



Sioux Valley Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

JUNE 2017 VOL. 18 NO. 2

Making Cheese

The Artisanal Way at Valley Side Farm

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New Executive Order Calls for Review of the Clean Power Plan



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/CEO

On March 28, President Trump took an important step to follow through on his campaign promise of reviewing burdensome federal regulations by signing an executive order that calls for administrative review of the Clean Power Plan.

The original goal of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan was to reduce carbon dioxide from power plants by imposing emissions limits on states

and requiring them to reduce emissions by as much as 48 percent starting incrementally in 2022, with full compliance by 2030. If implemented, the plan would have hit electric cooperatives extremely hard by forcing them to prematurely shut down existing power plants. Co-ops would in essence be charged twice for their electricity—once to continue paying down the loans on the closed power plants and again for the cost of purchasing replacement power.

Co-ops were so concerned about the economic impacts of the Clean Power Plan that they petitioned the courts to review and reject the regulation. The Supreme Court sided with co-ops and imposed a stay of the rule—essentially freezing its

implementation pending the outcome of the court case. Last September, the federal D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments for and against the Clean Power Plan but the judges have yet to release a ruling. The Supreme Court stay and the lack of a ruling from the D.C. Circuit Court created the Trump administration's opportunity to review the rule. The administration has asked the court to hold off on releasing a ruling to give the EPA an opportunity to review, rewrite or work to eliminate the rule altogether. The staff at Sioux Valley Energy and our board put the interests of you, our members, first when deciding how to best meet your energy needs. This new executive order allows co-ops to continue reducing their carbon footprint while keeping traditional energy resources in the mix. This is critical as co-ops work to preserve both the reliability and affordability of electricity.

Sioux Valley Energy supports renewable energy and we're committed to further diversifying our energy generation portfolio. As of 2016, wind and hydropower accounts for 32 percent of the generation mix in our wholesale power supply and that amount continues to rise.

The review of the Clean Power Plan will be a long process. The Trump administration will need to navigate the maze of administrative, regulatory and legal procedures necessary to review or rewrite the Clean Power Plan. In the meantime, Sioux Valley Energy will keep doing what we do best—delivering a member-focused energy future that empowers our members and your communities.

Available to SVE Members...

The Co-op Connections Card.

Local and national business discounts are available to you as a member of Sioux Valley Energy. Go to <http://www.connections.coop/> and click on co-op deals!





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The power of human connections

Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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EIGENBERG SELECTED AS “SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK”

Matthew Eigenberg, a student at Brandon Valley High School, has been chosen as a Touchstone Energy Cooperative ‘Scholar of the Week’. Matthew was recognized with a cash award by Sioux Valley Energy and was featured on the KSFY news for his accomplishments. He is the son of Kevin and Jackie Eigenberg of Brandon.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, like Sioux Valley Energy, and KSFY Television have joined together 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.

“Matthew is a top-notch student and is a quality individual. He was a very active participant in Sioux Valley’s EmPOWER Youth Leadership program and has numerous accomplishments both in and out of the classroom. He is a great example of what we need in our future leaders,” said Tim McCarthy, Sioux Valley Energy General Manager/CEO.

Michelle Stemwedel, counselor at Brandon Valley, says Matthew’s depth of character goes beyond his athletic and classroom successes.

“One of Matthew’s biggest strengths is his quiet confidence. I have always felt one highly important measure of a student’s success is how a student treats others. Seldom will you see Matthew act conceited. Instead, he has an ability to make people feel calm and valued, during and after conversations. Matthew exudes pleasant vibes in all his involvement with all types of people.”



Jennie Patrick presents Matt Eigenberg with a cash award.

Sanderson Gardens

Sanderson Gardens just east of Brookings, S.D. is gearing up for another bountiful and busy season. The Sioux Valley Energy member has been growing pick-your-own produce for years and owner, Jan Sanderson, says they are right in the middle of asparagus harvest. “We snap it off by hand so there is very little waste—you can eat it right to the bottom and man is it good!” Typically, asparagus season ends in May, but soon after strawberries begin ripening. Sanderson expects the berries to be ready around June 10th. For more information on daily picking conditions call 605-693-4871 or check out the Sanderson Gardens facebook page.



