



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC
FEBRUARY 2024 VOL. 25 NO. 10

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



South Dakota Snowmobiling

Seasonal Fun in the
Snow

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High School Students
Gaining Dual Credits

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*Photo Credit: South Dakota
Snowmobile Association*

CEO/General Manager Monthly Newsletter



Chad Kinsley
CEO/GM

As we begin another new year, I thought I'd take this opportunity to highlight just a few of the 2024 priorities for your electric cooperative team as we strive to be your trusted energy provider and resource.

Advanced Metering Infrastructure

Beginning in early 2023, we began replacing all our outdated meters with new, upgraded AMI meters. In total, this means our team will change over 11,000 meters over about a 1.5 year timeframe. So far, we've changed 3,500 meters and have about 7,500 left to change by mid-year. So, what is an AMI meter? It's a state-of-the-art electric meter from Aclara with built in cellular technology that enables two-way communications over a secure network. Essentially, these meters transmit information more frequently and even in real-time as needed. For example, during a power outage the meter will automatically notify our outage management system of a power outage, even if you're not home. You'll also have more detailed information available through SmartHub since these meters transmit energy usage data every 15-20 minutes on a normal basis. One additional note, your electric service will need to be interrupted for a few minutes to replace your meter so thanks in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

Sioux Falls Office Addition

The Sioux Falls office addition continues to progress well. It's been fun to see many of the finishing touches being installed. Lately, the contractors have focused on installing flooring, ceiling grids, and audio/visual equipment. Not to mention probably the most exciting part for our employees – indoor bathrooms. In fact, the team is really excited about not having to use outdoor porta-potties through another SD winter! Again, it's really exciting to watch this project come together and we'll look forward to hosting an open house for you this spring.

Next Generation Load Management

Another strategic technology project we'll begin deploying this year is new load management equipment since the current equipment is being phased out. So what is load management

equipment? It's the device many of you already have in your homes, typically near your electric panel, that allows Southeastern to control your water heater, air conditioning, or space heating equipment during peak periods of electric demand. This helps reduce our power supply costs and those savings are passed along to participating members through lower electric rates. Southeastern and other electric cooperatives will begin a pilot this spring with East River Electric to test this new Eaton equipment. Like AMI, this is another large project that will require changing over 12,000 load management receivers over a 5-year period (by 2029).

So why is load or demand management so important? Primarily because peak energy demand has a significant impact on our power supply costs and hence your monthly bill. Your peak electric demand is simply the highest amount of electricity your home uses over each 15-minute period throughout a month. In other words, you'd have a higher peak electric demand if all your household appliances ran concurrently at the same time versus only one appliance at a time. So why does a higher electric demand cost more? First, the cost of purchasing power represents nearly 70% of your monthly electric bill. In a typical month, Southeastern purchases a total of about \$2.5 million of electricity for our residential and commercial members. Of this total, the demand charge represents about half or \$1.2 million of this purchased power cost from East River Electric. The other half represents the actual kWh of electricity used by members and other fixed charges. That's why we appreciate and encourage all members to participate in the load management program.

Again, these are just a few highlights of what your Southeastern team will be focused on this year not to mention the more routine work of maintaining our system and installing services for new members. Thanks again for being Southeastern members and engaging with us. Our team strives and takes pride in providing you with exceptional service and being your trusted energy provider. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve you.

Chad Kinsley
chadk@southeastern.coop

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 6, 2024 in Freeman, South Dakota, at Freeman 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 will be available on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 and can be obtained by calling the office at 1-800-333-2859. The petition must be returned and certified before Monday, April 22, 2024.

Three directors will be elected for a term of three years. The three-year terms will be from districts three (3), six (6) and nine (9).

District No. 3 shall consist of Spring Valley, Swan Lake, Turner, Monroe, Brothersfield, Home, Marion, Parker, Germantown, Norway, Hurley and Middleton Townships in Turner County, South Dakota including the Town of Davis and the City of Hurley, South Dakota.

District No. 6 shall consist of Delaware, Lincoln, Perry, LaValley, Grant, Lynn, Canton West, Canton East, Highland and Fairview Townships in Lincoln County, South Dakota.

District No. 9 shall consist of Pearl, Sun Prairie, Benton, Salem, Jefferson, Emery, Bridgewater and Union, Brookfield, Ramsey, Richland, Montrose, Canistota, Greenland, Grant and Spring Valley Townships and the City of Montrose and the City of Spencer, McCook County; and Spring Lake, Edgerton, Pleasant and Taylor and the community of Farmer, Hanson County; Canova and Vermillion Townships, Miner County; Clarno and Orland Townships in Lake County; and Buffalo, Clear Lake, Humboldt, and Wellington in Minnehaha County; and any members served in the adjacent townships of Hanson County and Miner County; all in 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.

COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS

SOUTHEASTERN
ELECTRIC

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Robert Wollmann
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Cooking Safety

Watch What You Heat: Cooking is the Number One Cause of Home Fires

Plan A: Primary Prevention

- The best time to cook is when you are wide awake, and not drowsy from medications or alcohol.
- Always wipe clean the stove, oven, exhaust fan to prevent grease buildup.
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Keep a pan lid and dry potholders or oven mitts near you EVERY time you cook.
- Turn pot or pan handles toward the back of the stove.
- When heating food in the microwave, use microwave- safe cookware that allows steam to escape.
- Allow food to rest before removing from the microwave.
- When frying, use a pan lid or splash guard to prevent grease splatter.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly. Remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you to check on your cooking.
- After cooking, check the kitchen to make sure all burners and other appliances are turned off.

Plan B: Secondary Prevention

If your food does catch on fire...

1. Cover the pan with its lid. A cookie sheet works too. Leave covered until the pan is cool. NEVER move the pot or carry it outside - the pot is too hot to handle and the contents may splash, causing a severe burn.
2. Turn the heat off. With the lid on and the heat off, the fire should quickly put itself out. NEVER use water to put out a kitchen fire. Water will cause the

oil to splatter and spread the fire, or scald you as it vaporizes.

3. If the fire is inside the oven or microwave, keep the door shut and turn it off. Keep closed until the oven is cool.
4. If the fire gets out of control- get out, stay out and call 9-1-1. Don't return inside for any reason.

STATS

- 47% of all home fires are caused by cooking
- Preventing a burn injury is always better than the pain and trauma of medical treatment afterward.

National Burn Awareness Week (Feb. 4-10, 2024) is a window of opportunity for organizations to mobilize burn, fire, and life safety educators to unite in sharing a common burn awareness and prevention message in our communities.

