

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



South Dakota Art

**Trashyard
Treasures**

Pages 8-9

**The Story of
Dude Dad**

Pages 12-13

Annual meeting & new construction planning



Brad Schardin
General Manager

Southeastern's edition of the *Cooperative Connections* newsletter is written about 30 days in advance of publication. The newsletter consists of sixteen pages and Southeastern utilizes eight local pages to cover the information we want/need you to know about your electric cooperative, and the other eight pages are common material circulated to all electric cooperative members throughout South Dakota. The cover of

this month's newsletter states it is the March 2023 edition, but in all reality, you will be receiving it right around the week of Valentine's Day. With that scheduling in mind, I am reminded of the sticker on my mirror at home that I look at each day stating, "I LOVE MY COOP!" Looking at that, provides me with a reminder of the opportunity to work with and for you, the members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative, each day! The challenge of providing you with reliable, dependable, and affordable electricity is something that we take very seriously from your elected board of directors, myself as your general manager and our entire employee group.

2023 is already off and running as we finalize the books for 2022 and schedule in another yearly audit of your electric cooperative's financial statements. 2022 will go down as a record year on all fronts and we look forward to sharing more details on the financial and operational condition of your electric cooperative with our mailed out annual report and also at our annual meeting scheduled for Thursday June 8, 2023, at the Lennox High School Auditorium in Lennox, South Dakota.

In addition to sharing more information on the operations, finances and member service activities of your cooperative for 2022 at our annual meeting, you will have the opportunity to vote for three directors of your choice to represent you on your nine (9) member elected board of directors. Please take some time to review the information on pages 10 and 11 for the notice of the three (3) Director Districts up for election this year: District #1 (western Sioux Falls area), District #4 (west Tea area) and the open Director District #7 (east Tea and Sioux Falls area). Petitions are available and must be circulated for member signatures that will be counted, verified, notarized for validation and are due on or before 3 p.m. (CST) Friday, April 21, 2023. Completed petitions need to be verified at our Alcester, Marion, or Sioux Falls Office locations during regular office hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding major holidays). Please stop by our offices, give us a

call, or visit our website at southeasternelectric.com for more information on being a director of your electric cooperative. If you call, please ask our Member Services Representative to visit with a Management Staff person about your director eligibility requirements. Thanks in advance for your interest and participation in your electric cooperative!



Progress is happening at our Sioux Falls office expansion.

Progress is slow with our Sioux Falls Office expansion project. We had hoped that this project would have been substantially completed by this time but the lack of raw materials such as the precast walls and steel structures couldn't be shipped until late December 2022 and early February of 2023. Those delays have caused a delay of the overall construction process. Our hopes are that construction will be in full swing this month on this 15,000 square foot addition to our existing facilities south of Sioux Falls along I-29 just east at exit #68. In addition to our office expansion we have started planning for expansion to our pole yard and additional warehouse capacity due to the extended shipping times and delays we have for our construction materials. We continue to see situations where delivery of materials and equipment are anywhere from six months to two years out which makes planning from our perspective very difficult to determine and predict. Please let us know as soon as possible of your plans to build or expand your home, farm, or business so that we can have the materials we need to get you up and running with your new or expanded project.

Thanks for checking in on the activities of your electric cooperative again this month and Happy Valentine's Day to each of our Member/Owners!



Pre-formed walls are being set-in-place and hope to have all the walls set in a couple of weeks

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS****SOUTHEASTERN
ELECTRIC**

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Notice to members: Annual maintenance underway

As part of our on-going maintenance program each year we try to inspect all of our overhead lines and underground cabinets for problems that could cause an outage or could pose a dangerous situation. During this time of inspection we will also be stopping at each account to inspect our equipment in your yard, so if you see a Southeastern truck/ vehicle in your driveway you will know why we are there. We want our members to be aware of this so you know what is going on and that this is only an inspection of our equipment, so to better serve you our member/owners.



As always we appreciate your cooperation. Please feel free to contact us if you have concerns or questions at 1-800-333-2859.

Title VI Statement of Non-discrimination

Title VI Statement of Non-discrimination In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Spring Planting Safety

Farming equipment has become more massive and technologically advanced over time. While these welcome improvements help farmers cover more ground in less time, taller equipment and longer extensions can bring added challenges around power lines.

As farmers prepare to enter the fields for planting, we urge everyone working in the agricultural field to be alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines, poles and other electrical equipment.



Follow the 10-foot distance rule

To stay safe around overhead power lines, follow safe work practices at all times to help prevent serious and even deadly accidents. Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a minimum 10-foot clearance from power lines.

This 10-foot rule applies not only to the area underneath the power line, but to the full 360 degrees around it. Not only can electricity change paths if direct contact is made, it can also happen when someone or something gets too close to a power line, and the current jumps, also known as arcing.

