

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## Co-ops Power Next Generation

**How Co-ops are  
Engaging Youth**  
Pages 8-9

**811: Call Before  
You Dig**  
Pages 12-13

# Wired for Service: Honoring the Backbone of Our Cooperative



**Stephanie Horst**  
horst@byelectric.com

In the quiet hours before dawn, while most of us are still wrapped in the comfort of sleep, a dedicated group of individuals is already hard at work. Clad in flame-resistant gear, safety glasses, rubber gloves, and heavy boots, B-Y Electric's lineworkers prepare for another day of keeping the lights on—no matter what challenges lie ahead.

As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18, we recognize not just the job they do, but the extraordinary people they are. These men are more than skilled professionals—they are the backbone of our communities, ensuring that power flows reliably to homes, businesses, and critical services.

**Throughout our two-county service territory, our crews travel miles of rural roads, building, maintaining, and restoring power to ensure life runs smoothly.**

Working high atop utility poles, braving unpredictable weather, and tackling technical challenges with precision, our B-Y Electric line crews demonstrate a level of resilience, courage, and commitment that few professions demand. Whether battling ice storms, fierce winds, or the sweltering summer heat, their mission remains unwavering: to keep our communities connected, safe, and powered.

Throughout our two-county service territory, our crews travel miles of rural roads, building, maintaining, and restoring power to ensure life runs smoothly. Their expertise is the reason our homes stay warm in the winter, businesses remain operational, and first responders have the power they need in critical moments. They are the silent guardians of our way of life.

And when disaster strikes—when a storm takes out the grid and darkness falls—our lineworkers don't hesitate. They answer the call with urgency and skill, restoring power and normalcy to those in need. Their work is more than a job; it is a lifeline, a promise that when the lights go out, they will be there to turn them back on.

But their service doesn't stop at home. B-Y Electric's lineworkers stand ready to assist

fellow cooperatives near and far, embodying the cooperative spirit of neighbor helping neighbor. When widespread outages devastate communities, they leave their own families behind to bring relief to others—because that's who they are, and that's what they do.

## **Recognizing the Unseen Heroes in the Office**

While our lineworkers are out in the field ensuring reliable power, there is another dedicated team working behind the scenes to keep our cooperative running efficiently—our office staff.

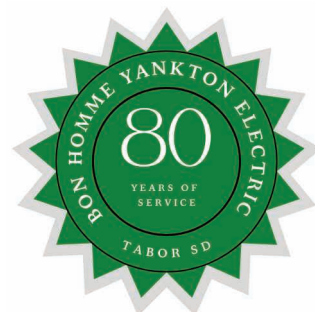
On Administrative Professionals Day, April 24, we take a moment to appreciate the often-unsung heroes who handle the day-to-day operations that make it all possible. From answering member inquiries and managing billing to coordinating service requests and supporting crews in the field, their work is essential.

Their commitment ensures that members receive timely assistance, that paperwork and regulations are handled seamlessly, and that the cooperative runs like a well-oiled machine. Though their contributions may not always be visible, their impact is felt in every aspect of our service.

## **A Cooperative Effort Worth Celebrating**

This month, as we honor the unwavering dedication of our lineworkers and administrative staff, let's take a moment to truly appreciate the sacrifice, skill, and heart they bring to their work every day. Together, they form the foundation of B-Y Electric, ensuring that we continue to serve our members with reliability, efficiency, and care.

So, the next time you flip a switch, receive assistance on your account, or enjoy the comfort of electricity, remember the hands that make it possible—the hardworking men and women of B-Y Electric, wired for service and dedicated to illuminating lives.



**COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS**

**BON HOMME YANKTON ELECTRIC**

(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 - 4:00pm

**UPDATED**  
**Pay by Phone, call:**  
 1-855-941-3507

**To report an outage, call:**  
**Local call from Tabor, Tyndall, and Yankton:**  
 605-463-2507

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

**Board President:** Dean Sternhagen

**Board of Directors**

- Dave Sykora - Vice President
- Dave Sternhagen - Secretary
- Robert Ruppelt - Treasurer
- Paul Voigt
- Brian Brandt
- Rick Cheloha

