

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Pristine Prairie

**Tellus & Lori Waddell Grow,
Harvest Native Plants**

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Drive Out to a Drive-In!

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Members



Steve Tilton,
General Manager

When it comes to electricity, we rarely think twice when we flip on a light switch, brew coffee in the morning, charge our phones or adjust the thermostat. We simply expect the power to be there—and that's how it should be because you are a member of Clay-Union Electric and reliably powering your life is our mission.

We know that many families across our local communities are feeling the impact of rising costs for everyday expenses. Groceries, gasoline, insurance and other necessities cost more than they did just a few years ago. And because of that, we understand that every household is carefully considering where each dollar goes.

That's why I think it's important to occasionally step back and consider the value electricity provides.

The average U.S. residential electric bill is about \$150 a month—roughly \$5 a day. I often think about what that \$5 provides. It's about the cost of a specialty coffee, yet electricity powers nearly every moment of our daily lives, often without us giving it a second thought. In fact, many typical purchases cost more than a day's worth of electricity. A fast-food combo meal averages about \$9, and a single movie ticket can cost around \$13.

For about \$5 a day, your refrigerator keeps food fresh around the clock. Your heating and cooling system helps keep your family comfortable through the seasons. Lights brighten your home after sunset. Appliances make cooking and cleaning easier. Devices stay charged so you can work, learn, communicate and stay connected with loved ones. When you think about everything electricity makes possible, it's one of the greatest values in the average household budget.

Even with electricity's exceptional value, we know every dollar matters. If you're looking for ways to lower your energy use, Clay-Union Electric is here to help. Whether you need efficiency advice from our energy advisors, information about co-op rebates and efficiency programs or answers to questions about your monthly bill, our team is always available.

Clay-Union Electric is proud to be more than your electric provider. Because we're a cooperative, we're locally owned by you, the members we serve. That means every decision we make is guided by what's best for our community—not by outside shareholders. For example, Clay-Union has continued to replace overhead power lines with buried. This provides you, our members, with greater reliability and a safer environment to live, work, and play.

Even as we work to control costs for our members, the industry as a whole is seeing pressures that will continue to drive the power purchase cost higher. For instance, the equipment that has been chugging along for 30, 40, and even 50 years needs updates or replacement. Growing demand from our members is increasing; no longer are houses built with a 70-amp breaker panel, but new homes often have two 200-amp breaker panels. Pumps that bring water to the surface for drinking, watering

our grass, and growing crops are becoming bigger, and there are more of them. Industry in middle America has grown. Providing greater job diversity and more people in our region. All these factors add up, and the cost to build new generation has greatly increased from even five years ago and take many years to permit and construct. With all that being said, we anticipate increasing costs for the next several years. Unfortunately, that cost will be reflected in mine and your power bills. But the value of being a Cooperative member/owner is that any margin collected above needed operations is returned to you as Capital Credits.

With that being said, electricity is and will remain of high value for what it does versus what it costs. If you struggle with the cost of power, give our office a call, and we can assist you with finding programs that can help in difficult times.

Thank you for trusting us to power your home and your life. We're committed to providing everyday value for you and your family, with reliable, affordable power—so you can make the most of every energy dollar.

Cooperatively,

Steve Tilton
General Manager

**Even with electricity's
exceptional value,
we know every dollar
matters**

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

CLAY-UNION ELECTRIC SPARKS

(USPS 116-800)

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
31321 SD Hwy. 19, Vermillion, S.D.
605-624-2673

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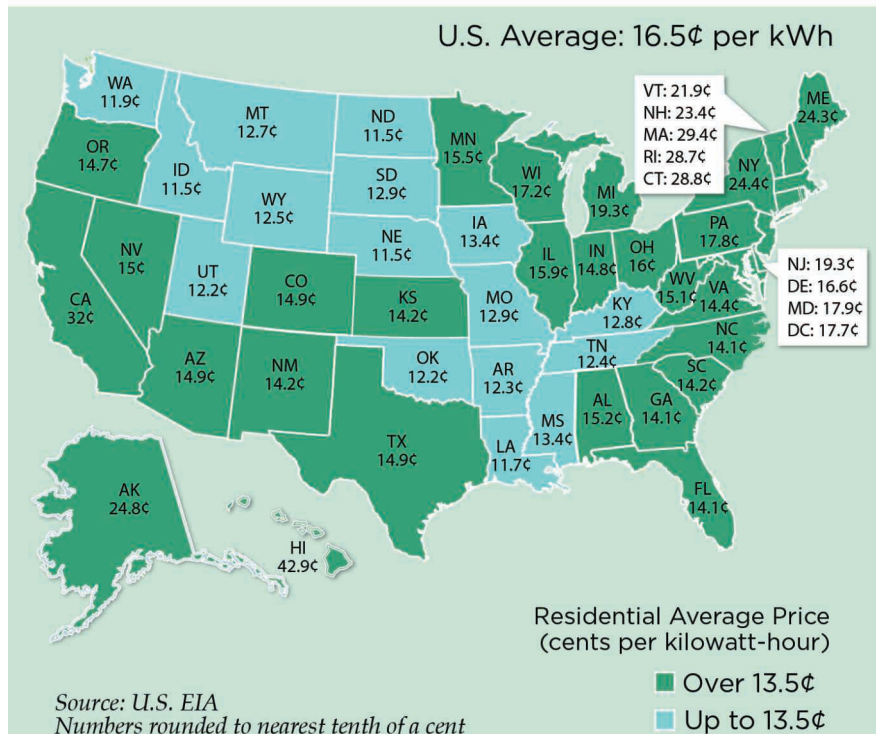


Secure your smart devices.

Cybersecurity Reminder: Your smart thermostat, security camera, video doorbell and other connected devices make life more convenient—but they can also be targets for cybercriminals if they're not properly secured. Remember to change default usernames and passwords, use strong, unique passwords for each device and enable multi-factor authentication when available. A few simple steps can help keep your personal information and smart devices safe and secure.



Average Prices for Residential Electricity 2024 figures, in cents per kWh



STAYING PREPARED IN RURAL S.D.

