

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Wings of Valor

A Veteran's Hunting
Retreat

Pages 8-9

Celebrating American
Indian Heritage

Pages 12-13

Thank you for the high marks!



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer

Tim.McCarthy@
siouxvalleyenergy.
com

THANK YOU! We appreciate the trust you place in us, which was highlighted through our most recent American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) score*.

Touchstone Energy® recently recognized Sioux Valley Energy as one of 25 electric cooperatives nationally that received top five ACSI scores for energy utility services among all participating Touchstone Energy cooperatives in the second quarter of 2023. The top five scores in that period ranged from 88 to 92. Sioux Valley Energy received an ACSI score of 89. This compares with the annual average score of 74 amongst electric cooperatives, as reported in the ACSI Energy Utilities Study 2022-2023 (<https://www.theacsi.org/industries/energy-utilities/>).

We believe the reason members gave us high scores is because of our focus on them. As I discussed last month, our strategy is built around what is best for our members and that flows throughout the entire organization.

One of our core principles is “Member Focus” and our mission statement is “Serving our Members. Always.” which is why our employees go the extra mile for our members. They don’t just keep the lights on (which is obviously important); but they also take the time to work with our members, talk with them, simplify what can sometimes be a complicated process, and keep them informed of what is happening. We also strive to be transparent, to give you not only basic information, but more in-depth data about what is happening at the Cooperative.

We ask members how they feel about Sioux Valley Energy’s service and look for ways to improve based on that feedback. For example, this year we updated the format and look of our website as well as the electric bill statement. Both of these sources of information are now easier to read and understand. We develop rebate and incentive programs based on member feedback, balancing those needs with what is best for

all Cooperative members. We offer nine different ways to pay your bill, working to accommodate the needs and various lifestyles of our members.

The Cooperative doesn’t just stop there. We dig deeper and meet regularly with our members and our communities. Sioux Valley Energy hosts 10 district meetings throughout the winter, one Annual Meeting each year, and various other events and seminars for members. We also engage regularly with our members who serve on our Member Advisory Council (MAC). Our MAC meets with the Sioux Valley Energy Strategic Leadership Team and Board of Directors three to four times a year. We provide them with some of our most emerging issues and ask for their input. We have employees who are dedicated to working directly with our communities on economic development issues. Donations and Operation Round Up grants provide those communities, non-profit organizations, and schools assistance they need for important programs and projects.

Having said all that, we are not perfect. Sometimes we make mistakes but when that happens, we will own those mistakes and work to improve going forward. The Strategic Leadership Team and Board of Directors regularly review and update Board and Management policies as issues evolve, and we work to reflect our growing membership.

As I end my column this month, I again just want to say thank you. Thank you for your willingness to provide feedback; for supporting our employees; and for being THE essential part of this electric cooperative...a member-owner.

**Results based on data provided by Sioux Valley Energy, collected between May 23, 2023 through June 12, 2023. ACSI did not regulate the survey administration or sample size. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.*

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

(USPS No. 497-440)

Board President: Gary Fish

Board of Directors

Dan Leuthold - Vice

President

Don DeGreef - Secretary

Dave Daniel - Treasurer

Rodney DeMent

Dr. Leslie Heinemann

Gregg Johnson

Mark Rogen

Lucas Roskamp

Ann Vostad

Allan Weinacht

CEO/General Manager: Tim McCarthy

Chief Financial Officer: Jason Maxwell

V.P. of Engineering & Operations: Ted Smith

V.P. of Human Resources

& Member Services: Kimberlee Hansen

V.P. of Public Relations: Carrie Vugteveen, Editor

V.P. of Technology: Justin Moose

Executive Assistant: Brenda Schelhaas

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.

Subscription information: Sioux Valley Energy members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Colman, SD 57017 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections*, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017; telephone 605-534-3535; toll free 800-234-1960.

How to contact us: Phone: 1-800-234-1960

e-mail: sve@siouxvalleyenergy.com

Website: www.siouxvalleyenergy.com

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability. Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found on-line at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

**Sioux Valley Energy is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.**

JULIA TRYGSTAD NAMED SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK

Julia Trygstad, a student at Rutland High School, has been chosen as a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 'Scholar of the Week' for the week of October 1 through October 7. Trygstad was recognized with a scholarship by Sioux Valley Energy and was featured on *Dakota News Now* for her accomplishments. She is the daughter of Eric and Karen Trygstad of Nunda, 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.

"Julia is a well-rounded, talented student. She is a great example of the type of young leader that deserves to be recognized with the Scholar of the Week award," said Tim McCarthy, Sioux Valley Energy General Manager/CEO.

Trygstad is involved in the National Honor Society, student council, volleyball (current captain), basketball (current captain), track (current captain), choir, band, drama, and FFA. She also takes four dual-credit classes. Outside of school, she participates in a church youth group and has volunteered at the Alpha Center, Granite Threshing Bee, The Banquet (Sioux Falls), and at Sanford Health. She also works as a CNA and nanny.