Source: American Burn Association



Call 811 Before You Dig

Lillee Pannell, Age 10

Lillee Pannell instructs readers to call 811 before digging. Lillee is the daughter of Scott and Kim Pannell from Sioux Falls, S.D., members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative.

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.

BRUNCH SPECIALS

FRENCH TOAST SUPREME

Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter
2 tbsps. white corn syrup
1 cup brown sugar
5 eggs
1 cup Carnation milk
1 tsp. vanilla
1/4 tsp. salt

Method

Boil together butter, corn syrup, and brown sugar for one minute. Grease a 9x13 pan and put the caramel mix in bottom. Slice French bread about one inch thick or use Texas toast. Put slices close together on top of the caramel sauce. Beat together eggs, milk, vanilla, and salt. Pour on top of bread. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. When ready to serve, turn the pieces over and caramel will be on top. Best served warm.

Brigitta Hofer
Bridgewater, S.D.

MINI FRITTATAS

Ingredients:

8 eggs
1/4 cup milk
1 1/2 tps. Italian seasoning
1/4 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. ground black pepper
1 cup crumbled cooked bacon
1 med. onion, finely chopped
1 med. zucchini, finely chopped
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese, divided

Method

Preheat oven to 350°F. Beat eggs, milk, Italian seasoning, salt and pepper in medium bowl until well blended. Add bacon, onion, zucchini and 1/2 cup of the cheese; mix well. Spray one (12-cup) muffin tin generously with no stick cooking spray. Spoon about 1/4 cup egg mixture into each cup. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Bake 20 to 22 minutes or just until eggs are set. Run small knife or spatula around each cup to loosen mini frittatas. Let stand five minutes before serving.

McCormick.com

CINNAMON PANCAKES

Ingredients:

2 cups pancake mix
1 tsp. cinnamon
2 eggs, beaten
1 cup milk
2 tbsps. vegetable oil
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

Method

Stir pancake mix and cinnamon in large bowl until well blended. Stir in eggs, milk, oil, and vanilla just until blended.

Pour 1/4 cup of batter per pancake onto preheated lightly greased griddle or skillet. Cook one to two minutes per side or until golden brown, turning when pancakes begin to bubble. Serve pancakes with Spiced Syrup, if desired.

Kitchen Tip: To make flavorful Spiced syrup, mix one cup pancake syrup, one teaspoon pure vanilla extract and 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon in a small microwave-safe bowl and microwave on HIGH for one minute or until warm, stirring once.

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.

December Board Minute Summary

The Board of Directors of Southeastern Electric Cooperative met in Marion on Thursday, December 21, 2023, with all directors present. Also, present were Manager Chad Kinsley, Attorney Mike Nadolski and staff members John Euchner and Jon Wunder. Staff member Todd Nelson was absent with Audri Carlson reporting in his absence.

CFO Jon Wunder reviewed his written report, including the preliminary financial report, NRECA retirement plan changes, Basin capital credit retirement, revenue deferral, physical inventory and provided an update on the FEMA hazard mitigation project.

Information Systems Manager & Member Services Supervisor Audri Carlson reviewed her written report, electric vehicle commissioning, open positions, AMR conversion, NISC mapping and staking conversion, disconnects, past due accounts, cybersecurity, load management and member satisfaction survey.

Operations Manager John Euchner reviewed his written report, close calls, safety meetings, outages, dispatch,

construction work plan, services, future services, project updates, open positions, and the recent emergency restoration plan exercise.

Manager Kinsley reviewed his report and commented on the following topics: primary metering, emergency response tabletop review, staffing updates, 2024 budget, legislative forums, strategic planning, Basin financials, Dakota Rural Action's solar study and NERC's long term reliability assessment. Manager Kinsley attended the East River managers advisory committee meeting, the Touchstone Energy annual meeting and the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association annual meeting.

Attorney Nadolski discussed the general state of easement litigation and future trends.

The board acted on the following motions:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2024 budget and annual work plan as presented. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to

adopt Board Resolution #2023-09 to establish and amend the retirement plans. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to adopt Board Resolution #2023-10 to proceed with the forfeiture process in accordance with state law. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve a donation to the Union County Fair. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded authorizing all directors to attend the East River Energize Forum on behalf of the cooperative. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to authorize all directors to attend the Electric Co-op Day at the Capitol. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to set the February board meeting for Friday, February 23, 2024. Motion carried.

Next regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at the Marion office.

Attention High School Juniors and Seniors Southeastern Electric Coop is taking applications for a free trip to D.C., June 15-21, 2024.

Each June, more than 1,800 high school juniors and seniors travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. During the week, they learn about Washington, D.C., government, cooperative philosophy and rural electrification.

The students are selected and sponsored by their local rural electric cooperatives. The South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) coordinates arrangements for the South Dakota students.

Who is Eligible? All area high school juniors and seniors whose parents are members 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 15- June 21, 2024.

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 15, 2024.
4. There will be a random drawing for two (2) eligible applicants after the deadline date.

Go to our website: www.southeasternelectric.com or contact Todd Nelson at 800-333-2859 or email todd@southeastern.coop for more information.

Deadline to enter is March 15, 2024.

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

ABID, SAMERA
 ABRAHAMSON, DUSTY
 ACHARYA, HIM
 ACKER, DENNIS B
 ACKER, CATHY C
 ADAMSON, THOMAS H
 ADAMSON, CAROL J
 ADRIAN, LINDSIE F
 ANDERSON, ANTHONY J
 AERTS, ZACHARY J
 GRIFFITHS, JENNIFER I
 ALBERS, GEORGE
 ALBERS, ALBERTHA
 ALBERS, MARCIA A
 ALBRIGHT, MICHAEL J
 ALBRIGHT, SHIRLEY M
 ALDERMAN, CODY A
 ALDERMAN, LAURA V
 ANDERSEN, BARBARA J
 ANDERSEN, STEVE H
 ANDERSEN, CAROL A
 ANDERSON, JAMES A
 ANDERSON, PHYLLIS A
 ANDERSON, LISA J
 ANDERSON, TONY S
 ANTHONY, CATHERINE
 ARENAS, ANGELA
 ARMOUR ROOFING &
 CONSTRUCTION
 ARMSTRONG, ELIJAH
 ARRINGTON, MINDY D
 ASMUS, JIM
 AVERY, BENJAMIN M
 AVERY, ALYSSA M
 BACKYARD METALWERKS
 BAKER, BARBARA
 BALLARD, DEBI
 BASS, DARCI J
 BATDORF, GINA
 BEANER, LAURA A
 BEARD, GREGORY T
 BEARD, CHARLOTTE A
 BECKER, EST OF RUDY R
 BECKMAN, MARGARET L
 BECKMAN, RONALD J
 BELL, TREMAINE
 BENEDETTO, KELSEY
 BENEDETTO, NICHOLAS
 BENSON, JODI L
 BENSON, JUDITH A
 BENSON, KENNY N
 MCCART, ALESHA A
 BENTON, DALLAS
 BERG, TRAVIS A
 BERG, ERIN J
 BERGH, JOCELYN R
 BERGH, FERDINAND O
 BERGSTRESSER, KIMBERLY F
 BERGSTRESSER II, KENDIG W
 BERMUDEZ, SAMUEL D
 BERNDT, EMILY
 BETTENCOURT, RICK
 BETTENCOURT, JESSIE S
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 BEYER, ALICIA M
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 BIRD, DAWN R
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 BITTERMAN, STEVEN

