

# COOPERATIVE

## CONNECTIONS



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# The Power of Safety is in Your Hands: Work Zone Awareness



**Tim McCarthy**  
General Manager/  
Chief Executive  
Officer

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com

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, on average, 55 worker-pedestrians are killed per year after being struck by vehicles in work zones. That number should be zero. No person should ever be injured or lose their life in a roadside work zone accident caused by careless or distracted driving. Unfortunately, our line crews routinely see that type of driving while they are working on the side of the road. The power of safety is in your hands.

Soon you will start seeing television commercials about work zone safety featuring several Sioux Valley Energy employees. The messaging focuses on the power you (and each one of us) have to keep utility workers safe on the side of the road. We want our employees and contractors to go home each night to their loved ones, so let's be sure that one moment of distraction doesn't keep them from that.

Before you ignore signs that say "utility work ahead," think about the individuals who are in that work zone just trying to do their job. They are often fixing, updating, or building new electric infrastructure for you, your neighbors, and your community. These individuals are someone's parent, sibling, family member, or friend. They work hard each and every day so

they can support their families, just like you do. Please remember, the power of safety is in your hands.

SafeElectricity.org offers some great reminders to drivers as they navigate through construction and utility work zones:

- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment, and workers.
- Be patient. Traffic delays are sometimes unavoidable, so try to allow time for unexpected occurrences in your schedule.
- Obey all signs and road crew flag instructions.
- Merge early and be courteous to other drivers.
- Use your headlights at dusk and during inclement weather.
- Minimize distractions. Avoid activities such as operating a phone, radio, or eating while driving.

Thanks for taking time to read this safety message. The welfare of our employees who are doing linework on the roadside is the priority for Sioux Valley Energy and we hope it will become the priority for you too. The power of safety is in your hands.

**SAFETY**  
IS IN YOUR HANDS WHEN  
YOU'RE BEHIND THE WHEEL

Watch for signs, flashing lights, cones, and most importantly, the electric co-op employees who power your lives.

Stay alert – keep your hands on the wheel, eyes on the road and slow-down near utility work zones. You have the power of safety.

**SIOUX VALLEY ENERGY**  
A. Enclosed Energy Cooperative

**COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS**  
**SIoux VALLEY ENERGY**

(USPS No. 497-440)

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**SIoux VALLEY ENERGY** A Telesse Energy Cooperative

**ACHIEVING GREAT THINGS**  
 Together as a Team

**2024 Annual Meeting**  
 JUNE 11, 2024 • BRANDON • PIPESTONE • VOLGA

Meal from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. • Bingo from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.  
 Musical Entertainment from 6:15 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.  
 Meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JUNE 11**  
**Meeting to be held in three locations**

Sioux Valley Energy's Annual Meeting will look similar to last year's with members attending in three different locations.

The Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 11, with a complimentary meal running from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Bingo will begin at 5:30 p.m., and local musical entertainment will start at 6:15 p.m. with the meeting portion of the evening

following at 7:00 p.m.

The main meeting site will be located at the Brandon Valley High School in Brandon, S.D., with two remote locations at Sioux Valley School in Volga, S.D., and the Pipestone Area High School in Pipestone, Minn.

Members will receive an invitation postcard in the mail prior to the meeting.

# Your Safety Matters

## Prevent home electrical fires

Eight out of 10 fire-related deaths occur at home – the place that embodies comfort and security. That’s why it’s important to take steps to keep everyone safe.

Faulty or deteriorating electrical cords are a top cause of fires at home. Cords that become frayed or cracked can send sparks to flammable surfaces. Check your cords to ensure that they are in good shape, and replace any that are worn.

In addition, make sure you are not overloading circuits. If you’ve been in your home for more than 10 years, have your circuit breaker box inspected by a licensed electrician to tighten loose connections and check for overloaded circuits.



Homes with copper wiring need to be inspected every 20 years, and homes with aluminum wiring should be inspected every five years.

Check all Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets several times each year by pushing the test/reset button to be sure they are working properly.

If breakers are continually tripping or if fuses are blowing frequently, that’s a sign of potential trouble. The cause could be old wiring unable to handle the load demand of today’s modern appliances. If needed, ask a licensed electrician to install additional circuits for safety.

Use surge protectors and power bars to help prevent overloading an electrical outlet, plugging no more than three cords into the strip.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. We urge you to take the time and steps needed to lower the risks of electrical fires. Keep your family safe.



