

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Little cars, big smiles

**Smile makers build
Toys for God's Kids**
Pages 8-9

**Treatment center
changes young lives**
Pages 12-13

Asher Smith plays with a few
of the thousands of small
wooden cars built each year
by Toys for God's Kids

Economic Conditions & Supply Chain



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer

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Several years ago, Sioux Valley Energy embarked on a very aggressive construction workplan goal of replacing/building 125 miles of line each year. While the task seemed arduous at first, our employees rose to the challenge, and it has become a norm in which they take immense pride. We made this change out of necessity. Approximately one third of our distribution system needed replacement. We have made great strides but still have a long way to go. When we started this effort, economic conditions were working to our advantage. Interest rates were low, and the supply chain was strong. These conditions made it a perfect time to aggressively replace the aging line.

Unfortunately, economic conditions tend to run in cycles, and we have seen those favorable conditions take a turn. In response, we need to take a hard look at our workplan and ask ourselves some tough questions. There will always be a balance between cost and service. Our goal is to deliver superior reliability to our members. However, it is prudent to evaluate the costs we are incurring and make sure we continue to build our system with balance in mind. We will be evaluating the possible need to back off that aggressive goal in 2023 given the situation surrounding increased costs of equipment and materials, longer lead times, and higher interest rates.

This is not to say we will pull back to past levels of replacement, but we need to moderate. Here are a few examples why. The cost of transformers has increased 57 percent since 2020, and we are now waiting more than 70 weeks to get them. Poles have increased nearly 35 percent with lead times around 20 weeks. The price for meters has also gone up more than 10 percent, and delivery is out 70 weeks. As I mentioned, the cost of financing has also risen, more than doubling in the last few months. The higher interest rates will result in an additional \$227,000 each year if we continue with the aggressive workplan.

Despite the challenges with materials, inflation, long lead times, and interest rates we were still able to accomplish a significant amount of system work this year. Through

September 2022 we have spent approximately \$16.8 million of the capital budget with the following major items:

- \$8.12 million – Rebuilding old lines and constructing new lines
- \$3.06 million – New transformer and meter purchases
- \$1.47 million – New services
- \$1.74 million – Underground cable replacement
- \$573,000 – Service upgrades
- \$1.9 million - Other

The work has not been limited to one area of the Cooperative's service territory. Here is an overview of some of the areas where our lineworkers have been spending considerable time replacing overhead and underground line:

- Minnehaha County, SD – 39.3 miles
- Brookings County, SD – 27.0 miles
- Moody County, SD – 23.9 miles
- Lake County, SD – 18.4 miles
- Pipestone County, MN – 6.7 miles
- Rock County, MN – 5.6 miles
- Kingsbury County, SD – 1.9 mile

Within these counties, specific three-phase projects include:

- 6 Mile Project – Two miles NW of Flandreau – New overhead to replace aged overhead.
- 6 Mile Project – Moody/Minnehaha County line four miles west of Jasper, MN – New overhead to support load in the area.
- 5 Mile Project - Astoria to Bruce Tie six miles north of White – New overhead to improve reliability.
- 5 Mile Project – South side of Lake Madison along County Rd 21 – New overhead to replace aged overhead and support load growth.
- 2 Mile Project – Two miles southwest of Trosky, MN – New overhead to improve reliability.
- 1 Mile Project – Highway 38 through Hartford – New underground to replace aged overhead.
- 1 Mile Project – Redwood Boulevard through Brandon – New underground to replace aged underground.

We will be watching economic conditions and the supply chain situation closely for any leveling off throughout 2023. If we need to scale back, we will do so. Once stabilized, our intent would be to again move forward with our 125 miles of line replacement per year goal in the future. This will be imperative to managing the future reliability of the electric system. Our crews and contractors will still be doing a lot of work this coming year, so please be mindful when you see them out in the field—slow down and move over to keep them safe!

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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How to contact us: Phone: 1-800-234-1960
 e-mail: sve@siouxvalleyenergy.com
 Website: www.siouxvalleyenergy.com

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- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Tree of Giving
HOPE

Drive benefitting



SVE TO HOLD 2ND ANNUAL DRIVE FOR FOSTER KIDS

Sioux Valley Energy members can help area foster kids through the Cooperative's second annual drive to help The Foster Network (formerly East River Foster Parents Network). More than 1,280 items were donated in the inaugural drive in 2021.

The Foster Network provides welcome bags, clothing, baby equipment, furniture (such as beds, dressers, and pack-n-plays), child-safe events, scholarships for extracurricular activities, cultural activities, camps, and over all support to foster parents.

