

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Power on Wheels

**Solar Power
Education**

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**Flipping the
Switch**

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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.

WE'RE HERE TO SERVE YOU



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager

As I write this column, we have just completed one of eight district meetings. I would like to thank those of you who were able to attend these events, as I know you had other options to spend your valuable time.

The district meetings allow us to visit with you on a more personal level. We're here to serve you, and I hope that when you left our meetings, you understood we take the responsibility seriously.

Central Electric was created to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our co-op for the common good. In our case, it was the only way to bring electricity to the area where there was none. In doing so, your electric cooperative helped the community thrive.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, today's energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were decades ago. That's why we're adapting to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs and new expectations.

Serving as your trusted energy advisor means we want to help you save energy and money and provide advice and information on a broad range of energy topics. For example, if you're looking for ways to save energy, check out our website for energy-saving tips and ideas to increase your home's energy efficiency. Consider scheduling an energy audit to identify ways to save energy at home. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet.

If you're considering a solar installation, we would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it's important to fully understand the costs, responsibilities, and potential energy savings. We are uniquely positioned to look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best option.

There was a lot of discussion on electric vehicles (EVs) at the district meetings. Central Electric recently purchased a Ford Lightning EV pickup to help us provide firsthand information

about operating and charging an EV and the electrical requirements to support EV ownership. While you may not be in the market for an EV now, when you are ready to consider purchasing an EV, you can turn to us for information.

Your cooperative also serves the youth in our communities and local nonprofits. We provide scholarships to area students and leadership opportunities through the NRECA Youth Tour to Washington, DC. Our Operation Round-Up fund provides grants to help nonprofits with projects that make our communities better and safer.

Our service department can respond any time of day to repair issues related to heating and cooling, electrical wiring or large appliances.

So, the next time you hear Central Electric use the phrase "we're here to serve you," I hope you know that we mean it. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we've found more ways to serve you and provide more options for you to power your life.

We're here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person, or through our Facebook page. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.

Until next month, stay safe!

To contact your cooperative with questions, please call 1-800-477-2892 or email cec@centralec.coop.

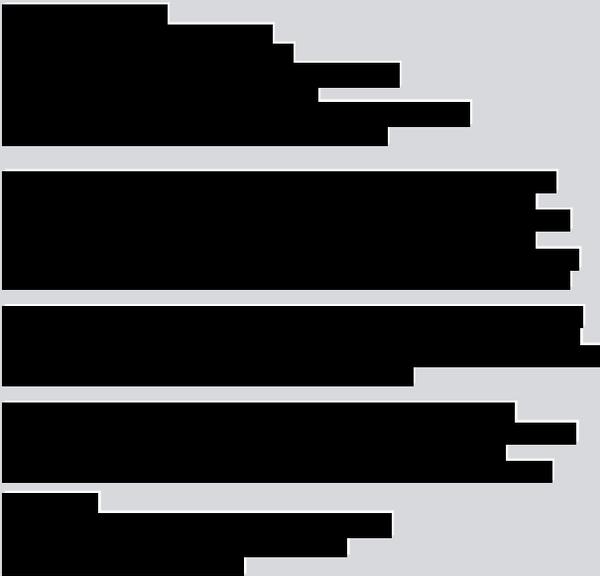


CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

(USPS 018-963)

Board of Directors

- Duane Wolbrink - President (Aurora County)
- Todd VanWalleghen - Vice President (Sanborn County)
- Mark Hofer - Secretary & NRECA Director (Hanson County)
- Mark Reindl - Treasurer (Jerauld County)
- Donita Loudner - SDREA Director (Buffalo County)
- Roger Campbell - Director (Brule County)
- Jeff Gustafson - Director (Davison County)
- Robert Banks - Director (Miner County)
- Merl Bechen - Director At Large (All Counties)



Our Mission

Provide reliable energy and services with a commitment to safety and member satisfaction.

Non-Discrimination Statement:

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BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The board of directors met on April 20, 2023, at Central Electric Cooperative's headquarters for the regular board meeting. They reviewed reports by management, including details on operations, member services, communications, service department and financials.

BOARD REPORT

General Manager Schlimgen updated the board of directors on the East River Managers' Meeting, Basin Electric activities, Rural Electric Economic Development activities, grant funding opportunities, Rural Utilities Service updates and other management activities.

