



Sioux Valley Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

AUGUST 2015 VOL. 16 NO. 4



CO-OPS PREPARE FOR 75TH STURGIS RALLY

Summer Line Construction Major Projects Help Maintain Reliability



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/CEO

Summer is a busy time for Sioux Valley Energy. We work hard to get as much line construction done as we can during the nice weather. One of the initiatives that we have spent a great deal of time planning for is the replacement of our overhead line system. More than 2,000 miles of our overhead line is between 50 and 70 years old. We have put in place a balanced replacement strategy that takes into account reliability and member rates. If

we were to replace it all today with new overhead line, the cost would likely exceed \$150-million. If we were to replace it with underground line, it would be two to three times that! Throughout the year we plan to replace 100 miles of line (both underground and overhead). In fact, the capital budget for this year for plant additions and replacements is just under \$15-million. It's an aggressive work plan, but necessary to maintain high reliability.

As I mentioned, this is a busy season for us so if you see our crews out working; please be cautious--slow down in marked work zones. We want to keep everyone safe this summer. Here are a few highlights of some of this summer's projects that are taking place. These projects will help increase reliability and capacity so our members have the electricity they need, when they need it:

Trent Project:

We are replacing 4 miles of old single phase overhead line with new single phase overhead line East of the town of Trent. The old conductor was undersized and was causing severe voltage drop issues. The new construction will improve voltage levels and help when the Trent substation load needs to be transferred to an adjacent substation.

Trosky Project:

Between Trosky and Edgerton we are replacing 5.7 miles of three phase underground cable that ran diagonally across fields. The new overhead wire will run 4 miles along a road and will be much more accessible in case there is an issue with the line. Running cable diagonally across fields was a normal practice in the past, as it was the shortest route. Installing the overhead wire along a road will shorten our response times if there is a problem.

Hardwick Project:

We are converting 4.5 miles of single phase underground cable to three phase overhead wire between Hardwick and Kenneth. There is a three phase irrigation service that is fed from three single phase lines, coming from three different directions. This is not a recommended practice and needed to be corrected by installing the new three phase overhead wire. The new line will eventually also serve as a back feed for the town of Kenneth, which Sioux Valley will serve once the Alliant acquisition is complete. This project will exceed \$400,000 and is one of our largest projects this summer.

Sunnyview Project:

North of Brookings we are converting 4 miles of old single phase overhead line and a half mile of old three phase overhead line to new three phase overhead line. This project will strengthen the ties between the Sunnyview and Bruce substations, and between the Sunnyview and Astoria substations. With the addition of many loads on the Bruce substation, this project will help during situations where the Bruce substation is down.

EROS/Lyons Project:

We are replacing 3 miles of aging overhead line with 4 miles of new overhead line. The existing line runs cross country through an area North of Renner that frequently floods and is completely inaccessible. The new line will be constructed along an oil road to improve accessibility and decrease outage times. This line is also a main feeder tie between the EROS and Lyons substations, and the new wire will provide increased capacity and better voltage drop performance.

We have several other projects underway but these are just a few of the highlights! Again, please watch out for our crews when they are out working. We want our members and employees to be safe. Enjoy this summer heat because it's gone pretty quickly here in South Dakota and Minnesota.



SIoux VALLEY
ENERGY

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative
The power of human connections

Cooperative Connections

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Sioux Valley Energy's headquarters, Colman, S.D.

Annual Ag Appreciation Day Sioux Empire Fair Wednesday, August 5, 2015



Where: Sioux Empire Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Admission: Free with complimentary ticket*

Complimentary Lunch: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sponsors: Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and area businesses

Contact: Sioux Valley Energy at 1-800-234-1960

**Members can request tickets by calling Sioux Valley Energy at 1-800-234-1960 or by stopping by one of the three service centers in Colman, Pipestone or Brandon.*

Take Steps to Avoid Injury or Death While Walking

We rarely are more vulnerable than when walking in urban areas, crossing busy streets and negotiating traffic. And we all are pedestrians from time to time, so it's important to pay attention to what is going on around us.

Cell Phone Distracted Walking

It has become such a big problem in recent years that Injury Facts® 2015, the statistical report on unintentional deaths and injuries published by the National Safety Council, for the first time has included statistics on cell phone distracted walking.

According to Injury Facts, distracted walking incidents involving cell phones accounted for more than 11,100 injuries between 2000 and 2011.

- 52 percent of cell phone distracted walking injuries happen at home
- 68 percent of those injured are women
- 54 percent are age 40 or younger
- Nearly 80 percent of the injuries were due to a fall.

The Vehicle Factor

While many communities are implementing measures to become more “walkable,” like adding more paths and traffic-calming measures, there still is a long way to go to keep pedestrians safe. Malls surrounded by parking lots, few sidewalks, blind intersections and high traffic areas all contribute to pedestrian fatalities and injuries.

According Injury Facts 2015:

- In 2013, 6,100 pedestrians were killed by motor vehicles
- That same year, about 160,000 pedestrian injuries required medical attention
- 23 percent of deaths and injuries result from pedestrians darting into the street, with the majority of those younger than age 15
- The number of pedestrian deaths has decreased significantly since the 1970s; during that decade, deaths were between 8,400 and 10,300
- During the decade from 2002 to 2013, death rates didn't change much; they hovered around 6,000, with a low of 5,300 in 2009

Head Up, Phone Down

While pedestrian-vehicle injuries are the fifth leading cause of death for children ages 5 to 19, according to SafeKids.org, no age group is immune. Here are a few tips from NHTSA and NSC for children and adults of all ages:

- Look left, right and left again before crossing the street; looking left a second time is necessary because a car can cover a lot of distance in a short amount of time
- Make eye contact with drivers of oncoming vehicles to make sure they see you
- Be aware of drivers even when you're in a crosswalk; vehicles have blind spots
- Don't wear headphones while walking
- Never use a cell phone or other electronic device while walking
- If your view is blocked, move to a place where you can see oncoming traffic
- Never rely on a car to stop
- Children younger than 10 should cross the street with an adult
- Only cross at designated crosswalks
- Wear bright and/or reflective clothing
- Walk in groups

Source: nsc.org

Always call 8-1-1 **BEFORE** you dig.

