



Cooperative Connections



**Joy Ride? A Look
at Electric Vehicles**

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Tractor of Tomorrow?

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Project Overview

Busy Summer for SVE



Tim McCarthy, GM/CEO

tim.mccarthy@siouxvalleyenergy.com

Our lineworkers and contractors will be building approximately 150 miles of line in 2018 and much of that work is done during the summer. It is likely that you will see our crews working in an area near you. If you do happen run across our crews, please slow down and exhibit caution when they are working! We have compiled a list of some of our major projects to share with you. This is just a portion of what we are working on but it provides a good overview. Stay safe this summer!

Volga South to Oldham Project:

We are constructing 13 miles of new three phase overhead line to replace old two phase and three phase overhead line. This project will create a three phase tie between the Volga and Oldham substations.

Volga West to Oldham Project:

We are constructing eight and a half miles of new three phase overhead line to replace old three phase overhead and underground line. This project will strengthen the three phase tie between the Volga and Oldham substations.

Medary to Rutland Project:

We are constructing seven miles of new three phase overhead line to replace old three phase overhead line. This project will strengthen the three phase tie between the Medary and Rutland substations.

Volga to Bruce Project:

We are constructing seven miles of new three phase overhead line to replace old three phase overhead line. This project will strengthen the three phase tie between the Volga and Bruce substations.

Hartford Substation Project:

Our power supplier, East River Electric, will be replacing the Hartford substation this year. We will install new three phase underground facilities and switchgear to tie into existing facilities into the new Hartford substation.

Hills 4 kV Conversion Project:

We are in the process of converting the existing 4 kV system in the town of Hills to 12 kV. This project will allow us to more readily provide backup power for the town of Hills.

Underground Replacement and Tap Burial Projects:

We will be replacing eight miles of underground cable and converting eight miles of existing overhead tap lines to underground tap lines, from the road into rural residences and farms.

Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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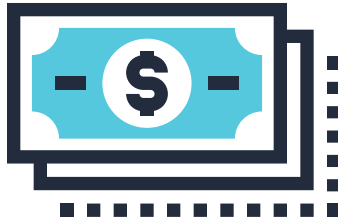
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Phone: 1-800-234-1960
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Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Billing Options Is Budget Billing for you?



People often like to plan for their electric expenses so they don't experience monthly fluctuations. Budget billing allows you to avoid those monthly ups and downs of a typical electric bill. By utilizing budget billing, Sioux Valley Energy will 'average' your actual usage/bill for the previous twelve months. That average is what you will pay each month.

So what if you overpay or underpay? Budget amounts are recalculated each year in May to reflect your actual usage. To enroll and remain on the program, Sioux Valley Energy must have a year of billing history and your account must have a current payment status. For more information, contact our customer service department at **800-234-1960**.

Sandness Family Wins Xbox One

The winner of the Xbox One gaming station and power strip for the March energy makeover contest was Steven and Amber Sandness and family from Chester.



Correction:

In last month's magazine we ran a story highlighting an Operation Round Up award given to the Colman Fire and Rescue Department. We incorrectly identified one of the individuals in the photo that accompanied the story. The individuals in the picture were (L to R) Jason Landis and Mike Gengler. We apologize for that error.

Electrical Safety on the Farm

Farming is among the more dangerous occupations for several reasons, including potential for encounters with electrical hazards. Before taking to the fields, the Safe Electricity program urges farm workers to be aware of overhead power lines and to keep equipment and extensions far away from them.

Safe Electricity encourages farm managers to share this information with their families and workers to keep them safe from electrical accidents.

- Start each morning by planning your day's work. Know what jobs will happen near power lines and have a plan to keep the assigned workers safe.
- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions, at all times. Use a spotter when moving tall equipment and loads.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes, a power line is closer than it looks. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines.
- Always lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level, under 14 feet, before moving or transporting them. Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can cause you to lose control of equipment and make contact with power lines.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call your utility to repair them.
- Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods, into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay, will conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- If you are on equipment that contacts a power line, do not exit the equipment. When you step off the equipment, you become the electricity's path to ground and receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit the vehicle. If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together. Keep your feet together to prevent current flow through your body, which could be deadly.