Director Hofer reported on SD Wind Energy Association activities.

Director Loudner reported on the SDREA Board meeting.

Director Hofer and Manager Schlimgen reported on the NRECA Legislative Conference held in Washington, DC. Discussion followed.

Director Wolbrink reported on the East River Electric board meeting.

The board discussed the audit report presented by Eide Bailly at the prior meeting on March 20.

The board discussed Policy 300 Construction Standards updates and approved changes. The board reviewed Policy 302 Alterations of Corporate Facilities and no action was taken.

Schlimgen reviewed a fundraising appeal from the Miner County 4-H Leaders and the Miner County Buildings & Grounds committee to construct a new livestock barn.

BOARD ACTION

The board considered or acted upon the following:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve a \$2,000 donation to Miner County 4-H for a new livestock barn. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2022 audit report. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to adopt revisions to Policy 300 Construction Standards. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve first quarter 2023 general manager and director expenses. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve first quarter 2023 legal fees and expenses. Motion carried.

The next board meeting was scheduled for May 15, 2023. There being no further business, President Wolbrink adjourned the meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT	YEAR TO DATE APRIL 2022	YEAR TO DATE APRIL 2023
Kilowatt Hour (kWh) Sales	125,322,960 kWh	120,611,701 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$ 12,138,746	\$ 12,016,017
Total Cost of Service	\$ 11,430,176	\$ 11,597,278
Operating Margins	\$ 708,570	\$ 418,739

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.

Laura Klock of Ethan wins \$1500 prize in regional 'Who Powers You' contest

The Who Powers You contest hosted by the region's Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives has officially come to a close with the announcement of three winners who were chosen from among the contest's 20 finalists. The contest spotlights outstanding individuals who are making a difference in their communities while recognizing them for their remarkable efforts in empowering and inspiring others.

Bob and Nancy Montross, members of Kingsbury Electric Cooperative, have been awarded the first-place \$3,000 grand prize in the Who Powers You contest. Their instrumental role in countless projects has helped bring vibrancy to the De Smet area and South Dakota. They have helped raise funds for the De Smet Event & Wellness Center, supported the Arts Council, served on the cemetery board, and helped to bring concerts into the area. Additionally, their involvement with the Highway 14 Trail & Observation Tower project will further enrich Kingsbury County. The Montrosses' unwavering dedication to the Beef Bucks organization has significantly

raised awareness of agriculture and beef, not just in South Dakota but across the nation and involvement with the Cattleman's Association and the South Dakota Beef Council further exemplifies their commitment to the industry.

The second-place, \$1,500 prize was awarded to Laura Klock of Ethan, whose outreach impacts Central Electric Cooperative's service territory. Laura is the founder of Helping with Horsepower. The nationally-recognized program



has made a significant impact on at-risk youth through its Bike Rebuild Program by teaching young people valuable motorcycle repair skills. The program offers opportunities for personal growth and development. Moreover, a partnership with Reclamation Ranch to offer the Therapeutic Riding Program has provided invaluable impact on individuals with special needs through equine-assisted therapy. Additionally, the Heroes Helping with Horsepower Program has extended support to veterans. Laura's empowering, encouraging, and inspirational spirit for helping others is truly



commendable. Her dedication to these programs, as well as her commitment to agriculture and farm life education in the region, is what earned her this remarkable achievement.

Pearl Holt, a member of Northern Electric Cooperative, was awarded the third-place \$500 prize in the contest. Through her tireless commitment to youth and community, Pearl has made a tremendous impact on the lives of others. Her involvement with esteemed organizations such as 4-H, the Aberdeen Area Horseman's Association, Special Olympics and the Brown County Fair reflects her unwavering dedication to serving others. Notably, Pearl's exceptional volunteerism at SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center has further solidified her reputation as someone who is always willing to help out however she can. From assisting riders in classes to caring for horses and helping to organize the Barn Dance fundraiser, Pearl's contributions are too numerous to mention in full, which is why she was chosen for the well-deserved recognition.

We congratulate these inspiring community members. Central Electric's other finalists were Rita Little Thunder of Howard and the Big Friend Little Friend organization of Mitchell.



