




Sioux Valley Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

MARCH 2014 VOL. 14 NO. 11



CO-OPS HELP FUND EDUCATION DREAMS

Pg. 8

Speak Up...

We need an 'all-of-the-above' strategy



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/CEO

It's been downright frigid here in South Dakota and Minnesota this winter. At Sioux Valley Energy we have seen some of our highest electrical peaks ever because of the cold temps. As a result, our members have seen higher electric bills because their usage has increased considerably to warm their homes. We work incredibly hard to keep your rates affordable. Distribution expenses (things like paying

for the wires, poles, transformers, employment costs, etc.) have remained steady for nearly a decade. Most of the rate increases you've seen in recent years are attributable to higher power costs because wholesale power makes up about 65% of your electric bill.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued proposed rules that would impact the price of wholesale power further. There are several issues that concern us with these proposed rules. To get beyond all of the "technical" jargon, the rules would essentially shut down coal plants because it requires power plants to drastically limit the amount of carbon

dioxide that is emitted. Now please understand we want clean air and water, but these proposed regulations have such strict limits that there isn't even any proven technology available to meet those standards. Back in the 1970's the federal government told power producers they couldn't use natural gas to generate electricity. Instead, they were encouraged to build coal-based plants. That's exactly what we did and those power plants still have a lot of life left in them. Those power plants have already been retrofitted to limit emissions. This region of the country depends on coal as a major power source. While we have been building renewable and natural gas generation over the last decade, the fact remains that we need coal to supply our base-load needs. Base load is the minimum amount of electricity required to meet consumers 24/7 demands.

The only way we can slow down the EPA and allow time to find a balanced solution is by speaking up. We need YOU to get involved. Inserted in this month's magazine is a post card. All you need to do is fill it out and send it back to Sioux Valley Energy. We can submit a message for you or can fill out a message on your own if you log on to Action.Coop.

We aren't sure exactly how much these proposed regulations will increase your electric bill but we do know they will eventually lead to higher rates. Please consider sending a message to the EPA. We need to utilize all of our American energy resources: natural gas, renewables, nuclear, and coal.



RENEWABLE ENERGY



NUCLEAR POWER



NATURAL GAS



CLEAN COAL

America needs an
ALL OF THE ABOVE STRATEGY
to keep electric bills affordable

**TELL THE EPA TO RECONSIDER
ITS "ALL-BUT-ONE" APPROACH**

ACTION.COOP



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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

Baltic Student Recognized as Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week

Noah Brown, a student at Baltic High School, was chosen as a Touchstone Energy Cooperative 'Scholar of the Week'. Noah was recognized with a cash award by Sioux Valley Energy. He is the son of Nedd and Jerri Brown of Garretson. Noah was featured on the KSFY news for his accomplishments.



Jennie Patrick, SVE Marketing Specialist, presents Noah Brown with a cash award for his accomplishments.

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.

"Noah is a great example of leadership and academic success that we honor in a student," said Tim McCarthy, Sioux Valley Energy General Manager/CEO.

Jim Aisenbrey, High School Principal at Baltic, nominated Noah for the award.

"Noah is a student of great character and work ethic. He epitomizes what we look for in our students who lead by example. He is well respected by the administration, staff, students and employees of our school district. Students look to him as a friend, willing to help those who are in need. He is willing to volunteer his time to work with younger students. He is both an inspirational and active leader to all of our students," Aisenbrey wrote on the nomination form.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

These days it may be easier to trim your refrigerator's energy use than it is to trim your waistline. Consider this energy-saving and maintenance regimen to keep your refrigerator in shape. Set the refrigerator temperature above 37 degrees Fahrenheit. Make sure door seals are in place and are snug when closed. And keep outside coils unobstructed and clean; dirty ones could over work the unit's compressor.

Source: Energy.gov

Poison Prevention Tips:

National Poison Prevention Week, March 16-22

Each year, approximately 2.4 million people – more than half under age 6 – swallow or have contact with a poisonous substance. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has some important tips to prevent and to treat exposures to poison.

To poison proof your home: Most poisonings occur when parents or caregivers are home but not paying attention. The most dangerous potential poisons are medicines, cleaning products, antifreeze, windshield wiper fluid, pesticides, furniture polish, gasoline, kerosene and lamp oil. Be especially vigilant when there is a change in routine. Holidays, visits to and from grandparents' homes and other special events may bring greater risk of poisoning if the usual safeguards are defeated or not in place.

- Store medicine, cleaning and laundry products, paints/varnishes and pesticides in their original packaging in locked cabinets or containers, out of sight and reach of children.
- Install a safety latch – that locks when you close the door – on child-accessible cabinets containing harmful products.
- Purchase and keep all medicines in containers with safety caps and keep out of reach of children. Discard unused medication.
- Never refer to medicine as “candy” or another appealing name.
- Check the label each time you give a child medicine to ensure proper dosage. For liquid medicines, use the dosing device that came with the medicine.
- Never place poisonous products in food or drink containers.
- Keep coal, wood or kerosene stoves in safe working order.
- Maintain working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Secure remote controls, key fobs, greeting cards and musical children's books. These and other devices may contain small button-cell batteries that can cause injury if ingested.

Source: aap.org

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

“Don't touch frayed wires”



Noah Turner, 10 years old

Noah is the son of Alisa Turner, Sioux Falls, S.D. They are members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Marion, S.D.

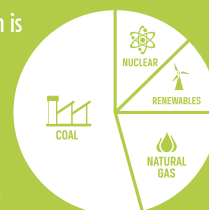
Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

TOP 4 FACTS

ABOUT THE EPA'S NEW CLIMATE REGULATIONS

1 ABANDONS ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE

The Administration is reversing course, ditching our All-of-The-Above energy strategy for an All-But-One approach that bans coal plants



2 TECHNOLOGY GAMBLE

New regulations essentially require technology that's not commercially viable and prohibitively expensive – leading to higher bills down the line.



3 LIMITS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, DOMESTIC ENERGY

By banning coal plants, Americans forfeit a 236-year domestic source of energy with a historically stable price.



