

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



The success of the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally requires many megawatts of power provided by member-owned electric cooperatives, including lighting the main stage at the Buffalo Chip
Photo by Travel South Dakota

The Rally

Keeping the Sturgis Rally juiced up
Pages 8-9

High-flying fun at Catfish Bay
Pages 12-13

Why doesn't SVE bury all its electric lines?



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer

Tim.McCarthy@
siouxvalleyenergy.
com

The latest cost estimates for damages on the SVE electric system caused by the derecho in June will be about \$2.5 million. While that isn't the most expensive storm we have had, it's still a lot of damage! During every storm and the aftermath, we have questions from members about why Sioux Valley Energy doesn't bury all the electric lines to avoid major storm outages such as the ones we just experienced. To help address those questions, I wanted to provide you information on the topic.

Approximately 62 percent of our more than 6,100 miles of electric lines are underground which leaves 38 percent overhead. Last year we constructed approximately 120 miles of line. Of those 120 miles, about half (60 miles) were three-phase overhead construction using large wire. Those 60 miles cost around \$7.5 million. If we had used the equivalent underground cable, the cost would have exceeded \$18 million...an over \$10 million dollar increase. That's a big cost differential.

We would also have significant operational problems if the Sioux Valley Energy electric system was all underground due to a phenomenon called voltage rise. Voltage rise occurs due to lightly-loaded underground lines. There are many areas in this country where an all-underground system can work because it's in a densely populated area and the lines are heavily loaded. When lines are lightly loaded in an all-underground system, the voltage levels at the end of the line can rise potentially causing damage to co-op or consumer equipment. This is an issue within the Sioux Valley Energy service territory because we serve an average of four and a half members per mile of line across our entire system. In our more rural areas, we serve less than two members per mile of line. The result of this is lines that have little electric load on them. In other words, lightly loaded lines. To fix that issue Sioux Valley Energy would need to add more specialized, and expensive equipment to control the voltage rise. This would further increase cost.

There is also a misnomer that underground lines are more reliable. While they do avoid buildup of ice and avoid wind during storm events, there are still plenty of issues when it comes to potential outages. Underground lines can be hit by contractors when digging (which happens regularly), they are susceptible to animals, and sometimes they just fail. When there is an outage on an underground line, it often takes longer to fix because the issue is not always visible as it is with an overhead line. Beyond all this, if your source transmission line or substation feeding these lines are down, you experience the exact same outages you do with overhead lines.

Sioux Valley has changed its overhead construction standards to specifications that have proven to stand up to ice and windstorms much better. While we did have damage with the most recent derecho, overall, the larger wire and poles, shorter spans, etc. worked well even under some of the worst conditions.

Finally, overhead lines last much longer than underground cable. Some of the electric system that went down in the 2019 Winter Wesley Ice Storm was 80 years old! That overhead system lasted 80 years. I can guarantee this was not the first ice storm to hit those areas. Underground cable has a general life expectancy of half that long. It has to be replaced much more frequently, adding to the cost.

Each year we spend approximately \$20 million on our construction work plan. That is a significant investment which does impact rates. It's an aggressive plan, but we also know that our members expect and value reliability. If we continued our replacement plan at the same level we have been (approximately 125 miles a year) and used only underground, the yearly construction budget would skyrocket to \$35 or \$40-million. That is not sustainable from a rate perspective. In closing, you may be asking how we decide where to place underground vs. overhead lines. Our engineers do a complete analysis to determine where it makes the most sense to place a specific type of line. They analyze cost, operational issues, density, and accessibility of every project.

I hope my column this month helps answer a few questions you may have had on overhead vs. underground lines. Stay safe and we hope to see you at all our upcoming events!

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS
SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Sioux Valley Energy, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017. Families subscribe to *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections* as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections* is to provide reliable, helpful information to Sioux Valley Energy members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

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Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



IT'S FAIR TIME!

Late summer brings county and state fairs and other festivals and events where the Co-op will be set up to talk with members about electricity and programs offered by Sioux Valley Energy. In some settings, we partner with other area cooperatives, so you may not see a Sioux Valley Energy employee, but our fellow co-ops can provide basic information – and you can always call us at 800-234-1960 or visit our website at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com.