**Aug. 11 is
National One Call Day.**



Kids' Corner Safety Poster “Take a look when lifting up the bucket!”



Josie Mousel, 10 years old

Josie is the daughter of John and Jessie Mousel, Colman, S.D. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, S.D.

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

Succulent Salads



Cran-Chicken-Corn Salad

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 (13 oz.) can premium chicken breast, drained | 1/2 cup Vidalia onion salad dressing |
| 1 can whole kernel corn, drained | 1/2 cup chopped red onion |
| 2 T. Miracle Whip | 1/2 cup Craisins |

Mix together all ingredients and serve cold.

M.J. Knopp, Madison, MN

Strawberry Pecan Pretzel Salad

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 cup crushed pretzels | 1/2 cup granulated sugar |
| 1/2 cup pecans, chopped | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 3/4 cup brown sugar | 8 oz. whipped topping |
| 3/4 cup butter, melted | 2 cups fresh strawberries, diced |
| 8 oz. cream cheese, softened | |

Mix together pretzels, pecans, brown sugar and melted butter; spread in a pan. Bake at 400°F. for 7 minutes. Cool, then break into small pieces. Beat together cream cheese, sugar and vanilla. Fold in whipped topping. Before serving, stir the strawberries and pretzel/pecans pieces into the cream cheese mixture.

Lillian Schlechter, Scotland

Party Salad

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 (3 oz.) pkgs. lemon gelatin | 1 cup cream, whipped |
| 2 cans chicken rice soup | 1/2 cup nuts, chopped |
| 1 can tuna | 1 cup Miracle Whip |
| 2 cups chopped celery | |

Dissolve gelatin in hot soup; cool and refrigerate until partially set. Pour hot water over tuna in strainer; drain. Whip jello; fold in remaining ingredients. Prepare salad the day before so it sets well.

Zona Schanzenbach, Aberdeen

Garbage Salad

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 16 oz. dry pasta | 1 cup milk |
| 6 cups raw vegetables, any combination | 2 pkgs. dry Ranch salad dressing mix |
| 2 cups mayonnaise | |

Cook pasta, drain and cold rinse. Cut any combination of vegetables into a large bowl. Add pasta. In separate bowl, mix mayonnaise, milk and dry Ranch. Add dressing to pasta/vegetables. Option: Substitute 1 (16 oz.) bottle of Italian dressing for Ranch dressing.

Tina Suhr, Dimock

Southwestern Bean and Quinoa Salad With Cilantro-Lime Dressing

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 (15 oz.) can READ Southwestern Bean Salad | Dressing: |
| 1/2 cup red cherry tomatoes, halved | 1-1/2 T. canola oil |
| 1/2 cup yellow cherry tomatoes, halved | 1 T. fresh lime juice |
| 1/2 cup chopped tomatillos | 1/2 tsp. shredded lime peel |
| 1/2 cup thin bell pepper strips | 1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper (or to taste) |
| 2 cups cooked quinoa | 1/4 cup chopped cilantro |

Drain bean salad. Discard liquid or save for another use. In large bowl, combine bean salad, tomatoes, tomatillos and bell pepper. For dressing, whisk together oil, lime juice, peel and cayenne. Stir in cilantro. Toss with quinoa. Add to bean salad mixture; toss lightly to combine. Serve at room temperature or chilled. Makes 4 servings.

Nutritional information per serving: 250 calories; 10 g fat; 8 g protein; 35 g carbohydrate; 7 g dietary fiber; 0 mg cholesterol; 8.98 mg iron; 210 mg sodium; 0.12 mg thiamin; 781.13 IU vitamin A; 20.44 mg vitamin C

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Summer Bean Salad

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 (15 oz.) can green beans, drained | 1 cup sliced green pepper |
| 1 (15 oz.) can yellow beans, drained | 1 cup sliced yellow pepper |
| 1 (15 oz.) can kidney beans, rinsed and drained | 1 cup chopped celery |
| 1 (15 oz.) can black beans, rinsed and drained | 1 cup sliced black olives |
| 1 (8 oz.) bag frozen peas | |
| 1 cup sliced onion | Dressing: |
| | 1-1/2 cups white vinegar |
| | 3/4 cup sugar |
| | 1/4 cup oil |
| | 1 tsp. salt, optional |

In a large bowl, combine all vegetables. Stir together dressing ingredients, mixing well so sugar dissolves. Pour over vegetables. Refrigerate.

Jane Ham, Rapid City

Oreo Fluff Salad

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 box instant chocolate pudding | 1 (8 oz.) container Cool Whip |
| 2 cups cold milk | 1 pkg. Oreo cookies, crushed |

Prepare pudding with milk according to package directions. Refrigerate for 15 minutes. Fold in Cool Whip and Oreos. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Note: cheesecake or white chocolate pudding may also be used.

Jillian Nedved, Harrisburg

Please send your favorite garden produce, pasta and crockpot 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 2015. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Three Students “EmPOWERed” in Washington D.C.

Three students who took part in Sioux Valley Energy’s EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program traveled to Washington D.C. to take part in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. Kelsey Geraets, Chester Area School, Thea Richards, Hills-Beaver Creek High School and Shantelle Des Marais, Pipestone Area Schools all took part in the tour. Kelsey is the daughter of David and Katti Geraets; Thea is the daughter of Mark and Teri Richards and Shantelle is the daughter of CeCe Des Marais.

The girls joined 1,700 teens from across the country on the tour of the Nation’s Capitol. This year’s event consisted of in-depth touring of Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the Presidential Memorials, VIP seating at the USMC Sunset Parade, the Holocaust Museum, multiple Smithsonian museums and many others. The participants also had a full day devoted to Capitol Hill where they were able to meet with their congressional delegation, listen in on committee hearings and tour the United States Capitol building.

In addition to attending the tour, Shantelle Des Marais

was selected to represent Minnesota on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Des Marais was chosen from 41 students to represent Minnesota.



Youth Tour participants met with their congressional delegation. In this photo, Minnesota students pose with Senator Al Franken.