Other precautions

In addition to the 10-foot rule, take these steps to help decrease the chances of an electrical-related incident:

- If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line, do not get out of the cab because you could be electrocuted. Instead, stay where you are and call 9-1-1 to dispatch the appropriate utility to deenergize the power.
- If it is not safe to stay in the cab due to fire or smoke, make

a solid, clean jump with both feet landing at the same time. Hop away with feet together as far as you can.

- If you come across an accident or incident near a downed power line, alert individuals (from at least 50 feet away) to stay in the cab or vehicle as long as there is no imminent danger. Call 9-1-1 and do not approach the scene.
- Have a daily meeting with staff to go over possible hazards. Map out and review routes where equipment will be moved and ensure it will clear power lines.
- Teach anyone working with or for you (including family members and seasonal employees) about power line awareness and proper clearance distance.
- When working around power lines, always use a spotter, who has a broader vantage point than the person in the cab.
- Visually inspect overhead lines, which may not meet height codes due to age or pole damage. If a wire is hanging low, never try to move it; instead, contact your electric utility for assistance.
- Lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.



Take care when plugging in appliances

Stella Nilson

Stella Nilson gives good advice on circuit safety. Overloading circuits is a major cause of residential fires, and she warns people to take care when plugging in appliances. Stella is the daughter of Kyle and Alision Nilson, members of Moreau-Grand Electric based in Timber Lake.

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.

SEAFOOD SPECIALTY

SEAFOOD PARTY DIP

Ingredients:

1 pkg. mock crab sticks
 1 pkg. mock crab pieces
 1 pkg. mock lobster
 1 pkg. salad shrimp
 1 can water chestnuts
 1 medium onion (optional)
 1 c. real mayonnaise
 2 pkg. Philly cream cheese
 Dried parsley, garlic powder, salt, and pepper to taste

METHOD

Grind crab, lobster, shrimp, and water chestnuts. Chop onion. Using a mixer, blend mayo and cream cheese until smooth. Add parsley, garlic powder, salt, and pepper to taste. Combine with seafood. Mix well and refrigerate. Serve with various kinds of crackers.

Kari Larson Reder, Warner, S.D.

WALLEYE CAKES

Ingredients:

8 oz. walleye (cooked, cooled, and flaked)
 1 1/2 c. mayonnaise
 4 eggs
 1 c. cooked wild rice
 1/2 c. Parmesan cheese
 4 green onions (chopped)
 1 sleeve saltine crackers (crushed)
 1 tsp. crushed garlic
 2 tsps. seasonings (salt, pepper)
 2 tbsp. oil or butter

METHOD

In large bowl, combine walleye, mayo, rice, onion, garlic, and cheese. Add eggs and seasonings. Fold in crushed saltines until the mixture is firm enough to form cakes. Fry in olive oil for 2-3 minutes on each side or until crispy. Serve with topping: 1/2 c. mayo, 1 tsp. garlic powder, and 1 oz. crumbled blue cheese. Mix together.

Dar Duncan, Milbank, S.D.

SHRIMP PASTA

Ingredients:

1 can (14 1/2 oz.) diced tomatoes, undrained
 1 can (6 oz.) tomato paste
 1 c. water
 2 tsps. sugar
 1 tsp. basil leaves
 1 tsp. garlic powder
 1 tsp. oregano leaves
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper
 8 oz. pasta, such as linguine or spaghetti
 1 lb. medium shrimp, peeled and deveined

METHOD

Mix tomatoes, tomato paste, water, sugar, basil, garlic powder, oregano, salt and red pepper in large saucepan. Bring to boil on medium-high heat. Reduce heat to low; simmer, uncovered, 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Meanwhile, cook pasta as directed on package, adding shrimp during last 3 minutes of cooking. Drain. Return pasta and shrimp to saucepot. Pour tomato sauce over shrimp and pasta. Toss gently to coat well. Serve immediately with shredded Parmesan cheese, if desired.

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.

Board summary report for January 2023

The Board of Directors of Southeastern Electric Cooperative met in Marion on Thursday, January 19, 2023, with all directors present, except Carlos Hofer and Steve Holmberg. 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 Inflation Reduction Act, annual meeting planning, ACRE memberships and electric vehicles.
2. Discussed the upcoming irrigation meeting, recent tabletop exercise and the financial forecasts.
3. Reviewed the circulation folder and various member-related issues.

CFO Jon Wunder reviewed his written report, including the preliminary financial report, RUS financing, FEMA updates, renewable energy credits and year end physical inventory adjustments.

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 future services, environmental status of construction work plan submittals, construction contracts, line patrol and an update on the recent winter storms.

Member Services and IT Manager Todd Nelson reviewed his written report, the year-to-date figures on water heaters and associated rebates, year-to-date service orders, disconnects, past due accounts, IT projects, cybersecurity and load management. Nelson also discussed

his recent experience traveling from Alcester to Pierre in SEC's EV Nissan Leaf.

