

## Cooperative Connections



Ione Fejfar welcomes veterans to Operation Black Hills Cabin in Custer as a place of healing and restoration

**A Healing Place  
for Veterans**

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**Co-ops and the  
S.D. National  
Guard**

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## Powerful Knowledge:

# Demand vs. Consumption



**Stephanie Horst**

horst@byelectric.com

**Consumption is a familiar concept for most people. Simply put, it is the total amount of energy used over time. Demand is the immediate rate of that consumption.**

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



In my past few articles, I have been talking about rates and the different rate components. Last month, I addressed the facility charge, and this month I am going to talk about demand and consumption.

When speaking about electrical energy, there are two related, yet different, measurement parameters that need to be understood: consumption and demand.

Consumption is a familiar concept for most people. Simply put, it is the total amount of energy used over time. Demand is the immediate rate of that consumption.

A simple analogy is a pile of rocks of various sizes and weights. Say that you were moving the pile one rock at a time. The total weight of the rocks is like the consumption because it represents the total energy you would expend in moving it. The weight of the largest rock is like the demand because it represents how much power you would need to have “available” to move that one rock at that instant in time.

The electric meter records both energy consumption and demand. The amount of energy consumed is represented by kilowatt hours (kWh). The demand, or rate of consumption, is kilowatts (kW). Typically, electric demand is not measured for small services like an average residential customer. However, larger services are charged for both the energy used and how fast they use it. The faster the collective consumer base uses energy the more Bon Homme Yankton Electric must be able to supply.

The amount of energy Bon Homme Yankton Electric’s system must be able to deliver to meet the instantaneous load (even if it is only for a short duration) is called its capacity. This concept is also used when designing an electric system or a building so that electrical distribution equipment is properly sized. The capacity of our distribution system must be able to meet the demand so no customers are deprived of their electricity. An under built system would be like when one too many roasters are plugged into a circuit in the church kitchen at the annual bizarre - eventually the breaker trips.

There is a lot more utility infrastructure needed to handle the demand requirements of some electric loads. Therefore, the demand component of the rate structure is important to evaluate. We are analyzing the load profiles of the different classes through our cost of service study to identify which load types should be charged both energy consumption and demand. We will keep you abreast of the developments of any new rates.

With all things important, please exercise your right to vote on or by Tuesday, November 3rd. In doing so, challenge yourself and set aside your biased opinions of the candidates and/or political parties. Research the policies that each support and base your vote on that. Look past all the smoke and mirrors.

Until next month, be safe and healthy!

# Bon Homme Yankton Electric

## Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-973)

**Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, Inc**  
**PO Box 158**  
**134 S Lidice St**  
**Tabor, SD 57063**

**Office Hours:**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**7:30am - 4:30pm**

**To pay by phone, call:**  
**1-888-395-5315**

**To report an outage, call:**  
**Local call from Tabor, Tyndall and Yankton:**  
**605-463-2507**  
**Toll Free in South Dakota:**  
**1-800-925-2929**

**NOTICE:** Electric bills must be paid by 10:00am on the 20th of each month to avoid a \$10 late fee.

Bon Homme Yankton Electric Cooperative Connections is published monthly by Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, Inc., PO Box 158, 134 S. Lidice St., Tabor, SD 57063-0158 for its members. Families subscribe to Bon Homme Yankton Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Bon Homme Yankton Electric Cooperative Connection's purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living. Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote \$6.00 from their electric payments annually for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Tabor, SD 57063 and at additional mailing offices.

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## Demo for Fire Safety Week in Avon

Bon Homme Yankton Electric teamed up with the Avon Fire Department to put on an electrical safety demonstration for Fire Safety Week (Oct. 4 - Oct. 10). Preschoolers to 6th graders attended PowerTown safety demonstrations in sessions throughout the morning on Oct. 7th.

We enlisted Jennifer Gross from East River Power Co-op for the PowerTown demonstrations. She spoke about being safe around power lines, substations, farm safety, and much more! The elementary kids had many questions and personal stories about their own experiences with electricity.



5th and 6th grade PowerTown session



East River Communications Coordinator Jennifer Gross

We are participating in the Mazing Acres Scarecrow contest. Throughout their season, they are displaying scarecrows that have been submitted by local businesses and organizations and hosting a coin war. The winner selects a non-profit to receive all the funds, and if we win the coin war, we will donate the proceeds to the Tabor Fire Department and EMS! If you stop by Mazing Acres, make sure to keep an eye out for our scarecrow!



## Sign Up for Communications Emails!

Want to stay up to date on what's happening at the co-op? Sign up for our brand new communications newsletter! Simply email Jaclyn Arens at [jarens@byelectric.com](mailto:jarens@byelectric.com) to sign up or call our office.