### Stay Away from Power Lines

#### Weston Koistinen, Age 6

Weston Koistinen warns readers to be safe by staying away from power lines. Weston’s parents are Dion and Stephanie Koistinen, members of H-D 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.

# SUMMER CASSEROLES

## BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

### Ingredients:

- 1 5 oz. package croutons, any flavor
- 2 cup sharp Cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 lb. sausage, fried and drained
- 9 eggs
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1 tbs. mustard

### Method

Spray 9x13 pan with vegetable oil. Arrange croutons on bottom. Sprinkle cheese over croutons and put sausage over cheese. Combine eggs, milk and mustard. Beat to blend and pour into pan. Bake covered at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Janet Ochsner  
Box Elder, S.D.

## CHICKEN CASSEROLE

### Ingredients:

- 1 package Chicken Stove Top Stuffing mix
- 3 cups cooked cut up chicken
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups chicken broth

### Method

Grease a 9x13 pan and put 1/2 of the stuffing mix in the pan. Cover with chicken. Combine soups and milk and spoon over chicken. Spread other 1/2 of stuffing over the top. Pour 2 cups of chicken broth over all and spread with beaten eggs. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Gail Lee  
Brookings, S.D.

## TACO CASSEROLE

### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 package taco seasoning mix
- 1 can (16 oz.) pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 oz.) tomato sauce
- 1 can (11 oz.) whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup coarsely crushed tortilla chips

### Method

Preheat oven to 400°F. Brown meat in large skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat. Stir in seasoning mix, beans, tomato sauce and corn. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Spoon into 2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese and tortilla chips. Bake 5 to 10 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with assorted toppings, if desired.

McCormick

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 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

# Make the Switch to Electric



**Sheila Gross**  
Energy Services  
Specialist

Contact Sheila Gross at [sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com) to learn more. Check out our rebates and incentives here:



Are you ready for a greener, cleaner (and quieter) outdoor space? When it's time to replace your lawn and yard care tools, consider making the switch to electric! Yard work is a breeze with electric tools. They are powerful, efficient, easy to start, convenient to charge up at your home, and offer reduced noise and maintenance. Say

goodbye to the hassles of gas-powered equipment – no more gas and oil cans, fumes, or pulling a cord to start.

Register below or online to win a Milwaukee M18 FUEL 3004-20 Hatchet 8-inch 18V Battery Pruning Saw Kit in this month's energy makeover contest (\$360 value).

Source: Consumer Reports

*Making the Switch to*  
**ELECTRIC  
LAWN  
EQUIPMENT**

Considering electric equipment to maintain your outdoor space? Check out the benefits of electric and considerations before making the switch.

**Benefits of Electric Equipment**

- Battery-powered equipment produces zero emissions
- No hassle and mess from gasoline and oil
- Quieter and more reliable than gas-powered equipment
- Require less energy to do the same amount of work as gas-powered tools

**Considerations Before Going Electric**

- Purchasing from a single brand can streamline charging
- Consider the size of your property and battery run time
- Backup batteries may be needed for larger properties
- Electric equipment is pricier up front

## REGISTER TO WIN

Register by **May 31, 2024**, to win the Milwaukee M18 FUEL saw kit pictured.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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





An advisory group of five members from the 2023-24 EmPOWER group will be working with the 2024-25 program.

# HS JUNIORS: JOIN US IN 2024-25

## **QUESTION: What is EmPOWER Youth Leadership?**

The EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program helps area teens build leadership skills and develop a comprehensive understanding of cooperatives.

“EmPOWER is truly a program that transforms the lives of our youth today. It shows them career opportunities that may be a good fit based on their strengths, builds lasting connections and relationships, develops them as leaders, and gives them the tools they’ll need to write the next chapters of their lives. EmPOWER leaves an impact that will last a lifetime.” said Chinelle Christensen, Sioux Valley Energy’s Culture and Training Development Strategist who leads the EmPOWER program.

## **QUESTION: When is it held?**

The program is offered over four interactive sessions held on state holidays in October, November, January, and February. A makeup day will be scheduled for Good Friday, if needed.

## **QUESTION: What happens at EmPOWER Youth Leadership?**

Each session builds upon skills learned in the previous session and extends into exploring career opportunities, networking with other students and business leaders, and learning more about the cooperative business model. Students are also eligible for scholarships and additional learning opportunities through travel to Washington, D.C., and cooperative facilities in North Dakota.

“The students who participate in the EmPOWER program will

gain a deeper understanding of the cooperative impact and business model all while determining who they want to be as a leader and how that can impact their future.” Christensen said.