Attorney Nadolski gave an update on a couple of pending legal issues.

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 authorize the President and Secretary to execute the Non-Site-

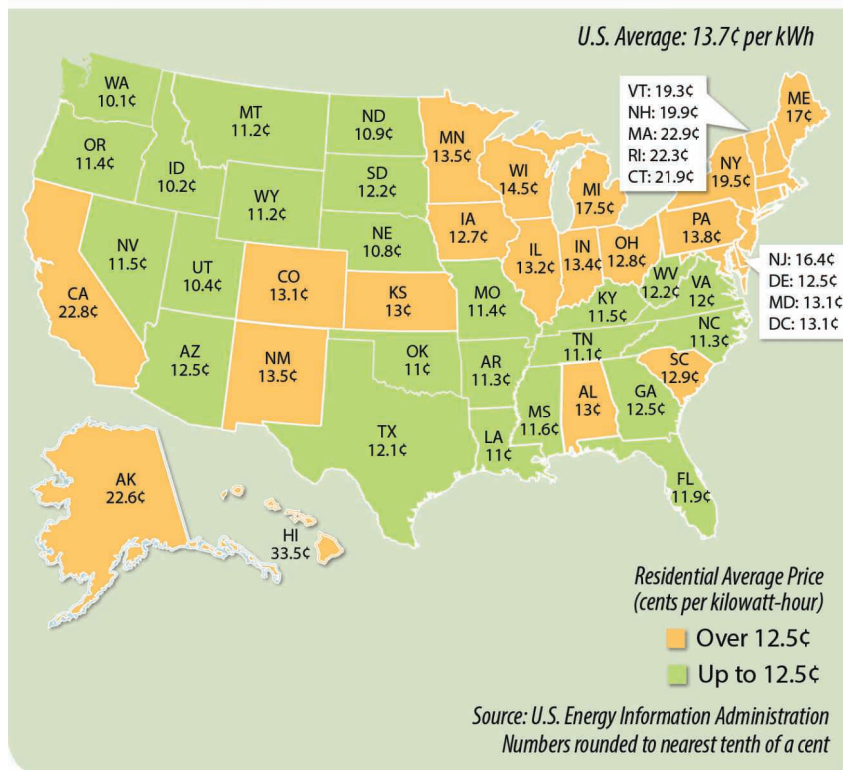
Specific Contract for 2023 with Dave's Construction. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to adopt Board Resolution #2023-01 to establish the date, time and place for the 2023 annual meeting. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to set the March board meeting for Thursday, March 23, 2023. Motion carried.

Next regular monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at the Marion office.

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2021 figures, in cents per kWh





2023 YOUTH TOUR

Attention high school juniors and seniors

Head to Washington D.C. this summer for free

WHAT IS THE YOUTH TOUR?

The National Rural Electric Youth Tour is an annual week-long event during which about 1,700 high school students from all over the country convene in Washington, D.C., to learn more about government, cooperatives and rural electrification.

During the tour, delegations of students will follow state-planned itineraries, which include a day on Capitol Hill, observing the House and Senate in session and visits to members of Congress in their offices.

Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be sponsoring three youth for the all-expenses-paid trip for the Washington Youth Tour in June 17-23, 2023.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible to enter the contest, you must be a high school sophomore or junior and your parents or guardians must be members of the cooperative.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

All applicants must fill out a “Personal Data Sheet” and take an “Open Book Test” on the history and organization of rural electrification. The test booklets are available from Southeastern Electric offices in Alcester, Marion, Salem, Viborg and Parkston or can be mailed, emailed or found online at www.southeasternelectric.com after you have completed and sent back the “Personal Data Sheet.”

Tests are to be completed and returned by **March 17, 2023.**

You may email your completed test and “Personal Data Sheet” to brett@southeastern.coop.

Entrants will then be placed in a drawing. Four names will be picked; the first three names will be the winners of this year’s trip, the fourth name will be an alternate.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM CHOSEN

All three finalists will have to submit a 300-word essay after the trip. The essay will be about their experiences during the trip and “What impact cooperatives have in your community.” The essays will need to be returned by **July 7, 2023.**

If you have any questions concerning the Youth Tour, give Brett Snyders a call at Southeastern Electric (1-800-333-2859) or email Brett at brett@southeastern.coop.