Know How You Can Stay Safe and Get Through Until Power Gets Restored to You

Severe storms are devastating to homes, properties and lives. These storms can also take down power lines – creating a dangerous situation for all of us, including the linemen and linewomen working hard to get your power turned back on.

How long it takes to get your power restored depends on the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages and when it becomes safe for utility personnel to get to the damaged areas. There are many steps in the assessment and restoration process – clearing downed power lines; ensuring public health and safety facilities are operational; checking power stations and transformers; repairing transmission lines, substations, and distribution lines; and getting power restored to customers within the various damaged areas.

Be sure to contact your electric utility immediately to report the outage.

Safe Electricity recommends taking the following safety precautions:

- Just because power lines are damaged does not mean they are dead. Every downed power line is potentially energized and dangerous until utility crews arrive on the scene to ensure

power has been cut off. Downed power lines, stray wires and debris in contact with them all have the potential to deliver a fatal shock. Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines.

- Never enter a flooded basement if electrical outlets are submerged. The water could be energized.
- Do not turn power off if you must stand in water to do so. Call your electric utility and have them turn off power at the meter.
- Before entering storm-damaged buildings, make sure electricity and gas are turned off.
- Do not use water-damaged electronics before properly restoring them. Electric motors in appliances should be cleaned and reconditioned before use. It may be necessary to replace some of your appliances and electronics. Have your water-damaged items inspected and approved by a professional before using them.
- If you clean-up outdoors after a storm, do not use electronic equipment in wet conditions.
- If you are driving and come along a downed power line, stay away and keep others away. Contact emergency personnel or your utility company to address the downed power line.
- If you do come in contact with a downed power line, do not leave the car. Wait for utility and emergency professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.

During an outage, Safe Electricity recommends turning off electrical appliances and unplugging major electronics, including computers and televisions. Power sometimes comes back in surges, which can damage electronics. Your circuits could overload when power returns if all your electronics are still plugged in and on. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes and then turn on other appliances and equipment – one at a time.

If you use a standby generator, it is critical that proper safety precautions be taken. Always read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions. There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances. Operate generators in well-ventilated, outdoor, dry areas. Never attach a temporary generator to a circuit breaker, fuse or outlet. Permanent generators should be wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch in order to prevent feeding electricity back into overhead lines, which can be deadly for linemen.

To help you get through, have a storm kit prepared. Keep the kit in a cool, dry place, and make sure all members of the family know where it is.

For information on when to save and when to throw out refrigerated food after a power outage, go to FoodSafety.gov.

Source: safeelectricity.org

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Call first or you might hit underground cable."



Seth Lippert, 9 years old

Seth is the son of Dean Lippert, Blomkest, Minn. He is a member of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, Danube, Minn.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Dairy Delicious



Blues Buster Smoothie

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 (6-oz.) container low-fat
blueberry-flavored yogurt | 2/3 cup fresh or frozen
blueberries |
| 1/2 cup apple juice | 3 to 4 ice cubes |

Combine all ingredients in a blender; blend until smooth and creamy.

Courtney Reedy, Tea

Easy Creamy Chicken Enchiladas

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 small chicken breasts or 2 large
chicken breasts | 1 (7 oz.) can chopped green
chilies |
| 2 (10.5 oz.) cans cream of chicken
soup | 1 small can sliced olives |
| 3/4 cup sour cream | 2 cups shredded or grated
Cheddar cheese |
| 1/3 cup milk | 1 pkg. flour tortillas |

Cook chicken breasts in crockpot until tender. Shred. Mix together cream of chicken soup, sour cream and milk; set aside. Prepare 9x13-inch pan. To the chicken, add chopped green chilies, olives and half of the soup mixture. Roll up chicken mixture in tortillas; 8 to 10 usually fit in a 9x13-inch pan. Spread remainder of soup mixture over all and top with Cheddar cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 35 to 40 minutes. If prepared in advance and refrigerated, bake for 50 to 55 minutes. Serve with sour cream and salsa, if desired.

