGDALE, ZANE B  
 NOTEBOOM, CLAY T  
 NURI, RAHEMA H  
 NYAMBARIGA, RHONDA R  
 O'DEA, DONNA M  
 OFF PROPERTIES LLC  
 OHLROGGE, BRIAN J  
 OINES, MILDRED E  
 OLIVER, DOUG L  
 OLSEN, KEVIN M  
 OLSON, BARB  
 OLSON, TIM  
 OLTHOFF, JACKIE L  
 O'NEAL, STEPHANIE J  
 ORTMAN, HARVEY  
 OSTERMAN, NICOLE R  
 OVERWEG, CIERRA  
 PALMER, DANIEL J  
 PAUL, JEFFREY L  
 PEARSON, DARYL  
 PECK, JOSHUA D  
 PEDERSON, TIM  
 PEKAS, ANGELA M  
 PELTIER, JEREMY M  
 PENNING, MATTHEW A  
 PEPPER, THOMAS T  
 PERKINS, TANIA  
 PETERSEN, PEGGY  
 PETERSON JR, MILTON L  
 PETERSON, ALLEN  
 PETERSON, CINDY A  
 PETRIE, SHAWN L  
 PFEIFER, JUSTIN  
 PFEIFER, TOM J  
 PFEIFFER, DAVID  
 PFEIFLE, BRAD K  
 PHARIS, KIP H  
 PHILLIPS, GREG  
 PHILLIPS, PATRICK J  
 PHROMMANY, SONE K  
 PICCHIETTI, DEBORAH K  
 PICKERING, JAMES W  
 PIRLET, TIM P  
 PISTOL ENTERPRIZE  
 PITTENGER, DOLORES J  
 PITTS, HEATHER J  
 PLATNUM PROPERTY MGMT.  
 PLISKA, CARA L  
 PRICE, ADAM L  
 PRINCE IV, JOHN S  
 PROCHASKA, BILL D  
 PRUETT, ZECHARIAH Z  
 QUICK, ERIC L  
 QUISSSELL, JON D  
 RADEMACHER, VANESSA  
 RADICHEV, ILIAN  
 RANDHAWA, SAMARDEEP K  
 RANTALA, JASON D  
 RAU, LARK L  
 RAYBURN, RICHARD  
 RAYMAN, JACOB C  
 REDING, ROSE  
 REED, CHRISSEY

REEVES, MEGAN M  
 REILLY, JOHN  
 REINERT, C B  
 REINKING, ANDREW S  
 RETTERATH, CHARLOTTE  
 REUER, RITA F  
 REVIER, TODD  
 REYNOLDS, MICHAEL W  
 RICHARDS, KASEY M  
 RICHARDSON, JANET A  
 RICK, KEATH W  
 RIDGE, BRITNI  
 RIES, STACIE L  
 RIGGS, MEGHAN L  
 RINKEN, BEN A  
 RIST, DON  
 RITESMAN, TOBIAS W  
 RK CONTRACTOR SERVICES LLC  
 ROBERT JAMES LLC  
 ROBERTS, GREG A  
 ROBINSON, DANIEL J  
 ROBINSON, GARY M  
 ROCHE, SONIA  
 RODRIQUEZ, MONA  
 ROGERS, KAYLA J  
 ROGNESS, NATHAN J  
 ROMANOV, GENNADIY  
 ROSENBAUM, DAVID S  
 ROUNDS, ANNE N  
 ROUVIERE, MICHAEL E  
 RUNGE, RICO  
 SALADA, KELLY  
 SAMPSON, LONDON S  
 SANDBULTE, MACHELLE R  
 SANFORD, DELORES M  
 SAUERS, CODY  
 SCHAEFER, CONSTANCE  
 SCHATZ, BEVERLY M  
 SCHEIER, JOSEPH M  
 SCHELSKE, CAROL J  
 SCHENK, NATALIE  
 SCHERSCHLIGT, STEVE J  
 SCHLECHTER, DARREN L  
 SCHMID, SUSAN J  
 SCHMIT, LISA R  
 SCHOMBERG, JOHN P  
 SCHOTT, BRAD E  
 SCHRADER, ROGER I  
 SCHROEDER, JAMIE  
 SCHUELER, AMBER M  
 SCHUER, LESLIE  
 SCHULTE, CALVIN L  
 SCHULTZ, MAYNARD  
 SCHUMACHER, MELISSA M  
 SCHUMACHER, TIM W  
 SCHWARTZ, CARLA D  
 SELLS, JOYCE C  
 SERBUS, SHELBY  
 SETERUS INC  
 SHAFFER, ANGELA A  
 SHAFFER, DANIEL W  
 SHEFFIELD, ROXANNE L  
 SHERAD, KINSEY E  
 SHERIDAN, CHRISTINE A  
 SHUMATE, CORA  
 SIMS, CLIFFORD H  
 SINCLAIR, KARLA N  
 SINGSAAS, DAVID  
 SKALLAND, JEFF  
 SKOTS, BENJAMIN I  
 SMAJLOVIC, MUHAMED  
 SMITH, ANGELA F  
 SMITH, JUSTIN  
 SMITH, MICHELLE K  
 SMITH, MURRAY T  
 SMITH, RONALD J