Electrical work around the farm can also pose hazards. Often, the need for an electrical repair comes when a farmer has been working long hours and is fatigued. At such times, it's best to step back and wait until you've rested.

Source: safeelectricity.org

Primary Elections Near

Voters in South Dakota head to the polls in June for the primary election while voters in Minnesota follow suit Aug. 14.

A primary election determines which candidates will be on the ballot in the November general election.

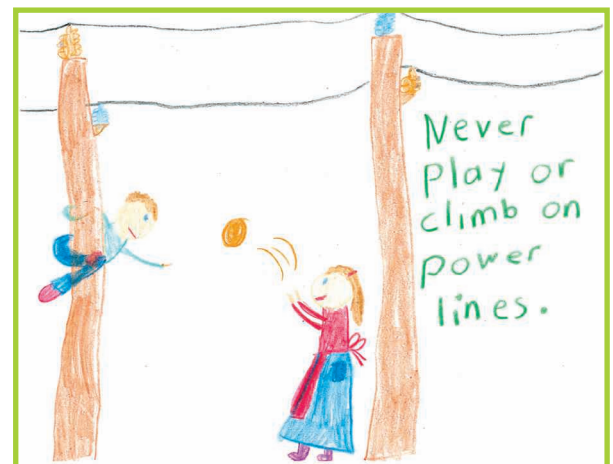
In South Dakota, there are 24 House and Senate races with primary elections that will be decided on June 5. Those wishing to vote in the primary election have until May 21 to register to vote. Absentee voting began on April 20.

Minnesota's Primary Election Day is Tuesday, Aug. 14. Minnesotans can vote by mail or in person from June 29 through Aug. 13.

As part of the election cycle, co-ops across the county are engaging in Co-ops Vote, a non-partisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. The Co-ops Vote campaign seeks to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops and their communities into the public discussion.



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Never play or climb on power lines."

Caroline Ekberg, 9 years old

Caroline is the daughter of Lance and Doris Ekberg, Hamill, S.D. They are members of Rosebud Electric Cooperative, Gregory, S.D.

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.



Dairy Delicious

Cream Cheese Chicken Taquitos

2 boneless chicken breasts	1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
1 tsp. chili powder	1/3 cup water
1 tsp. garlic powder	1/2 cup shredded cheese
1 tsp. cumin	12 6-inch flour tortillas

Place chicken, chili powder, garlic powder, cumin, cream cheese and water in crock pot. Cover and cook on LOW for 8 hours or 4 hours on HIGH. Place 1/4 cup of the chicken mixture into each tortilla. Top with 1 to 2 T. shredded cheese. Roll tightly and place in a single layer on greased baking sheet. Bake at 400°F. for 10 minutes or until tortillas are slightly browned and cheese is melted.

Cortney Reedy, Tea, S.D.

Crunchy Ice Cream Bars

1/2 cup light corn syrup	4 cup Kellogg's Cocoa Krispies
1/2 cup peanut butter, creamy or chunky	1 pint ice cream

Mix corn syrup thoroughly with peanut butter. Pour over Cocoa Krispies and stir until well coated. Press mixture into a 9x13-inch buttered pan. Place in freezer to firm up. Cut into 12 3-inch squares. Place a slice of ice cream between 2 squares. Cut each square into 2 bars. Wrap individually in foil and keep in freezer until needed.

Cindy Reu, Luverne, Minn.

Strawberry Cheesecake Pie

2 cups sliced fresh strawberries	1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup chopped almonds	2 cups cold milk, divided
1 T. sugar	1 (3.4 oz) pkg. instant vanilla pudding
1 9-inch graham cracker crust	

In a bowl, combine strawberries, almonds and sugar. Pour into crust. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth; gradually add 1/2 cup milk. Add pudding mix and remaining milk. Beat for 1 minute or until blended; pour over strawberries. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or until set.

Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, S.D.