TRASHYARD TREASURES

Lee Lindsley of Piedmont turns trash into treasure when he isn't on the clock working for the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

South Dakota Man Welds Junkyard Scraps Into Pieces of Art

Frank Turner

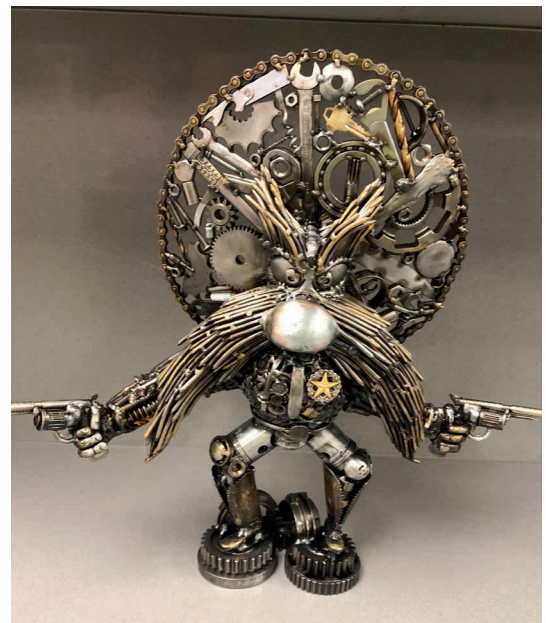
frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Lee Lindsley has a real talent for welding trash into treasure. Given the time, Lindsley can sculpt even the most unwanted junkyard scrap – busted gears, rusted lug nuts and mangled bicycle chains – into an artistic masterpiece.

By day, Lindsley works as a region inspector for the South Dakota Department of Transportation in the Black Hills, but by night, he can be found in his shop putting hours of work into his metallic puzzles, welding them together piece by piece.

When not on the clock, Lindsley is busy tackling his next project, investing anywhere from 30 to 100 hours into each sculpture. The end result often portrays a snapshot of rural life in the Black Hills: a life-size hunting dog made from a mix of old tools and spent rifle rounds, a miniature snowmobile standing on a displaced piston and a gun-slinging Yosemite Sam with a beard fashioned from old nails.

“Metal sculpting is some-



Famous cartoon character Yosemite Sam is one of Lindsley's favorite metal creations.

thing that anyone can do if they put their mind to it,” said Lindsley. “All I do is throw parts of junk together.”

In many ways, Lindsley’s passion for sculpting and welding echoes the resourcefulness of the very artwork he makes. When Lindsley began his metal sculpting journey, he didn’t have a formal education or even a background in art to guide him. Instead, he relied on his welding skills and the bits of scrap he had available to make his remarkable artwork.

“It’s hard to put a price on these pieces, but if my artwork does sell, I want to donate a portion of the sale to a charity.”

It was Lindsley’s second cousin Chris Degen, a teacher at Mitchell Technical College, who inspired Lindsley’s first foray into metal sculpting four years ago. Degen recalls gifting Lindsley’s son, a former lineman, a simple lineman made from nuts and bolts during the holidays. The quirky Christmas gift became a catalyst for the two to start creating new projects and bouncing new ideas off each other. According to Degen, Lindsley just ran away with the idea.

“He went crazy with it,” Degen laughed. “Lee started making sculptures that went way above and beyond what I was doing. I would put an hour into my project, and he would put one hundred into his.”

Taking another step forward in his hobby, Lindsley began researching works and art pieces posted online by world-famous metal sculptors, including metal sculptors John Lopez – a South Dakotan – and Brian Mock, whose masterpieces provided Lindsley a roadmap of what can be accomplished.

Since embarking on his metal sculpting journey, Lindsley has completed more than 18 metal sculptures, and his hobby continues to blossom. For the first time ever, Lindsley put one of his sculptures

up for sale in A1 Al’s Pheasant Ranch in Emery S.D. Since November, Lindsley’s metal hunting dog has stood proudly in one of the ranch’s hunting cabins, waiting for a buyer, and although the dog hasn’t left the shelf just yet, Lindsley said he is

excited to see his work out in the open and visible to the public eye.

“It’s hard to put a price on these pieces, but if my artwork does sell, I want to donate a portion of the sale to a charity,” he said. “We will see what happens.”



Lindsley's metal German shepherd sits proudly in his workshop.

Important notice to the members of Southeastern

Directors' elections will take place at the upcoming annual membership meeting by those members present and voting on June 8, 2023 in Lennox South Dakota at Lennox High School.

If you are interested in being a director candidate for the board, contact us for a petition. A candidate must have 15 or more members of their district affix their signatures to the petition. Petitions, which became available Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2023, can be obtained by calling the office at 1-800-333-2859. The petition must be returned and certified before April 21, 2023.

Three directors will be elected for a term of three years. The three-year terms will be from districts one (1), four (4) and seven (7).

- District No. 1 shall consist of Wall Lake, Wayne, Sioux Falls and Splitrock Townships in Minnehaha County, South Dakota.

- District No. 4 shall consist of Delapre West Township in Lincoln County, South Dakota.

- District No. 7 shall consist of Delapre East and Springdale West Townships in Lincoln County, South Dakota.

