

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Let's Go Fly a Kite

**Brookings Kite Festival
Creates Excitement**
Pages 8-9

Cooperative Metering
Pages 12-13

Photo Credit: Visit Brookings

Serving Our Members. Always. Annual Meeting Brings in 1,700



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer

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com

Over 1,700 members and guests attended this year's Sioux Valley Energy Annual Meeting held on June 11. The meeting format was the same as last year, providing members with the option to attend closer to home with three different venue choices of Brandon, Volga, or Pipestone. Last year's meeting was the first time in the Co-op's history that we hosted the Annual Meeting in multiple locations. The reason for that change was to make it easier for members to attend the meeting as we have a very large service territory. It seemed to have worked because attendance increased both in 2023 and 2024.

One of the cooperative principles is democratic member control and because Sioux Valley Energy is a cooperative, that value is embedded into our bylaws. Your Cooperative bylaws require District Meetings to elect directors and an Annual Meeting to hold a business session where bylaws are adopted and/or changed when needed. We did not have any proposed bylaw additions or changes, but our directors provided reports to the membership.

This year's Annual Meeting theme centered around teamwork. The Sioux Valley Energy mission of Serving Our Members. Always., includes providing reliable, cost-based electricity to our membership.

We strive to be in the top quartile of reliability nationwide, and we've been able to accomplish that because of teamwork between the Board of Directors, Strategic Leadership Team, and employees. The Cooperative's Board of Directors recognizes the importance of investing in the electric system, approving an aggressive 125-mile a year replacement plan. Employees have worked together to step up to that challenge as it takes a significant amount of planning and strategy to accomplish that amount of work each year. The average outage time for our members is less than half of what it is nationwide. That's a testament to the teamwork we strive for each day.

Locally, we are doing all we can to balance

that top quartile reliability with member service excellence and affordable rates. We see it as a three-legged stool that has to balance. At the meeting I addressed an emerging issue that may put that balance at risk, and it's an issue that I discussed in my last Manager's Column – the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new power plant rule.

As a reminder, the EPA recently adopted a rule that aims to aggressively cut carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. Now don't get me wrong, we all want clean air and water. But the rules that were adopted propose a timeline that is not feasible, because it requires such drastic cuts in emissions in a very short period of time. So that means our power generators, like Basin Electric, will need to make the decision to either shut down existing fossil-fuel plants that still have a lot of life left in them or adopt an expensive unproven technology that is not yet widely commercially available. Either way — it means additional costs for you, the member. We plan to continue working with our co-op partners to find solutions to this issue.

At the meeting we also introduced three employees who have served the membership collectively for 80 years – Jeff Huebner, Ryan Hyland, and Dave Jensen. Thanks to them for their many years of service!

We also introduced a new class of EmPOWER students and congratulated EmPOWER students who received a scholarship this year. You can find their names and photos on Page 15.

Members who attended the Annual Meeting and have an email in our system should have received a survey. Your response allows us to gather your feedback and make adjustments and/or improvements for future years.

Before I close, I do want to mention that we have had a lot of public contacts (people hitting electric equipment) lately. It is not only an inconvenience for those that are left in the dark after an outage, but it can be very dangerous. PLEASE Take the Time, Every Time, to look up for overhead power lines and call 811 before you dig.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Sioux Valley Energy, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017. Families subscribe to *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections* as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections* is to provide reliable, helpful information to Sioux Valley Energy members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

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- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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

TAKE THE TIME. EVERY TIME.

Dangerous Consequences to Hitting Electrical Equipment

Public contacts (people hitting electrical equipment) caused over 134 hours of power outages for Sioux Valley Energy members during the month of May. The public contacts range from farmers hitting poles and transformers with equipment to contractors digging into underground power lines.

"There can be dangerous consequences to hitting electrical equipment. We have to *Take the Time; Every Time*. Meaning, we have to take the time to know where overhead electrical lines and transformers are and take the time to call 811 before we dig. Those things need to happen every single time we move equipment or plan to dig," said Sioux Valley Energy Safety Manager, Terry Ebright.

The electric system is designed and built to be safe and efficient, providing power to homes and businesses, but when contact is made by a member of the public, it can be dangerous. Ebright says people should know what to do if they do hit a piece of electrical equipment.

