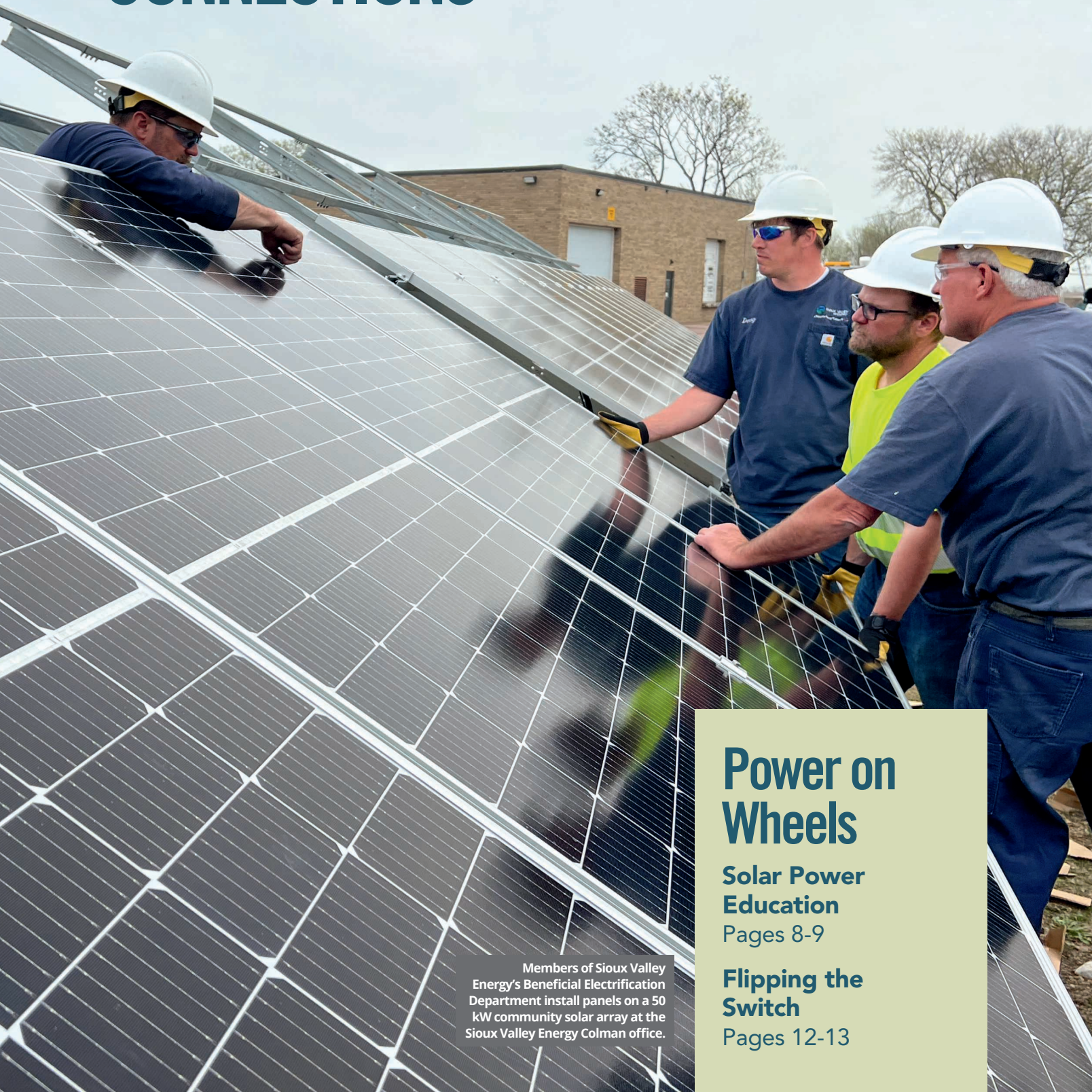




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

LACREEK ELECTRIC
JULY 2023 VOL. 24 NO. 3

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Power on Wheels

**Solar Power
Education**

Pages 8-9

**Flipping the
Switch**

Pages 12-13

Members of Sioux Valley Energy's Beneficial Electrification Department install panels on a 50 kW community solar array at the Sioux Valley Energy Colman office.

Fireworks and Power Lines Do Not Mix



Josh Fanning
General Manager

Independence Day is almost here, and Lacreek Electric has many ways to celebrate the occasion. Check your local newspaper or online for details on all the firework displays around town. If the big fireworks displays aren't your thing and you absolutely insist on doing fireworks yourself, there are many safety factors to consider.

During Independence Day, your family will be celebrating with some fireworks. While these can create an awesome show for the eye, they can be dangerous when it comes to your electrical lines. It's important that you take steps to protect your electrical lines from fireworks.

It's very important that you be mindful of where you light your fireworks. You don't want to be anywhere near electric lines. You also don't want to be pointing any moving fireworks at electrical lines. When fireworks come into contact with an electric line, it can lead to a fire. This can cause electric outages and injuries to people standing too close to the lines.

Firework Electrical Safety Tips

Fireworks can be very dangerous when not utilized in a safe manner. It's best to leave them up to the professionals. They can choose a place to let them off and do so in a safe manner for everybody. If you want to light fireworks at home, there are some specific safety tips that you should use while doing so. You want to choose a safe area that is away from obstructions. This can include things like electrical lines, houses, and mailboxes. Make sure that adults are the only ones lighting fireworks. Keep all

children at least 20 feet away from the fireworks being lit. You should always keep a bucket of water near you. You can use this to put out any fires that start as a result of your fireworks.

Managing Power Outages Caused by Fireworks

Unfortunately, you may be without power because somebody else was unsafe with fireworks. When this happens, it's important that you take a few steps to protect your house and livelihood. Try to reduce opening your freezers and refrigerators to help keep as much cold air in them as possible. Take a moment to disconnect all your major appliances and electronics. This can help you avoid any electrical surges that happen when the electricity gets turned back on. You should keep a supply of flashlights available in strategic places in your home. That way, you can grab one whenever the power goes out in the dark overnight hours. Resist the urge to try and use your gas stove to heat your home. This can lead to a dangerous gas leak that could cause your family harm. 1280900202

Once again, Fireworks should only be lit in open areas where there are no power lines. Should a firework accidentally come in contact with an overhead power line, call your utility and 911 immediately. If you are a Lacreek Electric member, you should call 605-685-6581.

