

Cooperative Connections

**SDSU Extension
Master Gardener
Program**

**Growing Master
Gardeners in SD**

Pages 8-9

**Rodeo School is
in Session**

Pages 12-13



Mark Your Calendars:

2021 Annual Meeting on August 10th



Stephanie Horst

horst@byelectric.com

Member participation is vital for B-Y Electric to thrive through the voting process even if it is not during controversial times.

It's that time of year again that we begin planning for the annual meeting set for Tuesday, August 10th, 2021. Last year, we tried a Drive-In annual meeting with no meal to create a social distant safe meeting knowing that attendance would be lower. But attendance was too low, and we had to scurry around for 20 minutes to recruit members for a quorum to start the meeting which was not ideal.

Member participation is vital for B-Y Electric to thrive through the voting process even if it is not during controversial times. How are we going to conduct the meeting this year? Your Board agreed that we do not know what the Covid-19 conditions will be like in August and can only make prudent decisions using current CDC guidelines. These do not support large in-person event gatherings.

They decided that this year, the annual meeting will be held as a Drive-Thru meeting where members will drive into Tabor and be directed through a series of stops to register, vote, receive their attendance gift and a \$20 meal certificate to a local participating restaurant. Registered members names will also go into a drawing for door prizes. After the meeting adjourns, the drawing will be broadcasted live on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BonHommeYanktonElectric/>. The prizes will be delivered to the winners.

More details will be announced in the next months' issues of the Cooperative Connections. Our hope is that you enjoy a quick drive to Tabor on August 10th to exercise your membership privilege to vote for director leadership (which details are on page 7 of this issue) and on other Cooperative business and enjoy a meal with your certificate.

Until next month, stay safe!



You're Invited!

Make Plans to Attend the 2021 Drive-Thru Annual Meeting

WHO: Bon Homme Yankton Electric Members

WHAT: 2021 Bon Homme Yankton Electric Annual Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, August 10, 5:30-7:30 pm

WHERE: Lidice Street (main street) Tabor

- With the health and welfare of our members and employees in mind, Bon Homme Yankton Electric is changing the format of our 2021 annual meeting.
- Instead of the traditional in-person meeting, a drive-thru meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 10, between 5:30 and 7:30 pm.
- Each member who registers will receive an attendance gift, a \$20 gift local restaurant gift card, and will be registered for door prizes.



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

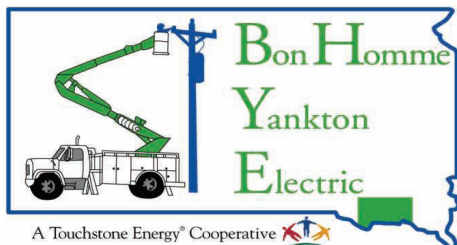
To report an outage, call:
Local call from Tabor, Tyndall and
Yankton:
605-463-2507
Toll Free in South Dakota:
1-800-925-2929

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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Co-ops in the Classroom

Avon and Tabor Elementary Students

Co-ops in the Classroom is a program offered by Bon Homme Yankton Electric's wholesale power provider, East River Electric Power Cooperative. Jennifer Gross, Education/Outreach Specialist for East River, travels throughout East River's service territory in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota to teach children about electrical safety, generation, conservation, and economics.

In April, Gross brought this energy education to two elementary schools in the Bon Homme Yankton Electric service territory. Gross visited Avon 5th and 6th graders on April 14th and Tabor 4th and 5th graders on April 20th.

During the course of the 60-minute presentation, Gross took the students on the journey of electricity at the atomic level, all the way to the hundreds of miles it travels from the power plant to our homes.

A variety of hands-on demonstrations engaged the students. A Van de Graaff electrostatic generator demonstrated the movement of electrons with some hair-raising results. Another device that invokes a lot of excitement is the Pedal Power bicycle generator. Students are asked to become power plants as they provide the energy that produces electricity for lights and small household devices.

The Pedal Power turns the concept of electricity from something abstract into something tangible. By providing the energy needed to make a light bulb turn on, the students are able to quantify just how much more energy an incandescent light bulb requires than a compact fluorescent light (CFL). It takes four times more energy to power the incandescent bulbs with the same lighting output.

Gross also hooked up a fan and heating element to the human powered generator. The students first assume the fan takes more power but the heating element makes the bicycle almost impossible to pedal. *Continued on page 10*



Tabor student experiencing the hair raising Van de Graaff generator

Eight Tips to Help You Grow Your Garden Safely

Gardening may seem like a safe hobby - and for the most part it is. But it can potentially lead to injury. Emergency rooms treat more than 400,000 injuries each year related to outdoor garden tools, reports the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Trimming trees and tall bushes can take a deadly turn when electricity is involved. Never trim a tree that has grown into a power line. Metal and wood ladders can transmit electricity into your body if you come into contact with a live wire. Instead, ask your electric cooperative to send a professional to trim the tree.