"If you hit an electric line, you always need to assume it's still energized. Stay put unless the vehicle is on fire and call 911. If you have to get out of your vehicle because of a fire, tuck your arms across your body and jump with your feet together as far as possible from the equipment so no part of your body touches the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Move away from the vehicle with your feet together, either by hopping or shuffling, until you are at least 40 feet away."

Sioux Valley Energy reminds homeowners, farmers, and contractors to *Take the Time; Every Time* to ensure safe working conditions around electrical facilities.



Fireworks Safety

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades and fireworks. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, and not to use any fireworks at home. They may be legal but they are not safe.

Every year, thousands of people are injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents, with many of the injuries to children and young adults. While the majority of these incidents are due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, home-made or other illegal fireworks or explosives, less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers can also cause significant injury.

Additionally, fireworks start an average of 19,000 fires each year.

Fireworks Safety Tips: If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks

If consumer fireworks are legal to buy where you live and you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands
- Never light them indoors
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks

Better yet, grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, kick back and let the experts handle the fireworks show.

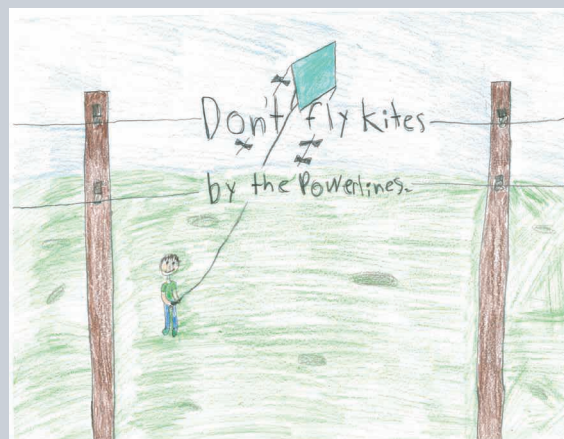
Sparklers Are Dangerous

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think.

Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. For children under five years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.

Consider using safer alternatives, such as glow sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.

Source: National Safety Council



**"Let's Go Fly a Kite Up to
the Highest Heights."**

Eldon Femrite, Age 12

Eldon Femrite warns readers to not fly kites by power lines this summer. Eldon's parents are Jody and Rosemary Femrite, members of Codington-Clark Electric.

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.

DELICIOUS Desserts

NO CHURN ICE CREAM

Ingredients:

2 cups heavy cream
14 oz. sweetened condensed milk
Other mix-ins as desired

Method

In a mixing bowl, whip heavy cream until stiff peaks form.

Mix in sweetened condensed milk and any flavors/mix-ins you like (strawberries, Oreos, lemon, vanilla extract, etc.).

Pour into loaf pan and freeze until solid (2+ hours).

Kayla Beaner
Centerville, S.D.

CINNAMON PECAN PIE

Ingredients:

1 refrigerated pie crust, (from 14.1-oz. pkg.)
3 eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
1 cup light corn syrup
2 tbsps. butter, melted
1 tbsp. cinnamon extract
1 1/2 cups pecan pieces

Method

Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare pie crust as directed on package for one-crust pie using 9-inch pie plate.

Mix eggs, sugar, corn syrup, butter and cinnamon flavor in large bowl until well blended. Stir in pecans.

Pour into crust. Bake 50 to 55 minutes or until knife inserted halfway between center and edge comes out clean. Cool completely on wire rack.

McCormick.com

RHUBARB PIE

Ingredients:

Crust

1-2 cups flour
1/2 stick butter or margarine
1/4 cup water

Pie

3 tbsps. butter or margarine
1 cup sugar
3 eggs, separated
2 tbsps. flour
1/2 tsp. salt
2 1/2 cups cut rhubarb
Smucker's caramel sundae syrup

Method

Crust: Add ingredients and knead to complete pie crust. Amounts will vary due to humidity. Knead dough into pie pan and poke holes into the bottom as needed. You may make creative edges as you wish, however it is not necessary.

Pie: Soften butter or margarine and stir together with the sugar, egg yolks, flour, and salt. Beat egg whites until stiff. Add rhubarb and fold in the egg whites. Add the filling to the 8-inch, unbaked pie crust. You may add a drizzle of Smucker's sundae syrup for additional flavoring before baking. Bake in oven set at 400 until golden brown. You may also add more caramel syrup to pie after baking for ultimate effect.