All fireworks are dangerous!

The U.S. Fire Administration estimates an average of 9,300 firework-related injuries per year. These injuries include large-scale fireworks and firecrackers, rockets, and sparklers that burn at around 2,000 degrees! HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

Find Your Account Number: It's Worth \$40!

A member's account number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your account number, call the office before **July 7, 2023**, and you will receive a \$40 credit on your next month's billing. If no one finds their account number, the credit will be \$50 in the next issue.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LACREEK ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 018-912)

Board of Directors

Wade Risse – President
Brent Ireland – Vice President
Scott Larson – Secretary
Tom Schlack – Treasurer
Clarence Allen – Troy Kuxhaus
Cole Lange – Clifford Lafferty
Neal Livermont – Marion Schultz
Jerry Sharp – Connie Whirlwind Horse
Donovan Young Man

Management Staff

Josh Fanning – General Manager
Sherry Bakley – Work Order/Staff Assistant
Tracie Hahn – Office Manager
Anna Haynes – Finance Manager
Kasi Harris – Finance Manager
Mike Pisha – Operations Manager
Ashley Turgeon – Administrative Assistant
Jessica Cook – Member Services/IT

Office Personnel

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Cody Larson – Accountant
Terri Gregg – Member Service/Billing Specialist
Katrina Fish – Member Service/Billing Specialist
Lisa Jensen – Member Service Representative

Operations Personnel

Line Foreman: Jesse Byerley
Journeyman Linemen:
Jordon Bakley – Dane Claussen – Lonny Lesmeister – Garrett Metzinger – Ryan Pettit – Aaron Risse – Trace Scott – Damon Wangerin
Apprentice Linemen:
Tee Allen – Les Cuny – Kody Hagen – Matthew Kruid
Warehouseman: Henry Johnson
Maintenance Man: Justin Smokov

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April 2023 Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. was held in the office of the Cooperative, located in the Town of Martin, S.D., on April 18, 2023, beginning at 1 p.m. The meeting was then called to order by President Wade Risse and the following directors were present: Donovan Young Man, Connie Whirlwind Horse, Marion Schultz, Cole Lange, Clifford Lafferty, Troy Kuxhaus, Clarence Allen, Tom Schlack, Scott Larson, and Brent Ireland. Also present were General Manager Josh Fanning, Finance Manager Anna Haynes, Line Foreman Jesse Byerley, Member Service/IT Jessica Cook, Work Order/Staff Assistant Sherry Bakley, Accountant Kasi Harris, and Administrative Assistant Ashley Turgeon. Attending via Webex was Office Manager Tracie Hahn. Absent were director Neal Livermont, director Jerry Sharp, and Operations Manager Mike Pisha.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Wade Risse.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve Administrative Assistant Ashley Turgeon to record the board minutes.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the March 2023 Board Minutes.

Additions to the agenda were asked for by President Risse.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the agenda.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Operating Report for February that was presented by Finance Manager Anna Haynes.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the check audit committee's review of the list of March checks and disbursements.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the March Analysis of Investments that was presented by Finance Manager Anna Haynes.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the list of new members.

Jessica reported on Lineman Appreciation Day; the SDREA Youth Excursion to Bismarck, N.D., July 24-27;

on our Annual Meeting Thursday, April 27; on Interconnects/Renewables; and on email security.

Jesse reported on work in progress: 2022 reject poles, Nebraska underground replacement, pole testers working in the Rockyford area, and Keller Construction is working in the Porcupine area. Altec completed annual inspections of equipment, with everything passing except Truck 18 for controls on the bucket. However, Altec is looking into the problem. Jesse gave the safety report.

Donovan reported on the SDREA Meeting he attended via WebEx. Josh reported about the annual Federated Review; the FEMA December storm; the remodel of the crew room and how it created enough space for our summer help; WAPA contracts; the PSE rate study; Grant Funding; and that Butte Electric hired Chief Executive Officer Matt Sleep.

Discussion was held on the Economic Development Committee's activities since the start of 2023. They are open to ideas of organizations in surrounding communities that enhance the lives of our youths to contribute to. Clarified donation versus advertising. Discussion was held on the Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative Annual Meeting being held June 7 in Deadwood with Clarence being the delegate and Donovan being the alternate. Marion, Clifford, and Josh also plan to attend. Discussion was held on the Resolution to Allocate Capital Credits with a motion being made, seconded and carried to approve allocating 2022 Lacreek's operating margins and G & T margins back to the members through capital credits and non-operating margins will not be allocated. Other information included a congratulatory letter on Lacreek's 75th Annual Meeting from Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

The board and General Manager went into Executive Session from 2:59 p.m., until 3:50 p.m., with no action taken. No further business was brought before the board and the meeting was adjourned.

Next Board Meeting – May 16, 2023, at 4 p.m.

Fireworks Safety Tips

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

In 2017, eight people died and over 12,000 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. Of these, 50% of the injuries were to children and young adults under age 20. Over two-thirds (67%) of injuries took place from June 16 to July 16. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, an estimated 1,200 injuries were from less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers.

Additionally, fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires and nearly 17,000 other fires.

Fireworks Safety Tips: If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks

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

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

- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks

Sparklers Are Dangerous

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

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



Call Before You Dig!

Dixie Koistinen

Dixie Koistinen advises diggers to call 811 before digging. This is a great tip for anyone doing construction or yard work this summer. Dixie is the daughter of Jerome and Lisa Koistinen from Lake Norden, S.D., members of H-D Electric.

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

Summer DESSERTS

VICKY'S RHUBARB CAKE

Ingredients:

- 1 egg
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup cream (sweet or sour)
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 cups rhubarb (slice thin)

METHOD

Mix in order. Grease and flour pan. Pour batter into pan and sprinkle 1 cup brown sugar, 1/2 cup nuts, and 1/2 cup chocolate chips over the top. Bake at 350°F for 50 minutes.