Sioux Valley Energy's Carrie Vugteveen, right, presents a \$250 scholarship to Julia Trygstad for being named Scholar of the Week in October. Trygstad was also featured on *Dakota News Now* for her achievements. Also pictured is Rutland Superintendent, Dawn Hoeke.

Drowsy Driving

Drowsy Driving Prevention Week (Nov. 5-11, 2023), held every year during the first full week of November, is a good time to remember that drowsy driving is impaired driving.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 in 25 adult drivers report having fallen asleep while driving in the previous 30 days, and many more admit to driving when they were sleep-deprived.

These startling figures show how prevalent drowsy driving is. What drivers may not realize is how much drowsy driving puts themselves – and others – at risk. In fact, an estimated 6,400 people died annually in crashes involving drowsy driving, according to the National Sleep Foundation.

Impact of Drowsiness on Driving

Driving while drowsy is similar to driving under influence of alcohol.

- Drivers' reaction times, awareness of hazards and ability to sustain attention all worsen the drowsier the driver.
- Driving after going more than 20 hours without sleep is the equivalent of driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08% – the U.S. legal limit.
- You are three times more likely to be in a car crash if you are fatigued.

A driver might not even know when he or she is fatigued because signs of fatigue are hard to identify. Some people may also experience micro-sleep – short, involuntary periods of inattention. In the 4 or 5 seconds a driver experiences micro-sleep, at highway speed, the vehicle will travel the length of a football field.

Prevalence of Drowsy Driving Crashes

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that every year about 100,000 police-reported, drowsy-driving crashes result in nearly 800 fatalities and about 50,000 injuries. The real number may be much higher, however, as it is difficult to determine whether a driver was drowsy at the time of a crash.

A study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety estimated that 328,000 drowsy driving crashes occur annually. That's more than three times the police-reported number. The same study found that 109,000 of those drowsy driving crashes resulted in an injury and about 6,400 were fatal. The researchers suggest the prevalence of drowsy driving fatalities is more than 350% greater than reported.

Beyond the human toll is the economic one. NHTSA estimates fatigue-related crashes resulting in injury or death cost society \$109 billion annually, not including property damage.

Interventions for Drowsy Driving

Drowsy driving affects everyone, including adolescents and teens, who are not getting enough sleep (according to the CDC, it is recommended that teens get 8-10 hours of sleep each night). That means interventions focusing on this age group can help reduce drowsy

driving. One such intervention is for parents to incorporate discussions and rules on drowsy driving while completing their parent-teen driving agreements.

Other ways to reduce drowsy driving include:

- **Crash avoidance technologies:** New and existing safety technologies, such as drowsiness alert and lane departure warnings, can detect common drowsy driving patterns and warn drivers to stay in their lane or take a break
- **University interventions:** College students receive less than average sleep, with some estimates at less than six hours a night; education programs aimed at college students may help curb drowsy driving and instill healthier behaviors that can last into adulthood
- **Getting more sleep:** According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the Sleep Research Society, adults should get seven or more hours of sleep each night
- **Medication labels:** An article by Consumer Reports found that side-effect warnings are not always clear; new labeling guidelines may help drivers understand when to drive or not drive after taking these medications
- **Employers:** Workplaces with strong off-the-job safety and health programs can include key information on getting sufficient sleep and refraining from driving drowsy

Source: National Safety Council



Don't Fly Kites Near Power Lines!

Jason Willman, Age 9

Jason Willman advises people it's not safe to fly kites around power lines. Jason is the son of Dave and April Willman from Yankton, S.D., members of Clay-Union Electric Corporation.

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.

EASY CROCKPOT CREATIONS

MOM'S ROAST

Ingredients:

- 3 5 lbs. beef roast
- 1 can beefy mushroom soup
- 1 pkg. au jus (dry)

Method

Place roast in crock pot at bedtime. Mix au jus and soup together and pour over the roast. Cook on low. Roast will be ready to serve in its own gravy for dinner tomorrow.

Elaine Rieck
Harrisburg, S.D.

CREAMY GARDEN ROTINI

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. cooked and drained sausage or beef
- 1 large can (26 oz.) cream of chicken soup
- 1 soup can of milk
- 1 can (14.5 oz.) chicken broth soup
- 1 tbsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 cup fresh mushrooms
- 6 cups fresh spinach
- 1 pkg. Garden Rotini

Method

Add ingredients in the order given to the instant pot. Pressure cook on high for 20 minutes. Allow pressure to reduce to normal for 10 minutes, then serve! You will need an instant pot for this recipe!

Jean Cave
Sioux Falls, S.D.

CROCKPOT CASHEW CHICKEN

Ingredients:

- 1 pkg. slow cookers limited edition cashew chicken seasoning
- 2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken thighs, cubed
- 1 cup frozen chopped onion and pepper blend
- 1/3 cup water
- 3 tbsps. soy sauce
- 2 tbsps. ketchup
- 1 cup cashew pieces
- 2 green onions, finely chopped

Method

Place chicken and vegetables in slow cooker. Mix seasoning, water, soy sauce, and ketchup in bowl until well blended. Pour over chicken and vegetables; stir to coat. Cover. Cook eight hours on low or four hours on high. Stir in cashews. Sprinkle with green onions. Serve over cooked rice, if desired. If cooking on low, decrease water to 1/4 cup.