Scholar of the Year Banquet

Each year, Central Electric Cooperative and the region's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives recognize high school seniors for their achievements through the Scholar of the Week program. The scholars each receive \$250 and the chance to attend the Scholar of the Year banquet recently held at Mitchell Technical College. The students were invited to attend the banquet and meet U.S. Representative Dusty Johnson.

Congratulations to the local Touchstone Energy Scholars for the 2022-23 academic year: **Cally Faulhaber** of Plankinton, daughter of Chuck and Sue Faulhaber, **Kobi Lutjens** of Mitchell, son of Kerri Lutjens, and **Tristan Jensen** of Woonsocket, daughter of Terry and Sarah Jensen.

Nominations for the Scholar of the Week program will be accepted from faculty for high school seniors this fall.



to assist line crews

Each year, Central Electric hires temporary utility workers to assist crews during the busy construction season. We are excited to have these guys on board to help get all the work done.

Chase [redacted] returns from last year when he assisted the Mitchell crew. He is now working primarily in the Wessington Springs area. Chase is a 2021 Mitchell Technical College graduate. He is originally from Mitchell and previously worked at Northern Electric.



Chase [redacted]

Elijah [redacted] is a seasonal utility worker out of the Mitchell location. He previously worked at Grand Electric before graduating from Mitchell Technical College's Powerline Construction & Maintenance program this year. He is originally from Prairie City, SD, west of Bison, and now lives in Mitchell.



Elijah [redacted]

We appreciate the efforts of the seasonal workers. They help the cooperative complete necessary projects in a timely manner.



Mark The Calendar for Summer Fun!

June 23 – Fishing for a Cure Cancer Awareness and live music by Billy Lurken

June 30 – Military & Public Service Appreciation and live music by Drive by Night

July 7 – Chamberlain High School Alumni and live music by 280Fifth

July 14 – Agriculture Appreciation and live music by Rewinder

Activities 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Free admission

Food trucks

Beverage garden

Games for all ages



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

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.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Operation Round-Up?

It is a voluntary program in which participating members' bills are rounded up to the next whole dollar, and the extra cents flow into a charitable fund to assist local causes.

What expenses come out of the Operation Round-Up donations?

None. 100% of donations go directly into the fund. Program fees and costs are covered by Central Electric.

How do I apply for a grant?

Nonprofits and community groups can visit www.centralec.coop or call the office at 1-800-477-2892 for an application.

How are applications judged?

Applications are judged based upon 1) potential benefit to the residents and community; 2) level of community support for the project or organization; 3) capability of the applicant to deliver a quality service or program; and 4) final results that can be envisioned and evaluated.

Who awards the funds?

A volunteer board of nine trustees, including one member from each county and the cooperative director-at-large, meets to review applications and award the funds twice each year.

Volunteer Board of Trustees:

Julie Dykstra, Aurora Co.

Jill Ekstrum, Brule Co.

Ellen Speck, Buffalo Co.

David Jorgenson, Davison Co.

LeAnn Moe, Hanson Co.

Amber Kolousek, Jerauld Co.

Tami Moore, Miner Co.

Dawna VanOverschelde, Sanborn Co.

Merl Bechen, Director-At-Large

\$15,000 AWARDED TO LOCAL PROJECTS

Central Electric Cooperative is awarding \$15,000 in Operation Round-Up® grants to support area projects. Through Operation Round-Up, participating cooperative members round up their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar, and the contributions are pooled together to support local causes. Several cooperative employees also contribute to the fund through payroll.

Upon reviewing applications from more than two dozen organizations across the cooperative's footprint, the Operation Round-Up board of trustees approved the following grant awards.

Operation Round-Up grant awards:

- Artesian Volunteer Fire Department: \$2,200 for gear and equipment upgrades
- Canova Cemetery Association: \$1,400 for grounds maintenance
- Children's Care Corner: \$250 for the summer education program
- City of Emery: \$1,000 for an automated external defibrillator (AED)
- Dakota Counseling Institute: \$2,200 for low-income and disabled housing
- Howard School District: \$500 for community garden trees
- Miner County Historical Society: \$1,500 for kitchen improvements
- Plankinton Ambulance: \$800 for training equipment
- Safe Place of Eastern South Dakota: \$2,200 for appliances
- South Dakota Tractor Museum: \$500 for building improvements
- The Salvation Army: \$1,000 for the Compassion Kitchen nutrition program
- Town of Stickney: \$1,200 for playground equipment
- White Lake Community Library: \$250 for the summer reading program

"Since 2016, Operation Round-Up has given back roughly \$185,000 to support local projects," said Tara Miller, manager of communications at Central Electric. "Many projects in our rural communities would not be possible without this support from our members."