As most South Dakotans know, weather on the Great Plains can be frightfully unpredictable. In fact, South Dakota holds the record for the fastest temperature rise ever recorded. On Jan. 22, 1943, the temperature in Spearfish climbed from 4 degrees below zero to 45 degrees above zero in only two minutes.

Winter storms also offer reminders of how quickly severe weather can reshape daily life. The Blizzard of 1966 brought wind gusts of 70 mph and snowdrifts reaching more than 30 feet. Roads remained blocked for days, and massive livestock losses made it one of the most severe blizzards in state history.

Winter Storm Atlas, another devastating blizzard in October 2013, dropped several feet of snow over the Black Hills. Heavy snow and strong winds toppled trees and power lines, and devastated livestock operations, leaving some residents without electricity for a week or longer.

Although not every storm will make the record books, severe weather can still disrupt a household. A little preparation on an ordinary day can make a difficult day much easier.

Make A Plan

Emergency preparedness begins with a plan. FEMA recommends that households develop a plan for alerts, appropriate shelter, evacuation and communication if family members become separated.

Start by identifying the types of emergencies most likely to affect your area. For rural South Dakotans, that may include anything from blizzards and tornadoes to severe thunderstorms and wildfires. A good safety plan starts by choosing a safe place inside the home for high winds and tornadoes, generally a basement or small interior room, away from windows.

Next, consider who in your household may need extra help during an emergency, including infants, older adults and pets. Make sure everyone knows where to go and what to do, then walk through the plan together.

Build A Practical Supply Kit

Once the plan is in place, start collecting and organizing supplies your household could rely on if the power goes out or travel becomes difficult. FEMA recommends keeping enough food and water for at least several days, with one gallon of water per person for each day. For example, a

family of four preparing for three days would need at least 12 gallons of water.

Choose nonperishable foods your household already eats and that can be prepared without electricity. Then add the basics needed to get through an outage, including flashlights, extra batteries, a first-aid kit and a way to recharge cellphones. A NOAA Weather Radio can also provide important updates even when cellphone service is unavailable.

Next, tailor the kit to your household. Set aside medications and other essentials.

There is no need to build the entire supply kit at once. Start with what is already in the house, then add supplies during regular shopping trips. Check the kit a few times each year to replace expired food, medications or batteries.

Preparedness cannot stop a storm, reopen a highway or restore electricity, but it can provide time and options when conditions begin to change.

For more information, visit Ready.gov for additional tips on making an emergency plan, building a supply kit and staying prepared.



"Don't plant trees near power lines."

Owen Williams, age 7

Owen reminds members to not plant trees near power lines. That is great advice, Owen! Thank you!

Owen's parents are Bruce and Jing Williams from Wakonda S.D.

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

FALL DESSERTS

GOLDEN GRAHAM/ SMORES BARS

Ingredients:

7 cups Golden Graham cereal
16 oz. mini marshmallows
1/2 cup butter
6 full size Hershey bars

Method

Unwrap Hershey bars and break apart on lines and then each piece again in half. Set aside. Melt the butter and 6 cups of the marshmallows. Stir in the Golden Grahams cereal. Cool for one minute. Stir in remaining marshmallows and Hershey pieces. Press lightly into a greased 9x13 pan with slightly wet hands. Cool and serve.

Valerie Marso
Oahe Electric

THE BEST APPLE CRISP

Ingredients:

6 cups sliced apples
1 1/2 cups white sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
6 tbsp. flour

Topping

(makes enough for two pans)

2 cups flour
2 cups soft butter
1 tsp. baking powder

Method

Mix ingredients in a bowl and place in a 9x12 glass baking dish. Mix topping ingredients together until crumbly and sprinkle over apple mixture. Don't pack. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour or until apples are done.

Ginny Jensen
Sioux Valley Energy

VERY GOOD PEACH DESSERT

Ingredients:

First layer:

1 cup flour
1/2 cup nuts
1 stick margarine
Mix together and press in 9x13 pan. Bake at 350 F for 10 minutes.

Second layer:

1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese
1 cup powdered sugar
Cream together and add 1 cup Cool Whip. Spread on top of cooled crust.

Third layer:

1 cup sugar
2 tbsp. white corn syrup
3 tbsp. cornstarch
1 cup water
Combine ingredients, cook until thickened, then remove from heat. Add 3 tbsp. of peach-flavored gelatin and 1/4 tsp. almond flavoring. Cool. Peel and slice fresh peaches, then combine with the cooled mixture. Spread on top of cheese filling. Top with a layer of whipped topping and chill.

Ginny Jensen
Sioux Valley Energy

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 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Thursday, Sept. 3rd
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Electric co-ops at the State Fair

Come visit South Dakota's Touchstone Energy
Interactive Tent in Horticulture Park!

Family fun for all



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating and cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Happy Work Anniversary

Thank you for your dedication to the cooperative and its members!



Curt Johnson

Lead Lineman
28 years



Josh Anthofer

Electrician
20 years



Clay-Union Electric, Basin Electric and East River Electric pay kWh taxes to our local schools each year. These taxes are in addition to the property and payroll taxes paid by the cooperative and are figured by the number of Clay-Union Electric members in that school district. Despite being a non-profit organization, your cooperative has many tax obligations.

<u>School</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Alcester.....	\$801.30
Beresford	\$28,227.53
Centerville.....	\$6,514.05
Elk Point.....	\$1,045.62
Gayville/Volin.....	\$34,048.52
Irene/Wakonda	\$38,793.79
Vermillion.....	\$119,288.39
Viborg.....	\$402.98
Yankton	\$18,196.98
Total	\$247,319.16

A photograph of a man and a woman, Tellus and Lori Waddell, sitting in the back of a tractor. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a lush green field with some purple wildflowers. The tractor's frame and controls are visible in the foreground.

WONDROUS WILDFLOWERS & PRAIRIE PRESERVATION

Tellus and Lori Waddell.
Photo by Jacob Boyko

Waddell Native Seeds Turns Rural Acreage into Prairie Paradise

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Journeying east on U.S. Hwy. 12 toward Milbank, as you make a steep descent into Whetstone Valley, you'll pass the usual South Dakota crops – corn, soybeans, some wheat here and there.