4 HISTORY REPEAT: ALL-BUT-ONE DOESN'T WORK

A 1978 mandate prevented use of natural gas and forced utilities into coal or nuclear – before common sense prevailed and it was repealed nine years later



COOPERATIVE
ACTION NETWORK

ACTION.COOP

Satisfying Seafood



Cajun Beer-Basted Red Drum on the Grill

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 lbs. fish filets, skin on
but not scaled (walleye
works great) | 3 T. Worcestershire sauce, divided
3 garlic cloves |
| 1 T. garlic, minced | 2 T. minced onion |
| 1/2 tsp. black pepper | 2 T. minced green pepper |
| 4 T. butter | 2 T. minced parsley |
| 2 T. Cajun seasoning | 12 oz. beer |

Heat grill to medium. Rinse filets and pat dry. Sprinkle cut sides with minced garlic and pepper, pressing gently into filets. In small saucepan, melt butter over medium heat; add 1 T. Worcestershire sauce, cajun seasoning, garlic, onion, green pepper and parsley. Stir and sauté until onion is transparent and sauce darkened and slightly thickened. Do not burn garlic – it will become bitter and spoil the taste. Add beer and remaining Worcestershire sauce; simmer for 15 minutes on medium-high heat. Lay filets onto oiled grates or place on oiled aluminum foil over grill grates (the preferred method so the filets do not flare up). Cook 20 minutes over low-medium heat, unfolding the aluminum foil only to baste generously with sauce. Fish is done when the thickest area flakes off easily.

Joy Hagen, Webster

Tuna Biscuit Casserole

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 can Cheddar cheese soup | 1 T. grated onion |
| 1/2 soup can milk | 1 T. parsley flakes |
| 1 can tuna, undrained if
using oil pack | 1 can (10) refrigerator biscuits |

In a saucepan, stir soup and milk together until smooth. Add tuna, which has been broken up, onion and parsley flakes. Heat to just boiling. Place biscuits in a 11x17-inch ungreased pan. Pour heated mixture over top of biscuits. Bake uncovered at 375°F. for about 25 minutes or until biscuits pop up through the sauce and are well browned on top.

Audrey E. Hepler, Brookings

Sour Cream Salmon Loaf

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 (15.5 oz.) can salmon,
drain 1/2 liquid | 1 beaten egg |
| 1 (8 oz.) container sour cream | 2-1/2 cups corn flakes, measure
then crush |
| 1/2 c. melted butter | |

Combine all ingredients and place in greased loaf pan. Bake at 350°F. for 40 to 50 minutes. If firmer texture is desired, use less butter and 1 additional egg.

Glenda Morton, Sioux Falls

Hot Gulf Shrimp Dip

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 lb. Gulf of Mexico shrimp, cooked,
peeled, deveined, chopped | 1 tsp. Creole seasoning |
| 1/2 cup chopped yellow onion | 1/2 tsp. fresh ground black pepper |
| 1/2 cup chopped green onion | 1/4 tsp. salt |
| 1 clove minced garlic | 1 cup shredded cheese (Cheddar,
mozzarella or Monterey Jack) |
| 3 T. mayonnaise | Toasted pitas, sliced fresh bread or
tortilla chips |
| 1 tsp. vegetable oil | |

Combine all ingredients in an 8x8-inch baking dish, reserving 1/4 of cheese. Mix well. Sprinkle remaining cheese on top of mixture. Bake at 350°F. for 25 to 30 minutes. Dip with toasted pitas, sliced fresh bread or tortilla chips. Makes 8 servings.

Nutritional information per serving: Calories 158; Total Fat 9g; Total Carbohydrate 4g; Protein 15g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Hot Tuna Sandwiches

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 (7 oz.) can tuna | 1/2 cup diced olives |
| 1 cup chopped celery | 1/4 cup mayonnaise |
| 1 small onion, chopped | Salt and pepper to taste |
| 1/2 cup cubed cheese | 6 hamburger buns |

Combine all ingredients except buns. Split and butter buns; spread with tuna mixture. Wrap in aluminum foil. Bake at 350°F. for 15 to 20 minutes.

Shirley Dreher, Clark

Linguini with Clam Sauce

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 lb. linguini | 1/2 tsp. oregano |
| 1 T. olive oil, divided | 1/2 tsp. basil |
| 1 medium onion, chopped | 1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes |
| 3 cloves garlic, chopped | 1/4 tsp. salt |
| 3 (6.5 oz.) cans chopped clams | 1/8 tsp. pepper |
| 1 T. parsley | 1/4 cup bread crumbs |

Cook linguini 10 to 11 minutes; drain and return to pot. Heat 1/2 T. oil in 10-inch skillet over medium heat. Add onion and garlic; sauté 5 minutes. Strain clam liquid and add liquid to skillet. Add parsley, oregano, pepper flakes, salt and pepper. Simmer 5 minutes then stir in clams; cook 2 minutes. Stir into pasta in pot; mix. Cover to keep warm. Heat 1/2 tsp. oil in a small skillet over medium heat; add bread crumbs, stirring for 2 minutes until lightly browned. Sprinkle over pasta and gently toss. Serve immediately.

Mary Metz Carda, Hurley

Please send your favorite casserole and ethnic recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2014. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Operation Round Up Helps Fund Jackets for Ambulance Staff

Sioux Valley Energy, H-D Electric and Basin Electric Power Cooperative donated a combined total of \$3,760 to Brookings Health System Foundation to help purchase new three-season, high visibility jackets for the members of Brookings Health System's ambulance department. The funds cover just over half the cost of the thirty jackets needed.

The new jackets, which comply with federal law, provide safety as well as protection from both weather and biological hazards. Their all-in-one design is a marked improvement over previous safety vests which were bulky when worn over the top of jackets.

"Safety standards call for high visibility during daylight as well as reflective capability for nighttime," said Ambulance Department Director Gordon Dekkenga. "Both our staff and patients are safer as a result of these jackets, plus, using one piece of outerwear is more efficient. We are very grateful to Basin Electric, Sioux Valley Energy and H-D Electric."