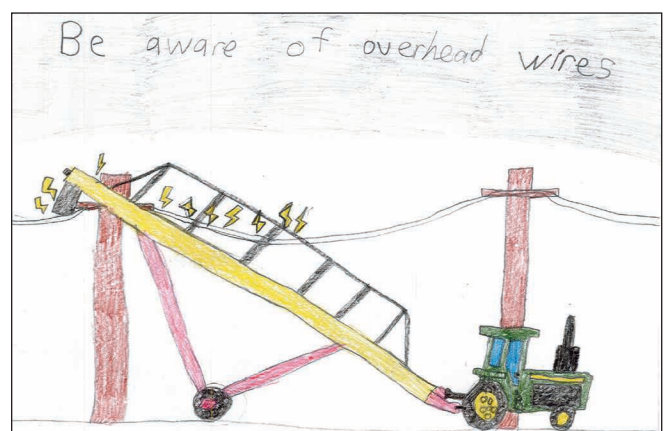
- At least three days before you begin a landscaping project that entails digging, call 811 to have underground utility lines marked.
- Never garden, trim trees or cut the lawn in bad weather. Wet and windy conditions can cause slipping and other hazards. Go inside immediately if you see lightning.
- Outlets protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters should be used for electric tools and trimmers. Never use tools outdoors when it's wet.
- Whenever possible, work in pairs so you're not using electrical equipment when nobody else is around - in case of an accident. And hire a professional if you doubt your ability to complete the job safely.
- Always wear the proper clothing and safety equipment for the task at hand. Gloves, eye and hearing protection, and dust masks can help prevent injuries and illnesses.
- Use the right tools for the job and use them safely. If you are using electric tools, watch where the cord is and unplug tools when not in use.
- Keep garden tools and equipment in proper working order. Equipment that is not maintained properly leaves the door open for potential accidents.
- Stay hydrated, use insect repellent and sunscreen (don't forget your face, neck and ears), and take breaks as needed to rest those hard-working muscles.

Did You Know?

- All thunderstorms produce lightning.
- Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and can strike as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.
- If you hear thunder, you're in the danger zone.

#StormSafety

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



Be Aware of Overhead Wires

Carter Intveld, 11 years old

Carter is the child of Glenn and Darci Intveld of Sioux Falls. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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.



Dig in to These Dairy Recipes

Tuna Cheesettes

½ c. American cheese	2 tbsp. chopped dill pickles
2-3 hard boiled eggs, chopped	½ c. salad dressing
1 can (7 oz.) tuna	½ tsp. salt
2 tbsp. chopped onion	¼ tsp. pepper

Preheat oven to 350. Mix ingredients and pile on ½ of a hamburger bun to make an open-faced sandwich. Bake for 30 min. Serve warm.

Ruth Schilberg, Viborg

Crustless Cheddar Mini Quiches

Non-stick cooking spray	1 egg
1/2 teaspoon olive oil	1/3 cup sun-dried tomatoes, plus additional tomatoes for garnish
1 leek, cleaned and finely chopped (about 1 cup)	1/2 teaspoon fresh or dried thyme
1 cup reduced-fat shredded Cheddar cheese, divided	
1 cup fat-free milk	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightly spray a 12-cup muffin pan* with non-stick cooking spray. Heat oil in a small skillet over medium heat. Cook leeks until softened, stirring frequently, about 5 minutes. Divide leeks among muffin cups and top with 2/3 cup of Cheddar cheese. Blend milk, egg, sun-dried tomatoes and thyme in a blender or food processor for about 20 seconds or until tomato is minced. Pour milk mixture over cheese in muffin cups and top each with remaining cheese. Bake 30 minutes or until tops and edges are browned. Cool in pan for 3 minutes; serve warm or cold. Top with additional pieces of sun-dried tomato, if desired.

*May substitute with aluminum muffin cups or individual custard cups, if desired.

usdairy.com

Scalloped Eggs and Bacon

1/4 cup chopped onion	6 hard boiled eggs, sliced
2 tablespoons butter	1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons flour	1/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups milk	1 1/2 cups crushed potato chips
1 cup shredded American cheese	12 bacon strips
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard	

Cut bacon strips into 1 inch pieces and fry until crisp. Sauté onion in butter until tender. Stir in flour, gradually add milk and cook, stirring until thickened. Add cheese and mustard stirring until cheese melts. Place half of the egg slices in a greased 10 X 6 baking dish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cover with half of the cheese sauce, potato chips and bacon. Repeat layering. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes. Tips: Prepare eggs and bacon the night before and put together the next morning to save time. May also use ham cubes instead of bacon. Double the recipe and use a 9 X 13 baking dish.

Mary Jo Semmier, Chancellor

Very Berry Ice Cream

2 lbs frozen berries (raspberries, blueberries, strawberries or blackberries)	1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk
1 tablespoon honey	1/2 teaspoon salt

In blender, pulse berries, condensed milk, honey and salt until smooth, scraping down sides. Pour mixture into 5-by-9-inch loaf pan. Freeze uncovered 4 hours, or until set.

Culinary.net

Please send your favorite dairy 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 2021. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

BOARD REPORT

WELCOME MEMBERS

Irene

Kolby Lee
Dakota Seed & Service Inc

Mission Hill

Kevin Lee

Tabor

Evert Crain

Tripp

Dustin Fischer & Jennifer Lavay
Judy Roth

Tyndall

Leilani & Adam Grobschmit

Yankton

Russell Hans
Taylor & Erik Lewandowski
Blake & Molly Kopf
David Colby
Benjamin Stoddard
Shawn Watson
Greg & Allison Blom
Jon Swanson
Janel & Christopher Allen
Antonio J Ventura Garcia
Jerrene Hysell & Ronald Winer
Randy Archer
Chance Sazue

Utica

Austin Barger

Director Petition Deadline June 11th

Bon Homme Yankton Electric's annual meeting will be held in Tabor as a drive-thru meeting on Tuesday, August 10, between 5:30 and 7:30 pm.

Director positions with three year terms expiring this year are districts **three and five**.