## **QUESTION: How many students participate in EmPOWER Youth Leadership?**

Nearly 450 teens have gone through the program since 2014.

## **QUESTION: When are applications due?**

Applications for the 2024-25 group are due May 10.

## **QUESTION: How do I apply?**

Application materials were distributed to area schools in March and April. The application is also available at [www.siouxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com).



Patsy Besson helps package fresh cuts of meat at the Wall Meat Processing plant.  
Photo Credit: Shannon Marvel

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## Wall Meats Revives Local Meatcutting in South Dakota Through New Underwood Expansion

**Shannon Marvel**

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

A local meat processing plant is expanding its footprint in Pennington County in a way that will put more locally produced protein on dinner tables and bolster the local meat processing workforce throughout South Dakota.

The man behind this plan is local business owner Ken Charfauros, who owns Wall Meat Processing, which has locations in Wall and Rapid City.

Charfauros is currently raising funds through a capital drive campaign to finance the construction of a 30,000 square foot meat processing facility in New Underwood. The new facility will help train the next generation of meat processors through a partnership with Western Dakota Tech in Rapid City.

“We are at \$2.8 million in our drive. We also have the \$3.3 million USDA Rural Development grant, which is a meat and poultry expansion plan grant. We are about \$200,000 short of our goal,” Charfauros said.

He added that the New Underwood processing plant will also use funding from the Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program (MPILP), which according to the USDA’s website “provides grant funding to intermediary lenders who finance – or plan to finance – the start-up, expansion, or operation of slaughter, or other processing of meat and poultry. The objective of the MPILP is to strengthen the financing capacity for independent meat processors, and to create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain.”

Charfauros said he’s still meeting with potential investors and has a financial team focused on creating relationships with local ag producers.

“After we get our capital drive, the plan itself will be about \$21 million,” he added. “And then we start the project. The groundbreaking is going to happen in about a year and the facility will begin operations six months after that.”

Charfauros said he expects to purchase the property to site the new plant this spring.

### Returning to a Passion

Wall Meats Processing opened for business 57 years ago, but



Charfauros took ownership over the facility in 2017. His passion for meat cutting began when he was a teenager while working for a local meat plant in Delaware.

“It was my high school job and I loved it. After I graduated high school, I felt that my country needed me, so I joined the Air Force and did 30 years. But I always missed that part of my life,” Charfauros recalled.

“A guy that taught me how to cut was like my second dad, and I always wanted to come back to it. My son had just graduated from South Dakota State University, and I had retired from the Air Force. That’s when we decided to buy a plant.”

His son manages the store in Rapid City while Ken’s three nephews help run the family’s businesses in Wall, which include Wall Meats and the Red Rock restaurant.

## Supporting Local Producers

Building the new facility has been a challenging venture that’s been years in the making.

“We started building this plan about four years ago, then COVID hit and got in our way. Then, we were lucky enough to get those grant awards last year, and ever since we have been working diligently to get the format right,” Charfauros said.

“I have drawings. I have an equipment list all put together — everything is ready to go except for this capital drive that we are undergoing.”

Charfauros said he has been meeting with both potential and locked-in investors daily over the last year to produce the required financing.

“We have met with over 600 people with 99 percent of those people being producers, because this is all for them. This plant offers them premium pricing above the market rates,” Charfauros said.

While the cattle market is high now, Charfauros remains realistic that the market can change for the worse.

While he hopes the market remains high enough for producers to survive, his partnership with producers will serve as

added security. That means the partnership must be tightknit.

He knows he cannot do it alone.

## Reviving a Dying Art

“Meat cutting is a dying art, and we teach meat processing at our store in Rapid City to bring that art back. We’re trying to fight for that industry as it is,” he said.

Three meat processing students are currently being taught at the Rapid City facility through a partnership with Western Dakota Tech, which recently began offering the two-year program.

Pam Stillman-Rokusek, director of communications and marketing at Western Dakota Tech, said three students are currently enrolled in the Meat Processing program. Of those three, two will graduate in May.

But the college is still working on more outreach.

“Enrollment has been a bit low in the program, so the plan is for a hiatus this fall. They’ll revamp the curriculum. Then, we will certainly do additional outreach. We have done advertising, gone to the schools. We have reached out to 4-H

groups and done some traveling, but we need to turn it up a notch to produce more students in the program. That is our goal,” Stillman-Rokusek said.

