

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

## Mammoth Discovery

**Coal Miner Finds  
Mammoth Tusk**

Pages 8-9

**A Golden Harvest**

Pages 12-13



# Is a Demanding Summer Ahead?



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

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July and August are historically the warmest months of the year in this region and with that hot weather comes high demand (peaks) on the electric system. The highest peak we have ever experienced was in August of 2023. So why does this matter? Well, our system demand is measured and billed by our power suppliers based on the highest electrical peak during a single half-hour period during the month. Approximately half of our yearly power supply bill is based on just six hours a year! We expect to spend a total of \$65 million for power supply in 2024 so over \$32 million is based on those six hours of peak demand.

The electrical system is designed and built to support the maximum amount of electricity a member would conceivably need, even during high use times. However, as members continue to add electric load to their homes and businesses, demand rises. Sioux Valley Energy has responded to that growing demand through system upgrades. The Cooperative is well-positioned and prepared to serve that growing demand across its system.

While we are ready to serve our members during times of peak demand, there is an element that is out of our control – resource availability on the regional electric grid. Sioux Valley Energy, through its power suppliers, is part of a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) called the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). A few of our Minnesota members are part of a similar RTO – Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO).

There are three separate power grids in the U.S. and we are part of the Eastern Interconnection. SPP is one of the RTOs within that Eastern Interconnection and coordinates transmission and balances the supply of electricity based on resource availability throughout a 14-state region.

SPP is forecasting adequate electric generation this summer. However, under rare conditions – such as extreme weather, low output from wind and other variable energy resources, and unexpected power plant outages – SPP could call for temporary rolling outages

to keep the supply and demand of electricity on the system in balance. Simply put, if the system is out of balance it will start to implode and shut down in a very damaging fashion. When this happens it can cause a cascading effect that will produce long-lasting outages across the entire power grid.

Sioux Valley Energy and its power suppliers receive advisory notifications and alerts from SPP during extreme weather to raise awareness about grid conditions. Once grid conditions hit a certain level, SPP will ask the public to conserve power. If that happens, Sioux Valley Energy will send out notifications via social media and email asking members to conserve. If grid conditions would require temporary rolling outages, we would do our best to notify impacted members. However, if the power needs to be shut off to save the electric system, there may not be much notice and we would have no control over that.

This situation would be extremely rare, but it has already happened once on our system. In February of 2021 SPP called for the immediate shut down of power for thousands of our members during extreme cold temperatures.

So, while locally we are prepared to serve our members, even during extreme weather events; some of that is out of our control during rare circumstances. Our commitment to you is that we will do everything we can to keep you informed if this situation should ever arise. In the meantime, we encourage you to be aware of and limit your electric use on hot days during high-use time periods (mornings and early evenings). For example, delay running your dishwasher and clothes dryer until after 10 p.m. Utilize a grill outside instead of cooking in the oven or on a stovetop. Close your shades to keep the sun from heating up your home, making your air conditioner work harder. These small changes can impact the demand on our system and how much we are charged from our power suppliers – eventually impacting your individual electric rates.

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## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

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(USPS No. 497-440)

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equal opportunity provider and employer.**



## EV EXPO RETURNS

### W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds to Showcase EV Technology September 17

Sioux Valley Energy and other area utilities are heading back to the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds September 17 to showcase electric vehicles. This is the fourth annual event in which Sioux Valley Energy has been involved.

This year's EV Expo will be held in the parking lot east of the grandstand at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls. The event is being sponsored by Sioux Valley Energy, Southeastern Electric, East River Electric, Xcel Energy, Sioux Falls Electric Light and Power, Sioux Falls Sustainability, and Drive Electric South Dakota.

As with previous events, the EV Expo will feature an EV car show and test drive opportunities with several local dealerships. If you have an EV you would like to display at the EV Show, contact Sheila at 800-234-1960. Additionally, recreational vehicles like e-bikes and electric lawn equipment will also be on display. A food truck will be available for attendees to purchase food.

Plan to attend the fourth annual EV Expo on Tuesday, September 17 at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds from 4 to 7 p.m.



**Expo Sponsors:**



# Extreme Heat Preparation

### Learn How to Stay Hydrated

You need to drink enough water to prevent heat illness. An average person needs to drink about 3/4 of a gallon of water daily. Everyone's needs may vary.