Excerpts from Youth Tour Essays



Pictured: Thea Richards (left) and Shantelle Des Marais (right)

Thea

Tim Walz, my district representative, met with a small part of our group out on the Senate building terrace. He shared a ton of advice with us, but the thing that stuck out to me the most was when he talked about my generation’s involvement in our political system. Contrary to popular belief, adults and baby boomers should not be the ones with the most political involvement. The fate of our country is being decided now, and the people who have to grow up and live in it should have the first say in deciding future policy. I left the terrace feeling like I mattered in this big world.

I am so very grateful to Sioux Valley Energy for providing me with this once in-a-lifetime opportunity, and for taking the time to reach out and enrich the lives of my generation. My idea of a co-op has changed from a lot of confusion to an image of people working together to reach a common goal, a goal that I now know I am contributing towards. Thank you for providing me with the skills necessary to reach my full potential, and for an experience I will never forget.

I remember CEO Tim McCarthy sharing this quote by Nelson Henderson with the EmPOWER group during one of our last sessions: “The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit”. I only wish Mr. McCarthy could have seen all the trees being planted during the Youth Tour!

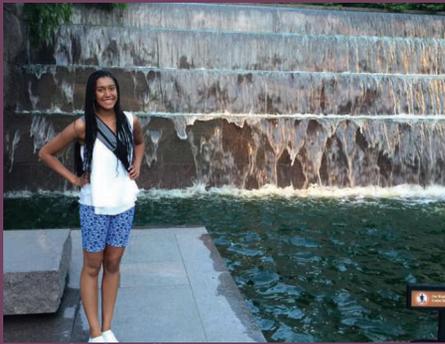
Over 1,700 kids representing 35 states congregated at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, D.C., to embark on an adventure lasting a short five days. I was fortunate enough to be selected by Sioux Valley Energy to represent the co-op and the great state of Minnesota, a privilege for which I am extremely grateful.

During my short five days in D.C., I established valuable relationships with like-minded youth, uncovered an interest in politics, and realized some important lessons.

Although I may be biased, I have to say that the group of kids representing Minnesota was the best group at Youth Tour. Everyone got along famously; by the time Youth Tour was over, I had developed a set of six-pack abs from constantly laughing so hard! It was no surprise we all got along so well; each one of us shared an ambitious spirit and go-getter attitude, attributes I can credit the EmPOWER program for providing me. The relationships I made in D.C. will last me a lifetime, and I can’t wait to see the places my peers will go in their careers.

Visiting D.C. made me realize the importance of politics for the next generation.

Shantelle



Pictured: Shantelle Des Marais

My recent trip to Washington D.C. was an amazing one. I created some wonderful memories with the other people I met there. Our tour group from Minnesota consisted of a great group of kids and chaperones.

We originally began to bond over our similarities, but what brought us really close was actually all of our differences. A sort of, Unity in Diversity. Before this summer I had only dreamed of the many sights, monuments and memorials in Washington D.C. It was a life changing experience to actually be there, in the heart of our nation's political affairs.

I felt more connected to both my own history and the history of our nation than ever before. The most powerful moment for me was when I stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, in the very same place where Martin Luther King Jr. had stood while giving his "I Have a Dream" speech.

It was an emotional moment as I thought about all of the Americans who had crowded around the nearby reflection pool, and those who sat at home in front of the TV listening to his words. And at that moment, I felt I was there with them.

And at that moment, I felt I was there with them.

I also loved meeting all of the other kids from the other states on the tour. The speakers at Youth Day were very passionate and really sent out a spark of energy to the audience. We were reminded that it is so important to stay positive and that if we put our minds to it we can accomplish anything.

I was privileged enough to have the opportunity to represent Sioux Valley Energy and the State of Minnesota by serving on the Youth Leadership Council. I will be traveling to D.C. again in a few short weeks and I couldn't be more excited. I am proud to represent the great State of Minnesota and the cooperatives that serve it.

We also got to visit the NRECA building and attend a brief seminar about cooperatives. I already felt very knowledgeable about cooperatives, thanks to the EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program. However, it was great to review things such as the Seven Cooperative Principles. I also felt confident in answering questions that the speaker presented.

Overall this trip was an amazing experience that has forever changed my life. I look forward to taking everything that I have learned, and using it to be the best version of me possible.

Thank you so much for providing me with this opportunity. This experience has truly EmPOWERed me!

"Leaders become great, not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others." - John Maxwell



Pictured: Kelsey Geraets

I would just like to start off by saying a big thank you to all that you do and all that you have done for me. You've completely changed my life and the way I look at it. Thank you for not only the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. but also the opportunity to be in the EmPOWER program. Both of these opportunities have not only been a whole bunch of fun, but have also opened my eyes to a whole other world. I will share with you some stuff that I enjoyed while I was in D.C.

Day 2: We had to get up early to travel the metro to the Hard Rock Café. This was my favorite breakfast of the whole trip! Then we headed just down the street to the Ford's theater where we took an audio tour. We went up to the actual theater and listened to a guy speak about what happened that night that changed history forever. It was really cool to actually be in the place Lincoln was shot and learn how it all went down.

After that we walked across the street to the Petersen House to see the bed that Lincoln died in. After this we walked to the Washington Monument to take a tour of it. So we waited our turn and took the elevator ride all the way to the top. The view from the top was breath taking and walked down to the next floor. After walking around and learning the history of the monument and we heard the elevator was broken...we would have to walk down 897 stairs, but we were all glad we did. On every floor was there was emblem from a state, and this was rarely seen by people. So that was a really cool thing to experience, it made it easier to make that long walk. Then it was time to eat and head to tour U.S. Archives. Here we saw all the important U.S. documents and then it was off to the Kennedy Center. At the Kennedy Center we listened to a jazz band and explored the place. After that we toured the Pentagon 9-11 Memorial and that was probably my favorite memorial. It had so much meaning to everything in that memorial, and I learned a lot about what happened that day.

So I would just like to thank you again for this eye opening experience. Not only did I learn a lot about history but I also made some friends that I still talk to today. I can't thank you enough for everything you've done for me I'm truly blessed that you picked me to go. Thanks!!