Here's a list of some of the upcoming fairs and events SVE (or other Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives) will be at:

- **July 27-30:** Rock County Fair, Luverne, Minnesota (Sioux Valley Energy Day on Friday, July 29. Stop by to register for a prize.)
- **July 28:** Hefty Seed Company Field Day, rural Baltic
- **August 2-4:** FarmFest, Redwood County, Minnesota
- **August 3-6:** Pipestone County Fair, Pipestone, Minnesota
- **August 10:** Sioux Empire Fair Ag Day, Sioux Falls
- **August 13:** Sioux Valley Energy Safety Day, Brandon
- **August 16-18:** DakotaFest, Mitchell
- **September 1-5:** South Dakota State Fair, Huron

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Join us for Ag Appreciation Day
 Wednesday, August 10
 W.H Lyon Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls
 Lunch served 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Bring this ticket to receive a meal of **pork** smoked on-site by Wholestone Farms, plus chips and a drink. You can also pick up **free tickets** at all SVE service centers. **Free admission** to the fairgrounds until 1 p.m. courtesy of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

Electrical safety basics for children

The back-to-school season is a time when parents and school children fall back into the familiar routine of getting up early, getting dressed, grabbing breakfast, preparing lunch and shuffling out the door each day.

It's a time when students return to a learning mindset, ready to take on new ideas, knowledge and information.

Parents should seize the opportunity to teach school-age children a valuable and potentially lifesaving lesson: Respect electricity.

Here are several electrical safety basics every child should know:

- Mixing water and electricity can be deadly. Teach children not to use electric toys or other devices near water or in the rain.
- Plugging multiple devices into a single outlet or power strip can create sparks and even cause a fire if that outlet can't handle the load. Teach kids to plug into surge-protected power strips or to use one device at a time and unplug the rest.

When they unplug those devices, they should grab them by the plug, not the cord. Yanking a cord out of an electrical outlet can damage the appliance, the outlet or the plug.

- Electrical cords can be strangling hazards and might cause electrical burns if they are misused. Make sure youngsters keep cords away from their mouths and necks. It's best to hide cords so they aren't a temptation.

- Electrical outlets are receptacles for electrical plugs only. Children should know from an early age that it's a no-no to put foreign objects or fingers into power plugs. Sticking any other items into an electrical socket can lead to electric shock or death. Use childproofing outlet covers.

- Flying kites and climbing trees are never safe activities near power lines. If a tree has a power line running through it - or if it's even within reach of the line - it's not a safe place to play. If a kite gets caught in a power line, the child should not tug on it to get it loose. The string could conduct electricity and seriously hurt the child.

- Electrical substations are fenced off to keep children and animals out of the area. If a toy or small pet gets inside the fence, the child should inform a parent or teacher, who can call a trained worker to come and retrieve it.

COOPERATIVES HELP OUR MEMBERS SOLVE PROBLEMS



Electric co-op member services personnel focus their attention on making sure co-op members get the power they need when they need it. They help homeowners and businesses solve problems and find solutions to operate more efficiently. A group of co-op representatives recently took a guided tour of the Riverview Dairy near Watertown to learn how the dairy functions and how the local co-op can provide better service to the facility.

You can find out more about the many ways our electric cooperatives serve our members by visiting Cooperative Connections Plus. Simply scan the QR code at right.



Swim safely

Alayna Smith

Alayna, age 10, alerts both the young and old alike to refrain from swimming when any thunderstorms are around. Alayna is the daughter of Myles and Amber Smith and they are members of H-D Electric Cooperative based in Clear Lake.

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.

TASTY SUMMER SALADS

SHELL MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:
 1 7-oz. box of shell macaroni, cooked, rinsed and cooled
 2-3 fresh tomatoes, chopped
 1/3 green pepper, chopped
 3 celery ribs, sliced thinly
 1/4 c. chopped onion
 1 cucumber, seeded & chopped

Toss ingredients together; set aside.

Dressing

1/2 c. canola oil
 3/4 c. sugar
 1/2 c. vinegar
 3/4 c. catsup
 Dash of lemon juice

METHOD

Mix dressing ingredients well with wire whip and add to veggies and macaroni.