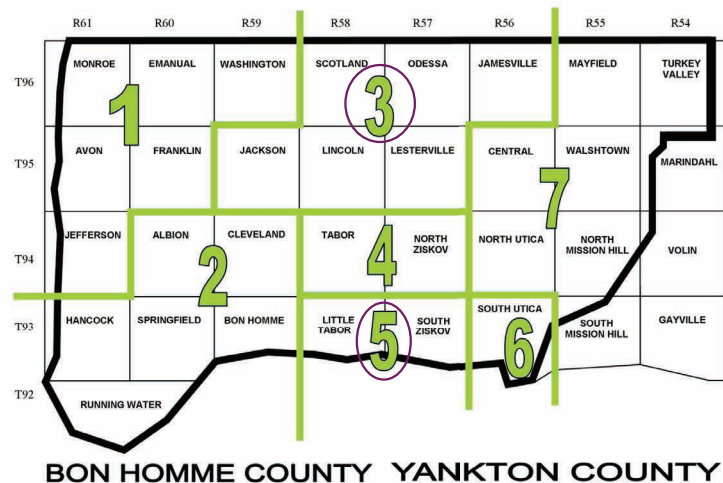
Incumbent directors in those districts are:

District 3 – Dave Sykora District 5 – John Lillevold

Any person wishing to run for a directorship of Bon Homme Yankton Electric must file a nominating petition. The petition needs at least 15 signatures of members living in the appropriate district in Bon Homme Yankton Electric's service area. Petitioners must reside in the district and have an active membership in the cooperative.

If you are interested, contact us, and we will send the petition paperwork via mail. Petitions will be available in the main office by April 26th and must be filed at the Bon Homme Yankton Electric office by **4:00p.m. June 11, 2021**.

Contact General Manager Stephanie Horst for more information regarding the responsibilities and qualifications for being a cooperative director.



Statement of non-discrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



Steps to Take Before Installing Solar



As your energy experts, we are here to offer advice and help you set up your system safely.

- ☒ Contact a qualified solar contractor
- ☒ Contact Bon Homme Yankton Electric before purchasing or installing a system
- ☒ Complete our Distributed Generation Application
- ☒ Complete our Battery Storage Application if relevant
- ☒ Complete an Interconnection Agreement
- ☒ Complete inspections and other requirements according to Bon Homme Yankton Electric policies

April Board Meeting Highlights

The April board meeting was held on April 26, 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, Communications/ Marketing Coordinator Jaclyn Arens, and Aaron Clayton Eide Bailly, LLC via Zoom.

The Board Reviewed and Approved

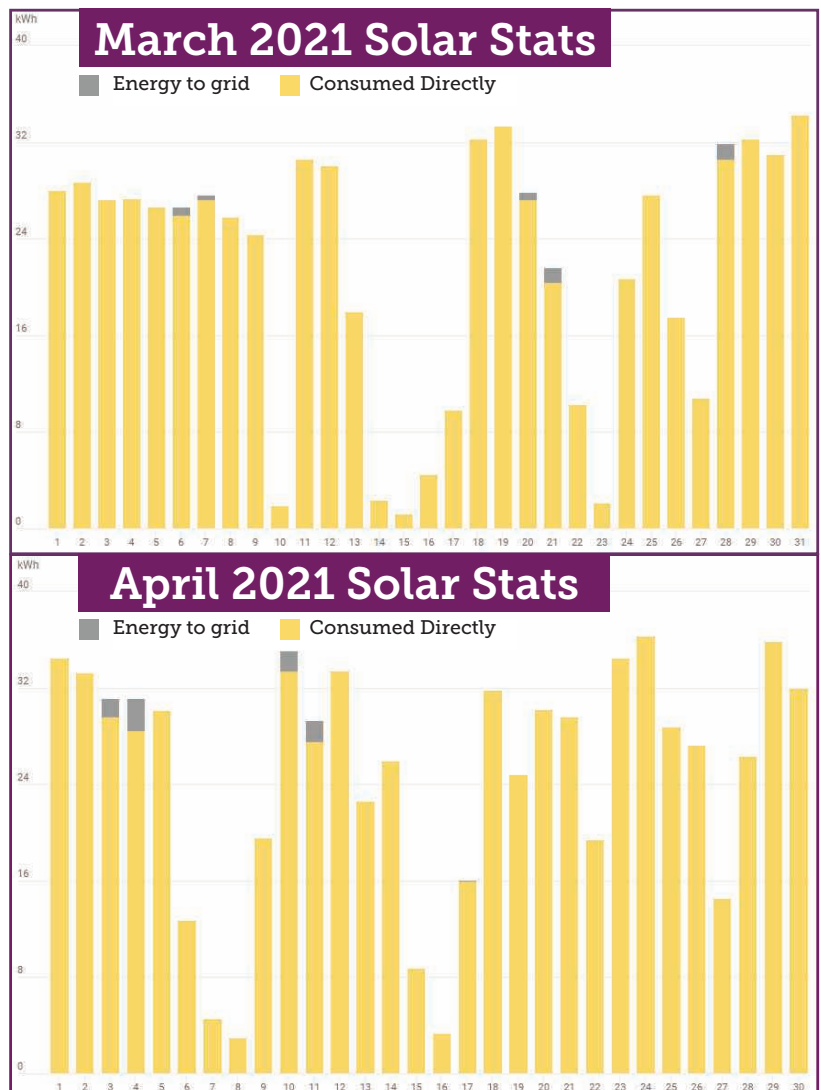
- Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- New Members & Cancellations
- Capital Credits to Estates: \$2,192.95
- Closed Work Order Inventory #888: \$324,976.76
- Special Equipment purchases of Meters & AMI modules: \$62,943.32

The Board Reviewed and Approved

- Office & Financial Reports
 - Resolution 2021-04-01 Depreciation Adjustment and Deferral
 - Aaron Clayton Eide Bailly, LCC via Zoom

- Communications/Marketing Report
- Operations Report
 - Safety Report
- General Manager Report
- East River Cyber Security/IT Report
- Reports from board members
 - NRECA Director Conference
 - South Dakota Rural Electric
 - East River Electric Power Cooperative
 - Legal Report
- Resolution 2021-04-01 Depreciation Adjustment and Deferral
- 2021 Q1 Director Expenses
- 2021 Ivan's Boring & Larson's Digging contracts
- 2021 Capital Budget Amendment
- CFC, NCFC, Federated, CRC Voting Delegate
- Annual Meeting Logistics Discussion
- Executive Session - Enter & Exit
- Next meeting date set for Wed, May 19, at 8 am.