Lemon Ginger Blueberry Muffins

2 cups flour	1/4 cup milk
2/3 cup sugar	1/4 cup vegetable oil
1-1/2 tsp. baking powder	1 egg, lightly beaten
1 tsp. McCormick® ground ginger	1 tsp. McCormick® pure lemon extract
1/2 tsp. baking soda	1 cup blueberries
1 cup sour cream	

Lightly grease 12 muffin cups or line with paper baking cups. Set aside. Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, ginger and baking soda in large bowl. Mix sour cream, milk, oil, egg and lemon extract in medium bowl. Add to flour mixture; stir just until dry ingredients are moistened. (Batter will be thick and slightly lumpy.) Gently stir in blueberries. Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups, filling each cup 2/3 full. Bake at 400°F. 20 to 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of muffins comes out clean. Serve warm. Makes 12 (1 muffin) servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 213, Total Fat 9g, Sodium 122mg, Cholesterol 29mg, Carbohydrates 30g, Protein 3g, Dietary Fiber 14g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Cowboy Caviar

2 cans Mexicorn	1 can diced tomatoes and green chilies
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese	6 green onions, chopped
1 cup Miracle Whip	Fritos Scoops corn chips
1 cup sour cream	

Mix together all ingredients; serve with corn chips.

Jane Ham, Rapid City, S.D.

Please send your favorite dessert, salad and garden produce recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Enter this month's contest and watch for next month's challenge to enter to win another valuable prize!

12 MONTH CHALLENGE TO SAVE MONEY AND WIN BIG!

You Could be a Winner!

The **Energy Makeover Contest** gives you 12 chances to win valuable prizes to enhance efficiency and conservation efforts in your home or business. Each month we will focus on a new topic to help you learn how little changes can help you save big!

The information gathered will help Sioux Valley Energy continue to educate our members about energy saving practices, safety, and to ensure the programs we offer meet your needs.

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PERFECT AIRE ENERGY STAR 30 PINT DEHUMIDIFIER (\$200 VALUE). FEATURES ELECTRONIC CONTROL PANEL, WASHABLE AIR FILTER, LOW TEMPERATURE OPERATION, AUTOMATIC SYSTEM SHUT-OFF AND DEFROST CONTROL, AND DIRECT-TO-DRAIN HOSE ACCESS.

Please complete the entry below and mail to Sioux Valley Energy, Energy Makeover Contest, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017. The entry is also available online at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com. One entry per member. Challenge Month Nine entry must be received by June 30th to be eligible for the drawing.

Dehumidifier Costs

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Account Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Do you have a dehumidifier? yes no

If yes, do you regularly maintain the equipment to keep it operating efficiently? yes no

Do you run your exhaust fans while cooking and bathing to prevent excess humidity? yes no

I would like more information on:

Sealing/Insulation Guide Heat pump rebate Residential LED program Commercial/Ag LED program Weatherization Program Yard Light rebate Residential Water Heater Energy Audit Electric Heat Rate Electric Car Charging Rate Time of use Rate Energy Tips Commercial/Ag Water Heater Third Party Irrigation Rebate

CHALLENGE MONTH NINE

Dry Out Dehumidifier Costs

Dehumidifiers are beneficial for removing unwanted moisture and improving the indoor air quality. However, running dehumidifiers takes energy and adds to your electric bill, so it's important to know when to use them and how to keep them operating efficiently. Whether you have a portable dehumidifier or a whole house dehumidifier that supplements your existing HVAC system, maintaining your equipment will keep it performing at its best efficiency.

Be sure to regularly clean or change the air filters. Clean the condensing coils, air intake and exhaust grilles. Empty and clean the water bucket periodically. Ensure proper placement of your dehumidifier. To get the best results, place a portable unit at least six inches away from any walls to ensure proper air intake and exhaust.

Make sure all doors and windows are shut tight in the area your dehumidifier is operating. Avoid turning your dehumidifier off and back on immediately since it can short-cycle the compressor. Wait at least 10 minutes to turn the dehumidifier back on. If the space being dehumidified has temperatures that falls below 65 degrees F, you may want to consider buying a product that is specified for use at lower temperatures.