According to their website, The Foster Network was established in 2011 by a group of foster parents. By 2019, the number of families served by the group's clothing closet program grew. The program now serves around 60 kids a month. Learn more about The Foster Network at <https://www.thefosternet.org/>

To participate in the 2022 campaign, SVE members can bring donations to one of SVE's offices during business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) by December 16 and receive a small gift in return.

NEEDED ITEMS:

- New Hoodies (3T to Adult 3XL)
- New Outfits (Newborn to 4T)
- New Packages of Socks (Infant to Adult)
- New Underwear (Kids 4T to Adult 3XL)
- New Pajamas (Newborn to Adult 3XL)
- New Blankets (Infant to Adult)
- New Books or Journals (Infant to Teen)
- New Games or Craft Sets

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY OFFICE DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

- 108 N Heritage Road, Brandon
- 47092 SD Hwy 34, Colman
- 1185 Ruud Trl. #4, Hartford
- 1102 7th St SE, Pipestone, MN

Deck your halls with home safety in mind

It's time to deck those halls - safely. More than 800 home fires are caused by holiday decorations each year, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

An additional 170 home fires are caused by Christmas trees each year. Keep these tips in mind for a safe holiday season:

- Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.
- Make sure all extension cords and electrical decorations are being used properly - indoor-rated cords indoors, outdoor-rated cords for outside decorations.
- Inspect extension cords for damage and discard (not repair) any that are not completely intact.
- Never mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.
- Outdoor electrical lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters.
- Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your ladder at least 10 feet from power lines.
- Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat and cause a fire.
- Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights together.
- Water your Christmas tree daily.
- Keep all decorations at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Avoid using candles. The flames are just too dangerous with all the flammable decorations around.
- Purchase electrical decorations from reputable retailers and that are approved by a nationally recognized testing lab such as UL, Intertek or CSA.

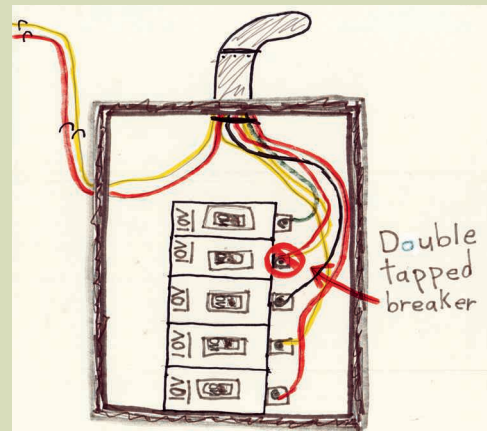


A NEW TEACHING TOOL FOR SOLAR POWER EDUCATION



Rushmore Electric and Touchstone Energy have joined together to construct a demo trailer designed to teach co-op members across the state more about how solar power functions. The trailer is equipped with fold-out collection panels and also battery storage capability. Co-op energy experts use the trailer to frame discussions about net metering, interconnection agreements and more.

To see a video of the trailer and learn more about how electric cooperatives serve our members, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



Don't play on transformer boxes

Olaf Sahlstrom

Olaf Sahlstrom, 9, shares a tip he learned from his parents, Ben and Naomi Sahlstrom: Double-tapped breakers are unsafe and can lead to overheating, arcing, and electrical fires. The Sahlstroms reside in Tracy, MN and are members of Lyon-Lincoln 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.

CHRISTMAS DESSERTS

PEANUT BUTTER PIE

Ingredients:

1 heaping c. peanut butter
 1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
 (softened)
 1 8 oz. tub cool whip (thawed)
 1/2 c. milk
 2 c. powdered sugar graham
 cracker pie crust (prepared)
 Crushed Butterfingers or Reeses
 for garnish

METHOD

Thoroughly mix peanut butter and cream cheese. Add 1/2 cup milk and slowly add 2 cups powdered sugar. Mix well. Fold in cool whip. Put in a prepared graham cracker crust. Makes two 9" pies or one 10" pie with a little extra. Top with crushed candy. Place in freezer until frozen. Remove from freezer 10 minutes before serving.

Elaine Rieck, Harrisburg

HOLIDAY HOT CHOCOLATE

Ingredients:

8 qt. box powdered milk
 1 lb. can Nestles Cocoa Mix
 7-8 oz. jar powdered creamer
 3 c. powdered sugar
 1/3 c. cocoa

METHOD

Mix in order given in large bowl. Put in air tight container. Use 1/4 cup mix per cup of hot water. Makes about 16-cup mix.

