

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.

BOARD REPORT



FEM Directors meet with FEM staff at the monthly meeting on May 15th.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, South Dakota at 8:30 a.m. on May 15, 2023, pursuant to due call and notice. It being determined that a quorum was present, President Gary Bachman called the meeting to order. Secretary Eric Odenbach kept the minutes of the meeting. The following directors were declared present by roll call: Gary Bachman, Paula Petersen, Kelly Melius, Eric Odenbach, Tom Thorpe. General Manager/CEO Scott Moore, Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer, and Jesse Brown were present.

Gary Bachman welcomed guest employee Crystal Thorson.

Changes to the agenda: None

Changes/Additions to Minutes from April 24, 2023, meeting: none

Next Meeting Date: After a review of calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of the board would be on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to approve administrative business.

Discussion was held on Summit Carbon serving FEM Electric due to easements on land that is under condemnation.

Discussion was held on courtesy services and lights.

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to acknowledge management and staff reports.

The board acknowledged receiving the April Cyber Security report.

Resolutions, Contracts, and Nominations:

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to nominate Tom Thorpe as NRECA voting delegate.

No action was taken on CFC Voting Delegate or NCSC Voting Delegate.

FEM board acknowledged receipt of notice for NRECA Resolution Committee.

Membership Business:

Board acknowledged membership business.

Rhonda Tuscherer reviewed Value Added Economic Development Loan with the board.

New Memberships, Member Cancellations and Contracts:

Disconnects: Irmgard Stickelmyer, Eureka, SD, Active Farm; Tom Baumgartner, Rapid City, SD, Active Farm; Garrett & Kayla Hartwell, Ipswich, SD, Active Farm; Stanley Strobel, Eureka, SD, Active Farm, Pasture Pump, Grain Bin; Christopher & Amy Fischbach, Mansfield, SD, Active Farm; Steven & Kris Scherr, Mina, SD, 2 Active Farms; Roth Family Farms, De Smet, SD, Active Farm

Reconnects: Karen Quenzer, Eureka, SD, Active Farm; Grant VanderVorst, Faulkton, SD, Active Farm; Richard Schumacher, Ipswich, SD, Active Farm; Scott Strobel, Eureka, SD, Active Farm, Pasture Pump, Grain Bin; Keven & Tammy Heupel, Leola, SD, Active Farm; Cody & Sarah Wesch, Roscoe, SD, Pasture Pump, Bryan & Jessica Scherr, Roscoe, Active Farm; Tim & Joann Malsom, Brookings, SD, Active Farm

Contracts: Tyron Heinrich, Tolstoy, SD, New House

Capital Credits:

Estates - May 2023 - Five = \$8,401.44
73 & Older - May 2023 - Two = \$1,024.92

Financial Business: The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information: The check register for the month of April 2023 contained information on checks #33340 through #33412 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for April 2023 totaling \$740,364.45.

April Financials were reviewed.

A discussion was held on Capital Credit retirements.

Continued on pg 6

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

FEM ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

(USPS 189-720)

Board of Directors

Gary Bachman, President
Tom Thorpe, Vice President
Eric Odenbach, Secretary
Paula Petersen, Treasurer
Kelly Melius, Asst. Sec./
Treasurer
Vaughn Beck, Attorney

CEO/General Manager

Scott Moore
info@femelectric.coop

Management Staff

Rob Vetch
Line Superintendent
Rhonda Tuscherer
Director of Finance and
Benefits

Editor's e-mail:

oban@femelectric.coop

FEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc., 800 5th Ave., Ipswich, SD 57451.

FEM Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

Subscription information: As part of their membership, FEM members devote \$1.00 from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$15 annually. (USPS 189-720) Periodical Postage Paid at Ipswich, SD 57451 and at additional offices.

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www.femelectric.coop
Design assistance by SDREA

**FEM Electric is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer.**



Scott Moore
General Manager/CEO

Reminder, June 27, 2023, your attendance is requested at FEM Electric's Annual meeting. The annual meeting is a vital part of the cooperative business model, and the board and staff want our member owners to have the ability to be informed of FEM Electric's financials and business plans. Come enjoy a choice of three meals, receive an energy credit on your next bill, and enter for a chance to win cash.

