

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Pick of the Patch

**Pumpkin Patches Offer
Plenty of Reasons to Get
Outside this Fall**

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**Ghost Town Under
Lake Oahe**

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Planning for Our Cooperative's Future



Tim O'Leary
General Manager

I would like to use this month's newsletter to provide an update on the discussions that have taken place over the past two years regarding our office building and the decision to move forward with plans for a new facility at our current location.

The conversation began during our 2024 strategic planning session. Since then, the board has spent considerable time evaluating what makes the most sense for the cooperative. Is it remodeling our existing 50-year-old building or investing in a new facility? This has not been a decision based simply on the appearance or age of the building. The board has been looking at the long-term needs of the cooperative, our employees and our member-owners, as well as the costs and value associated with each option.

As part of that process, we engaged Cooperative Building Solutions (CBS) to complete a facility planning study. The study was presented to the board in September 2025 and provided an objective way to evaluate our current facility and future needs. The study identified several areas that need to be addressed, including member and visitor access, employee safety and security, meeting space, technology equipment space, plumbing, HVAC and the roof.

CBS rated our current building as marginal and provided the board with several remodeling options. One option involved remodeling approximately 5,600 square feet, while another included demolishing the northeast corner of the building and constructing a new entrance while remodeling approximately 6,000 square feet. The estimated costs for those options ranged from \$3.9 million to \$5.1 million. One limitation of the remodeling options was the existing

flat roof. A structural engineer determined that the current exterior walls would not support a sloped roof, meaning the cooperative would continue to face future roof replacement costs.

The board then asked CBS to provide an estimate for demolishing the existing building and constructing a new facility at the same location. That estimate was approximately \$6.5 million. Rather than stopping there, the board wanted additional information before making a decision.

Staff and board members visited several electric cooperatives that had recently completed new building projects. These visits provided an opportunity to see the facilities firsthand, learn about their experiences and understand the construction-management process they used. Those conversations led us to additional construction management companies, including Contegritty Group.

Contegritty provided another comparison between remodeling and new construction. Its estimate was approximately \$2.9 million to remodel the existing facility compared with \$3.9 million for a new facility based on an 8,000-square-foot building. The proposed new building would be approximately 1,500 square feet larger than our current facility, although the final size and scope will be determined as the project moves forward.

At the July board meeting, the discussion centered on the long-term value of remodeling versus constructing a new facility. While remodeling has a lower initial cost, it would leave us with many of the limitations of the existing building, including the current flat roof and the need for future replacement. A new facility provides an opportunity to address the cooperative's needs more comprehensively and create a building that can serve our employees and member-owners well into the future.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC

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Jessica Gums, Editor

Manager's Column continued from page 2...

Based on the information gathered over the past two years, the board asked staff to focus on new construction and identify a construction manager for the project. At the August board meeting, the board entered into a contract with Contegrity Group to manage the construction process.

This does not mean we have a final building design or a final project cost. We are still in the early stages of the process. Over the next month, we will identify an architect and begin narrowing down the design, size and scope of the project. As those decisions are made, we will have a better understanding of what the final facility will look like and what the total investment will be.

We recognize that a new building represents a significant financial commitment, and the board has approached this decision with that responsibility in mind. The goal is not simply to build a newer building. It is to make a long-term investment that provides value to the cooperative, improves the working environment for our employees and allows us to continue serving our member-owners effectively for many years to come.

As we have throughout this process, we will continue to share updates as the project moves forward. We appreciate the trust our member-owners place in us, and we are committed to being transparent about both the decisions being made and the investment required. This is a significant step for our cooperative, and we are excited about what it can mean for our future.

JULY 2026: OUTAGE REPORT

10 OR MORE CONSUMERS

7/10/26 - 16 consumers were off 1 hour & 45 minutes in Fortier & Hansonville Townships. The cause was unknown.

7/31/26- 223 consumers were off for 2 hours & 10 minutes in Lake Marshall, Lynd, Sodus & Lyons Townships. The cause was a blown lightning arrestor.

YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON: JUNE 2026

	June - 2025	June - 2026
Total Revenue	\$5,912,839	\$6,557,377
Cost of Power	\$3,380,524	\$3,894,893
Operating Expenses	\$2,701,147	\$2,659,616
Operating Margins	\$(168,832)	\$2,868
KWH's Purchased	50,935,746	49,851,051
KWH's Sold	48,289,199	47,357,646
Members	3,952	3,960
Miles of Line	1,670	1,668
Members per Mile	2.37	2.37

SAFETY IS ALWAYS IN SEASON

Fall hunting is a core memory treasured by many in South Dakota. It's a family and friend tradition that should be kept safe. This is your caring reminder to stay safe and enjoy a great hunt this season.

Simple Safety Rules for All Hunters

- Watch for posted warning signs and stay clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land you hunt.
- Be careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be easy to see.
- Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles; energized lines can shock or kill you.
- Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment; they can block lines and create hazards for crews.

Pheasant hunting often takes place in open fields with hedgerows and grassy strips, while dove hunting centers on fast, aerial crossings across agricultural landscapes. In both scenarios, lines may be hidden by trees or tall grass, especially near field edges and canal banks. Staying alert in these transition zones reduces the risk of an accidental encounter with electrical infrastructure.