Lisa Kummer Soukup
Tea, S.D.

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.

The Power of Smart Home Tech

Column written by: Anne Prince



Sheila Gross
Energy Services
Specialist

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



Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 local electric cooperatives which power 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.

Smart home technologies are transforming how we live, making our homes more comfortable, convenient, and energy efficient than ever before.

Smart home technologies are devices that communicate with each other to automate everyday tasks and functions around the home, like heating and cooling, lighting and security. In addition to convenience, smart technologies enable consumers to manage and monitor their energy consumption through device scheduling and control.

With just a tap on your phone or a voice command to your virtual assistant (like Alexa or Siri), you can conveniently control many aspects of your home environment. If you're new to the smart tech world, there are several cost-effective devices you can try as you explore ways to make your home smarter.

One of the best and most inexpensive places to start is with a smart bulb or plug. Smart LED bulbs allow you to control home lighting remotely through a smartphone app or voice commands. You can set schedules to automatically turn lights off or on, which can help you save energy and boost home security.

Smart plugs are another inexpensive way to give electronics and small appliances the smart home treatment. Smart plugs allow you to set schedules and remotely control power to lamps, small appliances and electronics, minimizing standby energy consumption and maximizing convenience. For example, you can sync the timing of your bedside lamp, alarm, speakers, and coffee maker to turn on at the same time each morning.

If Alexa or Siri is already part of your household, you can build on your existing "tech ecosystem" by adding a smart hub, like Amazon Echo or Apple HomePod. Voice assistants that are synced to smart devices like bulbs and plugs provide additional options for device management and allow family members to interact with the various devices through voice control rather than individual apps.

Home heating and cooling account for a significant portion of energy use, so one of

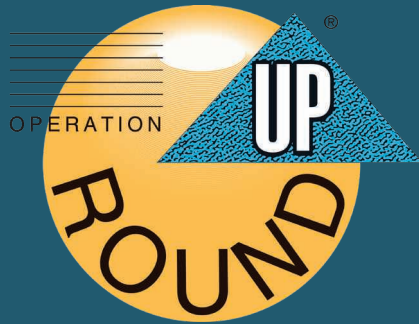
the best investments you can make in smart tech is a smart thermostat. While traditional programmable thermostats can be set to your schedule and preferences, a smart thermostat takes this one step further by learning and adjusting to your routine and building a schedule around it.

Smart security systems are popular options for homeowners looking for advanced security solutions that incorporate cameras, sensors, and cloud-based video recordings. As with other smart technologies, smart security systems provide convenient, flexible ways to monitor homes (and businesses), giving you peace of mind even when you're away.



If you're considering smart tech for your home, start by defining your goals. Is saving energy your top priority, or are you aiming to improve home security? Smart home technologies provide great convenience—but remember, they are internet-connected devices. That means you'll need a stable Wi-Fi connection to ensure devices are working properly, and you'll need strong passwords for your router and individual devices.

Whether you're looking to automate every aspect of your home or simply want to try a device or two, smart technologies have the power to transform your living space into a home where comfort and convenience reign supreme.



OPERATION ROUND UP GRANT:
CHILDREN'S HOME SHELTER
FOR FAMILY SAFETY

Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety (formerly Children's Inn) received an Operation Round Up grant in March to purchase rocking chairs for their facility. Children's Home Shelter for Safety provides emergency shelter, crisis intervention, counseling and support, outreach and advocacy, and prevention and education for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse to overcome trauma and rebuild their lives, free from abuse.



SIOUX EMPIRE FAIR

Join SVE at the Fair On August 7



Join Sioux Valley Energy and other Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives at the Sioux Empire Fair for Ag Appreciation Day on Wednesday, August 7!

The annual Ag Appreciation Day, hosted by the Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, will be held Wednesday, August 7, at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds.

A complimentary lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission to

the Sioux Empire Fair is free until 1 p.m. courtesy of Sioux Valley Energy and other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

SAVE THE DATE!