Jane Ham, Rapid City

Coconut Cream Cheesecake Bars

- | | |
|---|--|
| 84 Nilla wafers, divided | 2 T. sugar |
| 6 T. butter, melted | 2 (3.4 oz) pkg. vanilla instant
pudding |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese,
softened | 2-1/2 cups cold milk |
| 1 (8 oz.) container Cool Whip,
thawed, divided | 1-1/2 cups coconut, toasted,
divided |

Reserve 24 wafers. Crush remaining wafers and then mix with butter. Press onto bottom of 9x13-inch pan. Refrigerate while preparing filling. Beat cream cheese and sugar with mixer until well blended. Whisk in 1 cup Cool Whip. Carefully spread over crust. Stand reserved wafers around edges. Beat pudding mix and milk with whisk in medium bowl for 2 minutes. Stir in 1 cup Cool Whip and 3/4 cup coconut; spread over cream cheese layer. Top with remaining Cool Whip and coconut. Refrigerate 5 hours.

Gail Lee, Brookings

No Bake Cookie Dough Ice Cream Sandwich

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter | 1-1/4 cups vanilla wafer crumbs
(about 35 vanilla wafers) |
| 1/3 cup butter, softened | 1 cup miniature chocolate chips |
| 2/3 cup confectioners' sugar | 4 cups vanilla ice cream, softened |
| 1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar | |
| 2 tsp. McCormick® Pure Vanilla Extract | |

Mix peanut butter and butter in large bowl until well blended. Add sugars and vanilla; stir until blended and smooth. Stir in vanilla wafer crumbs and chocolate chips. Line a 8-inch square pan with foil, with ends of foil extending over sides of pan. Press 1/2 of the dough into an even layer. Pat remaining dough on parchment or wax paper into 8-inch square. Gently spread ice cream over layer in pan. Flip 8-inch square layer onto top of ice cream. Peel back parchment paper. Cover with foil. Freeze 3 hours or until firm. Let stand at room temperature 2 to 3 minutes to allow ice cream to soften slightly. Cut into 16 bars. Wrap each in plastic wrap. Store in freezer.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 305, Total Fat 17g, Sodium 118mg, Cholesterol 21mg, Carbohydrates 33g, Dietary Fiber 2g, Protein 5g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Spam Hotdish

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 cups macaroni, cooked | 1 can cream of mushroom soup |
| 2-1/2 cups milk | 1/2 green pepper, diced |
| 1/4 cup butter, melted | 1 medium onion, diced |
| 1/2 cup bread crumbs | 1/4 lb. Velveeta, cubed |
| 4 eggs, well beaten | 1 can Spam, cubed |

Combine macaroni, milk, butter, bread crumbs, eggs and cream of mushroom soup. Add green pepper, onion, cheese and Spam. Pour into casserole dish. Bake at 350°F. for about 1 hour or until bubbly. If time is of the essence, casserole can be heated thoroughly in microwave before putting in the oven and then cut baking time in half.

Leann Fredrickson, Aberdeen

Crab Dip

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 (16 oz.) container sour cream | 1 bunch green onions, chopped |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese,
softened | 1 pkg. slivered almonds |
| 1 pkg. ranch dressing mix | 1 pkg. imitation crab, chopped |
| | 2 cups shredded cheese |

Mix together sour cream, cream cheese and ranch dressing mix. Add remaining ingredients. Chill. Serve with assorted chips or crackers.

Pam Hofer, Carpenter

Please send your favorite dessert, salad or garden produce recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2017. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Take Time for Safety This Spring Planting Season

Spring planting season is a busy time of year for farmers. Large equipment that strike overhead electric lines and fatigue from working long hours can result in serious injuries. Sioux Valley Energy wants to remind farmers that it only takes a second to make a mistake; a fraction of time that can change a life forever. Be aware of the location and height of electric lines. Use a spotter for moving large equipment and if there is concern about overhead clearance, call your electric provider.

If equipment becomes entangled in an electric line, stay in the cab and call for help. If someone tries to approach the equipment when in contact with an electric line, warn them to stay away.

This picture shows the dangers of equipment contacting power lines. Damage occurred to a Sioux Valley Energy member's tractor and sprayer equipment when the sprayer touched an overhead line. Thankfully, the farmer was not injured.



KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE



PoweringYourSafety.com



**SIOUX VALLEY
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2017 Annual Meeting

Serving our Members. Always.