We have rescheduled a beef informational meeting for July 11, 2023, to be held at FEM Electric headquarters. This meeting was created at the request of some members that are looking to add value to their beef herd while trying to help bring their sons and daughters back to the family agriculture operation. There will be no feed sales pitch, just a conversation on different operations and opportunities. REED's Business Development Director, Mike Jasper along with Bryan Sanderson will lead the conversation. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The FEM board approved hiring some temporary help for the line and electrical crew for the 2023 construction season. Logan Gruenstein from Aberdeen started in May after

graduating from Mitchell Technical Institute, Powerline Construction and Maintenance Course. This will help spread our existing crews and will give Logan hands-on powerline training. I must admit, it doesn't seem like it was too long ago when I stepped through the office doors starting a new adventure in the powerline industry, here at FEM Electric.

It is great to see the young kids enjoying the outdoors playing and riding their bikes but please remember to be safe while driving through our communities and operating equipment in the farmyards.

If you are planning to add any additional electrical load, please Call Ryan Holien at 605 426 6891 or at 800-587-5880.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@FEMElectric on 

@fem_electric on 

@FEMElectric on 

We'll post outage updates, safety tips, news and more to keep our members informed on all the latest from FEM Electric.

Statement Mailing Dates

June 29, 2023 for June's energy

July 25, 2023 for July's energy

Regardless of the statement mail out date, payments are due in the office by the 9th of the following month.

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.

Continued from pg 2

Motion by Tom Thorpe Seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to retire \$489,728.21 in capital credits.

FEM <i>(remaining 2009, 2010, and partial 2011)</i>	\$274,127.52
Basin <i>(Remaining 2005 pd August 2022)</i>	\$46,758.24
Basin <i>(2006, 2007, Partial 2008-pd December 2022)</i>	\$112,090.70
East River <i>(balance of 2002, 2003, and partial 2004)</i>	\$57,140.94
Less Value Added Loans	(\$389.19)
Total	\$489,728.21

CFC Integrity Fund was discussed, FEM Electric contributes 5% of our CFC capital credits to the fund.

Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer reviewed the NRECA Participant Review with the board. The audit was completed by Eide Bailly.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve director and attorney fees.

Legal Update: Moore discussed with the board legal seminar training and options of sending Emily Marcotte.

Meeting Report:

East River board update was given by Gary Bachman.

The board acknowledged the receipt of the April 12, 2023 Safety Committee Meeting and April 17, 2023 Safety Meeting Minutes.

Adjourn: President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.

FREE & EASY

ways to save energy

[Spoiler Alert: Your clothes and dishes won't know the difference]

Major home appliances account for approximately 16% of an average home's energy consumption.

16%



1. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
2. Use cold water to wash your clothes.

3. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
4. Regularly defrost manual-defrost freezers and refrigerators.



5. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
6. Fully load your dishwasher before washing.

7. When buying new appliances, consider Energy Star versions.
8. Unplug appliances you're not using.



Time to replace that old appliance? Replacing older versions with energy-efficient models can save the average household more than \$500 per year.

Sources: National Resources Defense Council, U.S. Energy Information Administration

Safe Electricity.org®

Join us for a

CATTLE OPERATIONS MEETING

FACILITIES, GROWTH AND VISION FOR FUTURE

JULY 11TH @ 9:30 AM

AT FEM ELECTRIC HEADQUARTERS

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SCOTT MOORE (605) 216 2617

RSVP APPRECIATED, BUT NOT REQUIRED:
CONTACT SONJE OBAN AT 605-426-6891 OR
OBAN@FEMELECTRIC.COOP



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@sdrea.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-

municate 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.

FEM REPORTS TAXES PAID TO SCHOOLS

As a non-profit corporation, it sometimes gives people the false impression that FEM does not pay taxes. However, under state law, rural electric cooperatives are required to pay a generation tax based on kilowatt hour sales to local school districts in their service area. FEM is also required to pay a 2% gross receipts tax to cities in our territory if a service falls within the city limits.