But for Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative members Tellus and Lori Waddell of Marvin, the most fascinating – and lucrative – harvest is one most of us would overlook, growing tall in roadside ditches and uncut fields.

For more than 30 years, the Waddells have allowed their Grant County acreage to run wild as they grow, harvest and sell the seeds of dozens of native wildflowers and grasses.

"We started noticing wildflowers up in the pasture, and at that time [the internet was] coming out so we could do some research on what they were," Lori recalled. "Tellus started calling nurseries asking them if they wanted this or that ... and that's how we built into this – and there are not a lot of people that do this."

When Lori says "this," she's referring to more than just collecting seeds. She means getting up early before the weather

is too hot, rolling up her sleeves and driving around the property in a side-by-side scanning the ground for patches of whichever wildflower type is ready to be harvested – by hand – for seeds.

"It's very, very labor-intensive," Tellus added. "It's not like picking flowers – because we don't pick a flower. You have to let [the seeds] develop. Right now, we're picking things that blossomed about six weeks ago."

With dozens of plants and just as many harvest schedules, the Waddells have a steady amount of work to do from mid-spring all the way into fall.

Traversing the lightly traveled trails over their expansive, glacially carved property, (this reporter was joined by two labs in the back seat of the side-by-side) Tellus and Lori are quick to point out distant patches of coneflowers, blazing star, wild turnips, vervain and their personal favorite flora they cultivate, milkweed.

"It's for the butterflies," Tellus explained as he pulled the vehicle up to the family's newest experiment: milkweed planted as a row crop.

"It's the first time we've ever done that," Tellus said, proudly explaining his youngest son, Levi Waddell, is heading up the initiative.

Tellus added, "As every generation takes over, you'll get different things."

Most outbuildings on the Waddells' land double as drying rooms for at least one harvest during the season.

That includes their three-stall garage – a more accurate description may be the seed processing facility – where the Waddells dry the seeds, separate them from the chaff and package them for shipment to area greenhouses and other customers.

Demand has grown to the point where the Waddells have hired about a dozen part-time summer workers to help harvest seeds.

Their harvesting efforts don't stop at the

The Waddells are row cropping milkweed for the first time. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on milkweed, making it an important resource for conservation efforts.

Photo by Jacob Boyko





Lori Waddell enjoys photographing native flowers on the acreage.
 Top row: prairie lily, pasque flower (S.D. state flower), wild turnip.
 Bottom row: blazing star, scarlet gaura, coneflower.
Photos by Lori Waddell

fence line – Tellus is known to park his car, knock on the doors and ask to collect seeds if a patch of prairie catches his eye.

"We have picking rights [agreements with property owners] from here to Pierre down to Grand Island, Nebraska," Tellus said, recounting an especially vibrant purple field of vervain near Forestburg.

This led Tellus to a more solemn conversation. Piece by piece, he and Lori have bought surrounding acreage in an effort to isolate their native plants from the effects of drifting pesticides. Tellus said that when mixed into a slight breeze, the chemicals are potent enough to wipe out their native broadleaf plants for years at a time – even if the spraying takes place miles away.

Tellus and Lori's observation is that biodiversity is shrinking throughout the region for this same reason – diverse fields of native flowers and grasses are becoming more difficult to find, and the wildlife that relies on native plants for food are becoming increasingly scarce.

"You talk to people in their 80s, and they'll talk about walking through a field of lilies," Tellus said. "And then they just sit there for a bit and try to think of the last time they've seen that. Sometimes 40 or 50 years ago."

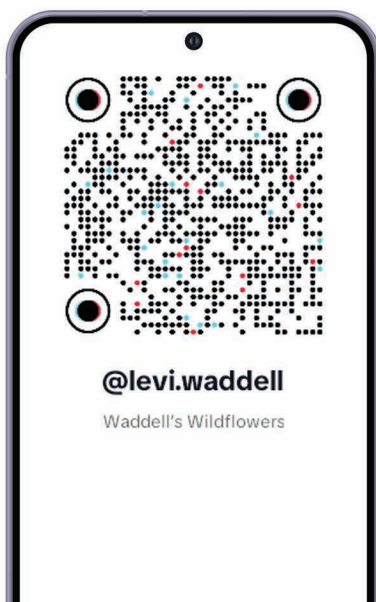
He continued, "that's when people realize the prairie is pretty much gone."

Levi Waddell uses social media to spread awareness about native plants, conservation and his family's operation.

His TikTok page, Waddell's Wildflowers, has more than 1,000 followers and 19,000 likes and chronologizes the day-by-day life of a native plant harvester.

The Waddells hope to share their story to educate others on the importance of conservation and inspire them to preserve the native prairie for generations to come.

"God gave us this beautiful earth and we're ruining it," Lori said. "If we can at least preserve and protect our little corner, I feel like we've done our job."



PROCESSING NATIVE SEEDS



The harvested seeds are spread indoors to dry for several weeks.



The dried seed heads are broken apart to loosen the seeds from the surrounding plant material.



The seeds are fed into a hammer mill to break apart remaining plant material from the seeds.



The cleaned seeds are sifted one final time to remove any extra material. The separated chaff is spread where the seeds were harvested so any unseparated seeds can germinate.

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS

The following list of people have capital credit checks that were undeliverable. If you know someone on this list, please have them contact us at 605-624-2673.

The checks were issued in October 2025 and represent capital credits allocated for the year 1996.

Thank you for your assistance in locating these members.