SMYTHE PAINTING  
 SNYDERS, MR. BRAD  
 SNYDERS, NICK  
 SOLORZANO, DANIEL G  
 SOMA, DAVID R  
 SONNE, CONNIE R  
 SORLIEN, CHRISTIAN E  
 SOUTHWEST AUTO OUTLET  
 SPARGUR, ASHLEY J  
 SPICER, BRENDA  
 SPURLOCK, REBECCA  
 STAHL, PHILLIP  
 STANDISH, BRIAN R  
 STARZ, TERRY T  
 STAUFFER, JACQUE K  
 STAVENGER, RACHEL M  
 STEELE, CAROL L  
 STELLINGA, RANDY  
 STENSGAARD, JESSICA L  
 STERN, NATASHA  
 STEUERWALD, RYAN P  
 STEVENSON, SARA E  
 STEWART, LEO E  
 STILES, DAVID  
 STILES, JASON  
 STOCKBERGER, ADAM  
 STOCKINGER, KIMBERLY A  
 STOLTENBURG JR, ROBERT  
 STOREY, MARY A  
 STORM, BRAD D  
 STRACHAN, KRISTI K  
 STRAND, DAVID A  
 STRASBURG, BAILEY S  
 STRATMAN, NEAL R  
 STREHLOW, DARCI  
 STROBEL, ELIZABETH M  
 STRONG, JUSTIN L  
 STRONG, MICHAEL  
 STUNDAHL, VERN J  
 STYLES, KRISTEN L  
 SUCHANEK, JARED D  
 SULLIVAN, KIMBERLY J  
 SUMMIT DISTRIBUTING  
 SYSA, NATALYA M  
 TALAMANTES, MARIO E  
 TANGLEWOOD ENTERPRISES  
 TARRELL, CAROL A  
 TETZLAFF, ANDY J  
 THE CRAB HOUSE  
 THE ROCK BAR & GRILL  
 THOMAS, MARILYN G  
 THOMAS, TIM  
 THOMPSON, MERLYN  
 THORESON, KRIS N  
 THORNE, ANDREW  
 THORPE, ABBIE A  
 THORSON, ROY A  
 TIFF, NIKKI  
 TIFFANY, JUSTIN M  
 TIRREL, SARA D  
 TJARKS, LINDSAY A  
 TODY, JOHNETT L  
 TOPLE, ANDREW R  
 TORMANEN, SHAVIN  
 TRAN, NANCY  
 TROOEN, ROGER W  
 UEHRAN, RICK E  
 ULZJISAUKHAN, BAYASGALEN  
 UNRUH, ELDA  
 VALENCIA, CHRISTOPHER A  
 VALENTINE, SARAH A  
 VAN LAECKEN, ALEXA  
 VANBEEK, MITCHELL D  
 VANDEEST, BEN AND DEE  
 VANDENHUL, JAKE A  
 VANDER KOOY, KRISTOPHER