School districts located within the FEM Electric Cooperative service area will receive \$517,543 in generation tax as a result of electric sales to the members.

Of this total, \$265,898 will be paid by FEM Electric and \$251,645 will be paid by East River Electric Power Cooperative of Madison, SD and Basin Electric Power Cooperative of Bismarck, ND.

GENERATION TAX BY COUNTY			
COUNTY	FEM	ER/BASIN	TOTAL
Faulk	\$34,711	\$32,851	\$67,562
Edmunds	\$192,289	\$181,981	\$374,270
McPherson	\$38,554	\$36,487	\$75,041
Potter	\$266	\$251	\$517
Spink	\$78	\$74	\$152
Walworth	<1	<1	\$1
Totals	\$265,898	\$251,645	\$517,543

In addition to providing electric service to our members, FEM financially contributes directly to our schools through the Cooperative's generation tax – we also contribute to our schools by providing donations of bottled water for fundraising, offer scholarships, provide electrical safety programs, education programs, and provide youth tours to students in our area schools.

GENERATION TAX BY SCHOOL DISTRICT	
SCHOOL DISTRICT	TOTAL
Hoven 53-2	\$1,872
Northwestern Area 56-7	\$8,615
Faulkton Area 24-3	\$56,552
Edmunds Central 22-5	\$31,030
Ipswich Area 22-6	\$329,659
Bowdle 22-1	\$19,434
Warner 6-5	\$76
Eureka 44-1	\$17,588
Leola 44-2	\$52,717
Total	\$517,543

The gross revenue tax is allocated to the different school districts through the County Treasurer's office. The following table shows the gross revenue that will be paid to each school district by the County.



Dear Family, Friends, Businesses and Organizations:

The 2023 Ipswich Post Prom was held April 1st-2nd at the Ipswich High School Gym. This event was a success and our students had a great time.

The junior class and their parents put on a carnival full of all sorts of carnival games, Bingo, a Mechanical Bull, a Cash Cube and Laser Tag. Prizes were given to all students that attended. Carnival food, snacks and refreshments were served throughout the evening.

This year was a success because of the donations and help from people and organizations like yours. Your generosity made it possible for our teens to enjoy an alcohol and drug free event right here in our community.

As parents, we are extremely grateful for your help in making this a safe, wholesome, and memorable activity for our youth on their prom night.

On behalf of the 2023 junior class parents we appreciate your generosity.

With Many Thanks,

2023 Ipswich Junior Class and Parents

Kerlie Gohl	Chet Peterson
Dylan Wald	Selam R. Sahable
Luke Beyers	Sam Grabowska
Trevor Larson	Sam R
Hannah Beyers	Robert Lee
Levi Nehlich	
Jase Konsor	Layden Geier
Hailey usseman	Xavier Kadlec
Evelyn Tran	Kathryn Weisser
	Kendall Lunders (Kendall Lunders)



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.



COMMITTED TO THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

FEM employees were busy in the month of May. Employees held presentations with students at Evergreen colony, demonstrations with students in the Faulkton area, and line crews participated in their annual substation training.

Early in the month, FEM employee Crystal Thorson partnered with East River Electric's Jennifer Gross to provide a demonstration and interactive activity to students at the Evergreen colony. First, students learned about wind power generation and how it works within the electrical grid. Then students were given the opportunity to build their own wind turbine. Students designed various turbines and hooked them up to a voltage meter to see whose turbine produced the most electricity.



On May 15th, FEM sent staff to the Faulkton school with the high voltage demonstration trailer. While there, they demonstrated the importance of staying away from overhead power lines and the big green boxes, also known as transformers. The high voltage trailer allows line workers to

safely demonstrate what it is like when items come in contact with power lines. To do so, line workers use tree branches, sausages and potatoes. Each item comes in contact with high voltage electricity and the results are shown to students to share how dangerous or deadly powerline contacts can be.