ADAM, JIM
AKERS, TOM
ALBEE, JAMES
ALBERS, CHRIS
ALBERTSON, ROBERT
ALEXANDER, JERRY
ALLEN, JIM/FRENCH, CLAUDIA
AMES, RANDALL
AMUNDSON, GERALD E.
AMUNDSON, VIOLET V
ANDAL, LUTHER/BECKY
ANDERSEN, DUANE
ANDERSON, CHARLES
ANDERSON, CLARENCE E
ANDERSON, CURT
ANDERSON, DAVID DICK
ANDERSON, ELTON
ANDERSON, JEREMY
ANDERSON, LEE
ANDERSON, MARK
ANGLIN, KAREN
ARNTZ, JOHN
AUCH, JOHN
AVENELL, RANDY
BABB, EVELYN M
BAILEY, DALE
BAKER, CHARLES
BAKER, JOHN/RUTH
BALDWIN, CARRY L
BALES, GENE/PAM
BANCROFT, DARYL
BARNHOUSE, TROY
BARTELS, MICHAEL
BARTIKOWSKY, RON/NORMA
BASS, RALPH/DIANE
BATSTONE-CUNNINGHAM,
RON/ELIZ.
BAUMGART, CAROL
BBC RENTALS
BEAVERS, WILLIAM
BECKER, TY
BEGAY, TERRY
BENDERT, RICHARD R
BENNETT, DIANE
BERESFORD COOP
BERG, JAMES
BERGENDAHL, DAVID L
BERGQUIST, DARIN/SHERI
BERRY, VAN
BERTELSEN, HARVEY
BERUCK, ANDREW J
BETTENCOURT, RICK
BEVERS, DENNIS
BITTNER, CHAD
BIXLER, ART
BIXLER, PAUL L
BLAKE, JUAN
BLAKEY, TRAVIS
BODDEN, TERRY
BOLLINGER, JAMES/DOTTIE

BOOTH, MELVIN
BORGSTROM, GREGORY
BORNITZ, CHRIS/KRISTI
BOULDEN, LEE/FRANCES
BOUSKA, SHIRLEY
BRANDON, ANGELLA
BRANDT, DAVE
BRICKMAN, BRYAN
BRITT, ROBERT D
BROCK, KRISTI
BROWN, ALAN A.
BROWN, DONNA
BROWN, KENNETH
BROWN, MAX
BROWN, NANCY L
BROZIK, LOUIS
BRUDER, ROBERT
BRYAN, GREG
BUBBA'S BAR & GRILL
BUCHANAN, BOB/PEGGY
BUCHMANN, HAROLD R
BUCKANAGA, HARRY
BUEHNER, DUANE/CHRISTINE
BUNNEY, CHRISTOPHER
BURBACH, ROBERT/AMY
BURLINGTON NORTHERN RR
BURTON, HELEN
BUTLER, DAVID
BUUM, ALVERN
BYLANDER, L'NORA L.
BYRKELAND, JERRY
BY-WAY DAK INCORP.
CACEK, ELVIN
CACEK, WILLIAM/ROSE
CAMPBELL, DAVID
CAMPBELL, LORITTA
CAMPBELL, MARJORIE
CANNON, NELL
CAPASSO, JOSEPH M
CARGIL, FSC
CARLSON, ROY R
CARLSON, STEVE
CARMICHAEL, JOHN
CHECOTS, DON
CHICK, LARRY
CHITWOOD, TERRY/DEBRA
CHRISTENSEN, DAN
CHRISTENSEN, DAVID
CHRISTENSEN, LISA
CHRISTENSEN, MARJORIE
CHRISTENSON, ALICE
CHRISTENSON, BRUCE M
CHRISTENSON, CLARK
CHRISTENSON, GARY
CISAR, RICHARD W
CLABAUGH, DENISE
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CLARK, MIKE
CLARK, WILMER
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COKENOWER, ANGELA
COLE, KEVIN
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COLLINS, CYNTHIA K.
COLLINS, GERALD
COLOROSO, EARLA
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COMMUNITY PARK &
CEMETARY ASSO
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CONWAY, MICHELE
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COUCH, KENN
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DAVIS, CLYDE
DAVIS, HERMAN
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DAVIS, MONTE/JUDY
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DELANEY, LARRY
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DERBY, SHAWN/REBBECA
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DROBNY, SHANNON
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DUIN, DENNIS
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DUNHAM, DAN, JAN
DUPRE, EUGENE F/DEBRA

DVORACEK, STEVEN
EASTMAN, NICK/LORETTA
EBERHART, VINCE
ECKHOLT, LORI
EGGERS, WILLIAM
EHRISMAN, DONNA
EINREM, JAMIE
EKEREN, LINDY
ELLA KOCHMICH
ELLIS, EDWIN R
ELVERUD, LARRY/NICOLE
EMPIRE PRODUCTS, INC.
ENGELHART, LEROY
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ENGSTROM, ROYCE
ERICKSON, JERRY
ERICKSON, LEO
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ESSER, MICHELLE
EUTSLER, RANDY/LISA
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FALKENBURG, JOY
FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT
NETWORK
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FARMERS UNION COOPERA-
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FECHNER, CHRIS
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FISCHBACH, BRUCE
FISCHER, JAMES
FISHBACH, VICTOR B
FISHER(VIELMETTE), TERESA
FLANN, ROBERT
FLEMMING, RANDY
FLINT, MARK
FLOTTMEYER, ROBERT
FLYNN, VICKI
FOOTIT, JAMES
FORSTER, ERIC
FORSTER, HARLAN
FOX, ALFRED
FREESE, ROBERT/JACKIE
FREUND, BECKY
FUCHS, PAUL
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GALL, SANDRA
GAPP, ELTON
GARFIELD TWP HALL
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GATEWAY 2000
GENERAL SERVICE COMP, INC
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GIBBONS, GLEN
GILBERT, TIMOTHY