Vicky Hoffman
South Dakota

CHERRY CLOUD 9 DESSERT

Ingredients:

- 1 white cake mix
- 1 (3 oz.) pkg. cherry jello
- 1 (8 oz.) carton of Cool Whip
- 1 (24 oz.) can cherry pie filling

METHOD

Bake 1 white cake mix in 9x13" pan according to directions.

Poke holes in cake and pour in 1 (3 oz.) pkg. cherry jello made with only 1 1/2 cups water. Refrigerate.

When this is cool, cover with 1 (8 oz.) carton of Cool Whip. Gently spoon on 1 (24 oz.) can of cherry pie filling. Refrigerate and serve.

This is a pretty red and white dessert to serve during holiday gatherings.

Jane Ham
Rapid City, S.D.

EASY RASPBERRY MOLTEN CAKES

Ingredients:

- 4 oz. semi-sweet chocolate
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 4 tsps. raspberry extract
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 egg yolk
- 6 tbsp. flour
- Raspberry Sauce (recipe follows)

Raspberry Sauce:

- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen raspberries in juice, thawed
- 1/2 teaspoon raspberry extract

METHOD

Preheat oven to 425°F. Butter 6 (6 oz.) custard cups or soufflé dishes. Place on baking sheet.

Microwave chocolate and butter in large microwavable bowl on HIGH 1 minute or until butter is melted. Stir with wire whisk until chocolate is completely melted. Stir in raspberry flavor and vanilla. Stir in sugar until well blended. Whisk in eggs and yolk. Stir in flour. Pour batter into prepared custard cups.

Bake 10 to 14 minutes or until sides are firm but centers are soft. Let stand 1 minute. Carefully loosen edges with small knife. Invert cakes onto serving plates.

For the Raspberry Sauce, mix raspberries and raspberry extract until well blended. Serve with cakes.

mccormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Seal in Savings with Efficient Exterior Doors

Q: I like the style of my front door, but it is drafty. Can you recommend ways to fix the drafts and make it more energy efficient?

A: The front door of your home has a lot of meaning. It sets the stage for the home and is the first impression for your guests. Beyond curb appeal, the front door is a good place to look for energy savings.

Efficient exterior doors seal tightly and don't allow air to pass through. Limiting airflow from exterior doors can result in lower heating and cooling costs. Throughout the years, the construction of exterior doors has improved to increase their efficiency. If your door is older, it likely is not insulated.

There are two strategies to address an inefficient front door: Purchase a new one or work with what you have.

If you want to replace your front door for aesthetic purposes, make it more functional or improve its efficiency, consider upgrading to an ENERGY STAR®-certified model. The ENERGY STAR® certification ensures the door you buy meets efficiency criteria for your local area. It also means the National Fenestration Rating Council independently tested and verified the door.

Certification requires any windows in the door to be double or triple pane to reduce heat flow, which results in a more efficient home. While windows in doors offer aesthetics, more glass means less efficiency. ENERGY STAR® offers different criteria based on the amount of glass the door has. That means that the bigger the windows in a door, the lower the efficiency. The most efficient doors have no glass or windows in them.

U-factor is the primary rating for efficiency on doors and windows. U-factor is the inverse of R-value, which is the rating used for insulation.

Unlike R-value where higher is better, the lower the U-factor, the more energy efficient the door. Check the U-factor on ENERGY STAR® doors at your local hardware store or online to help choose the most efficient door in your preferred style.

ENERGY STAR®-certified doors are made of the most efficient materials, such as fiberglass, wood cladding and steel with polyurethane foam core. They are built to fit snugly into their frames, reducing drafts and airflow.

When it comes to doors, you don't have to sacrifice style for efficiency. There are many styles available to match the architecture, whether your home is historic or modern.

When completely replacing a door and the frame, you can use expanding foam or caulk to fill the space between the door jamb and structural framing. ENERGY STAR® doors have specific installation instructions to ensure the desired efficiency.

If a new door isn't in your budget, there are less expensive options to reduce air leakage and improve your home's efficiency.

All of that coming and going throughout the years can wear out weatherstripping. If you can see daylight around the edges of the door or underneath it, it's time to stop those air leaks.

Weatherstripping around the door jamb can be adjusted to make a snug seal or replaced if it's too far gone. Apply one continuous strip along each side, and make sure it meets tightly at the corners.

There are many different types of weatherstripping products on the market, so shop around for what's right for you. Don't forget the door sweep at the bottom of the door.

Adding a storm door can also help and is less expensive than replacing the entire door. Most storm doors have options for using a screen or glass. Swapping the screen for the glass insert can help save energy in both the winter and in the summer if you use air conditioning. Consider a storm door that's easy to switch between glass and screen so you can maximize the benefits.

Open the door to energy savings by improving the efficiency of your exterior doors – without compromising the aesthetics of your home.



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

Home Health Care

Dr. Saini Provides Home Health Care for Patients

Scott Waltman

For Dr. Mona Saini, providing care to patients in their homes is incredibly satisfying.

Saini lives in Custer and works for Monument Health. She started with what's since become Monument during her residency in Rapid City about eight years ago and has been in Custer for the past five years.

She started home visits early during the COVID-19 pandemic and has kept providing the service since, she said.

Taking care of patients in their homes is convenient for those folks and a privilege for Saini. She said it feels more personal for her and helps alleviate anxiety for people who have a hard time getting to the hospital or clinic.

The disappointing part of modern medicine is that not much home health care is provided, Saini said.

The home visits are part of her work for Monument, but not the only part. She's a general practitioner and also provides prenatal care. She and the other five physicians in Custer all do outpatient clinic,

hospital and emergency room work. Not all, though, provide home health care.

Saini earned her undergraduate degree from Oakland University on the north side of Detroit and went to medical school at the Indiana School of Medicine-Fort Wayne.

“The disappointing part of modern medicine is that not much home health care is provided.”

She said she had an interest in rural health care while she was still in school, which is what led her to apply for a residency in Rapid City.

Saini's parents grew up in India, but she's found a wonderful home in Custer.