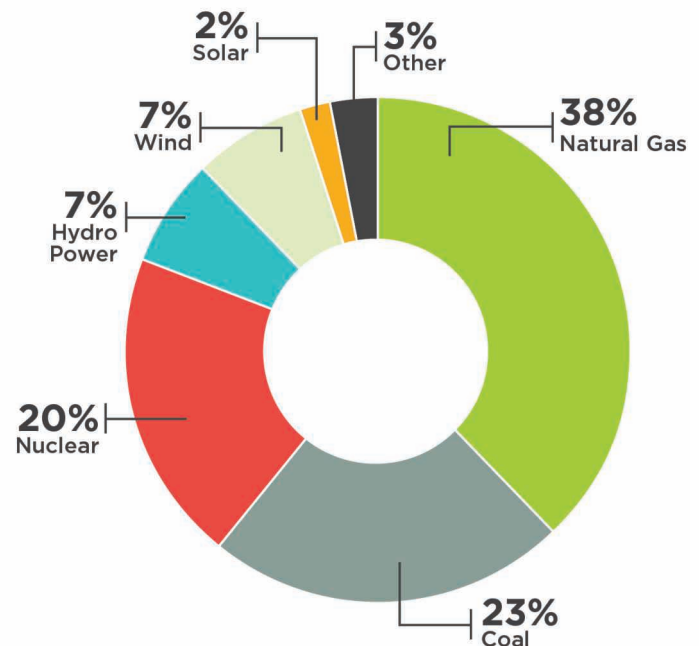
# Enjoy an energy-efficient feast this Thanksgiving

New electrical appliances use far less energy in your home than older ones, but that doesn't mean you should skimp on energy-efficient behavior in the kitchen.

During the frantic holiday season, making the simplest changes while cooking can save plenty of energy and money.

- There's usually no need to preheat the oven, especially if the food you're cooking - like a turkey or a ham - will be in it for a long time.
- Avoid opening the oven door to check on food. Instead, turn on the oven light and peer through the window to make sure your pumpkin pie or turkey isn't burning to a crisp. Opening the oven door - even for just a second or two - can drop the temperature inside the oven by 25 degrees.
- Place several items in the oven at once. All food will cook thoroughly if you leave enough room around pies or casseroles for air to flow.
- Electric ovens retain heat even after you turn them off, so it's safe to turn them off several minutes before a recipe's time is up. Electric stovetops work the same way: The metal element will keep cooking for several minutes after you turn it off.
- Choose glass or ceramic pans for the oven. They let you set the temperature 25 degrees lower than metal pans do.
- Match the pan size to the size of the stovetop burner so you don't waste heat. Just a 2-inch difference between pan and burner can waste 40 percent of the generated heat.
- Zap baked potatoes and vegetables in the microwave instead of simmering them on the stovetop. Microwaves use significantly less electricity than a stove or oven.
- Involve everyone in cooking. Leave the electric mixer in the cupboard and let the kids stir the cake batter by hand and recruit someone to chop the veggies instead of tossing them into a food processor. The experience might save some electricity and make everyone proud of contributing to the meal.

Keep these handy and helpful tips in mind as you prepare to entertain family and friends in your home this holiday season.



## Powerful Energy Sources

Nationally, electric co-ops and other utilities use a variety of fuels to power American homes and businesses. This diverse fuel mix supplies co-op members with the safe, reliable and affordable power they depend on.

## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



### "Keep Indoors!"

**Grace Austin, 7 years old**

Grace is a member of West River Electric Association based in Rapid City. She encourages readers, "During a storm, all kids and pets should be inside. So, don't go outside. It's dangerous."

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.



# Savory Slow-Cook Selections

## Slow-Cooker Zucchini Soup

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 ½ lbs. sweet Italian sausage            | 2 tsp. salt                              |
| 2 c. ½-inch celery pieces                 | 1 tsp. white sugar                       |
| 2 lbs. zucchini, cut into ½-inch slices   | 1 tsp. dried oregano                     |
| 2 (28 oz.) cans diced tomatoes (or fresh) | 1 tsp. Italian seasoning                 |
| 2 green peppers, cut into ½-inch slices   | 1 tsp. dried basil                       |
| 1 c. chopped onion                        | ¼ tsp. garlic powder                     |
|   | 6 T. grated Parmesan cheese, or to taste |

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir sausage in the hot skillet until browned and crumbly, 5-7 minutes; drain and discard grease. Mix celery into cooked sausage; cook and stir until celery is softened, about 10 minutes. Combine sausage mixture, zucchini, tomatoes, bell peppers, onion, salt, sugar, oregano, Italian seasoning, basil and garlic powder in a slow cooker. Cook on low for 4-6 hours. Garnish each serving with 1 T. Parmesan cheese. Note: Water is not needed in this recipe.