FEBRUARY	2020	2021	2021 YTD
Total Revenue	\$959,107	\$1,047,692	\$2,060,494
Cost of Power	\$609,054	\$679,761	\$1,246,336
Total Cost of Service	\$938,306	\$1,030,242	\$1,916,513
kWhs Purchased	9,124,609	10,493,855	20,304,637
Residential Average kWh	1,993	2,372	
Residential Average Bill	\$210	\$234	
March	2020	2021	2021 YTD
Total Revenue	\$860,272	\$841,824	\$2,902,317
Cost of Power	\$503,067	\$479,088	\$1,725,423
Total Cost of Service	\$836,330	\$813,637	\$2,730,150
kWhs Purchased	7,784,857	7,392,854	27,697,491
Residential Average kWh	1,643	1,496	
Residential Average Bill	\$188	\$177	





SDSU Extension Master Gardener Ruth Smith prepares for a local spring plant sale. Photos by Billy Gibson.

MASTER GARDENERS

Extension Program Seeks to Spread the Love of Gardening

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Sorry, Walt Disney. The happiest place on earth for Ruth Smith isn't located in Florida or California. It's found in the serene confines of her garden in Pierre, S.D.

A retired educator, Smith experiences relaxation and contentment while growing herbs, vegetables and florals in her terraced backyard garden. After spending a career in public education and dedicating herself to the development and guidance of local students, Smith now finds her bliss by focusing her efforts on cultivating fresh produce and plants.

She even confesses a proud affinity for something that most people absolutely abhor – weeding.

"I actually like weeding. I like tending to the plants and bringing them up with some tender loving care," Smith said. "I always tell people this is my happy place. Some people like to take a boat out on the river or go hunting. This is what we like to do."

The "we" Smith refers to includes her husband, Mark. Both enjoy gardening and both have been through the Master Gardener program administered by South Dakota State University Extension.

As current president of the Prairie Potters Master Gardeners Club based in Pierre, Smith is an enthusiastic proponent of serving as an ambassador for horticulture education both locally and throughout the state. She and Mark completed the training

and course work required to become Master Gardeners about 10 years ago, although Mark is currently on "inactive" status.

The goal of the program is to turn gardening enthusiasts into expert volunteers who share their research-based knowledge with community members across the state. Since the program's inception in 1985, more than 400 Master Gardeners have logged nearly 80,000 hours of volunteer service answering questions from the public and hosting community programs.

It's that public interaction that interests Smith. She enjoys attending local farmer markets, plant sales, workshops, school programs and other community events.

"The fun part is getting out among people and helping them solve



Mark Smith repairs a retaining wall in front of his home in Pierre.

Master Gardener Clubs in SD

Club Name	Area
Brookings Area Master Gardeners	Brookings
Coteau Prairie Master Gardeners	Watertown
Custer County Master Gardeners	Custer
Dakota Prairie Master Gardeners	Miller
Fall River Master Gardeners	Hot Springs
Garden Gate Master Gardeners	Winner
Harding County Master Gardeners	Buffalo
Huron Area Master Gardeners	Huron
Minnehaha Co.	Sioux Falls
Missouri Valley Master Gardeners	Yankton
Northern Hills Master Gardeners	Spearfish
Pennington County Master Gardeners	Rapid City
Perkins County Master Gardeners	Bison
Prairie Partners Master Gardeners	Aberdeen
Prairie Potters Master Gardeners	Pierre
South Central Master Gardeners	White River

any problems they're encountering and giving them suggestions on how they can get better results for their efforts," she said. "We love to have conversations with people and we're not afraid to say we don't know something. We can always find out the answers and get back with them."

So, what's the question she gets asked the most? "Hmmm. It's probably, 'Something is wrong with my tomato plants. What should I do?'"

Rhoda Burrows is a horticulture specialist with SDSU Extension and works frequently with Master Gardeners. She said interest in the program has grown since the pandemic struck in March of 2020. While participants weren't allowed to attend in-person events as representatives of the program through most of last year, online teleconferences were held with many new prospects joining in.

"It's just such a fun group to work with," she said. "They're so enthusiastic and they have a deep hunger for knowledge and a heart for helping out each other in their communities. After the pandemic when people were restricting their movements, they discovered that gardening can be a good, wholesome family activity. Gardening is a source of fresh produce and more people are appreciating the benefits of healthy eating."

More information about the Master Gardeners program can be found by visiting www.extension.sdstate.edu. Those interested in becoming part of the program can contact SDSU's Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Aimee House Ladonski at 605-782-3290.

McCrory Gardens is an Inspiration for Horticulture Hobbyists

Gardeners are typically passionate self-starters and don't require much outside motivation. But McCrory Gardens is an ideal place to go for those gardeners looking for an ounce of inspiration over the summer months.

Created in 2012 on the Brookings campus of South Dakota State University, McCrory Gardens features a 25-acre garden and 45-acre arboretum along with a 9,300-square-foot Education and Visitor Center.

While visitation was down in 2020, McCrory Gardens is expecting a busy summer and welcomes gardening enthusiasts to see the ever-changing display of flowers, vegetables, herbs and more.