Practical Rules for Pheasant and Dove Hunts

- Plan ahead: Check maps or ask landowners where lines and equipment are located.
- Keep a safe distance: Stay away from overhead and buried lines near fields and edges.
- Hunt with a partner: A second person can help spot hazards.
- Speak up about hazards: If you see lines or equipment, treat it as a hazard and avoid the area.
- Follow rules: Respect any posted electrical safety warnings or access restrictions.
- Share safety: Tell fellow hunters and guests about these tips.

Why These Safety Tips Matter

Power lines conduct large amounts of electricity and contact with lines or equipment can cause serious injury or death. Maintaining distance, avoiding contact with poles or lines, and not placing gear on equipment are effective practices that protect you, your hunting partners, and the line workers who keep power on.

Your electric cooperative remains committed to safe hunting. We encourage members to stay informed about local electrical safety rules and to know line locations on the lands they hunt. If you encounter hazards, report them right away so they can be addressed. Sharing these safety practices help create a culture of safety that benefits everyone.



The poster features a green camouflage pattern at the top, followed by a yellow and black diagonal hazard stripe. Below this is a target icon and the title "Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters". The text encourages awareness of electrical equipment while hunting and lists six safety tips.

Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters

We encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.

- Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know where power lines and equipment are located where you hunt.
- Be vigilant in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- Never place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment.



The drawing shows a person on the ground flying a kite. A power line with a transformer is visible in the background. The text "Don't dig or fly kites by wires!" is written at the top.

"Don't dig or fly kites by wires!"

Seth Raak, age 7

Seth cautions readers to not dig or fly kites around power lines. That is great advice, Seth! Thank you! Seth's parents are Nathaniel and Katie Raak, members of Central Electric Cooperative.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Let's Eat CAKE

SWEDISH PANCAKES

Ingredients:

1.5 cups flour, sifted
3 tbsps. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
3 eggs
2 cups milk
2 tbsps. butter, melted

Method

Sift together flour, sugar and salt. Beat in 3 eggs until thick and piled softly. Beat in milk and butter until blended. Lightly grease griddle with butter. For each pancake, spoon about 1 tbsp. of batter on skillet. Cook over medium heat until lightly brown on each side.

Lois J. Larson
Clay-Union Electric

CREAM CHEESE CUPCAKES

Ingredients:

1 box chocolate cake mix, prepared
1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese
1/3 cup sugar
1 egg
Dash of salt
1 (6 oz.) package chocolate chips
1 can cream cheese frosting

Method

Mix cake mix according to package directions. Fill cupcake liners 1/2 full. mix the cream cheese with the sugar. Beat in egg and salt, then add chocolate chips. Drop a teaspoonful of cream cheese mixture into each cupcake. Bake as directed on package. Frost with cream cheese frosting when cool.

Elaine Rieck
Southeastern Electric

CHOCOLATE ZUCCHINI CAKE

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
2 tsps. baking soda
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. espresso powder (optional)
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup canola or vegetable oil
1 cup granulated sugar
3/4 cup brown sugar, packed
4 large eggs, room temperature
1/3 cup sour cream or Greek yogurt, room temperature
2 tsps. vanilla
3 cups shredded zucchini (about 3 medium)
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Method

Preheat oven to 350 °F. Grease two 9x2 inch cake pans (make sure they're at least 2 inches high or one bundt pan). Whisk the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, espresso powder (if using) and salt together in a large bowl. In another large bowl using a handheld or stand mixer, beat the oil, granulated sugar, brown sugar, eggs, sour cream, vanilla and zucchini together until combined. Pour dry ingredients into the wet ingredients and beat on medium speed until completely combined. Beat in chocolate chips. Batter will be thick. Pour batter evenly into cake pans. Bake for around 25-32 minutes for round pans; 45 minutes for bundt pans or 9x13 pan; 18-22 minutes for cupcakes (24-30 cupcakes). To test doneness, insert a toothpick into the center of cake. If it comes out clean, it is done.

Ginny Jensen
Sioux Valley Energy

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 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

RECIPE CORRECTION THE BEST APPLE CRISP

Ingredients:

6 cups sliced apples
1 1/2 cups white sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
6 tbsps. flour

Topping (makes enough for two pans)

2 cups flour
2 cups brown sugar
2 cups soft butter
1 tsp. baking powder
3 cups oatmeal

Method

Mix ingredients in a bowl and place in a 9x12 glass baking dish. Mix topping ingredients together until crumbly and sprinkle over apple mixture. Don't pack. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour or until apples are done.

Ginny Jensen
Sioux Valley Energy

POWERING THE PLACES WE CALL HOME: National Co-Op Month

October is National Co-op Month, but at Lyon-Lincoln Electric, the cooperative spirit is something we see at work every day.

It can be found along the gravel roads, across farm fields and throughout the small towns that make up our service area. It is present when neighbors lend a hand, local organizations step forward to meet a need and communities work together to build a stronger future.

Our cooperative was created by local people who shared a common goal: bringing electricity to rural homes and farms that other utilities were unwilling to serve. Neighbors worked together to accomplish something they could not have done alone. Although our electric system and the technology behind it have changed greatly over the years, our purpose remains much the same: to provide safe, reliable electricity while serving the best interests of our members.