Joan Antonen, Arlington

TUNA AND EGG SALAD

Ingredients:
 3 6-oz. cans tuna packed in water
 3 eggs hard boiled, peeled and chopped
 2 small dill pickles diced
 1 large celery rib diced
 1/4 cup red onion minced
 1 tbsp. lemon juice or red wine vinegar
 2 tsp. garlic powder, optional
 1/4 tsp. salt, to taste
 Ground black pepper to taste
 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt, 2%+ fat
 2 tbsp. mayo

METHOD

Drain cans with tuna well by pressing hard on the lid while draining. Transfer to a large bowl and separate into flakes with a fork. Add chopped and peeled hard boiled eggs, pickles, celery, red onion, lemon juice, garlic powder (if using), salt, pepper, yogurt and mayo. Stir well with a fork and refrigerate. Serve cold in a sandwich or over salad greens.

ifoodreal.com

GARDEN VEGGIES 'N ROTINI

Ingredients:
 3/4 c. oil
 3/4 c. white vinegar
 3/4 c. white sugar
 1 tsp. garlic salt
 2 tbsp. onion flakes
 1 tbsp. mustard
 Bring the above ingredients to a boil and remove from heat.
 Cook 4 cups colored rotini noodles. Rinse and chill.
 Cut up the following in chunky pieces:
 1 tomato
 1 cucumber
 assorted peppers
 1/2 red onion

METHOD

Stir veggies together with the rotini and dressing. Chill before serving.

Ginny Jensen, Volga

NANCY'S MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:
Dice:
 1 onion
 1 green pepper
 1-2 carrots
 1 cup celery
 2 cups Velveeta Cheese
Add:
 1 can peas
 1 - 16 oz. pkg. macaroni cooked and drained

Dressing:

1 cup sugar
 1 pint mayo
 1 cup white vinegar
 1 - 14 oz. can evaporated milk

METHOD

Mix together gently and refrigerate, best overnight. Add any type of meat, boiled eggs etc., as desired.

Nancy Nelson, Mission Hill

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 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Need New HVAC Equipment?

PLAN NOW TO AVOID SUPPLY HEADACHES



Sheila Gross
Energy Services
Specialist

Scan this code to check out our rebates and incentives:



Even though summer temps are soaring, fall and winter will be here before we know it. If your home’s heating system is aging or you’re thinking about updating it, you’ll want to plan early as supply chain issues are affecting availability and delivery times.

Heating and cooling use the largest chunk of your home energy dollars. When you choose electric, you know it’s clean, reliable, safe – and it can also be very energy efficient. It’s tough to beat the efficiency of an electric heat pump that not only cools your home in the summer, but also heats it in the winter. Heat pumps – geothermal or air-to-air systems including mini-split ductless solutions – are designed to be used in any home whether it’s new construction, a renovation project or replacing existing equipment. Sioux Valley Energy offers rebates and a special electric heat rate to make choosing electric a great value.

AIR-TO-AIR HEAT PUMP REBATES (2 TON AND LARGER)

- With Electric Back-up Furnace: \$1,200
- With Non-Electric Back-up Furnace: \$600

GEOHERMAL HEAT PUMP REBATES (2 TON AND LARGER)

- \$1,200

DUCTLESS AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP REBATES (UNDER 2 TON)

- Rebate of \$300 per structure

ELECTRIC HEAT RATE

- Reduced rate of 6.35 cents/kWh (compared to regular rate 10.26 cents/kWh)
- Available October – April billing cycles
- Sub-meter installation required – Free installation for heat pumps 2 ton and larger or electric resistance heat over 5 kW or \$200 fee charged



Mike Schuldt of Hartford, left, was the winner of the recent Energy Makeover Contest for an eGo electric mower which was presented to him by Ben Pierson, SVE Manager of Beneficial Electrification.

COMMUNITY SOLAR INTEREST

If you are interested in taking part in the SVE Community Solar Project, fill out the form below and mail it to SVE.

Name: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Account #: _____ Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Mail this form to: Sioux Valley Energy, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017

I WOULD ALSO LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Pump Rebate | <input type="checkbox"/> Time of Use Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Heat Rebates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Heat Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Third-Party Irrigation Rebate | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Credits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Audit | <input type="checkbox"/> SmartHub Account Tool | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Saving Tips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loan Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Smart Thermostat Rebate | <input type="checkbox"/> Interlock Kit/Generator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Vehicle Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Ag LED Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Marathon/HTP Water Heaters |

SAFETY DAY

@ SIOUX VALLEY ENERGY'S BRANDON SERVICE CENTER

SATURDAY **AUGUST 13, 2022** 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.
108 N HERITAGE RD **BRANDON, SD**



ELECTRIC SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS

BY SVE SAFETY STEERING COMMITTEE

INTERACTIVE SAFETY DEMOS

FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

BIKE SAFETY AND HELMET FITTING

100 FREE HELMETS AVAILABLE - SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY
HELMETS PROVIDED BY SOUTH DAKOTA EMS FOR CHILDREN

ADULT BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

FIRE SAFETY BY BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT

AMBULANCE TOURS BY PIPESTONE CO. AMBULANCE

INTERACTIVE ATV/UTV SAFETY TRAINING

BY S.D. FARMERS UNION SAFETY TRAILER

MEET AN OFFICER BY BRANDON POLICE DEPARTMENT

DRIVING SAFETY SIMULATOR

BY MINNESOTA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

PLUS KIDS' CARNIVAL GAMES,
PRIZES FOR KIDS & MORE...