Phyllis Niemann, Clear Lake

MOM'S CHRISTMAS DESSERT

Ingredients:

2-1/2 c. Rice Krispies
 1/2 c. light brown sugar
 1 c. slivered almonds or toasted
 nut meats
 1/2 c. butter, melted
 1/2 gal. vanilla ice cream
 1 can pie cherries
 1/2 tsp. almond flavoring

METHOD

Mix first four ingredients together. Spread half mixture in a 9x13 pan evenly. Cut and press vanilla ice cream on top and spread remaining mixture on top. Freeze. When ready to serve, stir pie filling and almond flavoring together and heat on stove top or microwave and use for topping individual pieces.

Patty Sinning, Lennox

GINGERBREAD KISSED THUMBPRINT COOKIES

Ingredients:

3 c. flour
 2 tsps. ground ginger
 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
 1 tsp. baking soda
 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
 1/4 tsp. salt
 3/4 c. (1-1/2 sticks) butter,
 softened
 3/4 c. firmly packed brown sugar
 1/2 c. molasses
 1 egg
 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
 1/4 c. granulated sugar
 60 milk chocolate kisses

METHOD

Mix flour, ginger, cinnamon, baking soda, nutmeg and salt in large bowl. Set aside. Beat butter and brown sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on medium until light and fluffy. Add molasses, egg and vanilla; mix well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Press dough into a thick flat disk. Wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight. Preheat oven to 350°F. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll in granulated sugar to coat. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake 8-10 minutes or until edges of cookies begin to brown. Immediately press a chocolate candy into center of each cookie. Remove to wire racks; cool completely. Store cookies in airtight container up to 5 days.

mccormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Thinking solar? Call us.



Sheila Gross
Energy Services
Specialist

Contact Sheila Gross at sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com to learn more.



Scan this code to check out our rebates and incentives:

Our Beneficial Electrification Department has been fielding inquiries about solar energy.

If you're considering solar, call our Beneficial Electrification Specialist Reggie Gassman at 800-234-1960 to discuss sizing, payback calculations, and to talk about our interconnection agreement.

COMMUNITY SOLAR

SVE will be constructing a community solar project along S.D. Highway 34 at our Colman office. The 140-panel array will have a total capacity of 60 kW and a maximum output of 50 kW. Participating members can purchase the output, which will be credited to their monthly bill. The initial community solar project has now sold out. We may do another project in the future, so contact Ben Pierson at 800-234-1960 if you may be interested in a future community solar project.

TIME OF USE RATE

Are you looking for ways to save money on your electric bill? SVE's Time of Use Rate (TOU) was developed for members to have a direct impact on their electric bill through conservation efforts and simply shifting the times of day you are using energy for chores like laundry and dishwashing, for example. Contact SVE for more information or to sign up for the rate option. We offer a three-month risk free trial.

- 16.15 cents per kWh from 7-10 a.m. and 4-9 p.m.
- 5.84 cents per kWh any other time of the day (compared to regular rate of 10.26 cents)
- Members with submetered electric heat will remain on that rate program (some guidelines apply with members producing co-generation)
- The TOU Rate is available for residential and general service accounts including those utilizing co-generation

Find out more about these topics at www.siuoxvalleyenergy.com/my-electricity/renewable-energy

FIVE STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE INSTALLING SOLAR

1. MAKE YOUR HOME MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT BEFORE INSTALLING SOLAR.

By adding insulation, sealing air leaks, and completing other energy efficiency upgrades, you can cut your energy costs immediately. If you decide to install solar, these improvements may also reduce the size of solar system that you require.

2. RESEARCH YOUR OPTIONS BEFORE INVESTING IN A SOLAR SYSTEM.

Details to research before moving forward with solar include comparing contractors/ installers, learning about the different types of solar panels that are available, comparing the costs of different systems, and more.

3. UNDERSTAND HOW A SOLAR SYSTEM WORKS WITH YOUR COOPERATIVE'S SYSTEM.

Contact the energy experts at Sioux Valley Energy to obtain more information about rate structures, solar grid interconnection, safety precautions, and other connection-related details.

4. REVIEW YOUR ENERGY USE TO DETERMINE WHAT SOLAR SIZE SYSTEM TO INSTALL.

Contact Sioux Valley Energy to learn more about your past energy use so that you can best determine which size solar system to install and to learn why choosing the right size system is so important.

5. SEARCH FOR INCENTIVES, REBATES, AND TAX CREDITS.

Any financial incentives available will help reduce your solar investment costs. Be aware that incentives and their associated details can vary from year to year.

TELL ME MORE!

Please contact me with more information about the topics indicated below.