Tuesday, June 6, 2017 ● Brandon Valley High School
301 S Splitrock Blvd, Brandon, SD 57005



Schedules of Events

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Complimentary Meal & Activities

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Bingo

5:30 p.m.

Baby Crawling & Diaper Decorating Contest

5:50 p.m.

SVE Royalty

6:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting

7:00 p.m.

SuFuDu Drumline

7:15 p.m.

Surfin' Safari Band

7:15 p.m.

Kids Pedal Pull

7:30 p.m.

CPR Workshop

8:00 p.m.

Self-Defense Workshop

Baby Crawling & Diaper Decorating Contest

Babies start your engines and crawl from one adult to another on a mat. There will also be a cutest diaper/costume contest.

Age groups: 5-9 Months and 10-13 Months
Prizes awarded for 1st place in crawling and diaper contest for each age group.

Sioux Valley Energy Royalty

Boys and girls are welcome to participate. Costumes not required but encouraged.

Age groups: 3-6 years and 7-10 years
Prince & Princess and King & Queen will be drawn from contestants.

Kids Pedal Pull (State Sanctioned)

Get your engines running and come join us in a friendly kids pedal pull.

Age groups: 4-11 years old, boys and girls
Prizes will be awarded to 1st and 2nd boys and girls in each age category.



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*Donate 3 non-perishable food items and receive a silicone serving spoon.

*Donate 5 non-perishable food items and also be put in a drawing for one of two - \$50 bill credits.

Valley Side Farm Makes Cheese an Artform

Jocelyn Romey

FRESH, NATURAL, ARTISAN CHEESE – IT CAN ONLY get better by being locally made. And, it is. Kris Swanson and her husband, Scott, own and operate Valley Side Farm Cheese, LLC in Crooks, S.D., a rural town north of Sioux Falls. The business began in 2012 on the Swanson's eighth-generation family farm, where an old barn built in 1899 serves as the identifying logo for the cheese.

Kris Swanson studied how to make artisan cheese in Vermont at the Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese (VIAC). From there, she took her knowledge and experience to start her own business. She notes she is the only artisan cheese maker in South Dakota. However, making this cheese by hand can be hard work and a time-consuming endeavor.

"It's more labor intensive than I bargained for," Swanson said. "I give a lot of credit to people who

make artisan cheese."

She carefully described the lengthy process of pasteurizing, culturing, cooking, cutting, weighing and pressing the cheese that was displayed in a refrigerated storage room. In all, the process of preparing the cheese took two to three days before it could be placed on the shelf.

Swanson said, "My favorite part in this process is seeing the finished product – the smell, the taste. When you cut into a wheel of cheese, it's so pretty. The satisfaction you get from making a product like that is so cool."

Swanson provides her local customers with a variety of Cheddar cheeses, mozzarella and even string cheese. Some of her current flavors include garlic, bacon, dill, red wine and beer.

Unlike other store-bought cheeses, Swanson's





University in Brookings where they conduct antibiotic testing on the milk before delivering it. While explaining this process, Swanson smiled and said, “Did you know, it takes 10 pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese.”

Inspired by her love of cheese, Swanson said, “I like trying new things.”

She wanted to try something new and something she loved doing. Now, she has steady business and returning customers who are mostly local. Swanson has also been providing tours of her shop

cheese is made with natural and fresh ingredients. Swanson does not use additives such as color or preservatives like many other providers.

“Most cheese is yellow because dye is put into it,” Swanson said. “People always say my cheese tastes so clean. That’s because no preservatives are in it.”

Swanson buys ingredients locally, including the milk, which she buys from South Dakota State

to interested groups such as the Red Hat Society, homeschoolers, FFA chapters, culinary classes and more.

Even though it’s a new business, maybe Swanson always had it in her to make cheese. While talking about her business, she smirked and said, “I was a dairy princess in high school.”

So, the former dairy princess from Cottonwood County in Minnesota is now South Dakota’s artisan cheese maker.

For more information on Valley Side Farm Cheese, visit their Facebook page @ValleySideFarm-Cheese. Swanson’s cheese can be found in select stores and restaurants in the Sioux Falls area.



Left: Rows of cheese wheels with varying flavors sit on shelves at the Valley Side Farm Cheese Shop, ready for customers.