Lyon-Lincoln Electric is not owned by distant investors. It is owned by the people receiving electricity from us. Our members elect local directors who live and work in the communities we serve. These directors understand the needs of our area because they experience many of the same challenges and opportunities as their neighbors. Shirley Wendland - 1204500.

It is reflected in the programs and services we provide, the scholarships awarded to area students and the support given to local organizations through Operation RoundUp. It can also be seen in the everyday moments: a line crew working through difficult conditions to restore power, an employee helping a member understand a bill or a cooperative representative showing up to support a community event.

Serving a rural area also means understanding that reliability is about more than keeping the lights on. Electricity powers livestock operations, grain handling systems, local businesses, schools, homes and the technology families depend on each day.

When the power goes out, our crews know they are not simply restoring electricity, they are helping farms, families and communities get back to work.

That is the cooperative difference. We are large enough to provide the dependable service and modern technology our members expect, yet local enough to know the communities and people behind each meter. This National Co-op Month, we celebrate the members who make Lyon-Lincoln Electric possible. Your voice, your participation and your trust continue to shape the cooperative we are today and the one we will become in the future.

COOP PRINCIPLES

1. VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP



Cooperatives are open to everyone who can use their services and accept the responsibilities of membership.

2. DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL



Members have a voice in important decisions and elect representatives to serve on their behalf.

3. MEMBERS ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION



Members contribute to the cooperative and share in its financial success.

4. AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE



Cooperatives are self-governing organizations controlled by their members.

5. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION



Cooperatives provide education and resources to help members, employees and leaders make informed decisions.

6. COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES



Cooperatives work together to better serve their members and strengthen the cooperative network.

7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY



Cooperatives invest in the long-term strength and well-being of the communities they serve.

July 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, July 27, 2026. The following directors were present: Jared Dritz, Kathy Schreurs, Mary Gunnink, Joel Buyck, John Wiese, Mike Longtin, Dale Fier, and James Rokeh. Absent: Scott Johnson. Also present at said Board Meeting were General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, Kristi Jensen, Finance Manager, and Attorney, Michael W. Cable.

The Board and others in attendance stood and gave the Pledge of Allegiance. President, Dale Fier, then called the meeting to order and conducted routine business including approval of the June 2026 meeting minutes, a review of the check schedule, applications for memberships, and shares to be cancelled.

Finance Manager, Kristi Jensen, reviewed the Financial and Operating Report for May, 2026. The Board reviewed an update that had been received from Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange describing the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Group Retention results for 2024, 2025 and 2026 policy periods.

The board viewed the June 2026 Outage Report prepared by Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent. The Board was advised that there was a Safety Meeting held on June 22, 2026 involving the topic of Bucket Truck Operator-Aerial Lift. Mr. Lamote also advised the Board of various projects and other matters that the linemen had been working on in the month of July.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, provided the Board with an update on the rebates processed year-to-date, advised the Board that he had attended two artificial Intelligence training sessions, and advised that General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, and Brian Jeremiason met with Meg Louwagie, Senior Outreach Representative for Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach; they provided a summary of Lyon-Lincoln Electric

Cooperative, some of the Cooperative's community involvement and some of the issues that NRECA and MREA have identified as important legislative matters.

General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, gave his General Manager's Report: Reviewed the June 2026 power bill and sales to members and compared those figures to budgeted amounts, looked at line loss for the system, reported on the East River MAC Meeting, reviewed upcoming meetings and notices, and reviewed the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Cyber Report for June 2026 which was prepared by East River Cyber Security Department.

Jenny Glumack, MREA Director of Government Affairs, provided a legislative update. She reported no action on net metering reform or lifting Minnesota's nuclear moratorium. Discussion also covered a possible data center moratorium, energy affordability, community solar, the governor's race, and concerns related to fraud, healthcare and public safety. With 51% of legislators retiring, significant turnover may create future legislative challenges.

Kristi Jensen, Finance Manager, and General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, reviewed with the Board the developments concerning the building update. After discussion a motion was made by Mr. Buyck, seconded by Mr. Longtin, and carried requesting that management focus on the construction of a new building and not remodeling. It was the consensus of the Board that the Board should meet with an architect.

The Board then had discussion concerning the appointment of a person to Operation RoundUp from District 2. After discussion a motion was carried to appoint Deb Olson to Operation RoundUp as the representative from District 2.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President, Dale Fier, adjourned the meeting at 1:25pm.

WIN MONEY

FIND YOUR NAME & MEMBER #

The tradition of listing member names and numbers in the newsletter continues in the Co-op Connections. If you find your name and member number, call the office and let us know and you will receive a \$20 energy credit.

In last month's Co-op Connections, Marlys & Wade Skaar and Caleb Christensen were listed, and will receive an energy credit if they spotted their names and called the office. Once again, there are two new names and numbers hidden in this issue. **Good Luck!**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill this October. Many electronics continue using electricity even when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Before heading out for Halloween fun, unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check.

Source: Dept. of Energy



PICK OF THE PATCH

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sirea.coop

South Dakota Pumpkin Patches Offer Plenty of Reasons to Get Outside this Fall

Cooler air, changing leaves and the search for the perfect pumpkin all mark the arrival of the autumn season. Across South Dakota, fall weekends bring families to farms and orchards for corn mazes, apple picking and hayrides.