FREE
**PANCAKE
FEED**
9 A.M. - 1 P.M.



CO-OPS KEEP THE RALLY ROLLING



Electric co-ops are committed to keeping The Rally energized

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The frenetic atmosphere that has come to be associated with the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally can be loud, chaotic and - well let's just say - very colorful.

But behind those vivid scenes are electric cooperative employees working hard to make sure the Rally has the juice required to keep the lights glaring, the amps blaring, the air conditioners humming and the blenders blending.

The three local co-ops that serve the Black Hills and surrounding area are Butte Electric, West River Electric and Black Hills Electric. In conjunction with wholesale supplier Rushmore Electric in Rapid City and power generator Basin Electric based in Bismarck, N.D., the co-ops deliver much of the electricity used by campgrounds, restaurants, shops, concert stages, biker bars and other entertainment venues.

The power providers are diligent about keeping pace with the increasing growth of The Rally, which is rebounding from a temporary drop in attendance brought on by the coronavirus pandemic over the past two years.

Corey Trapp, chief engineering officer at Rushmore Electric, said power demand can increase significantly during The Rally. For instance, he indicated the area north of Sturgis served by Butte Electric that includes Full Throttle and other sites can jump from 1-2 MW to 8-9 MW during the event.

At the Buffalo Chip, West River Electric has nearly 40 meters located across the 600-acre spread serving scores of bars, campgrounds and cabins, as well as the main stage. Power use skyrockets from about 30 KW to more than 4.2 MW.

This year marks the 82nd installment of The Rally. Ten years ago, organizers were concerned about the potential future of the event if younger riders didn't start joining in on the fun. According to data gathered by local government agencies, Mount Rushmore National Park and other sources, attendance is back on the upswing.

An estimated 555,000 riders participated in the Rally last August, up nearly 14 percent from 2020 and an increase of 9.5 percent over the five-year average from 2016 to 2020.

Statistics show that nearly 30 percent of attendees were first-timers in 2021, which is welcomed news for promoters who work year-around to keep The Rally rolling, including



RALLY FACTS

- 🏍️ 555,000 – No. of 2021 participants
- 🏍️ 54 – avg. age in 2019
- 🏍️ 46.5 – avg. age in 2021
- 🏍️ 52% - campground attendees
- 🏍️ 18% - hotel attendees
- 🏍️ \$81,005 - avg. household income
- 🏍️ \$382 - spent per day
- 🏍️ 85% - motorcycle owners
- 🏍️ 81% - Harley owners
- 🏍️ \$1,090,398 - raised for charity

the city of Sturgis, the South Dakota Department of Tourism, the Black Hills and Badlands Tourism Association and scores of business owners who depend on the seasonal revenue to sustain their operations.

The increased buzz of activity keeps the V-twin economic engines purring throughout the Black Hills area, but delivering the power has its own set of challenges that may not be apparent to partiers. Electric cooperative officials report that global shortages in materials and supplies make it difficult to meet the increase in power demand, but they're committed to doing everything possible to meet that demand.

“We’re seeing delays in equipment necessary for infrastructure upgrades, but we know how important electricity is for The Rally to run successfully,” said Brett Fosheim, director of operations at Butte Electric based in Newell. “A lot of visitors and business owners are

An estimated 555,000 visitors enjoyed the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally last year. As attendance climbs, electric cooperatives are committed to delivering the power needed to keep the party going. *Photos by South Dakota Travel*

depending on us, so we’re prepared every year to step up to the plate with power that’s affordable, reliable and there when everybody needs it.”

Fosheim said just as organizers work all year long to plan and promote the 10-day event, electric cooperatives also anticipate the rise in electricity demand and coordinate with their common power generator, Basin Electric, to fill the need and handle peak loads. Butte Electric serves Full Throttle, Days Inn Campground and the Sons of Silence Campground, among other venues.