Above: The iconic 1899 barn serves as the identifying logo for the Valley Side Farm Cheese brand of Crooks, S.D.

Top: Valley Side Farm Cheese owner Kris Swanson stands with her 300-gallon cheese vat that she ordered from the Netherlands.

Cover: Multiple cheese samples are produced and displayed at Valley Side Farm Cheese.

COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF KRIS SWANSON/VALLEY SIDE FARM CHEESE



Choose Renewable Energy for Your Home or Business

You can easily purchase renewable energy from your local electric cooperative, Sioux Valley Energy. Sioux Valley Energy has Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) available for purchase to offset your current usage with 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% renewable energy options. The price of the RECs will be added to your current electric bill.

The electricity you receive will still be the same reliable, affordable energy you have always received from Sioux Valley Energy but, by participating in this program, you will be supporting current and future renewable projects in our area.

Your home or business will be joining hundreds of other people from across the nation who are supporting renewable energy. By purchasing RECs, your business could add value to your products or services, promote future regional renewable projects and showcase your support for renewable energy sources.

FAQ's

What is a Renewable Energy Credit (REC)?

- 1 MWh (megawatt hour) produced by a renewable energy source equals 1 REC
- RECs are also called Green Tags
- RECs represent the valuable renewable attributes of wind energy

How much does it cost?

\$1 per MWh. The average SVE member uses 1,200 kWh a month. Participating in the REC program would add the following amount to your monthly bill:

100%	=	\$1.20
75%	=	\$0.90
50%	=	\$0.60
25%	=	\$0.30

Do I need to purchase any special equipment?

No. Sioux Valley Energy will continue to fulfill all your electric needs and you can enjoy the benefits of renewable energy.

Where do the RECs come from?

The RECs come from several wind farms in the region that supply renewable energy to Sioux Valley Energy. These include, but are not limited to:

- North Dakota: PrairieWinds 1, Wilton 1 & 2, Baldwin Wind Project and Minot Wind Project
- South Dakota: Crow Lake Wind, the Chamberlain turbines, Day County Wind Farm and South Dakota Wind Project



**SIOUX VALLEY
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EmPOWER Youth Leadership Life Beyond High School

By students of EmPOWER: Garrett Satterly, Morgan Johnson, Madison Lee, Danielle Spencer, and EmPOWER Coordinator, Jennie Patrick

EmPOWER session four brings a bittersweet moment with it. As we look back at our first day and not knowing exactly what you got yourself into and then all of a sudden it is the last session and you want more. You want more time to learn, develop, explore, and reflect. "Sad to say the year is over but I know great things have to end for better things to come," Garrett Satterly of Colman shared.

Our last session started off with Sioux Valley Energy employees flipping a warm, hearty breakfast of pancakes for the students. With all the excitement and energy of high school students we took on our first mixer of standing on a tarp and having to flip it over without anyone getting off of it. It taught us that we need to work together and that if we aren't all on the same page it's hard to accomplish a task.

The first speaker, Lifestyle Strategist, Elizabeth Hagen, spoke to students about being organized and gave tips on public speaking. "Elizabeth talked about different perspectives we can use in life to overcome our fears and enjoy life," quoted Madison Lee of Brandon.

Next, Amber Schmidt and Jack Thompson of DSU joined us to discuss college. "There were many questions asked from how do I find scholarships to what happens if I don't like my roommate. As a junior in high school, this was good to know before my senior year starts to get crazy," recalled Morgan Johnson of Madison.

In the afternoon the group started off with the Sioux Valley Energy linemen performing a safety demonstration using a high voltage trailer to show potential hazards that could occur in everyday life. "We learned about power line safety and saw trained linemen electrocute fruit, they then walked around and showed us what can happen if someone is not careful around power lines," explained Morgan.