A portion of the contribution comes from donations made by members and employees of Sioux Valley Energy. "Operation Round Up allows our members to round up to the nearest dollar when paying their energy bill, thus creating a fund to help many non-profit organizations," explained Debra Biever, director of customer and employee relations at Sioux Valley Energy.

"We are happy to support the efforts of our members H-D Electric and Sioux Valley Energy," said Basin Electric Deer Creek Plant Superintendent Greg Opdahl. "In addition to their emergency service to our area, Brookings Health System's



Debra Biever, director of customer and employee relations at Sioux Valley Energy, delivers a donation of \$1,600 from Operation Round Up. Accepting the check are Brookings Health System Foundation Development Officer Barb Anderson along with ambulance staff Mike Hanson, Gordon Dekkenga, Tim Austin, Sheila Monnier and Tom Papiernik

ambulance staff participate in safety training at our Deer Creek Station near Elkton."

Brookings Health System's ambulance department serves the city of Brookings, the county of Brookings and the communities of Aurora, Bruce, Bushnell, Sinai and Volga. When requested, it also assists and provides advanced life support services for area ambulance services from Clear Lake, Estelline, White, Elkton, Arlington and Lake Preston.

Brookings Health System Foundation works to cultivate philanthropic gifts to support charity health care for those less fortunate; health and wellness education; facility, equipment, and technology upgrades; and other needs as they arise at Brookings Health System.

For more information about Brookings Health System Foundation or how you may contribute, please contact Foundation Officer Barb Anderson at (605) 696-8855 or foundation@brookingshealth.org.

District Meetings Continue Throughout February and March

A series of 11 meetings will be held throughout Sioux Valley Energy's service territory during the months of February and March. General Manager, Tim McCarthy, says the meeting presentation will focus on the 2014 workplan and budget.

"We increased our 2014 capital budget by about a million dollars from last year. We have made great strides in replacing our underground facilities but now we need to put more emphasis on our overhead system," McCarthy said. He added, "While we are not anticipating any rate increases this year, we are concerned about future wholesale power supply costs because of regulatory action by the Environmental Protection Agency."

The issue of legislation and regulation impacting electric rates will also be on this year's agenda.

Prior to each meeting a complimentary meal will be served and childcare will be provided. Members who attend the meeting will receive a LED nightlight as a registration gift and will be eligible for several door prizes--Mini Ipad, 18-quart roaster, Keurig coffee maker, lawn chair and local gift certificates.

Elections will take place in four districts--5, 6, 7 and 8. Terms expire in 2014 for Allan Weinacht (District #5), Mark Rogen (District #6) and Rodney DeMent (District #7). Kevin Eigenberg (District #8) is not seeking re-election. *Biographies of District 8 candidates can be found on pages 14 and 15.*

2014 SVE District Meeting Schedule

Monday, February 24

District 10- Location: Edgerton Public School, Edgerton, MN

Thursday, February 27

District 11- Location: Luverne Elementary School, Luverne, MN

Thursday, March 13

District 3- Location: William J. Janklow Community Center, Flandreau, SD

Monday March 17

District 8- Location: Brandon Valley High School, Brandon, SD

****Election Meeting****

Tuesday, March 18

District 6- Location: Garretson High School, Garretson, SD

****Election Meeting****

Monday, March 24

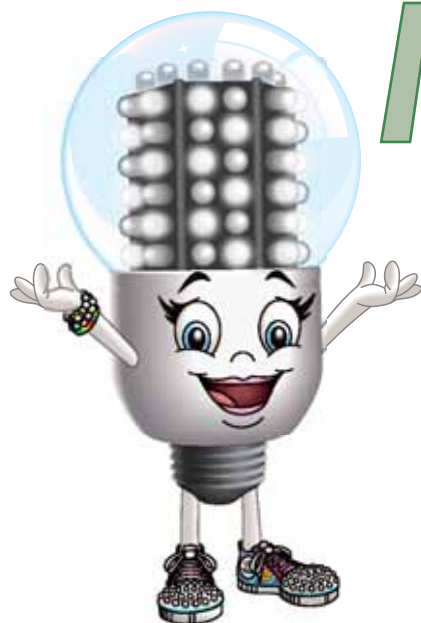
District 5- Location: Taopi Hall, Colton, SD

****Election Meeting****

Thursday, March 27

District 7- Location: Community Center, Humboldt, SD

****Election Meeting****



Meet LED Lucy!

**Get to know this bright gal and save on your lighting bill!
Learn more about Sioux Valley Energy's new rebate
program for LED lightbulbs.**

- \$5 rebate per bulb
- Must be 9 watts or greater
- Maximum rebate of \$100
- Will be issued as a bill credit

Co-ops Powering Education Dreams

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES HAVE BEEN POWERING THE lives of their members for more than 75 years.

And for nearly a quarter century, the region's electric cooperatives have placed an increasing importance in providing scholarships to those members' children who are heading off to college or technical school.

By
Brenda Kleinjan

This spring, electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota are poised to award more than \$100,000 to students to continue their education whether it be in four-year colleges and universities or technical schools.

About \$5,000 is dedicated for future linemen.

Each year, the South Dakota Rural Electric Line Superintendents Association awards \$2,000

in scholarships to future line workers attending power line programs. Many of the scholarships are awarded to students at Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D.

Other scholarship money is earmarked for future engineers.

But the majority of the money is simply available for the students – most of whom are children of co-op members – to reach for their educational dreams.

The back bone of many cooperatives' scholarship program is more than 23 years old and is funded by the cooperatives' regional power supplier, Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Of the \$100,000 in scholarships being awarded in South Dakota and



western Minnesota, about one-third comes from Basin Electric's program. The rest comes from the local cooperatives, sometimes in partnership with their members' Operation Round Up® programs.

The scholarship program recognizes and encourages academic and community achievements and is considered an investment in the economic future of rural areas.

According to a survey conducted by the South Dakota Board of Regents of public colleges and universities in an eight-state region including South Dakota and Minnesota, the average cost of tuition, fees, room and board for an in-state student in the 2012-2013 school year was nearly \$13,800.