Because electric cooperatives are created by their members to serve their members, they’ve been delivering electricity since the early days of The Rally. The annual event traces its roots back to 1938 when a group of Indian Motorcycle enthusiasts led by local franchise owner Clarence “Pappy” Hoel got together to race one another, pull off some riding stunts and party together around a common interest in the brand.

What started as a quaint occasion called the Black Hills Classic with just

nine racers and a sparse crowd has become an international attraction.

Except for the World War II years between 1939 and 1941, The Rally has been a much-anticipated mainstay attracting visitors from across the planet. During the war, organizers suspended the event due to gas restrictions in support of the war effort.



While the current supply shortages mentioned by Fosheim have kept power providers on their toes and doubly prepared for The Rally, he said cooperatives are committed to delivering quality service not only during the event but long after the riders have peeled out of town.



Camp Invention

Elementary students sharpen STEM skills during week long inventors camp

For over 30 years, the National Inventors Hall of Fame® (NIHF) has inspired millions of children through its flagship summer program, Camp Invention®. The week long program is led by certified educators and teaches children in grades K-6 how to cultivate the mindset of an innovator.

Camp Invention recently received a \$2,500 Operation Round Up® grant to help undeserved children attend the event which was held in Brookings. This year, campers worked together to take on four exciting challenges -- Robotics Aquatics™, Spacecation™, NIHF's The Attic™, and Marble Arcade™. The students constructed their own inventions to solve real-world problems.

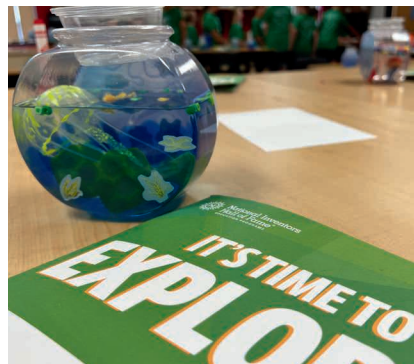
Right:
In Spacecation™,
 a student builds his space backpack.
Far right:
 A student's robotic jellyfish awaits its habitat additions.



Above:
 Students in the Robotic Aquatics™ Academy room select items to add to their robotic jellyfish's habitat.
Left:
 In the NIHF's The Attic™ room, a camper works on designing a shoe sole.



Students in the Marble Arcade™ use engineering principles to move small balls of different materials through the machine.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR OPERATION ROUND UP® FUNDS?

Non-profit organizations and communities within the Sioux Valley Energy service area may apply. The region served by the Trust is the electrical service area footprint of Sioux Valley Energy which includes Rock and Pipestone counties in Minnesota and Brookings, Kingsbury, Lake, Minnehaha, and Moody counties in South Dakota.



Scan Here to Download the Operation Round Up Application and learn more.



Capital Credits

When SVE mails capital credit checks to former members, some are returned because the person has moved.

Jody Lebahn, Lead Accountant II

jody.lebahn@siouxvalleyenergy.com

These checks were sent in December 2021 to members from 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2020. If you know any of the people on this list, please tell them to contact Sioux Valley Energy at 800-234-1960 or email jody.lebahn@siouxvalleyenergy.com to claim their capital credit check.

ALASKA TO HAWAII

Wixon, Clarice..... Palmer, AK
 Carr, Kent & Kimberly R..... Atmore, AL
 Canoy, Michael & Kirsten Fayetteville, AR
 Puepke, Norman & Mary E..... Apache Jct, AZ
 Ketcham, Tammy Mesa, AZ
 Rasmusson, Gerry Mesa, AZ
 Wylie, Teresa..... Mesa, AZ
 Orr, James & Jennifer Phoenix, AZ
 Scammahorn, James..... Scottsdale, AZ
 Reuter, Bruce..... Sun City West, AZ
 Keenan, Susan..... Paso Robles, CA
 Aistrup, Jerry..... Santa Monica, CA
 Sowieralski, Rich & Barbara... Santa Maria, CA
 Cross, Matt..... Arvada, CO
 Hine, John, %Jamie Chamberg, Cascade, CO
 Goedtko, Steve..... Colorado Springs, CO
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 Bishop, Jayson & Carla..... Marietta, GA
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IOWA

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 Handlos, Kurt..... Audubon, IA
 Richter, Jeff & Violet..... Council Bluffs, IA
 Knox, Robert..... Estherville, IA
 Vanegdom, Angelica Fort Dodge, IA
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 Engbarth, David Humboldt, IA
 Boos, John Larchwood, IA
 Meiers, Jerald & Ana..... Laurens, IA
 C & R Curves, Curves for
 Women, % Cathy Reardon..... Le Mars, IA
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 Claussen, Ed..... Ventura, IA