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

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

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

SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

Application deadline is January 13

Sioux Valley Energy is offering \$20,000 worth of scholarships to eligible graduating high school seniors or first time attendees at an institution of higher education. These scholarship funds also include a designated scholarship to an individual attending power line school. Applications that are hand delivered must be in one of the SVE offices no later than 4:30 p.m. on

Friday, Jan. 13, 2023. Mailed applications must be postmarked by Jan. 13, 2023.

Applicants must be a child or dependent of a Sioux Valley Energy member. Applications will be judged on the basis of grades, work experience, school activities, volunteer community service, and an essay question.

The majority of the scholarship funding comes from Operation Round Up® funds, with additional monies from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and L&O Power Cooperative.

Scholarship submittal requirements are listed on the forms. Applications are available at local schools' counselor offices or online at: <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-community/scholarship-program>



2022-2023 EMPOWER YOUTH LEADERSHIP KICKS OFF

Teens from area high schools gathered in October for the first of four EmPOWER Youth Leadership sessions. During the sessions - held in October, November, January, and February - the teens will develop a comprehensive understanding of cooperatives while developing their leadership skills in a fun, interactive, and challenging way.

Participants learn about the cooperative business model, explore career options, network with other students and professionals, build and improve leadership skills through interactions with community leaders, industry experts, and motivational speakers while working on personal growth.



SDHSRA SHORT GO WINNERS

Six area teens were recently presented with their South Dakota High School Rodeo Association Short Go shirts. Above, SVE's Amy Voelker presents shirts to Chase Olson of Hartford (steer wrestling) and Jesse Kline (bull riding) at West Central High School. At right, from top are Josie Mousel of Colman (breakaway roping), Jaxon Bowes of Brookings (steer wrestling), and Keylee Zancanella of Brookings (barrels). Not pictured is Conner Herren of Crooks (calf roping/team roping).





LeRoy Iedema, Richard Ringling and Duane Strand crank out nearly 60,000 toy cars each year from their 12x10-foot workshop in Platte. Photo by Billy Gibson

Duane Strand gets lots of 'smileage' out of making toy cars for children

Billy Gibson

editor@sdrea.coop

Frustrated moms across the ages have been searching for a surefire method for getting an unruly child to simmer down.

Duane Strand is pretty sure he's found a failsafe solution: toy cars.

Several years ago, Strand began building tiny wooden cars in his nondescript backyard shed in Platte. He recalls visiting Pierre one evening and having dinner at a local restaurant when a young boy suddenly started pitching a fit and hollering at the top of his lungs.

Strand just happened to have one of the cars in his pocket. He reached out and handed it to the child and was rather amazed at the result. Not only did the whining stop forthwith, but that boy's frown turned upside down as the

kid started beaming from ear to ear.

"He quit yelling right then and there. His whole attitude changed," Strand recalls. "These cars really have a soothing effect on the kids."

That's the impact Strand is shooting for as he and his three-man team of retirees crank out nearly 60,000 toy cars each year. They're looking to squeeze all the "smileage" they can get out of the toy cars they build.

The main construction crew includes retired farmer Richard Ringling and retired mechanic LeRoy Iedema. Ringling usually works the drill press to create holes in the wood where the axles will go. Then Iedema follows up by pressing the wheels onto the axles. He came up with a way to make sure the wheels roll straight and stay in place and dares anyone to try and pull off a wheel.

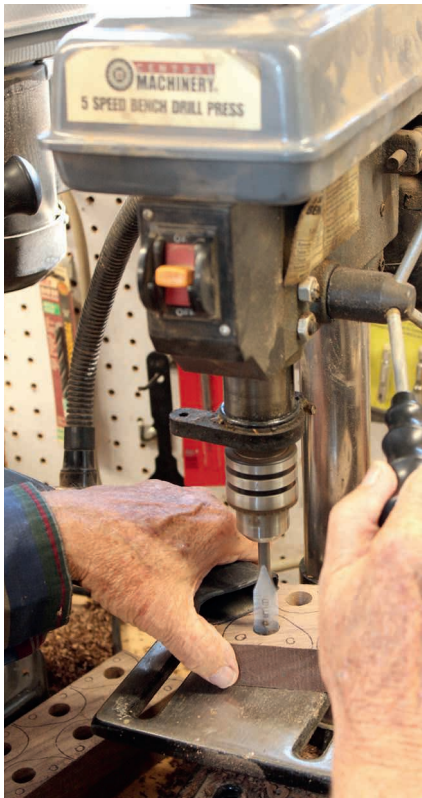
There are others who join in the

process: Justin Kok cuts the wood into manageable blocks; Brett Wynia performs repairs on the drill presses, band saws, sanders, routers and other pieces of equipment when they break down; and Curtis Versteeg helps to sand down the rough surfaces on the cars.



Toy cars are distributed by military personnel serving overseas.