But putting together a few weeks of fall fun takes months of work behind the scenes.

Pumpkin patches and orchards are preparing to welcome visitors for another season of pumpkins, games and family traditions.

Country Apple Orchard – Harrisburg, S.D.

By the time visitors arrive at Country Apple Orchard near Harrisburg, owner Greg Jones and his crew have already brought in three semi loads of straw bales and about 6,000 bushels of corn.

It's all part of preparing for a fall season

that lasts just a couple of months but requires work throughout the year.

"The property is kind of a full-time, year-round job," Jones said.

The orchard has been around for more than 30 years, and Jones is six years into owning the operation. Since taking over, he has expanded the pumpkin patches and added many of the attractions that now make up the orchard's fall festival.

The season opens Sept. 4 and runs through October, beginning with apple picking in September before pumpkins take center stage in October. Weekend festivities include zip lines, apple cannons, hay bale mazes, corn mazes, corn pits and, new this year, fresh-cut flowers.

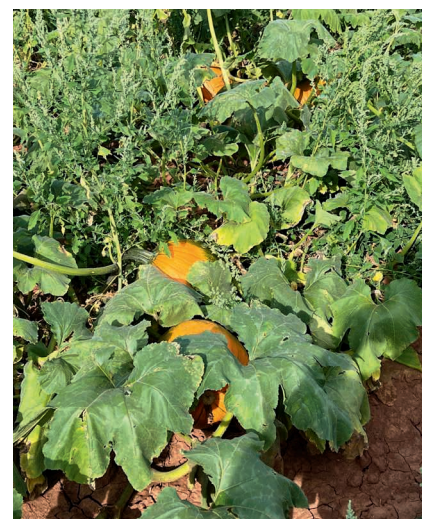
Country Apple Orchard is also a member of Southeastern Electric Cooperative, which helps power the operation through the busy fall season. Keeping everything running takes about

Lucas Hartshorn, owner of Lil' Harvester's Pumpkin Patch, and his family opening the patch for last year's fall season.
Photo submitted by Lucas Hartshorn

60 seasonal employees. Once the crowds disappear, that workforce drops to Jones and one other worker.

The effort appears to keep families coming back.

"They love coming out and they come out multiple times," Jones said, adding that some families with season passes



Pumpkins grow in the field at Lil' Harvester's Pumpkin Patch near Rapid City.
Photo submitted by Lucas Hartshorn

return nearly every weekend throughout the season.

Mazing Acres – Yankton, S.D.

What started as a small family project has grown into roughly 35 acres of fall festivities outside Yankton.

Scott and Molly Nedved opened Mazing Acres with their family in 2020. At the time, the idea was to create a small hobby farm that could teach their children the value of hard work while giving the community something new to enjoy.

“It’s grown more than we thought it would,” Molly laughed.

Today, Mazing Acres, a member of Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, includes six acres of pumpkins, a five-acre corn maze, a flower patch and several attractions. Visitors can take a hayrack ride, watch pig races, play in the corn pit or try the apple cannons.

The corn maze, sponsored by First Dakota National Bank, changes design each year. For 2026, the design celebrates the nation’s 250th anniversary.

Although the festival lasts only several weekends, planning starts almost as soon as the previous season ends. The family reviews what worked, attends industry



A family poses for a photo in the giant pumpkin chair at Mazing Acres.

Photo submitted by Molly Nedved

conferences and selects the next year’s pumpkin varieties in late fall. By August, Scott said preparing the farm becomes “an all-day affair every day until we open.”

Visitors will notice a few changes this year. Saturday hours are being extended until 8 p.m., allowing families to experience the farm after dark, and a new tiny-town area will feature themed playhouses for younger children.

Mazing Acres opens Sept. 19 and runs through Halloween.

“We want to be something for every age,” Molly said. “Not just for the kids.”

Lil’ Harvester’s Pumpkin Patch – Rapid City, S.D.

At Lil’ Harvester’s Pumpkin Patch south of Rapid City, the Hartshorn family’s fall tradition started in 2013 with pumpkins planted by hand.

Since then, owner Lucas Hartshorn said the patch has grown to about 11 acres.

Hartshorn started the pumpkin patch with his parents, Lyle and Donna, after his father retired. The family wanted a way to keep farming while creating an event they could enjoy with their children.

“We were looking for something to do with the kids in the fall,” Hartshorn said.

At the time, pumpkin patches were harder to find around Rapid City. After

visiting one themselves, the family decided they could create a similar experience on their own farm.

Each year brought something new. Planting pumpkins by hand eventually gave way to a planter, while the patch grew to include a petting zoo, bounce houses, wagon rides, a sandbox and other activities.

Lil’ Harvester’s, a member of Black Hills Electric Cooperative, also opens during the week for school field trips, where students get a closer look at agriculture. Hartshorn said demonstrations may focus on pumpkins or the differences between sweet corn, field corn and popcorn, including how each is grown. For Hartshorn, that mix of farming, education and family time remains at the heart of the patch.

“They get to come out to the farm and learn something,” Hartshorn said.