**General Manager:** Stephanie Horst

**Operations Manager:** Ken Carda

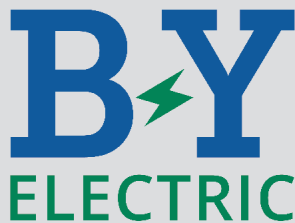
**Office Manager:** Nicole Einrem

**Members Service Advisor:** Aaron Melichar

**Editor:** Chantelle Jungemann

Bon Homme Yankton Electric Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, Inc, PO Box 158, 134 S. Lidice St., Tabor, SD 57063-0158. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Bon Homme Yankton Electric Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living. Subscription information: Cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals postage paid at Tabor, SD 57063.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

The February board meeting was held on February 26, 2025 at 8:00 am. Directors present were Dave Sternhagen, Dave Sykora, Dean Sternhagen, Rick Cheloha, Brian Brandt, Robert Ruppelt and Paul Voigt. Others present were the attorney, management staff and guest employee.

**THE BOARD APPROVED THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

- January 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
- Capital Credits to Estates - \$5,110.23
- Review New Members & Cancellations
- Review Closed Work Order Inventory - None
- Review Special Equipment Purchases - \$17,548.94 (transformers)

**THE BOARD REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED FOLLOWING REPORTS:**

- Member Service Report
- Operations & Safety Report
- Office & Financial Reports
  - 2024 Year End Financials
- General Manager Report
  - East River GM Sahr Report
  - Power Bill
  - ER Load Management Report
  - 2024 REED Fund Recap
  - NRECA Jan 2025 Report
- East River Cyber Security/IT Report
- SDREA Board Report

- East River Report
- NRECA Director Conference Report
- Energize Forum Report

**OTHER GOVERNANCE**

- Approved 2025 Larson's Digging, Inc. Contract \$450,000
- Approved 2025 Ivan's Boring Contract \$100,000
- Approved Policy 50-14 Uncontrolled Electric Heat Rate revisions
- Approved in-house B-Y Board Financial training in January 2026
- Colonial Life will be option to Employees instead of or addition to Aflac
- Discussed Pledge Presentation for MTI Underground School, future potential pledges and options for consideration
- Approved 2025 Drive Thru Annual Meeting, emphasis on the 80th anniversary celebration
- Enter/Exit Executive Session
- Next Meeting date set for Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 8:00 am.

FINANCIAL REPORT	JANUARY		YTD
	2024	2025	2025
<b>TOTAL ELECTRIC REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,156,600</b>	<b>\$1,296,358</b>	<b>\$1,296,358</b>
<b>COST OF POWER</b>	<b>\$717,624</b>	<b>\$676,198</b>	<b>\$676,198</b>
<b>TOTAL COST OF SERVICE</b>	<b>\$986,571</b>	<b>\$1,115,667</b>	<b>\$1,115,667</b>
<b>KWHS PURCHASED</b>	<b>11,924,755</b>	<b>11,775,635</b>	<b>11,775,635</b>
<b>RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE KWH</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>2,432</b>	
<b>RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE BILL</b>	<b>\$249</b>	<b>\$261</b>	

**Welcome New Members**

Avon  
 Carter Fillaus  
 Irene  
 Kyle Engen

Yankton  
 JDK Properties, LLC  
 Kelly Eisma  
 Edward & Michele Riffe

# Distracted Driving

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system – anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

## Consequences

Using a cell phone while driving creates enormous potential for deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. In 2022, 3,308 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

## Get Involved

We can all play a part in the fight to save lives by ending distracted driving.

**APRIL**  
**Distracted Driving Awareness Month**  
an **nsc** initiative  
National Safety Council

## Teens

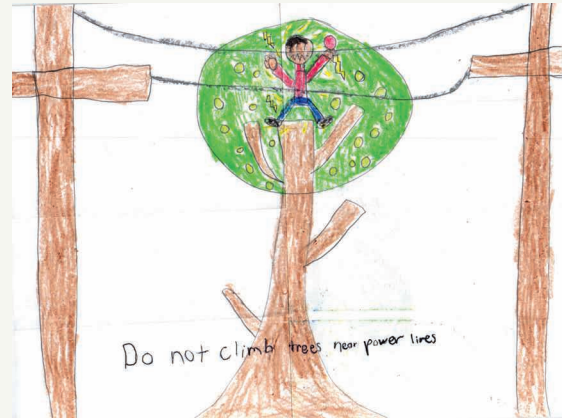
Teens can be the best messengers with their peers, so we encourage them to speak up when they see a friend driving while distracted, to have their friends sign a pledge to never drive distracted, to become involved in their local Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter, and to share messages on social media that remind their friends, family and neighbors not to make the deadly choice to drive distracted.