New to the facility this summer is a Native American medicinal garden area, a "three-sisters" garden with beans, corn and squash, as well as a pollinator garden designed to attract bees and butterflies. Professors and instructors from the Native American studies department collaborated as consultants on the project.

McCrory Gardens is open to visitors on Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

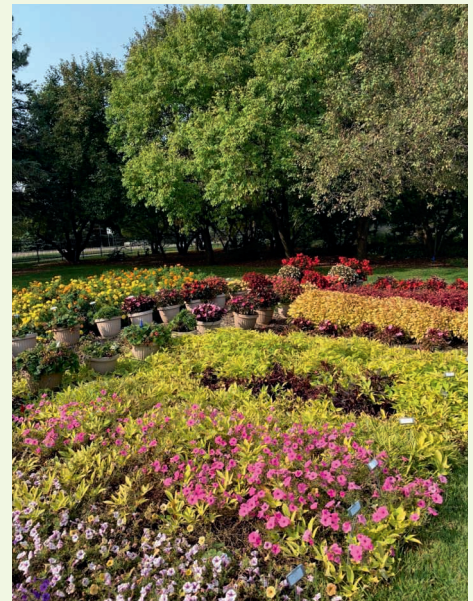
"There is always something new that's growing and blooming, and we have numerous annual beds that are planted each year," said Director Lisa Marotz.

What is expected to be a spectacular summer will culminate in the annual Garden Party held each year on the first Friday in August. While plans are still being finalized, past events have included food vendors, live music, games and free admission for the day.

"Pretty much everything we have is in bloom at that time. We want to invite everyone to come out and see what we have to offer," Marotz said.

McCrory Gardens is a privately-funded \$4.2-million facility that was the vision of founder and SDSU professor S.A. McCrory.

Last August, McCrory Gardens was named as a benefactor of an endowment from the estate of Frank and Mildred Denholm. A gift of more than \$422,000 went to the gardens while an additional gift of the same amount went to The South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum, which is hosting an exhibit entitled, "Electrifying Rural South Dakota," through Sept. 1.



CLASSIFIEDS

July Issue Deadline: June 1, 2020.
Email your classified ad to: 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.

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

NEW-Chrome Grill for 2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee, paid \$300 will sell for \$200. **NEW-4 Douglas M&S 215/60R17 tires**, paid \$280 will sell for \$210. 605-665-3441.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source: www.energy.gov



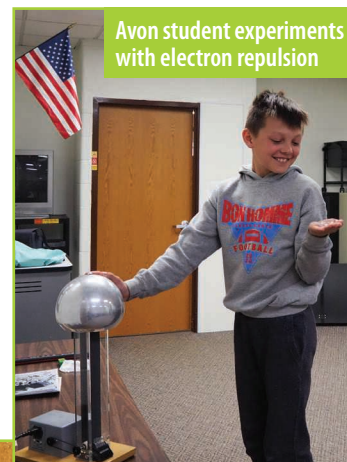
FREE Classified Ad Service

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.

Co-ops in the Classroom Cont.

By the end of the presentation, students had developed a new understanding and appreciation for electricity.

The Co-ops in the Classroom event is a nice complement to other available education programs offered by Bon Homme Yankton Electric. In addition to Co-ops in the Classroom, we have a Powertown display that is great for safety demonstrations at 4-H camps, fairs, and other youth events. We also have access to a hotline trailer that provides a powerful demonstration of what can happen when a human body comes into contact with electricity. Contact Jaclyn Arens our Marketing and Communications Coordinator at (605) 463-2507 or jarens@byelectric.com for more information on energy education opportunities.



Avon student experiments with electron repulsion

Tabor student on the Pedal Power bicycle generator



Jennifer Gross shows Tabor students what to do if you hit a power line



Jennifer Gross at Avon Elementary

Operations Update:

Summer Construction Season



Ken Carda

kcarda@byelectric.com

We are ramping up our summer construction season, and we're already off to a busy start.

This summer we have a few large projects we will be working on including the road move on Highway 46 towards Irene. We are replacing 5 miles of cable from 444th ave to 449th ave. In that same neck of the woods, we will be converting 12-15 miles of overhead to underground line.

Another large project is building new services near Deer Blvd. Two new campgrounds are being constructed this spring as well as a retirement summer home community. This is also the time of year that we start hearing about new irrigation services and primary line replacement for existing irrigation services.

Later this summer, we will continue working on our large 600 amp project from Gavins substation to Oak Hills. If you remember, that is our project to install large single phase and three phase cabinets that can handle higher amps to keep up with the load growth in the west Yankton lake area.

Earlier this spring, the linemen were busy changing out poles after our 2020 pole inspection, adding new services, replacing cable for irrigation services, and retiring old services.

Our electricians have also been extremely busy. They are continuously troubleshooting and taking miscellaneous service calls. Wes Kloucek has taken over our Load Control Receiver change out project while Kevin Meyer has been doing some irrigation

panel work, trenching secondary lines for consumers, replacing old wire, and helping convert overhead lines to underground.

So far the lumber shortages haven't affected our co-op very much. However ordering material is an ongoing battle. For example, our transformers currently have 20-30 weeks of lead time, and our meter pedestals have up to a year of lead time. We are hoping we have enough supply to hold us through the rest of the year. But due to the national shortages and long delivery times, it is extremely important that you contact us early with any projects you have going on!

Electrician Kevin Meyer fixing a security light



Nathan Kloucek (left) and Gunnar Dally trenching in a new service



A student at the Korkow Rodeo School learns the "lift, charge and stay back" method of saddle bronc riding under the watchful eye of former champion Chad Ferley. Photos by Billy Gibson

Class is in Session

Rodeo School Teaches Youngsters the Basics of the Sport

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Jeff Reis saw that his son was in big trouble, so he quickly hurled himself over the heavy metal railing and sprinted across the rodeo arena toward the bucking chute.