"The scholarship was great! It helped break down my costs for school," said Hadley Cropsey, who received a scholarship from her local electric cooperative, West Central Electric Cooperative in Murdo, S.D.

**Being selected
as a scholarship
recipient keeps
me motivated
and helps me
remember that
others believe in
my potential.**

Cropsey grew up at Presho, S.D., and is a freshman pharmacy major at South Dakota State University in Brookings, S.D. With six years of school ahead of her, Cropsey noted, "Every \$500 counts."

Others like Cropsey are also grateful for the investment made by their electric cooperatives.

"Scholarships have made the most incredible difference in funding my education goals," said Gann Valley, S.D.,-native Laura Knippling, who, as a high school senior at Miller High School in Miller, S.D., received a scholarship from

her local electric co-op, Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D.

"Being qualified and selected as a scholarship recipient keeps me motivated and helps me remember that others believe in my potential too. It also makes college so much easier. It eases the stress of trying to pay for college, and allows me to focus more on what I am learning. I'm able to focus on what I am learning and not "How am I going to pay for this," said Knippling, a sophomore youth studies major at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

"I've been able to keep a high GPA because I am a scholarship recipient and I can focus on gaining experience in my field. I still volunteer and have a job, even with having scholarships to help pay for my college. I take my education seriously and I can enjoy the blessing of scholarships to help me reach my goals," said Knippling.

Northern State University freshman Taylor Beutler of Eureka, S.D., received a scholarship from his local cooperative, FEM Electric Association in Ipswich, S.D., to pursue his degree in accounting and banking.

"It is wonderful that the co-op feels it's important to be a sponsor of the future and support post-secondary education," Beutler said.

Scholarships offered, and the corresponding application deadlines, vary by cooperative, but most application deadlines fall from late January to late March. Contact your local electric cooperative for more information.

This spring, electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota will be powering the educational dreams of scores of graduates as the cooperatives award more than \$100,000 in scholarships.

\$10,000 National Scholarship Available to Past Rural Electric Youth Tour Participants

As if experiencing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity wasn't a big enough incentive for high school students to apply for the all-expenses-paid Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., sponsored by electric cooperatives, now a \$10,000 scholarship adds even more incentive.

The scholarship is provided by the Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting the education of future leaders who recognize and embrace the cooperative principles. English, a former Oklahoma Congressman, was the CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association until his retirement in 2013.



Glenn English

Each year, one \$10,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student working on their first bachelor's degree program. To be eligible, an applicant must be a U.S. citizen, have participated in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour and have completed his or her freshman year of college or received academic credits equal to at least one year of college.

As part of the application process, a video statement of no more than five minutes is required.

Applicants will be judged on their cumulative GPA, internships completed, civic, volunteer and political activities, leadership skills and involvement in cooperative-based programs and activities and other criteria outlined at <https://www.nreca.coop/what-we-do/youth-programs/glenn-english-national-cooperative-leadership-foundation-2/application/>

The application deadline is March 31, 2014. Each year, more than 1,500 students nationwide participate in the rural electric youth tour. Only those individuals who have participated in a past youth tour are eligible for this scholarship.

Electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota first began sending students on the rural electric youth tour more than 50 years ago. To date, more than 1,300 students have represented those co-ops on the tour.

No such thing as a miracle heater

by Tim McCarthy

While spring is getting closer, we still have a few months of cold temperatures to deal with. The price of propane has sky-rocketed, leaving members searching for a more efficient heating system. While electric heat is a great choice, there are a few things to consider before purchasing a space heater.

Relying on space heaters may disappoint

This colder weather makes the staff here at your cooperative brace for calls from members concerned about the higher bills. I will concede that some of those calls will come from disappointed members who expected to save money by relying on space heaters to heat their homes. Let's talk about heating your home in general and the use of electric space heaters.

Best way to heat is sealing home's envelope

Space heaters are generally not the most cost-effective option when it comes to electric heat. We recommend installing an even more efficient system--either an air source heat pump or geothermal unit. Beyond installing an extremely efficient HVAC system, you can seal up the cracks. Sioux Valley wants its members to recognize their home is a living and breathing system. The best way to heat (or cool) your home is to seal the home's envelope and use a properly installed and efficient whole house system.

No such thing as miracle heaters

Turning our focus to space heaters, I want to make one thing clear to our members. Now, this may upset some salespeople and manufacturers out there but here goes..... there is no such thing as a "miracle heater." Yes, I said it! These in-home flyers, magazine and newspaper advertisements (designed to resemble news articles), e-mail blast, TV commercials, and mall kiosk are marketing efforts designed to do only one thing and that is separate you from your hard earned money!

A watt is a watt is a watt

While technology has improved and heaters may have become more efficient over time, the laws that govern electricity are much like those of physics. Neither sees a lot of amendments! With this in mind, here is another fact and a great quote I will attribute to an energy advisor I once worked with: "A Watt is a Watt is a Watt." In other words, if a person plugs in a 1500 watt space heater it is going to use 1500 watts of energy. Putting a very nicely built mahogany cabinet around a \$30 space heater and charging people \$350 for it doesn't change the amount of power that unit is going to use. It's not a miracle. Let's be nice. For the sake of argument we'll call it a misrepresentation of a product's true potential to perform.

Do a cost analysis before making a purchase

If you are using these units, our marketing department can



Greg Brooks, Walton EMC

do a cost analysis for you. I think you will be shocked to see what these will actually cost you. Oftentimes people tell us things like, "the salesperson told me these heaters would cost me pennies a day." If this sounds familiar, think about this... did they quantify how many pennies per day?

Efficient does not equal cost-effective

Don't get me wrong, electric resistance heaters are efficient. For every unit of electricity that is consumed by these devices, they will produce one unit of heat. The problem is they are just not very cost-effective. Again, and I can't emphasize this enough, no matter how you slice it, a watt is a watt. It doesn't matter what kind of heater or appliance you have. If you put 1,000 watts in, you get 3,412 British Thermal Units of heat out.