Despite the Meat Processing program being put on hiatus, the school will still ensure that the remaining student completes the program while actively working on developing the program and outreach methods.

“There’s such a high need for meat processors and we’re looking at different ways to fill that gap. It’s something we’re committed to doing,” she added.

The goal is to enroll at least five students in the following school years when the program restarts.

The learning center that will be built within the New Underwood facility will also teach producers, in addition to students, the art of meat cutting.

“We are trying to bring that industry back to what it should be—regionally processed protein,” Charfauros said.

“That means we must build the environment to spark that passion. In anything you do, you need to learn how to do it the right way.”



Wall Meat Processing plant, established in 1957. Photo Credit: Shannon Marvel



**BUILDING OR REMODELING?**

Sioux Valley Energy is here to help! Make sure to contact us early in the process by calling 800-234-1960. We have programs and rebates for members



including incentives for installing efficient heat pumps, electric water heaters, pre-wiring for electric vehicles, and loans for heat pumps and weatherization products. Take a look at all of our programs here: <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/programs-and-rebates>.

# Hero Haven Powers Heroes' Adventures

A Brandon man's efforts to connect heroes to one another earned Sioux Valley Energy member Wade Blomgren and his Hero Haven organization recognition as a finalist in the third annual Who Powers You contest. The contest is hosted by the region's Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives to highlight local figures who are making a difference in their community.

In nominating Blomgren, Cody Bunger wrote, "Wade is one of the most humble people I have ever met. He does some pretty incredible things for veterans, police officers, firefighters, and first responders."

Hero Haven is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established by fellow service members as a way to give back to people who serve and protect their country in a real and genuine way.

"Hero Haven gives the gift of taking people who have served on life-giving, outdoor adventures like fishing trips, hunting trips, ATV rides, and snowmobile trips all over the country. These trips are designed to help these individuals cleanse their minds and souls and give them a taste of the bonding experience they once had while serving," Bunger wrote. "It's his way of giving back and showing a token of appreciation to the men and women who have worn a uniform – our front line heroes."

Blomgren served with the Minnesota National Guard's 34th Infantry Red Bulls, including deployments to Iraq in 2006-07. Hero Haven's first big event in December 2021 gathered 46 people – including 34 from his guard unit – for a pheasant hunt. The hunt coincided with the 15th anniversary of the deaths of two members of Blomgren's unit. Since that inaugural hunt, Hero Haven



has taken more than 250 people on a variety of outdoor adventures.

Participants in the Hero Haven events have come from more than 20 states and 70 individuals are currently on waitlists for future adventures. Events are held throughout the year including fly fishing, a river float, hog hunting in Texas, walleye fishing, charter fishing in Florida, side-by-side riding in the Black Hills, elk hunts, and pheasant hunting in South Dakota.

Volunteers organize the activities and sponsors and outfitters provide the activities. At the conclusion of the adventure, the heroes walk away with memories and mementos of their experience and connections to others who have a similar service background.

Blomgren was featured in the March 20 broadcast of Keloland Living. Three final winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact that they have on the community. Three contest winners will be announced on Keloland Living on May 30, 2024. The Who Powers You contest grand prize winner will receive a \$3,000 prize. A second place winner will receive \$1,500, and the contest's third place winner will receive \$500.

To learn more about Hero Haven, visit their website at [hero-haven.org](http://hero-haven.org).

# 2024 Rate Changes

## Effective April 1, 2024

Due to increased costs for material, equipment, operations, financing, and power supply, the Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors approved an overall average rate increase of 6.38 percent as of April 1, 2024. Rate adjustments to specific rate classes (i.e. residential, rural residential, large power, general service, etc.) will vary based on the cost of service.

### WHY ARE RATES CHANGING?



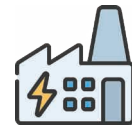
**1. Increased capital costs.**



**2. Increase in operating costs.**



**3. Increased cost of borrowing.**



**4. Power supply rate increases.**

### New Rates for Four Select Rate Classifications

#### Farm and Rural Residential

Rate Component	Old Rate	New Rate
Single-Phase Basic Service Charge	\$55	\$65
3-Phase Basic Service Charge	\$100	\$120
Energy Charge	\$0.1026	\$0.1055

#### Residential

Rate Component	Old Rate	New Rate
Basic Service Charge	\$20	\$30
Energy Charge	\$0.1026	\$0.1055

#### General Service

Rate Component	Old Rate	New Rate
Single-Phase Basic Service Charge	\$55	\$75
3-Phase Basic Service Charge	\$100	\$120
Energy Charge	\$0.1026	\$0.1055

#### Large Power

Rate Component	Old Rate	New Rate
Basic Service Charge	\$1.20/kVA	\$1.50 /kVA
Demand Charge	\$16.50/kW	\$17.00 /kW
Energy Charge	\$0.03650/kWh	\$0.03760 /kWh

### WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Check out our dedicated rate adjustment webpage for answers to frequently asked questions, more details, and to calculate the cost of your new rate.