Kelsey



Photos Courtesy S.D. Tourism/Chad Coppess

Left: Banners welcoming bikers are a common sight in August in western South Dakota.

Opposite Page: The night lights up at the Buffalo Chip during the rally.

On the cover: A trio of motorcyclists are silhouetted against the night sky.

Cover Photo Courtesy S.D. Tourism/Chad Coppess

grounds – the Buffalo Chip Campground on the east edge of Sturgis.

“We try to have two guys up there during the rally,” Letcher said. The linemen, equipped with infrared cameras, inspect the system, looking for hot spots which signal a malfunction.

“We typically burn up a transformer every year,” said Letcher, noting that they keep a couple of the devices on hand for emergency repairs.

Like WREA, Butte Electric Cooperative in Newell, S.D., is also planning ahead.

“We’re anticipating traffic issues,” said Brett Fosheim, manager of operations at Butte Electric. “It makes it harder for our guys to get around.”

The co-op has an outpost in Sturgis, but gaining access to the building requires the crews to cross the city’s main highway which is extremely congested during the motorcycle gathering.

“Getting the employees to the outposts and offices is the biggest challenge,” Fosheim said. In addition to having linemen based in Newell and Sturgis, the co-op also has four workers in Spearfish.

Even the backways, usually known only to locals, will see traffic, lots of traffic.

“We see cycles 30 to 50 miles off of pavement, riding on gravel,” noted Fosheim.

While the rally provides for some variety, both co-ops still have their normal day-to-day work to see to.

For Fosheim, his co-op plans to stop working on a project in Spearfish Canyon in late July and early August, but, work in other areas will go on.

“We have some bigger projects in Butte County that we’ll probably keep working on as they’re pretty rural,” Fosheim said.

Planning for the logistics of getting employees around during the rally is just one challenge the co-ops are faced with.

As the region’s population swells for the annual gathering, the demand for electricity soars.

At Butte Electric, the co-op has a set of dedicated regulators that are turned on just for the rally. The equipment helps the co-op maintain its electrical service.

“There are usually some surprises; we’ve had troubles in the

past, but hopefully we’re beefed up this year,” said Fosheim.

Another component of Fosheim’s game plan for the rally is establishing travel corridors and staging co-op materials and equipment strategically to avoid traffic snarls.

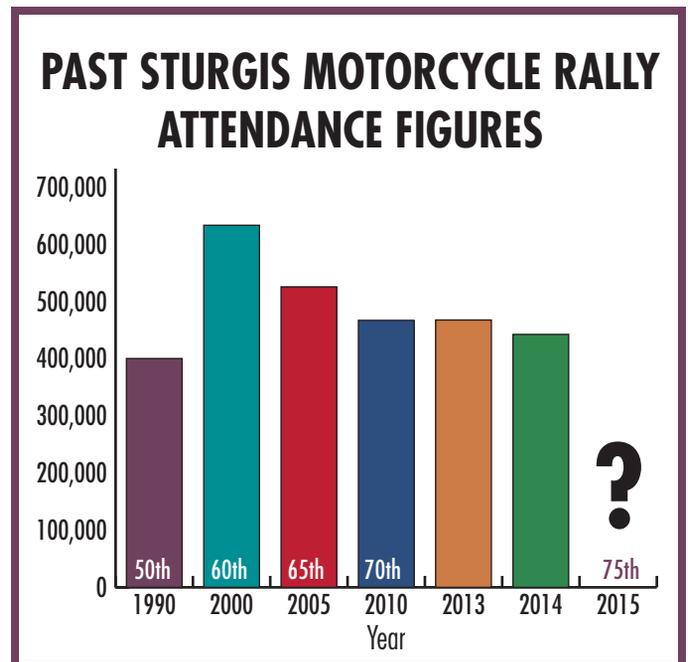
For West River Electric, the Buffalo Chip Campground will become one of the co-op’s top loads. Typically, the co-op’s largest customer is about a 1.5 megawatt load. The Chip is poised to surpass those energy needs during the rally.

“The hardest part is trying to predict the load. You don’t know how many people are going to show up or what the weather will be like,” said Letcher.

Both Letcher and Fosheim agree that milder temperatures will go a long way for making the rally more manageable for everyone.

“The numbers and weather are going to be what the problem is,” Fosheim said.

Letcher concurred. “How it all ends up depends on the weather,” he said.



Summer storm hits SVE system

More than 2,700 Sioux Valley Energy members lost power after strong summer storms ripped through portions of the cooperative's service territory. The area primarily affected was just north of the I-90 corridor in Minnehaha county, with the areas around Lyons, EROS Data Center, Trent, and Garretson the hardest hit. Sioux Valley Energy's power supplier, East River Electric, lost 35 poles in that area and SVE lost 15 to strong winds.

A handful of members were without power overnight because of the extensive damage off the Garretson and Trent substations.

All power was restored by noon Tuesday, June 23.



SVE Board Elects New President

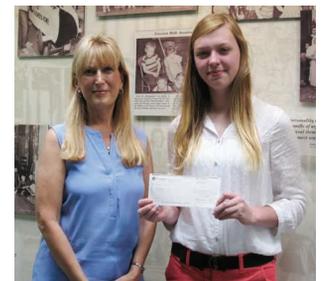


Pictured: Rodney DeMent, Humboldt, is elected to serve as SVE Board President.

At the June meeting, the SVE Board elected Rodney DeMent (Humboldt, S.D.) to serve as President, Allan Weinacht (Colton, S.D.) as Vice-President, Arlyn Zylstra (Jasper, Minn.) as Treasurer and Alan Kooima (Volga, S.D.) as Secretary. They also welcomed a new Director—Gregg Johnson of Pipestone, Minn. Johnson was elected to represent the members of District 9.

Children's Home Society

Ryleigh Beers, a 17-year old student at Luverne High School, was selected from a group of five finalists to receive Sioux Valley Energy's third-annual 'Power and Hope' Award. She is the daughter of Brad and Jane Beers. In addition to being recognized for her contributions, \$1,000 was donated to the charity of her choice.