Multiple heaters multiply costs

We often visit homes after receiving calls from members and we find three to five electric space heaters in their home. Because these members have been misled, they wonder how their electric bills could be so high. The simple fact is the cost of operating multiple electric heaters is almost always significantly more than most central heating systems.

An energy audit could save you money

If this article hits close to home I would encourage you to contact the Sioux Valley Energy marketing department. They have the experience and knowledge to help guide you in your quest to save on your heating bills. In closing, I implore you to ask questions and do some research before you buy any "miracle heaters." I think you will find that facts will cut through a lot of marketing hype and could save you a significant amount of money and frustration in the end.

Trip of Lifetime:

SVE Encourages Students to Apply

The cooperative will send one teen to Washington, D.C., in June for the Rural Electric Youth Tour.

While in Washington, the student will meet with their state's congressional delegation, visit historical sites and meet 1,500 teens from cooperatives across the United States. Sioux Valley Energy will provide funding for the trip to include all transportation costs, lodging, meals and entrance fees to sightseeing or entertainment events. The tour will include visiting the Lincoln Memorial, Washington National Cathedral, the Air and Space Museum, Washington Monument, Arlington Cemetery and many more.

The applicant must be a high school sophomore, junior or senior whose parents or guardians are members of Sioux Valley Energy.

Applications can be obtained from local high school guidance counselors or at the Brandon, Colman, or Pipestone service centers. You can also find the materials online at siouxvalleyenergy.com.

Applicants must complete a personal information sheet and take a test on the history and organization of the rural electrification program. The test must be completed and returned to Sioux Valley Energy by **March 14, 2014** or mailed to Sioux Valley Energy, Attn: Youth Tour, PO Box 857, Brandon, SD 57005. One student will be selected to represent Sioux Valley Energy on the Washington, D.C. trip in June. If you are a South Dakota student, the trip will run from June

12-19 and if you are a Minnesota student, the trip will be held June 14-19.

The Youth Tour is a trip sponsored by Sioux Valley Energy coordinated by South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) and Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA).

For more information, contact Jennie Patrick at 1-800-234-1960.



SmartHub App

Life is complicated enough, so Sioux Valley Energy has made managing your energy bill easier with SmartHub. This FREE App provides convenient, safe and secure account access via your smart phone or tablet device.

This valuable tool allows you to make payments, notify Sioux Valley Energy of any account or service issues and check your usage. You can also pay your electric bill using the SmartHub App. The SmartHub App is encrypted during every transaction run and no personal information is stored on your mobile device.



NOTE: Mobile devices do offer the ability to store your login information for Apps installed on the device. If you choose to store your login information, any person who has access to your mobile device can access your account. So its best to log out after each use.

How Do You Register for SmartHub?

If you have not registered on our EmPOWER or e-bill portion of the website and created a user name and log-in, you will need to do that prior to downloading the SmartHub App. To create a username and password, log on to siouxvalleyenergy.com and click on 'EmPOWER'. Then follow the directions for a new user. Once you have created a username and password (or if you already had one), you can use that information to get you started with the SmartHub App. Once you register your account and download the app from either Apple Store or Android Market, you can set up your notifications. You can be notified for a variety of reasons, such as: your bill is ready, your bill is past due, payment confirmation of recurring payments and many others.

UMATS: Regulations in Litigation

THE INCEPTION OF THE MERCURY AND AIR TOXIN Standards (MATS) rule, which you may also hear referenced as the “Hazardous Air Pollutants Rule,” is rooted in the Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR) that was issued by EPA in 2005. It was designed to cap and reduce mercury emissions from coal-based electric generation plants by 70 percent. This initial rule was vacated by the D.C. Circuit Court in 2008.

The proposed Utility Mercury Air and Toxins Standard (UMATS) for hazardous air pollution (HAPs) was published on May 3, 2011, and finalized on Feb. 16, 2012.

On April 24, 2013, EPA issued an amended version reflecting changes in several new source standards to overcome some technical limitations in the earlier final version. UMATS mandates controls under the Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 112 provisions, for mercury emissions, acid aerosols, fine particulate matter and several other hazardous air pollutants. Section 112 requires the use of maximum achievable control technology (MACT) for emissions reduction on every unit. The rule provides electric utility coal fired generation sources three years to comply with the new requirements, with a possible extension of an additional year to be made on a case by case basis. While NRECA continues to have significant concerns with the UMATS rule, EPA did adopt several modifications to the final rule for existing units which provide substantial compliance flexibility leading to reduced costs for cooperatives.

The rule is in the litigation phase and a decision not expected until late fall of 2014 at the earliest. The rule is being challenged on multiple fronts, including whether EPA should have regulated utility emissions as hazardous in the first place.

The litigation over new source standards has been

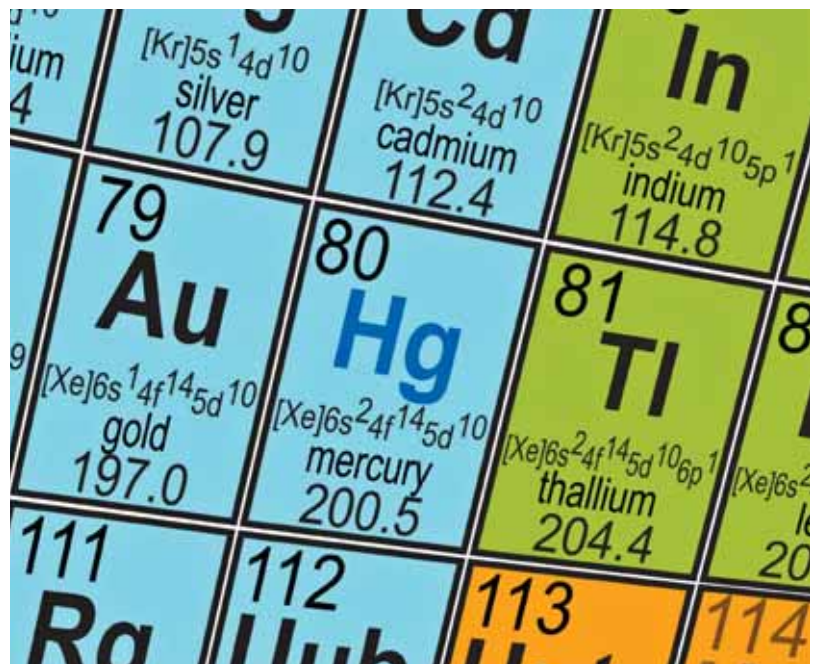
severed from the main litigation resulting in an uncertain timeline for a resolution on these new source issues.