# CYBERSECURITY ON THE GRID

**Frank Turner**

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Imagine sitting at your desk on a typical Monday morning. You have logged into your computer with coffee in hand, ready to tackle the day. But as you begin, your computer displays an ominous message: “Your files have been encrypted. Pay a ransom to regain access.” It’s not just your computer; your co-workers have received the same message. Overnight, the entire office has fallen victim

to a ransomware attack that has locked away critical data. Your office computers will remain unusable until a payment is made.

This scenario, among others, has become a primary concern for workplaces everywhere, including electric cooperatives. As a result, local co-ops are taking action in the cybersecurity space to prevent bad actors from disrupting the critical goal of delivering power that is safe, affordable and reliable to their members. Electric co-ops are focused

on enhancing cybersecurity resilience and readiness to defend against potential cyber threats.

Co-ops are routinely monitoring and managing cyber risks, working with federal and local law enforcement agencies and the North American Electric Reliability Corp. to protect critical infrastructure. By working as a network, co-ops are enhancing grid resilience, ensuring reliable electricity for their members.

According to an FBI Internet Crime Report, the U.S. reported more than \$12.5 billion in annual losses in 2023 due to cyberattacks like the one described. A significant number of these attacks target the elderly and vulnerable. When breaking down the losses by age group, individuals aged

20 to 29 accounted for \$360.7 million of the total losses, while those 60 and older incurred losses of \$3.4 billion in 2023 alone.

And it's not just about the money. These attacks also have the potential to undermine the stability of entire systems, including the electrical grid. This year, directors of the FBI, NSA, and CISA testified before Congress about Chinese Communist Party hacking groups that had gained access to the electric grid and other critical infrastructure to "wreak havoc and cause real-world harm to American citizens and communities."

"Many cyberattacks are conducted by criminals trying to steal money or collect a ransom," explains Chief Security and Compliance Officer Daniel Graham of Basin Electric Power Cooperative. "Nation-states

target electric utilities for different reasons. Some nation-states want to steal intellectual property. Others want to be able to disrupt our electric grid."

So how is it done? To execute their schemes, bad actors employ a long list of complex strategies and techniques, such as phishing, data breaches and malware to adversely impact their targets. Business email compromise, one of the most common techniques, occurs when an impostor poses as a legitimate business contact, seeking to steal sensitive information such as credit card numbers, bank account information or login credentials.