And just down the road from the shop is the Platte Lumber Yard, where many of the material supplies are stored until needed for production. Strand said it was the folks down at the lumber yard who initiated the vital connection with



Dustin Knutson of Boyds Hardwood Gunstock supplies the toy makers with the laminated wood used to create the tiny cars (inset) for worldwide distribution. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

Boys Hardwood Gunstock that keeps the operation humming along.

“Without Boyds we wouldn’t be able to do any of this,” Strand said.

Dustin Knutson, a member of Central Electric Cooperative and part owner of the company that bills itself as the largest after-market gun stock maker in the world, is a Shriner with a heart for community service and said he was all-in when Strand approached him about supporting the program by supplying excess wood.

“They’re really easy to work with,” he said, noting that he keeps one of the cars on his desk. “They take whatever they can get and they show up consistently. We started saving off-cut blocks of wood specifically for the cars. The laminated wood works well because it’s colorful and looks good and the kids can pick out their favorite one.”

Strand’s distribution system is a bit scatter shot but he still manages to send them all over the globe. Anyone he knows who is planning a trip gets a supply of cars. Knutson, for instance, takes them with him when he travels for business or pleasure, whether vacationing in Mexico or hunting in Africa.

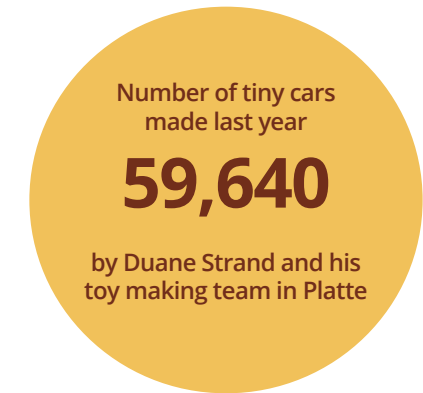
“People in America may think these are just simple toys, but I’ve been in parts of the world where a toy for a kid is a stick and a rock,” Knutson said. “But these little cars give kids something to smile about. Duane and his guys are just beautiful people doing good things for the good of humanity and we’re happy to help them any way we can.”

The toys also ride along in ambulances, military satchels and police vehicles in the event a child needs to be calmed. They show up in doctor’s offices, churches and other venues.

The operation is affiliated with a group called Toys for God’s Kids, a non-denominational organization based in Denver. Strand is the only affiliated “smile maker” in South Dakota.

While the three-man crew claims they’re working harder than they used to before retiring, Iedema assigns a greater value to his toil beyond the opportunity to put a smile on a kid’s face. He said his heart doctor has informed him that he’s in better shape than before he started woodworking three years ago. He’s slimmer, more active and feels a lot better.

Strand chips in, “...yeah, and he’s



more ornery than ever, too!”

Collectively, the guys crank out about 250 cars a day scrunched inside the 12 x 10-foot shed. Each unit has to be dipped in linseed oil to protect children from any potential toxicity. The toys are boxed and shipped to their destination at the recipient’s expense.

Strand doesn’t know how much longer he’s going to be able to keep cranking out cars. He’ll reach the age of 90 in a few months and his friend Ringling has a plan: “I told him when he turns 90 we’re going to take him up by the interstate and take a picture underneath the sign that says I-90. Get it?”

LOCAL STUDENTS NAMED SCHOLARS OF WEEK

Seniors from Chester Area High School and Elkton High School Recognized

Seniors Rachel Lindholm (Chester Area High School) and Sydney Boersma (Elkton High School) were named Touchstone Energy Scholars of the Week during October and November. Rachel is the daughter of Amy and Loren Lindholm of Wentworth. Sydney is the daughter of Mike and Kelly Short and Mike and Jen Boersma.

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, like Sioux Valley Energy, have joined together with Dakota News


Now to recognize the achievements of high school seniors throughout the region. Recipients are highly motivated high school seniors who excel in the classroom and community. This program was founded on the four pillars of Touchstone Energy: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation, and a Commitment to Community.



Rachel Lindholm was presented a scholarship for being named Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week by SVE's Lori George.




Sydney Boersma of Elkton High School was named Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week for the week of November 13. SVE's Brenda Kleinjan presented Sydney with her \$250 scholarship.




RECIPES NEEDED FOR

The Country Cookin'
cookbook




Your recipe could be featured in the 39th volume of East River Electric's Country Cookin' cookbook!



Help us create another great cookbook by submitting your favorite recipes as well as recipes for the cookbook's "Wild Game" section.

Submit recipes via email to
ajohannsen@eastriver.coop

or contact your local cooperative for more information.