Cooperatives Have Significant Concerns

While electric cooperatives were generally supportive of the Clean Air Mercury Rule that the D.C. Circuit Court vacated and have been working to help develop mercury-control technologies, there is significant concern. The EPA strategy to require very significant emission reductions of multiple pollutants within a very compressed timeline may not be achievable. There is also concern this could damage the rural economy without providing commensurate and meaningful environmental benefits.

NRECA Notes Overly Stringent Standards

Furthermore, cooperatives, through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), filed comments on this matter based on the input from local memberships. Specifically, they noted that the Industrial Boiler MACT proposed rule-making for controlling hazardous air pollutants would result in overly stringent standards and it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for affected electric generating facilities to comply.



By
Tim McCarthy

Three Years To Make Changes But Debate Continues

Now that the ruling is in place, electric generators have three years to make the necessary changes required to comply with the standard. Coal-fired generating units will need to install equipment that offers a combination of flue gas desulfurization, activated carbon injection and fabric filters in order to meet the requirements. Obviously, the purchase and installation of this equipment are costs that will be factored into our power supply bill at that time. As many of you may have heard me say before, I fully support an energy plan and regulations that drive us, as a society, to be environmentally conscious. However, any plan or rule that is made must also be fiscally responsible. The debate over this balancing act will rage on for years to come.

A frequent question co-op members have about the impact of these rules ask most often is, "How much will this impact our bills?" The truth is, we simply don't know, but we know it will be costly. A lot of numbers get thrown around in the prediction game.

We do know that Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, N.D., – the cooperative you own which supplies power to local cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota – has invested more than \$1 billion to operate its power plants in an environmentally sound manner. More than \$94.4 million is required annually to operate environmental protection equipment.

Among these investments is the addition of activated carbon injection at the Antelope Valley Station, Laramie River Station and Leland Olds Station to control mercury emissions. Additionally, the cooperative is exploring refined coal processes at the same three facilities.

Each of Basin Electric's coal-based generating plants has an environmental coordinator who is responsible for environmental compliance and maintaining the plant's continuous emissions monitoring (CEM) system.

The CEM measures emissions of sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide, opacity (clarity), nitrogen oxide and flow. These readings are sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) quarterly for compliance review.

Basin Electric and all subsidiary facilities are 100 percent environmentally compliant

Your electric cooperative and your local board of directors, continue to promote an approach that includes consideration of co-op members' pocket books and the burden placed on each one of them!

Editor's Note: This month addresses the third part of a five-part series that will examine various federal regulatory proposals that affect you and your cooperative. This series focuses on regulatory policies – known as "The Big Five" – that will eventually have an impact on the price of electricity your co-op purchases from its power suppliers and delivers to you, our members.

Explaining The Big 5 regulatory issues

Part Three of a
Five-Part Series

Co-ops Testify in EPA Hearing

EDITOR'S NOTE: In earlier parts of this series, we wrote about rule making taking place at the Environmental Protection Agency and encouraged all electric cooperative members to send a message to the EPA at action.coop. The following is an update on that issue:

John Novak, executive director of environmental issues at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) testified before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Feb. 6 on the Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions for New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units.

Speaking on behalf of the more than 900 not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperatives, Novak warned the Agency about the impact of effectively removing coal as a hedge against the volatility of gas and wholesale market prices. Electric cooperatives serve 93 percent of the "persistent poverty counties," and co-ops remain concerned about the effect of this new rule on their members' electric bills, especially low or fixed income. Additionally, as referenced below and demonstrated in this map showing natural gas pipelines overlayed on co-op service territory, pipelines do not serve all regions of the country.

The following is an excerpt from Novak's testimony:

"As demonstrated by cold snaps just this winter, natural gas prices are volatile and spike even during shorter-term weather events. This has an immediate adverse effect on consumer electric bills. Coal and its stable price is a long-term proven hedge against natural gas volatility and is critical if we are to continue to provide affordable electricity for our members."

While new, unconventional natural gas supply from shale has played a huge role in lowering natural gas prices, even this increased gas supply has not changed the built-in volatility of natural gas. This is because price volatility is correlated with business cycles, weather extremes and pipeline infrastructure issues. Again, we are experiencing this with the 2014 winter weather across much of the nation...

There are many areas of the country that either 1) have insufficient access to natural gas 2) do not have suitable sites for CO2 storage or enhanced oil recovery sites, or 3) cannot be supplied wholesale power reliably through the existing transmission grid. How will the EPA reconcile elimination of new coal-fired capacity in these situations?

Clean Air Act precedent is that the best system of emission reduction is based on data from existing plants in the US and worldwide as appropriate. In view of existing performance and what can be reasonably anticipated, we think the best system is defined by improvements in thermal efficiency, an option that EPA has considered and rejected in this proposal...

We think this proposal will be a setback for CO2 capture research, development and demonstration. If, as even the EPA suggests, no coal plants are being built, there will be even less support from the private sector for continued investment in the expensive and unproven CO2 capture development. And, consequently, CO2 capture won't be available to use fossil fuels as energy in a carbon constrained future neither in the US nor around the world."

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states.

District 8 Candidates Seeking Open Board Seat

Five District 8 members have submitted valid petitions and will be on the ballot at the District Meeting in Brandon at the High School on Monday, March 17. The meeting will begin at 7:00, voting will commence once

the meeting has been called to order. Each candidate will have time to speak to members prior to the vote. Below you will find the candidate's biographies. Only one ballot can be cast per member.