Frost can form on the condensing coils if the air temperature gets too cold and may negatively affect the performance of the unit by causing continual compressor cycling without removing moisture. If this happens, turn the unit off and allow it to defrost before turning it back on. Adjust the humidistat to remove only the necessary amount of moisture. The optimum relative humidity level in a space should be between 30% and 50%.

During the heating season, humidity levels should be no more than 40% to prevent window condensation. If your humidity setting is set too low, the dehumidifier will work overtime, running continuously and removing too much moisture from the air. If your dehumidifier doesn't have a built-in humidistat, purchase a hygrometer to check your relative humidity level.

Get rid of humidity where it is created—always run your exhaust fans when you are cooking on the stove and when you are bathing. If your dehumidifier doesn't pull water from the air when it runs, or if it has stopped running for no apparent reason, it's time to repair or replace your dehumidifier. If you are shopping for a new one, purchase an Energy Star model. They use less energy and can save more than \$220 in energy costs over the life of the unit according to Energy.gov. Look for a model that features an automatic delayed start function and defrost function. Old dehumidifiers will need to be disposed of at a recycling center.

This month's challenge: If you have a dehumidifier, make sure it is operating efficiently. Change/clean the air filter; clean the condensing coils, air intake and exhaust grilles; empty and clean the bucket; check the placement of the unit; and adjust the humidistat for the appropriate level.

If you are in the market to purchase one, look for an Energy Star model. Always run your exhaust fans when cooking on your stove or bathing to make sure you don't add unnecessary humidity to your space.



2018
Annual Meeting

.....
TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018
SWIFTEL CENTER - BROOKINGS, SD
(824 32ND AVE. BROOKINGS, SD 57006)

5:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

- Registration
- Complimentary Meal
- 1950's & 60's Era Car Show (dependent on weather)
 - Bingo & Games
 - Technology Display
- 1950's Costume Contest (dress up for a chance to win \$100 bill credit)

6:45 p.m. - 7:20 p.m.

- Annual Meeting
- Kids "Drive In" Movie

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

- ***The 'Holy Rocka Rollaz' Band***
*Classic early rock 'n' roll of Elvis Presley,
Buddy Holly, Chuck Berry, Johnny Cash & more!*



The 2017 Ford Focus, with a price tag in the \$35,000 dollar range, can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 6 to 11 seconds, which is about average for all U.S. cars.

What You Don't Know about Electric Cars Could

THRILL YOU

Electric Vehicles Aren't Just for City Driving.

Paul Wesslund

NRECA Contributing Writer

If you want a really powerful car, maybe one that can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in less than 3 seconds, consider an electric vehicle like the NIO EP9.

You're right, that's too powerful. The NIO EP9 would also cost you more than a million dollars. But even more modest versions offer a respectable kick. The Chevy Bolt and Ford Focus, with price tags in the \$35,000 dollar range, make the jump to 60 mph in 6 to 11 seconds, which is about average for all U.S. cars.

There's a built-in reason electric cars hold their own in performance, says Brian Sloboda, a program and product manager at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"In an electric car, all of the power is going into the wheels. With a gas-powered car, a lot of power is lost inside the mechanical engine," says Sloboda. "If you sit in an electric car and the driver smashes down on the accelerator, you are going to be thrown into the back of your seat, much more so than many gasoline cars."

In March, Goodyear announced a new tire that would hold up better under the "instant torque from electric motors."

Photo Caption



But wait, there's more.

"The battery is at the bottom of the car, so you have a lower center of gravity, which means you can take the corners crisper," says Sloboda. "If you do a lot of driving in the hills or mountains, they are fun."

Electric vehicles hold a lot of other surprises compared to the

traditional view of them as a glorified golf cart. Even electric co-op in rural parts of the country are hearing interest from their members.

About 700,000 electric vehicles drive on U.S. roads today, according to an analysis by CoBank, a financier for electric co-ops. That number could jump to 3 million in the next five years, says CoBank. The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration projects electric vehicle sales growing from about 1 percent of the market today, to 12 percent by 2050.