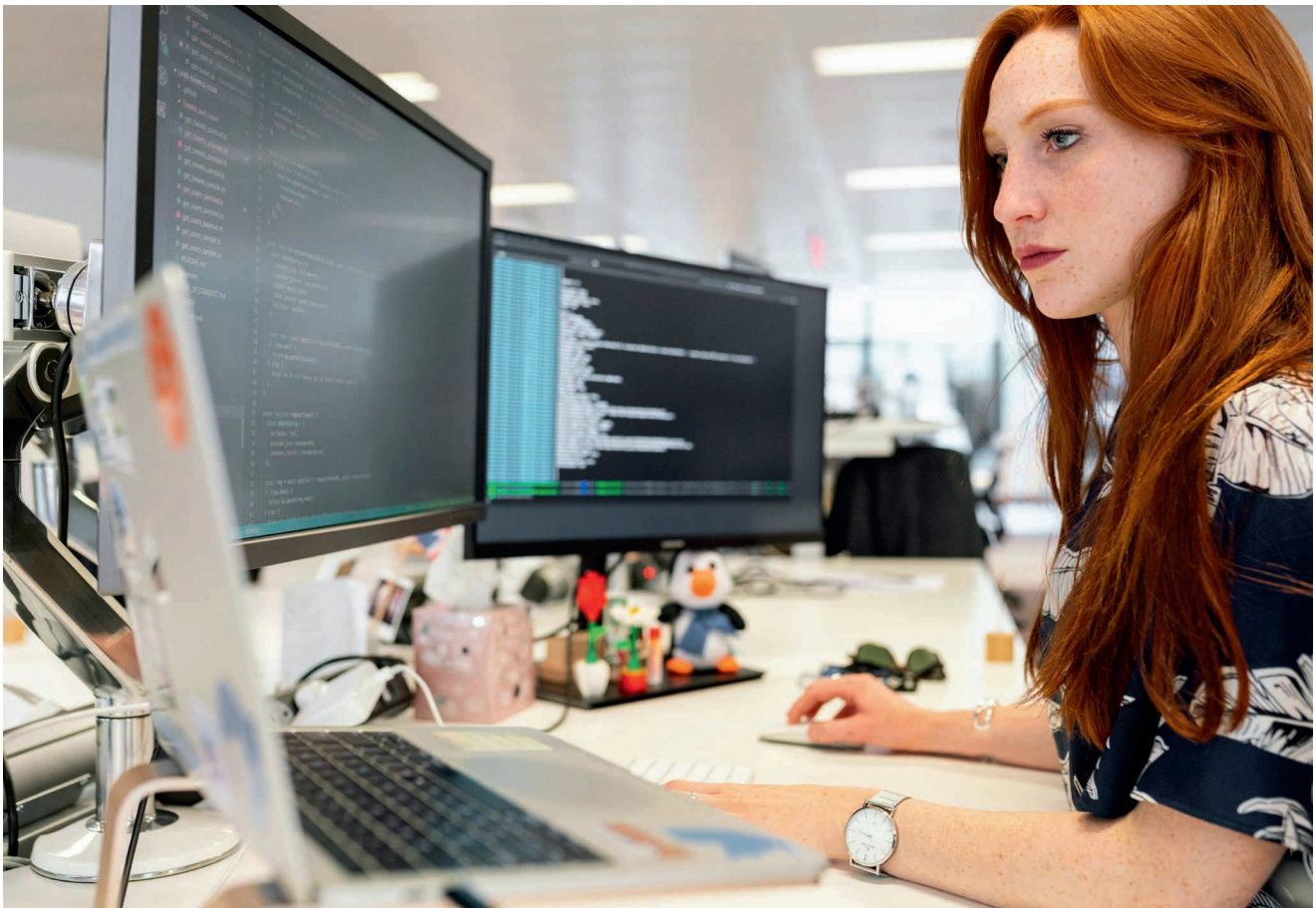
Luckily, co-ops are implementing a variety of tools, policies and training to help mitigate attacks and secure the grid. Programs like NRECA's Co-op Cyber Goals Program help co-ops build fundamental cybersecurity

measures, such as employee training, developing cyber incident response plans, and regular self-assessment. These strategies help co-ops reduce the risk of a successful cyberattack in the ongoing battle against cybercrime.

"Additionally, co-ops can conduct cybersecurity exercises to determine the effectiveness of current defenses and practice responses," Graham says.

Despite these efforts, the threat of a successful cyberattack persists, making vigilance an essential component of effective cybersecurity.

"If you see something suspicious, report it to your cooperative," explains Graham. "Electric co-ops are an essential part of our country's critical infrastructure. We can best protect our electric grid by working with each other."



# Scholarships

Forty-eight graduating high school seniors were awarded nearly \$23,000 in technical college and university scholarships from Sioux Valley Energy and its power suppliers this year. The majority of scholarship funds came from Sioux Valley Energy's Operation Roundup® program, with additional funds from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, L&O Power Cooperative, and the Rodney Park Memorial Scholarship. Rodney Park was a journey line worker who worked at Sioux Valley Energy from 1973 until 2006 when he passed away.

## **\$1,000 Scholarship Recipients**

*Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship:*

- **Lauren Roberts**, Chester High School

## *L&O Power Cooperative Scholarship*

- **Julia Hoogland**, Luverne High School

## *Rodney Park Scholarship:*

- **Caden Murphy**, Arlington High School

## **\$1,000 Scholarship Recipients**

- **Sadie Berg**, West Central High School
- **Kai Buss**, Luverne High School
- **Kathryn Klein**, Madison High School

## **\$750 Scholarship Recipients**

- **Sarah Stegenga**, Luverne High School
- **Camden Coughlin**, Brandon Valley High School
- **Jackson Dathe**, Brandon Valley High School
- **Daniela Lee**, Colman-Egan High School
- **Sylvia Fick**, Hills-Beaver Creek High School
- **Chris Hornick**, Sioux Valley High School
- **Jenna Boeke**, Pipestone High School