2023 DISTRICT MEETINGS SET

The Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors approved the 2023 District Meeting schedule during their September meeting. Four elections will take place in Districts 5, 6, 7, and 9. In District 6, only one at large seat (Rogen) is up for election this year.

Members interested in running for the Board must submit a Director Petition, Conflict of Interest Statement and Qualification Certification 60 days prior to the meeting date. Petitions must be delivered to a Sioux Valley Energy office location or postmarked by the petition deadline. Sioux Valley Energy encourages members to gather extra member signatures and to deliver or mail completed petitions in advance of the petition deadline to ensure time for member verification.

PETITION DEADLINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

District 9 – Sunday, December 25, 2022

(It is recommended that petitions be turned in by Thursday, Dec. 22)

District 7 – Friday, January 13, 2023

District 5 – Thursday, January 19, 2023

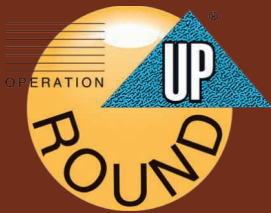
District 6 – Sunday, January 22, 2023

(It is recommended that petitions be turned in by Friday, Jan. 20)

Petitions can be obtained at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com or by calling 800-234-1960. The Cooperative Bylaws state the qualifications needed to be a director.

Date	District	Director	Location
Thursday, February 23*	9	Johnson*	Pipestone Area High School Pipestone, MN
Monday, February 27	8	Leuthold	Generations (Grand Prairie Event Center) Luverne, MN
Tuesday, February 28	1	DeGreef	McKnight Hall White, SD
Thursday, March 2	4	Daniel	Dakota Prairie Playhouse Madison, SD
Thursday, March 9	2	Vostad	Sioux Valley School Volga, SD
Monday, March 13	3	Heinemann	William J Janklow Comm. Center Flandreau, SD
Tuesday, March 14*	7	DeMent*	West Central School Hartford, SD
Monday, March 20*	5	Weinacht*	Taopi Hall Colton, SD
Tuesday, March 21	10	Roskamp	Edgerton Public School Edgerton, MN
Thursday, March 23*	6	Fish & Rogen*	Brandon Valley High School Brandon, SD

Interested members are encouraged to contact Brenda Schelhaas, Executive Assistant. All Board seats elected in 2023 will serve three-year terms. *Denotes election meetings.



OPERATION ROUND UP® FUNDS UNIQUE THERAPY PROGRAM

A recent Operation Round Up® (ORU) grant for just over \$2,300 was awarded to a unique therapy program in Brookings County.

S.T.A.R.S. is a non-profit organization under the Brookings Area Interagency Council and focuses on using horseback riding as a form of physical and emotional therapy to individuals of varying abilities. This program offers a safe, monitored environment for uniquely abled people to partake in horseback riding while also playing games, socializing with other riders, and creating bonds with the horses.

WHEN ARE ORU APPLICATIONS DUE?

The Operation Round Up board meets quarterly and all applications must be received by the 20th of the month preceding a Board meeting. Due dates are February 20, May 20, August 20, and November 20.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR ORU FUNDS?

Non-profit organizations 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.

CHANGING YOUNG LIVES

The Great Plains Youth Regional Treatment Center near Mobridge is a place where at-risk youth can go to address their challenges with drug and alcohol abuse. *Photo by Roger Lawien*

Treatment center helps young people get back on the right path

Billy Gibson

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It was a small compliment, but it meant everything to the young lady who wasn't quite accustomed to receiving positive reinforcement. A simple affirmation spoken softly and sincerely into her ear: "You're gorgeous, and you're worthy." And the tears began to flow.

The Indian Health Service Great Plains Youth Regional Treatment Center near Mobridge is a place where at-risk youth can go to address their challenges with drug and alcohol abuse and find the support they need to deal with difficult situations.

Acting Clinical Director Charita Dowdell remembers that encounter with the young woman.

"I tell all of our residents how gorgeous they are and that I see the beauty in them and who they are deep down inside," Dowdell said. "I told her she was worthy and that she had value,

and she just broke down. She told me that nobody had ever said that to her."

That's just one of the stories about how the treatment center's staff strive to change the lives of teens who enter the program. There are many others.

Program Director Lavon Booth has been involved with the residential program for 20 years, initially as an administrative officer when she started in 2002. She previously served at the Cheyenne River Service Unit in her hometown of Eagle Butte before starting at the YRTC.

She sees the transformation of residents captured in plain view during graduation ceremonies that take place when the 12-week session concludes.

"We're very fortunate to see the change that happens in our residents from the time they arrive until the time they graduate," she said. "We see them moving in a positive direction and at graduation we get to hear them speak intimately about what they've learned and you see how it all comes together.