**Shelly Goetz, Sioux Falls, SD**

## Crock Pot Corn

- |                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 (16 oz.) bags frozen corn        | 6 T. sugar                |
| 8 oz. cream cheese (but in chunks) | 6 T. water                |
|                                    | ½ cup butter or margarine |

Put in crockpot on high for two hours or low for four. Stir every once in a while. Salt and pepper to taste.

**Helen Gregory, Lemmon, SD**

## Spaghetti Corn

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 can cream style corn   | 1 onion, diced         |
| 1 can whole corn         | 1 cup shredded cheddar |
| 2 cups spaghetti, broken | 1 stick butter, melted |

Break spaghetti into 2-inch pieces. Do not drain whole corn. Combine all ingredients. Pour into buttered casserole dish. Bake uncovered for 30 mins. at 350. Cover and put back in oven for 20 mins. OR place in crock pot for 2 hours. OR Cook on stove for 10 mins. on lowest heat, removing for 10 minute intervals.

**Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD**

## BBQ Steakhouse Chili

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 2 T. oil   | beans, rinsed  |
| 1 lb. beef top round steak, cut into 1/2-inch pieces | 2-1/2 cups undrained canned no-salt-added diced tomatoes |
| 1 lb. extra-lean ground beef                         | 1 bottle (18 oz.) KRAFT Hickory Smoke Barbecue Sauce     |
| 1 onion, finely chopped                              | ¾ cup KRAFT Shredded Cheddar Cheese                      |
| ¼ cup A1 Dry Rub Bold Original                       |  |
| 3 cloves garlic, minced                              |  |
| 2 cans (16 oz. each) kidney                          |  |

Heat oil in large skillet on medium. Add next five ingredients; stir. Cook 10 min. or until meat is evenly browned, stirring frequently. Spoon into slow cooker sprayed with cooking spray. Add all remaining ingredients except cheese; stir. Cover with lid. Cook on low 7 to 8 hours (or on high 4 to 5 hours). Serve topped with cheese.

**Provided by Kraft Heinz**

## Chicken Cacciatore

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1/2 cup KRAFT Zesty Italian                               | 1 green pepper, cut in strips                  |
| 1 tsp. dried oregano leaves                               | 1/2 lb. sliced mushrooms                       |
| 2 lbs. mixed boneless skinless chicken breasts and thighs | 1-1/2 c. CLASSICO Tomato and Basil Pasta Sauce |
|   | 3 c. rotini pasta, uncooked                    |

Mix dressing/oregano in pot sprayed with cooking spray. Add chicken; coat both sides of each piece with dressing mixture. Top with vegetables and pasta sauce; cover with lid. Cook on low 6-8 hours (or high 4-6 hours). About 15 min. before serving, cook pasta, no salt. Drain. Serve topped with chicken and vegetables.

**Provided by Kraft Heinz**

Please send your favorite holiday recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

## WELCOME MEMBERS

Avon

Kathy Kocer

Mission Hill

Alan & Bobbie Moehring  
Southeast Ag Supply

Scotland

Caleb Pedersen

Tabor

Ty Hauger

Utica

April Reyes

Volin

Brad Schmidt & Staci Hanson

Yankton

Doug & Delvonna Wentz  
River Wind Ice  
Zachary & Amy Price  
Rick & Leeann Cherington  
James & Stacy Schramm  
Trevor & Chelsea Haas  
Ethan Anderson  
Jeremy & Sarah Anderson  
Andrew & Jennifer Holst  
Sheryl Bridwell  
Clay Backer

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## Is Your Heat Meter Breaker On?

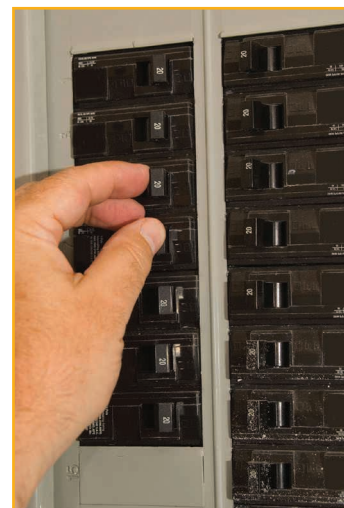
The heating season has begun and Bon Homme Yankton Electric needs your help.

Some members turn off the breakers in their panel to their heating system over the summer. This may also turn off your auxiliary meter that is used to measure your electric heat. If we are not able to receive your meter readings, you will not get your electric heat credit.

We prefer that your breakers are left on all year and that you control your electric heat with your thermostat.

Members who heat their home with metered electric heat receive a \$.025 credit for those kWh used during the heating months.

If you have electric heat but are not getting a credit on your bill, call our office at 605-463-2507 to see what it takes to qualify for the electric heat credit.