Dr. Mona Saini

Her parents are the children of farmers, and she appreciates the rural values of hard work, being humble and appreciative and family values.

“I lived in Michigan almost all my life, and I didn't even know all this was out here,” Saini said of the Black Hills area.

She appreciates the community and the opportunity to help people without them having to leave the comfort of their homes.

“I love taking care of my rural health patients,” Saini said. “I truly do”



POWER ON WHEELS

West Central Electric Cooperative's solar trailer serves as an interactive exhibit showcasing solar power generation in action for members. Equipped with a built-in generator, battery storage unit, inverter, and six rooftop solar arrays, the trailer is a great resource for public outreach and education efforts in South Dakota.

Solar trailer takes renewable education on the road

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdra.coop

Solar panels are creating a buzz in the energy industry. Every day, co-op employees around the state answer an ever-growing list of questions, such as “Can solar save me money on my energy bill?” and “Are solar panels a reliable source of energy?”

Addressing increasing public interest, West Central Electric Co-op, serving towns such as Murdo and Kennebec, has developed an innovative approach to public outreach regarding solar panels. Their solution: a solar trailer — a portable structure designed to inform the public about the efficiency, pros and cons of solar panels.

“West Central Electric has approxi-

mately 3,700 members and I get two or three calls a month from our members asking about solar power,” said Jessie Tucker, the co-op’s member services manager.

Tucker noted that the recent surge in solar power interest isn’t limited to West Central. Co-ops throughout the state have been fielding similar inquiries. So, when the concept of a solar trailer was introduced in 2021, several nearby co-ops, including Rushmore Electric Power, were quick to get on board.

“We thought, wouldn’t it be great if we had something that we could show to the membership and explain how solar panels work and go from there,” said Tucker. “We envisioned the trailer as a resource that could be utilized throughout western South Dakota, if not the entire state.”

With support from surrounding co-ops, the trailer was completed in June 2022. Although the trailer is a work in progress, it has already been showcased at several co-op outreach events over the past year, including Black Hills Electric’s Co-op Day and more.

The solar trailer serves as an interactive exhibit where members can step inside for a first-hand experience. Upon pressing a button, the six rooftop solar arrays activate and start generating a total of 1.92 kilowatts of energy directly from the trailer’s roof. Apart from solar panels, the trailer is equipped with a built-in generator, a battery storage unit, and an inverter that converts power from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC).

The trailer, according to Tucker, highlights the benefits of a diversified approach to South Dakota’s energy mix. For a reliable and dependable energy grid, renewable sources such as solar need to be paired with other forms of power generation.

“What we are really trying to com-

communicate is that you can't fully rely on distributed generation, whether it's solar or wind," Tucker explained. "For reliability and safety, it's important to consider all available energy sources. Solar power has its limitations, especially when the sun isn't shining or during the night."

The introduction of a solar trailer comes as co-ops across the state are in the midst of their own solar initiatives. Just last month, Sioux Valley Energy completed its own solar project that permits its members to purchase a 20-year subscription to the power output from a newly constructed 140-panel solar array located in Colman, S.D. The project allows members who are passionate about renewable energy a direct route to purchase solar power through their local co-op.

"A lot of people are very interested in solar power, but they don't want to go through the process of using up land and roof space," said Ben Pierson, manager of beneficial electrification for Sioux Valley. "Members aren't interested in constructing these projects themselves, so our solar

project offers those members an alternative way to get involved in solar."

More than 30 members participate in the subscription program, and because the project was entirely financed by the participating members, it won't impact other members of the co-op.

"This project was one hundred percent funded by the members that are purchasing the output of those panels," said Pierson. "This project allows these members to see a local, physical solar asset in their community that is working for them and is credited on their bill each. So really



The solar trailer has been featured at several co-op public outreach events.

our focus with renewable is really about member choice."

The landscape of renewable energy is vast and ever-changing and every co-op is planning their own approach, but with resources like the solar trailer, tools for education and engagement are within reach for members wanting to learn more.



The interior of the solar trailer is equipped with battery storage and outlets – powering everyday electrical appliances, such as a hairdryer.

Lacreek Electric Seeking These Members

You are hereby notified that you have failed to claim capital credits to which you are entitled to receive for the year of 2017.

You are further notified that, pursuant to SDCL 47-16-54, said capital credits will be forfeited to the cooperative unless claimed with proper evidence of ownership within six months of the first publication of this notice or not later than Sept. 30, 2023.