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 Fraser, Tom Dunlap, IL
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 Rye, Mark & Jennifer Normal, IL
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 Dakota Balance Inc..... Lowell, IN
 Bugos, Chad & Susan..... Derby, KS
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MINNESOTA

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 Krage, Lisa Alexandria, MN
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 Hadac, James Belle Plaine, MN
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 Larson, Jerome Burnsville, MN
 Trende, Kimberly Cologne, MN
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 Olson, Jerald & Kari J Dundas, MN
 Gabrielson, Chad Eagan, MN
 Rice, Don & Lillian E..... Eden Prairie, MN
 Hulstein Farms..... Edgerton, MN
 Stoner, Arthur & Ruth E..... Edgerton, MN
 Enstad, Brian & Kristi Granite Falls, MN
 Wappler, Christina..... Hardwick, MN
 Boehmer, Mildred Hopkins, MN
 Cameron, Dan Jasper, MN
 Robinson, Mark Jasper, MN
 Lovejoy, Kent La Crescent, MN
 Anderson, Gary Luverne, MN
 Gust, Leon & Janey Luverne, MN
 Mulder, Hermina Luverne, MN
 Phoumy, Piane Luverne, MN
 Cameron, Matt & Peggy Minneapolis, MN
 Dakota Clayworks..... Minneapolis, MN
 Hawfitch, Deon & Sandra ... Minneapolis, MN
 Nelson, Darron..... Minneapolis, MN
 Schreader, Michael & Angela Perham, MN
 Ard, Chris..... Pipestone, MN
 Weiss, Robert..... Pipestone, MN
 Miller, Bryan, %Norman Miller ... Plymouth, MN
 Tauer, Howard & Karla Redwood Falls, MN
 Eide, Chandra Rushmore, MN
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 Nelson, Julia St Anthony, MN

Bonnema, Arnold Steen, MN
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 Buss, Timothy Tyler, MN
 McGee, John & Darcy Tyler, MN
 Wutzke, Michael & Rebecca..... Vergas, MN
 Wain, Andrew Victoria, MN
 Smith, Gaylen Waseca, MN
 Green, Bryan & Bonnie..... Waterville, MN
 Myhre Studio,
 %Bryan R & Bonnie Green Waterville, MN
 Stango, Tony Winona, MN
 Church of God, %Larry Baldwin Woodstock, MN

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Heater, Henry & Barbara S.... Saint Louis, MO
 Makower, Kurt..... Saint Louis, MO
 Sirovy, Ken Versailles, MO

MONTANA

Kontz, Steve Billings, MT
 O'Conner, Jason Park City, MT
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 Rick, Keath & Lynne..... Norfolk, NE
 Kelly, Patrick..... Omaha, NE
 Crowl, Kenneth & Nancyle..... Omaha, NE
 Hubin, Ryan Omaha, NE
 Steffen, James & Jean..... Omaha, NE

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Connolly, Richard..... Auburn, NH
 Flanders, Kevin..... Gilford, NH

NEW YORK

Carr, Karol Hammond, NY

NORTH CAROLINA

Grim, Joel & Dawn Fayetteville, NC

NORTH DAKOTA

Aukes, Martha Fargo, ND
 Doxtader, Allen Fargo, ND
 Prunty, Vince & Wanda..... Fargo, ND
 Steinmetz, Shane & Jill S..... Fargo, ND

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Cook, Donald..... Springfield, OH

OKLAHOMA

Bortnem, Erik..... Coweta, OK
 Bryant, David & Diane Goodwell, OK

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Burckhard, Thomas..... Pittsburgh, PA

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Miller, Nancy..... Hilton Head Island, SC

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FAMILY FUN AT CATFISH BAY

Summer fun for the entire family awaits at Catfish Bay Water Ski Park in Sioux Falls. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

Pigs fly and family fun abounds at Catfish Bay Water Ski Park

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

If you stop by Catfish Bay, you probably won't see a single catfish during your stay. But you will definitely see a pig flying, a chicken hurtling through the air and water skis sprouting up from a pocketful of magic seeds.

Catfish Bay Water Ski Park, located just off I-90 in Sioux Falls, is a family entertainment venue where a squad of highly skilled skiers leap and spin and build four-tier human pyramids as they skim across the water's surface.