The role of a director:

- Directors must abide by and uphold the bylaws of the cooperative.
- Directors act as trustees for the assets of the cooperative and protect its assets.
- Directors formulate, approve and review policies to provide guidelines for the cooperative.

- Directors are selected to serve on the boards of East River Electric Power Cooperative and the South Dakota Rural Electric Association.
- Directors are asked to attend educational seminars and represent the cooperative at meetings of associated organizations.
- Directors are asked to remain informed on pertinent legislative issues and discuss the issues with elected representatives.
- Directors need to keep informed on current Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and electric industry happenings and how they may affect the cooperative.
- Directors approve budgets, evaluate cooperative operations and review financial reports, work plans and audits.
- Directors need to be available to the members in their district to respond to members' concerns and questions.

Board meetings usually are held on the third Thursday following the first Monday of each month. Current board meeting times begin at 8:15 am with power supply videos and the business meeting beginning at 8:30 a.m. Many times, the monthly meetings last until mid-afternoon and attendance at various other director meetings are scheduled on a rotational basis by director district. Director's regular duties will require an estimated 25 hours a month relating to cooperative business activities, meetings and associated organization meetings.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.

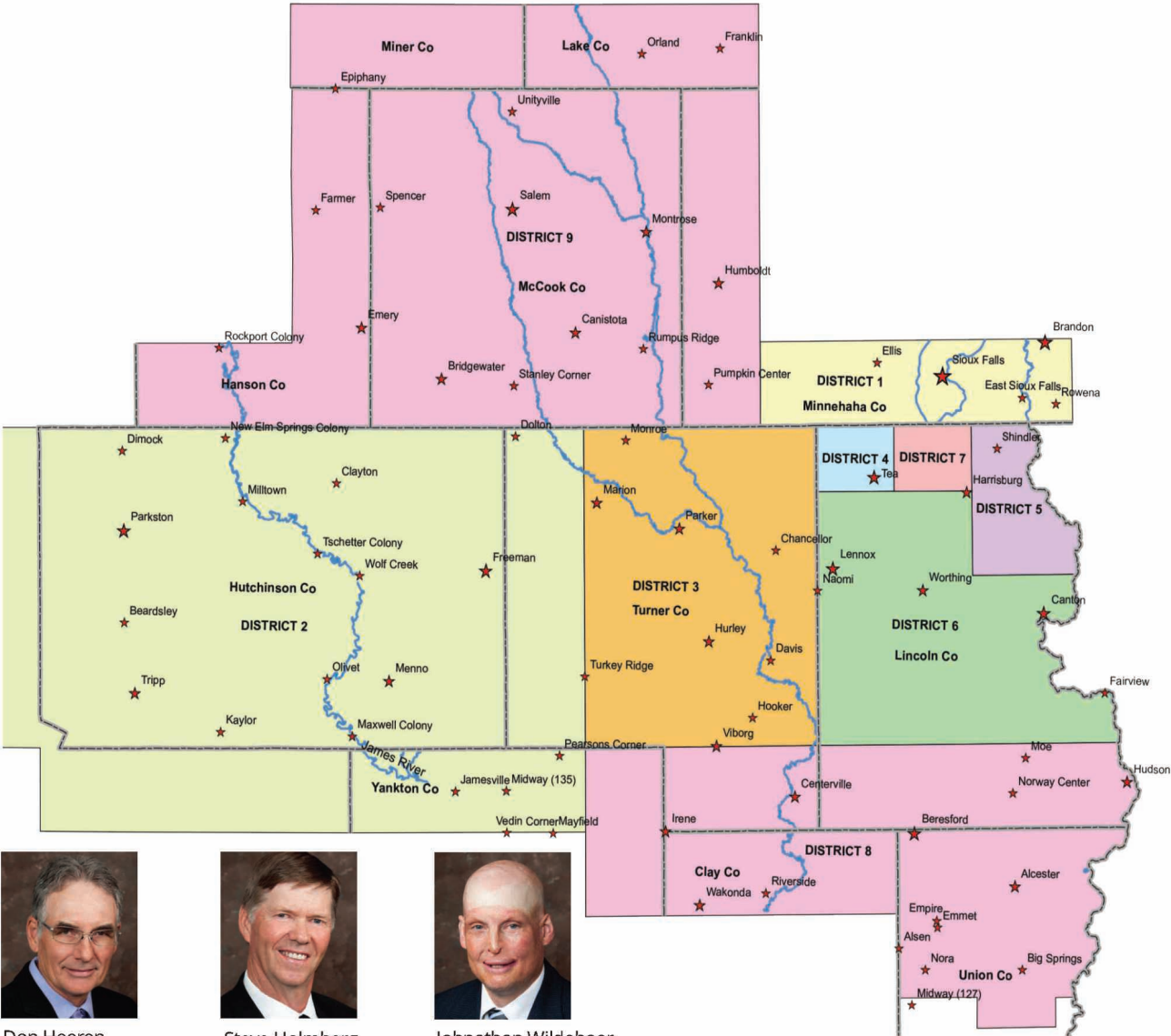
Source: energy.gov





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Director voting districts map