BITTNER, DONALD E
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 BLOCK, SARAH
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 GERAETS, DANIEL U
 GERMAN, MR MELVIN I
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 DOHRER, JAIME L
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 GRAFF, RONALD J
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 GULLICKSON, RACHEL F
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 GUTHMILLER, JUSTIN C
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 HADRICK, AARON L
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 HAYNE, LAURA
 HEALY, DENNIS A
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 HEIDELBAUER LTD
 HEILMAN, KATHI
 HEIMDAL, SANDRA M
 HEIMDAL, JUSTIN R
 HEINRICH, JEROLD
 HEIRIGS, KATIE M



A group of Black Hills Snowmobile Club members enjoy a ride through the snow covered pines.

SOUTH DAKOTA'S SNOWMOBILE CLUBS

Snow Lovers Create Trails and Lifelong Friendships Through Club Membership

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

Being a member of one of South Dakota's many snowmobiling clubs is more like being a member of a big, adrenaline-loving family.

Being a part of a snowmobile club provides the opportunity to meet likeminded individuals that can easily turn into some of your best friends. That's the case for Mike Boock, of Rapid City, who is a longtime member of the Black Hills Snowmobile Club (BHSC).

"Most of the friendships that I have today are because of the snowmobile club. Many of us even camp together during the summer at the lake," Boock said.

Boock said the club boasts up to 70 members in all. While he primarily rides the mountains of Colorado and Wyoming, Boock loves riding in Black Hills when the area receives enough snow.

There are a total of 416 miles of groomed snowmobile trails

in the Black Hills National Forest, making it a pristine spot for snowmobiling.

The snowmobile clubs in the Black Hills have it a little easier than those out east as they don't have to mark, install, groom or repair trails.

"The state takes care of that," Boock said. "This allows clubs like the BHSC to become more of an educational and community support organization."

This allows club members more free time to volunteer or participate in community events, such as the Festival of Lights Parade and Storybook Island Christmas Nights of Light.

Kelly Weaver is the President of the South Dakota Snowmobile Association and a member of the Aberdeen Drift Busters Snowmobile Club.

The Aberdeen Drift Busters maintain what's called the Dakota Midland trail system, which connects Aberdeen, Mina Lake, Richmond Lake, Westport, Frederick and Columbia.

"This provides about 75 miles of riding in a safe, marked, and groomed corridor," Weaver said.

There are rules governing the trail system. While there are no posted speed limits on the trail, when the trail is located in a road right-of-way, the speed limit of the road applies.

There are also laws governing the type of vehicle that can be ridden on a snowmobile trail. Machines must meet the state definition of a snowmobile. ATV's and other motorized vehicles do not typically meet that definition.

Aberdeen Drift Busters has held the title of being the largest snowmobile club in the state for several years. It was established in 1969, the same year the South Dakota Snowmobile

Association was established.

“Currently, our membership is right around 100 families,” Weaver said. “The club has been as large as 225 members but membership has slowed over the past decade due to the lack of snow and the growing number of activities that families have an opportunity to participate in.”

Anyone can join a snowmobile club and snowmobile ownership is not a requirement.

“You are connected with very experienced snowmobilers who can provide information about machines, riding ventures and how organized snowmobiling operates,” Weaver said. “It is a way to connect with people who have a shared passion for the sport.”

Weaver had her first taste of snowmobiling as a young child with her father and neighbors.

“When I was young, I only rode as a passenger, which I found was not to my liking. When I met my future husband, he also had a snowmobile and I had to ride as a passenger once again,” Weaver said.

Weaver and her husband decided to join the Aberdeen Drift Busters while taking a break from riding for a bite to eat years ago.

“In 1986, my fiancé – now husband – and I were on a snowmobile ride and stopped to eat at a trailside business. Another snowmobiler, who we did not know, approached us and told us we needed to join the club. We did and have been actively involved ever since. That snowmobiling ‘stranger’ became a lifelong friend who we’ve shared many snowmobile memories with,” Weaver said. “Like most things we are drawn to, it is the ability to connect with others who share a common interest that keeps us involved. We have met so many people across the state and the nation through our involvement and have experienced some awesome and fun-filled trips over the years. There are so many ways to be involved that even members who are not avid riders can benefit from and enjoy

being part of the club.”

Once married, Weaver decided she’d need her own sled if she were to continue with snowmobiling. When her husband acquired a new Polaris, she was granted a used Arctic Cat Jag that she described as a “trustworthy starter sled.”

“Early on in our riding, we were able to make trips to the Black Hills, Big Horn Mountains and West Yellowstone. These venues are even more breathtaking in the winter,” Weaver said.

A long day on the trail in a large riding area might last six to eight hours. There needs to be a minimum of six inches of snow on the ground, depending on the terrain.

It may take several layers of snow to create a base for the trail, which can then be groomed and maintained throughout the season.

With adequate snow and a trail in place, an ideal riding day for Weaver would be sunny skies with a little wind, and temperatures between 0 and 30 degrees.

Over in the southeastern corner of

the state, Duane Duerr, President of the Siouxland Sno Trackers, finds great enjoyment in riding his Ski Doo 900 Ave Four Cycle snowmobile.

The Siouxland Sno Trackers is one of the original snowmobile clubs in South Dakota and has around 78 miles of groomed trails for its 80 members.

Duerr grew up in Minnesota and joined the club in 2006 when he moved to South Dakota. Joining the club helped him to learn the trails and rules, and provided him with many friendships.

“I think snowmobiling has become more popular, but involvement in all organizations is down,” Duerr said. “Many do not realize that snowmobile clubs are why we have a trail system and that they put it in and take it out. Without the clubs, we will no longer have trails in South Dakota. Member support is what makes a difference and too many take that involvement for granted.”