That's where Casey, a high school senior bull rider and student at the Korkow Rodeo School, was getting set for his final run of the day. But things weren't proceeding as planned. While Casey was going through his preparations, the agitated bull began climbing up the railing and turning toward the unwelcomed antagonist straddling his back.

Casey was able to get a grip on the top rail of the chute and the spotters eventually pulled him free, but not before his father had gotten halfway across the arena floor.

"Bulls have done this before, but I haven't seen one get that high or be able to turn the way this one did," Jeff recalled. "When it spun and belly rolled and started pulling Casey away from the spotters, I panicked because I thought something truly catastrophic was about to happen."

Thanks to the spotters and handlers and his own quick reflexes as a multi-sport

athlete, Casey escaped the few seconds of terror injury-free. The recalcitrant animal got everyone's attention and made a big scene, but it did nothing to diminish Casey's grit and determination. Even his father was a bit surprised at what happened next.

Casey made it clear he wasn't nearly finished with that bull.

"I couldn't believe his mentality after that," Jeff said. "He was shook up, but he went out and got a new spur strap that had broken off, fixed all of his equipment, got his rope back on and rode that same bull."

Lots of lessons were learned during that dust-up, but then that's the purpose of the Korkow Rodeo School. Having completed its 36th year in April, the school is one of the oldest and most established of several similar schools operating across the state that offer instruction to hundreds of eager young riders and future champions.

Jim Korkow, owner of the Anchor K Ranch east of Pierre, said the school tends to separate those who are genuinely interested in rodeo from those who "might want to go looking for a set of golf clubs."



Jeff Willert preps a saddle bronc student for the youngster's first ride.

Though last year's school was canceled, dozens of students of various ages and skill levels returned to the Anchor K this time around to learn the basics of saddle bronc, bareback and bull riding, and also ways to stay safe.

Korkow's son T.J. runs the annual three-day school, which is led by a team of skilled riders and instructors as well as a physical trainer and other highly-experienced support staff. Each year the school attracts dozens of riders from several different states.

Instructor Chad Ferley is a two-time PRCA World Champion saddle bronc rider and five-time NFR qualifier from Oelrichs who has participated in the event

SD HS Rodeo Assn. Regional Qualifying Rodeos:

June 4-6 - Huron,
Highmore, Buffalo, Wall
June 11-13 - Watertown,
Winner, Dupree, Sturgis

State HS Finals Rodeo:

June 15-19 - Ft. Pierre, SD

National HS Finals Rodeo:

July 18-24 - Lincoln, NE

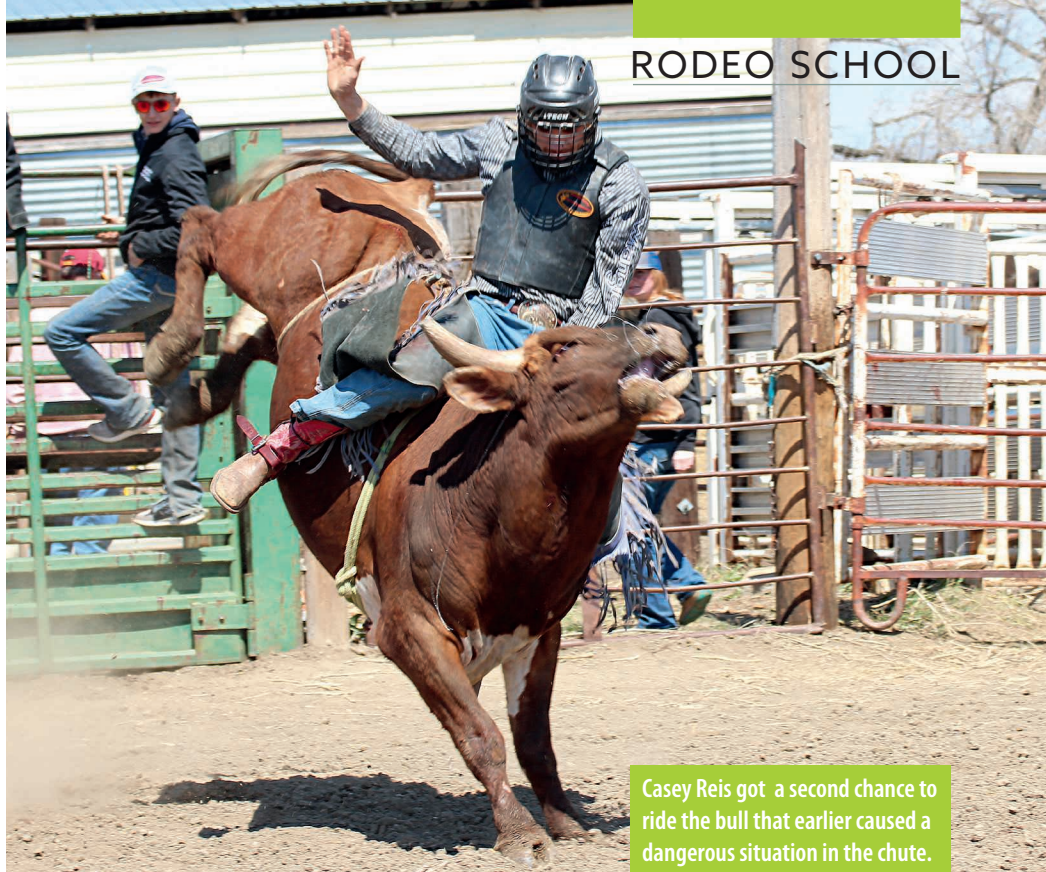
for the past 12 years. Ferley, a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, said students don't leave the school ready for the pro circuit but are there to learn the basics... at least after the initial shock wears off from that maiden voyage that takes the young rider from zero to 90 in a split second.