- You can check that you are getting enough water by noting your urine color. Dark yellow may indicate you are not drinking enough.
- Avoid sugary, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- If you are sweating a lot, combine water with snacks or a sports drink to replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.
- Talk to your doctor about how to prepare if you have a medical condition or are taking medicines.

### Make a Plan to Stay Cool

Do not rely only on electric fans during extreme heat. When temperatures are in the high 90s, fans may not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

- Spending a few hours each day in air conditioning can help prevent heat illness.
  - If you have air conditioning, be sure that it is in working order.
  - If you do not have air conditioning or if there is a power outage, find locations where you can stay cool. For example, a public library, shopping mall or a public cooling center. Plan how you will get there.
  - Additional resources may be available from local government or community groups.
- Make sure you have plenty of lightweight, loose clothing to wear.
- Create a support team of people you may assist and who can assist you. Check in with them often to make sure that everyone is safe.

### Learn Emergency Skills

- Learn how to recognize and respond to heat illness.
- Learn First Aid and CPR.
- Be ready to live without power. Utilities may be offline. Be ready to live without power, gas and water. Plan for your electrical needs, including cell phones and medical equipment. Talk to your doctor. Plan for backup power.

### Gather Emergency Supplies

- Gather food, water and medicine. Stores might be closed. Organize supplies into a Go-Kit and a Stay-at-Home

Kit. In the event of a power outage, you may lose access to clean drinking water. Set aside at least one gallon of drinking water per person per day. Consider adding drinks with electrolytes. Include sunscreen and wide-brimmed hats.

- Go-Kit: at least three days of supplies that you can carry with you. Include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)
- Stay-at-Home Kit: at least two weeks of supplies.
- Have a one-month supply of medication in a child-proof container and medical supplies or equipment.
- Keep personal, financial and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up)
- Consider keeping a list of your medications and dosages on a small card to carry with you.

*Source: American Red Cross*



### Power Line Safety "Call 911 and Don't Get Out"

#### Hobie Klein, Age 12

Hobie Klein warns farmers to call 911 and don't get out of the tractor if contact is made with a power line. Hobie's parents are Dean and Karey Klein, members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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 SALADS

## MOM'S VEGETABLE SALAD

### Ingredients:

#### Salad

2 cans diced carrots  
1 can green beans  
1 can yellow beans  
1 small can peas  
1 can cut baby corn

*Drain all the vegetables*

#### Add

1/2 cup diced green pepper  
1 cup diced celery  
1 diced medium onion

#### Dressing

Combine in a saucepan  
1/2 cup oil  
1 1/3 cup sugar  
1/3 cup white vinegar  
1/3 cup cider vinegar  
2 Tbsp water

*Combine in a saucepan  
and boil until clear*

### Method

Pour dressing over vegetables and refrigerate for several hours before serving. Keeps for a week.

**Debra Clow**  
Harrisburg, S.D.

## FRESH SUMMER SALAD

### Ingredients:

3 tbsps. olive oil, divided  
1 tbsp. lime juice  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1 1/5 cups fresh corn or thawed frozen corn  
1 1/2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved  
1/2 cup cucumber, finely chopped  
2 tbsp. fresh basil, minced  
1/3 cup crumbled Feta cheese or Parmesan cheese  
1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar or Italian salad dressing

### Method

Mix 2 tablespoons of oil, lime juice and salt in a small bowl. Cook corn in a skillet with remaining 1 tbsp. oil. Pour corn into bowl, cool slightly. Add tomatoes, cucumber and basil. Refrigerate. Before serving, drizzle with dressing, cheese and balsamic vinegar or Italian dressing.

**Barb Selland**  
Mitchell, S.D.

## CHICKEN SALAD

### Ingredients:

1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt  
2 tbsps. mayonnaise  
1 tsp. parsley flakes  
1/2 tsp. seasoned salt  
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper  
1/2 rotisserie chicken, cut into bite-size chunks (about 2 cups)  
1/2 cup thinly sliced celery  
1/4 cup chopped red onion

### Method

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.

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



# Community Solar Marks First Year



**Sheila Gross**  
Energy Services  
Specialist

**For info on smart home tech, contact Sheila Gross at [sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com) to learn more.** Check out our rebates and incentives here:



## Array Produces 82,000 kWh in Inaugural Year

It's been a year since Sioux Valley Energy finished installing a 140-panel Community Solar Array at its Colman headquarters.