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 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Thinking tankless? Do your homework.



Sheila Gross
Energy Services
Specialist

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



I get calls regularly about tankless on-demand water heaters. The concept sounds great, right? Instantaneous hot water, saves space, saves energy and money with no standby losses, and the promise of an endless supply of hot water. It may sound great, but do your homework on tankless water heaters as you may find the cons outweigh the pros.

The upfront cost of a tankless water heater and installation is significantly more than a storage water heater. There are several factors to consider in sizing the system appropriately: number of bathrooms, number of people in your household, the climate you live in, and the peak demand required to supply the maximum hot water you may need at any given time. There are limits when it comes to tankless water heaters. They can only heat so much water at a time and the flow rate is lower than a traditional water heater meaning supplying multiple uses of hot water at the same time can be challenging. If you choose an electric model, you may also need to upgrade your electrical panel, which in turn could impact the sizing of the transformer that serves you. Electric tankless units can be as much as 36 kW to meet your maximum demand compared to 4.5 kW of most traditional storage water heaters that serve your whole home usage. The demand necessary to operate a tankless water heater could add spikes to the system, causing the Cooperative to pay higher energy costs at times, which gets passed on to the members. Even gas models require electricity to operate, so in the event of a power outage, you'll have no hot water unlike a traditional storage tank.

Sioux Valley Energy offers a great option for members when it comes to residential water heaters. We sell large capacity, energy efficient storage water heaters that are grid-enabled and compliant with the Department of Energy. They carry a lifetime-tank/six-year parts warranty. Members can purchase them at the Cooperative for a very reduced cost of \$500 plus applicable tax (residential application only, some program restrictions apply). We sell two

brands. The Marathon offers a polyethylene durable shell and comes in 85-gallon (28.25" wide x 70.25" high) or 100-gallon (30.25" wide x 70.75" high). The 80-gallon HTP has a stainless-steel tank and is a great choice for homes that have limited space or need a smaller tank size (23.25" wide x 71.5" high). How can we sell these water heaters at such a reduced cost? To take advantage of the special pricing, the water heater is connected to our load management program for the lifetime of the unit. This program helps Sioux Valley Energy shift demand during peak usage on the system. Due to the larger capacity and efficiency of these water heaters, most members are not inconvenienced by participating in the load management program. The Cooperative, and in turn its members, save \$1.6 million annually from the load management program.

Water heaters are sold at Colman, Brandon, Hartford, and Pipestone service centers. Sioux Valley Energy does not deliver or install water heaters, but we do provide warranty and repair services. For more information on our water heater program or if you would like to place an order for purchase, please contact Energy Services at 1-800-234-1960.





More than 350 people attended the EV Expo held at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls on Sept. 19. The event, hosted by area electric utilities and the City of Sioux Falls, had 41 EV cars displayed in the car show and had attendees take 247 test drives of a variety of EVs.



An attendee prepares for one of 247 test drives taken at the EV Expo.



Bucket trucks from Southeastern Electric and Sioux Valley Energy formed an arch at the entrance to the EV Expo.



A BMW EV drew lots of lookers.



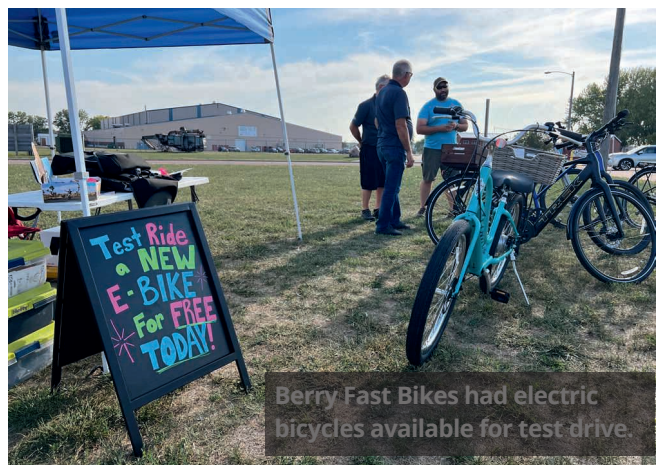
Utility sponsors, including Sioux Valley Energy, held informational booths.



ACE Hardware of Brandon displayed electric lawn equipment as did Interstate Sales.



SVE Energy Specialist, Sheila Gross, answers questions about SVE programs.



Berry Fast Bikes had electric bicycles available for test drive.



Veterans enjoying their stay at Wings of Valor.

WINGS OF VALOR

A Veteran's Retreat

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

Wings of Valor Lodge isn't just a hunting retreat offering veterans a good time and a free pheasant hunt, it's a place for them to come home.