Across South Dakota, there are several more pumpkin patches and fall festivities similar to those put on by Country Apple Orchard, Mazing Acres and Lil’ Harvester’s Pumpkin Patch. Whether it’s a small hobby farm or a dedicated agritourism operation, each one offers its own take on fall traditions that continue to draw families back year after year.



Visitors of all ages can find something to enjoy at Mazing Acres near Yankton, including the farm’s giant slides.

Photo submitted by Molly Nedved

HOME NETWORK SECURITY CHECK-LIST:

Protect your Wi-Fi, smart devices and personal information

- ✓ Change your router's default name and password.
- ✓ Use the Wi-Fi's advanced security settings.
- ✓ Turn on automatic updates.
- ✓ Create a guest network for visitors and smart devices.
- ✓ Remove unfamiliar or unused connected devices.
- ✓ Use multi-factor authentication on important accounts.

TIP: Protect your router from power problems

Your modem and router need power to keep you connected. Plugging them into a surge protector can help protect them from damage caused by power surges, spikes or lightning.

PROTECT YOUR HOME NETWORK During Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a good time to check the security of the technology we use every day. From phones and laptops to smart TVs, thermostats and doorbells, many household devices connect to the internet.

This connection provides convenience, but it also means your home network needs protection. Your router acts like the front door between these devices and the internet, and it's important to keep it secure.

The good news: You do not have to be a technology expert. A few simple steps can help protect your devices, accounts and your family's personal information.

✓ Start With Your Router

Your router connects your phones, computers, tablets and smart devices to the internet. Taking a few minutes to review its settings can make a big difference.

✓ Change Default Passwords

Change your router's default network name and password to something unique. Avoid using your name, address or phone number in your Wi-Fi network name.

Change the password used to access your router's settings. It's different than your Wi-Fi password. Use long, unique passwords, and consider a password manager to help create and store them.

✓ Update Device Software

Software updates are not just about new features. They often fix security problems that could be used by scammers or hackers.

Turn on automatic updates when available for your router, phone, computer, tablet and smart devices.

If automatic updates are not an option, check for updates regularly.

This includes devices that are easy to forget, such as smart TVs, cameras, doorbells, printers, gaming systems and thermostats. If your router or modem is outdated and no longer receives security updates, consider replacing it.

✓ Use the Safest WiFi Security Setting Available

Your Wi-Fi security settings help protect information moving between your devices and your router, and help keep people nearby from joining your network without permission.

In your router's settings or app, look for the Wi-Fi security option. Choose WPA3 if it is available. If not, choose WPA2. Avoid WEP or WPA, which are outdated and easier to break into.

If you are unsure how to find this setting, check your router app, look for instructions from your internet provider or search the router model number with "change Wi-Fi security settings."

✓ Review Connected Devices

Most router apps or settings pages show a list of connected devices. Dale Sovell - 924802. If you see something you do not recognize, remove or block it, then change your Wi-Fi password. Disconnect old devices you no longer use.

✓ Turn Off Features You Do Not Need

Some router features are convenient but may add risk if they are not needed.

Consider turning off remote management, which allows router settings to be changed from outside your home network. Also, review features such as Wi-Fi Protected Setup (WPS) and turn them off if you are not using them.

LOOK UP. LOOK OUT. STAY SAFE.

A few seconds of awareness can save a life. Before operating large equipment near power lines, stop and complete this safety check.

Review Your Route

- Where are the overhead power lines, poles, guy wires and underground utilities?
- Have you traveled this route recently?
- Could weather, heat or ice have changed the height or sag of the lines?
- If digging is planned, has 811 been contacted and have all utilities been marked?
- Are entrances, field approaches and unloading areas clear of electrical hazards?

Check Your Equipment

- Could a raised truck box, auger, boom or equipment arm contact a power line?
- Are antennas, rollover bars or other attachments higher than expected?
- Is this equipment larger or less familiar than what you normally operate?
- Could digging equipment reach an underground electric line?
- Have all booms, boxes and extensions been fully lowered before moving?

Keep A Safe Distance

- Maintain a minimum 10-foot clearance between your equipment and overhead power lines.
- Use a spotter when clearance is difficult to judge.
- Never rely solely on GPS or autosteer near power lines.
- Remember that power lines can be difficult to see at dawn, dusk or night.
- Always assume every power line is energized.

KNOW WHAT TO DO: Your next move could save your life

You See a Downed Wire/Damaged Pole

- Stay at least **35 feet away**- about the length of a school bus.
- Keep everyone else away from the area.
- Never touch the wire, pole or anything in contact with it.
- **Call 9-1-1** and Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative immediately.



You Hit a Wire or Pole but Are No Longer in Contact

- Move at least **35 feet away**.
- Keep others away from the damaged line or pole.
- **Call 9-1-1** and Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative.
- Do not return until utility personnel confirm the area is safe.



Your Equipment Is Still in Contact

- **STAY IN THE CAB**- The equipment and ground may be energized.
- **Call 9-1-1** and Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative.
- Warn others to stay at least **35 feet away**.
- Do not allow anyone to approach or touch the equipment.
- Wait for utility personnel to tell you when it is safe to exit. Remaining inside the cab is the safest response.