## Parents

Parents first must lead by example – by never driving distracted – as well as have a talk with their young driver about distraction and all of the responsibilities that come with driving. Have everyone in the family sign the pledge to commit to distraction-free driving. Remind your teen driver that in states with graduated driver licensing (GDL), a violation of distracted-driving laws could mean a delayed or suspended license.

## Educators and Employers

Educators and employers can play a part, too. Spread the word at your school or workplace about the dangers of distracted driving. Ask your students to commit to distraction-free driving or set a company policy on distracted driving.



**“Do not climb trees near power lines.”**

## Naomi Krcil, Age 7

Naomi cautions readers about the dangers of climbing trees near power lines. Thank you for your picture, Naomi! Naomi's parents are Andrew and Andrea Krcil, members of Charles Mix Electric Association.

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.

# Let's Have BRUNCH

## EASY BREAKFAST MUFFIN

### Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup granulated sugar  
2 tsps. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. salt  
2 eggs (beaten)  
1/2 cup vegetable oil  
1/2 cup milk

### Method

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Line a 12 cup muffin tin with paper liners or spray each cup with cooking spray. In a mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt.

Add in eggs, oil and milk and mix only until combined, don't beat or over mix or they will be dry! Fold in 1/2 cup mix-ins if desired.

Scoop into prepared muffin tin and bake for 15 to 18 minutes or just until golden and a toothpick comes clean. Serve with butter and jam.

**Lyon-Lincoln Electric Member**

## UMM BRUNCH

### Ingredients:

Scallops  
English Muffin  
Eggs

### Method

Soak scallops in cold water in fridge for two hours, pat dry, sauté in butter and garlic until opaque (approx. 4 min). Put on toasted English muffin. Cook poached eggs in 10-inch skillet with 1 tbsp. vinegar (3-5 mins.) Remove with slotted spoon and drain on paper towel. Add to the scallops and top with Hollandaise Sauce.

### Hollandaise Sauce:

Cut 1/2 stick butter into thirds. In double boiler, combine 1 piece of butter and 3 egg yolks, 1 tbsp. lemon juice and 1 tbsp. water. Place it over boiling water and cook while whisking rapidly. Add remaining butter one at a time, continue to cook. Add salt and pepper to taste.

**Kari Reder**  
**Northern Electric Member**

## SAUSAGE AND EGG TACOS

### Ingredients:

4 oz. breakfast sausage, casings removed  
1 tbsp. perfect pinch roasted garlic bell pepper seasoning  
6 eggs  
2 tbsps. milk  
1 tbsp. butter  
6 small flour tortillas, warmed  
1/4 cup shredded Mexican cheese blend  
1 med. ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and sliced

### Method

Heat medium skillet on medium-high heat. Add sausage and Seasoning; cook and stir until sausage is browned and crumbled. Remove sausage from pan; keep warm. Drain fat from pan.

Beat eggs and milk in medium bowl with wire whisk. Melt butter in same skillet on medium heat. Add egg mixture; cook and stir until eggs are firm.

For each taco, place one tortilla on plate. Top with eggs, sausage, cheese and avocado. Sprinkle with additional seasoning, if desired.

**McCormick.com**

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

# Admin Appreciation Day



**Nicole Einrem**  
Office Manager  
35 years



**Kara Zomer**  
Work Order Clerk  
18 years



**Jenn Boska**  
Billing Clerk  
5 years



**Angie Rempfer**  
Member Service  
2 years



**Chantelle Jungemann**  
Member Service  
2 years



**Aaron Melichar**  
Member Service  
Advisor  
6 years

## Admin Appreciation Day Wednesday, April 23rd

On behalf of Bon Homme Yankton Electric Cooperative, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank all of our Administrative Professionals. Your continued contributions and dedication are greatly appreciated and make a difference every day.