Car makers are pushing those trends. In October, General Motors said it would launch 20 new electric vehicles by 2023. In January, Ford announced plans to invest \$11 billion in a lineup of 40 hybrid and electric vehicles by 2022. In March, Volkswagen said it had secured \$25 billion in electric car batteries and technology and plans to scale that up to \$60 billion.

One of the most radical new notions about electric vehicles, advises Sloboda, is to think of them not as cars or trucks, but as consumer electronics.

"The internal combustion engine is a perfected technology, so those cars aren't improving at a very rapid pace," says Sloboda. "But electric vehicles are evolving at a very rapid pace, so you're really kind of comparing it to a cell phone or a computer."

What that means for consumers, says Sloboda, is that they might consider leasing an electric car rather than buying one, to make it easier to trade in the car to take advantage of the annual improvements in battery life, and other features.

Other unexpected benefits of electric vehicles that could speed their acceptance, says Sloboda, include range, maintenance and more competitive costs.

Will I run out of juice?

The electric vehicle industry has a term for the biggest roadblock to its growth—range anxiety. But Sloboda says the fear of getting stranded far from home with no way to refuel may be overblown, and getting less concerning.

"The range on the electric cars you can buy today is perfectly sufficient to cover almost everyone's daily commute," he says. Sloboda says that while electric cars won't work for someone regularly commuting 100 miles a day, "For most people, even in rural areas, that number is under 40 miles a day. Most electric cars on the market today have between a 120 mile range and some of them are getting close to a 200 miles."

The Federal Highway Administration reports the average American drives 37 miles a day.

Less hassle

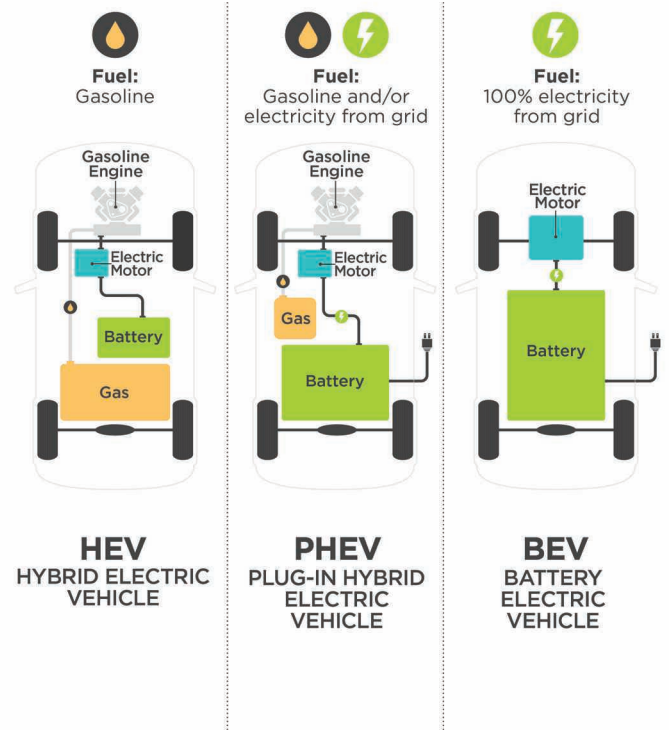
Electric car acceptance doesn't need to wait for a network or charging stations to appear around the country, says Sloboda. He sees refueling more like this: you plug your car into an outlet in your garage at the end of each day, and by morning it's fully charged.

"No more having to stop and fill your tank up once or twice a week," he says. "You can charge it at home while you're sleeping and wake up to a full tank every single day."

Electric cars can also save on maintenance, says Sloboda.

Types of Electric Vehicles

If you're looking to purchase an electric vehicle, use this cheat sheet to help determine the various options. Drivers can choose between three types of electric vehicles (EVs). EVs are classed by the amount of electricity that is used as their energy source.



"With an electric vehicle, you don't have oil changes, and you don't really have transmission fluid changes," he says.

And regenerative braking in electric cars uses the electric motor to slow the car rather than relying only on brake pad friction. Sloboda says, "A lot of electric vehicle owners are saying they've never replaced their brakes because you just don't have the physical wear and tear on the brake pad."

Costs are coming down.