Part of EmPOWER is letting the students decide what they want to learn about. The students

helped select five mini-session topics and were able to attend three. The five topics were: eating etiquette, how to tie a tie and dress attire, photography 101, car care 101, and StrengthsFinder follow up from last session. "During the eating etiquette session we learned how to set a table and believe it or not how to eat bread the right way," pointed out Danielle Spencer of Brandon. Morgan explains two of the sessions she participated in, "In the tying ties and women attire, they showed us how to tie a tie, the difference in collars and what to wear to an interview versus what not to wear. I also attended taking photos 101. In this session, we learned many things including the importance of angles, photo placement and what to use as a background." Car care 101 included basics such as checking tire pressure, how to change a tire, looking at your fluids, and how to jumpstart a vehicle. "I have really

found joy in StrengthsFinder and really listen to what it has to say about me. Whenever I'm somewhere I think, I don't really want to go meet that person because what if they don't like me. I think to myself, you have the 'WOO' strength and want to meet new people. That strength has given me the best social stability in my life," exclaimed Garrett. The day concluded with an easter egg hunt where the students needed to recall all seven cooperative principles.

"Whether it was using teamwork to try to solve a problem such as flipping a tarp we were standing on without touching the ground, working together to solve puzzles inside of easter eggs, or gaining knowledge about college and other life skills, I know I will miss every part of this program including the people I have met and the many opportunities that helped me become more confident, considerate, and cooperative," reflected Madison Lee of Brandon.



Above: Linemen Mike Oines and Ryan Hyland demonstrate safety.



Who Will Answer The Call?

Approximately 1 percent of all South Dakotans volunteer on their local fire departments.

Brenda Kleinjan

WHEN THE SIRENS BLARE IN SMALL TOWNS AND rural areas across South Dakota and western Minnesota, those responding to the emergencies are often volunteers.

“Volunteer fire departments serve a vital role to us here in South Dakota. Often times they are the only ones available to meet public safety needs in rural areas of the state,” said South Dakota Fire Marshal Paul Merriman.

In South Dakota, a majority of the state’s 8,500 firefighters are volunteers. According to statistics avail-

able from Merriman’s office, only five of the state’s 337 fire departments are career paid departments, employing 443 firefighters. The remaining 332 departments are staffed by volunteers (seven departments have a combination of paid and volunteer firefighters).

But, when an emergency arises, it doesn’t distinguish whether the people responding are volunteers or paid professionals.

“To become a certified volunteer firefighter in the state, a recruit has to undergo approximately 150 hours of instruction and hands-on training. Training



requirements have greatly increased over time out of necessity. Volunteer fire departments serve the community by responding to a wide variety of situations, from emergencies that immediately threaten life or property, to routine citizen requests for information and assistance,” Merriman said.

“Fire department staffing and firefighter recruitment and retention issues continue to present big challenges to volunteer fire departments. Time demands, increasing call volume, changes in the ‘nature of the business’ of firefighting, aging communities and other factors have contributed to reductions in the number of men and women joining and remaining in the volunteer fire service. The demand or need for volunteers continues to increase as the list of their duties continues to grow,” Merriman said.

In early June, firefighters from across the state will gather at Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D., for the State Fire School. While there, they will train in nearly 30 different areas.

There will be courses one expects: live fire training, firefighter survival, structure live burn and structural firefighting essentials. And there will be courses related to department operations such as junior firefighter programs, honor guards, grant writing, small engine maintenance and fire investigation.

And then there are the courses that cover the gamut of emergencies a fire department might encounter: mass triage, responding to an active shooter event, auto extrication, bus extrication, trench rescue, water rescue, grain bin rescue, hazardous materials awareness and the list goes on.

But, a firefighter’s training doesn’t stop at the conclusion of the State Fire School.

“Training requirements over and above the certified firefighter endorsement are established locally and vary from department to department, depending upon the type of incidents they typically respond to,” Merriman said.

In addition to training, fire department funding and fire department staffing (recruitment and retention) are some of the biggest challenges faced by volunteer fire departments across the state and the U.S., Merriman said.

“Becoming a volunteer firefighter takes a tremendous amount of time, and is a very demanding and sometimes dangerous job. The personal satisfaction that comes from helping others is the No. 1 reason people give why they choose to serve in the fire service. Being a volunteer is a rewarding experience and one of the best ways you can make a difference in your community. The skills and experience gained as a volunteer firefighter are invaluable and can have a positive and lasting effect on your life and the lives of those around you,” Merriman said.

“We take firefighters and local fire departments for granted. Until we need them, we don’t realize how important they are. No matter how big your community department is, support them. Show them that they matter.”