Technical Support      Customers      Problem-Solving

Administration      Data      **HAPPY ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY!**      Budget

Communication      Schedules      Deadlines      Flexible

Computers

# Lineman Appreciation Day



**Ken Carda**  
Operations Manager  
31 years



**Travis Zomer**  
Lineman - 23 years



**Travis Gause**  
Lineman - 20 years



**Tyler Suess**  
Lineman - 13 years



**Nathan Kloucek**  
Lineman - 11 years



**Gunnar Dally**  
Lineman - 8 years



**Alex Caba**  
Lineman - 6 years



**Kevin Meyer**  
Electrician - 25 years



**Anthony Walloch**  
Electrician - 2 years



**Joe Vavruska**  
Operations - 2 years

## Linemen Appreciation Day Friday, April 18th

Every day we thank our linemen! They keep our communities connected, often braving the harsh elements to ensure the lights stay on. Their dedication, resilience and service keep the lights on even in the dark hours.



# FROM CELEBRATION TO INSPIRATION

Megawatt welcomes members to the football tailgate party hosted by West River Electric.  
Photo by Amanda Haugen

## How Electric Co-ops Are Powering the Next Generation

**Frank Turner**

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

April marks Lineman Appreciation Month, the perfect time to spotlight the essential role that electric cooperative employees play in their communities. In line with their commitment to education and community involvement, electric cooperatives are celebrating lineworkers through youth engagement initiatives, and it all stems from one of the electric cooperatives' seven cooperative principles: concern for community. For years, programs such as Cooperatives in the Classroom have provided schoolchildren with innovative, hands-on learning opportunities, demonstrating the critical work electric cooperatives perform in their communities.

Whether it's engaging youth through a Neon Leon safety demonstration or taking students to explore Basin Electric's energy infrastructure during the SDREA Youth Excursion, electric cooperatives across the state are constantly finding new and exciting ways to engage the youth within their communities and inspire the next generation. Below are two new avenues for spurring youth engagement in cooperatives across the state:

### Megawatt Mascot

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Megawatt, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative's newest lineman mascot. This summer, select electric cooperatives in western South Dakota are suiting up to introduce Megawatt – a friendly-faced lineman adorned with a hard hat, safety gloves and

bright red cape – to their members.

"The goal is to get younger kids to start thinking about linemen in a certain way – almost larger than life and the backbone of the electric cooperative," said Rushmore Electric Chief Marketing Officer Matt Brunner. "The hope is that it translates into them considering the lineman profession when they get older."

Megawatt has already made his debut at several member appreciation events, bringing high-energy fun to parades and tailgates as a true champion of the cooperative spirit. So far, Brunner said the mascot has left a big impression.

"The kids and adults have loved it, and the interactions have been great," Brunner said. "If nothing else, it's unique. People are constantly asking, 'Who is that?' The costume does a great job of starting the conversation: what is a lineman, and what do they do?"

Beyond lineworkers, cooperatives offer a diverse range of career paths.

From engineers to accountants, the cooperative world is full of exciting roles that include opportunities in communications, where professionals share the cooperative's achievements and member services, where employees work directly with the community to meet their needs.

Brunner said he expects the idea to continue gaining momentum over the coming months with new avenues of appreciation for linemen and a better understanding of the day in the life of a lineman, as well as other exciting careers in the electric cooperative industry.

## STEM Gains Steam

Jennifer Gross, education and outreach coordinator at East River Electric Power Cooperative, has inspired classrooms for years with a variety of engaging demonstrations, covering everything from science to safety. Last year, Gross introduced a new activity to spark curiosity while incorporating STEM – an approach to education that integrates science, technology, engineering and mathematics into learning. The result led to a crafting activity where kids use simple materials to fashion their own wind turbine.

“We are always trying to come up with new ideas for students,” Gross said. “Incorporating STEM into this project seemed like a natural fit because both teachers and students are very receptive to it.”

The idea is straightforward. Students construct a small-scale turbine from wooden dowels, fins, and a motor capable of generating power. Once completed, they connect their tiny turbine to a multimeter, which measures the energy generated. Instead of relying on natural wind, students use a fan to simulate a windy day. By altering their model turbines, students can find the optimal design for the best output of energy. And just like that, students can step into the role of engineers.