"After their first ride, they always say it was a whole lot faster than they thought it was going to be," Ferley said. "At first, most of them just black out. We're here to give them the basics, talk to them after each ride and tell them what they did wrong and what they did right, and give them the information they can apply and practice on down the line as they ride more horses."

Fellow instructor Jeff Willert is a PRCA World Champion saddle bronc competitor, five-time NFR qualifier and member of West Central Electric Cooperative. He said he enjoys passing on to youngsters all the tips and tricks that he learned throughout his successful rodeo career.

"With bronc riding, we tell them to lift, charge and stay back," he said. "But things happen so fast, and it's hard for them to pay attention because as soon as that chute opens, they lose their train of thought. You just try to drill things into their head and they eventually get it. It's trial and error. The more you ride, the more you learn."

Ken Korkow said throughout more than three decades of operating the school, one particular student stands out among all the others. An uninitiated 42-year-old gentleman from Alaska came to the ranch



Casey Reis got a second chance to ride the bull that earlier caused a dangerous situation in the chute.

with the intention of checking off an item from his bucket list of things he'd never done before, Korkow recalled. Organizers always make a point to match the stock with the rider's level of experience, so the instructor set up the non-traditional student with a black angus pasture bull.

"He managed to stay on it for longer than I thought he would," Korkow said. "The instructor blew the horn at six seconds when he saw the guy was about to come off, but he blew it early just so he'd think he made it the whole eight seconds. But all the kids who were around got excited for him and went out there and cheered for

him and gave him high-fives. It was quite a moment I'll always remember."

While some express concern about the future of rodeo in the age of youngsters getting more involved in technology, Willert said he doesn't share that concern.

"It can be rewarding from many stand-points," he said. "There are still a lot of kids who don't spend all day playing video games. They see the value of hard work and the farming and ranching lifestyle and they respect the culture. They understand that while some things may be difficult, it's all worth it when you can walk away knowing that you've stood up to the test."



A young rider hangs on just before getting thrown to the ground.



If you would like to join our Co-op Connections program please contact Jaclyn Arens at jarens@byelectric.com or call (605) 463-2507.

Co-op Connections Participating Business Feature

Loving Hands Gifts

When you're driving down Lidice (main) Street in Tabor, you can't miss the new, bright red steel building right across from the post office. Judy Lundy built the building in 2020 to house her store Loving Hands Gifts. Judy sells a wide variety of gifts, artwork, clothing, Czech, and German items. She is open from 11am to 4pm on Thursdays through Sundays.

Loving Hand Gifts' slogan is "Where imagination becomes reality," and this is evident as soon as you step in the store. Judy is a lifelong artist that creates unique artwork, alters pieces to make them beautiful, and sells things that people can't find anywhere else.

Judy also likes to say that "Art is never finished, only abandoned." Which is why she sells kits that can be assembled at home and encourages customers to ask her project-related questions.

Judy has always been creative and interested in arts and crafts, but she began creating and selling art when she started collecting plants. Both sets of her grandparents were farmers, so she says that she can't help but love plants. She began collecting and creating unique pots for her plants, and with great success, starting selling her plants at yard sales at her home in California. She then began painting with oils and continued creating anything she put her mind to. Her father was a cabinet maker who taught her the art of woodworking. Judy says, "He must have been a good teacher because he kept all ten fingers, and I still have all of mine." Her father made jewelry boxes, and Judy would help him finish them.

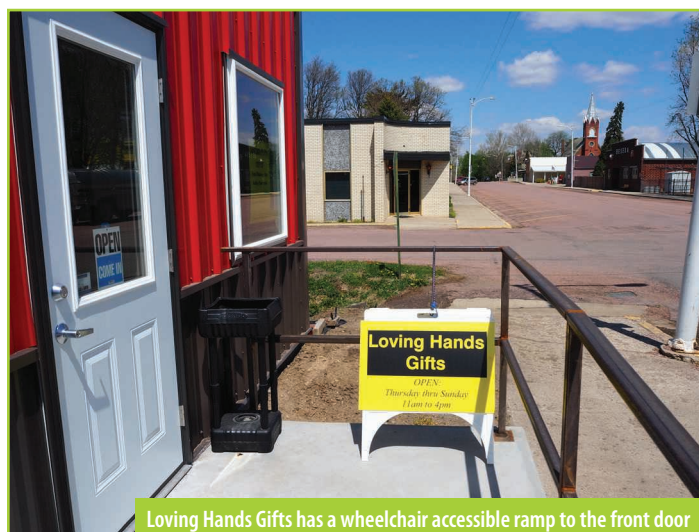
Lundy moved to Tabor in the 90's and soon began selling her creations out the back of Ev's Beauty Bar on Lidice Street. She did this for many years while continuing to craft her art, search for interesting pieces to add to her collection, and learn new skills. During this time, she developed an interest in the Czech Republic and Czech heritage clothing, jewelry, and art. Judy is not Czech herself, but she fits right in with the large Czech population in Tabor.

One way that Judy sources her items is on Ebay. Through Ebay, Judy met and developed a friendship with Michaela, a woman from the Czech Republic. After an online friendship of 7-8 years, Judy decided to travel to Europe and visit Michaela. Judy has since traveled to visit her friend Michaela in Desna, Czech Republic a total of three times, and she hopes to travel there again.

Judy said that her trip was extremely freeing because after leaving the United States to backpack solo in the Czech Republic in her sixties, she knew that she could do anything. When she returned from her trip, she decided to open a store.