More information on the state’s snowmobile clubs can be found at the SDSA’s website at snowmobilesd.com.



Watertown’s South Dakota Snowmobile Club members take a break during an outing.

Unclaimed Capital Credits (Cont.)

HELLAND, WILLIAM
 HELLMANN, JOHN A
 HENDERSON, ROD
 HENRICKSEN, TIFFANY C
 HEWINS, CAROLYN
 HIGHT, ALICE L
 HILL, RANDY
 HILL, RICHARD
 HILSCHER, ROGER L
 HINDS, MICHAEL
 HINDS, VALARIE
 HINKLE, IRA M
 HINRICHS, RENA E
 HOANG, MELISSA
 HOEK, JOSEPH G
 HOFER, ELI
 HOFER, JOAN K
 HOFER, ANGELA A
 HOFFMAN, SPENCER F
 HOHN, JENNIFER A
 HOLBROOK, RICHARD D
 HOLBROOK, DANIELLE V
 HOLLAND, DANIELLE R
 HOLMES, MS ERICA E
 HOLSTEIN, WHITNEY J
 HOMANDBERG, MIKE A
 HOMANDBERG, SHANNA M
 HORAN, ANTHONY
 HORSTMAN, MARVELLA
 HOUCHIN, COLBY
 HOULIHAN, CHRIS
 HOULIHAN, KINSEY
 HOVEY, LACEY L
 HOWARD, KATI
 HSBC MORTGAGE SERVICES
 HUBBARD, MARY L
 HUBER, SANDRA L
 HUGHES, RICHARD N
 HUGHES, DEBBY S
 HUMMEL, TRACY
 HUNSTAD, CLARK L
 HUNSTAD, ROXANNE R
 HUNT, LORI M
 HURLEY, JEFF A
 HURLEY, TAMARA J
 HUSMAN, CHAD
 HUTCHINSON, LYLE W
 IBACH, RENA E
 IHLER, LISA M
 IHNEN, CHRISTINE M BARBER,
 GRANT W
 IRET-OAKMONT LLC
 IRISH, ASHLEY
 IVERSON, MRS HAZELLE
 JACKSON, KAITLYN
 JACKSON, TROY E
 JAHNER, AARON R
 JAMES, THEO E
 JANISH, MICHAEL J
 KRIESE, JENNIFER L
 JEANS, THOMAS
 JEFFERIS, JASON P
 JENSEN, ELIZABETH D
 JENSEN, LINDSAY K
 JENSEN, MR CHAD D
 JENSON, APRIL A
 KLEINSASSER, JUSTIN A
 JOCK, NYAPAL
 JOHN, FRANCIS I
 JOHN, BETHANY L
 JOHNS, ROBERT
 JOHNS, KAREN
 JOHNSON, AARON A
 JOHNSON, WADE A
 JOHNSON, ASHLEY
 JOHNSON, BRIANA M

JOHNSON, CHAD E
 JOHNSON, SCOTT A
 JOHNSON, MOLLY J
 JOHNSON, SUSAN M
 JOHNSON, TIM J
 JONES, JOY
 JONES, NICOLLE
 JURGENSEN, KAY
 KAEMINGK, CORISSA A
 VISSCHER, SARAH M
 KAFFAR, CONNIE J
 KANCHAN, DINESH
 KASKIE, JUSTIN
 KASS, MICHELLE
 KEEFER, MATT K
 KEEFER, EILEEN T
 KELLEY, REBECCA
 KELLY, BEN
 KESTELOOT, KOREY R
 KESTELOOT, MELISSA M
 KIDD, KYLIE R
 KIENAST, STEPHANIE
 KIENHOLZ, SHIRLEY
 KING, JESSE D
 KIRKGAHLER, JOHN F
 KISSNER, ALEXANDRIEA
 KLAASSEN, JON D
 KLUMPER, TRESSE J
 KNAPIK, MICHAEL T
 KNECHT, NANETTE M
 KNECHT, ZACHARY L
 KNIGHT, ERIC
 KNUDSEN, DEANNA
 KOCH, KASSITY L
 KOCK, MARK S
 KOEHN, AARON
 KOERNER, GLENN D
 KOERSELMAN, JEFFREY J
 KOKENGE, ANDY J
 GREVLOS, AIMEE M
 KOLB, LISA S
 KOOPMANS, ALI M
 KOSCHMEDER, MORGAN C
 KOTHE, MS MAKAYLA L
 KRAMER, LORRAINE MKRAMER,
 KENNETH L
 KRINGEN, GARY J
 KROUPA, TYLER G
 KRUMVIEDA, JORDAN
 KRUMVIEDA, SHELBY
 KRUSE, STEPHANIE R
 KUMBURU, AYANTU
 KUPER, ALICE
 KUYPER PHEASANT HATCHERY
 KYTE, JERRY L
 KYTE, SUSAN K
 LADUE, ASHLEY M
 LADUE, SCOTT R
 LAMKIN, JUSTIN M
 LAMKIN, MICAELA G
 LANDIS, KELLI J
 LANE, MICHELLE M
 LANGHOFF, BRUCE A
 LANGHOFF, BARBARA P
 LANIER JR, KENNETH A
 LARSEN, MICHAEL L
 LARSEN, ROGER E
 LARSEN, VERNON V
 LARSEN, VERNELLE
 LARSON, LOWELL W
 LAUCK, PAUL
 LAUTERBACH, MATTHEW J
 LEADERS JR, DEAN A
 LEADERS, REBECCA A
 LEBER, AARON G
 LEBER, JOHN P