GILBERTSON, ED
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 GLOVER, LEANNA
 GOEBEL, OWEN
 GOEDEN, PATRICIA K
 GOETTE, JESSICA
 GOODTEACHER, EMIL
 GOSE, MICHAEL A
 GRABER, TERRY
 GRAFF, DOREEN
 GRANT, MIKE
 GRATE, LINDA
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 GRAVES, BRENT
 GREEN, VINCENT
 GREENFIELD, R.E.
 GREENFIELD, ROBERT
 GREY OWL, RUTH
 GRIMBERG, ROY
 GROTHE, DEB
 GROVER, KEN
 GRUENEWALD, BRENDA
 GUKISEN, MIKE/DAN
 GUNDERSON, CHRIS/NORI
 GUNDERSON, DIANE
 GURNEY, ELIZABETH
 GUTHMILLER, GARY
 H B LEE CO.
 HA, LEWIS
 HAALAND, LARRY
 HAARSAGER, DUDLEY/MARY
 HACKETT, STEVEN
 HAFEMANN, WM/KRIS
 HAGEN, ALVIN
 HALL, KERMIT/WILMA
 HALVORSON, KEITH
 HALVORSON, KEVIN
 HALVORSON, RANDY
 HAMBURG, VICTOR
 HANSBERRY, STEVE
 HANSEN, CARL M
 HANSEN, JOHN/LISA
 HANSEN, LOREN/LISA
 HANSEN, PAUL
 HANSEN, RAYMOND
 HANSEN, ROBERT
 HANSEN, RODNEY
 HANSEN, RUTH
 HANSEN, YVETTE
 HANSON, ANN
 HANSON, BEN
 HANSON, DAVID/LA STELLA
 HANSON, FERN
 HANSON, STEVE
 HAPPE, PATTY
 HARBOUR, CHARLES
 HARNOIS, JODY
 HARRIS, TAMI
 HARVEY, LARRY
 HAWK, DENNIS
 HAWTHORNE, JOHN CORALEE
 HAYES, JAMES M
 HAYS, BRYAN
 HEICK, STEVE/VICKIE
 HEIMSTRA, NORMAN
 HEIN, ANGEL
 HEIN, MICHAEL
 HEINE, JEREMY

HELLER, ALICE
 HENDRICKS, VERNE S
 HENDRICKSON, GUY
 HENNINGS, CHAD/TONYA
 HENRY, RAMON
 HENSON, BILLIE
 HENZE, JAMES
 HERREN, JAMES
 HERREN, LINDA
 HEWITT, ESTHER
 HI WAY USED CARS
 HILL, TERRY
 HINRICHSEN, CHUCK
 HINSETH, SCOTT
 HITTLE, GERVAASE G.
 HOADLEY, MICHAEL
 HOESING, LINDA
 HOF, GREG/TERESA
 HOFER, RANDY A
 HOFF, RAYMOND
 HOFFMAN, JAMES
 HOFFMAN, JIM
 HOFFMAN, LINDA
 HOLLAND, DWAYNE
 HOLMES WELDING
 HOPPE, LADD
 HORACEK, CHARICE
 HORNSTRA, JAMIE
 HOST ENGLUND, ELSE
 HOTZ, TIM/CHRY
 HOWARD, DELVIN
 HOWARD, VIRGINIA
 HUNTER, JOEL
 HUSTON, STAN
 IRLBECK, KEVIN
 IRVINE, PAM
 IRWIN, GEORGE W
 ISAACSON, MIKE
 ISBURG, DEAN
 ISHMAEL, EDWARD
 ISHMAEL, KEVIN
 IVERSON, ELOIS
 IVERSON, JOHN/DOROTHY
 IVERSON, ROBERTA
 IVERSON, RUTH M.
 IVERSON, SANNA
 JACKSON, DON
 JACOBS, LAURA
 JANIS, HEATHER
 JANSEVICS, ELMAR
 JARRETT, ANNE
 JENNINGS, PETER J
 JENSEN, DARRELL
 JENSEN, KRISTI
 JEPSEN, EUGENE
 JEPSEN, GARY
 JEWELL, DEAN
 JOHNSON, BEVERLY J
 JOHNSON, CHRISTOPHER/
 TINA
 JOHNSON, CLIFFORD H
 JOHNSON, DAN
 JOHNSON, DARRELL
 JOHNSON, DON A
 JOHNSON, EDWARD V
 JOHNSON, ERIC
 JOHNSON, GREGORY V
 JOHNSON, HOWARD R
 JOHNSON, KATHI
 JOHNSON, KURT
 JOHNSON, MARK/DARLA

JOHNSON, MARK/MICHELLE
 JOHNSON, MERLE
 JOHNSON, ROGER/
 STEWART, KITTY
 JOHNSON, ROSS
 JOHNSON, SHANE/PATTY
 JOHNSON, TIM
 JOHNSON, VIRGIL
 JOHNSTON, STACEY
 JONES, J W SR
 JONES, KRISTINE
 JONES, SUSAN
 JORGENSEN, RANDY/LYNNDI
 JUNEAU, DAVID/SHERRY
 JURRENS, CHRIS/JEANNIE
 JUTTELSTAD, LAURA
 KADDATZ, JAY
 KAEBERLE, ALFRED
 KAHLER, JOSEPHINE A
 KAINRATH, SCOTT
 KAMENAR, JURA
 KANABLE, JAMES H
 KAPLER, TODD/
 MCCOLLAR, JACQUE
 KARANTINOS, CHRIS
 KARLEY, LARRY
 KARLEY, RAY
 KARST, MICHAEL/KRISTI
 KASER, CLINTON
 KATE AND OPIES
 KAVANAGH, NIKKI
 KELLEY, JAMES/MELINDA
 KELLEY, MILDRED
 KELLEY, RON
 KELLEY, TRACY
 KELLOGG, GEORGE JR
 KELLOGG, LA VONNE
 KEMP, ROD/CECILIA
 KENNEDY, DAVID/
 TRACY HEILMAN
 KENNEDY, JAMES A
 KERN, CLAYTON/STACY
 KERN, ZACHARY/SANDRA
 KIELER, DAVON
 KIER, BETTY
 KIEWEL, DARRELL
 KILLEAS, KRIS L
 KING FAMILY PARTNERSHIP
 KING, CHAD
 KING, RONALD G
 KIRCHER, JAN
 KJONEGAARD, CRAIG
 KLAVER, KAREN
 KLEINSASSER, TIM
 KLUG, JERRY
 KNEEBONE, HAZEL
 KNUDSON, DENNIS
 KNUTSON, RONALD
 KNUTSON, TIM
 KOCH, TIM
 KOENIG, CHRIS
 KOGAN, MILTON
 KOLBERG, DAN/AMY
 KOLBERG, ROBERT E
 KOLDA, BEN
 KOLLARS, MARY
 KOLLER, RICHARD
 KOMENT, ROGER W
 KOSTROUN, SHERRY/
 HAKL, DOUG
 KRAEMER, KATHY/PECK, PAM