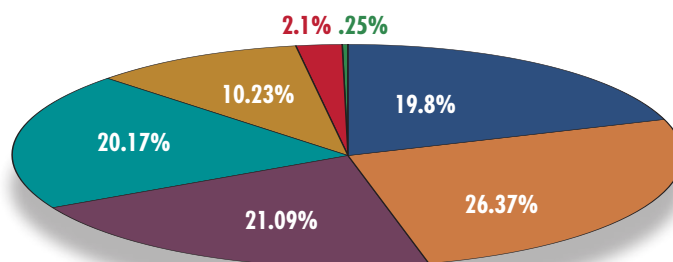
For information on becoming a volunteer firefighter, contact your local fire department.

Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison, S.D., assisted the Lemmon, S.D., Volunteer Fire Department with a training scenario involving a car and a power pole. Throughout South Dakota, more than 8,000 people serve on one of the state’s 332 volunteer fire departments.

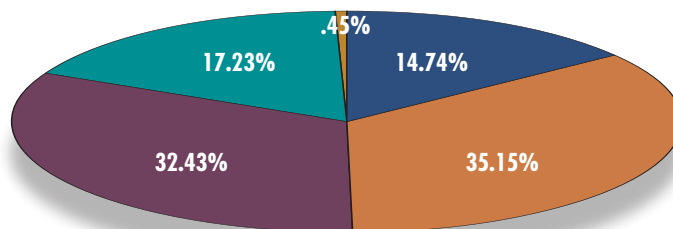
PHOTO COURTESY GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

S.D. FIREFIGHTER AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

S.D. Volunteer Fire Departments



Paid Fire Departments



■ Under 29 ■ 30-39 ■ 40-49 ■ 50-59 ■ 60-69 ■ 70-79 ■ 80-plus

Statistics as of July 1, 2016. Information on age demographics as reported by fire departments to the South Dakota Fire Marshal’s office. The average age of a South Dakota volunteer firefighter is 42.48 years old compared to 39.73 for a paid firefighter.

Source: https://dps.sd.gov/emergency_services/state_fire_marshall/images/age_of_firefighters_2016.pdf

DID YOU KNOW?

- As of July 1, 2016, there were 8,560 firefighters at South Dakota’s 337 fire departments.
 - When compared to the state’s size of 77,121 square miles, this equates to one firefighter per nine square miles. (On average, each fire department covers 228 square miles.)
 - Of South Dakota’s state population* of 865,454, less than 1 percent of all South Dakotans are a firefighter.
 - Minnesota has 20,921 firefighters at 757 active fire departments, the majority of which are volunteer or paid on-call departments.
 - When compared to the state’s size of 86,943 square miles, this equates to about one firefighter per four square miles. (On average, each department covers 115 square miles.)
 - Of Minnesota’s state population* of 5,519,952 people, less than 0.3 percent of all Minnesotans are a firefighter.
- (*Based on the U.S. Census Estimate for July 1, 2016)

Youth Tour Participants Selected to Represent Sioux Valley Energy

Students from across South Dakota and Minnesota will travel to Washington, D.C. in June to join nearly 1,700 other students from around the nation for the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The national Electric Cooperative Youth Tour celebrates its 54th anniversary this year.

Sioux Valley Energy selects its participants from the EmPOWER students. Three EmPOWER students were chosen this year: Madison Lee, Brandon Valley High School; Nathan Overgaard, Luverne High School; and Garrett Satterly, Colman – Egan School.

“These students will gain a first-hand understanding of the legislative process and make connections with others from across the country that will last a lifetime. Our youth

are our future, and we can give them the tools to succeed. We look forward to this year’s trip, and continuing the Youth Tour tradition for another 50 years,” said Jennie Patrick, Empower Youth Coordinator.

Students on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour will participate in leadership training, engage in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jumpstart their national peer network and tour Washington, D.C.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C. for the past 50 years. Nearly 50,000 students have participated in this program. For more information, visit www.youthtour.coop.



Jennie Patrick, Empower Youth Coordinator informs Youth Tour participants they were selected to represent Sioux Valley Energy in Washington D.C.

Left: Madison Lee (Brandon Valley Hight School) is the daughter of Douglas and Jan Lee.