LEEDOM, DAN
 LEFFRING, JONATHAN W
 LEMKE, KELLI
 THOMPSON, MARY
 LEMLER, SHELBY
 LENNINGS, ZACHARIAH
 LEONARD, DANA
 LESNAR, BETHANY A
 LESNAR, ANTHONY M
 LEWIS, DENNIS J
 LEY, STEPHANIE C
 LEY, JASON J
 LILLEGAARD, JAMES P
 LITTLE, SCOTT E
 LIU, QIONG
 LIVINGSTON, CHRIS
 LOUS PLUMBING & HEATING LLC
 LUCHT, DUSTIN S
 LUDENS, SHANE R
 LYNCH, ELIZA M
 LYNN, NATHAN D
 MACDONALD, JAY T
 MACDONALD, MARIE M
 MADSEN, CHAD M
 MAGNUSON, MS MICHELE R
 MALEK, MATHEW J
 MALEK, DANIELLE O
 MALONE, JESSICA M
 MALONE, BRIAN P
 MANASCU, HAGAY
 MANASCU, MAAYAN BAITTO
 MANDLER, BILL
 MANGAN, NICHOLAS
 MANN, LINDSAY C
 MARC MEDICAL OF ARIZONA
 MATOS, EUGENIO B
 MATSON, BARRY J
 MATTHAEI, GRANT
 MATTHAEI, RANDY S
 ROTIO, AMBER M
 MAYO, LORRIE A
 MCCALL, JOSHUA
 MCCLUSKEY, LANDON T
 MCCORMICK, KIBBI
 MCCORMICK, O ROBERT T
 MCCORMICK, HEIDI J
 MCDANIEL, AMBER F
 MCGEE, ALEXIS
 MCKENNA, KATE
 MCMANIGAL, NIKKI
 MCPHERSON, TERESA L
 MEANS, GAIL E
 MEDALLION MANUFACTURED
 HOMES
 MEEHAN, GAYLE A
 MEINKE, DANIEL R
 MEINKE, DEBRA A
 MELL, AARON W
 MELTON, HOMER
 MEYER, MERLYN W
 MEYER, STEPHANIE A
 MIKE, TATUM
 MILLAR, PATRICK J
 MILLAR, MACKENZIE K
 MILLAR, WARREN L
 MILLER, CHARLIE
 MILLER, KIRSTEN S
 CAMPBELL, CHASE W
 MILLER, WADE
 MINOR, CASEY D
 MINOR, LAURA M
 MOEN, ZACHARY B
 MOEN, SARAH J
 MONAHAN, RAY E
 MONEN, JENNIFER R
 MONLUX, TAYLER

MONTGOMERY, KATHERINE
 MOOR, TROY
 SURRELL, OLIVIA
 MORGAN, REBEKAH A
 MORIARTY, MARK
 WARD, RACHEL
 MORITZ, P HOLLY J
 MORRIS, CHAD M
 MORRISON, DEBBIE
 RAY, MATT
 MOSER, JUSTIN L
 MOSER, AMANDA J
 MOULTON, CURTIS E
 MOULTON, KATHLEEN
 MOUSEL, ZACHARY
 MOUW, JASMINE
 MUNK, MR JACKSON C
 MUNZKE, KARI D
 DEVRIES, BRENDA M
 MURRAY, APRIL N
 MUSSER, DAVID L
 MUSTAR, ARLINE
 MYERS, CHRISTOPHER L
 NACHTIGAL, RYAN
 NACHTIGAL, BRITTANY
 NATTRESS, TYLER A
 ANDERSON, KATELYN H
 NAVARRETE, MIGUEL
 NEELY, ROBERTA
 NEELY, DOUGLAS
 NELSEN, NICK
 NELSON, AMANDA L
 FULLER, DANTE J
 NELSON, CRYSTAL
 NELSON, ERIC D
 NELSON, HARRIET
 NELSON, JENA
 NELSON, LAURIE M
 NELSON, MURIEL E
 NEWBORG, DARREN M
 NEWBORG, JAMIE A
 NIMS, JANICE E
 NIXON, KIMBERLY
 NOHR, STEPHAN
 NYTROE, SHERRY
 O'BRIEN, ANTHONY
 O'DEA, CASEY
 OGLETREE, CHRISTOPHER
 OINES, EDWARD P
 OINES, ERIC L
 OLIVER, SUZANNE K
 OLSEN, JOSEPH T
 OLSON, CHRIS
 OLSON, STEVEN P
 OLSON, PATRICA L
 OLTMANN'S, DENISE K
 OSTREM, RICHARD
 OTTEN, MICHAEL E
 OWEN, SCOTT V
 OWENS, TAYLER
 PAETH, TAYLOR
 PARKER, JEREMY
 PARKER, KATYA
 PARKER, LARRY
 PARKER, JUANITA
 PARSONS, JEANNE R
 PATINO, LILIA
 PATTERSON, DORLENE M
 PATTON, MEGAN
 PAULSON, TODD R
 PAULSON, LISA A
 PEARSON, BRADLEY
 PEDERSEN, PAUL A
 PEDERSEN, SHERRI J
 PEDERSON, AMBER N
 PEEK, JEFF L

Unclaimed Capital Credits (Cont.)