The non-profit organization offers all U.S. military veterans an all-expense paid hunt in the heart of pheasant country, about five miles south of Parker, South Dakota.

The organization runs almost entirely on volunteers, donations and sponsorships and has already served more than 500 veterans from over 40 states since it began operations in 2019.

Sean Adams, the organization's president and co-founder, said the idea to open a hunting lodge came after discussions with the organization's now-CEO Bruce Weller back in 2018.

Weller owned a private hunting lodge called Birds, Bucks and Berries, and was host to Adams and other veterans during his annual veterans' hunt.

"Bruce was saying how the veterans' hunt was always the best day of the year, so I said, we can make every day the best day of the year if you want," said Adams.

Adams, who was grievously injured while serving in Afghanistan resulting in a double amputation of his legs in 2012, said he was well-versed in the non-profit community by the time he and Weller began discussing opening a hunting lodge that served veterans.

"I know pretty much how it works. If you do what you say, do it on time, do it well, serve veterans with a level of professionalism, and have a little faith, people will come," Adams said.

"From that conversation to Nov. 1, 2019, we worked on build site plans that I designed with one of the volunteers. We took a pavilion area that (Weller) used for weddings and put chalk lines everywhere, which is how we mapped out a building plan."

Adams said he rolled his wheelchair around each room, and if he hit a chalk line, he'd remark the line to ensure it was handicap accessible. That was in



Above: CPL USMC (RET) Sean Adams

Right: Sean Adams recovers in a hospital after suffering serious injuries in an IED explosion in Afghanistan in 2011.



January of 2019. Eleven months later, the lodge had been built and a group of veterans came to hunt under the newly established Wings of Valor Lodge.

Adams said a premise of Wings of Valor Lodge is to welcome veterans' home to something that's not chaotic, a place where they can find purpose and peace.

There's no religious angle, nor any requirements other than having taken the oath to serve our country for a veteran to have their travel expenses and entire hunting trip paid for by the non-profit.

"My generation fought in a war that was religious based," Adams explained. "We do have a spiritual setting, but we don't press anything. We never want a veteran to feel that they are oppressed by any sort of a faith."

Whether a veteran is religious, Christian, Muslim, atheist, or simply spiritual, they will be amongst others who understand what they've been through.

"No veteran is broken, they just need to come home," Adams said.

"God did not call the qualified, he called the unqualified that were willing to do

whatever was asked. Don't think because you did something overseas that your any worse than the pastor in the pulpit. We're all sinners on this earth."

Nature is also a powerful tool that Adams believes helps mend the mind, body and spirit. It's peaceful, which he said is the type of environment veterans need.

"You need all those to regroup yourself back in society. It's really hard to come out of a war, or wars, and describe that to the average human being," Adams said.

The lodge has hosted veterans of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam to veterans who have served in the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Operation Desert Storm.

Many of the veterans that have come to the lodge have never had a chance to heal or "come home", Adams said.

Some of those men were Marines that Adams served with directly a decade ago.

"They saw me in an IED blast. They didn't have time to heal. They were able to see that I was okay and it was time for them to start healing. They had given enough to the country. It was time to start the healing process," Adams said.

"We also had a veteran talk about Vietnam. He hadn't talked about it since 1968," Adams said.

Combat veterans, regardless of where they served or experienced warfare, establish a connection with one another at the lodge.

Older veterans find purpose in helping their younger counterparts. Adams said the connection can be overwhelming at times for the Vietnam veterans because of the newfound sense of purpose they find in these interactions.

Adams said raising kids and having companionship with your wife or husband is meaningful to veterans, but they often go without the relationships they had with their fellow soldiers they had beside them in the heat of battle.

"Giving someone millions of dollars, houses, or trip – that's great. But that's only mending the problem. Giving someone a sense of purpose is something we have to do," Adams said.

"When the Vietnam veterans tell my generation 'I get it, and it won't last forever', it gives the Vietnam guys a sense of purpose. The longer you hold it in the deeper it gets. That's something we realized at Walter Reed. We started getting off our medications the more we talked about what happened."

Adams said any veteran who wants to come and hunt at the Wings of Valor Lodge need only apply.

Individual applications come to the lodge free of charge. That means the organization will cover the cost of travel and any other expenses incurred to ensure the veteran doesn't pay a dime out of their own pocket.

To apply for a hunt or learn more about Wings of Valor Lodge, go to www.wingsofvalordodge.org.



A handicap accessible bedroom at Wings of Valor lodge

2024 DISTRICT MEETINGS SET

The Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors approved the 2024 District Meeting schedule during their September meeting. Three elections will take place in Districts 1, 3, and 8.

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 3 – Thursday, December 28, 2023**
- District 1 – Thursday, January 25, 2024**
- District 8 – Friday, January 26, 2024**

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 (see below). Interested members are encouraged to contact Brenda Schelhaas, Executive Assistant. All Board seats elected in 2024 will serve three-year terms.