Members on the board of trustees represent the eight-county territory, consisting of Aurora, Brule, Buffalo, Davison, Hanson, Jerauld, Miner and Sanborn Counties. Trustees are Julie Dykstra of Stickney, Jill Ekstrum of Kimball, David Jorgenson of Mitchell, Amber Kolousek of Wessington Springs, LeAnn Moe of Alexandria, Tami Moore of Howard, Ellen Speck of Gann Valley, Dawna VanOverschelde of Letcher and cooperative director-at-large Merl Bechen of Mitchell.

Grant applications are accepted every six months. The next deadline is Nov. 1, 2023. For more information, please call 1-800-477-2892, visit www.centralec.coop/operation-round-up or contact your local trustee.



WICONI WAWOKIYA, INC. GETS NEW APPLIANCES

Central Electric Cooperative recently awarded Winconi Wawokiya, Inc. domestic abuse shelter of Fort Thompson with an \$1,800 Operation Round-Up® grant for new kitchen appliances.

Wiconi Wawokiya Executive Director Lisa Heth organized the project. She explained, “This project benefits many women and their children coming to stay in the shelter due to domestic violence.”

The shelter provides services to approximately 130 women and children on the Crow Creek Reservation each year. The grant was needed to continue providing meals to those they serve.

Shelter coordinator Kasey Cadwell is pictured above, holding the grant check in front of the new appliances.



ETHAN FFA AWARDED GRANT FOR RAISED GARDEN PROJECT

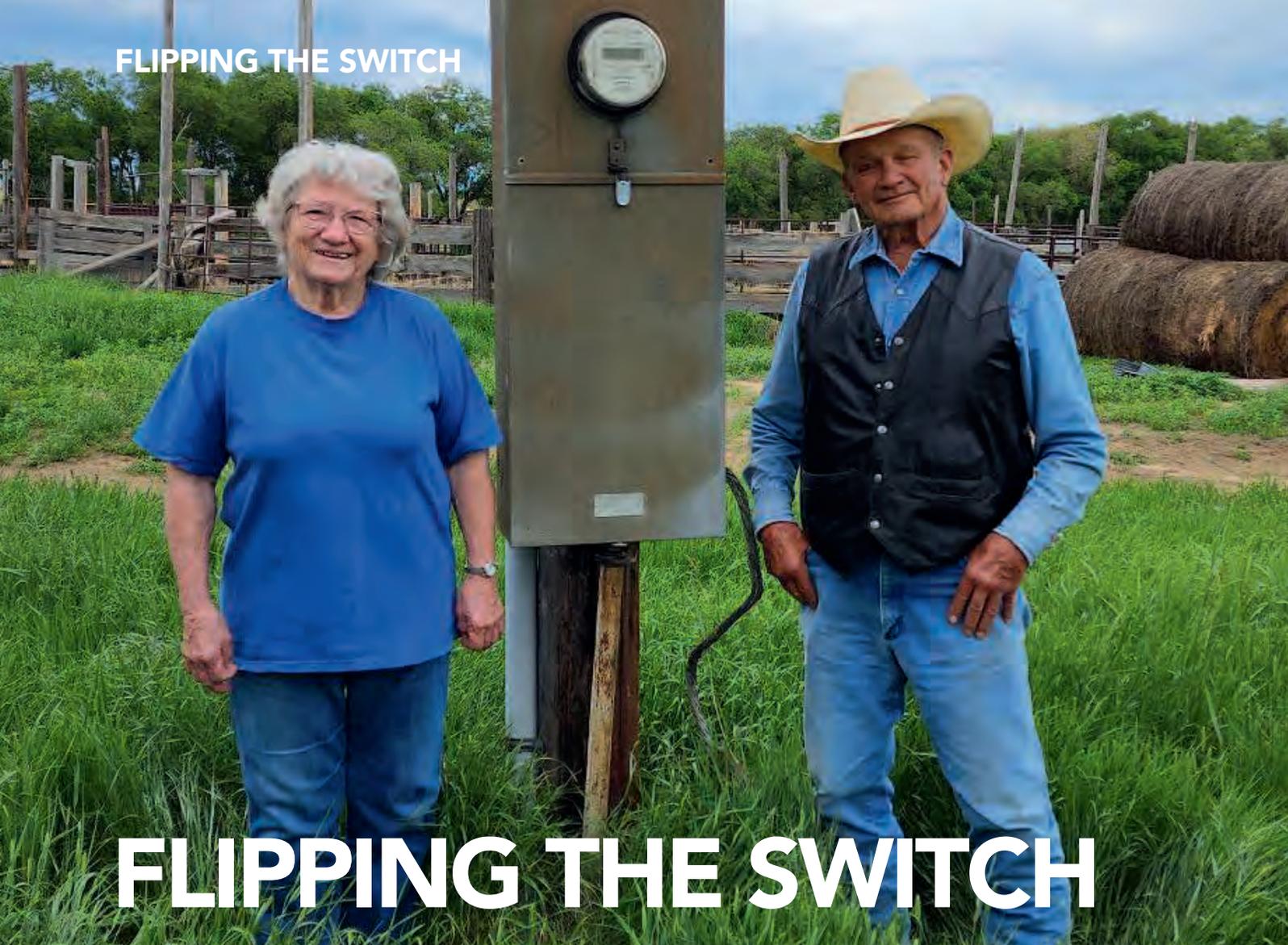
Central Electric Cooperative recently presented Ethan FFA with an \$800 Operation Round-Up® grant for a raised garden project.