July 25 – AgPHD Field Day, Baltic, SD

Aug. 6-8 – Farmfest, Redwood County, MN

Aug. 7 – Ag Appreciation Day at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls

Aug. 20-22 – Dakotafest – Mitchell, SD

Sept. 17 – EV Expo at the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls

Oct. 17 – Co-op Month Celebration at Cherry Rock Farms, Brandon, SD

KITE FESTIVAL



Photo Credit: Visit Brookings

Let's Go Fly a Kite

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

The sky becomes more of an art canvas during the Brookings Kite Festival. For the last 25 years, kite fliers from across the country gather to let their art take flight at the festival.

One of those artists is Mike Gee of North Dakota.

"We go down there to Brookings and really like the kite flying field there. It's just nice to come down and fly kites with friends who also enjoy flying kites," Gee said.

Gee flies what's called "show kites", which are big, inflatable kites that can span 20 feet across the sky.

There are other kites flown during the festival, including soft kites, stick kites and sport kites.

A sport kite is one that is attached to two or four lines. Often they'll be flown in teams and perform maneuvers in the sky.

"If you talk about crazy kites, there's a wide variety. There are so many different creative people building things in creative ways," Gee said. "It is definitely an art. It's what you put on the canvas that makes it special."

The kites are typically made with nylon, sail making cloth that doesn't stretch.

"You can't just go to the fabric store and buy tent fabric. We have a couple different weights of fabrics we use. And you need that tail on there to keep the kite stable," Gee said.



Photo Credit: Brookings Kite Festival



Photo Credit: Brookings Register

Sally Damm Norby, of the Brookings Optimists Club, said the festival got its start when Lynn Versher, former director of the South Dakota Art Museum, approached Optimist member Bill Flynn about creating a joint effort to bring big kites to Brookings.

"This volunteer organization aims to make a positive impact on the lives of youth and communities. The Brookings club's primary focus is on advancing the opportunities and programs for youth events that are encouraging with exceptional supportive outcomes. The Brookings Optimist Kite Festival offers a comprehensive learning experience that incorporates expressions of culture, science, creativity, civic involvement, and is

environmentally friendly," Norby said.

Youth are encouraged to come down and learn how to make a kite of their own, with professional guidance.

Gee said he encourages visitors to come up to kite fliers to ask questions or strike up a conversation.

"One thing I really like about kite flying is it seems like no matter who you talk to on the field, someone can relate to an experience of flying a kite," Gee said. "When we start flying kites, it brings back memories of when other folks were kids flying kites. It's kind of emotional for some people."

This year's event will take place on June 22-23 at the Fishback Soccer Park in Brookings.

Gee said this location is a safe spot to fly kites, and well away from any electrical line hazards.

"If you've flown kites long enough, you have a story about power lines. When you hit a line, you call the power company, and they advise you of what to do. The best thing to do is avoid those wires. I always think, 'If my line breaks, which way is my kite going to go and what's over there,'" Gee said.

Gee encourages visitors to come down to the Brookings Kite Festival with their lawn chairs and blankets and stay for more than just a half hour.

"The thing is when the wind changes direction or speed, the kites change. There's just so much going on throughout the day. You've really got to sit back and pay attention," Gee said.



Photo Credit: Visit Brookings



Annual Meeting

Recap

Sioux Valley Energy members attended their Annual Meeting in three different locations this year. More than 1,700 people took part in the meeting at the various venues which included Brandon Valley High School in Brandon, Sioux Valley School in Volga, and Pipestone Area School in Pipestone.

Each location provided attending members a meal, bingo, and musical entertainment. The meeting was live-streamed from Brandon to the other locations. Members who were unable to attend could join via live-stream on the Cooperative's website.

Manager Tim McCarthy provided members an update on the recent Environmental Protection Agency rules and recognized three Sioux Valley Energy employees for their years of service (featured on Page 11).

Board President Gary Fish presided over the meeting, Secretary Don DeGreef confirmed the meeting quorum and mailing requirements and Treasurer, Dave Daniel, provided members with the 2023 financial report.

Manager McCarthy also announced the EmPOWER Youth Leadership scholarship recipients.





ABOVE: Bucket trucks formed an arch at meeting entrances. **OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP:** Employees Jeff Huebner and Dave Jensen were recognized on stage.



SAFETY ALWAYS!

Members young and old were able to pick up safety information at the meeting.