She made that dream a reality by opening Loving Hands Gifts in the Yankton Mall on October 1st, 2015. During her time in the Yankton Mall, she was successful and enjoyed what she was doing. However because of renovations and other businesses coming and going, she had to move her store six times within the mall.

Like most business owners, Judy had to close her store when the Covid-19 pandemic struck at the beginning of 2020. Yankton



Loving Hands Gifts has a wheelchair accessible ramp to the front door

CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD PROGRAM

Participating Business List

Visit connections.coop for the most up-to-date list and to view national deals.

Linda's Angel Crossing

20% off 1 Regular Priced Item.
Yankton

Royal Sport Shop

10% discount on in-store purchases.
Some exclusions apply
Yankton

Head2Heels

10% off any regular-priced item.
Yankton

Mead Cultural Education Center

\$3.00 Off Admission.
Yankton

Olson's Pest Technicians

20% off for new customers.
Yankton

Haase's Main Stop

\$2 Cheese sticks with specialty pizza order and/or Free 32oz fountain drink with a \$5 deli purchase
Scotland

Loving Hands Gifts

Pay CASH and buy 2 dolls at same price and get the 3rd doll, of equal or lesser value, for 1/2 price.
Tabor

If you have questions about the Co-op Connections Card Program, please contact Jaclyn Arens at (605) 463-2507 or jarens@byelectric.com. You can also find more information on our website at byelectric.coop/co-op-connections-card



Mall management asked her if she would like to move her storefront again, but instead of going through that hassle, she decided to construct a building in Tabor. Judy lives in Tabor, and she knew that she would appreciate the 2 block commute versus the 17 mile commute to Yankton.

Judy wanted her store to stand out, so she constructed a bright red steel building on main street. She chose red with black and white accents because red, white, and black are the Czech colors that represent Tabor. She also plans to plant all white flowers around her building to make the red and black pop. The building is handicap accessible, and all aisles are at least 32 inches to fit wheelchairs.

She officially opened Loving Hands Gifts in Tabor on April 1st 2021, and she has enjoyed a steady stream of visitors. Loving Hands Gifts sees a lot of local customers, but it also draws business from Nebraska, Sioux Falls, and other surrounding communities.

Loving Hands Gifts is full of unique treasures for sale including Czech clothing, Czech dolls, German items, scarves, wood items, ceramics, lamps, jewelry, and SO much more! Starting around August 2021, Judy will put up her Christmas collection and keep it up all year round. You can find Loving Hands Gifts on [facebook.com/Tabor.CzechDays.Lovinghands](https://www.facebook.com/Tabor.CzechDays.Lovinghands). Contact Loving Hands Gifts at (605) 760-6066 or through the Facebook page.

Loving Hands Gifts is part of our new Co-op Connections Card program, and Judy will be updating her discount quarterly. See the current discount to the left. Plus if you mention that you heard of Loving Hands Gifts from this publication, tell Judy, and she will give you a 10% discount!

This is one of Judy's favorite pieces. The tree was hand painted on a piece of solid wood, and then Czech jewelry and beads were painstaking added one by one to complete the tree.



This corner of the shop has jewelry, tapestries, and Czech dolls that Judy has styled and dressed.



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

May 21-23

Annual Sound of Silence Tesla Rally, Downtown, Custer, SD
605-673-2244

May 21-23

State Parks Open House and Free Fishing Weekend, All State Parks and Recreation Areas, SD
605-773-3391

May 22

Frühlingsfest and Spring Market, Main Street, Rapid City, SD
605-716-7979

May 22

La Framboise Island Bike Race, Steamboat Park, Pierre, SD
605-224-7054

May 31

PPQG 25th Annual Quilt Show, Harding County REC Center, Buffalo, SD
605-641-5591

June 3-5

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show and Sale, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD
605-394-4115

June 3-6

Wheel Jam, South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD
605-353-7340

June 4-5

State BBQ Championships, South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD
605-353-7354

June 4-6

Black Hills Blues Stomp and Swamp Romp, Rush No More RV Resort and Campground, Sturgis, SD
605-347-2916



Czech Days, June 18-19, 2021 (Photo by Travel South Dakota)

June 4-6

Lake Andes Fish Days, City-wide, Lake Andes, SD
605-487-7694

June 5-6

18th Annual Wessington Springs Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs Rodeo Grounds, Wessington Springs, SD
605-770-5720

June 5-6

Siouxland Renaissance Festival, W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD
866-489-9241

June 12

Yankton Ribfest, Downtown, Yankton, SD
866-260-2134

June 17-20

South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, Prentis Park, Vermillion, SD
605-622-0423

June 18-19

Czech Days, Lidice Street, Tabor, SD
605-463-2478

June 18, 25

River City Friday Nights, Downtown, Chamberlain, SD
605-234-4416

June 18-19

Wild Bill Days, Main Street, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

June 19

605 Summer Classic Beer and Music Festival, Cherapa Place, Sioux Falls, SD
605-274-1999

June 19

South Dakota Cattlemen's Foundation Prime Time Gala, Denny Sanford PREMIER Center, Sioux Falls, SD
605-945-2333

June 19-20

Aberdeen Arts in the Park, Melgaard Park, Aberdeen, SD
605-226-1557

June 25-27

Annual Main Street Arts and Crafts Festival, North River Street, Hot Springs, SD
605-440-2738

June 30-July 4

Annual Black Hills Roundup, 300 Roundup Street, Belle Fourche, SD
605-723-2010

July 2-4

Sitting Bull Stampede Rodeo, Various Locations, Mobridge, SD
605-845-2387

August 20-22

Yankton's Riverboat Days Festival, City-wide, Yankton, SD
605-665-1657

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.