Ethan High School ag teacher and FFA advisor Susan Roudabush organized the project. In the grant application she explained, “As a new FFA chapter, we obtained a grant to build a raised garden at our school through the FFA Foundation to teach the elementary grades about raising a garden and sustainability.”

Roudabush said the grant from the South

Daktoa FFA Foundation was a good starting point, but the school wanted to make the most of the project, so they sought local support from parents and the grant from Central Electric Cooperative.

“We needed simple tools, wheelbarrows, garden hoses, hand tools, a watering system, sprayers, seed and fertilizer. We also needed additional soil to go into the beds,” Roudabush shared. She said the raised garden will continue to be a useful teaching tool into the future.



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

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."

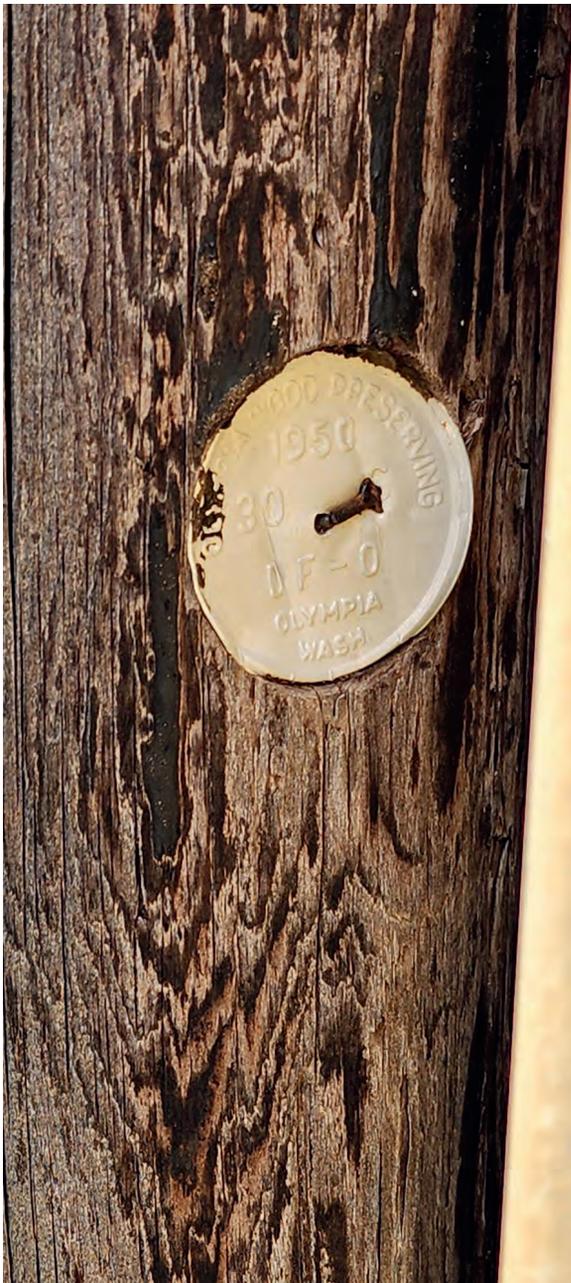
However, the electrification of their neighborhood brought more than just the novelty of flipping a switch. Kathleen's family promptly modernized their home. Their stove and fridge transitioned from kerosene to electric, and they even invested in a milking machine. The arrival of electricity didn't just 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.