Pictured: (L to R) Tammy Roberts, Children's Home Society and Ryleigh Beers, SVE Power and Hope recipient

Beers chose to give her donation to the Sioux Falls Children's Home Society, an organization that is very special to her. Last year she collected donations and purchased over \$600 in art supplies for the organization as part of a 4-H youth leadership project. The Children's Home Society began as an orphanage in 1902 and has grown to a facility that provides a home, school and therapy for children ages 4-13.

Ryleigh took part in the first class of the EmPOWER Youth Program sponsored by Sioux Valley Energy.

Monitor the Solar Production Output of SVE Solar Array

Log on to www.siouxvalleyenergy.com
Click on Solar Project Banner or
'myEnergy Programs'

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Want to learn more about our Solar Project?
Click HERE!

24.8 kW (enough to power 2 homes)
80 panels on low-profile racking

• Panels placed at a 35° tilt
• Built & installed by SVE employees

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Operation Roundup
Sioux Valley Wireless
Sioux Valley WIMAX
Cooperative Connections Card
Director Petition

Cooperative Connections
May 2015
April 2015
March 2015

Welcome to Sioux Valley Energy
Sioux Valley Energy is a member-owned electric cooperative serving more than 22,000 homes, farms and businesses with electric service in east-central South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota. Our primary objective is to provide reliable electric service at cost-based rates. By receiving electrical service from Sioux Valley Energy, you are more than just a customer, you are a member. Sioux Valley Energy is part of one of America's largest, most modern power supply networks. To learn more about Sioux Valley Energy's power supply [click here](#).
What makes electric cooperative's special? Take a look at the electric cooperative story [here](#).
Take a look around our website, read more about our energy efficiency rebates, safety information and Operation Round Up program. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to give us a call at 1-800-234-1960.

In May of 2015, Sioux Valley Energy constructed a solar array at its Brandon Service Center. The 24.8 kW array has 80 panels that face south, southwest and west. Members can view the production output of those panels as it correlates to the weather.

The Sioux Valley Energy Solar Project was meant to help members and employees learn more about the potential production output and costs associated with installing solar. Because of the three directions the panels are facing, the Cooperative should also be able to discern the value of solar at different times of the day.

To view the solar production from this project, view the [SOLAR PROJECT MONITOR](#).

Once you get to the Solar Project page, click on 'SOLAR PROJECT MONITOR'

You will then be taken to the 'Solar Edge' monitoring site which shows the output of the solar array in Brandon. You can find daily, weekly, monthly and yearly information. The current output is also available.

Current Power: 8.2 kW

Energy today: 23.24 kWh

Energy this month: 3.03 MWh

Lifetime energy: 6.06 MWh

Power and Energy
Week Month Year
06/01/2015 - 06/30/2015
Production: 3,032,997 kWh

Day	Production (kWh)
1	165
2	145
3	125
4	135
5	125
6	125
7	125
8	125
9	125
10	125
11	125
12	125
13	125
14	125
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Site summary
Name: Sioux Valley Energy Solar
Country: United States
State: South Dakota
Installed: 05/01/2015
Last updated: 06/25/2015 10:52
Peak power: 24.8 kWp

Weather
Temperature 23 °C
Mostly Sunny
Feels like 23 °C
Wind N, 5.6 Km/H
Humidity 73.5 %
Sunrise at 05:46
Sunset at 21:12

Thursday 25 - 16 °C 60% Chance of Storms
Friday 24 - 18 °C 70% Chance of Storms
Saturday 25 - 17 °C Mostly Sunny

Shining Brightly

LED Lights Brighten Regional Truck Stop

By
Brenda Kleinjan

FOR THE TRAVELING PUBLIC, A STOP AT A HIGHWAY truck stop is usually helpful for refueling one's vehicle and refreshing the driver with a quick dose of caffeine.

But for the observant, a stop at the Coffee Cup Truck Stop on Interstate 29 and SD Highway 50 at the Vermillion exit can be an illuminating experience.

In 2014, the truck stop replaced the lights in its parking lot with energy-efficient LED bulbs.

LED lights can also be seen at work at other Coffee Cups in the state.

In fact, across the country, truck stops are looking at more energy efficient lighting as a way to cut costs.

Since truck stops and travel plazas are typically open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the business is constantly using electricity. Many operators and owners of the businesses find that exploring ways to reduce the energy needed to run the business makes financial sense.

Among the many ways to reduce energy needs is to install LED lighting in their fuel canopies. Experts say that the move can be cost effective, with payback coming within less than two years in some cases. Payback is the point where cost savings in energy costs covers the expenses in making the efficient changes.

Another advantage of LED lighting is that the light is directed to a more focused area – namely the space directly below the bulbs.

The Coffee Cup at Vermillion went the extra step to replace its general overhead parking lights with the LED models.

Inside the stores, many operators have also looked at replacing lighting in coolers as well. Switching from fluorescent bulbs to LED lighting in the coolers can have a 2.5-year payback.

Retrofit kits are available that let operators swap out fluorescent bulbs in coolers with LED, typically with a 2.5-year payback.

Truck stops and travel plazas are not the only



Eight Things to Know about LEDs

8. A light-emitting diode, or LED, is a type of solid-state lighting that uses a semiconductor to convert electricity into light. Today's LED bulbs can be six to seven times more energy efficient than conventional incandescent lights and cut energy use by more than 80 percent.

7. Good-quality LED bulbs can have a useful life of 25,000 hours or more – meaning they can last more than 25 times longer than traditional light bulbs. That is a life of more than three years if run 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

6. Unlike incandescent bulbs – which release 90 percent of their energy as heat – LEDs use energy far more efficiently with little wasted heat.

5. From traffic lights and vehicle brake lights to TVs and display cases, LEDs are used in a wide range of applications because of their unique characteristics, which include compact size, ease of maintenance, resistance to breakage, and the ability to focus the light in a single direction instead of having it go every which way.

4. LEDs contain no mercury, and a recent Energy Department study determined that LEDs have a much smaller environmental impact than incandescent bulbs. They also have an edge over compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) that's expected to grow over the next few years as LED technology continues its steady improvement.