Don Heeren
Pres - Dist. 3



Steve Holmberg
VP - Dist. 8



Johnathan Wildeboer
Sec. - Dist. 6



Daryl Terveen
Treas. - Dist. 9



Carlos Hofer
Dist. 1



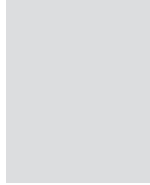
Bob Wollmann
Dist. 2



Chris Hofer
Sec. - Dist. 4



John Ostraat
Dist. 5



Open District
Dist. 7

THE STORY OF DUDE DAD

Taylor and Heidi Calmus play with their kids (Theo, Juno and Otto) on a playset Taylor built. The family will welcome another baby in March.

Howard Grows More Than Corn

Tara Miller

Central Electric Cooperative

His kids may only know him as dad, but Jimmy Kimmel, the entire internet and 7 million followers can't be wrong – Howard native Taylor Calmus has evolved into a new-age celebrity. Better known as Dude Dad, Calmus is an accomplished actor, video producer, digital content creator, author, builder, television show host and comedian. Besides making regular appearances on Jimmy Kimmel Live, Calmus has also shared the screen with home remodeling experts Chip and Joanna Gaines, acclaimed actor Anthony Anderson and several YouTube stars.

Calmus is the son of Larry and Julie Calmus. He grew up west of Howard with siblings Zach and Maggie, and graduated from Howard High School in 2005. He now lives in Fort Collins, CO, but Calmus credits much of his creativity to his rural upbringing.

“Growing up in rural South Dakota was awesome because it forced us to create our own fun. My parents were big advocates of that. They would say, ‘Go outside and

find something to do.’ It enabled us to be creative,” Calmus said.

His mom, Julie, agrees. “We were sticklers. We didn't let them play Nintendo or watch tv all day.” Instead, the kids often spent time outside constructing BMX bike ramps, among other things.

Building Strong Connections

Now a dad himself, Calmus enjoys putting his ingenuity and building skills to work for his kids. “Building things with your kids is one of the best ways to bond with them,” he said. “I've made carnival rides, backyard bike parks, multiple tree houses, a boat, just so many things. Being a dad gives you permission to imagine the impossible like kids do. It allows me to connect with them.”

Calmus and his wife Heidi, who is originally from Fargo, have three children and another baby due in March. Heidi is often the subject of her husband's videos. Calmus puts his acting skills to work, sporting a long brunette wig as he comedically embellishes her life. Luckily, Heidi is a good sport, and they often share reaction videos in which she critiques his performance.

The couple went on tour this year, performing comedy shows as a team in North Dakota, South Dakota and Colorado. Calmus said without his wife, they would not have experienced this level of success. “Heidi believed in me before I did. Without her, Dude Dad wouldn't exist today.”

The Evolution of Dude Dad

Success didn't happen overnight, Calmus explained. Early on, he would often pick up work doing set construction for tv shows and movie projects to make ends meet.

“When I moved away, I worked hard to make it in Hollywood as an actor, and I had some success,” he said. “Then, when Heidi was pregnant with our second child, it was clear to me that I needed to do something more stable to support a family. That's when we created Dude Dad.”

Mastering the Dude Dad brand took a great deal of time and commitment. Calmus constantly brainstormed new ideas for videos that would align with the brand and appeal to viewers. After all, the more views his content generates, the more income he earns from paid advertising on the various platforms.

A humble individual, Calmus doesn't necessarily consider himself famous. He said, “I think my content caught on faster in



Taylor and Heidi perform stand-up comedy as a team. They recently sold out shows in Fargo, Sioux Falls, and Fort Collins.

South Dakota because I have family here.”

But the numbers don't lie. Dude Dad content has more than 1 billion views on Facebook and roughly 150 million views on YouTube. So, his reach is far greater than just the state of South Dakota.

“With TikTok and other apps, there are a billion new creators every year, so it's a challenge all the time,” Calmus said. “Anybody can make videos online now, but not everybody can stand in front of an audience and perform comedy. It's been a fun and rewarding challenge. Now we get to see the people who are connecting with our content.”

Calmus authored a book entitled “A Dude's Guide to Baby Size” to help expectant dads understand their baby's size throughout pregnancy. He shares guy-friendly size comparisons for reference, such as a lug nut, a tape measure, a pound of ground beef and a football.

Giving Back

Because of his success, Calmus has been able to give back in unique ways. In 2019, he partnered with HGTV “Fixer Upper” star Chip Gaines to raise \$1.49 million for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. This partnership led to Calmus's television show, Super Dad, where he helps other dads build custom backyard play areas for their children.