Date	District	Director	Location
Thursday, February 22	4	Daniel	Dakota Prairie Playhouse Madison, SD
Monday, February 26*	3	Heinemann*	William J Janklow Comm. Center Flandreau, SD
Tuesday, February 27	5	Weinacht	Taopi Hall Colton, SD
Thursday, February 29	10	Roskamp	Edgerton Public School Edgerton, MN
Monday, March 11	6	Fish & Rogen	Brandon Valley High School Brandon, SD
Tuesday, March 12	7	DeMent	West Central School Hartford, SD
Thursday, March 14	9	Johnson	Pipestone Area High School Pipestone, MN
Thursday, March 21	2	Vostad	Sioux Valley School Volga, SD
Monday, March 25*	1	DeGreef*	Elkton Community Center Elkton, SD
Tuesday, March 26*	8	Leuthold*	Generations (Grand Prairie Event Center) Luverne, MN

*Denotes election meetings.

SVE Bylaws: Director Qualifications

ARTICLE IV: SECTION 5. Qualifications. Any member shall be eligible to be nominated or elected or to remain a Director, provided that: (a) They are a natural person receiving electric service from the Cooperative at their primary residence or meet the qualifications for corporate representation; (b) They have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts; (c) They have been and shall remain a resident of the district for which they are or were nominated or elected for at least one (1) year prior to nomination, and continue to reside therein during their entire term as Director; (d) While a Director and during the five (5) years immediately prior to becoming a Director, they have not been convicted of a felony; (e) They or their spouse are not employed by, materially affiliated with or have a material financial interest in any individual or entity which either is: (i) Directly and substantially competing with the Cooperative, or any of its subsidiaries; or (ii) Selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or its subsidiaries; or having sold goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or its subsidiaries within three (3) years of seeking nomination. (iii) Possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative or any of its subsidiaries; or (iv) They are not in any way employed by the Cooper-

ative or any of its subsidiaries nor have they been employed by the Cooperative or its subsidiaries within three (3) years of the directors nomination, and (v) They are not a close relative of any existing Director or existing employee of the Cooperative or its subsidiaries. For the purpose of this section only "close relative" shall mean a person who is either a child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother or sister, by blood or in-law, of the principal. (f) A designated representative of any non-human member such as a corporation, shall, notwithstanding that he or she does not receive service from the Cooperative at their primary residential abode, be eligible to become a Director, if: 1) He or she is an officer of said non-human member; and 2) He or she is in substantial permanent occupancy, direction or use of the premises served by the Cooperative; and 3) He or she is a permanent year round resident within the district for which the Corporation or non-human member is receiving service, and 4) Otherwise meets the qualifications set forth herein, provided, however, that no more than one (1) such person as the designated representative may serve on the Board at the same time and in the event that he or she should resign or is unwilling to so act, the directorship shall become vacant.



Crooks organization receives Operation Round Up funding

Sioux Valley Energy’s Operation Round Up program recently provided funding to help purchase flagpoles and service stones for the new Crooks Veterans Park. The organization’s motto is “remembering those who served, honoring those who continue to serve and inspiring those who will serve.”

There will be a total of nine flagpoles in the park – six service flags, one POW flag, one South Dakota flag, and one American flag. The cost of the poles and flags exceed \$57,000. In addition to the flags, there will be a large gazebo in the center of the memorial.

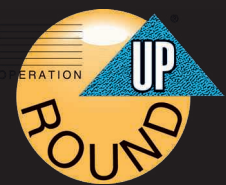
The park got its start after a local farmer donated two acres of land. The group is pursuing several funding sources including grants, memorial brick sales, as well as corporate, community and private donations.

Organizers hope the park will draw both community members and visitors to the area. They envision people using the park for family picnics and functions, patriotic holidays and for programs honoring military veterans and current service members.

The Crooks Veterans Park is currently seeking financial, labor and material donations. If you are interested in the project, contact President Todd Myhre at 605-359-3318.



During the most recently quarterly meeting, the Operation Round Up Board approved a total of \$24,700 in funding for scholarships and 13 other causes through the following organizations:



- Catholic Community Foundation
- City of Pipestone Lights at the Lodge
- Crooks Veterans Park
- Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons
- Health Connect of South Dakota
- Inter Lakes Community Action Partnership
- Madison HS Track & Field/Pole Vault
- Palisades State Park
- Rock Ranch
- South Dakota Renegades 18U McDougall
- SWWC Foundation for Innovation in Education
- The Gathering
- TSC Fire (Tiger Softball Club)

If your non profit organization, community or school is interested in Operation Round Up funding, applications are available at <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/operation-round-up>.



Dignity courtesy of Travel South Dakota

DIGNITY

Celebrating American Indian Heritage

Scott Waltman

Rising from the prairie land as it gives way to bluffs on the east side of the Missouri River is a spectacular sculpture commemorating both South Dakota's 125 anniversary and the state's original inhabitants.

Dignity of the Earth and Sky was built by Sturgis-based sculptor Dale Claude Lamphere, who used to be the state's poet laureate.