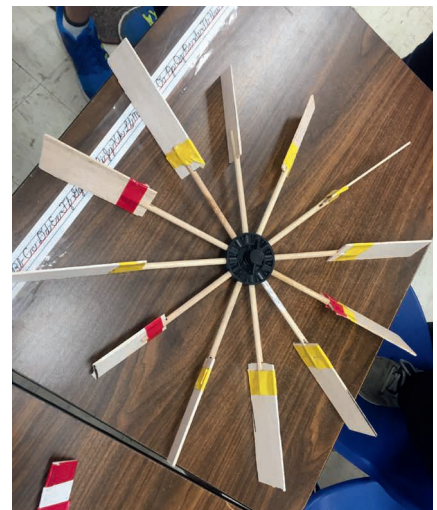
Megawatt is joined by U.S. Air Force personnel enjoying the Annual Base Picnic.  
Photo by Amanda Haugen

Gross said the students and the project have a lot in common. Once the building begins, the students' minds begin to whirl – just like a turbine. The activity prompts question after question: Why does the wind blow? How does a wind turbine work? How does the shape and weight of the blade influence the experiment?

“The students enjoy being engineers for this project,” Gross said. “They enjoy having the freedom to choose their materials and design. There's no right or wrong way to do it, and they enjoy that. I mention to the students that careers in wind energy are in high demand and some are 4-year degrees and others are fewer years, but the push for renewable energy sources is growing and our state produces plenty of wind.”

Whether it's through a hands-on activity or an engaging mascot, cooperatives aim to not only educate but inspire, ensuring that today's students can become tomorrow's linemen, engineers, communicators or member service representatives. By

sparkling curiosity and introducing young people to the world of cooperatives early on, they're opening the door to careers that keep communities powered and connected.



This is just one example of how students create wind turbines using materials such as balsa wood, foam, card stock, cardboard and paper cups.

Photo by Jennifer Gross

# 2025 Scholarship Winners



**Peyton Hellmann**

Bon Homme Yankton Electric Awards \$500 Scholarship to Peyton Hellmann. She will graduate from Bon Homme High School in May.

Peyton is active in National Honor Society, Student Council, Band, Track, Cross Country and Wrestling. Some of Peyton's achievements are 2024 SDWCA Girl's Wrestler of the Year, Mitchell Republic Girl's Wrestler of the Year in 2023 and 2024, Junior Women's Nationals All-American and a member of the U17 World Team. She plans to attend college for a Pre-Physical Therapy program and continuing her wrestling career. After completing her bachelor's degree, she further plans on attending a master's program in Physical Therapy.

Peyton's parents are Ben and Sara Hellmann of Tabor.



**Kaeli Wallinga**

Bon Homme Yankton Electric Awards \$500 Scholarship to Kaeli Wallinga. She will graduate from Avon High School in May.

Kaeli is active in Quiz Bowl, Volleyball, Track, HOSA, Mathletes, National Honor Society, Student Council, Basketball, Softball, Football Statistician, Oral Interpretation, Choir and Band. She plans to attend University of Nebraska - Lincoln or Augustana University in Sioux Falls. She plans to attend college and major in Biology/Athletic Training and minor in Physics or Mathematics. Her long term career plans are to either be an athletic trainer for a professional sports team or become an athletic trainer for a smaller high school like the one she grew up attending.

Peyton's parents are Melvin and Danielle Wallinga of Springfield.



**Jackson Kaul**

Bon Homme Yankton Electric Awards \$1,000 Basin Scholarship to Jackson Kaul. He will graduate from Bon Homme High School in May.

Jackson is active in Football, Wrestling, Baseball, Band, FFA and National Honor Society. Some of Jackson's achievements are American Legion Citizenship Award, Missouri Valley All-Conference for football, Academic All-State for football, Bon Homme Academic Excellence Award, National Honor Society, FFA Greenhand Degree, Chapter Degree, and State Degree. He plans to attend South Dakota School of Mines in the fall of 2025 and pursue a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. His long term career plans are to stay in South Dakota, preferably near Springfield, with numerous job opportunities in Yankton and Sioux Falls. Being close to home is extremely important to him as being close to his relatives is a top priority.

Jackson's parents are Billy and Michelle Kaul of Springfield.



# South Dakota Rural Electric YOUTH EXCURSION

July 21-23, 2025



Each summer, South Dakota's rural electric cooperatives sponsor area students for the South Dakota Rural Electric Youth Excursion. This FREE four-day event takes place in Bismarck and Beulah, North Dakota. All area high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Bon Homme Yankton Electric are eligible to apply. Applications can be found in your guidance counselor's office, stop by the B-Y Electric office in Tabor or online at [byelectric.coop](http://byelectric.coop).