Billed as "The Greatest Show on H₂O," the event attracts spectators from miles around who show up each Friday evening during the summer months to see the high-flying theatrics reminiscent of Florida's famed Cypress Gardens. The show features ski jumpers dressed as chickens, Hee Haw-inspired corn pone humor and a daredevil in a pig costume elevating 30 feet into the air astride a water-propelled fly board.

The show is the brainchild of Jim

Bruns, an idea that spawned from his mind as "a God thing." While he was a college student in the early '90s, Bruns joined the Sioux Falls Water Ski Club and honed his skills enough to turn pro.

It was during college that he hatched a plan to establish a show similar to those being staged at SeaWorld and other similar sites. First thing he needed was a lake. He found the perfect spot when a contractor dug out a 25-acre borrow pit adjacent to the interstate. He bought the pit and – voila! – one man-made lake...just add water.

Second thing he needed was a performing cast. Bruns gathered some of his fellow skiers of all ages and sizes, pulled together a program and then plowed forward for a few years determined to make the show a success. Just when he began wondering if he was going to be able to keep the labor-intensive venture alive, he experienced another epiphany. He needed to rededicate the program to building youth, strengthening families and developing leaders. He formed a

mission statement: "MV2 – Mission, Vision and Values."

"It was a simple plan from the start," Bruns said just before the start of the season-opening show on Memorial Day. "But in 2007 I hit a wall. I sat down and prayed about it and came up with MV2. Now I have so many stories of kids who have come out here and learned a skill and learned about teamwork and goal-setting. They learn how to overcome obstacles."

One of those youngsters is Beth Bruggeman, who serves as assistant show director. A recent college graduate, she has been involved in the program for 10 years. She was a 13-year-old gymnast and cheerleader when she decided to try out for the ski team and now she's a star in the show with boundless energy, a beaming smile and a scar on her eyebrow as her personal badge of courage and grit.

"One of the things I like about it is there are people who participate of all skill levels who are anywhere from 6 to 60 years old. You don't find groups with that kind of diversity. You get to form different kinds of connections and friendships," she said.

Bruns' own children, James and Amara, are two other stars of the show. Amara, 13, professes to be the more gushingly dramatic. A student at O'Gorman Junior High, Amara has been part of the act since she was 2, riding on her dad's shoulders. Today she barefoots, swivels, climbs the pyramid and charms the crowd with her effervescent smile.

"I like entertaining people and making them feel like they've come to a special place," she said.

Beside Bruns, Jeremiah Newman is another example of the motto: the family that skis together stays together. He and his children, 14-year-old Marissa and 12-year-old Tyler, are involved in all aspects of the show. He's a member of the military and a former international professional skier who still competes around the region and specializes in performing flips and twists on an air chair hydrofoil.

"This is such a family-friendly environment. It's priceless. It keeps me active and it keeps our family close. Instead of sitting on the sidelines watching my kids, I get to be out there with them," he said. "We talk about the importance of making a life-long commitment to fitness and good nutrition and things that will serve them well along the way."

While the skiers are preparing for their next set, attention turns toward the stage area and a charming recurring character named Norman, who always comes up with some crackpot scheme that never fails to fail. Bruns explains that the Norman character stands as a metaphor for anyone who has had a dream and felt the frustration of failure.

"The thing about Norman that makes him different is that he never loses his enthusiasm and keeps on trying," Bruns said. "His motto is to dream big and never give up."

Bruns is living out the dream he had as a younger man. To this point, Norman has never revealed his last name. But it could very well be Bruns.

Below, Catfish Bay performers pull off a "four-stack" configuration. At right, the character known as "Norman" rides a flying pig.



CO-OP NEWS

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Stoltz, Justin
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Tirrel, Shirley

HARTFORD OFFICE OPENS



The Hartford Service Center at 1184 Ruud Trail Suite 4 held an open house June 23, complete with a ribbon cutting by the Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce. Attendees enjoyed pork sandwiches and a tour of the facility.



CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD CORNER

The Co-op Connections Card is a partnership between Sioux Valley Energy and local

businesses! Each member received the Co-op Connections Card free in their January magazine. You get your Co-op Connections Card simply because you're a member of Sioux Valley Energy. Each month, we'll include a listing of businesses participating in the program. Below are businesses located in Pipestone, Ramona and Renner.