3. Since the Energy Department started funding solid-state lighting R&D in 2000, these projects have received 58 patents. Some of the most successful projects include developing new ways to use materials, extract more light, and solve the underlying technical challenges. Most recently, the Energy Department announced five new projects that will focus on cutting costs by improving manufacturing equipment and processes.

2. The first visible-spectrum LED was invented by Nick Holonyak, Jr., while working for GE in 1962. Since then, the technology has rapidly advanced and costs have dropped tremendously, making LEDs a viable lighting solution. Between 2011 and 2012, global sales of LED replacement bulbs increased by 22 percent while the cost of a 60-watt equivalent LED bulb fell by nearly 40 percent. By 2030, it's estimated that LEDs will account for 75 percent of all lighting sales.

1. In 2012, about 49 million LEDs were installed in the U.S. – saving about \$675 million in annual energy costs. Switching entirely to LED lights over the next two decades could save the U.S. \$250 billion in energy costs, reduce electricity consumption for lighting by nearly 50 percent and avoid 1,800 million metric tons of carbon emissions.

This article is part of the Energy.gov series highlighting the "Top Things You Didn't Know"



type of businesses exploring lighting efficiency.

U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Alliance supported the Lighting Energy Efficiency in Parking (LEEP) Campaign. More than 100 U.S. businesses and organizations are participated in the campaign and are planning or installing energy efficient lighting in their parking lots and garages. These organizations have committed to install efficient lighting across more than 270 million square feet of parking space – cutting energy use by up to 90 percent.

“By making parking lots and garages more energy efficient, our partners in the Lighting Energy Efficiency in Parking Campaign are saving energy, improving their bottom lines and serving as models for other organizations to increase the use of energy efficiency in their communities,” said Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy David Danielson.

Building owners spend more than \$6 billion to light their parking lots and garages, and much of this could be saved if parking lots and garages were upgraded to the most efficient lighting solutions. LEEP Campaign participants have upgraded their facilities to high efficiency metal halide, fluorescent, and LED solutions that last three times longer than their previous technology and by using controls are able to reduce energy use when parking facilities are not in use. Through the LEEP Campaign, the Energy Department's Better Buildings Alliance, the Building Owners and Managers Association, the Green Parking Council and the International Facility Management Association are working together to help owners of parking lots and garages upgrade to energy efficient lighting.

The Energy Department joined LEEP Campaign co-organizers to recognize 12 organizations for leading the way in efficient lighting. Combined, these 12 winners save nearly 45 million kilowatt-hours and \$4 million per year by upgrading to high efficiency lighting in 500,000 parking spaces nationwide.

Since 2009, the Energy Department's Better Buildings Alliance has provided technical assistance to help building and parking facility owners and managers install energy efficient lighting. Find more information on the Energy Department's broader efforts to save money by saving energy at U.S. parking facilities and a full list of the organizations recognized today.

Left: As dusk approaches, two styles of canopy lighting can be seen at the Coffee Cup fuel stop near Vivian, S.D. The canopies at the far left and far right use LED lighting which is bright in the immediate area but does not spill beyond where needed. The center canopy uses a different lighting style.

Above: The setting sun casts a glow over the Vivian Coffee Cup. The canopy to the south of the building employs efficient LED lights.

Taking it to the Streets: LEDs Light Up Towns

By Brenda
Kleinjan

A TRIO OF TOWNS IN WESTERN MINNESOTA HAVE had some brighter nights – and lower electric bills – in the past year due to upgrades in street lighting.

Last year, Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Tyler, Minn., received \$8,600 in funding from the Southwest CERT (Clean Energy Resource Teams) to implement an LED lighting project in three southwestern Minnesota communities.

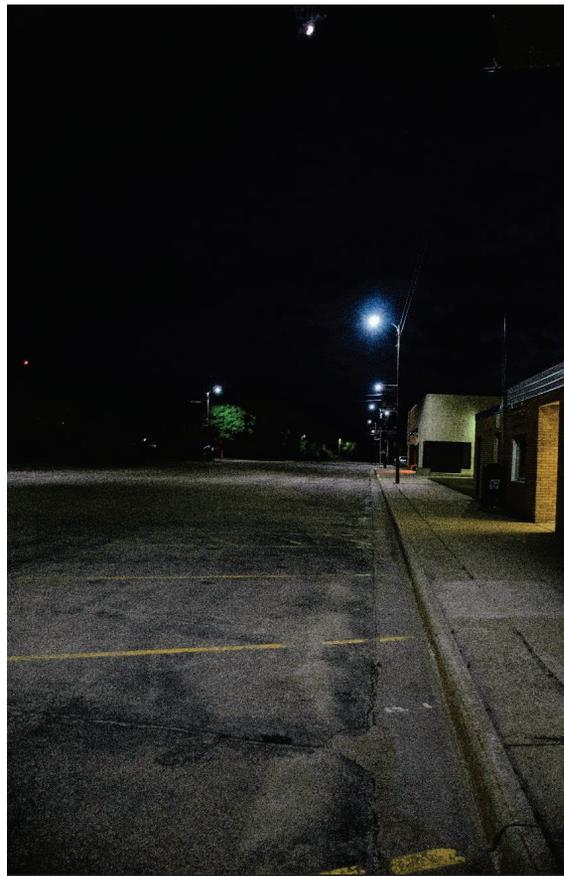
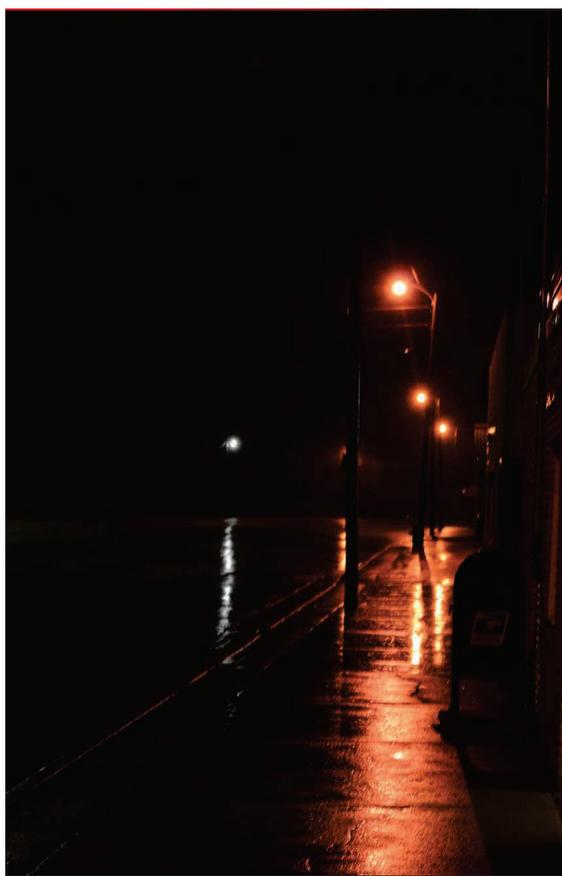
Through funding provided by the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Division of Energy Resources, CERT awarded \$20,000 worth of seed grants, catalyzing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across the region.