"The array has produced close to the expected output," said SVE Beneficial Electrification Specialist Reggie Gassman.

Each panel is rated at 450 watts with a total direct current (DC) capacity of 63 kW and a maximum alternating current (AC) output of 50 kW.

SVE members had an opportunity to purchase output of one or more panels with a 20-year subscription. The output is credited to their monthly electric bill. This project was fully funded through member subscriptions and a federal direct pay incentive through the Inflation Reduction Act.

The array produced 82,415 kWhs in its first year of production, equaling about \$5.10 per



panel per month on average. During the first year, two of the system's inverters had intermittent failures which were covered by warranty. Once those inverters are fixed, the system's capacity factor is predicted to rise to 20 percent, compared to 18.8 percent.

The total cost of the system with installation was \$160,000.

Learn more about Sioux Valley Energy's solar projects at <https://www.sioxvalleyenergy.com/sve-solar-projects>

**\$HIFT TO TIME OF USE RATE & \$AVE**

Put the power in your hands by signing up for the Sioux Valley Energy Time of Use (TOU) electric rate. You can **SAVE** big just by **SHIFTING** your energy use to off-peak times with the Time of Use Rate.

**On-peak hours are:**  
7 a.m.-10 a.m. & 4 p.m.-9 p.m. (7 days per week).  
Off-peak kilowatt-hours (kWh) are all hours other than those described above. During off-peak hours, you pay a much lower kilowatt-hour charge.

Visit us at: [www.sioxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.sioxvalleyenergy.com)

**SIoux VALLEY ENERGY**



## Wilson's Win

Jeff and Cheryl Wilson of Hartford, South Dakota, were the winners of the Milwaukee M18 FUEL saw kit given away as part of the recent Energy Makeover Contest.



## SOLAR FAQS

### HOW LONG IS THE PAYBACK PERIOD ON A PRIVATE SOLAR SYSTEM?

The payback period can range from fewer than 10 years to more than 20 years, depending on the system cost, available rebates and incentives, the amount of electricity produced and the price of electricity. Contact Sioux Valley Energy (SVE) to learn more about your past energy use to determine if solar makes sense for you.

### HOW LONG DO SOLAR SYSTEMS LAST?

Certified products and systems typically have a life expectancy of about 30 years. Manufacturers test solar panels for hail impact, high wind and freeze-thaw cycles to represent real-life situations. Most manufacturers offer 20- to 25-year warranties for panels; extended warranties may be available at an extra cost. Other components like inverters may have a shorter life. Solar panels may outlast the roof they are attached to. Make sure your roof is in good shape or budget for replacement during the life of the system.

### WILL SIOUX VALLEY ENERGY BUY ANY EXCESS ENERGY I PRODUCE WITH A SOLAR SYSTEM?

Grid-connected solar systems are connected to SVE's power lines. That means electricity can flow both ways (to your home from SVE and from your solar system back to the electrical grid.) Particularly on sunny days when your energy use may be low, your system may produce excess energy that can flow back to the grid and may be purchased back by SVE. Contact us at 800.234.1960 for more information, including requirements for interconnection, safety, metering, and applicable rates.

### WILL MY SOLAR SYSTEM WORK DURING POWER OUTAGES?

Most grid-connected systems shut down to prevent back-feeding electricity into de-energized power lines that may have fallen or that line crew members may be working on. It's important to have this shut-down feature to prevent injuries, and even death, to those working on the line.



Employees comprise the Cooperative's Safety Steering Committee, which seeks to continually advance the Cooperative's safety culture.

## Sioux Valley Energy Recognized for Safety Excellence

Sioux Valley Energy was awarded the 2024 Leroy Vanderpool Excellence in Safety Award at the Minnesota Rural Electric Trust (MRET) annual meeting held on June 13 at Breezy Point, Minnesota. The cooperative was recognized for its culture which centers around the safety of employees, members, and the public along with Sioux Valley Energy's work to move that culture to a new level of excellence.

"Sioux Valley Energy strives to continually advance our safety culture and recently held a strategy session to discuss ways to create an environment yet to be realized in our industry. We collectively hold ourselves to high standards and set progressive goals in building an organization that recognizes people first. If you get that correct, great results naturally follow. I view this award as a testimony to the effort every person at Sioux Valley has put forth to build this culture of excellence. Our folks are committed, and they live it every day," said General Manager and CEO Tim McCarthy.