A T & T BOSG	Bergen, Dorothy Est	Brown, Louis Est	Cook, Debra	Elk Looks Back, Marceline Est	Good Voice Elk, Frank Jr	Hunter, Carolyn M Est
Adams, Larry	Bettelyoun, Joseph Est	Brown, Pauline Est	Coomes, Irma Est	Emerick, Marie Est	Good Voice Flute, Colleen Est	Imitates Dog, Jennie Est
Advantage Services	Bettelyoun, Loretta Est	Brown Bull, Leona Est	Coon, Raymond Est	Engel, David L	Goodwill, Madelyn	Iron Cloud, Eddie Est
Afraid of Bear, Michael Est	Bettelyoun, Manuel Est	Brown Eyes, Norman Est	Cornelius, John Est	Emerick, Marie Est	Graham, Christine A	Iron Cloud, Freida M
Afraid of Hawk, Maria Est	Bettelyoun, Maxine	Brunsch, Beryl Est	Cortier, Adrain	Espinoza, John Est	Grant, Elaine	Iron Cloud, Patricia Est
Afraid of Hawk, Martha Est	Bettelyoun, Terry Est	Bryant, Demetria	Cottier, Linda S	Farmer, Shirley K	Hacker, Robert	Iron Horse, Jacob V Sr Est
Albert, James Est	Betts, Maxine	Buckman, Wilbur C Est	Cournoyer, Claudia	Fast Horse, Rufus Est	Hahn, Joann Est	Iron Shell, Isaac Jr Est
Aldrich, Kathryn	Bidelman, Alan	Bull Bear, Gwen Est	Cournoyer, Foster Sr Est	Faulk, Jerry	Hairy Shirt, Pauline Est	Iron Shell, Rita Est
Allen, Carol	Bird Head, Dora Est	Bullman, Stella Est	Crossett, Clay	Fawcett, Linetta	Hancock, Jack Est	Iron Whiteman, Linda Est
Allen, Philip Est	Bissonette, Rudolph Est	Burke, Esther Est	Crow, Jessie Est	Featherman, Delano D Est	Hanneman, William Est	Jacobs, Tim
American Horse, Denver Est	Black Bear, April Est	Burney, Philip	Crow Good Voice Elk, Eugene W jr	Ferguson, Laura Est	Hanson, Stella Est	Janis, Christine
Apple, Antoine J	Black Bear, Peter Est	Burning Breast, Mary Est	Cummings, Clarence Est	Ferguson, Leonard Est	Harris, Donald N Est	Janis, Isabelle Est
Apple, Dora Estate	Black Bear, Verna Est	Calico Village Well	Cummings, Mary F	Ferriegal, Jean E Est	Hartley, George	Janis, Joe L
Arapahoe, Wilferd	Black Bull, Mary A Est	Cangleska Inc	Curry, Clover Est	Fire Thunder, Ben Est	Has No Horse, Roselyn Est	Janis, Stella V Est
Around Him, Ruby	Black Elk, Steven	Cano, Justin Est	Cutt, Mary J Est	First Body Jesus Christ	Hatchet, Cheryl R Est	Jealous, Vernon
Atwell, Michael A	Black Eyes, Jerome H Est	Chappell, Don Est	Dalin, Dennis T Est	Church-Norris	Hawk Wing, Virgil Sr Est	Johnston, Jim O Est
Bad Cob, Ione Est	Black Eyes, Sallie Est	Charging Crow, Eleanor Est	Davis, Christopher	Floyd, Georgia F	Hays, Viola C Est	Jones, Robert
Bad Hand, Roy Est	Blacksmith, Sandra	Chase Alone, Carmen Est	DeBoer, Carol	Fool Bull, Ernestine Est	Heath, Mary Est	Jones, Roberta
Bad Milk, Bruce Est	Blacksmith, Theresa Est	Chipps, Charles Est	Deering, Carolyn	Froiland, Eric	Heeftle, Jon Est	Jumping Eagle, Rebecca Est
Badlands Ag Spraying	Blare, JD Estate	Chipps, Phillip Est	Dekay, Darleen Est	Fuerstenau, Gregg	Henry, Raymond M Sr Est	Keeler, Christine Est
Barrett, Christine	Blindman, Collins, Est	Christensen, Bennett Est	Deutscher, Rueben Est	Gardner, Don H Est	Her Many Horses, Louis Est	Keeler, Norman J
Bartlett, David	Blue Bird, Robert J	Clifford, David C Sr Est	Dirks, Clarke A	Gavrila, Nick D	Her Many Horses, Steve	Keester, Rhoda Est
Bear Killer, Ralph Sr Est	Blue Horse, Charlene	Clifford, Eli Sr Est	Dithmer Bros	Ghost Bear, George Est	Herman, Walean Est	Kills Crow Indian, Julia Est
Bear Stops, Irma Est	Blue Horse, Gerald Est	Clifford, Patrick T Est	Dohse, Kathy	Ghost Bear, Robert Est	Hesser, Helen Est	Kills Enemy, Emma Est
Bearing, Monica Est	Bowman, Ruby Est	Coats, George Est	Drechsler, Ellen	Gibbons, Ivan Est	Hicks, Debra L	Kills Enemy, Gerald
Beck, Alverda R Est	Bowman, Sharon Est	Coats, Robert E Est	Dunbar, Dennis	Gillespie, William Est	High Hawk, Elizabeth Est	Kills Enemy, Vivian Est
Beem, Vida Estate	Brannigan, Brenda E	Collins, Connie Est	Dupree, Richard	Glaze, Zona Estate	High Hawk, John A Est	Kills In Water, Colleen
Beem, Vivian A	Brave Bird, Cleveland	Comes, Gina J Est	Eagle Bear, Delphine Est	Golis, Aleen	High Horse, Alfred	Kills In Water, Willard Est
Belle, Catherine J Est	Brave Hawk, Doris Est	Comes Last, Amelia Est	Eaton, James F	Gomez, Hector C	High Horse, Marge	Kills Right, Albert Est
Bengford, Paul	Brewer, Duane Est	Conroy, Ben	Elk Boy, Jacqueline Est	Good Crow, Ella Est	High Pipe, Jessie M Est	Koenig, Harold L Est
	Broken Rope, Mildred Est	Conroy, Cornell L Sr Est	Elk Boy, Vestana Est	Good Crow, Lyle Est	Hill, Lillian Est	Kohle, Kay Estate
	Brown, David	Cook, Christine	Elk Looks Back, Emery Est	Good Shot, Jessie Est	Homan, Glen Est	Krız, Emmy G
	Brown, Fred Sr				Huber, Ophelia L Est	Kunkel, Ron
					Huber, Virgil M Est	Ladeaux, Marion Est
						Lakota Wesleyan Mission
						Lamont, Stepheny
						Lang, Ellen Est
						Larabee, William Est