Pipestone, Minnesota

- Bole-More Lanes Bar & Grill
- Douglas J. Vermeer O.D.
- Dynamic Health Chiropractic
- Geyermans Clothing Co.
- Keepers Gift Shop
- Luann's Gas and More
- Rustad's Design Center

Ramona:

Mown-Town

Steakhouse Café

Renner: Monarch Steak

House and Lounge

Scan this code to access the Sioux Valley Energy website where you can download the Cooperative Connections Card app for mobile devices.



- Torkelsen Estate, Rosemond
- C/O Terry Torkelsen
- Tracy, Dale
- Vandermaten, Jesse
- Vansickle, Jeff
- Versteeg, Liz
- C/O Patrick Lalley
- Volk, Sheila
- Wardell, Deborah
- Wassom, Jeff & Maryl
- Weber, Barry
- Weber, Mariann
- Weeldreyer, Mary

- Whalen, Shannon
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- Yearboro, Tommy
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Devries, Lowell

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- Banghart, Marty
- Lund, Elvin,
- Virginia Lund Payee
- Musch, Reeo
- Nachtigal, Jon & Susan R
- Urban, Ronald

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Nelson, Kella
Vandenberg, Dorothy,
DBA Oais
Wood, Rob

WATERTOWN

Hein, John
Mahoney, James

WEBSTER Pinkert, James

WENTWORTH Sibson, Joe

YANKTON Gulick Monte & Laura

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- Lammers, Ryker & Molly Kirkland, WA
- Walz, David & Joyce Ridgefield, WA
- Ersland, David & Carol Shelton, WA

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- Forsch, Arlen & Margaret Dodgeville, WI
- Martin, Robert & Diane Holmen, WI
- Jasurda, David Loyal, WI
- Sauter, Roy Marinette, WI

- Winkels, Mark Marshfield, WI
- Lacey, Eric & Liz Menomonie, WI
- Pratt, Tom Sussex, WI
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- Stone, Mike Cheyenne, WY
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AUGUST 16-18
Dakotafest

Photo Credit: AFBF photo/Philip Gerlach



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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

JULY 25-30
Days of '76 Rodeo & Parades
18 Seventy Six Dr., Deadwood, SD, daysof76.com

JULY 29-31
Badlands Astronomy Festival
Ben Reifel Visitor Center, Interior, SD, 605-433-5243

JULY 29-31
Bruce Honey Days
Various Locations, Bruce, SD, 605-627-5671

JULY 29-31
Paha Sapa Cowboys and Indians Art Festival
Outlaw Square, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

JULY 30
South Dakota Chislic Festival
Prairie Arboretum, Freeman, SD, sdchislicfestival.com

AUGUST 4
Downtown Hartford Market
Main Avenue, Hartford, SD, 605-999-6660

AUGUST 5-6
Huron Senior Games
Huron, SD, 605-353-8533

AUGUST 5-7
Sioux River Folk Festival
Newton Hills State Park, Canton, SD, facebook.com/SDFOTM/

AUGUST 5-13
Sioux Empire Fair
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD, siouxempirefair.com

AUGUST 5-14
Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
Main St., Sturgis, SD, sturgismotorcyclerrally.com

AUGUST 7
28th Annual Car Show
45205 SD Hwy. 34, Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

AUGUST 11-13
Clay County Fair
515 High St., Vermillion, SD, claycountyfair.net

AUGUST 12-14
Fort Pierre Trader Days
Various Locations, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-412-8549

AUGUST 15-21
Brown County Fair
400 24th Ave. NW, Aberdeen, SD, browncountysdfair.com

AUGUST 18-20
Watertown Senior Games
Watertown, SD, 605-753-3668

AUGUST 19-21
Yankton Riverboat Days
Citywide, Yankton, SD, riverboatdays.com

AUGUST 19-27
Central States Fair & Rodeo
800 San Francisco St., Rapid City, SD, centralstatesfair.com

AUGUST 24-28
Corn Palace Festival
604 N Main St., Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430

AUGUST 24-28
Kool Deadwood Nites
Citywide, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

AUGUST 25-28
Prairie Village Steam Threshing Jamboree
45205 SD Hwy. 34, Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

AUGUST 26-27
Hill City Wine, Brew & BBQ
Elm St., Hill City, SD, hillcitywinebrewandbbq.com

AUGUST 26-27
Sizzlin' Summer Nights
Main St., Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-3441

AUGUST 27
Xtreme Event Rodeo Challenge
McCrossan Boys Ranch Campus, Sioux Falls, SD, mccrossan.org

SEPTEMBER 1-5
South Dakota State Fair
890 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD, sdstatefair.com

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