If Fire or Smoke Forces You Out

- Cross your arms tightly over your chest.
- Open the door without touching the ground.
- Jump completely clear, landing with both feet together.
- Never touch the equipment and ground at the same time.
- Keep your arms crossed and feet together while hopping or shuffling at least **35 feet away**.
- Do not return to the equipment.
- **Call 9-1-1**





LOST BENEATH OAHE

The Rise, Fall and Disappearance of a South Dakota Ghost Town

Frank Turner

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Beneath the waves of Lake Oahe lies more than dead trees and walleye. Just below the surface near Akaska sit the remnants of LeBeau, an early 1900s railroad town once filled with immense promise and prosperity, whose story is worthy of its own Wild West feature film.

For years, Caroline Thorsen has collected the history of her great-grandfather, Antoine Le Beau, and the town that bore his name. Through Thorsen's collection and research by railroad historian Don Hofsommer in "A Promise Broken: LeBeau and the Railroad," we can dive beneath the waters of Lake Oahe and dredge up the story of LeBeau's dramatic rise and fall.

A French Fur Trader

The story of the ghost town of LeBeau begins with Antoine Le Beau Sr., a French fur trader whose journey in the mid-1800s took him from France to Quebec, Canada, then to St. Louis, Missouri and eventually up the Missouri River to what is now South Dakota.

"As I unfortunately did not know [Antoine], I hope he is remembered as being a brave gentleman who crossed the ocean from France to come to America and eventually become friends with the Native Americans, married in Native Tradition," said Thorsen, Le Beau's great-granddaughter.

The woman Antoine married was Mary Little Thunder, a member of the Two Kettle Band of Sioux. Antoine himself was later one of several Frenchmen adopted

into the Sioux Tribe at a Great Sioux Council, where he was given the name "Ogless," or "Red Shirt."

Le Beau worked with the American Fur Company before establishing a trading post along the Missouri River near present-day Akaska. The post became the foundation of a small town that would eventually bear his name and become a brief, yet bright, gateway to the West.

The Railroad

By the time the railroad arrived, Antoine Le Beau Sr. was gone, but the town was quickly gaining the reputation of a small metropolis. In 1907, the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway (M&StL) reached LeBeau, connecting the small Missouri River settlement to Watertown and markets farther east.

"As LeBeau prospered, so did the M&StL's westernmost extension; as LeBeau withered, so did its railroad," Hofsommer writes.

Cattle companies from Texas had taken notice of both LeBeau and the grasslands west of the Missouri. Once they learned cattle thrived west of the river, they began moving large herds into the region. Through its railroad, LeBeau offered those ranchers a new route to market.

The next trick was getting the cattle across the river. On the west side of the Missouri, large holding pens could accommodate as many as 3,500 animals. From there, cattle crossed the river aboard the Scotty Philip, a steam-powered ferry. Once across, they could be loaded directly onto eastbound rail cars.

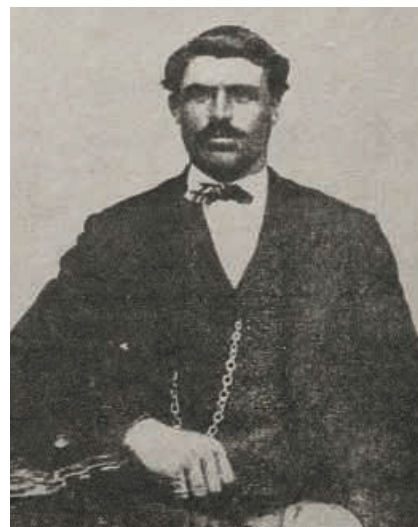
The mouth of Swan Creek on Lake Oahe where the ghost town of LeBeau resides under the waves. *Photo by Frank Turner*

In 1908, roughly 24,000 cattle passed through LeBeau on their way to and from the West River ranges, representing about \$1 million in livestock at the time. The feat helped cement the town's place as a major cattle-shipping point on the Missouri.

A Bustling Town

By the end of the season, LeBeau featured two banks, a newspaper, a drugstore, a general store and a local saloon. The growing town also boasted two lumberyards, a grain elevator and a livery, along with prominent businesses like the Idle Hour billiard and pool parlor, the Hotel LeBeau and Arcade Hotel. For entertainment, residents could even catch a show at Zimmer's Opera House.

As the town grew, M&StL officials planned to continue the rail line west of the



French fur trapper Antoine Le Beau Sr.
Photo submitted by Caroline Thorsen

Missouri by building a bridge across the Missouri, hinting at a long expansion all the way to the West Coast. The excitement only reinforced the idea that LeBeau was destined to become the gate to the west.

The buzz captured the attention of Murdo MacKenzie, general manager of the Matador Land and Cattle Company, and his wealthy son, Dode. Described as a likable and fine young man – while sober – Dode moved to LeBeau in his early 20s to oversee Matador's South Dakota operations.

A Questionable Killing

At the end of the 1909 shipping season, Dode MacKenzie began frequenting LeBeau's saloons. On Dec. 11, he was shot and killed by Bud Stephens, who was tending the bar that morning at Phil DuFran's saloon.

Local accounts of what happened that day – and of Dode MacKenzie's character – differ greatly. One local official described MacKenzie as a stand-up individual, while another local woman said he was known to shoot behind the heels of women in the town when "spirits took him."