Sloboda says electric car costs today make them a luxury car, but that's changing. As electric car research, development and production increases, costs will be coming down. Tax breaks for electric cars at the federal level and in some states can reduce costs by several thousand dollars. And Sloboda notes that electric costs less per mile than gasoline.

But one of the main reasons drivers buy electric cars is for environmental reasons.

Sloboda says an electric car "is cleaner than a gas-powered car, no doubt about it."

Another advantage of an electric car, he adds, is that "you're powering it with electricity from your local electric co-op."

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

SVE Board Approves Special Resolution

The Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors approved a special resolution which was presented to Gary Drost at the District 8 meeting held in Luverne, Minn.

The resolution highlighted Gary's history with the Cooperative and his dedication to the organization. The resolution reads:

WHEREAS, Gary Drost dedicated a substantial portion of his life from 1987 to 2018 to Sioux Valley Energy, including serving as the District 2 Board Director for Basin Electric, representing L&O Power Cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Gary has made significant contributions to Sioux Valley Energy, L&O Power Cooperative and Basin Electric, including serving as chair of Sioux Valley Energy and Sioux Valley Wireless, successfully governing during the merger between Sioux Valley Electric and Southwestern Minnesota Cooperative Electric, filling the role of Secretary/Treasurer of Prairie Winds ND1 and Prairie Winds SD1 Boards; and

WHEREAS, the members of Sioux Valley Energy have greatly benefited from Gary's knowledge, diligence and deep commitment to the mission of the electric cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Gary has proven a powerful and effective standard-bearer for the principles of governance during challenging times for Sioux Valley Energy, L&O Power Cooperative and Basin Electric; and therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Sioux Valley Energy offers its deepest appreciation to and commends Gary Drost for his contributions to the cooperative members and its power suppliers.

Dan Leuthold of rural Ellsworth will replace Gary Drost on the Board and will begin his duties in June after the annual meeting.

Leuthold Elected to Sioux Valley Energy Board



Pictured – Dan Leuthold (rural Ellsworth, Minn.) was elected to replace long-time Director, Gary Drost (Luverne, Minn.) on the Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors. Drost retired after serving on the Board for nearly 30 years.

KNOW WHAT TO DO IF
YOU HIT A POWER LINE



PoweringYourSafety.com



Winds Topple Transmission

A transmission line which feeds the towns of Hills, Beaver Creek and Magnolia Minn. went down after an isolated wind storm hit on April 13. Approximately 80 poles were broken on the transmission line from I-90 going north and south at the Magnolia exit. Several hundred members went without power for over 80 hours because after the wind storm took down the poles, a blizzard set in, delaying the restoration process. The blizzard impacted the power for several other thousands, breaking poles and equipment and impacting power supply substations. All power was restored by 8 p.m. on April 15. Sioux Valley Energy brought in several extra crews to assist in the restoration process.



Meet the Electric John Deere

Battery-run Tractor Showcased in Paris

Kaley Lockwood

editor@sdrea.coop

In order for the SESAM to take off, the battery capacity will need to expand to support the sun-up to sun-down longevity of farm work.

Green and yellow are arguably the second-most American set of colors, behind red, white and blue of course. This rings true particularly for those who operate John Deere machinery on a daily basis, as the growth of our nation is supremely dependent on the country's agriculture industry, including the good folks who support it.

Technology in recent years has been the catalyst for the boom and bust of many industries. In the past decade or so, advancements in farming technology have primarily been focused on automation and precision, but with the automobile industry moving towards electric vehicles, the ag-industry is following suit.

John Deere showcased the first, fully battery-powered tractor in 2017 at SIMA, an international agribusiness tradeshow in Paris. This technological innovation was given a 'special mention' as it truly the first of its kind. Nicknamed SESAM, for Sustainable Energy Supply for Agricultural Machinery, this all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6r series tractors.



A peek under the hood of John Deere's first, fully battery-powered tractor. The all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6r series tractors.

In a press release by John Deere, SESAM is said to have all of the same "features and functionality of a 'conventional' tractor while offering the benefits of electric power." This emissions-free tractor runs at a lower noise level than other traditional tractors and is operated using two independent electric motors. The electrification of this tractor simplifies the moving parts and thus, greatly reduces the need for maintenance.