Later in the week, several member services employees participated in the Faulk County Farmers Union Day camp. FEM employees discussed how and why electric cooperatives were formed, including FEM Electric. To demonstrate how a cooperative works, students were asked to work together on



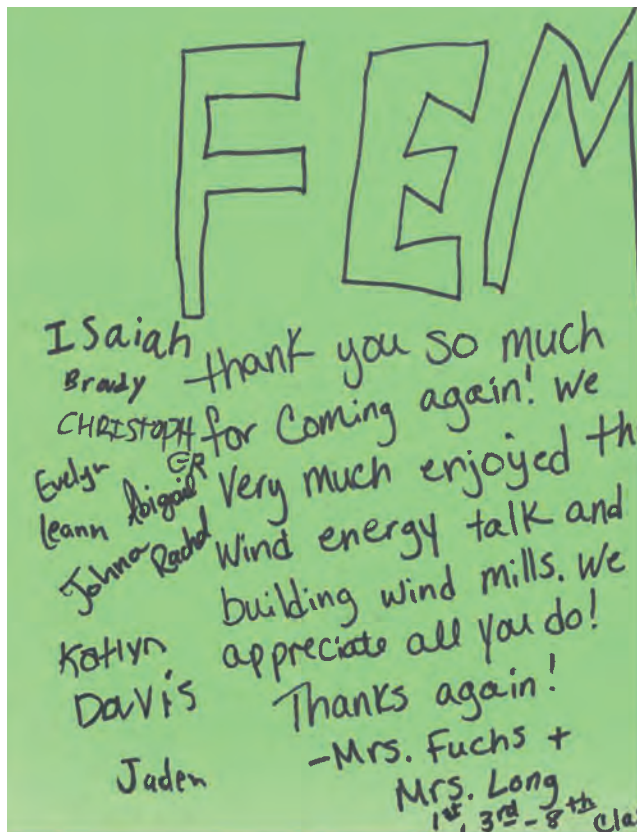
two different tasks. First, teams of students needed to walk two boards down one end of a room, around a safety cone, and back. Second, they had to work together to put together a large puzzle showing FEM's logo.



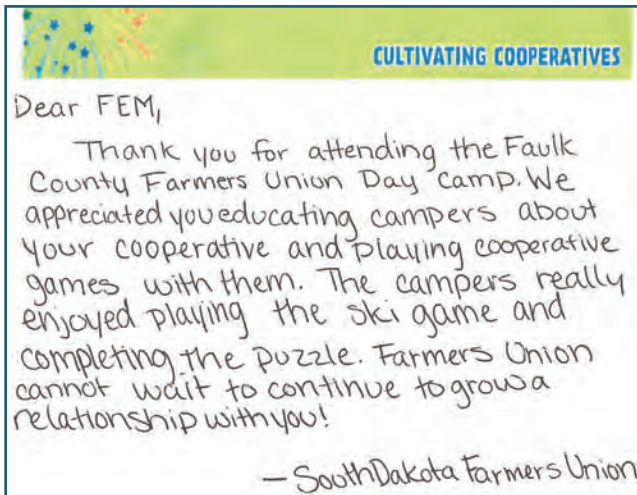
Finally, FEM line workers participated in their annual substation or switchmen training on May 18th. Staff from East River Electric hosted a presentation on how to talk to dispatchers and brought a demonstration trailer so that FEM crews could practice. This training is held annually as a refresher so that FEM can switch East River lines on their behalf.



Johanna 3/10/23
 Thank you for coming. It was fun making a windmill. Thank you for the football and the activity book.



On top of all the demonstrations and presentations, crews have been busy working on new services and other planned projects. You'll continue to see crews throughout the area as they work to complete various projects now that the weather is cooperating.



REGISTER TO WIN!

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

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



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

JUNE 30-JULY 2
Eurekafest
Eureka, SD

JUNE 30-JULY 2
Wild West Days
Faulkton, SD

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

JULY 8-9
Brookings Summer Arts Festival
Brookings, SD

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 PRC A 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
605-842-5830

JULY 28-29
Farley Fest
Lake Farley Park
Milbank, SD

JULY 29
BBQ Pit Row and Car Show
Winner, SD

JULY 30
Bergen Threshing Bee
9 a.m.
Bristol, SD

AUG 5
Taste the Goodness
5 p.m.
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG 12
Picken on the Prairie - Fall Junk Market
Chelsea, SD

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

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.