Exactly what happened on Dec. 11 will never be known, but according to the version later presented by Stephens' defense at trial, MacKenzie became furious when Stephens failed to hear him order a drink. Rebuffed, MacKenzie crossed the street to purchase what he believed were



The paddle-wheeler Scotty Philip loads cattle at LeBeau, S.D., to be fattened on grasslands west of the Missouri River. For about three years, LeBeau was one of the Northwest's most important cattle-shipping towns.
Photo courtesy of the South Dakota Historical Society

.45-caliber shells, loaded his gun, walked back, pointed it at Stephens and pulled the trigger twice. As the story goes, MacKenzie had accidentally purchased .38-caliber shells, which failed to fire and instead plopped onto the floor. It was then that Stephens reached for his gun and began firing, killing the young MacKenzie.

A Dying Town

The trial resulted in Stephens' acquittal, drawing the ire of Dode MacKenzie's father and the Matador Cattle Company. The company effectively boycotted LeBeau, and no Matador cattle ever entered the town again.

Within months of the trial, a suspicious fire made matters worse. Although fires weren't uncommon in the Wild West, townsfolk discovered that the fire hose, telephone and telegraph lines had all been cut prior to the fire. No arsonist was ever caught.

The bad luck didn't stop there. A competing rail line to the north completed a bridge across the Missouri at Mobridge, undercutting LeBeau's stream of West River cattle. By 1924, M&StL abandoned the town, tearing out its segment of rail line. Within a year, the post office closed.

Beneath Lake Oahe

LeBeau had been a ghost town for decades when Lake Oahe came for what was left.

Construction of Oahe Dam near Pierre began in 1948 as part of a massive federal effort to control flooding and generate hydroelectric power along the Missouri River. In August 1958, the river was closed at the dam and the newly created reservoir began to fill.

As the water rose, it eventually covered the old LeBeau townsite near the mouth of Swan Creek. The empty foundations, cellar holes and remnants of the once-bustling railroad town disappeared beneath Lake Oahe. Unlike most ghost towns in South Dakota that faded away with time, LeBeau vanished beneath the Missouri.



A crowd gathers around a band near the railroad in LeBeau, S.D., with the depot and Missouri River visible in the distance. About a year after this photo was taken, the town installed 10-foot-wide concrete sidewalks along Main Street.
Photo courtesy of the South Dakota Historical Society.



A PRETTY SWEET IDEA

Doland Teen Finds Success as Ice Cream Entrepreneur

Jacob Boyko

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Noah Felderman has long enjoyed staying at his grandparents' cabin at Lake Poinsett, north of Arlington, S.D. But during the summer of 2020, the 12-year-old faced a dilemma many kids did during the COVID-19 era.

What is there to do today?

"I was there every weekend – almost every day – and people were talking about ice cream," Noah said. "I thought, 'Hey, I could try to make something out of this.'"

After drawing up a business plan with his grandparents and borrowing their orange side-by-side, Noah drove – or, rather, had an adult drive him – around to sell ice cream bars out of a small chest freezer.

"He was 12 years old and not able to drive, so this was a family event," Noah's dad, Chad, said with a chuckle.

Driving to different campgrounds and neighborhoods around the lake, Noah's business – Feldy's Ice Cream – became a hit with residents, cabin owners, and weekend campers.

The next summer, hoping to keep the momentum going, 13-year-old Noah found and purchased a retired school bus.

"We found a really good deal – this bus needed some work just to get going and be operational so that's how we snagged it," Noah explained. The Feldermans completely overhauled the bus to turn it into a fully-equipped ice

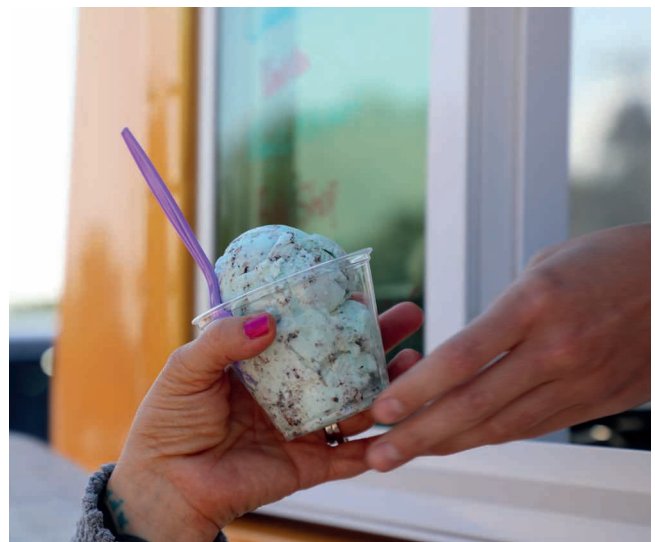
cream truck, even giving it a custom orange paint job to craft a recognizable brand and pay homage to his grandparents' orange side-by-side that started it all.

Photo by Jacob Boyko

cream truck, even giving it a custom orange paint job to craft a recognizable brand and pay homage to his grandparents' orange side-by-side that started it all.

That was the summer things really started to take off for Feldy's Ice Cream.

"I called the State of South Dakota asking about tax law, and they said they didn't have time for prank calls," Noah laughed.



Feldy's Ice Cream serves stocks many flavors – vanilla, caramel, raspberry chip, Oreo, and classic mint chocolate chip, to name a few.