MEMBERS WIN! Gloria Olson of Arlington (left) was the winner of the grill at the Volga meeting location. Grills were also given away in Brandon and Pipestone.

REGISTERED!

Upon entering the meeting, members were able to register. Pictured are members at Pipestone (opposite page, middle), Brandon, (opposite page, bottom).



EMPLOYEES HONORED

At the Sioux Valley Energy Annual Meeting on June 11, three employees were recognized for reaching employment milestones:



JEFF HUEBNER 25 YEARS

Jeff began working full time for Sioux Valley Energy on June 16, 1999. Jeff is the SVE Warehouse Coordinator in the Brandon Service Center. He lives in Sioux Falls, SD, with his wife, Beth.

Jeff Huebner
Warehouse
Coordinator
25 years

DAVE JENSEN 25 YEARS

Dave began his venture at Sioux Valley Energy on April 26, 1999. Dave is a Mechanic at the SVE Colman Headquarters. He and his wife, Dawn, live in Madison, SD.



Dave Jensen
Mechanic
25 years



RYAN HYLAND 30 YEARS

Ryan started working full time at SVE on November 15, 1994, and is the Lead Journey Lineworker out of the SVE Colman Headquarters. He and his wife, Ann, live in Ramona, SD, with their three children.

Ryan Hyland
Lead Journey
Lineworker
30 years



**SIoux VALLEY
ENERGY** A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

SERVING OUR MEMBERS. *Always.*

COOPERATIVE METERING

Roger Lawien

More than 40 cooperative linemen and metering specialists gathered in Pierre for South Dakota Rural Electric's Meter School. This two-day gathering offers the opportunity to enhance skills, build a community of professionals, and learn the nuances of metering. As our need for more energy continues to grow, so does how we properly meter consumption.

Modern electric meters do much more than keep track of the electricity we consume. Correct electric metering is also essential for grid reliability and stability. Accurate measurements aid your cooperative in identifying and addressing issues such as voltage fluctuations or load imbalances promptly.

This proactive approach enhances the resilience of the electrical grid, reducing the likelihood of outages and ensuring a continuous and reliable power supply. At its core, accurate metering ensures fair and precise billing, preventing financial disputes and establishing trust between cooperatives and members.

From an economic standpoint, correct electric metering plays a pivotal role in resource allocation allowing member owned cooperatives to better understand consumption patterns, enabling them to optimize energy distribution and invest strategically in infrastructure development. This, in turn, leads to more efficient operations, cost savings, and improved overall service quality.

Precise metering supports energy conservation.

Members can sign into their account online, view consumption. Armed with accurate usage data they are empowered to make informed decisions about their energy consumption. This encourages responsible energy usage practices, reducing waste and lowering overall demand.

Metering guru and instructor John Pollard said it best. "These training schools are important. Metering is a craft handed down from generation to generation. With the advances of solid-state metering, these students are the supreme candidates to lead us into the future."

Your electric cooperative is your partner in getting it done!



2023 SDREA Meter School Instructors Photo by Roger Lawien

What is a Smart Meter?

A smart meter is a common term for Automated Metering Infrastructure, or AMI. These are connected devices that transmit information back to the electric utility's meter data management system and the information collected is used primarily for billing and outage response purposes. Smart meters started to be installed about 25 years ago. Individual utilities have different aged systems, but all electric cooperatives in South Dakota have two-way communication with every meter in the system.

What advantages do Smart Meters bring?

Before smart meters were installed, customers were required to read their own analog meter and report their monthly usage for billing purposes, or a utility employee would physically travel to every home, farm or business in their large service territories to read usage data. Smart Meters take the burden off customers and employees, saving time and money for all consumers. In some cases, the aggregated energy usage information from their home can be visible to the customer via the Internet or a phone application.

- Smart Meters can be used to pinpoint exact locations of power outages more quickly by transmitting an “out of power” notification, meaning a faster response time to outages.
- Smart Meters allow information to be shared with individual consumers about their energy usage – allowing them to find energy efficiency opportunities or potential problems in their home.
- Smart Meters improve electric service reliability and power quality. Information obtained from the automated meters often identifies problems that can be repaired before they cause an outage.
- Information can be used by engineers to more effectively and appropriately size lines and transformers, saving the cooperative and members money.

What information does a Smart Meter record?