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Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation as of October 1, 2020

# September Board Meeting Highlights

The September board meeting was held on September 23, at 8am. All board members were present. Others present were Attorney Sheila Woodward, General Manager Stephanie Horst, Office Manager Nicole Einrem, Operations Manager Ken Carda, and Communications/Marketing Coordinator Jaclyn Arens.

## The Board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- New Members & Cancellations
- Capital Credits to Estates in the amount of \$5,173.09
- Closed Work Order Inventory in the amount of \$269,477.92
- Special Equipment Purchases totaling \$6,849.65
- East River July and August Cyber Security Report
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their departments.

- Office: Monthly Financial Report
- Member Service/Communications Report
- Operations Report
- Safety Report
- General Manager's Report
- Reports from board members
  - South Dakota Rural Electric
  - East River Electric Power Cooperative
- Basin Voting Delegate and Alternative
- Regional Virtual Meeting Voting Delegate
- CFC Virtual Meeting Voting Delegate

## Other Board Governance:

- Reviewed Director District Boundaries
- Executed \$300,000 in funds for REDLEG Horizon Healthcare
- Executive Session
- Next meeting date set for Wed., Oct. 21, at 8 am.

## STATISTICAL COMPARISON

AUGUST	2019	2020	2020 YTD
Number of Meters	3,868	3,894	
Total Revenue	\$876,001	\$1,050,560	\$7,517,442
Cost of Power	\$510,275	\$626,039	\$4,373,869
Total Cost of Service	\$840,455	\$926,982	\$6,889,355
kWhs Purchased	7,440,080	9,270,359	68,178,131
kWhs Sold	7,041,490	8,885,281	65,244,676
Line Loss %	5.20%	4.04%	4.05%
Residential Average kWh	1,341	15	
Residential Average Bill	\$171	\$184	
<b>SOLAR STATS</b>			
Solar Production	723 kWh	828 kWh	
Solar used by office	711/98%	784/95%	
Solar put back on grid	12/2%	44/5%	
Main office kWh used	4,631	4,148	
From grid	3,920	3,320	
From solar	711	828	
Solar % of kWh used	15%	20%	
Max solar production/day	32 kWh	32 kWh	

## CLASSIFIEDS

December Issue Deadline: November 1, 2020. Email your classified ad to: [jarens@byelectric.com](mailto:jarens@byelectric.com). Members can post one free ad per year. Repeats or longer ads are \$1/column inch.

**FOR RENT:** 1 bedroom apartment. Tabor Manor. Contact Gary at 605-463-2209 or Ron at 605-463-2256.

Beseda Hall, Tabor, SD for rent for any special occasion such as weddings, anniversaries, graduation or birthdays! For more information contact Linda Bares at 605-661-6220 or [snlbare@gmail.com](mailto:snlbare@gmail.com).

**FOR RENT:** Tabor Self Storage. Call 605-660-0274 or 605-660-3497.

## FREE Classified Ad Service

Members can submit classified ads for the following categories: Giveaway, For Sale, For Rent, and Wanted Ads. All ads must be received by the first of the month to be included in the following month's issue. Ads will run one time unless resubmitted. Bon Homme Yankton Electric reserves the right to edit content or exclude ads due to space restrictions. Email ads to Jaclyn Arens at [jarens@byelectric.com](mailto:jarens@byelectric.com).





Operation Black Hills Cabin is a healing place for U.S. military veterans in Custer.

# HEALING PLACES

## Organizations cater to military veterans in need

**Billy Gibson**

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

*"After 21 years of learning to live with the scars, the limitations, the tremors and the nightmares...I can honestly say this experience has filled my heart with fresh hope." - Veteran Jason Cooper*

U.S. military veteran Jason Cooper needed some peace. He needed some quiet. He needed a reprieve from the rigors and stress of everyday life. So, Cooper gathered up his family and made the trip from his home in Kentucky to the Black Hills where he would find rest, relaxation and time for thoughtful contemplation.

Cooper and his crew spent a week-long vacation in a comfortable, cozy cabin in Custer as part of a project called Operation Black Hills Cabin (OBHC). Over the past 10 years, he and dozens of other wounded veterans have discovered a tranquil site to unwind and to enjoy the wide range of outdoor activities available in the area – all free of charge.

The program began as a service to provide veterans and their families with a free getaway and also as a means for organizers to express gratitude for the sacrifices made to protect freedom.

One of those founding organizers is Col. Marty Mahrt, a former Air Force pilot who joined the military in 1955 and flew 88 missions through two tours of duty in Vietnam. During his first tour, Mahrt was assigned to attack a munitions arsenal at Yen Bai Province. After releasing his ordnance and pulling away, Mahrt's F105 Thunderchief was hit in the right wing by enemy fire. The



Air Force veteran Col. Marty Mahrt is a founding board member of OBHC.

aircraft began a downward spiral, but Mahrt was able to eject and was soon rescued by a helicopter squadron and flown back to the U.S. for surgical treatment of a severe shoulder wound.