KRINGLE, LEO/SUSAN
 KTTW TELEVISION
 KUCERA, J. ELOISE
 KUCK, O. JOAN
 KUIPERS, KYLE
 LACEY, CHAD
 LAMBERT, RICHARD
 LANGLEY, JAMES
 LANGLOIS, MARTIN J
 LANICH, BRETT/CAROL
 LARSON, DANIEL
 LARSON, ETHEL
 LARSON, KAREN
 LARSON, LEWIS
 LARSON, MARY (NYREEN)
 LARSON, MILDRED
 LARSON, TREVOR/DARCI
 LASSAU, KATHLEEN
 LEE, RAYMOND
 LEIKVOLD, KATHLEEN
 LEYDEN, JIM
 LEYDEN, RICHARD/KATHY
 LIGHT, JERALD
 LINDNER, LORI
 LINDQUIST, BRENDA
 LOGTERMAN, MEL
 LONSON, ROBERT
 LUBBEN, CURTIS/VALERIE
 LUDEY'S READY MIX
 LUECHTEFELD, TOM
 LUEDERS, DENIS/JANEEN
 LUFKIN, NATHAN
 LUFT, JOHN
 LUKEN, LINDA
 LUND DRUG INC
 LUND, MARIE W.
 MAC DONALD, LAURIE/
 DONNA
 MACH, GERALD
 MACHMULLER, BRIAN
 MADDOX, DONALD D.
 MADDOX, LEAH/(BLAINE)
 MADSEN, DARYL
 MAES, DEBBIE
 MAHONEY, KEVIN
 MANGUS, CUBA/MARTY
 MARAUTA, MARGARET
 MARCOTTE, ROGER
 MARTIN, MATILDA
 MARTIN, TODD
 MARTINEZ, ROBERTO/JILL
 MARTINS, CAROL
 MATZ, JIM
 MAYER, RUSS
 MAYFIELD, EVELYN
 MAYNARD, SCOT
 MCCARTY, PATRICIA
 MCCLLOUD, CHRIS
 MCCLUNG, ROBERT
 MCCONNELL, DEAN
 MCDONALD, HAROLD
 MCDONALD, SHARLEE

*The remainder of the names
 will be published in the
 October issue or you can visit
<https://clayunionelectric.coop/capital-credits-for-the-full-listing>.*



DRIVE OUT TO A DRIVE-IN

Outdoor Movie Theaters Offer Old-Time Fun

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

It's one of the defining cultural behemoths of the 20th century. Load the family into the station wagon – or someone you fancy in a borrowed hot rod – and head over to the drive-in theater. You pick up popcorn and soda pop, tune your car stereo to the transmitter, and settle in for an unforgettable experience.

It all started in 1933, when Richard Hollingshead of Camden, New Jersey, began developing an accessible and comfortable way to bypass the confining indoor theater seats and allow moviegoers a way to enjoy a show from the comfort of their own vehicle.

The Smithsonian Magazine reports a peak of more than 4,000 American drive-in theaters in 1958. But with cities continuously expanding and the price of property increasing, most of them have closed in the time since. Today, it's estimated that fewer than 300 drive-in theaters remain.

But don't fret! If you're reading this magazine, there are still some nearby drive-in movie theater options for you and your family (or your date) to enjoy!

Midway Drive In – Miller, S.D.

In Miller, mid-May through Labor Day weekend is drive-in movie season. Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights are illuminated by the distant glow of the local drive-in movie theater.

Sarah Resel is one of the owners of the Midway Drive-In. Growing up in Miller, the drive-in was her weekend hangout and the site of so many cherished memories. Years later, that's still the case – just under slightly different circumstances.

A show is about to start at the Midway Drive In near Miller.
Photo submitted by Midway Drive In

"We pretty much don't have weekends during the summer," Resel said. "We're committed to being here with the theater. We all have full-time jobs; we always call this our community service."

Despite the hefty commitment, Resel says seeing people turnout from all over the country for an authentic drive-in experience makes it worthwhile.

"I think with us in our Miller community, we take it for granted that it's just here," Resel said. "It's crazy the support we get from other towns coming to our community."

Pheasant Drive-In – Mobridge, S.D.

Cam Wal Electric Cooperative members Jon and Jill Olson of Mobridge have experience with both indoor and outdoor theaters.

"The day-to-day prep is a little bit different," Jill said, explaining



The Pheasant Drive-In sits on the Missouri River hills near Mobridge.
Photo submitted by Pheasant Drive-In

the maintenance needed for the property and screen, along with weather surprises.

"I think weather is probably the number one issue," she continued. "We had a windstorm that came through Sunday [July 19] and caused some damage for us."

Even with the unexpected challenges, Jill said owning the drive-in theater is a positive experience, and on summer nights as people from near and far gather for a showing, she's reminded why she does it.

"It's a completely different vibe than sitting inside a dark theater," Jill said. "Parents do such a good job making it a fun experience, like bringing a pickup, backing it in and letting the kids sit in the back end. The other weekend, we had a family bring a bunch of blow-up air mattresses. The kids can talk and run back and forth – it just isn't your typical thing."

Hilltop Drive Inn Theater – Gregory, S.D.

"It's awesome," Rosebud Electric Cooperative member Dawn Boyer said when asked about running a drive-in movie theater.

"It's like owning a piece of the past while being in the present – and hopefully the future."

When Dawn was a kid, her mom worked at the ticket counter, sometimes taking Dawn along too. When she learned in 2018 the theater was looking for a new owner, it just seemed right.

"Two weeks later, I was running a theater I knew nothing about," Dawn laughed.

The drive-in is an 80-year-old landmark in Gregory County, and the oldest operating drive-in theater in the state. The age is catching up with it, Boyer said, explaining the heavy maintenance schedules necessary to keep the theater running.