Automated meters record an electronic kilowatt-hour (kWh) reading, the date and time of energy usage, the overall peak demand of the electric account, if the meter has been tampered with, and the number of times the meter has experienced a loss of power.

Security of information

Electric cooperatives do not sell or share consumer data. Cooperatives abide by all laws regarding the privacy, protection and disclosure of personal information. The meters and associated communications systems are equipped with security features to prevent unauthorized access.

Are there potential health impacts from a smart meter?

Research conducted by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), the Utilities Telecom Council (UTC) and other similar groups have shown no health impacts from automated meters. The radio frequencies emitted by digital meters are well below the maximum recommended in federal guidelines. A digital meter equipped to send and receive data has an RF density hundreds of times lower than the RF density of a cell phone, and the meters are installed on the outside of homes or buildings.

UTILITY SCAMS HEAT UP AS TEMPERATURES RISE

Sioux Valley Energy warns co-op members to be aware of potential electric utility scams this summer. Vice President of Human Resources and Member Services, Kimberlee Hansen, says scammers can strike any time of year but they seem to increase during months that have more extreme temperatures. “Unfortunately, these criminals play on people’s concern of having their air conditioner or heat turned off during the summer or winter months.”

Some of the common electric utility scams include a caller claiming to be an employee of Sioux Valley Energy. The caller will often demand immediate payment over the phone and threaten immediate disconnection of their power, which can be intimidating for unsuspecting victims. Don’t fall prey to a utility scam. Members should be aware of the following red flags to avoid becoming a victim:

A CALL DEMANDING IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OVER THE PHONE.

Sioux Valley Energy will never demand immediate payment over the phone. Members will have significant advance notice if their electric bill is past due. Never give your bank account or credit card information over the phone. If the caller asks you to pay with a pre-paid debit card or wire them money, **HANG UP IMMEDIATELY** and call Sioux Valley Energy directly at 877-511-8062.

A CALL ASKING FOR PERSONAL BANKING INFORMATION TO PROCESS A REFUND.

If you overpay on your electric bill, it will be posted as a credit for use on future electric bills. SVE will never call and ask for personal banking information to process a refund.

AN UNEXPECTED VISIT FROM SOMEONE IN AN UNMARKED VEHICLE.

Sioux Valley Energy’s vehicles that are used for operations or member services are all clearly marked. SVE employees will also have easily identifiable clothing with the Cooperative logo clearly displayed. One scam involves people going door to door claiming to be a “representative” of your electric utility selling products or services that are not associated with the Cooperative.

Hansen says if there is ever any doubt on the validity of a call or personal visit regarding your electric bill or other utility-related programs and services, members should contact Sioux Valley Energy directly, “Give us a call so we can verify that information for you. Scammers are criminals who can be very devious and convincing. We want our members to always error on the side of caution and call us directly to question anything that seems suspicious.”

For more information on consumer scams, visit the Federal Trade Commission Scam Alert website at: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts>.

SIGNS OF AN

ENERGY SCAM

High-Pressure Tactics

Scammers will pressure you, creating a sense of urgency. Claims that your power will be disconnected without immediate payment are common with utility scams.

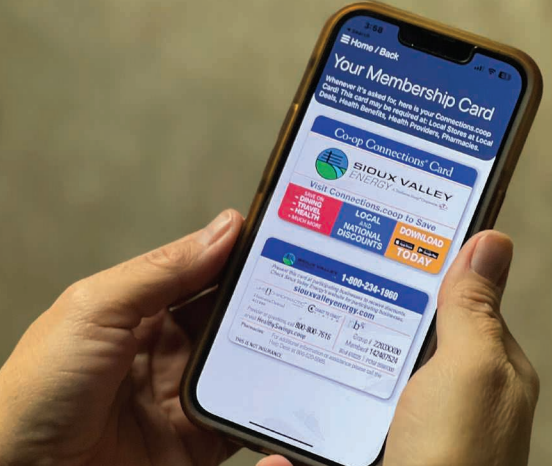
Sketchy Payment Methods

Scammers may ask for unusual payment methods like gift cards or cryptocurrency. In these cases, it’s likely a scam.

Dodgy Communication

Whether an email, text message or letter, utility scams typically include poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. These are common warning signs of a scam.