Larvie, Flora Est	Mesteth, Susan M	Plenty Arrows, Carl Est	Roupe, Gilbert	Spider, Emerson Sr Est	Walters, Delbert B Est
Larvie, Gertie Est	Metzinger, Lois J Est	Plumman, Charlotte Est	Rowland, Clarence Est	Spotted Eagle, Bruce Est	Walters, James J
Larvie, Inez Est	Meyers, Leigh	Poor Bear, Ladonna Est	Rowland, Darius Est	Spotted Tail, Arlene	Washington, Roberta
Lasalle, Phalena	Meyers, Richie	Poor Bear, Merle M Est	Ruff, Corrine J Est	Spotted Tail Wright, Cheryl Est	Waters, Raymond C
Lawrence, Michael A	Miles, Harry Est	Porcupine, Aaron Est	Runnels, Gerry Est	St. Peter's Episc Church/Oglala	Weaver Electric Inc
Leeper, Helen I Est	Miles, Mike Est	Porcupine, Samuel Est	Runnels, Nancy L	Standing Bear, Pearl Est	Wells, Shirley Est
Leyva, Mario D	Millar, Arnold E Est	Porter, Terry D	Running, Beatrice	Standing Soldier, Deloris Est	Weslyan Indian Mission
Little Eagle, Stanley Est	Miller, Floyd Est	Pourier, Justin	Running, Philomine Est	Stands, Arlana L Est	Westover, Margaret Est
Little Hawk, Cecil Sr Est	Miller, Gary	Pourier, Lorie Est	Running Horse, Robert Est	Stands, Homer, Sr Est	Wheeler, Terri D
Little Moon, Alice	Miller, Geraldine L Est	Price, Robert Est	Runs Above, Norman	Stanley, Janelle	Whipple, Melvin Est
Little Moon, Victoria Est	Miller, Mathew G	Pumpkin Seed, Alberta Est	Runs Above, Rudy Est	Star, Elliot	Whirlwind Horse, Raymond
Little Soldier, Phyllis Est	Mills, Calvin L Est	Pumpkin Seed, Amanda Est	Runs Against, Delia Est	Steele, Faye G Est	Jr Est
Little Spotted Horse, Sarah Est	Mitchell, Roger Est	Bumpkin Seed, Bessie Est	Runs Against, Faron A Est	Stephen, Ellen	Whirlwind Horse, William Est
Little Whiteman, Betty Est	Mogan Ranch	Pumpkin Seed, George Est	Sacred Heart Church/Norris	Stone, Gloria J Est	White, Evelyn Est
Little White Man, Lucy Est	Montileaux, Pauline Est	QUEST	Sacred Heart Church/Rosebud	Stoner, Mary Est	White, Inez Est
Livermont, Vivian Est	Mook, Keith R	Quigley, Dennis Est	Saknikent, Gary Est	Stoner Robert J	White, Lee E
Loafer, Acey Estate	Moore, Mary Ellen Est	Quist, Arlene Est	Salamanca, Joe E	Street, Parke C	White, Tillie E Est
Lone Elk, Charlotte M Est	Moore, Sandra Est	Quiver, Robert Est	Sanchez, Cleo Est	Studt, Ronald	White Butterfly, Virgil Est
Lone Elk, Loretta Estate	Morrison, Clifford Jr Est	Raben, Bernice Est	Sanchez, June Est	Sully, Claudia Est	White Calf, Florida Est
Lone Hill, Sophia M Est	Morton, Kenneth D	Rasmussen, Karla	Sargent, Ruth Est	Swain, Jackie	White Clay Ambulance
Lone Wolf, Rochelle Est	Mousseau, John T Est	Raymond, Karen Est	Sasse, Carl W Jr	Swallow, Elaine P Est	White Dress, Sylvia Est
Long, Ramona Estate	Moves Camp, Andrea	Red Bird, Patty	Sasse, Velma Est	Swift Bird, Joseph B Est	White Eyes, Juanita Est
Long Soldier, Mabel Est	Mueller, Ronald	Red Cloud, Angie Est	Scabby Face, Ernest Est	Swimmer, Emma Est	White Face, Helen Est
Looking Elk, Barbara Est	Murray, Alvina Est	Red Cloud, Donna M	Schmidt, Margaret M	Tall, Edith Est	White Face, Lucille Est
Looks Twice, Zona	Neiss, Tamera A	Red Elk, Wilbur Est	Schneider, Carol	Tall, Herman Est	White Pipe, Marvin Est
Loud Hawk, Russell Est	Nelson, Eden Fred Est	Red Hail, Katherine Est	Schneider-Marshall, Mary Kay	Taylor, Brenda	White Plume, Roy Est
Lynn, Eillean Est	Nelson, Frieda H Est	Red Hair, Cora Est	Schultz, Steve	Ten Fingers, Irma Est	Whiting, Dale Est
Lyons, Linda	Nelson, Lillian Est	Red Hair, Rose Est	Schwartz, Steven	Terkildsen, Dahlmond Est	Wichers, May
Maggard, Bernice Est	Neufeld, Katherine H	Red Kettle, Jennifer Est	Scott, Thurlow Est	Terrones, Fidel	Wiedmann, Terry
Malewski, Laura	New Holy, Martha Est	Red Paint, Ross Est	Scout, Louis Est	Thomas, Rudi L	Wilcox Spotted Horse, Darlene
Marino, Joseph	Nilles, Deann	Red Shirt, Darlene Est	Selzler, Tony Est	Thunder Hawk, Homer T	WKDS Foundation
Marsh, Lucille	Northwest Piping Co	Red Star, Carol Est	Severson, Daniel	Thunder Hawk, Rudolph	Wooden Knife, Leslie Est
Marshall, Clifford Est	Novak, Leonard	Red Star, John	Sharp, Charles	Tiede, Paul L	Wooden Knife, Scott
Marshall, Fred	O-KOLA Kiciye O-Tipi	Renville, Robin	Shaving, Irene	Tobacco, Archie Est	Wounded Arrow, Purvis
Marshall, Shirley Est	Oglala Baptist Mission	Returns, Kenneth Est	Shellenberger, Lee Est	Todd, Harry V Est	Wounded Head, Darlene Est
Marshall, William Est	Oglala Sioux Const Co	Rice, Joe	Sherman, Joan	Tools, Phyllis Est	Wounded Horse, Hazel Est
Martin, Adora Est	Olson, Jennifer S	Richard, Alma Est	Shoulders, Cora Est	Treehaven School	Wounded Shield, Dennis
Martin, Nancy R	One Horn, Lewis Est	Richard, Dwayne F	Sierra, Valentino Est	Tumblin, William W	Wright, Bill
Martinez, James	Osterbur, Jerriegh	Richards, Delmar P Sr Est	Sitting Up, Margie Est	Tuttle, Robert	Wright, Stanley
Martinez, Julia J Est	Parker, Cecelia N Est	Richards, Denzel Est	Sleeping Bear, Melvin Est	Twiss, Clifford Jr Est	Yeager, Freda Est
McCardle, James E Sr	Pawnee Leggins, Joseph	Richards, Iva Est	Sleeping Bear, Violet Est	Twiss, Marie Est	Yellow Cloud, Carla
McCrimmon, Marsha	Pearson, Hubert J Est	Richards, Leona M	Slow Bear, Andrew Sr Est	Twiss, Ted Est	Yellow Elk, Marian Est
McCue, Steve Est	Peck, Pamela J	Richardson, Debra	Slow Bear, Eleanor Est	Two Bulls, Alvina Est	Yellow Hair, Dorene Est
McGrady, Tim	People Against Violence	Robertson, David	Slow Bear, Elfreda Est	Two Bulls, Lucille Est	Yellow Hawk, Collins
Means, Cecil R II	Peterson, G V	Robin Son, Terry D	Slow Bear, Margaret Est	Two Eagle, Dorothy Est	Yellow Thunder, Amelia Est
Means, Ruth Est	Phelps, Lisa	Robinson, Ann	Slow Bear, Mercy Est	Two Two, Elmer	Young, Belva Est
Means, Veronica Est	Phipps, Nancy	Rodriquez, Andy	Smith, Janet L	Valentine, David	Young, Lila Est
Means, Wesley Est	Phipps, Nell L Est	Rooks, Lorenzo Est	Smith, Joe Est	Vander Schaaaf, Christyn	Young, Linda
Medicine, Sherry Est	Phipps, Ray	Roper, Harold	Smith, Mae	Vander Wilt, Dina	Young Bear, Lawrence Est
Menzel, Richard P	Pilarski, Melanie	Rosales, Mable Est	Smith, Maria P	Villarreal, Lucette	Zeller, Doug
Merrival, April	Pine Ridge Ambulance	Ross, Allen	Smith, Michael C	Villarreal, Ruth Est	Zieman, Dorene Est
Merrival, John C Est	Pine Ridge Christian Academy	Ross, Beverly	Smith, Rena Est	Wagner, Antoinette K Est	
Mesteth, Mathew D Sr Est	Pine Ridge Ministries	Rouillard, Coletius Sr Est	Sokolow, Gary	Walking Bull, Lorraine Est	
Mesteth, Rosalyn M Est	Pionk, Deb	Rouillard, Darlene	Sorensen, Luann	Walking Bull, Ralph Est	