PERGESON, MCKAILA
 PERINO, PATRICK M
 PERLEBERG, MARK R
 PERSPECTIVE HEALTH
 CHIROPRACTIC
 PETERS, HADASSAH M
 ABEL, ISAAC J
 PETERSEN, ALYSSA R
 PETERSEN, TERRIE E
 PETERSON, KATE E
 CAVENY, NICOLE C
 PETERSON, NICOLE M
 PIKE, JENNIFER R
 PIXLER, NORMAN K
 PLAETZ, JUSTINE E
 PLETAN, EST OF GAYLE
 POCHOP, MERLE
 POPKES, RICK
 PULLIAM, JIM E
 RADERMACHER, JUDITH
 RADERSCHADT, SHERRY
 RADIGAN, NICHOLAS J
 RAGLE, ELIZABETH
 RATZLAFF, WILLIS
 RAUSCHER, RICHARD L
 RAUSCHER, JOAN M
 REDEL, BRANDI L
 CLARK, KYLE B
 REDLINGER, JAMES T
 REDLINGER, PATTY A
 REECE, SUZANN E
 REGAIN, LORRIE B
 REHFELDT, ERIC J
 RF CUSTOM CONSTRUCTION
 C/O RYAN W FOCKEN
 RICH, DAVID L
 RICH, CAROLINE A
 RICHTER, AMANDA D
 RICHTER, ROBERT J
 RICKETTS, ASHLEE
 RICO, ANGELICA
 RIDDLE, MICHELLE
 RINEHART, HAROLD
 ROACH, MICHAEL L
 KOLETZKE-ROACH, ROBIN C
 ROBBINS, JOHN W
 ROBBINS, TERESA A
 ROBERTSON, DOMINIC
 ROBERTSON, MADISON K
 RODRIGUEZ, RAFAEL V
 ROMANOVA, NATALIYA
 RONK, EST OF GEORGE E
 RONK, DONNA L
 RONKE, LORI
 ROSEN BROOK, CHRISTI J
 ROTERT, LOLA M
 ROTH LISBERGER, MARCUS
 ROTTER, ANGIE
 ROWE, STEVEN D
 ROWE, AMY
 ROWEN, KYLE L
 RUNGE, HERMAN J
 RUNGE, SUSAN L
 RYAN, JAMES R
 RYAN, KARI L
 RYSAVY, JAMES D
 RYSAVY, JODI R
 SALEM SALES
 SANGRAIT, DUSTIN
 SANOW, ANDREA G
 SANOW, KYLE D
 SATTTLER, LARRY A
 SATTTLER, CHRISTINA H
 SAUCERMAN, JOHNNIE T
 SAUCERMAN, BECKY R
 SAUERS, AUBREY M
 SAYNER, PHYLLIS
 SCHARFFENBERG, RONALD
 SCHEID, MRS PAMELA M
 SCHERR, SARAH L
 SCHMIDT, BRANDON J
 SCHMIDT, JACKIE W
 SCHMIDT, DOMINIC J
 OLBRY, TORY L
 SCHNEIDER, ALBERT N
 SCHNEPE, KYLE J
 SCHOENEFELD, LEXY A
 SCHOENING, PAULA J
 SCHOENING, RONALD L
 SCHOOLEY, CARLTON
 SCHREMPF, JEREMY
 HILTUNEN, STEPHANIE
 SCHROEDER, ALVIN
 SCHULDT, BOBBI J
 SCHUURMANS, ERIC
 SCHWARTZ, NANCY L
 SCHWEBACH, AARON S
 SEAMON, LONDON
 BUCKMAN, TYLER
 SEVERSON SR, KEITH A
 SEVERSON, ELVIRA C
 SEVERSON, KENNETH A
 SEVERSON, ZOILA
 SHAMBLIN, JUDY
 SHERMAN, CARL L
 SHIPLEY, SAMANTHA A
 MILES, STEVE M
 SHOULTZ, SHAMEKA
 SHOUP, NICOLE R
 SHOUP, ROB P
 SIEBRECHT, AARON J
 SIEVERDING, DARYL J
 SIEVERDING, JULIE A
 SIMMONS, CHRISTOPHER
 SIMPSON, JASON L
 SIX, LONNIE J
 SJAARDA, GRANT M
 SKINNER, ANDREW P
 SKY BUILDERS LLC
 SLY, MATTHEW
 SMITH, BERNICE V
 SMITH, MARY A
 SMITH, TIARRA
 SMIZER, KATIE J
 SMYTHE, WHITNEY A
 SNIADAK, DANA
 SNIADAK, DAVIS
 SNYDERS, JEAN
 SOK, ALYSSA
 SOMMERVOLD, MARY E
 HANISCH, ASHLEE A
 SORENSON, MEGAN M
 SORENSON, SCOTT W
 SOUTHEASTERN HAIR DESIGN &
 DAY SPA
 SPRINGMAN, ALISSA A
 SPURLOCK ENTERPRISES INC
 STACK, GRADY T
 STEIN, MICHAEL
 STEIN, KAY
 STEVENS, CHYNNA
 STEVENS, MICHAEL E
 MEEKS-STEVENS, KANDICE D
 STEWART, KATIE
 STILLE, DOUGLAS K
 STILLE, SHIRLEY M
 STOFFEL, GERALD C
 STOFFEL, DARLENE M
 STOLTENBURG, NATHAN J
 STOLTENBURG, CAITLIN L
 STROM, MATTHEW A
 STRUCK, AARON
 STUNKEL, MARIA L
 SUDTELGTE, ALLISON
 SUESS, ALEC
 SWAN LAKE PROPERTIES LLC
 SWEDIN, VICTORIA
 SWENSON, SHANE D
 SZYMONSKI, MICHAEL
 TARRELL, BILL L
 TAU, EVAN
 TEUNISSEN, HARLOW A
 TEUNISSEN, BRENDA G
 THANEL, EMILY
 THIE, JONATHAN P
 THIE, NICOLE K
 THOMAS, LARRY D
 THOMAS, CHRISTIE L
 THOMAS, THADDEUS N
 THOMAS, CRYSTAL J
 THOMPSON, AMIEE L
 THOMPSON, DANIELLE E
 DECKER, KARLI J
 THORSON, AMY J
 OLSON, PATRICK J
 TIESZEN, JASON J
 TIGER MOTOR SPORTS
 TIMMERMAN, SCOTT A
 TIMMERMAN, MARCI M
 TJEERDSMA, RODNEY D
 TOBIN, RICHARD A
 TOE, DECONTEE
 TOP, JEREMIAH
 TOWNE, MELANIE L
 TOWNSEND, ROBERT
 TRADEMARK HOMES
 INCORPORATED
 TRANBY, JAMES B
 TRAUTMAN, DREW M
 TREADWAY, KELLY A
 TRENT, JASON C
 CAIN, MICHELLE D
 TREVETT, CAROL M
 TRIPLETT, JENA L
 TRIPLETT, KURT E
 TRUMAN, E L
 TRUST, JOHNSON
 TUCHOLKE, LINDA
 TUENGE, AUSTIN
 ULMER, TIMOTHY J
 UPPER PLAINS CONTRACTING INC
 UREGA, EMEBET G
 VALDEZ, ROI
 VAN GERREVINK, MR ALEXANDER S
 VANDERVORST, LEIZA
 VANDERZWAAG, CHELSEY R
 POSTMA, RACHEL L
 VANMIDDENDORP, RACHEL H
 VANOVERSCHEILDE, LISA
 VANT HULL, JON
 VANT HULL, JASMYN
 VANVOORST, ARIC
 VANZANTEN, KATIE M
 VANZANTEN, ANDREW G
 VAUGHAN, RICHARD
 VENNARD, JESSICA
 VENNARD, DAVID
 VERHEY CONSTRUCTION INC
 VERHEY, RICK L
 VESPER, ROBERT D
 VESPER, EVA D
 VIBORG HOUSING &
 DEVELOPMENT
 C/O BRIAN WEIER
 VICTOR, JOSH
 VINZ, DUANE L
 VINZ, ANNA K
 VOEGELI, KELSEY
 VOGEL, ADAM J
 SIETSEMAN, STEPHANIE L
 VOLK, NANCY L
 VOLMER-JOHNSON, ALYSSA
 WAGERS, JAMIE
 WAGNER, SAMANTHA J
 WAITE, AUSTIN
 WALDNER, PHILLIP J
 WALDNER, STACEY
 WALFORD, JUSTIN E
 FISCHER, AC
 WALSH, MEGAN
 WARD, RICKY S
 WARD, GAIL P
 WARREN, R L
 WATKINS, GRACE
 WATSON, VICTORIA
 THOMAS, CRYSTAL J
 WEATHERLY, KELLI
 WEATHERTON, CARL
 WEBER, ESTHER
 WEBER, SHEILA M
 WEBSTER, THOMAS D
 WEBSTER, DENISE O
 WEIDENBACH, AMY C
 WEIGEL, OLIVIA M
 WELLA-GLEN AVIARIES
 WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE
 WELLS, KATARINA K
 WENDT, ASHLEE
 WENZEL, ANNA E
 WESTON, SHERRI L
 WETERING, AMY M
 WHITE, ALVIN
 WHITE, ARLENE
 WHITE, TOBY L
 WHITE, DANIELLE H
 WHITHAM, CHRISTIAN
 WHITMORE, MICHAEL
 WHITMORE, ELLEN F
 WIDMER, LEROY
 WILLIAMS, ERIN
 WILLIAMS, VERONICA J
 WINTERBOER, JARED
 WINTERTON, SHELBY M
 WIPE, GEORGINA A
 WISEMAN, ZACH
 HOFFMAN, DESTINI
 WOODWARD, LISA J
 WUESTEWALD, BRIANNA J
 MCILVENNA, JOAN M
 WULE, DAVID N
 WULE, DONELLE M
 WURTZ, JR, DAVID
 YORK, DAVID E
 YORK, AMBER L
 YOUNG, BROOKE L
 MURPHY, MATTHEW D
 YOUNG, JUSTIN D
 YOUNG, HEIDI-KAY P
 ZAHN, TERRA J
 ZAHN, AUSTIN A
 ZIMMER, MITCHELL K
 JOHNSON, ASHLEY M
 ZIMMER, RICHARD J
 ZIMMER, TIM
 ZOMER, VICKIE
 ZWAK, SCOTT A
 ZWAK, LYNN K