They come in very shy and reserved, and they leave here carrying a more positive spirit and more confidence. It's really touching for us and very rewarding."

The treatment center is housed in the old Chief Gall Inn hotel on land leased from the Standing Rock tribe. Youth between the ages of 13 and 17 are referred through tribal alcohol programs, local schools, community service organizations and other agencies.

According to the center's mission statement, the program "is dedicated to promoting a healthy lifestyle restoring balance and harmony in mind, body and spirit to our American Indian youth and their families."

Dowdell said playing a role in watching that mission statement come true to life in the form of changed behaviors and more positive attitudes makes her know she's definitely making a profound difference.

One effective modality is a mentoring program where residents taking part in the rehabilitation process shepherd those who are just entering the facility. Not only do the incumbent residents show the newbies around the physical



The youth treatment center is located in the former Chief Gall Inn hotel near Mobridge. *Photo by Roger Lawien*

space, but they also listen to their concerns, answer questions and try to allay their fears that stem from living in a new environment with certain rules, guidelines and expectations.

“When they start feeling homesick or afraid or stressed and they just need someone near their age to talk to, it helps them make the adjustment so they can settle down and focus on what they need to do to make changes. That bond is something that actually helps both of them get through and graduate successfully,” she said.

Dowdell noted there is a concern among staff about residents returning to a challenging environment. So, upon graduation, the youth receive support through a tracking system where staffers make regular check-in calls after three days, three months, six months and a year. A tele-health network is also

available to the graduates.

Role-playing also helps re-integration, Dowdell said. She added that the residents are taught to anticipate the same kind of challenges they faced before and how to handle them with a different approach.

“They return as a changed person, but everybody else around them will be doing the same things,” she said. “We tell them to stay connected to their support system and manage their emotions; how to be true to yourself while being respectful to others. We prepare them for what life is going to look like when they leave.”

She mentioned one particular youngster who entered the program with a defiant attitude and dealing with depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress. She knuckled down academically and caught up to her class grade. After

graduation, she returned to juvenile detention for seven months. But in the end, she straightened out her life by applying the things she learned at the center.

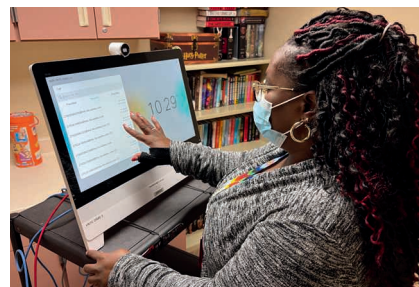
“She struggled with treatment, but she sent us a letter thanking us for what the program did for her,” Dowdell said. “She said she was grateful for giving her the skills to manage the difficult predicament she was going through. She changed her mentality and grew and matured and became a new person.”

Dowdell stressed that parents can play a key role in helping their children navigate through rehabilitation or prevent them from becoming a candidate in the first place.

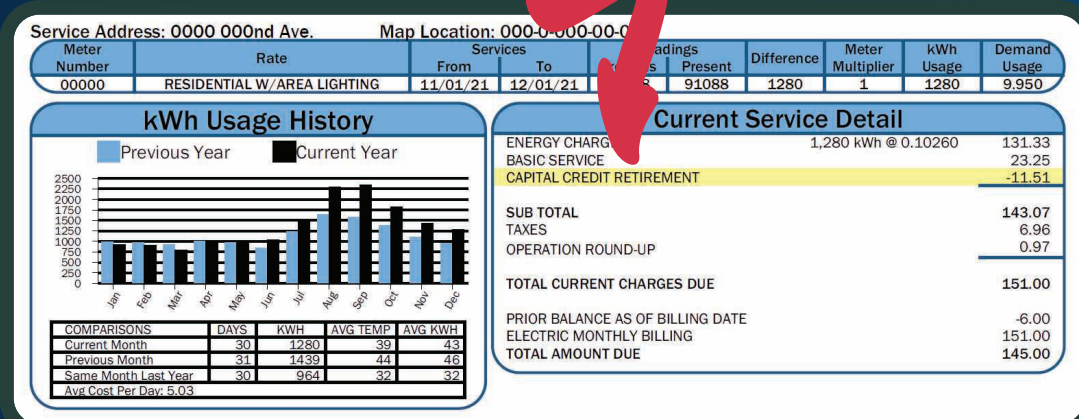
“Listen to your children,” she emphasized. “They are saying something to you, but often they don’t feel like they’re being heard. Before you shut that door, listen to what they’re saying. You may have to shut the door anyway, but at least take the time to listen to what they have to say.”