VANDERBUSH, RYAN  
 VANDERMARK, JESSICA M  
 VANDEVEGTE, JASON L  
 VANHOLLAND, MELISSA A  
 VANLIERE, JOYCE  
 VANORSDALE, JASON  
 VANSKOYKM, MARSHALL L  
 VARILEK, LARR D  
 VAUPEL, KARA N  
 VELPURI, NAGA M  
 VENEVAS, RION  
 VETTER, SYDNEY  
 VILLA, JANE  
 VINZ, DUANE L  
 VINZ, JUDY K  
 VIRGIL, KAREN K  
 WAGERS, JESSE  
 WAGNER, KASEY L  
 WALDNER, AMOS S  
 WALKER, DAWN M  
 WALLENSTEIN, JEREMY G  
 WALLENSTEIN, STEPHANIE A  
 WALSH, MATT  
 WALTERS, TAYLOR  
 WARD, KENDALL J  
 WARD, LINDA M  
 WARMKA, MISS MCKAYLA  
 WARNER, KELLY J  
 WARNER, MICHAEL W  
 WARNER, TRICIA K  
 WEBER, TIM  
 WEGNER, AMANDA  
 WEHRS, KIRSTEN E  
 WEIDAUER, RYAN  
 WEINMEISTER, ROBERT  
 WEISBRICH, GARY C  
 WEISS, FRANK A  
 WEBIG, MIRANDA  
 WELCH, TIMOTHY J  
 WELLER JR, ROBERT  
 WELTER JR, MARTIN  
 WELTER, VERONA  
 WERNER, BRIAN D  
 WERNER, MICHAEL W  
 WHEELESS, LOIS  
 WHITE, KATRINA A  
 WHITE, WARREN  
 WICK, SCOTT D  
 WIEMAN, JEFF S  
 WIEMAN, SHIRLEY  
 WIESE, NATHANIEL S  
 WIETGREFE, RICHARD L  
 WIKSEN, JOHN A  
 WILDEBOER, HARM  
 WILLEMSSEN, HEATHER A  
 WILSON, TARA  
 WINKLEPLECK, HAYLEY A  
 WINTERFELD, MARCUS  
 WITHERS, DEIDRA R  
 WOELBER-NIELSEN, AMANDA  
 WOL, SAEEDA  
 WOLFE, TED J  
 WOLLMAN, BRENDA  
 WONG, FRASER C  
 WORDEN, JACOB  
 WORLD TURNER, KANDY  
 WOSJE, JAMES R  
 WRAPABILITY  
 WUERTZ, TYLER  
 WULF, WYATT  
 WURTZ, GARY L  
 YATES, PAULA  
 ZANDT, KURT J  
 ZENS, JAMIE L  
 ZIMMERMAN, LINDY  
 ZWART, STEVEN M

# The Clauses share stories of Christmas seasons past

**Billy Gibson**

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

If you want to be a big-time Santa, it's all about the beard.

These days, there's no place in the department store Santa scene for spurious scruff. Don't even try faking it. The kids can spot a fraud from halfway across the food court.

Sporting a convincing set of whiskers is how Curt Winquist scored a serious prime-time Santa gig more than 10 years ago.

He always dressed up as Santa Claus each Christmas to entertain local kids using the same homemade suit that his dad donned before him. But as it often happens with middle aged men and their suits, this one started shrinking and getting appreciably tighter...especially around the mid-section.

So, Winquist found himself shopping for a new suit at a costume store in Sioux Falls when he was approached by a stranger who just so happened to be connected with a photography company. She took one look at the humble farmer from Alcester and told him he was about to join the top ranks as a "professional department store Santa."

"I told her I only knew how to farm and milk cows," Winquist recalled. "She put my name on the standby list and later I got a call. They said a Santa at a mall in Connecticut had a heart attack and died and they needed someone right away. I didn't even have time to get ready. It was on-the-job training."