Though the theater is becoming harder to operate, Boyer says the smiles on visitors' faces make it all worth it.

"The people who come through that have never seen a drive-in before – that's who we do it for," Boyer continued. "The expression on somebody's face when that big screen lights up at night is awesome."

Pheasant City Drive-In Theatre – Redfield, S.D.

Redfield's drive-in theater has been open continuously since 1953, and thanks to Dave and Stacey Marlow, it will continue for many years.

"We bought it at the time the industry was changing over to digital projectors," Stacey said, recalling the 2014 sale. "And [the previous owner] wasn't going to do it, so we went to him and asked if he'd like to sell it."

Since taking over, they've upgraded the display system again, installing a brighter, higher-contrast laser projector that allows shows to begin earlier and helps future-proof the theater.

While modern, the theater retains its original elements: the speaker poles are functional (Dave spends hours wiring each spring) and the propane popcorn maker satisfies hungry moviegoers.

"People tell us all the time, 'We are so glad you took this and have kept it going,'" Stacey said. "This is a part of our town we didn't want to lose, so we decided we were the ones to step up and save it."

Winner Drive In Theater – Winner, S.D.

In 2022, Rosebud Electric Cooperative members Austin and Jill Moser were looking for more space for their family. They finally found the perfect house on a nice chunk of land – with a catch.

"The movie theater was included," Jill said. "We thought, 'Why not?'"

The Mosers say running the drive-in theater with their three kids has been a good experience for the family and has given the kids an opportunity to work concessions.

During the Mosers' second season in operation, a windstorm damaged the screen, necessitating a lengthy rebuild. Luckily, the theater was able to reopen for the 2025 season.

"It's really great to see how many people still support drive-in movie theaters," Jill said. "There's not that many left in the country. We meet people from all over – we've had people from France come to the theater."

Verne Drive In – Luverne, Minn.

Half an hour east of Sioux Falls, the Verne Drive In welcomes hundreds of I-90 travelers Wednesday through Sunday each summer.

Owner and operator Doug Rozeboom said his goal is to provide an experience that is affordable, fun and unique for both locals and travelers.

"I don't want to say drive-in theaters are a thing of the past, but they're becoming it," Rozeboom said. "It's a unique experience because you can't just go anywhere to watch a movie outdoors on a big screen."

He continued, "Kids are able to run around and throw a football, so they can blow off some steam."

Rozeboom described the enthusiasm of moviegoers, recounting creative truck-bed setups, typically with lawn chairs, sofas or mattresses.

"For the Toy Story 5 premiere, someone had a tree-trimming truck, so they had the boom arm out," he laughed. "I was like, 'Huh, that's interesting.'"

Making the perfect setup is part of the drive-in movie theater experience!
Photo submitted by Verne Drive In



Winner's drive-in features a curved screen.
Photo by Kim Boyko



Clay-Union Electric Corporation Board Meeting Summary

JUNE 29, 2026 • VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

The board meeting was called to order on June 29, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. by board President Tom Larsen. The meeting was held in the conference room at the Clay-Union Electric Headquarters.

In attendance were Directors Tom Larsen, Chris Kinney, Sara Schulte and Glen Gilbertson. The board seat for District #5 is vacant. Dave Stuart, Attorney, and attending staff members included Steve Tilton, Beth Bottolfson, Alan Gauer and Jackie Williams.

Agenda (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes from the May Board Meeting (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the May board minutes held on 5/22/2026.

Approval of Minutes from the May Executive Session (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the May executive session held on 5/22/26.

Check List & Electronic Funds Transfer – The board reviewed the EFT/ACH payments, and the monthly check list as presented.

New Members and Refunds (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve new members, refunds and credit deposits as presented.

Early Retirement of Capital Credits – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Early Retirement of Capital Credits as presented.

Management Reports:

Manager's Report - Manager Tilton discussed the following activities:

- July Board Meeting – The date of July 28, was set as the next regular board meeting to begin at 8:30 a.m.
- Southeast Managers Meeting – Attended the meeting in Lennox.
- Fire Mitigation Policy – The board would like Steve to write up a policy for Fire Mitigation and present to the board in the future for consideration.
- Weekly Staff Meetings – Weekly staff meetings with departments will be held each Monday mornings to discuss upcoming weekly work schedules.
- RDUP Form 674 (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded and carried to sign the Certificate of Authority to Submit or Grant Access to Data by Steve Tilton, General Manager and Beth Bottolfson, Manager of Finance and Administration.
- RUS Form 675 (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made,

seconded, and carried to sign the Certificate of Authority.

- Resolution No. 2026-04 (ACTION ITEM) - The resolution authorizing Manager Tilton and Business Manager Bottolfson to perform all duties related to Rural Utilities Service reporting requirements was reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the resolution.

- Resolution No. 2026-05 (ACTION ITEM) - Authorizes Manager Tilton, President Larsen and Vice President Kinney to execute RUS Form 595 Financial Requirement & Expenditure Statement (Electric) was reviewed; a motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the resolution.

- Cooperative Family Fund – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to donate \$1,000 annually to the 501(c) Cooperative Family Fund.

- NRECA Region 6 meeting (Action) - A motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize attendance to the Region 6 meeting in Minneapolis in September.

- East River Annual Meeting (Action) - A motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize attendance to the East River Annual Meeting on September 9th at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls and nominate Glen Gilbertson as the delegate and Tom Larsen as the alternate.

- Basin Electric Annual Meeting (Action) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize attendance.

Administrative Report – Manager of Finance and Administration Bottolfson reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Billing, Collections & Customer Service
- Load Management Receiver Changes
- Annual kWh Taxes
- Financials for May 2026

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

Operations Report – Operations Manager Gauer reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Monthly department work summary
- New Service
- Retired Services
- May Outage Report
- Service Upgrades
- Wiring

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

Financial Report – Manager of Finance and Administration Bottolfson reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Balance Sheet
- Interest Income
- Irrigation Sales 2020-2026
- kWh Sales Report
- Large Power
- Line Loss
- Operating Statement
- Power Bill
- Summary of Purchased Power

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

Legal Report – David Stuart, Attorney, attending.