The sculpture was erected in 2016 after Norm and Eunabel McKie announced it as a gift to South Dakota upon the state's quasiquintennial in 2014.

Dignity towers 50 feet above the ground, beckoning motorists as they travel along Interstate 90. From the

east, it's the gateway to West River en route to the beautiful Black Hills. From the west, it's a sign to travelers that they are closer to the Minnesota border than the state's most popular playgrounds that range from Wall to Spearfish to Hot Springs.

Ashley Riehle of Sylvania, Ohio, which is on the northwestern outskirts of Toledo and just south of the Michigan

border, said the stretch of I-90 alone makes South Dakota one of the best road trip states in the nation.

She visited South Dakota in 2021, driving from Sioux Falls to the Black Hills and back and twice stopping at the Dignity monument. She planned to visit the sculpture during her drive but said the Chamberlain area also doubled as a logical place to take a break.

As a history buff, Riehle appreciates





Jeremy and Stacey Waltner of Freeman visit the Dignity of Earth and Sky sculpture in 2018.

both the beauty and the significance of Dignity.

“I thought it was great that South Dakota acknowledges the first people that occupied the state,” she said.

Many states don’t, she said, and she doesn’t know of any such significant recognitions in Ohio or Michigan.

Jeremy Waltner of Freeman, South Dakota, also appreciates the sculpture on multiple levels.

“It is as impressive as you can imagine just in terms of both size and impact,” he said.

Being a South Dakotan, he knew of Dignity and that he wanted to visit. But he also wanted to make sure his wife Stacey, daughter Ella and son Oliver could share the experience. They stopped during a trip west in summer 2018.

The sculpture pays homage to South Dakota’s Native American population, setting it apart from so many other tourist stops in the state, Waltner said.

“It’s education as much as it is art,” he said, adding that the context behind Dignity is critical.

Three Native American women from Rapid City served as models for the sculpture, which was created east of the town in an isolated area along the Cheyenne River.

Lamphere’s other creations include work in the South Dakota State Capitol in Pierre and the Arch of Dreams in Sioux Falls. He’s done commissioned portraits of Bob and Dolores Hope, Burl Ives, Walter Annenberg, George and Eleanor McGovern and others, according to his website.

For Dignity, he had a specific goal.

“I wanted something that would really honor the indigenous people of the Great Plains, and I kept that in mind all the time. I made the work reflect the name that it has of Dignity, and I think that’s part of what makes it work so well,” Lamphere has said of his creation.

Riehle noted that the star quilt Dignity wears has meaning.

It’s comprised of more than 100 blue diamonds as Dignity holds it behind her back in her outstretched arms.

In Native American culture, star quilts are a sign of respect and are often given as gifts to honor somebody for a substantial achievement in their life.

Including the quilt was a nice touch that took some planning, Riehle said, because it’s a direct tie to the Lakota culture.

While there is a plaque at Dignity that briefly tells the story of the sculpture, Waltner said he’s not sure most people realize the history.

In fact, he said, he’s not sure if most people set out to visit Dignity or just happen across her as they zip through the heart of the state on the interstate.

“It’s South Dakota’s greatest conversational piece outside of two gigantic granite carvings in the Black Hills,” Waltner said, referring to Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial.

Either way, he said, people who take time to admire the grand piece of art wind up learning a little bit.

When he stopped with his family, he said there was a good crowd of people visiting about the sculpture, smiling as they looked on in awe and waiting in line so they could get their pictures taken

with Dignity.

Waltner said he has stopped to see the sculpture twice on his own.

Riehle met friends from Denver and Chicago in the Black Hills as part of her trip. She had been to South Dakota before but got to see and do much more in 2021. She visited Sioux Falls, Mitchell’s Corn Palace, Deadwood, the Badlands, Wall Drug, Spearfish Canyon, Custer State Park, the Chapel in the Hills, Pactola Lake, Palisades State Park and other popular places.

All were fun, but Dignity was special, she said, because it is a reflection of the true foundation of South Dakota’s history.

“So much history focuses on when the white settlers got there,” Riehle said.

Dignity is deeper.

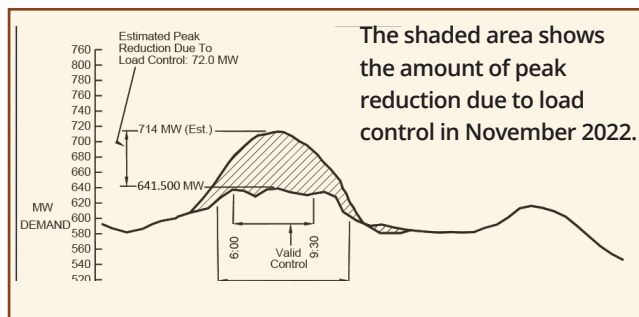
The McKies donated \$1 million to the Dignity project. Less than a decade later, that investment helps the thousands upon thousands of people who stop just east of Chamberlain each year take a moment to remember and acknowledge the rich history of South Dakota’s first citizens.