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 Luverne, Madison, Pipestone and Renner:

LUVERNE

Brandenburg Gallery
Busse Plumbing, Heating, & AC Inc
Country Cupboards of Luverne, Inc
Herb & Legend
Luverne Power Fitness
Luverne Monuments
Pizza Ranch
Rock County Eye Clinic
Salon 75
The Ideal Weigh, Inc
Those Blasted Things



SCAN ME

MADISON

Dairy Queen
Encore Family Store
EXIT Realty Advantage-Adam Foland
Leader Printing
Madison Chiropractic Center
Madison Family Dental, LLC
Madison Vision Clinic
Nicky's
Pizza Ranch
Prairie Village
The Shepherd Shop
We Care Dental

PIPESTONE

Bole-Mor Lanes Bar & Grill
Douglas J Vermeer O.D.
Dynamic Health Chiropractic, Ltd.
Geyermans Clothing Company
Luann's Gas and More

RENNER

Monarch Steak House and Lounge

Scan the QR code to access the Sioux Valley Energy website where you can download the Cooperative Connections Card app for mobile devices.

EmPOWER Scholarships Awarded

Fourteen members of the 2023-24 EmPOWER Youth Leadership program received scholarships totaling \$10,000 at the Annual Meeting June 11.

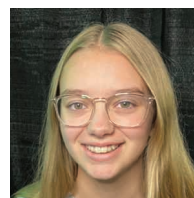
\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Kayla Bloemendaal
Luverne High School



Abby Boltjes
Luverne High School

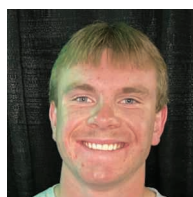


Mazzie Moore
Brandon Valley High School

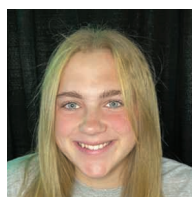


Naomi Wallace
Pipestone Area High School

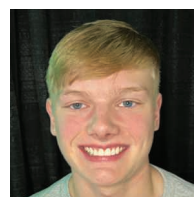
\$750 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Blake De Vries
Elkton High School



Emery Pearson
Tri-Valley High School

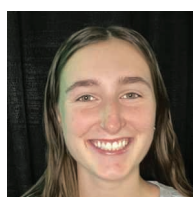


Carter Peterson
Brandon Valley High School

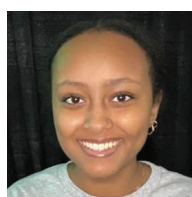


Kaylee Voelker
Colman-Egan High School

\$500 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



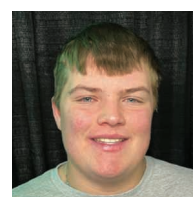
Brooklyn Benthin
Brookings High School



Hasset Fitsum
Brandon Valley High School



Presley Luze
Colman-Egan High School



Ryan Morse
Madison Central High School



Taylor Post
Pipestone Area High School



Elaina Rhodes
Colman-Egan High School



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. 24
2024 McCrossan Boys Ranch
Xtreme Event Rodeo
McCrossan Boys Ranch Campus
Sioux Falls, SD
605-339-1203

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.

JULY 6
Nature's Fireworks
9 p.m.
Palisades State Park
48422 256th St.
Garretson, SD

JULY 11
Rancher for Profit Workshop
Moody County Conservation District
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Colman Community Center
Colman, SD
To RSVP for free lunch, call 605-864-7917 or register online

JULY 11-13
National Plowing Contest
448 212th St.
Arlington, SD
facebook.com/usaplowing
605-201-1857

JULY 12
Monarch and Pollinators
4:30 p.m.
Palisades State Park
48422 256th St.
Garretson, SD

JULY 13
Brookings Summer Arts Festival
10 a.m.
Pioneer Park
Brookings, SD

JULY 13
Forever Simon & Garfunkel
Concert in Opera House
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

JULY 18-21
Pioneer Days
Parade, Chili Cookoff & Demo Derby
White, SD

JULY 20
Planes, Trains & Automobiles
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

JULY 26-28
Clear Lake Days
ClearLakeDays.com
Clear Lake, SD

JULY 27
Make Your Own Ice Cream
2 p.m.
Palisades State Park
48422 256th St.
Garretson, SD

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

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

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