- Visit North Dakota's Capital!
- Learn where South Dakota's electricity comes from!
- Tour the Great Plains Synfuel Plant
- Tour Freedom Coal Mine
- Tour Antelope Valley Station Power Plant
- Meet new friends!

**Apply  
Today!**

**For More Information Contact:**  
 Bon Homme Yankton Electric  
 Aaron Melichar or Chantelle Jungemann  
 Phone: 605-463-2507  
**Application Deadline: Friday, May 9th 2025**



# DIGGING SAFELY

**Call 811 Before You Dig Every Dig. Every Time.**

**Jocelyn Johnson**

jocelyn.johnson@sdra.coop

Every year, underground utility lines are damaged by homeowners and contractors who dig without calling 811. This single call is a crucial step in any project. Striking a water, gas or power line can cause serious injuries, costly repairs and service outages for an entire neighborhood. Whether you're beginning construction on a major project or are simply planting a tree, calling 811 before you dig is a free and simple solution to what could potentially be considerable damage.

## What is 811?

The South Dakota One-Call System, or 811, is a mandatory statewide

one-call notification system that was established by South Dakota Statute in 1993. 811 is now recognized as the national "Call Before You Dig" number in the U.S., designed to safeguard people and protect underground utilities. It's a free service that coordinates with your utility providers to help locate and mark underground lines.




Codi Gregg, executive director for South Dakota 811, said, "The main purpose of the program is to avoid digging into any utility and potentially causing a loss of life, loss of property, or any infrastructure buried in the ground."

"We are fully funded by the utilities who want to protect the services they provide," Gregg continued. "It is



**GET TO KNOW THE COLOR CODE**

Below are The American Public Works Association (APWA) Uniform Color Codes for temporary marking of underground utilities.

 <p>Proposed Excavation</p>	 <p>Electric</p>
 <p>Water</p>	 <p>Communication / CATV</p>
 <p>Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, Slurry</p>	 <p>Temporary Survey Marking</p>
 <p>Gas, Oil, Steam</p>	 <p>Sewer / Storm Drain</p>

South Dakota state law that you contact 811 two business days before you dig.”

South Dakota has underground utility lines for electricity, gas, water, sewage and telecommunications. Inadvertently hitting one of these lines could cause power outages, property damage, water contamination, gas leaks, legal liabilities and injury.

Gregg explained that when an excavator makes the 811 call before they dig, utilities receive the locate and have 48 hours to mark all lines in the designated area with color-coded flags or paint.

“If you happen to dig into a utility or find one that was not located while excavating, you have to report that to 811. If you happen to dig into a gas line or anything toxic, you must call 911 first, then 811.”

## How It Works

Contractors, homeowners, ranchers and farmers can easily make a request for underground utility lines to be marked by

following these steps before every project.

1. Call 811 or submit an online request at least 48 hours prior to your project.
  - Information can be found online at [www.sdonecall.com](http://www.sdonecall.com).
2. Wait for utility markings.
  - Utility companies will send professionals to mark buried lines using color-coded paint or flags.
3. Get locates on secondary or privately-owned lines if needed.
4. Check markings.
  - Confirm all utility companies listed on your ticket have responded to the request after the two-business days have passed.
5. Dig safely.

## Real-Life Examples of Hitting Underground Utility Lines

### Contractor Hits Unmarked Secondary Line

Tom Lundberg, member services manager from H-D Electric Cooperative in Clear Lake, S.D., gives the following account of a contact made to a secondary line:

“Normal situations start out like this – South Dakota 811 calls are made from an excavator or member (persons doing the work), and flags and paint go on the ground marking the underground services. This is a normal occurrence. However, some digs are more complicated, and there may be what we call secondary wires, pipes, sewer lines, etc. located in the dig area as well. The words primary and secondary are confusing to some people and they assume that all is well after the 811 call is made. Primary lines are owned and operated by the utility. Secondary lines are member-owned lines that are not marked by any utility. They must be marked by the member-owner of the property.