Safety Meeting Minutes – The June Safety Meeting Minutes were posted to the website for the board to review and was discussed during the meeting.

Cyber Security – The May Cyber Security report from East River IT were posted to the website for the board to review and was discussed during the meeting.

Video and/or Meeting Reports –

- East River Report
- East River Financials
- Basin Reports

Calendar – The board reviewed the July 2026 calendar.

Executive Session – The board went into Executive Session at 11:02 a.m. Executive Session was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. There was no action taken.

Adjournment – There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Thomas Larsen, President

Sara Schulte, Secretary

Outage Reports

Cause	Date	Time	Township	Members
Animal	7/2/2026	12:30 p.m.	Star	7
URD Fault	7/2/2026	3:00 p.m.	Fairview	29
Lightning	7/3/2026	12:30 a.m.	Vermillion	7
Lightning	7/3/2024	1:30 a.m.	Pleasant Valley	7
Member Side	7/12/2026	9:00 a.m.	Centerville	1
Equip. Failed	7/15/2026	10:30 a.m.	Emmett	28
Tree	7/20/2026	8:00 a.m.	Bethal	7
Faulty Equip.	7/21/2026	8:00 a.m.	Pleasant Valley	40
Faulty Equip.	7/24/2026	5:15 a.m.	Norway	1

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIALS

	June 2026	Year To Date
Number of Members Billed	3,924	3,914
Electric & Other Revenue	\$1,019,518	\$5,545,908
Cost of Service	\$975,468	\$5,637,374
Operating Margins	\$44,050	\$(91,466)
Other Margins	\$3,330	\$51,993
Net Margins	\$47,380	\$(39,473)
KWH Purchased	6,933,691	44,020,689
Cost of Power	\$575,825	\$3,296,070
KWH Sales	6,510,220	42,164,354
Average kWhs used (residential)	1,118	1,273
Average Amount of Bill (residential)	\$183	\$197

Office Hours and Due Dates

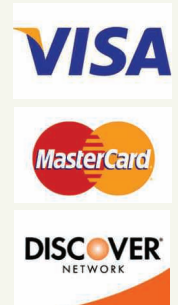
Our office hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please remember your PAYMENT DUE DATE is the 20TH OF EACH MONTH. Your payment must ARRIVE in our office on the 20th to avoid any penalties. Please allow mailing time as we go by the received date, NOT the postmark. If the 20th falls on a weekend or holiday, payment is due the following business day. If payment is still not received within 10 days by 8 a.m., a \$25 collection fee will be applied and a final disconnect notice will be mailed. If disconnection for nonpayment occurs, all past and current energy charges, a reconnect fee and sufficient credit deposit will be required before the meter can be reinstalled.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, WE ALSO ACCEPT THESE PAYMENT OPTIONS.

Bank Draft – Have your payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. No fees apply for this service.

Recurring Debit/Credit

Card – You may call in your credit/debit card payment and ask for recurring, it will then bill to that card every month on the 20th (or next business day) of each month until you call to cancel. No fees apply for this service.



Pay by Phone – You may call in your credit/debit card payment each month. No fees apply for this service.

By Mail – Send check or money order with your payment slip. Please be sure to mail early so we receive it by the 20th, we do not go by postage date.

In Office – We accept cash, check and money order or we can take your credit/debit card in our office. No fees apply for this service.

On Line Billing – Pay your bill on line at www.clayunionelectric.coop No fees apply for this service.

Collection Fee	\$30
Trip Charge-Reconnect Fee	
During Business Hours	\$75
Dishonored Payment	\$40

Delinquent Accounts (gross rate)
10 percent on the first \$200 plus 2 percent on the balance.

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: _____ Dakotafest – Find us in the Touchstone Energy Building!
Your Email Address: _____ S.D. State Fair – Find us in the Horticulture Park!



SEPT. 3 (ONE DAY EVENT)
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives
at the South Dakota State Fair
Horticulture Park, State Fairgrounds
Huron, 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.

AUG. 27-30
Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

SEPT. 1-6
20th Annual Sturgis Mustang Rally
Sturgis, SD
SturgisMustangRally.com

SEPT. 6
Studebaker Car Show
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
South 6th St.
Custer, SD

SEPT. 9
BFest Concert Series & Farmers Market
Matt Gauger Performing
Museum Park
Bruce, SD
605-627-5671

SEPT. 11-12
Center of the Nation 9/11 Remembrance
6 p.m. Fri: Remembrance Walk
Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.: Blood Drive
Herrmann Park
Belle Fourche, SD
605-641-3245

SEPT. 12
Salute to Ellsworth
3-8:30 p.m.
City Hall & Phelps Pond
Box Elder, SD
605-390-9341

SEPT. 12-20
Rustic Designs & More Fall Country Show
9 a.m.-6 p.m.
41450 264th St.
Ethan, SD
605-770-2411

SEPT. 12-13
Harvest & Kuchen Festival
Delmont, SD
605-505-0535

SEPT. 19
Your Race, Your Pace
9:30 a.m.
Aberdeen, SD
605-380-6762

SEPT. 26
Harvest Pumpkin Fest
3-7 p.m.
Eureka City Park North Shelter
Eureka, SD
605-230-1777

OCT. 3
Pumpkin Train/ SoDak Vendor Showcase
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

OCT. 3-4
The Black Market
Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.,
Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Bldg.
Sioux Falls, SD
605-332-6004

OCT. 4
St. Anthony's Fall Bazaar
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Swiss Steak 12-1:30 p.m.
Legion Hall
Hoven, SD

OCT. 4
Grace Lutheran Church & Little Brown Church Fundraiser
Meal: 12-1:30 p.m. CDT
Auction: 2 p.m. CDT
Grace Lutheran Church
Hayes, SD
605-567-3559

OCT. 17
Faulkton Area Arts Council Craft Fair
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Faulkton School
Faulkton, SD
605-380-8444

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.