He soon found himself being flown to the Brass Mill Center located in Waterbury, CT. For the next 38 days, he played Santa for upwards of 14,000 kids, some of whom only met with failure when they tried to yank off his beard.

Winquist spent the next six years traveling



Carla and Curt Winquist of Alcester enjoy entertaining hundreds of children each holiday season.

to Waterbury each Christmas season. The company he worked for put him up in the local Hilton and provided a security team each morning as he made his way to breakfast in the hotel restaurant and then off to the mall. It was strongly suggested that he not leave the hotel for any other reason lest he be spotted by mall patrons and his identity revealed.

Even his wife, Carla, got in on the act and served as Mrs. Claus for several seasons. The Connecticut gig ended in 2017, and these days the two are seen at smaller and more private venues such as day care centers, nursing homes, birthday parties and schools.

Along the way, the Winquists discovered that portraying Santa and Mrs. Claus doesn't always come with lots of laughter and bellies that shake like jelly.

Especially in December of 2012. That's the year, just three weeks before Christmas, that 26 people were shot and killed at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, CT. The massacre occurred just 20 miles from the mall where Winquist worked each season.

Winquist found himself having to take the service elevator and exit through the back door to evade kids in the hotel lobby.

"There were families of the victims who

were staying at the hotel and they were upset and crying and we didn't want the kids to see Santa walking through the lobby in that situation when they were heading out to funerals," he said. "It was just horrible because there was such grief, but then there were people who had no connection to the killings and they just wanted things to be normal. I had to switch my mind on and off. You just want to make the kids and the families feel better."

Winquist is a member of Union County Electric while his son, Casey, is a lineman at Southeastern Electric working out of the Lennox office.

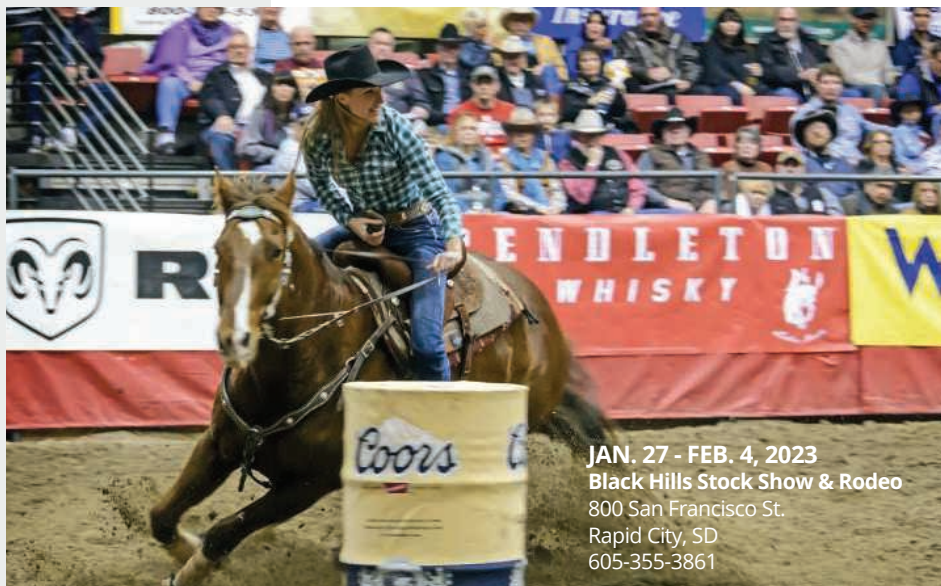
The Winquists have reams of stories to tell from the past as they continue their roles as the Claus couple from the North Pole. In fact, they've written a book about their experiences entitled "Santa's Christmas Diary," which is available on Amazon.

"It has been a big thrill for us. We work pretty well together as a team," Curt said. "She does a good job of calming kids down when they get nervous about sitting on Santa's lap, or if the lines get long and the kids start getting antsy. I love Mrs. Claus!"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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