## **\$500 Scholarship Recipients**

- **Grace Anderson**, Hills-Beaver Creek High School

- **Brooklyn Benthin**, Brookings High School
- **Kayla Bloemendaal**, Luverne High School
- **Alexa Borns**, West Central High School
- **Lauren Grinde**, Tri-Valley High School
- **Hayden Groos**, O'Gorman High School
- **Paul Kern**, Brandon Valley High School
- **Celia Kucker**, Brandon Valley High School
- **Elijah McFarland**, Tri-Valley High School
- **Isaiah Sandy**, Pipestone High School
- **Alexis Weinacht**, Tri-Valley High School

## **\$250 Scholarship Recipients**

- **Addison Bates**, Chester High School
- **MaKaylyn Borecky**, Chester High School
- **Kadence Bowne**, Deubrook High School
- **Cora Boysen**, Chester High School
- **Kylee Brands**, Southwest Minnesota Christian High School
- **Cameron Clayton**, Brandon Valley High School
- **Kylee Fiddelke**, Dell Rapids Public High School

- **Lily Fods**, Chester High School
- **Elie Land**, Sioux Falls Jefferson High School
- **Mabry McGunegill**, Pipestone High School
- **Chloe Olivier**, Pipestone High School
- **Jenna Olson**, Colman-Egan High School
- **Emily Outland**, Brandon Valley High School
- **Colton Padgett**, Brandon Valley High School
- **Easton Poppe**, Brandon Valley High School
- **Megan Raschke**, Sioux Falls Washington High School
- **Tanner Reed**, Flandreau High School
- **Madison Schelske**, Brookings High School
- **Sophie Schwebach**, Dell Rapids St. Mary High School
- **Jessica Tappe**, Madison High School
- **Alexia Vander Pol**, Southwest Minnesota Christian High School
- **Hayden Hastings**, Tri-Valley High School
- **Emilee Stofferahn**, West Central High School
- **Skylar Trygstad**, Sioux Valley High School

## SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK

Kadence Bowne, a student at Deubrook High School, has been chosen as a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 'Scholar of the Week' for the week of April 30. Bowne was recognized with a scholarship by Sioux Valley Energy and was featured on *Dakota News Now* for her accomplishments. She is the daughter of Aaron and Mary Bowne of White, South Dakota.

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.



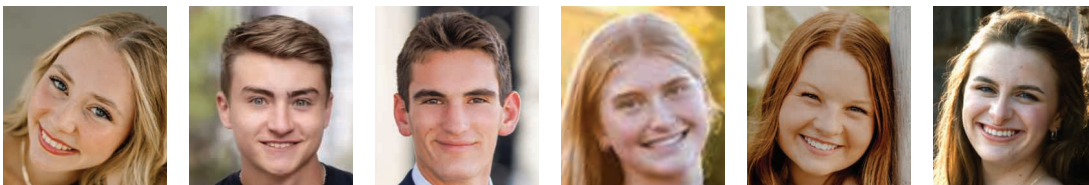
# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Grace Anderson  
Addison Bates  
Brooklyn Benthin  
Sadie Berg  
Kayla Bloemendaal  
Jenna Boeke



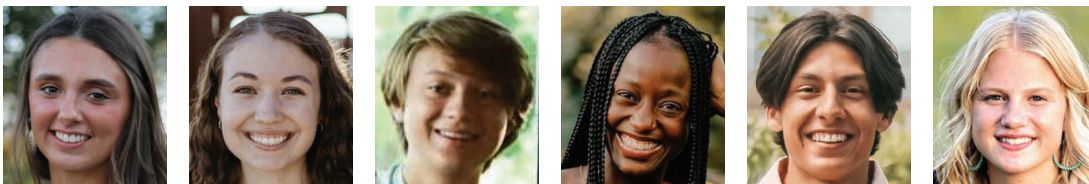
MaKaylyn Borecky  
Alexa Borns  
Kylee Brands  
Kadence Bowne  
Cora Boysen  
Kai Buss



Cameron Clayton  
Camden Coughlin  
Jackson Dathe  
Kylee Fiddelke  
Sylvia Fick  
Lily Fods