These two motors power an adapted DirectDrive transmission, producing 130 kilowatts of continuous power with a peak output of 400 horsepower, according to Farm-Equipment.com. The website also affirms that the tractor takes three hours to fully charge and can run up to four hours in the field with speeds ranging from 2 mph to 30 mph. As a comparison, the Tesla model 3 may have a capacity of up to 75 kilowatt hours of battery storage (kWh), providing a range of about 310 miles. The SESAM has a capacity of 130 kWh with a range of about 34 miles, which

means that this tractor uses a lot more electricity in a shorter period of time.

In order for the SESAM to take off, the battery capacity will need to expand to support the sun-up to sun-down longevity of farm work. In fact, the President and CEO of Autonomous Tractor Corporation, Kraig Schulz, purported that a 200 horsepower electric tractor would hypothetically need about 1,500 kWh of batteries to complete a full day's work. As energy storage technology continues to advance, it's only a matter of time before John Deere manufactures a tractor that can meet this need.

Although SESAM's battery technology may not yet be practical for a full day of farming, the all-electric tractor is a very exciting development for the agriculture industry. This is one of many future steps in the direction of electrifying agricultural machinery and integrating this equipment with renewables. As the press release

stated, "The SESAM tractor is a major part of John Deere's vision of the energy-independent farm of the future."

This push towards electrification of farm machinery in lieu of using fossil fuels directly supports the beneficial electrification movement. This concept, known fully as "environmentally beneficial electrification," is gaining traction among a growing number of groups in the U.S. including local electric cooperatives. Frequently promoted as a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping the environment, beneficial electrification also helps consumers by providing products that are cleaner, quieter and easier to maintain. John Deere's SESAM tractor does just that.

Kaley Lockwood writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

The tractor takes three hours to fully charge and can run up to four hours in the field with speeds ranging from 2 mph to 30 mph.

In 2017, John Deere showcased the first, fully battery-powered tractor. This technological innovation is truly the first of its kind. Nicknamed SESAM, for Sustainable Energy Supply for Agricultural Machinery, this all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6R series tractors.



Horse-Drawn Era Museum

One-of-a-Kind Museum Open

By: Chuck Cecil

The Brookings County Historical Society opened its newest museum that will be South Dakota's only museum dedicated to the state's seven-decade horsepower era.

The grand opening of the Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum was held on May 27. The Brookings County six-building museum complex will be open daily 1 to 4 p.m. in Volga's City Park until Labor Day.

The \$150,000 horse-drawn museum was made possible with a major bequest from Brookings County farmer/dairyman, the late Trygve Trooien. He died at 65 in April of 2015. Gifts from museum friends also helped with the project.

Most early arriving homesteaders and settlers made the long journey to what became South Dakota in the 1870s through the 1890s using oxen to plow the prairie land. When they could afford it, homesteaders switched to horses so they could plow more ground, plant more crops and do more farm chores than with the plodding oxen.

Trooien's great grandparents, Nels and Gjertrude, arrived from Norway and homesteaded in Brookings County's Oak Lake Township along the Minnesota border in 1873 where, except for a tour of duty in Vietnam, their great grandson, Trygve, lived his entire life.

Trooien wanted his bequest to be used to recognize his forefathers and other settlers whose vision and hard work contributed to the growth and development of agriculture in the Brookings area and throughout the region.

Trooien was a student of the South Dakota history, and of early farm life. He was also well known for staging demonstrations of early farming practices using horses, including late summer harvesting methods.

Some of his collection of horse-drawn equipment will be among the displays in the new Horse-Drawn Museum, alongside the Brookings County Museum's equipment from that era.

The new museum will display more than 20 pieces of vintage farm equipment and conveyances, including the original walking plow Nels and Gjertrude brought with them to break Dakota sod nearly 150 years ago.

A special museum feature will be four life-sized, fiberglass horses harnessed and hitched to some of the equipment.