While Mahrt and his wife Colleen are usually on hand to greet the veteran visitors to OBHC, the guests rarely get to hear of Mahrt's combat experience. As he puts it, "They don't need to hear anything from me. They have their own problems. I just listen to them and let them know that we're here to help them."

Mahrt said that he was eager to join Pat and Jeff Baird when they began gathering local support for OBHC back in 2011.

"Just knowing a lot of people who didn't make it back, and seeing the wounded warriors coming back from Iraq, that was something that motivated us to get involved. You see these families, the whole structure of the family changes when a soldier



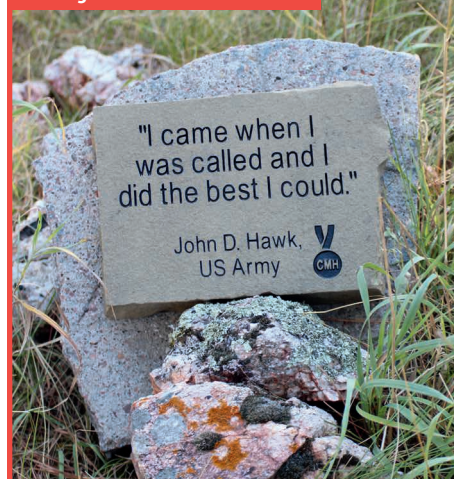


The Ranch Ministries in Blunt gives veterans an opportunity to hunt in one of the country's most prized pheasant harvesting territories.

and breadwinner is wounded and the wife has to take over," he said.

Mahrt points out that while the project isn't necessarily about providing psychological therapy for the veterans, there are emotional connections made in the process. He said a significant part of the program is the local community's participation. Business leaders and individuals provide free services or deep discounts for meals, entertainment, local tourist attractions and outdoor activities. The veterans also receive a gift card loaded with "Custer Cash" to help offset travel costs.

The Trail of Healing at Operation Black Hills Cabin has a series of messages etched in stone.



"We meet the families and welcome them," Mahrt said. "Sometimes the emotions get the best of me when I present them with their Visa card and they start crying and give me a hug. Sometimes you get emotional."

OBHC Board Secretary Ione Fejfar said the support of the community and way the residents of Custer treat the veterans and their families is part of the strength of the program.

"The people of Custer are absolutely wonderful," she said. "They really roll out the red carpet for them and everywhere our veterans go, they are treated with respect and honor and friendship. Between the cabin and the town, this is a very healing place."

She said every veteran who visits the cabin is asked to compose a brief letter of gratitude to the community that's published in the local newspaper.

## Oahe Electric Lends a Hand

The Ranch Ministries was founded by Marine veteran Ken Korkow on 540 acres in Blunt, roughly 20 miles east of Pierre. It's a faith-based retreat center he created to offer military veterans an open space to take part in team-building exercises, outdoor hunting and shooting sports, dirt track racing, firearms safety training, horseback riding and more.

According to Korkow, there's also a lot of bonding among brothers and spiritual growth that takes place along with all of the fun and games.

"We share the story of Christ, the one who heals and gives us purpose," said Korkow, who received citations for the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart.

Korkow explained the center is not only

open to veterans but to surrounding communities as well. Youth groups and adults have visited to participate in firearm safety and team-building exercises.

"A lot of people come here to get away from their everyday lives," he said. "We take care of the needs of our veterans, but we also depend on support and volunteers from the community for our success and we open our doors to those who want to come here and find fulfillment."



Liz and Ken Korkow provide a place where veterans can go to seek spiritual healing.

One of those supporting organizations is Oahe Electric, which has responded to requests to provide material and manpower to meet the ministry's needs.

According to Oahe Electric Member Services Manager Russ Hohn, "The Ranch has had a meaningful impact in our community and we've been able to give back through our Operation Round Up program, which is funded by our members. It's a prime example of our cooperative and our members demonstrating one of the seven cooperative principles: Concern for Community."





## Rich Schild Memorial Bridge Dedication

Last year Governor Kristi Noem started the Fallen Heroes program. The mission of this program is to honor and remember the men and women who, by their selfless acts, lost their lives while fighting for our freedom.

The State Transportation Commission decided to honor South Dakota veterans who died in action by having bridges named after them. They contacted family members of these fallen soldiers asking them to select a bridge and dedication date for their loved ones.

Among the SD veterans honored was Sgt. 1st Class Richard Lee Schild who was killed December 4, 2005, following a detonation of a roadside bomb in Baghdad, Iraq. Schild was serving with Battery C, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery unit based out of Yankton.

Rich Schild worked as the Office Manager at Bon Homme Yankton Electric from 1994-2005.

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs hosted a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor Richard Schild on September 12th in front of the Yankton County Court House.