FLIPPING THE SWITCH

Third generation ranchers Ken and Kathleen Meier stand by one of the first electric utility pole installed on their ranch.

The Meier Family and Illuminating Rural South Dakota

Frank Turner
frank.turner@sdrea.coop

In the rural heartland of Firesteel, S.D., a transformational moment still echoes in the minds of third-generation ranchers Ken and Kathleen Meier. Over a span of 56 years on their farmstead, they have run cattle, reared horses, and even raised two children. After all

of those years, however, they still vividly remember the moment when electricity illuminated their rural community for the first time in the early 50s.

It's safe to say, their memories go back a long way. And yet, their bond with their home extends even further, reaching back a century to when their families were still

establishing roots in the frontier of the rural prairie.

Ken recalls the unlikely story which brought his grandpa, Anton Meier, from Iowa to the captivating, rolling landscape near Timber Lake, S.D., in 1923.

“Well, my grandpa was ornery when he had a bit too much to drink,” said Ken. “Anyway, after a night of drinking, they threw him out of a bar in Iowa, so he crawled into a train car for a nap. When he woke up, he was in South Dakota.”

According to Meier, his grandpa Anton quickly fell in love with the state and decided to relocate his

family to a new frontier near Timber Lake. In a coincidental twist of fate, Kathleen's family also settled in the same area around the same time. Unlike Anton's serendipitous journey,

Kathleen's grandfather, Frank Holzer, had a more traditional approach.

"My grandpa didn't get a free ride," laughed Kathleen. "He came down with our family from North Dakota with a horse and a milk cow tied to the back of the family's covered wagon."

When their families first settled the area, it was the era of kerosene lamps, horses and hard work. Yet in their childhood, both Ken and Kathleen witnessed the transition from kerosene lamps to electric light bulbs, a change that would propel their families and their communities forward.

"I must have been 9 or 10, but I remember when Moreau-Grand put our line up," Ken reminisced. "The memory of those first poles being driven into the ground by a couple of guys with an old International Truck has stuck with me. It was just something you don't forget."

Today, those original poles placed in the ground more than 70 years ago still stand tall on their ranch. Kathleen, too, recalls the transformative impact they had.

"I was about the same age when we first wired our house," said

Kathleen. "I remember how fun it was to just turn the lights on and have bright lights."

However, the electrification of their neighborhood brought more than just the novelty of flipping a switch. Kathleen's family promptly modernized their home. Their stove and fridge transitioned from kerosene to electric, and they even invested in a milking machine. The arrival of electricity didn't just bring about change; it revolutionized daily life on the ranch, making it cleaner and more efficient.

"Our old washing machine ran on a gas engine," said Kathleen. "You had to stomp on a pedal to get that motor started. It smoked up the entire house. Once we had electricity all we had to do was plug it in."

Progress didn't stop at the washing machine. "It didn't take long for things to change," added Ken. "I remember when I was about thirteen, my neighbor purchased the first television in the neighborhood, so everything happened fast. We would all go to watch whatever was on."

The transition has continued to benefit the Meier family. Today, their son, Kent Meier, works in the power industry with Border States Electric, a company that sells electrical equipment, tools and appliances. Their daughter, Cindy Lindskov has carried on the family tradition as a fourth-generation rancher in Isabelle, S.D., a town conveniently located just a stone's throw away from her parents.

It's amazing how much has changed over the years," said Ken. "Since the day we first got electricity, Moreau-Grand has done a great job of keeping our light on and burning bright."



One of the original utility poles on Ken and Kathleen Meier's land was created in 1950, yet it still functions to this day.



SOLAR POWER

National Grid Renewables is building a solar farm next to an existing substation near New Underwood.
Photo courtesy of Western Area Power Administration

New Underwood Solar Power Update

Scott Waltman

Next year, a new solar farm near New Underwood should be providing power for homes and businesses in South Dakota and beyond.