The MRET Leroy Vanderpool Excellence in Safety Award is presented annually in memory of Leroy Vanderpool who passed away in 2006 of Lou Gehrig's disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Vanderpool spent his career in the field of electric utility safety and was the loss control manager at East Central Energy in Braham, Minnesota.

"The LeRoy Vanderpool Excellence in Safety Award was created in 2006 by the Minnesota Rural Electric Trust Loss Prevention Committee to recognize the safety culture efforts of the MRET membership," said Dan Maholias, Executive Vice President and MRET Program Administrator at Brown & Brown Insurance Services, which administers the award. "Each year, members are asked to apply by sharing how they are supporting a culture of safety within their cooperative. Sioux Valley Energy's story epitomized that goal, in that its safety culture story is supported and lived by every department, for every employee, and has been an evolving process over many years."





*Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey*

# Mammoth Discovery

**Shannon Marvel**

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Over Memorial Day of 2023, a coal miner made a historic discovery at the Freedom Mine in North Dakota.

“The shovel operator just happened to take a scoop that had a complete mammoth tusk,” said Jeff Person, a paleontologist with the North Dakota Geological Survey.

“The tusk was about seven-foot-long. That shovel must’ve picked it up just perfectly to not damage or break it. The driver reported the find to his superiors at the Freedom Mine, who then contacted us,” Person said.

The tusk was found in an old streambed. Other fossils



*Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey*



were found in the streambed, including “more than twenty bones from the skeleton, including ribs, a shoulder blade a tooth and parts of the hips,” according to a news release.

“Most of the mammoth fossils known from North Dakota are isolated bones and teeth,” stated Clint Boyd, Senior Paleontologist for the North Dakota Geological Survey, in the news release. “This specimen is one of the most complete mammoth skeletons discovered in North Dakota, making it an exciting and scientifically important discovery.”

The bones were sent off to the Paleontology Lab at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck to undergo extensive cleaning before being prepped to be dried out, which requires that the bones be

wrapped in plastic.

It could take up to another year for the bones to be dried out enough to be taken out of the plastic wrap, Person said.

At that point, the bones will be the focus of scientific research, he said.

According to the news release, “mammoths lived in North Dakota during the Pleistocene Epoch, commonly called the Ice Age, and went extinct in this area around 10,000 years ago. Several species of mammoth lived in North America, including the Woolly Mammoth and the Columbian Mammoth. They lived alongside other iconic animals like saber-toothed tigers and giant sloths. Once the bones are fully cleaned, paleontologists will be able to identify which species was collected from the mine.”



*Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey*





# Making a Brighter

## Future SVE Part of Co-op Group Bringing Electricity to Guatemalan Village

In June, Sioux Valley Energy journey lineworker Steve Dvergsten was part of a crew of 14 lineworkers from Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota who traveled to Las Peñas, Guatemala, to help electrify the village of 35 homes in a mountainous area east of Jalapa, Guatemala.

The endeavor was a project of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International, which has been working in Guatemala since 2011. From 2018-2023, 285 volunteer lineworkers have brought electricity access to more than 7,000 people in rural communities. In addition to helping build, upgrade, and extend power lines, America's electric co-ops have donated more than \$1 million for electrification projects in recent years to help remote community energy systems in Guatemala.

"The rural communities there need electricity. They have a lot of untapped resources there as far as their agriculture goes. If they can get a foothold on that to where they can make a decent income, they can better their kids, their standing in the world," said Dvergsten. "That's what it's all about. No different than us. Our agriculture wouldn't be as big as it is without rural electricity. It's that stepping stone that pushes things forward."

Hear Steve describe the work in SVE's *Inside the Grid Podcast* at [www.siouxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com).

Since 1962, NRECA International has empowered more than 220 million people worldwide to improve their quality of life by providing them access to safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. NRECA International has helped establish more than 250 electric utilities and electric cooperatives in 48 countries. Learn more about NRECA International at <https://www.nrecainternational.coop/>



**Clockwise, from above left:** All work of building the line was done by hand and required climbing poles. A woman in Las Peñas, upper right, prepares corn tortillas on a wood-fired stove in the kitchen area of her home. Sioux Valley Energy's Steve Dvergsten, lower right, helps install wiring into a home in Las Peñas while a colleague installs an overhead light. The homes are constructed of mud brick walls, timbers and steel roofs. **Top:** At the conclusion of the work, lineworkers from Iowa, South Dakota, and Minnesota pose for a photo with their interpreters, members of the village of Las Peñas, Guatemala, and employees of the local utility in Jalapa, Guatemala.