Additional Facts:

- November is National American Indian Heritage Month. It’s a time to remember and celebrate the important contributions of Native people and their cultures, traditions, and histories.
- The first state to declare and celebrate an American Indian Day was New York on the second Saturday in May 1916.
- In 1990, the month of November was approved by a joint resolution and signed by President George H. W. Bush as “National American Indian Heritage Month.”
- Central Electric Cooperative proudly powers Dignity and the rest area where thousands of visitors stop each year to celebrate the beauty of the American Indian.

UNDER CONTROL

SVE Load Management Program Saves Co-op Millions



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...

Load management refers to controlling various member electric loads during times of peak usage on the electric system. During peak electric usage times, load management helps shift the load peak to when members do not use as much electricity by controlling equipment such as water heaters. By managing this load, the Cooperative can reduce the potential costs of wholesale power purchases, which saves money and resources. Load management saves member-owners over \$1.6 million in power supply costs each year by shifting electrical loads to off-peak periods. Members can save through program incentives by having equipment connected to the load management program.

WHEN IS LOAD CONTROL INITIATED?

Load control is initiated whenever it is deemed necessary by our power suppliers – East River Electric Power Cooperative in South Dakota and L&O Power Cooperative in Minnesota. Most load control is initiated during temperature extremes, mainly in the afternoons and evenings during summer month high temperatures and mornings and evenings during winter month low temperatures. However, load control is used every month of the year to

some degree to help keep energy costs as low as possible.

HOW DO I KNOW IF THE SYSTEM IS BEING CONTROLLED?

South Dakota members can log on to <http://lmreports.eastriver.coop/loadgraphandcontroldatagen.htm>. Click on the load management tab and click on current status to see what loads are being controlled.

If you are unsure which group you are in, please contact Sioux Valley Energy's Beneficial Electrification Department at 800-234-1960. Minnesota members may contact the dispatch center at 800-234-1960 to check on their control status.

WHO INSTALLS THE EQUIPMENT?

Qualified Sioux Valley Energy electricians install load control receiver equipment and associated wiring.

WHAT WILL IT COST ME?

There is no charge to install or remove load management equipment for a member's home or business.

WHAT IF I DECIDE I NO LONGER WANT MY EQUIPMENT CONTROLLED?

To continue to receive incentive program benefits, members must keep their equipment on the load management program. Load control

equipment for irrigation systems, and grain dryers can be removed anytime at the request of a member. Load control equipment connected to water heaters as part of the incentive program must adhere to the term agreement listed on the application form.

WATER HEATER LOAD MANAGEMENT

Load management equipment will be installed or tested, if existing, by SVE personnel when the water heater is installed and fully operational. Contractors/members agree to allow load management to be installed in order to receive the special pricing. For new construction, it's more convenient for SVE and the new homeowner if the builder notifies us to schedule this installation prior to the closing of the home.

RECOVERY RATE

Water heater recovery rate is approximately 22 gallons to 26 gallons of hot water per hour, depending on the season.

IRRIGATION LOAD MANAGEMENT

Irrigation systems are turned off during control periods. They will remain off with no cycling until the peak usage period has passed. Irrigation systems are the last to be controlled and the first to be restored

South Dakota:


Water heaters may be controlled up to four consecutive hours. If load control is still needed after a four-hour period, the water heaters will be cycled ON for one hour and OFF for two hours.

Minnesota:

Water heaters are controlled 50 minutes of every hour during a control event. No controlling is done after 11 p.m. so tanks should be full of hot water each morning.

LOAD CONTROL RECEIVERS USED BY SIOUX VALLEY ENERGY

Aclara
(used in Minnehaha County and parts of Lake and Moody counties in SD and in Minnesota)



Steady **Green** LED: = controller has power
Red LED on: = There is a fault
 Steady **Yellow** LED: = load is being controlled

One of these lights will be blinking.

Cannon Technologies 3000
(older model used in Minnesota)



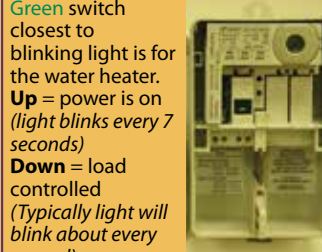
Red LED off: not controlled
Red LED on: load controlled
 Light 1: Air-Conditioning
 Light 2: Water Heater
 Light 3: nothing

Cannon Technologies 3100
(used in Brandon area and Minnesota)



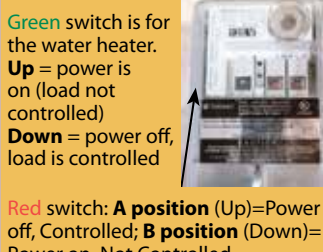
Red LED off: not controlled
Red LED on: load controlled
Steady Green LED: controller has power
Green light off: no power to receiver.