Unfortunately, we have had many of these lines hit during a dig, which makes it an emergency service call. One example is when we had a 600-amp service for a member that was damaged by a contractor. The call came in to us, and we responded to the site. We realized it could have been a very dangerous situation if the contractor would have entered the dig. Luckily, they guarded the hole until we arrived. The underground wires were extremely damaged, and the contact did not take out the transformer fuse or any kind of overcurrent protection. When I arrived, there was water in the hole, and I could hear the muddy water boiling. At that time, I assumed it was still energized. The first thing I did was turn the power off and assess the extent of the damage. The mud and water were so hot that I had to wait for a while for it to cool off. Repairs were made and everything was put back together. I double checked my work, then turned the power back on. This happened because secondary locates were not completed – resulting

in a three-hour delay for the business and a costly repair.

We have had many of these calls over the years, and we want to communicate that anyone digging for a project must ensure all the dig area is marked for primary and secondary functions (wire, pipe, gas, telephone, sewer).

Long story short, the impact of not marking all the dig area can cost you time, loss of production, money and even worse – injury or death.”

### Out-of-State Contractor Hits Underground Power Line

Mike Stadler, manager of electric operations from Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison, S.D., gives the following account of a contact made by company digging gravel:

“We had a dig-in a couple of years ago at a gravel pit. The county contracted a crushing company out of state to mine more gravel from an existing pit they had rights to. The crushing company started by digging test holes with a bulldozer. They would take the bulldozer and dig a hole about eight feet deep, just one dozer width wide, to see how good the gravel was before they committed to mining the whole area. We had underground cable around the pit. When they were exploring new areas to mine, they dug right through our cable and didn’t know it (keep in mind the test holes are 8 feet deep, and our cable is four feet deep). They dug the hole, went in and looked at the gravel, decided it wasn’t worth it, and covered the hole back up. Meanwhile, we had an outage.

When our crew began searching for the cause of the outage, they discovered the fresh dirt which was moved and had to dig it back up to fix it. When I asked the contractor why he didn’t call a locate, he stated the county superintendent said he didn’t have to because there was nothing there. They were very reluctant to pay the bill and thought the county should be liable. When I explained to them it was the law that all contractors are required to call 811, and it didn’t matter what the county told them, they paid the bill. We have since educated the county on 811 laws.”

# Employee Spotlight: Jenn Boska



**How long have you been at Bon Homme Yankton Electric?** I started August 26th, 2019, 5 years.

**What does your job entail?** I am the billing clerk. My job entails calculating bills and mailing them out, submitting energy assistance, budget billing, all recurring payments which include credit card and ACH, late notices, disconnects, enter service orders by operations, inputting meters and transformers and closing jobs completed by operations.

**What do you love most about B-Y Electric?** What I love most is the people I work with. I also love the fact that I have a variety of things to do so my days are all different. It is also a close to home job and I love that I am able to spend every noon hour with my dad.

**What is your favorite memory since starting work at B-Y Electric?** One of my favorite memories is for my birthday the gals in the office wrapped up every single thing on my desk with Christmas wrapping paper, from pencils to stapler to binders EVERYTHING was wrapped. The little fun we have with each other.

**How would you describe B-Y Electric in three words?**  
Interesting, Fun, Challenging

**A little about you outside of work.** I live on a farm outside of Tyndall with my husband, Scott Boska. I am originally a Cap girl from Tabor, daughter of Joe and Diane. I have four children (Hunter, Hannah, Amelia and Max), four step children (Slaton, Ty, Paxton and Braven), and two grandchildren (Paislee and Arlo). When I am not spending time with my family I love to landscape and garden, two of my favorite hobbies. Any day is a good day soaking up the sun.

## Drive for County was a Success!

**Thank you to all that donated!**



Bon Homme County communities had a large response from donors. Bon Homme Yankton Electric members along with St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, St. Vincent's Catholic Church and St. Wenceslaus Alter and Rosary Society generated donations for babies and girls in the community. Items donated for girls and new or expecting moms were an assortment of baby diapers, wipes, clothing, blankets, pads and tampons. These items are available by contacting Tracy Smith, the public health nurse and Brenda Dockendorf at the County Health Nurse office, at the county courthouse annex at 103 West 18th Avenue in Tyndall. The Bon Homme County Health Nurse provided complimentary baskets of the feminine products in restrooms at the Avon, Springfield, Tyndall and Scotland schools.