Among the equipment displayed in the new building and at a nearby outdoor plaza is a bobsled wagon, a covered RFD horse-drawn rural mail buggy, a refurbished 1890s Standard Oil horse-drawn fuel wagon and a wagon undercarriage used on a Volga farm in the early 1870s before the railroad traversed Brookings County.



This is an interior view of the Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum, located in Volga.

The museum also features the historic covered wagon built from locally harvested lumber by the late Mel Thorne of Brookings. During the state's 1979 centennial celebration, Thorne, his wife Arlyce, and their ox team appeared in community parades throughout the state.

The museum will also display various horse-drawn-era items, such as toys, photographs, blacksmithing tools and accoutrements common on the farm during the horse era in South Dakota from the late 1800s into the 1950s.

At the height of this era, the South Dakota federal census population was 638,000 people. The census also reported more than 815,000 horses in the state.

Volunteers Marvin Hope of Volga, Phil Wagner of Brookings and Floyd Havrevold of Volga escorted the museum's fiberglass horses Jip and Molly into the new Horse-Drawn Museum.

Youth Tour Winners

Two EmPOWER leaders were chosen recently to represent Sioux Valley Energy on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Leadership Tour in Washington D.C. They were selected after submitting an application, an essay and taking part in an interview process.

Pictured Below: Amy Voelker, SVE, and winners Emilee Staeffler of Luverne and Hannah Droge of Humboldt.



SVE Sponsors Solar Races



Pictured: Two Chester Area sixth graders race their solar-powered cars. Sioux Valley Energy purchased the car kits that the students assembled and helped with the race. In total, SVE will assist six schools with their solar car race activity.



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DATELINE

May 27

Season Opening and 50th Anniversary of Brookings County Museum, 1 to 5 p.m., City Park, In concert with that, there will be a grand opening of the Trygve A. Trooien Horse-Drawn Museum that is now a part of the six-building county museum complex, prizes, drawings, tours, refreshments, Volga, SD, Contact Chuck Cecil at cfcecil@swiftnet.net

June 3

Prairie Village Pageant, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

June 7-9

Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Nick at 605-978-6924

June 8

Northern Bull Riding Tour, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

June 9

Herman Luce Day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Lake Herman State Park, Madison, SD, 605-256-5003

June 12

Ag Women's Day, 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Registration at 8 a.m., Pre-registration is required by June 1, First Lutheran Church Activity Center, Brookings, SD, 605-692-8003, Ext. 2

June 14-17

Jamboree Days, Hartford, SD, 605-528-3338

June 15-17

Jesse James Days, Garretson, SD, 605-940-3101

June 15-16: Czech Days, Tabor, SD, www.taborczechdays.com, taborczechdays@yahoo.com



Photo courtesy: Becky Tysz, Tyndall Tribune

June 16

Holy Rocka Rollaz concert, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644,

June 16

City Wide Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Arlington, SD, Michele at 605-203-0052

June 23-24

Dakota Royal Charity Draft Horse Show, 1 p.m., Swiftel Center, Brookings, SD, 605-543-5051

June 24

Variety Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

June 24

Ice Cream Social, 4 to 7 p.m., Lutheran Church, 47474 258th St, Renner, SD, 605-338-7120

July 7

Divas Through the Decades concert, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644,

July 7-8

Railroad Days, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644,

July 27-29

Arlington Days, Arlington, SD, Becky at 605-203-3087

July 28

Abbey Road concert, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644,

August 4-5

Riverside Park Days, City Park, Flandreau, SD

August 5

25th Annual Car Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644,

August 11

Ninth Annual Camaro Fun Days, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Parade Line-up at 9 a.m., Cruise at 3 p.m., Pioneer Park, Brookings, SD, Contact Terry 605-695-1560 or Calvin 605-690-1057

August 18

Outside Christian Concert featuring Turkey Creek Revival Band, Faith Lutheran Church, 511 S Main St., Humboldt, SD, 605-363-3700

August 18

City Wide Rummage Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Arlington, SD, Michele at 605-203-0052

August 19

Car Show, City Park, Arlington, SD, Contact Mike at 605-203-0728

August 23-26

56th Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree featuring the Minneapolis Moline National Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

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.