Photo by Jacob Boyko

Covering more ground in the bus than he could with the side-by-side, the determined teenager became a familiar face and started building connections in the Lake Poinsett area.

"Someone said if I ever want to do an event, I could come cater the staff at the Madison hospital," Noah recalled. "So that's what I went out and did."

Word spread quickly. After Madison Regional Health, Noah visited Prairie Lakes Hospital in Watertown, then Huron Regional Medical Center.

He continued, "Once we were there, we served staff that were having their own private events, like weddings, so then they'd reach out to us and see if we'd want to cater their wedding. It just kind of kept growing."

As demand for ice cream grew, Noah purchased a small building at Lake Poinsett to open a permanent ice cream shop and also allow them the space to expand their offerings, serving Saturday morning waffle breakfasts and statewide favorites like Black Hills Bagels and Flyboy Donuts.

Six years since starting the business, Feldy's Ice Cream has become a seven-days-per-week summer commitment for Noah. Today, the 18-year-old operates an ice cream truck, ice cream trailer and the Lake Poinsett location.

For staffing, Noah turned to area high schools.

"We hit hard at the local schools – Castlewood, Estelline, Arlington, Hamlin, Watertown, Brookings," Noah recalled. "We'd go to the school, give them some free ice cream coupons, and encourage them to apply for a summer job."

Noah currently employs 17 part-time summer workers.

"I never imagined that (the business) would grow into what I'm doing now on a day-to-day basis," he reflected. "I've learned that you can have a plan, and the plan's not always going to go how you want. A machine will break down, and then you're sitting there fixing it and figuring out how you're going to get to this event on time. You learn to take things as they come."

After graduating this past spring, Noah enrolled at Lake Area Technical College in Watertown to pursue training in law enforcement. He hopes to pair that training with a pilot's license and pursue a career in aviation law enforcement.

But that doesn't mean he's finished with ice cream.

"I'll take it year by year," Noah said. "I don't have any plans to shut down or slow down operation. It's definitely something I'm going to continue doing."

Noah's dad, Chad Felderman, who also serves as CEO at Dakota Energy Cooperative, praised his son's work ethic and thanked the surrounding communities for supporting the business.

"You can't not be proud of Noah," Chad said. "With all of the connections he's made in different communities and businesses, when I introduce myself, I don't introduce myself as Chad – I introduce myself as Noah's dad or Feldy's Ice Cream's dad."



Spink County Sheriff's Deputy Wyatt Anderson visits Feldy's Ice Cream at a stop at the Spink County Courthouse in Redfield.

Photo by Jacob Boyko



Chad assists Noah as he prepares a large order of ice cream cups at Eastern Star retirement home in Redfield.

Photo by Jacob Boyko



Twelve-year-old Noah started his business at Lake Poinsett.

Photo submitted by Chad Felderman



OCT. 31
Yankton's Harvest Halloween
 Yankton, SD
www.harvesthalloween.com

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.

OCT. 2-3
Public Ghost Investigation
 Fort Sisseton State Park
 Langford, SD
 605-910-4465

OCT. 3
Pumpkin Train/ SoDak Vendor Showcase
 Prairie Village
 Madison, SD

OCT. 3
Fall Harvest Farmers Market
 9 a.m.
 Centennial Park
 Hot Springs, SD

OCT. 3-4
The Black Market
 Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.,
 Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Bldg.
 Sioux Falls, SD

OCT. 4
St. Anthony's Fall Bazaar
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Swiss Steak 12-1:30 p.m.
 Hoven, SD

OCT. 4
Grace Lutheran Church & Little Brown Church Fundraiser
 Meal: 12-1:30 p.m. CDT
 Auction: 2 p.m. CDT
 Grace Lutheran Church
 Hayes, SD
 605-567-3559

OCT. 9-11
S.D. Showdown Truck Show
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Viborg, SD
 605-940-0087

OCT. 14
Soup & Pie Day & Country Store
 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
 First Baptist Church
 105 N. State St.
 Viborg, SD

OCT. 17
Faulkton Area Arts Council Craft Fair
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Faulkton School
 Faulkton, SD
 605-380-8444

OCT. 17
Fabricadabra
 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Dakota Prairie Quilt Guild
 NFAA Easton Yankton
 Archery Center
 Yankton, SD
 605-660-1612

OCT. 23
Monster Mash
 5-8 p.m.
 Box Elder Events Center
 Free Event
 Box Elder, SD
 605-390-9341

OCT. 23
A Night of Laughter & Music
 6 p.m.
 American Legion Post 15
 Sioux Falls, SD
 Tickets & Info: 605-336-3470

OCT. 24
Women of Today Craft Fair
 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 West Central Becker Center
 Hartford, SD
 605-359-2049

OCT. 24
United Church of Christ's Annual Soup & Sweets Dinner
 4-7 p.m.
 105 N 2nd St.
 Hermosa, SD
 605-503-0843

OCT. 31
Treat Street
 Main Street
 Milbank, SD

NOV. 7
Fall Fling Craft/Vendor Show
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Dakota Christian School
 Corsica, SD

NOV. 14
Club 14 Craft & Vendor Fair
 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Hendricks Public School
 Hendricks, SD
 605-690-5586

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.