Calmus is also a champion for Horizon Health Foundation's Smiles for Miles program. He helped the non-profit raise more than \$20,000 in a single day to provide free dental care for local kids.

Most recently, Taylor and Heidi performed

a live show in Fort Collins and donated the proceeds to a neighborhood family who sadly lost their father.

“He left behind two little kids who are friends with our kids, and we just wanted to be there for them however we could,” Calmus shared.

Making the Family Proud

Reggie Gassman, Calmus's uncle, is the Manager of Customer Electrical Services at Sioux Valley Energy in eastern South Dakota. He said he's proud of his nephew's accomplishments.

“When the kids were little, Taylor and Zach were already making home movies. His success creating videos doesn't surprise me at all,” Gassman said. “He takes something from normal, everyday life and sees it from a different angle.”

Gassman joked, “I told Taylor acting genes run in the family because I was named best actor in the junior class play. That's like the Emmys of Canova!”

Calmus said both sides of his family – Calmus and Gassman – are naturally funny and talented in different ways. While Gassmans are widely known for their baseball skills, his uncle Kurt (and his mustache) have famously inspired some of Dude Dad's most iconic characters.

He's Still Just Taylor

Despite his growing list of accomplishments, he's still the same guy his family knows and loves.

Calmus's mom Julie shared, “Since he was two years old, Taylor was always entertaining people and goofing around. His older brother Zach is just as clever, so there's always laughter when the family gets together. It's pretty cool he's been able to make a living doing that.”

She said when strangers recognize her son as Dude Dad, she chuckles. “He's still just Taylor to us.”



“Husbands of Target” is a viral video with more than 80 million views that Taylor developed in collaboration with other digital content creators.



ONLINE SAFETY

Information provided by KidsHealth.org from Nemours Children's Health. © 1995-2021. The Nemours Foundation/KidsHealth®

Keeping your kids safe online

The Internet can be wonderful for kids. They can use it to research school reports, communicate with teachers and other kids, and play interactive games.

But online access also comes with risks, like inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and online predators. Using social media apps and websites where kids interact, predators may pose as a child or teen looking to make a new friend. They might prod the child to exchange personal information, such as address and phone number, or encourage kids to call them, seeing their phone number via caller ID.

Parents should be aware of what their kids see and hear online, who they meet, and what they share about themselves. Talk with your kids, use tools to protect them, and keep an eye on their activities.

Online Protection Tools

Online tools let you control your kids' access to adult material and help protect them from Internet predators. Many Internet service providers (ISPs) provide parent-control options. You

can also get software that helps block access to sites and restricts personal information from being sent online. Other programs can monitor and track online activity.

Getting Involved in Kids' Online Activities

More important than blocking objectionable material is teaching your kids safe and responsible online behavior, and keeping an eye on their Internet use.

Basic guidelines to share with your kids for safe online use:

- Follow the family rules, and those set by the Internet service provider.
- Never post or trade personal pictures.
- Never reveal personal information, such as address, phone number, or school name or location.
- Use only a screen name and don't share passwords (other than with parents).

- Never agree to get together in person with anyone met online without parent approval and/or supervision.
- Never respond to a threatening email, message, post, or text.
- Always tell a parent or other trusted adult about any communication or conversation that was scary or hurtful.

Basic guidelines for parental supervision:

- Spend time online together to teach your kids appropriate online behavior.
- Keep the computer in a common area where you can watch and monitor its use, not in individual bedrooms. Monitor any time spent on smartphones or tablets.
- Bookmark kids' favorite sites for easy access.
- Check your credit card and phone bills for unfamiliar account charges.
- Find out what, if any, online protection is offered by your child's school, after-school center, friends' homes, or any place



where kids could use a computer without your supervision.

- Take your child seriously if he or she reports an uncomfortable online exchange.

If you're aware of the sending, use, or viewing of child pornography online, call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at (800) 843-5678 or go online to their CyberTipline. They'll make sure the info is forwarded to law enforcement officials for investigation. Contact your local law enforcement agency or the FBI if your child has received child pornography via the Internet.

Watch for warning signs of a child being targeted by an online predator. These can include:

- Spending long hours online,

especially at night

- Phone calls from people you don't know
- Unsolicited gifts arriving in the mail
- Your child suddenly turning off the computer or other device when you walk into the room
- Withdrawal from family life and reluctance to discuss online activities

Talk to your kids! Keep an open line of communication and make sure that they feel comfortable turning to you when they have problems online.