Afternoon rains created slick conditions on the road out of the village. Here, the American crew, assisted by local residents, help push and pull a vehicle up an incline. The woman at the right is on her daily commute to work. Each day, she walks two miles from the village to the bus stop to go into the city and reverses the trip at night.



Crews and local villagers guide a conductor down steep terrain. Spans between poles reached up to 1,200 feet, traversing valleys 150 to 200 feet deep. By comparison, a span at Sioux Valley Energy is between 200 and 375 feet.



Sioux Valley Energy journey lineworker Steve Dvergsten presents a villager with a water filtration system. Each of the village's 35 homes received a system.

## Las Peñas, Guatemala, Project Fast Facts

- The team consisted of 14 lineworkers, six from Minnesota; one from South Dakota; and seven from Iowa. Representatives from the Iowa and Minnesota statewide associations joined the team on June 15.
- Four Guatemalans were with the lineworkers to help translate.
- The local municipal based in Jalapa, Guatemala, will manage the lines now that they are built. The NRECA International's in-country engineer works with the municipal on these projects.
- The village is around 6,000 feet of elevation in the mountains.
- The road got fairly washed out due to rain, so traveling in and out

was treacherous at times. Some days, crews drove part way and walked in about one mile. It took one hour of four-wheeling to get to the location to park and walk in the last mile.

- Equipment was staged at a ranch about 50 minutes from the hotel. It is less than four miles via direct route from the ranch to the village, but took more than an hour to drive in the mountainous terrain.
- Las Peñas consists of about 35 homes, a church and a school.
- The team finished wiring the homes on Sunday, June 16.
- The team brought wood to build the school, which will be

completed by village members.

- A final "ceremony" with the villagers was held on June 18 where water filtration systems, toothbrushes, school supplies, and other items were distributed.





# A GOLDEN HARVEST

## The Buzz Behind Adee Honey Farms

**Frank Turner**

[frank.turner@sdrea.coop](mailto:frank.turner@sdrea.coop)

Three generations ago, the Adee family learned that a tumultuous time can lead to significant opportunity. During the 1930s, the Great Depression wreaked havoc on small rural communities and the agricultural industry. The value of crops and livestock plummeted, and the land became arid.

These hard times impacted many in the Midwest, including Vernon Adee, a rural teacher and rancher in Nebraska. Vernon needed a new way to provide for his family, and a letter from his brother held the answer: “I can’t sell chickens or hogs, but I’m doing well with honey. Be advised: Get a beehive.”

Following his brother’s advice, Vernon attended a foreclosure auction and purchased his first beehive. The decision to begin

beekeeping would inspire several more generations of the Adee family to continue in the trade.

Wanting to start their own operation, Vernon’s sons, Richard and Stanley, purchased a retiring beekeeper’s business through a trade magazine advertisement in 1957. Located in Bruce, South Dakota, the business included 1,500 hives and a breeding yard in Woodville, Mississippi. The acquisition marked the beginning of Adee Honey Farms, and what began as a small family farm quickly grew into the largest beekeeping operation in the country. Today, Adee Honey Farms supports more than 80,000 colonies and nearly 70 full-time employees.

“It started with survival and eventually became a family business,” said Bret Adee, Vernon’s grandson and the owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms. “I can remember being four or five years old and being in the field with my dad, holding the smoker and helping where I could. By the time I was in elementary school, I was loading trucks and moving boxes in the warehouse. Like anyone who grew up on a farm, I was involved in the family business by the time I could walk.”

From a young age, Bret has held a deep love and appreciation for the honey bee. The insect’s ability to cooperate and produce golden treasure while benefiting plants, crops, and the ecosystem at large makes them a unique livestock, unlike any other.

“To watch a hive grow and forage, and by the end of the summer make up to 150 pounds of honey – it’s just so exciting,”



said Bret. “It’s the dynamics of the biology that keeps it interesting.”