Wild Springs Solar is being developed by Minnesota-based National Grid Renewables. The same company already operates a wind farm in Clark County, so it might already be familiar to some residents.

The solar farm is projected to be the biggest one in the state, according to National Grid Renewables. It's being built on roughly 1,000 acres.

Plans call for it to produce 128 megawatts a year. That could power 16,000 South Dakota homes, though some of the electricity will also be sent

out of state.

The solar farm is being built near an existing Western Area Power Administration substation, making for easier power distribution to groups like Basin Electric Power Cooperative, one of the largest providers of electricity in the Dakotas.

“When determining where to site renewable energy projects, things we consider include but are not limited to accessibility to transmission, land availability, resource, customer demand and community support,” a Wild Springs Solar representative. “The Wild Springs project area was selected for proximity to the electrical transmission system, New Underwood substation, land suitable for a solar project from an environmental, regulatory/permitting,

design perspective and cooperative landowners.”

Construction on the solar farm began in January.

Basin Electric, which is based in Bismarck, N.D., is a transmission cooperative that serves about 3 million customers in nine states. It has an agreement with National Grid Renewables to purchase 114 megawatts of electricity.

For Basin Electric, the agreement amounts to the first time it has agreed to buy solar power on a large scale. The cooperative has plans to bring on more than 150 megawatts of solar capability in the next two years.

Andy Buntrock, Basin Electric's vice president of strategic planning and communications, said stressing reliability is a priority for the cooperative this year.

“When we communicate on renewables we emphasize that they are just part of an all-of-the-above energy strategy that ensures reliable and

affordable power for our membership,” he said. “It’s important that we maintain dispatchable generation that has a reliable fuel source, while taking advantage of non-dispatchable generation like our first-ever solar project in South Dakota.”

Coal and natural gas are examples of dispatchable generation. They are fuels that are highly dependable because they are in constant supply.

“The construction of the Wild Springs Solar Project in South Dakota represents our commitment to bringing clean, renewable energy and economic development to the state of South Dakota. The project will contribute significantly to the tax base, as well as the local communities,” the National Grid Renewables spokesperson said.

In 2020, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission approved a construction permit for Wild Springs Solar. That procedure set out what’s being built near New Underwood, including:

- 340,000 solar panels.
- A tracking system.
- Access roads.
- A substation.
- An operation and maintenance building and parking lot.
- Electric collection lines.

The plant will use solar panels that have been developed by First Solar.

National Grid Renewables is establishing a charitable fund for the New Underwood School District with plans to donate more than \$500,000 in the

first plant’s first two decades.

“Our National Grid Renewables onsite team has also worked closely with the school board and district to provide additional education about solar energy and the Wild Springs Solar project to some of the local high school classes, including a personalized tour of the site,” the company representative said.

But National Grid sees benefits that extend far beyond the Pennington County community. The upside, according to National Grid Renewables, will also include:

- Offsetting 193,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year.
- A \$22 million economic impact in the project’s first 20 years of operation.
- \$12 in new tax revenue in the first two decades.
- 225 new construction and operation jobs.

And when the plant is producing power, that should equate to the removal of 41,000 vehicles from roads in a year’s time.

WAPA helped clear the way for the project in 2021, finding the solar farm would have no significant impact on environmental resources or humans, said Eric Barendsen, public affairs specialist for WAPA.

That’s also when WAPA entered into an agreement with Wild Springs Solar and the Southwest Power Pool allowing the solar farm to be connected to WAPA’s New Underwood Substation.

Ultimately, that will help Basin Electric power South Dakota.

The cooperative transmits power to two generation and transmission cooperatives in the state – Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative and East River Electric Cooperative. Those co-ops then send electricity to their distribution cooperatives, which provide electricity to homes, schools and businesses across South Dakota.

The Clark County wind farm uses 77 turbines to create 200 megawatts of power, the National Grid Renewables representative said. It began operation in 2019 and employs 10 people.



Construction began earlier this year on a large solar farm near New Underwood in Pennington County. Some of the power will be purchased by Basin Electric and be distributed to cooperatives in South Dakota.

REGISTER TO WIN!

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

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July 14-16
Badlands Astronomy Festival
25216 Ben Reifel Road
Interior, SD
605-433-5243

JUNE 23-25
46th Annual Main Street Arts & Crafts Festival
Centennial Park
Hot Springs, SD

JULY 1
Hill City's Annual Star-Spangled Celebration
8 a.m.
Hill City, SD
605-574-2368

JULY 4
Philip VFD Firework Display
Lake Waggoner
Philip, SD

JULY 7-8
Buffalo Gap Blow Out Rodeo
6 p.m.
Buffalo Gap, SD
605-890-1533

JULY 8-9
Brookings Summer Arts Festival
Brookings, SD
605-692-2787

JULY 12
Tracy Area Gardens & Quilts Tour
2 p.m.
Tracy, MN

JULY 13-16
Pioneer Days
White, SD
605-690-4458

JULY 14-16
Burke Stampede PRCA Rodeo
Burke, SD
605-830-2083

JULY 15
Huron MS Walk/Run
8 a.m.
Lake Byron
Huron, SD
605-350-5922

JULY 15-16
Charles Mix Saddle Club SDRA Rodeo
Geddes, SD
605-680-2763

JULY 21-23
Winner Elks 54th Annual Rodeo
Winner, SD

JULY 28-29
Farley Fest
Lake Farley Park
Milbank, SD
www.farleyfest.com

JULY 29
BBQ Pit Row and Car Show
Winner, SD
605-842-1533

JULY 30
Bergen Threshing Bee
9 a.m.
Bristol, SD
605-237-0310

AUG 13-14
Twin Brooks Threshing Show
Featuring Allis Chalmers
Twin Brooks, SD
605-880-2884

AUG 21
30th Annual Bishop's Cup Golf Tournament
Minnehaha Country Club and
The Country Club of Sioux Falls
Sioux Falls, SD
605-988-3765

SEPT 4
Hidewood Valley Stream Threshing Show
Steam Whistle Blows
1 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 29-30
Junkin' Market Days
Ramkota Exhibit Hall
Sioux Falls, SD
605-941-4958

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

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