Rich's wife Kay Schild and their children Kolby and Keely selected the Highway 50 westbound bridge between Yankton and Vermillion because they thought it was the perfect location. Kay said, "When family members and friends come into Yankton they will be welcomed by the Rich Schild Memorial Bridge."

"Whenever and wherever this nation has called, in times of darkness and danger, as well as in times of peace and prosperity, veterans have been there and have proudly carried the torch of liberty for all to see," said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Our fallen heroes are no longer with us, but their memory lives on in the hearts of their loved ones and our state," said Whitlock. "Naming our South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen will give us an opportunity of remembrance, reflection, and respect—for honoring the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation. They cherished liberty and loved freedom enough to lay down their lives to preserve our way of life."



Rich's children Koby and Keely and his brother Brooks in uniform on the right



Guards who served with Rich



# Roadside Bomb Claims Life of Employee on Military Duty

By George Stuteville, NRECA published 2005

He was known for his ready smile and jokes, his insistence that Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association run like clockwork and his fierce loyalty to Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery Unit, South Dakota National Guard.



Rich Schild 2004 Employee Photo



Rich Schild Military Portrait

Such is a tiny part of the legacy of Richard Schild, the long-time business manager at the Tabor, S.D., co-op, who was killed by a roadside bomb on Dec. 4 in Baghdad.

He is believed to be the first electric co-op employee killed in the Iraq war.

Sgt. 1st Class Schild and Staff Sgt. Daniel M. Cuka, 27, of Yankton, died after insurgents detonated two separate improvised explosive devices near their HUMVEEs while they were en route to an Iraqi police station, according to a report from the National Guard.

Three other members of Charlie Battery who lived in the close-knit community near Yankton were injured in the ambush. There was no report on their condition.

The news left the employees at the small co-op devastated, said General Manager Merlin Goehring.

"There are tears in our office today," he said. "Not just the employees, either. This is a small town; everybody knew Rich."

There also were tears throughout South Dakota co-ops.

Schild's booming, playful nature, balanced by his serious approach to work, made him a well-known personality in the state's association of co-op accountants and office managers, said Dena Scott, who manages the statewide office in Pierre.

"He was our go-to person. If he didn't know the answer, he would get it for you," Scott said. "He was an outstanding leader in the co-op family, and so dedicated to his own family. In our little office managers' group, he would know how to make it fun, and still keep on task. He always made a point of wanting to include the new people, make them feel a part of the group."

Audry Ricketts, general manager for the statewide, recalled Schild as "a colorful individual with a love for life. This young man was one of our future leaders. He was a doer, a teamplayer,

a visionary. His sense of humor was a gift we loved in the cooperative family."

Scott said Schild sent an e-mail to the statewide group Nov. 16. It included a photo of him hitting a golf ball on the grounds of a once-lavish compound used by Saddam Hussein in Baghdad.

Schild's unit, which included a brother, a nephew and friends, some of whom he had known since boyhood, had been given the dangerous assignment to train and evaluate the Iraqi police force in one of the city's police districts. Iraqi police-training facilities have been especially targeted by insurgents.

Schild, a father of two, had served in the Guard for about 14 years. He knew the risks and spoke openly about them to several co-op friends before his deployment last summer.

Said Goehring: "He was very concerned. He told me that anyone who says he is not scared is lying. He said, 'You are anxious, and you have it in the back of your mind that it could be your time.'"

Jeff Birkeland, office manager at West Central Electric Co-op, Murdo, said he had known Schild for eight years and always looked forward to Schild's joking and cutting-up.

But Schild had a serious side - especially when it came to his Guard duties.

"He was just one of those people who was going to go and get the job done, whatever the job, but he was worried about his family during his absence. He spoke about that. Then he said that when you're sent over, there is the possibility you won't come home. It took the wind right out of me when he said it," Birkeland said.

Schild's death sounded a somber note on the NRECA board meeting in Arlington, Va., where NRECA CEO Glenn English said "the entire electric cooperative family joins with the community of Yankton and the members and employees of Bon Homme Yankton Electric to mourn the loss of Sgt. 1st Class Richard Schild."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of this young man who has made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation," English said.

Work at the Bon Homme Yankton office, has been tough enough during Schild's recent absence for active military duty, Goehring said. Now Schild's permanent absence from a job he had held since April 1994 is unthinkable.

"He was my right-hand man," Goehring said, adding that Schild had called into the office from Baghdad just a few days before his death. "He was always thinking about us and e-mailing us about what was going on in the office and asking, 'Did we do this? Did we do that?'"

One of Schild's last e-mails came in late November - around the 29th, which was his 40th birthday. It was just in time to remind Goehring of how they shared November birthdays and how they celebrated them together.

"It will be very difficult to replace a man like Rich Schild," said Goehring. "And around here, he will never be forgotten."