Right now, Adee Honey Farms is engaged in honey production in the Midwest, with their bees spread across South Dakota and the west edge of Minnesota and the south edge of North Dakota. Around the first week of August, Bret’s business will start the honey harvest, an event that can last until the first frost or even longer. For now, Bret said this year is shaping up to be a good season for honey production.

“It’s early, but I’m optimistic. The years when there is a lot of clover are the years that beekeepers do well,” said Bret. “We had a wet enough fall that enough clover germinated. We can always lose that to a hot dry wind... but we are optimistic right now.”

But bees aren’t just used to make honey; they also have hand in pollinating crops across the country. More than a neat fact, it’s also the second half of the beekeeping industry. The mere presence of honey bees can increase yields for crops such as alfalfa and sunflowers by up to 20 to 30 percent, depending on the variety of crop. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pollination is responsible for more than \$18 billion in added revenue to crop production in the country.

Once the honey harvest is over, the bees will be loaded onto a truck to tour the country, traveling from the Dakotas to California and later to Texas in search of favorable weather and crops to pollinate. In fact, crop yields from California almond trees and apple trees are almost totally dependent on pollination from bees, enticing farmers from across the country to welcome

bees onto their land. Everyone benefits – even bees.

“It’s a win for the consumer who gets to eat the honey. It’s a win for the landowner who has the bees on his land, and if everything goes right, it’s good for the beekeeper’s family too,” said Bret.



Bret Adee, owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms, is a third-generation beekeeper in the Adee family. Photos courtesy of Adee Honey Farms.



## New Faces Join Co-op

Since the beginning of the year, four new full-time employees have joined the workforce at Sioux Valley Energy: Cathy Feste, Manager of Human Resources and Administrative Services; Andrew Chmela, System Engineer; Landon Hazelton, Journey Lineworker, and Karen Sherman, Digital Specialist.



**Cathy Feste**  
Manager of  
Human Resources  
and Administrative  
Services



**Andrew Chmela**  
System Engineer



**Landon Hazelton**  
Journey Lineworker



**Karen Sherman**  
Digital Specialist

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Visit us at: [www.sioxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.sioxvalleyenergy.com)



### CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD

The Co-op Connections Card is a partnership between Sioux Valley Energy and local businesses! Each member can download the card for free on the app by scanning the QR code. You get your Co-op Connections Card simply because you're a member of Sioux Valley Energy. Each month, we'll include a listing of businesses participating in the program. Below are businesses located in Sioux Falls:

#### SIoux FALLS

24/7 Fitness & Tanning Club  
Advanced Tech Inc  
Arietis Tax & Business Services  
Audiology Specialty Clinic  
Bagel Boy  
Batteries Plus  
Big D Technology Solutions, Inc  
Carnaval Brazilian Grill  
ClubHouse Hotel & Suites  
Combined Pool & Spa  
Crossroads Book & Music  
Dakotaland Autoglass  
Graham's Tire Company  
Heartland Computers  
Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Empire Mall  
Homewood Suites by Hilton  
Honey Baked Ham Co. & Café  
Hydraulic World, Inc  
Interstate All Battery Center  
Juice Stop

Justice Fire & Safety, Inc.  
Keller Williams Realty- Dawna Kuck  
Michaels Fence  
Nothing Bundt Cakes  
Northstar Auto Glass  
Overhead Door Company of Sioux Falls  
Pearle Vision  
Pita Pit-Sioux Falls  
Premier Auto Group  
Riddle's Jewelry  
Roto Rooter of Sioux Falls  
SAFE-N-SECURE  
Sparkle Uniforms  
Spencer Furniture & Floors  
T & A Service  
Ultimate Automotive  
Vacuum Center LLC  
Valvoline Instant Oil Change  
Visions Eye Care  
Walden Carpets





## GRANTS AWARDED

During the June 2024 meeting of The Sioux Valley Energy Customers' Trust more than \$35,000 in grants were awarded in the Cooperative's Operation Round Up® program.