Top Right: Garrett Satterly (Colman-Egan High School) is the son of Gretchen and Mike Wendell.



Bottom Right: Nathan Overgaard (Luverne High School) is the son of Chad and Carrie Overgaard.

May Day Storm Knocks Out Power

An unusual spring snow storm knocked out power to more than 3,000 Sioux Valley Energy members, primarily in Minnehaha County.

Lineworkers began storm restoration work at 3:30 a.m. on Monday, May 1. Heavy snow on the lines, coupled with wind caused damaged to electrical facilities. At the height of the storm there were 199 individual outages--dozens of wire breaks, approximately 50-75 broken cross arms and 30 broken poles.

Sioux Valley Energy brought in 18 extra lineworkers to help. Assisting lineworkers came from HD Electric, Kingsbury Electric, Central Electric and Legacy Power Line.

All power was restored around 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2. Sioux Valley Energy employees took over 1,400 calls during the outages.



Photo credit: Jennie Patrick



Photo credit: Matt Sievert



Photo credit: Regina Dostal-Lebeda

Regional Dateline

June 2-4

Buffalo Days

Friday: Cruise-In from 6 to 10:30 p.m., Main Street Downtown, Music by The Starfires

Saturday Arts in the Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Luverne City Park, Parade 10 a.m. Main Street

Sunday: Tales from the Graves, 1 to 4 p.m. Maplewood Cemetery Luverne, MN, Contact the Luverne Area Chamber at 507-283-4061

www.luvernechamber.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF NAJA SHRINE CIRCUS

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.

Events of Special Note

June 4

Miss Prairie Village and Miss Prairie Princess Pageant, Prairie Village Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

July 1

Naja Shrine Circus Deadwood, SD, 605-342-3402

June 5

21st Annual "Bishop's Charity Fishing Tournament" for Seminarian Education at Lakeside Park Big Stone City, SD 605-988-3765

June 9

Northern Bull Riding Tour Prairie Village Madison, SD, 605-256-3644 www.prairievillage.org

June 12

21st Annual "Bishop's Charity Fishing Tournament" for Seminarian Education at West Whitlock, Lake Oahe, SD 605-988-3765

June 13

Ag Women's Day 8 a.m. Registration 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. First Lutheran Church Activity Center, Brookings, SD 605-692-8003, Ext. 2

June 15-18

Hartford Jamboree Days Hartford, SD, 605-848-9828 www.hartfordsdchamber.org

June 21

McCrossan Golf Classic for Kids and Appreciation BBQ Elmwood Golf Course Noon shotgun start Appreciation BBQ at the Ranch Sioux Falls, SD, 605-339-1203 www.mccrossan.org

June 24-25

Dakota Royal Charity Draft Horse Show, 1 p.m. Swiftel Center, \$10 Adults \$5 Youth, Free 5 and under Handicapped accessible Brookings, SD www.facebook.com/dakotaroyaldraftshow/

June 25

Variety Show, Prairie Village Madison, SD, 605-256-3644 www.prairievillage.org

July 1

Holy Rocka Rollaz Concert Prairie Village, Madison, SD 605-256-3644 www.prairievillage.org

July 1-2

Railroad Days, Prairie Village Madison, SD, 605-256-3644 www.prairievillage.org

July 29

Sherwin and Pam Linton and the Cotton Kings Concert Prairie Village, Madison, SD 605-256-3644 www.prairievillage.org

July 29-30

Honey Days, Erik Apland/Shawn Cable concert, car show, street dance, volleyball tournament, pancake feed Bruce, SD, 605-627-5671 Find us on Facebook

August 5

Belgian-American Days Ghent Cruisers 11th Annual Car Show Open to cars, trucks motorcycles and tractors Registration: 9 to 11 a.m. Car Show: 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Awards: 3 p.m., Held in conjunction with Belgian-American Days on shady West McQuestion Street Ghent, MN, Contact Joette at 507-428-3504 www.ghentcruisersmn.com

August 6

24th Annual Madison Car Show, Prairie Village Madison, SD, 605-256-3644 www.prairievillage.org

August 19

Hillbilly Junker Jamboree #3 Flea Market, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Community Center, Inside and Outside, Live Music 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Crooks, SD 605-360-0861