Robert Brown - District 8 Candidate

Residence: Brandon, SD

Current occupation: My first portrait and wedding photography studio was in Bellingham, Wa. In addition to the studio we also processed color film & prints for other photographers under the name of RGB Color Labs. I sold the studio in 1964, and joined Keith Cole photography in Redwood City, Ca. My position with Keith Cole was Manager of customer service. I handled color lab sales for Washington and Oregon. Transferred in 1969 to Burnsville, Mn. to become the General Manager of our Color lab. The company was purchased by Herff Jones photography. I was General Manager of the Herff Jones color processing lab, from 1969 to 1976 in Burnsville, Mn. The managing staff was made up of 20 full time managers and supervisors. Production & other employees would vary between 100 and 150. Owner of Genelli Studio in Sioux City from 1977 to 1980. Owned Genelli Studio in Sioux Falls, SD. Sold both studios in 1980. I returned to Burnsville as the Gen. Manager of Herff Jones for the second time. Retired in 1985. Opened R.G. BROWN ENTERPRISES, INC in Apple Valley Mn. We moved to

Brandon SD in 2005. Opened Robert Brown Photography in Brandon, SD from 2006 to 2010.

Education: Graduated from Bellingham High School. Served as an Apprentice for five years with a master photographer and worked for two other photographers until I started my own studio. After I joined Keith Cole and Herff Jones I attended business seminars on a yearly basis. I also taught in company business seminars that we put on for our customers. I was presented with the Masters & Photographic Craftsmen degree by the Professional Photographers of America in 1969.

Why do you want to be a Sioux Valley Energy director? I like the idea of how a member owned Cooperative can deliver superior products/service at a competitive price to the member. I have an interest in solving problems, and would like the opportunity to contribute to the success of Sioux Valley Energy.

What skills/assets would you bring to the board of directors? The experience as a manager, in small, and medium size business. Some examples include: sales, customer service, customer relations, technical, production, employee training and budgeting.



Kevin Callies - District 8 Candidate

Residence: Sioux Falls, SD (Between Sioux Falls and Brandon)

Current occupation: I am currently retired after a 36 year career with the South Dakota Air National Guard (SDANG). I joined the Air Force in 1977 in the Personnel Management career field and later moved into Financial Management. My career in Financial Management started out when I was a young Airman (E-1) and continued until I retired as the Commanding Officer of the Comptroller Flight in the Air National Guard as a Lieutenant Colonel (O-5). During my career I worked with all aspects of military and federal finance including federal budgets, accounting, quality analysis, auditing, financial management reporting, travel accounting, and supervision. I possessed a Top Secret security clearance for this position.

Education: I graduated from Howard High School and went on to earn my Bachelors of Science in Business Management from the National American University while working fulltime in the SDANG. In addition to my college education, I attended many courses on federal and military accounting and Financial Management

throughout my military career.

Why do you want to be a Sioux Valley Energy director? I want to be a Sioux Valley Energy director for several reasons. As a retiree and long-time homeowner, I would be able to dedicate my time to helping the Cooperative advance into the future. From wiring my own house to researching geothermal and wind power, I have always had a strong interest in electrical management and utilization. After researching and talking with Sioux Valley Energy, I invested in geothermal for my current home. I have extensively researched wind power and have toured a wind farm in Minnesota. I also have high energy power lines going through my property. My interest and dedication to the energy industry would help me be a passionate and informed director.

What skills/assets would you bring to the board of directors? I would bring strong financial skills and people skills to the board of directors. In my military career I worked with customers in the state of South Dakota, throughout the United States, and in different countries. I worked at the Pentagon on Air Force budgets, in Haiti after their devastating earthquake, in Jamaica after a hurricane hit, and in Panama in protection of the canal. My diverse experiences with the military have proven my broad skills as a communicator and a Financial Manager. I am also very proficient with all Microsoft programs including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and other databases. **Additional Information:** I have been an active volunteer for Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church, Junior Achievement, the YMCA, the banquet, the Military Family Volunteer Group to name a few. I am a member of many organizations and have been active in the community through activities like the Brandon Valley Band Board and coaching numerous softball and basketball teams.



Bonnie Duffy- District 8 Candidate

Residence: Sioux Falls, SD

Current occupation: Since 2007 I have served as a supervisor for Splitrock Township. The Minnehaha County Commissioners appointed me to be a Planning and Zoning Commissioner in 2012. I have also had the privilege of being a board member for East Dakota Educational Cooperative and Interlakes Community Action Agency since 2007. East Dakota, which I am a Foundation member, oversees the coop in their mission to provide education to non-traditional students at the high school level. Interlakes provides many programs for homeless families in need of assistance.

Education: I am a graduate of Washington High School and alumnus of Augustana College. Took classes to become a residential appraiser and received my license in 1995. At that time, became part of the family business which is Duffy Appraisals. I continue to take classes to attain board member status for boards that I am on.

Why do you want to be a Sioux Valley Energy director? Becoming a board member intrigues me as it is something new and challenging. For many years I have been the voice of the people, representing the public to the best of my ability. It has been a passion of mine.

What skills/assets would you bring to the board of directors? Being a board member for many boards, civic and non-profit, I will bring an additional objective opinion. I'm willing to listen and learn during the transition period. My past experiences have taught me to view the immediate and envision the future. The element of the future is all about the strategic planning process. All ideas and opinions need to be heard to have a better understanding of the process. All of my decisions in the past have been based on what is best for the public that I represent.

I have been on numerous boards since 1977. Each has had different purposes but all had objectives to attain. I will take the necessary time to learn the objectives of this board and contribute to the overall goals set forth. I will bring new perspective and analysis as a representative of District 8. Having my own business allows me the flexibility to commit to the meetings involved with this board position. With this flexibility and with the support from my family and friends, I believe I am a good candidate for District 8. **Additional Information:** My family is husband, Mike, and 2 grown sons. Oldest son, Dr. Michael, practices dentistry in Columbia, IL and lives in St Louis, MO. Our youngest, Morgan, is a real estate appraiser working in the family business. We have lived on the same rural acreage for the last 27 years. The school district was our second home for 17 years. During that time I was a board member for the Brandon Valley Board of Education for 2 terms.