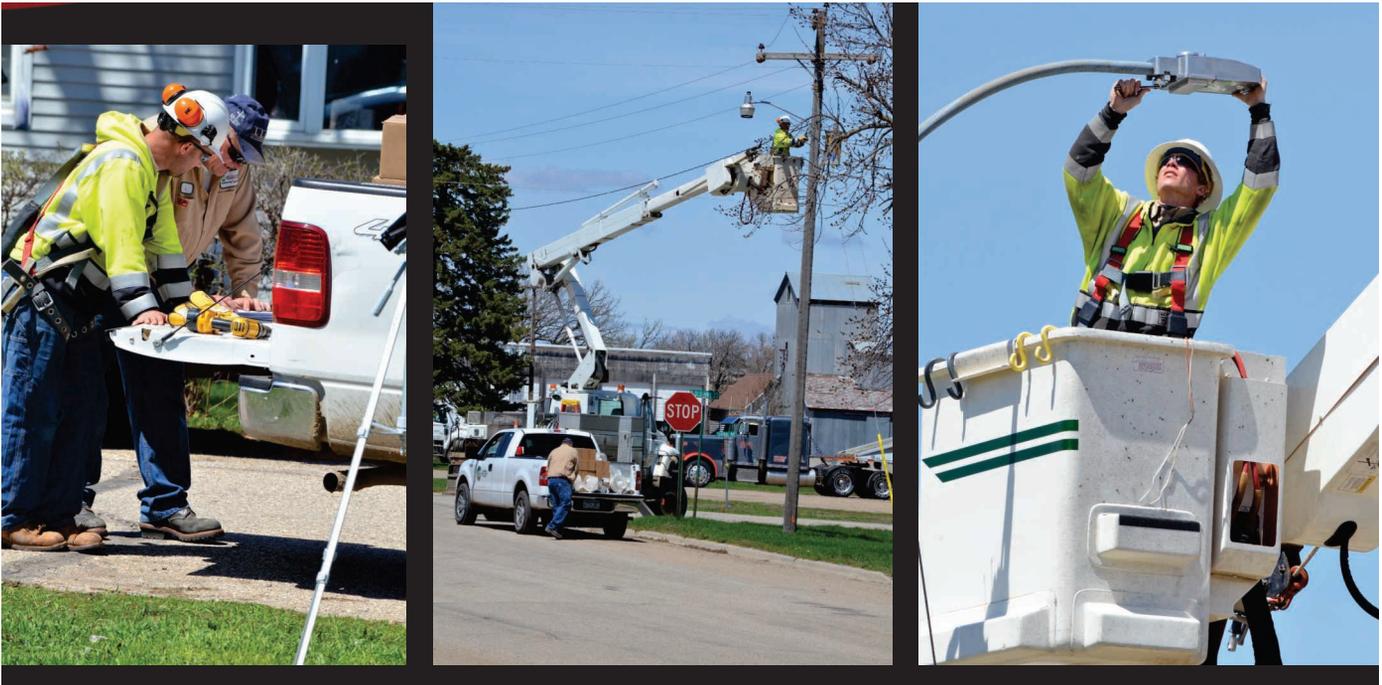
Lyon-Lincoln's award, the City of Russell LED

Lighting Project, allowed the cooperative to replace several existing mercury vapor and high pressure sodium street lights with LED lights to reduce energy use by the cities of Russell, Arco and Lynd, Minnesota.

Since the installation of the lights (the City of Russell switched its lights in May 2014) Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative has been and will continue to study the results of the project and share that information with its nearly 4,000 utility members and through energy education programs at area schools.

Before the retrofit, the project included 72 mercury vapor lights of 175 watts each, 23 high





pressure sodium lights of 100 watts each and seven 400-watt street lights. The lights used about 80,000 kWh annually (84,473 kWh in 2012 and 79,092 kWh in 2013) and cost more than \$9,600 a year to light.

As part of the retrofit, 104 48-watt Type III 5,700 K lights were purchased and installed.

The project is estimated to save more than 61,600 kWhs a year and reduce lighting expenses by \$5,570.

Lyon-Lincoln also worked to replace 38 mercury vapor lights (175 watts each), 21 high pressure sodi-

um lights (100 watts each) and one 400-watt street light in the City of Lynd, population 450. The new lights were expected to drop the community's light bill from right at \$5,000 a year to \$3,400 a year, reducing energy use from more than 50,000 kWh a year to just under 35,000 kWh.