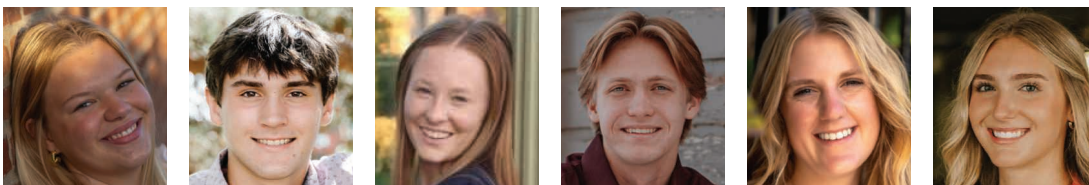
Lauren Grinde  
Hayden Groos  
Hayden Hastings  
Julia Hoogland  
Chris Hornick  
Paul Kern



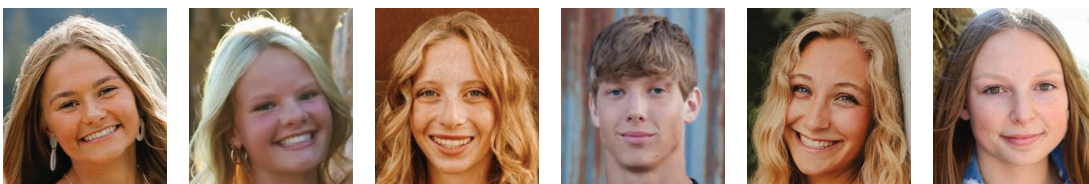
Kathryn Klein  
Celia Kucker  
Elie Land  
Daniela Lee  
Elijah McFarland  
Mabry McGunegill



Caden Murphy  
Chloe Olivier  
Jenna Olson  
Emily Outland  
Colton Padgett  
Easton Poppe



Megan Raschke  
Tanner Reed  
Lauren Roberts  
Isaiah Sandy  
Madison Schelske  
Sophie Schwebach



Sarah Stegenga  
Emillee Stofferahn  
Jessica Tappe  
Skylar Trygstad  
Alexia Vander Pol  
Alexis Weinacht



**MAY 11, 2024**  
**Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**  
 Falls Park  
 Sioux Falls, SD

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.

**MAY 4**  
**Consignment Auction**  
 Historic Prairie Village  
 Madison, SD

**MAY 5**  
**Opening Day**  
 Historic Prairie Village  
 Madison, SD

**MAY 18**  
**Booth Day**  
 10 a.m.  
 D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery  
 Spearfish, SD

**JUNE 1**  
**Miss Prairie Village/Miss  
 Prairie Princess Pageant**  
 Historic Prairie Village  
 Madison, SD

**JUNE 6**  
**14th Annual Ag Women's  
 Day**  
 GracePoint Wesleyan Church  
 1420 Orchard Dr.  
 Brookings, SD

**JUNE 6**  
**"Wild Race Car Night"**  
**Wheel Jam**  
 7 p.m.  
 Dakota State Fair Speedway  
 Huron, SD

**JUNE 8**  
**"Challenge Cup XXII"**  
**Wheel Jam**  
 7 p.m.  
 Dakota State Fair Speedway  
 Huron, SD

**JUNE 8**  
**Antique Tractor Pull**  
 Historic Prairie Village  
 Madison, SD

**JUNE 9**  
**Brookings Car Show**  
 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 Pioneer Park  
 Brookings, SD  
[www.brookingscarshow.org](http://www.brookingscarshow.org)

**JUNE 13**  
**IHS Health Fair**  
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 Fort Thompson, SD

**JUNE 15**  
**1st Annual CheeseFest**  
 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Farm Life Creamery  
 Ethan, SD

**JUNE 21-23**  
**Scavenger's Journey**  
 Yard sales, farmer's markets &  
 specialty shops  
 Wall to Wagner  
[www.scavengersjourney.com](http://www.scavengersjourney.com)

**JULY 20**  
**S.D. MCC Relief Sale**  
**Food Court, Bake Sale, Live  
 Auction & Silent Auction**  
 Free Admission & Parking  
 Pioneer Hall  
 Freeman, SD  
 605-925-7009

**JULY 20-21**  
**Charles Mix Saddle Club**  
 SDREA Rodeo  
 Geddes, SD  
 605-680-2763

**JULY 26-28**  
**Bruce Honey Days**  
 Facebook & Instagram  
 Bruce, SD  
 605-627-5671

**JULY 31-AUG. 3**  
**4-H & FFA Livestock Shows**  
**Carnival Rides & Games**  
 Pipestone, MN

**AUG. 9**  
**Northern Bull Riding Tour  
 Finals & Bull-a-Rama**  
 Geddes, SD  
 605-680-2763

**AUG. 17**  
**"Harvest of Champions"**  
 7 p.m.  
 Dakota State Fair Speedway  
 Huron, SD

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