Gary Fish- District 8 Candidate

Residence: Brandon, SD

Current occupation & education: I am a CPA who practiced five years with a national accounting firm and then I have worked in private industry for the past 28 years. Currently, I am one of the founding shareholders of a wind energy service company named RENEW Energy Maintenance, LLC that we have expanded from 2 employees in 2009 to nearly 80 employees currently. I also serve on the Board of Directors of RENEW. I have also served as the Vice President-Treasurer of the DM&E railroad that was focused on building a new rail line into the coal fields of Wyoming to serve the electric utility industry. I have also served 15 years with Black Hills Power in Rapid City in various financial, development and executive positions. While with Black Hills Power, I testified in front of various state Public Utility Commissions on electric rate issues, attended several electric utility conferences and seminars and was responsible for Black Hills acquisition strategy.

Why do you want to be a Sioux Valley Energy director? Brandon is great community, and I have a strong desire to give back to the community. In Brandon, I have been active in youth sports and school activities including serving a term as the president of the baseball association. I currently serve on the Brandon Community Foundation Board. In Rapid City, I was also involved in several community activities including serving as Chairman of the Rapid City Economic Development Partnership.

What skills/assets would you bring to the board of directors? I believe I can bring a unique blend of business, utility industry, board experience and community service that will serve the Community well. I have over 15 years of utility work experience. **Additional Information:** Sioux Valley Energy is a strong cooperative, and I want to thank the members that have served on the Board in the past. I have experience leading an electric utility and understand the challenge of balancing the interests of employees, member customers and member owners in making prudent decisions that creates a strong electric utility on a long term basis. I would be very excited about representing the Brandon community on the Board.



Dennis Olson- District 8 Candidate

Residence: Brandon, SD

Current occupation: After graduating, I spent some time in the military and then worked in construction and the retail lumber business in Beresford, South Dakota. I was appointed the City Administrator and Finance Officer for the City of Brandon in April of 1986. I retired in April, 2010 but continue to work part time for the City.

Education: I grew up and attended grade school and three years of high school in Clear Lake, South Dakota. I graduated from Vermillion High School in 1966 and received a bachelors degree in History Education from USD in 1970.

Why do you want to be a Sioux Valley Energy director? I have worked very close with Sioux Valley Energy throughout my years with the City of Brandon. I have attended their Member Advisory Committee meetings for most of that time. This allowed me to obtain information about Sioux Valley Energy directly, helping me answer questions that came into City Hall. I have always admired the way Sioux Valley has operated and would like to see that proud tradition continue into the future.

What skills/assets would you bring to the board of directors? I have 24 years of experience operating public utilities for the City of Brandon. I have hands on experience on what is expected by the public and a keen insight as to the necessity to update infrastructure on a timely basis and an understanding of providing service at a reasonable cost. **Additional Information:** I have always wanted to serve on the Sioux Valley Energy Board but never had the time. I now have the time and will participate as an active Board member. I ask for your support by attending the March 17th District meeting in the High School Commons and casting your vote for experience and participation. Thank you.

Regional Dateline

Call for Appointment

PS35 Schoolhouse/Military
Bear Display, Pipestone, MN
507-215-1694

February 22

Kids Ice Fishing Event, Beaver
Lake, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Free
to kids age 17 and under
Humboldt, SD, 605-528-3592
www.cvsqchapter.com

February 27-March 2

Annual Sioux Falls
Sportsmen's Boat, Camping
and Vacation Show
Sioux Falls, SD, 763-755-8111
www.siouxfallssportshow.com

March 1

Book Blast at the Empire Mall
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-361-3301

March 28

East Dakota Chapter NWTf
21st Annual Banquet
5 p.m. Social, 6:45 p.m.
Dinner, Convention Center
1211 N West. Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Kris
Goeden at 605-366-5061
www.eastdakotachapternwtf.org

April 5-6

Big Boy Toy Show
Aberdeen, SD, 605-229-3632

April 8-9

Disney's Beauty and the Beast
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

April 12

Tri-Valley Barbershop Chorus
Annual Show, 7 p.m.
School Auditorium
Centerville, SD, 605-563-2746



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

March 15

James Valley Model Railroad
Open House, Aberdeen, SD
605-226-2139

February 22

Annual Ham Dinner with Wild
Game, Izaak Walton
Clubhouse, 6:30 p.m.
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-261-8700

April 12-13

2014 Quilt Show, Quilting in
the Country, Saturday 9 a.m.
to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.
to 4 p.m., Brookings Swiftel
Center, Hwy 14 East I-29
Featuring Yvonne Hollenbach
a quilter and S. D. poet.
Luncheon on April 12 with
pre-registration \$20, call Deb
at 605-693-3969
The Brookings Quilt Show
will have vendors, seminars
boutique, silent auction
special exhibits, featured quil-
ter Irene Kurtenbach and more
than 300 quilts on display.
Admission is \$5
Brookings, SD, Contact Janet
at 605-997-2834, E-mail:
quilters57006@gmail.com

May 10

Consignment Auction, 10 a.m.
Prairie Village, Madison, SD
605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.org/auction

June 8

Miss Prairie Village/Miss
Prairie Princess Pageant
Prairie Village, Madison, SD
605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.org

June 13

Northern Bull Riding Tour
7 p.m., Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

June 20-22

125th Anniversary Celebration
Humboldt, SD, Call Wanda at
605-363-3223

June 22

Prairie Village Variety Show
Prairie Village, Madison, SD
605-256-3644

June 27-29

Motogator Joe's Country
Music Festival, Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 866-245-2702
www.bigtimecountry.com
www.prairievillage.org

July 12-13

Railroad Days, Pizza Train
Saturday at 6 p.m. by
reservation, Free Hobo Stew
Sunday, Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.org

July 25-27

Honey Days, Bruce, SD
605-627-5671

August 3

21st Annual Madison Car
Show, Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.org

August 23

McCrosan Boys Ranch Xtreme
Event Challenge, Barrel
Racing, Mutton Busting
Northern Bull Riding Tour
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
McCrosan Campus
\$12/adults and \$5/youth
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-339-1203