Jocelyn Cihak takes a dual-credit calculus class offered by Northern State University. *Photo courtesy of Northern State University*

DUAL-CREDIT

High Schoolers are Gaining College Credits

Scott Waltman

Some graduates of South Dakota high schools are showing up on college campuses with a semester's worth of credits.

Sometimes even more.

The dual-credit program has proven to be both beneficial and popular since it was introduced by Gov. Dennis Daugaard in 2014.

It's easy to understand why. Here's how the program works. High school juniors and seniors at any South Dakota high school can take classes for which they get both high school and college credits. There are scores of

classes to choose from, and the cost to take them is steeply discounted.

For instance, once a student enrolls at any of the state's six public schools or universities, they pay between \$253.85 and \$260.55 per credit hour. That cost for a high school student taking a college-level class through the dual-credit program? It's a mere \$48.33 per credit hour.

That's why education officials in South Dakota love the program.

Nathan Lukkes, executive director and chief executive officer for the South Dakota Board of Regents, said providing an affordable education has been a priority for the regents in

recent years. Tuition freezes and an increased number of scholarships are part of that work. But so are dual-credit classes, he said.

Most of the dual-credit courses are general education classes – or generals, as college students often call them – he said. Through the program, students can have some of those courses out of the way before they even get their high school degrees.

The work done by the regents and the universities resulted in Forbes naming South Dakota the most affordable state in which to get a high school education, Lukkes said.

All six South Dakota public universities offer dual-credit classes, and the number of high school students taking advantage has been going up in recent years.

The number of students taking dual-credit classes changes throughout

the year, but there were 1,223 taking classes at Northern State University in Aberdeen in fall 2023 compared to 1,141 the year before. And at South Dakota State University in Brookings, the number jumped from 903 to 1,031 in fall 2023, according to statistics from the board of regents.

Here's how the systemwide numbers are trending based on the number of students taking dual-credit classes, according to the 2023 South Dakota Board of Regents Fact Book, which was issued during summer at the end of the most recent fiscal year.

2021-2022: 4,300

2020-2021: 3,919

2019-2020: 3,781

2018-2019: 3,168

The 10 most popular classes all had more than 150 students.

College algebra: 990

Fundamentals of speech: 905

Composition I (English 101): 830

General psychology: 513

U.S. history I: 379

American government: 317

Music appreciation (Music 101): 280

Introduction to sociology: 241

Biology survey I (Biology 101): 157

Biology survey lab: 156

In 2021, there were 9,523 dual-credit courses taken by South Dakota high school students, according to information from the regents. That number includes summer courses and students who took more than one course.

At Northwestern High School in Mellette, Superintendent Rob Lewis said about 25% of the juniors and seniors are taking advantage of dual-credit courses. One student has taken a full semester's worth, he said.

Do the math over the course of a semester, and that's a savings of north of \$2,300. And that doesn't take on-campus housing and food into account.

That's just a great deal for high school kids, Lewis said.

Chris Ulrich, the middle school and high school principal at Northwestern, agrees.

"It's a nice opportunity for kids

to get not only college credits, but also experience what college is like," he said.

And they get to do it within the comfort of their high school, Ulrich said. The program is a great transitional step leading from high school to college, he said.

AP, or Advanced Placement classes, were great, but dual-credit classes are even better, Lewis said.

AP classes are college-level courses taught by high school teachers. But they don't always equate to college credit. Dual-credit courses are taught by college instructors and professors and always result in college credit, if a student passes.

In South Dakota, dual-credit courses can be taken on any of the six public university campuses, in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Huron, Pierre, Watertown and online.

And there's another benefit, Lukkes said. Dual-credit classes create a tie between South Dakota high school students and the regental schools. Any chance a high school student has a chance to engage with a state school creates a bond that could help keep that kid in South Dakota, he said.

Perhaps a Spearfish High School student takes a dual-credit class at Black Hills State University and it's a good experience. Maybe that high school graduate stays in town and enrolls at BHSU.

Lewis, too, said the program is a great way to keep students in South Dakota for college and perhaps beyond.

That's also a focus for the Aberdeen Development Corp., which is starting a program aimed at keeping more Northern graduates in town to start their professional careers.



Rhianna Troske, a student at Northwestern High School in Mellette, takes a dual-credit class while at school. *Photo by Scott Waltman*



Basin Electric Security and Response Services dispatchers take calls from rural electric cooperative members at Basin's headquarters in Bismarck, N.D.

SRS Dispatchers Keep Watch Over South Dakota Linemen

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No matter the time of day or night, nor outdoor conditions, members can be assured their calls will be taken during an outage thanks to the Security and Response Services (SRS), a 24-hour dispatching service provided by Basin Electric in Bismarck, N.D.

When a rural electric cooperative is closed, the SRS team takes incoming outage calls from members. “Safety is the reason we exist,” said Chad Reisenauer, Director of Community and Member Relations for Basin Electric.

The SRS program started in 1992. Reisenauer has been in charge of the

dispatch team for just over a decade.