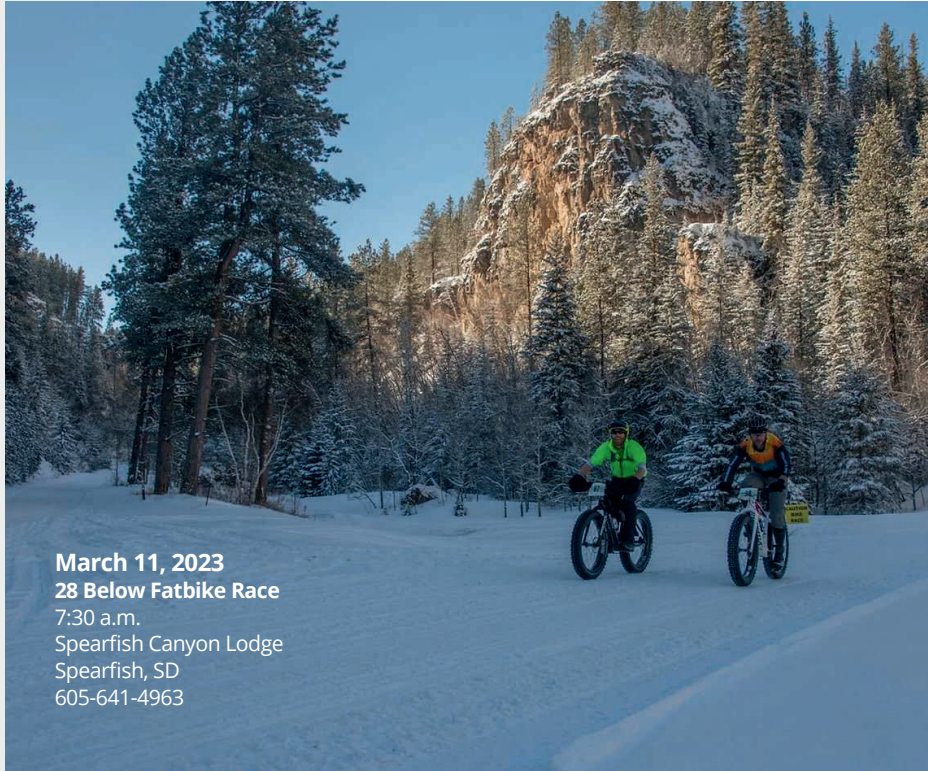
The Internet and Teens

As kids get older, it gets a little trickier to monitor their time spent online. They may carry a smartphone with them at all times. They probably want – and

need – some privacy. This is healthy and normal, as they're becoming more independent from their parents. The Internet can provide a safe "virtual" environment for exploring some newfound freedom if precautions are taken.

Talk about the sites and apps teens use and their online experiences. Discuss the dangers of interacting with strangers online and remind them that people online don't always tell the truth. Explain that passwords are there to protect against things like identity theft. They should never share them with anyone, even a boyfriend, girlfriend, or best friend.

Taking an active role in your kids' online activities helps ensure that they benefit from them without being exposed to the potential dangers.



March 11, 2023
28 Below Fatbike Race
 7:30 a.m.
 Spearfish Canyon Lodge
 Spearfish, SD
 605-641-4963

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

MARCH 1-7
"In Flanders Fields" Art Exhibit & Silent Auction
 Vermillion Public Library
 Vermillion, SD

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

MARCH 4
Hill City Arts Council: Live On Stage
 5:30 p.m.
 High Country Guest Ranch
 Hill City, SD

MARCH 5
American Legion Post 15 Pancake Breakfast
 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
 South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance Building
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-336-3470

MARCH 11
28 Below Fatbike Race
 7:30 a.m.
 Spearfish Canyon Lodge
 Spearfish, SD

MARCH 18
Shamrock Shuffle Fun Run
 12 p.m.
 Main Street
 Presho, SD
 605-895-2559

MARCH 18
Shriners Kids Fun Day
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Scherr-Howe Event Center
 Mobridge, SD
 605-845-2500

MARCH 18
Hill City Arts Council: Live On Stage
 5:30 p.m.
 High Country Guest Ranch
 Hill City, SD
 605-574-2810

MARCH 21
Knee High Naturalist: Birds
 Peter Norbeck Outdoor Education Center
 Custer, SD

MARCH 24-25
Schmeckfest
 Freeman Academy Campus
 Freeman, SD
 605-321-7351

MARCH 30
"The Wildest Banquet Auction in the Midwest"
 5:30 p.m.
 South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-339-1203

MARCH 31-APRIL 2
70th Annual Hayes Play: Trouble in Tumbleweed
 Hayes Community Hall
 Hayes, SD
 605-280-6556

APRIL 1
East Dakota Chapter NWTf 30th Banquet
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-940-0702

APRIL 2-4
"The Psychic-a Murder Mystery of Sorts" Community Theater Performance
 Town Players Theater
 Watertown, SD
 605-882-2076

APRIL 21-22
Junkin' Market Days, Spring Market
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Building
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-941-4958

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