Enermet



Green switch closest to blinking light is for the water heater.
Up = power is on (light blinks every 7 seconds)
Down = load controlled (Typically light will blink about every second)

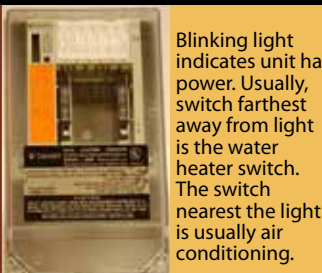
Enermet



Green switch is for the water heater.
Up = power is on (load not controlled)
Down = power off, load is controlled

Red switch: **A position** (Up)=Power off, Controlled; **B position** (Down)=Power on, Not Controlled

Zellweger



Blinking light indicates unit has power. Usually, switch farthest away from light is the water heater switch. The switch nearest the light is usually air conditioning.

BBC
Used only in SD to control water heater.



Lights may no longer be working.

during a control period. Control notifications via phone, text, or e-mail are available to any member. Members participating in the load management program receive a reduced rate per metered kW for the billing cycles of June through October. SVE can install traditional load management devices or a third-party remote managed irrigation system can be used. A rebate of \$750 is available (\$150 credit applied annually for five years) per device for a third-party device (such as AgSense, Intellifarms, etc.) that allows SVE to control during peak times. (**Former Alliant Energy customers are not eligible.*)

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections
 2. Publication Number: 487-440
 3. Filing Date: 09/28/2023
 4. Issue Frequency: Monthly
 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12
 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$6
 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017-0216
 Contact Person: Carrie Vuglveen
 Telephone (include area code): (605) 534-3535
 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017
 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
 Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KDS Sioux Valley Energy) PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017-0216
 Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Carrie Vuglveen PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017-0216
 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Carrie Vuglveen PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017-0216
 10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)
 Full Name: Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. Complete Mailing Address: PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017-0216
 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None
 Full Name: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation Complete Mailing Address: 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250
 National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation 20701 Cooperative Way, Dulles, VA 20100
 CoBank 8340 S Fiddlers Green Circle, Greenwood Village, CO 80111
 12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)
 PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 use instructions page 4) PSN: 7530-01-000-9031 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

13. Publication Title		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	
Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections		09/19/2023	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation			
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		18504	18472
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		18366	18007
c. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		418	415
d. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 13b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		18366	18007
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 13c (1), (2), (3), and (4))		418	415
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 13b and 13c)		18784	18422
g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers #4 page 82)		50	50
h. Total (Sum of 13f and 13g)		18834	18472
i. Percent Paid (13b divided by 13h times 100)		97.78%	97.48%
16. Electronic Copy Circulation			
a. Paid Electronic Copies		4294	4704
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 13b) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		22460	22711
c. Total Paid Distribution (Line 13b) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		22898	23125
d. Percent Paid (Sum Print & Electronic Copies (16b) divided by 10c x 100)		98.17%	98.21%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.			
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/17/23 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required. 18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Carrie Vuglveen Date: 09/28/2023 I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			



Nov. 2-4
Huron Ringneck Festival and
Bird Dog Challenge
 Huron, SD
 605-352-0000

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

OCT. 28
Trick or Treat Trails
 3 p.m.
 Big Sioux Recreation Area
 Brandon, SD
 605-594-3824

OCT. 28
Uptown Girls Craft Show
 9 a.m.
 First Lutheran Church Gym
 Brookings, SD

OCT. 28
Hartford Women of Today
Craft Fair
 West Central High School
 Hartford, SD
 605-359-2049

NOV. 3
Plankinton Service Club Fun
Night
 7 p.m.
 Aurora County Ag Building
 Plankinton, SD

NOV. 4-5
Benson's Flea Market
 W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds
 Sioux Falls, SD

NOV. 5
American Legion Post 15
Pancake Breakfast
 8:30 a.m.
 S.D. Military Heritage Alliance
 Building
 Sioux Falls, SD

NOV. 5
Turkey Dinner/ Silent
Auction
 11:45 a.m.
 RVUMC
 Rapid City, SD

NOV. 10-12
Christmas at the Barn
 10 a.m.
 Groton, SD

NOV. 10-11
Sioux Empire Arts & Crafts
Show
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
 Sioux Falls, SD

NOV. 11
Lutefisk Supper
 Lake Campbell Lutheran
 Church
 Volga, SD
 605-690-4868

NOV. 12
Lutefisk, Lefse & Meatball
 4-7 p.m.
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Chamberlain, SD
 605-730-0553

NOV. 24
Parade of Lights
 7 p.m.
 Dakota Avenue
 Huron, SD

NOV. 25
Mid-Winter Fair
 Gregory Auditorium
 Gregory, SD
 605-830-9778

NOV. 30-DEC. 3
Hatchery Holidays
 D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery
 Spearfish, SD

DEC. 3
Hartford's Hometown
Christmas
 7:30 a.m.
 Hartford, SD

DEC. 8-9
Alexandria's Winter Festival
 5 p.m.
 Alexandria, SD

DEC. 8-9
Junkin' Market Days
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo
 Center
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-941-4958

DEC. 17
Christmas Cantata
 3 p.m.
 Hermosa United Church of
 Christ
 Hermosa, SD

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