“We started with one or two cooperatives that were asking us to monitor alarms and dispatch linemen. Back then it was nothing but a phone and a computer screen where we typed notes. Now we’re integrated into outage management systems, we’re doing all sorts of things to predict outages and this technology has grown leaps and bounds,” Reisenauer said.

The team is comprised of 22 dispatchers total, with 18 of those positions dedicated to dispatching full time, while the other four dedicate half their time to dispatching and the other half to alarm monitoring. Each dispatcher works 12 hour shifts with

four to six dispatchers working per shift, depending on what they’re expecting for the day. These shifts begin at 4 p.m. and end at 4 a.m.

“Our job is to be the cooperative during the hours they are closed,” said Jolene Johnson, dispatch supervisor.

“We’ll back them a little bit if they have a safety meeting or a funeral where they’re shutting the office down. We oversee 18 cooperatives in South Dakota. We’re a little bit of feast and famine,” Johnson said.

Overall, Basin SRS oversees 13 states, from Washington to Illinois to Texas. On any one day, dispatchers could be dealing with a blizzard in the Dakotas, freezing rain in Nebraska and a tornado in Texas.

On a light day, the SRS team will receive 600 to 700 calls for assistance. That number quells in comparison to the number of calls SRS dispatchers receive during major storm events, such as the winter storms events in April of 2021, when a couple of huge blizzards came through the Northern Great Plains region. During that storm, the

SRS team took in around 33,000 calls for service in a 24-hour period.

“That’s a stressful day for our dispatchers. They’re getting beat up continually, then they have to get onto the next call and maintain the safety of the linemen,” Reisenauer said.

“The other type of stress is if Bismarck is getting hit by a blizzard. Then there’s the stress of employees getting into work.”

A new dispatch center equipped with a sleeping room for dispatchers was recently built at the headquarters in Bismarck, which has no windows and a locking door so dispatchers can get as good of sleep as they’re going to get if the weather prevents them from traveling back home.

Dispatchers are also trained to remain calm under high stress situations, especially when the caller on the other end has lost power and is having a stressful day as a result.

“We reassure them that crews are working on it. We do call backs to make sure they’re not left in the dark, no pun intended. We just remain calm, we can’t

let them get us worked up,” said Seth Neer, lead dispatcher.

“No one ever calls us to tell us thanks for keeping the lights on,” joked Reisenauer. “It’s the worst day in the world for them if they’ve got water freezing and pipes bursting. They’re mad about the situation and we stress to our dispatchers that we’re just the voice on the phone and focal point of their anger.”

Neer added that it’s one of those jobs where you have to have the right mentality and the calls are something you cannot take personally.

Dispatchers must successfully pass a training program, which is self-directed.

From the time the dispatcher is hired to the time they are allowed to go live on the phones typically takes two months.

Reisenauer said he wouldn’t put anyone on the phone that he feels wouldn’t be able to handle an emergency.

“This is lineman safety. We literally have their lives in our hands,” he added.

Johnson said the SRS dispatchers are

also taken out into the field to visit local member cooperatives, such as Moreau-Grand Rural Electric, so they can go out and see what linemen are looking at.

“It’s hard for any dispatcher to get a call about a transformer if they don’t know what a transformer looks like,” she said.

Dispatchers track the locations of all linemen and check in with them every 90 minutes. If they miss a status check, dispatch will be sending someone their way. Their duty is to keep track of linemen at all times.

“We’re talking to them everyday. They do get to be family in some ways,” Reisenauer said.

“It’s funny when we bring operations and linemen in and they’ll go ‘I recognize that voice!’ And it turns out they’re good friends with the dispatcher but they’ve never met in person before,” Reisenauer said.

For more information on the SRS team, including quarterly newsletters on the department’s activities, go to Basin Electric’s website – www.basinelectric.com.





FEB. 24, 2024
Nemo 500 Outhouse Races & Chili Cookoff
 10 a.m.
 Nemo Guest Ranch
 Nemo, SD

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.

FEB. 3
Lake Hendricks Fishing Derby
 11 a.m.
 City Boat Landing
 Hendricks, MN

FEB. 9-10
Mardi Gras Weekend
 Historic Downtown Deadwood
 Deadwood, SD

FEB. 10
Polar Bear Chili Cook-Off
 11 a.m.
 Main Street
 Hill City, SD

FEB. 11
Beadle County Humane Society Bingo, Silent Auction & Bake Sale Benefit
 2 p.m.
 Huron Community Center
 Huron, SD

FEB. 18-20
MASC presents Disaster! the Musical
 Vesta Community Center
 Vesta, MN

FEB. 22
The Starlets: Pop Female Trio
Aberdeen Community Concert Association
 7 p.m.
 Johnson Fine Arts Center NSU
 Aberdeen, SD

FEB. 23-24
Women in Blue Jeans Conference
 Highland Conference Center
 Mitchell, SD

MARCH 1-3
National Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic
 Denny Sanford Premier Center
 Sioux Falls, SD

MARCH 2
Live on Stage
 High Country Guest Ranch
 Hill City, SD

MARCH 7
Elevate Rapid City Economic Summit
 8 a.m.
 The Monument
 Rapid City, SD

MARCH 9
French Toast/Pancake Feed & Health Fair
 8:30 a.m.
 Tea Community Building
 Tea, SD

MARCH 9
SunCatcher Therapeutic Riding Academy & 3rd Annual Shamrock Gala and Benefit Auction
 5 p.m.
 Alex Johnson Ballroom
 Rapid City, SD

MARCH 11-15
Black Hills Institute's 50th Anniversary Celebration
 Hill City, SD

MARCH 15
East Dakota Chapter NWFT 31st Annual Banquet
 Ramkota Exhibit Hall
 Sioux Falls, SD

MARCH 16
Live On Stage
 High Country Guest Ranch
 Hill City, SD

MARCH 16-17
Hill City Antiques, Railroad & Collectibles Show & Sale
 Hill City Center
 Hill City, SD

MARCH 17
St. Patrick's Day Green Pancakes and Sausage
 8:30 a.m.
 RVUMC
 Rapid City, SD

MARCH 20-23
Hill City Restaurant Week
 Hill City, SD

MARCH 23
Tyndall VFW Vegas Night
 7:30 p.m.
 Tyndall Community Center
 Tyndall, SD

MARCH 23
Hill City Children's Easter Egg Hunt
 Visitor Info Center
 Hill City, SD

MARCH 24
Ham Dinner & Silent Auction
 11:45 a.m.
 RVUMC
 Rapid City, SD

MARCH 24
Run for the Rangers
 Hill City, SD

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