The South Dakota National Guard has been responsive in helping co-ops restore power to their members after natural disasters.

# S.D. NATIONAL GUARD

## Co-ops, SDNG work together to meet challenges

**Billy Gibson**

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

The South Dakota National Guard and the state's rural electric cooperatives share a synergistic relationship that goes back for decades. Both the Guard and the co-ops are highly skilled, highly motivated and highly prepared to respond in an emergency situation and to deliver help when and where it's needed.

For cooperatives, the response typically centers around restoring power after a natural disaster so that members can return their lives and their business operations back to normal as soon as possible. The state's 28 electric co-ops are part of a state, regional and national mutual assistance agreement that assures help will arrive when needed, and that, in turn, help will be dispatched upon request.

Cooperative operations personnel throughout the state work in conjunction with the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) in Pierre to formulate and maintain an emergency work plan designed to help expedite the process of responding to a natural disaster.

According to SDREA Manager of Loss Control Services Mark Patterson, the more than 125,000 electric co-op consumers across South Dakota can rest assured their local power provider has the resources available to meet any and all challenges.

"We have a well-connected professional network of electric co-ops in South Dakota that's made up of exceptionally skilled linemen and supervisors who are absolutely the best in the business," Patterson said. "They have the experience they need to do the job as quickly and safely as possible, and they also have the resources at their disposal to rebuild the system and get the

power back on for our members who desperately need it."

Similarly, emergency preparedness is the South Dakota National Guard's stock in trade; although the Guard's scope of emergency response is quite broader. Not only do soldiers stand ready to be deployed to just about anywhere across the globe at a moment's notice, they also are trained to assist in a variety of stateside tasks.

The Guard's heroic work after the Rapid City Flood, The Spencer Tornado, the 1997 blizzards and the 2011 mass flooding are just a few active duty missions where the Guard came to the rescue to help save and protect life and property.

Most recently and most prominently, the Guard has been summoned to help contain and control politically-motivated



Co-op crews have relied on the National Guard to assist in power restoration efforts.





The National Guard and electric cooperatives share a commitment to serve the citizens of South Dakota, especially in stressful times.

violence and also deal with problems brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

After a coronavirus outbreak at Smithfield Farms in Sioux Falls made national headlines, the Guard deployed 25 ambulance teams - including four air support teams - and was recruited to conduct contact tracing in both Sioux Falls and Rapid City. Roughly 2,600 Smithfield Farms employees and their family members were tested for the virus with the assistance of National Guard personnel.

Gov. Kristi Noem expressed her appreciation for the work of the National Guard soldiers. "We knew they would be ready, they always are, but I don't want anyone to take for granted how blessed we are to have men and women in our South Dakota National Guard that continue to step up."

Lt. Col. Anthony Deiss, Director of Public Affairs for the South Dakota National Guard, recalls being personally involved in previous missions to help electric cooperative crews transport poles and other equipment, control work zones along roadways and pull vehicles out of wet, muddy ditches.

He said the soldiers take a great deal of pride in their work and approach their respective missions with the same commitment to serve as cooperative line crews demonstrate on a daily basis.

"We've had a tremendous partnership with the electric cooperatives when working alongside them to help respond to winter storms over the years. Our co-ops are on the front lines when providing power restoration during and after natural disasters, and they serve a critically important role in public health and safety. Anytime the SDNG is called up by the state to assist our co-ops in their mission, we look forward to the opportunity to support them."

"It's important for different state agencies and organizations to coordinate and work together during emergencies. These

relationships are vital to our state and communities to help quickly mitigate, respond and recover from these disasters. We provide a variety of resources to assist civil authorities to ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens."

Patterson of SDREA concluded: "I think this is one of the things that makes our state very unique, the sense that we all need to pull together, especially in a crisis. Neighbors helping neighbors...that's what our National Guard and our co-ops are all about."



The National Guard takes pride in helping electric co-ops reconstruct downed power lines and poles.





# Upgrading for Growth

You may notice new, larger electrical cabinets in our service territory. To keep up with load growth in the west Yankton lake area, we will be increasing the ampere (amp) carrying capabilities of the line. To do this, we need to install larger single phase and three phase cabinets that can handle the higher amps.

Electrical cabinets are enclosures that hold electrical equipment used to maintain our infrastructure. The cabinets hold switches, elbows, grounds, knobs, and fuses to prevent electrical shock to equipment users (linemen and electricians) and protect the contents from the environment. These cabinets are typically found on intersections and in the yards of our members.

Members on our B-Y Water Substation East circuit to our Gavin's Point Substation West circuit are included in this project. All members will benefit with this reliability and resilience upgrade.

This area has seen a large amount of load growth over the years, and this project is the most economical way to provide the quality service our members expect.

The new single-phase cabinets (used by a typical homeowner) are 42" by 30" compared to the previous 30" by 18". The new three phase cabinets are 108" by 30" compared to the previous 60" by 18".