Simplify billing and account management with SmartHub app



Patrick [redacted]
Manager of Member Services & Marketing

Life is fast-paced and can be hectic at times, but it doesn't need to be complicated. Paying your Central Electric bill shouldn't be a complex task.

You may have heard about SmartHub, our innovative tool for account management. SmartHub can help you take control of your account like

never before, giving you more time to focus on other responsibilities.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, or your smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill, view your usage, contact customer service and get the latest news.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks or taps if you're using the app. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month or even the previous summer if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll be able to view your actual use. You can see how your use is

trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to lower your bill.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment either through the web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

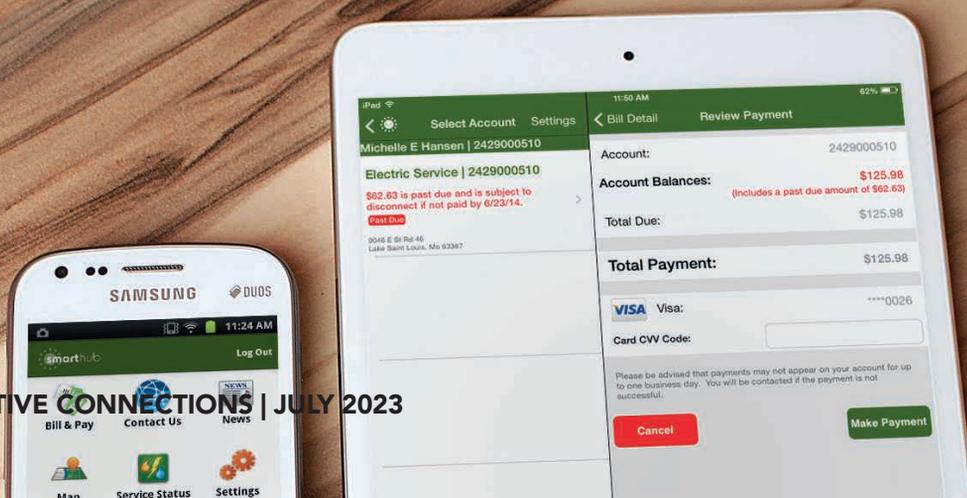
You'll also be able to see important notices with SmartHub. You'll be able to select how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and text messaging. You'll even be able to set usage thresholds so that

you'll know when you're using more than you'd like and help you keep your electricity bill as low as possible.

Reporting an account issue is also quick and easy from the SmartHub mobile app. Just let us know about the issue with a few taps. You can also contact Central Electric for customer service requests or with any questions you may have. SmartHub's contact feature makes it quick and easy.

Access SmartHub by visiting www.centralec.coop or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices).

Plenty of things in life are complicated. Manage your account simply, quickly and easily with SmartHub.





KEEP YOUR POWER ON,
EVEN WHEN THE POWER'S OUT.

Cozy, safe and sound. During an outage, KOHLER. generators keep your lights on, your fridge cold and your temperature nice and comfy. They start automatically. And they can power your entire home*. No matter the weather, we're with you.

What size generator do I need?

Central Electric can provide a size and price estimate based on the size of your home and what you'd like to power during an outage, such as lighting, appliances, and heating or cooling units.

KOHLER. Generators
KohlerGenerators.com

*Based on generator and load size

Our Team of Electricians



Dwight [REDACTED]



Kevin [REDACTED]



Rodney [REDACTED]



David [REDACTED]

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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

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
River City Friday Nights
Chamberlain H.S. Alumni
Chamberlain, SD

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
River City Friday Nights
Agriculture Appreciation
Chamberlain, SD

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

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

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

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

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

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.