Visit www.ihs.gov/greatplains/healthcarefacilities/greatplainsyrct/.

Lavon Booth, left, and Charita Dowdell, work to provide students the skills they need to change the direction of their lives.



WHAT'S THIS CREDIT ON MY BILL?



The Cooperative Difference means YOU get the credit!

When you signed up to receive electric service from Sioux Valley Energy, you became a member of an electric cooperative. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their investors, electric cooperatives allocate margins (revenue minus expenses) to members as capital credits, and retire – or pay – them when the co-op’s financial condition permits.

The Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors has approved a **\$2.14 million general capital**

credit retirement. The Cooperative will be retiring the balance of the **1999** capital credits as well as a portion of the capital credits for the years **2000** and **2021**.

Individuals and organizations who were members of SVE in those years will be receiving a portion of their capital credits. The amount of each allocation and retirement is based on how much individual members paid the Co-op for electric service during that period. Your capital credit will be applied to your December bill as a credit.

If you have questions about your capital credit retirement, take a look at some of our frequently asked questions on the next page or contact our Member Services Department at **877-511-8062**.

How does the process work for capital credits?



HAVE QUESTIONS? WE HAVE ANSWERS!

HOW ARE CAPITAL CREDITS CALCULATED?

The amount of capital credits you earn in a given year is based on the amount of capital you contribute to the Cooperative through payment of your monthly electric bills and the amount of operating margins realized by the Cooperative.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALLOCATED AND RETIRED CAPITAL CREDITS?

Allocated capital credits appear as an entry on the permanent financial records of the Cooperative and reflect your investment in SVE. When capital credits are retired, a bill credit is issued to you, and your ownership in the Cooperative is reduced. After reviewing the Cooperative's finances, the Board of Directors determines the method, basis, priority, and timing of all capital credits retirements.

CAN I RECEIVE MY DISTRIBUTION AS A CHECK INSTEAD OF A BILL CREDIT?

No, all current members are receiving their distributions as bill credits. SVE is committed to pursuing the most cost-effective business practices. The Cooperative saves a considerable amount of money by distributing capital credits as bill credits as opposed to the expense of printing and mailing checks to 28,000 current members.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY CAPITAL CREDITS IF I PASS AWAY BEFORE THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR DISTRIBUTION?

When SVE receives proper documentation to settle the estate of a current or former member who has passed away, the Co-op will distribute capital credits in accordance with our Capital Credits Policy. SVE discounts the value of these credits using the present value of each year's distribution compared to the expected payout of 25 years from when the capital credits were accumulated.



SIoux VALLEY
ENERGY

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December 15-18, 2022
Christmas at the Cathedral
521 N Duluth Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD
605-988-3765

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.

NOV. 25
Olde Tyme Christmas Kick-off and Parade
Hill City, SD

NOV. 25
"Light up the Night" Parade and Fireworks
Belle Fourche, SD

NOV. 25
Trap Shoot
Izaak Walton League
Sioux Falls, SD
605-332-9527

NOV. 26
Gregory Mid-Winter Fair
Gregory Auditorium
Gregory, SD
605-830-9778

DEC. 2-3
Christmas in the Hills
Mueller Center
Hot Springs, SD
605-745-4140

DEC. 3
Santa's Thrift Village
Minneluzahan Senior Center
Rapid City, SD
605-394-1887

DEC. 3
Tabor's Holiday Light Parade
Tabor, SD
605-660-0274

DEC. 3
60th Annual Wreath and Centerpiece Sale
Central States Fair Grounds,
Rapid City, SD
605-343-0710

DEC. 3
Julefest 2022: Scandinavian Christmas Festival & Bazaar
8 a.m.-2p.m.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1020 State St.
Spearfish, SD

DEC. 4
Sioux Falls Legion Post 15 Pancake Breakfast
8:30 a.m.-noon
1600 W Russell St.
Sioux Falls, SD

DEC. 4
Hartford Hometown Christmas
Hartford, SD
www.hartfordhtc.com

DEC. 4
Walk Through Bethlehem
United Methodist Church
Webster, SD
605-345-3747

DEC. 10
Frontier Christmas
Fort Sisseton Historic State Park
Lake City, SD
605-448-5474

DEC. 15-18
Christmas at the Cathedral
521 N Duluth Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD
605-988-3765

DEC. 17
Custer Christmas for Kids
Custer High School
Custer, SD
custerchristmas4kids@gmail.com

JAN. 14
Coats for Kids Bowling Tournament
Registration Starts at 1 p.m.
Meadowood Lanes
Rapid City, SD
605-393-2081

JAN. 55
Trap Shoot
Izaak Walton League
Sioux Falls, SD
605-332-9527

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