### **ARLINGTON, SOUTH DAKOTA**

Arlington FFA and Arlington Backpack Program

### **BROOKINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA**

Family Back 2 School

### **GARRETSON, SOUTH DAKOTA**

Blue Dragon Foundation  
Garretson Sportmen's Club

### **LAKE NORDEN, SOUTH DAKOTA**

Lake Norden Fire Department

### **LUVERNE, MINNESOTA**

Women's Giving Circle  
Luverne Elementary School  
Rock County SnoMasters  
Luv1 LuvAll

### **MADISON, SOUTH DAKOTA**

Mad Arts Theatre Company

### **MAGNOLIA, MINNESOTA**

City of Magnolia

### **PIPESTONE, MINNESOTA**

Progress, Inc.  
Pipestone Performing Arts Center  
Pipestone EDA  
Pipestone County Food Shelf, Inc.  
Pipestone Area Softball-Baseball Association  
Pipestone Senior Citizens Center

### **RAMONA, SOUTH DAKOTA**

Ramona Community Club  
Making Oldham-Ramona Excellent/  
Ramona Express Baseball

### **SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA**

Boy Scouts of America, Sioux Council  
Face It TOGETHER  
McCrossan Boys Ranch  
Habitat for Humanity of Greater  
Sioux Falls



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE PENNY AT A TIME

### Operation Round Up® Program Contributes \$2.3 million to Area Groups Since 2000

From helping students with the Family Back 2 School program in Brookings to supporting youth sports programs and even helping fire departments purchase life-saving equipment, Sioux Valley Energy members have been giving back to their community through Operation Round Up.

Nearly \$2.3 million has been donated to area non-profits, schools, and communities since the year 2000 when Sioux Valley Energy started its Operation Round Up® (ORU) program. The program is simple – participating members “round up” their electric bill to the next highest dollar and those “rounded up” funds are placed into a trust. Additionally, many Sioux Valley Energy employees donate from their paycheck each month. Each quarter the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees meets to review applications and consider grant requests. So far in 2024, more than \$81,000 in Operation Round Up grants has been provided.

Recipients of grants awarded in June 2024 can be found at left. A list of recent grant recipients, as well as information on how local organizations can apply for funding, can be found at <https://www.siuoxvalleyenergy.com/operation-round-up>.

The next deadline to apply for funding is August 20 with grants being awarded in September.



## REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_



**AUG. 2-11**  
**Sturgis Motorcycle Rally**  
Sturgis, SD  
[www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com](http://www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com)

**JULY 26-28**  
**Bruce Honey Days**  
5k walk/run, parade, cookouts, craft show, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, street dance and more.  
Jay Street  
Bruce, SD  
605-627-5671

**JULY 31 - AUG. 3**  
**Pipestone County Fair**  
Pipestone, MN

**AUG. 3**  
**Prairie Fest**  
Armour, SD

**AUG. 2-4**  
**Arlington Days**  
Arlington, SD  
605-690-5717  
Follow Arlington Days, South Dakota on Facebook & Instagram

**AUG. 3**  
**Bloomin' Quilt Party**  
12-5 p.m.  
Bennett Barn  
Aurora, SD  
605-690-3246

**AUG. 7**  
**Ag Appreciation Day**  
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds  
Sioux Falls, SD

**AUG. 10**  
**Perseid Meteor Shower**  
Palisades State Park  
Garretson, SD

**AUG. 10**  
**Camaro Fun Days**  
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Pioneer Park  
Brookings, SD

**AUG. 18**  
**Arlington Car Show**  
Arlington, SD  
605-203-0728

**AUG. 20-22**  
**Dakotafest**  
Mitchell, SD

**AUG. 22**  
**61st Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree**  
Prairie Village  
Madison, SD

**AUG. 24**  
**McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme Event Rodeo**  
4 p.m.  
Leo P. Flynn Memorial Arena  
Sioux Falls, SD  
Advanced tickets available at [www.mccrossan.org](http://www.mccrossan.org)

**AUG. 28 - SEPT. 2**  
**South Dakota State Fair**  
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
State Fairgrounds  
Huron, SD  
[www.SDStateFair.com](http://www.SDStateFair.com)

**SEPT. 8**  
**Homesteader Day**  
1-4 p.m.  
Beaver Creek Nature Area  
Valley Springs, SD

**SEPT. 14-15**  
**2024 Kuchen & Harvest Festival**  
Delmont, SD

**SEPT. 17**  
**EV Expo**  
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds  
Sioux Falls, SD

**OCT. 17 ~~Cancelled~~**  
**Co-op Month Celebration**  
Cherry Rock Farms  
Brandon, 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.

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