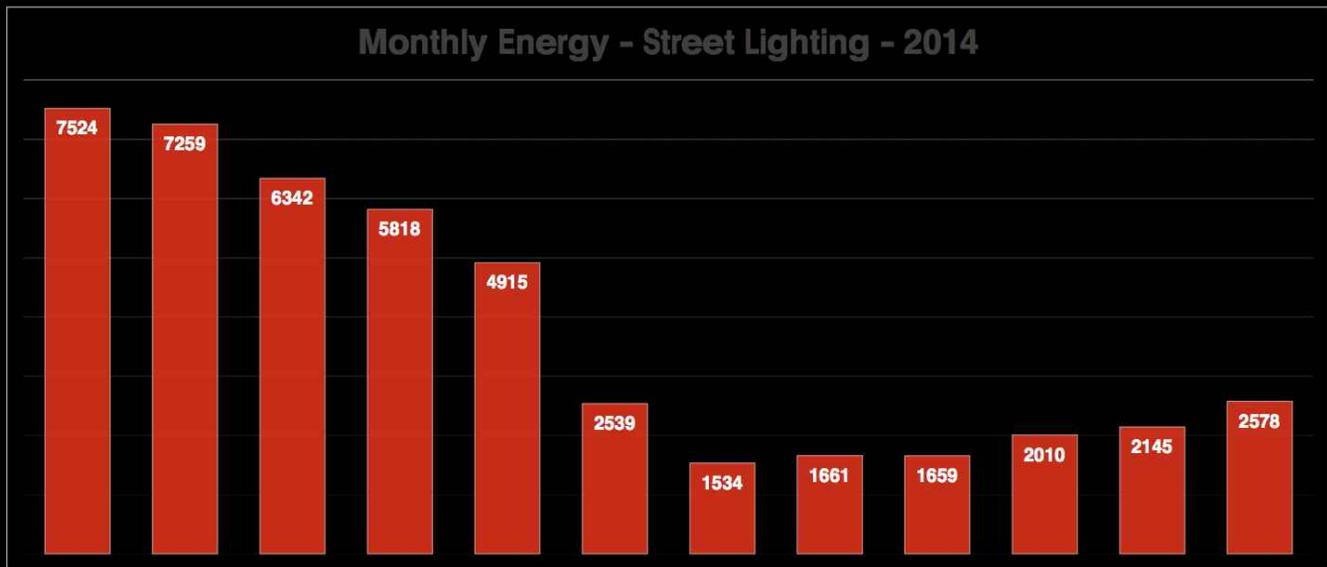
In the City of Arco, the co-op was replacing 37 lights (17 at 175 watts, 14 at 100 watts and six at 400 watts), a move that was projected to save the community of 78 people about \$2,000 a year, shaving nearly 21,000 kWh of energy use.

Above: Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative workers work on installing LED street lights in three communities in southwestern Minnesota in 2014.

Opposite Page: A street in the project before the retrofit (left) and the same street after the retrofit (right).

METER 1 – 1 YEAR OVERVIEW

Monthly Energy - Street Lighting - 2014



The bars above show monthly energy use for streetlights in the city of Russell, Minn., starting with January 2014 on the left and ending with December 2014 on the right. The sixth bar marks the month of June. The

decrease in energy consumption is due largely to a conversion to LED lights. Also, longer daylight hours in the summer cause a natural dip in the amount of night lighting needed.

Regional Dateline

July 22-26

Arlington Days "Gambling on a Good Time in Arlington" Various events at various locations within the city plus a fly-in at the airport Arlington, SD, 605-983-5251

July 24-26

Jubilee Days, Quilt Show at Faith Community Church on Saturday and Sunday noon to 4 p.m., Colton, SD

July 24-26

2015 Honey Days, Bean bag tournament, teen dance car show, parade, burger feed, street dance, volleyball tournament, craft show, church service, Burce, SD Find us on Facebook!

July 31

Johnny Rogers "Country Legends" Concert Prairie Village, Madison, SD 605-256-3644 www.prairievillage.org

July 31-August 9

76th Annual Sioux Empire Fair Livestock exhibits, agriculture activities, fair food, carnival rides, national headline concerts, pro rodeo and more Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7178 For a fair schedule and more information, please visit www.siouxempirefair.com brittany@siouxempirefair.com

August 1

Bloomin' Quilt Party at the Barn, Noon to 5 p.m. (Rain or Shine), No Admission Fee Donations Accepted, Quilt



PHOTO COURTESY OF S.D. DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

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

August 8-9

Threshing Show, Twin Brooks, SD 605-432-9487 or 605-432-7990

August 15

Rock River Beer Fest, 2 to 6 p.m. Blue Mound Ice Arena Luverne, MN, 888-283-4061 www.rockriverfestfest.com

Display, Raffle, Refreshments Entertainment, Home of Theresa and Mike Bennett 47439 214th St., Aurora, SD Call Ida Slocum, 605-693-3962

August 1

Johnny Rogers "History of Rock & Roll" Concert Prairie Village, Madison, SD 605-256-3644 www.prairievillage.org

August 2

22nd Annual Madison Car Show, Prairie Village Madison, SD, 605-256-3644 www.prairievillage.org

August 8

Sixth Annual Camaro Fun Days Parade line-up 9 a.m., Poker run 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cruise 3 p.m., Pioneer Park Brookings, SD, Terry at 605-695-1560 or Calvin at 605-690-1057

August 8-9

USA Archery Junior Olympic Archery Development Beginner Camp, Brookings, SD Lisa Bretsch at 605-693-4622 www.oacofsd.org

August 22

McCrossan Xtreme Event Rodeo, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Pre-Show Entertainment 5:30 Rodeo, McCrossan Boys Ranch, Sioux Falls, SD 605-339-1203

August 27-30

53rd Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree featuring Ford-Ferguson tractors, trucks & cars, parades, largest flea market in the area, over 700 antique tractors, antique car show, horse & steam powered threshing, saw mill & machinery demos, wagon train, tractor pulls, train & carousel rides, musical entertainment, food, Prairie Village Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

September 12

Cassie & The Bobs "Music of Patsy Cline" Concert Prairie Village, Madison, SD 605-256-3644 www.prairievillage.org

September 26

65th Annual Tri-State Band Festival, 9:30 a.m. Parade Competition, Main Street 12:30 p.m. Field Competition, Cardinal Football Field, Luverne Public Schools Over 24 bands from Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa take part in one of the longest running community marching competitions in the region, Luverne, MN www.luvernechamber.com

October 3

Pumpkin Train Ride the train to the pumpkin patch & kids pick pumpkins Prairie Village, Madison, SD 605-256-3644 www.prairievillage.org