**REMINDER:** Please do not paint, enhance, block or otherwise obstruct electrical cabinets, poles, or meters. By respecting all utility equipment, you can help keep the power on and your local utility workers and the public safe.

## Developments Affected

Bob Law Addition	Heritage Acres	Oak Hills
Calumet Landing	Holiday Villager	Oak Hills West #6
Cedar Hills	Kabeiseman's Addition	Oak Park Addition
Crestview Estates	Kaiser's (434 South & Kaiser Rd)	Rolling Hills Addition
Deep Woods	Kingsley Knolls	Rose Briar Estates
Deer Ridge	Lakeview Terrace	Sherwood Acres North
Deerfield Ranch Estates	Lakeview Trailer Court	Sherwood Acres South
Deerfield Valley	Lewis & Clark Resort	Signal Hills
English Heights	Lewis Ridge	Stone Addition
English Heights "Parcel C"	Marina Bluff Condo's	Sundance Ridge
Erksins Addition	Marina Boat Docks	Sundance Ridge (North)
Executive Park Model Estates	Marina Dell Estates	Valley View Rd
Farview Heights	Marina Estates	Woodland Estates
Gavins Gulch	Marina Park Estates	Yankton Camp Area
Gavins Point Camp Area	Midway Camp Area	
Gavins Road	Midway Gulch	



New Single-Phase Cabinet



New Three-Phase Cabinet



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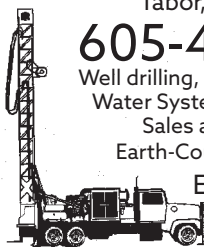
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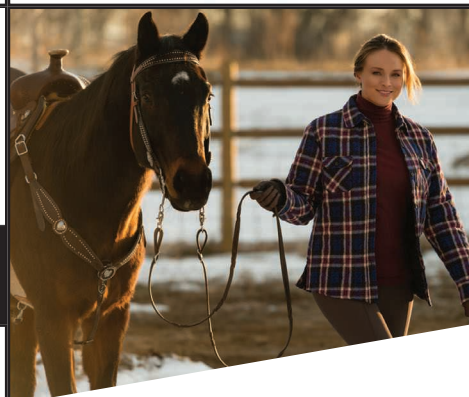
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W-2018522 09/16

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

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**October 22**

Butte County CFEL Annual Christmas Fair, Newell City Hall, Newell, SD, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 605-456-9837

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**October 24**

Ladies Day Shopping Extravaganza, The Crossing Bar, Mina, SD, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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**October 29-30**

Helping with Horsepower's Phobia - A Haunted Trail, Reclamation Ranch, 40789 259th St., Mitchell, SD, 7-11 p.m. 605-770-2867

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**October 31-November 1**

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Assn. Sioux Falls Classic Gun Show, 3200 W Maple St. Sioux Falls, SD, 605-630-2199

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**November 1 and 15**

VFW Bingo, Wall Community Center, Wall, SD, 605-279-2663

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**November 6-8**

YFS Kids Fair, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD

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**November 7**

Fall Fling Craft/Vendor Fair, Dakota Christian School, Corsica, SD, 605-366-7940

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**November 7**

Fairburn Community Center Bazaar, Fairburn, SD, 5:30 p.m., 605-255-4807

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**November 7**

Silver Star Bazaar, Lake Norden Community Center, Lake Norden, SD, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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**November 7**

BH Meat Fest, Fundraiser for Shriner Patient Camps, BH Harley Davidson, Rapid City, SD, 605-415-3577

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**November 7**

Helping with Horsepower's RibFest, 4 p.m., Reclamation Ranch, Mitchell, SD, Contact mattcarter1421@gmail.com to register your team

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**November 11**

MasterChef Junior Live, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD

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**November 12**

Zonta Club of the BH Expo, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

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**November 14**

Winter Marketplace Pop Up, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

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**November 14**

Annual Holiday Extravaganza, Sisseton Area Merchants and Crafters, Sisseton, SD, 605-698-7425

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**November 17**

Baby Shark Live, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

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**November 20-21**

Holiday Arts Christmas Show, 112 E. 5th St. Masonic Hall, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

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**November 21-22**

Winterfest: A Winter Arts Festival, 203 S. Washington St., Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-1557

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**November 27**

Black Friday Trap Shoot, Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League, 10:30 a.m., Lunch Available, 5000 North Oakview Place, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-332-9527

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**December 5**

Rapid City Garden Club's 59th Annual Wreath and Centerpiece Sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lions' and Bridger Buildings, Central States Fairgrounds, Rapid City, SD, 605-343-0710

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**December 5**

Festival of Trees, Newell City Hall, Newell, SD, Admission: Two Cans of Non-Perishable Food Items Per Person, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**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.**