# Bon Homme High School Students get a Bite of Reality

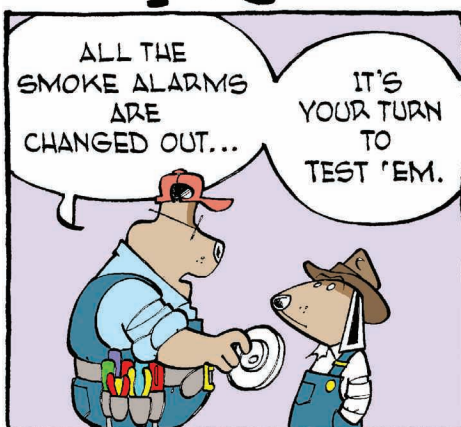
Bon Homme Yankton Electric along with several other businesses and area volunteers traveled to Bon Homme High School to present the Bite of Reality, a program put on by Explorers Credit Union.

During the program students get a hands-on lesson in financial decision making. Each student took a new identity complete with a job, salary and family responsibility. Learning to budget at eight stations for real life expenses like housing, transportation, food and entertainment.

Explorers Credit Union employees briefly went over financial opportunities with the students and encouraged checking/savings accounts to build skills and confident financial decision making.



## Murphy





**APRIL 11-12**  
**Forks, Corks & Kegs**  
**Food, Wine & Beer Festival**  
 Deadwood, SD  
 605-578-1876

*Photo courtesy of  
 Travel South Dakota*

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.

**APRIL 3**  
**Viva Las Vegas**  
**McCrossan Banquet Auction**  
 5:30 p.m.  
 Sioux Falls Arena  
 Single Ticket \$100  
 Tables Available  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-339-1203

**APRIL 3**  
**Bachelors of Broadway:**  
**Gentlemen of the Theatre**  
 7 p.m.  
 NSU Johnson Fine Arts Center  
 aberdeencommunityconcerts.org

**APRIL 4**  
**Mitchell Technical College**  
**2025 Alumni Gathering**  
**Cornhole Tournament**  
 5 p.m. Social  
 6:30 p.m. Tournament  
 The World's Only Corn Palace  
 Mitchell, SD  
 605-995-7342

**APRIL 4-5**  
**Annual Schmeckfest**  
 German Heritage Celebration  
 748 S Main St.  
 Freeman, SD  
 605-925-4237

**APRIL 4-6, 11-13**  
**Women Playing Hamlet**  
 April 4-5, 11-12: 7:30 p.m.  
 April 6, 13: 2:30 p.m.  
 Mighty Corson Art Players  
 Corson, SD  
 www.mightycorson.com

**APRIL 6**  
**Hay County Jamboree**  
 2 p.m. Matinee  
 Gayville Music Hall  
 Gayville, SD  
 605-760-5799

**APRIL 11-12**  
**Junkin' Market Days Spring Market**  
 Fri. 4-7 p.m.  
 Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 www.junkinmarketdays.com

**APRIL 24-26**  
**HuntSAFE Course**  
 Davison County Fairgrounds  
 & Mitchell Trap Club  
 Mitchell, SD  
 605-770-5555  
 gfp.sd.gov/hunter-education

**APRIL 27**  
**Country Roads**  
 2 p.m. Matinee  
 Gayville Music Hall  
 Gayville, SD  
 605-760-5799

**MAY 2-3**  
**SD Spring Square Dance Festival**  
 Fri. 7:30-10:30 p.m.  
 Sat. 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.  
 Faith Lutheran Church  
 601 N. Cliff Ave.  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 Call for events & times  
 605-360-2524

**MAY 3-4**  
**Prairie Village Events**  
 Sat. Consignment Auction  
 Sun. Season Opening  
 Madison, SD  
 www.prairievillage.org

**MAY 3**  
**West River Pheasants**  
**Forever Banquet**  
 5 p.m. Central Time  
 Draper Auditorium  
 Draper, SD  
 605-516-0143

**MAY 3**  
**American Legion Post 15**  
**Just Because It's Time to Dance**  
 6-10:30 p.m.  
 Tables Available  
 El Riad Shrine  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-336-3470

**MAY 31**  
**Auto Parts Swap Meet & Car Show**  
 8 a.m.-2 p.m.  
 Brown County Fairgrounds  
 Aberdeen, SD

**JUNE 20-21**  
**Czech Days**  
 Fun, Music, Entertainment,  
 Dancing & Czech Food  
 Tabor, SD  
 www.taborczechdays.com  
 Facebook.com/TaborCzechDays

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