

# 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.



# Summer Season Reminders



**Tim O'Leary**  
General Manager

The 84rd Annual Meeting of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Co-op (LLEC) was held the evening of June 7th. The meeting provides an opportunity for our member-owners to actively participate in the cooperative by voting for candidates they would like to see represent them on the board of directors. It also allows staff and directors to update the membership on the financial condition of

the co-op, recap activities from the previous year and look at issues that may affect the co-op in the future. Because this newsletter reaches your mailbox after the annual meeting, a full recap of this year's annual meeting and pictures will show up in next month's newsletter.

One thing that will happen right around the time this newsletter is delivered and that is the beginning of the summer season. Summer brings us warmer weather and the possibility of strong storms and damage to our electric distribution system. We want our members to know that we are prepared to respond to all power outages that occur, and we want you to be prepared as well.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends the items below as a starting point for disaster and storm preparedness.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water, and other essentials.
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid Kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages, and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current
- Set aside essential household items you will need, including flashlights batteries, a manual can opener, and a portable, battery powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies, so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances and other electronics, but leave a light on so you will know when power is restored. If you plan on using a generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information and check our website or Facebook page for power restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to perform their jobs safely.

Planning for severe storms and other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings and check our website and Facebook page to stay informed on restoration efforts and other important cooperative news.

Hopefully, these tips will get you through the next weather event and allow you to enjoy the summer in a safe manner.

Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more resources.



**COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS**

**LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC**

(ISSN 1540-6989)

**Board of Directors**

Dale Fier, Taunton – Vice President  
 Kathleen Schreurs, Tyler – Sec./Treas.  
 Jared Dritz, Porter  
 Galen Grant, Russell  
 Mary Gunnink, Lake Benton  
 Scott Johnson, Tyler  
 Mike Longtin, Taunton  
 James Rokeh, Minnesota

**Staff and Personnel**

Tim O’Leary – General Manager  
 Lyle Lamote – Line Superintendent  
 Kristi Jensen - Finance Manager  
 Brian Jeremiason – Manager of Marketing & External Relations  
 Rochelle Borresen – Accountant  
 Lisa Hauswedell – Billing Clerk  
 Jessica Gums – Executive Assistant

**Staff and Personnel**

Journeyman Linemen:  
 Ross Birath  
 Dan Tutt  
 Tyler Blomme  
 Tyler Sand  
 Nathan Pavek  
 Trent Skjefte – Apprentice Lineman  
 Sam Rohde – Apprentice Lineman  
 Wade Thooft – Operations Staff Assistant  
 Alan Fischer – Warehouse Coordinator/Work Order Clerk

**www.llec.coop**

Lyon-Lincoln Electric hours from May 1 to September 30, 2023 are 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM Mon. thru Fri.

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, 205 W. Hwy. 14, PO Box 639, Tyler, MN 56178. Electric co-op members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Tyler Post Office, Tyler, MN 56178 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 639, Tyler, MN 56178; Telephone (507) 247-5505; Toll Free 1-800-927-6276; Fax (507) 247-5508.

**Jessica Gums, Editor**



YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON		
	Mar.- 2022	Mar.- 2023
Total Revenue	\$3,102,025	\$3,100,437
Cost of Power	\$1,498,314	\$1,560,645
Operating Expenses	\$1,228,355	\$1,167,220
Operating Margins	\$375,356	\$372,572
KWH's Purchased	31,263,156	31,230,623
Services in Place	4,133	4,123
Miles of Line	1,671	1,670
Revenue per Mile	\$1,856	\$1,857

**April Outage Report**

(10 or more consumers)

4/1- 43 consumers were off 3 hour 15 minutes in Custer and Monroe Townships. The cause was ice on the lines that opened an OCR.

4/5- 18 consumers were off 3 hours and 40 minutes in Florida and Fortier Townships. The cause was a tree went through the line and opened an OCR.

4/5- 50 consumers were off 6 hours 15 minutes in Diamond Lake Township. The cause was a tree branch on the line that opened an OCR.

4/8- 53 consumers were off 2 hours 35 minutes in Marble and Norman Townships. The cause was an underground fault that opened an OCR in the Sub.

4/19- 30 consumer were off 1 hour 25 minutes in Grandview and Nordland Townships. The cause was a broken insulator on a 3 phase line.



# 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](http://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.

# April Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, April 24, 2023. Directors present were James Rokeh, Kathy Schreurs, Jared Dritz, Galen Grant, Mary Gunnink, Scott Johnson, Dale Fier, and Mike Longtin.

Also present at the meeting were General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, Finance Manager, Kristi Jensen, and Attorney, Michael W. Cable.

Vice-President, Dale Fier, then called the meeting to order and routine business was conducted including approval of the March 27, 2023 meeting minutes, a review of the check schedule, applications for memberships, and shares to be cancelled.

Kristi Jensen, Finance Manager, gave the Financial and Statistical Report for the period ending February 28, 2023. The Board then reviewed the Statement of Qualified Patronage Distribution provided by CoBank. The Board was provided a report from National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation describing the Interest Payment on Subordinated Certificates for the Period Ending March 31, 2023. There was a report furnished from National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation describing Patronage Capital & Investments that the co-op currently has with their organization.

Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent, gave the Outage Report to the Board for the month of March, 2023. He indicated to the Board that there was no Safety Meeting held in March, 2023. Mr. Lamote indicated that the linemen were presently performing the following tasks: cutting trees on the west side of the district, performing line maintenance and straightening of poles, completing the second mile of 3-phase underground line going to the Lake Benton Substation and the four miles of underground 3-phase line going to the new Marble Substation.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, reviewed his report with the board which included the following: First responder EV safety training will be offered at the Merit Center in Marshall, Minnesota on May 16, 2023, an update to the Board concerning the F150 Lightning Ford Pickup that had been ordered and scheduled to go into production, and a review of the PHEV/EV vehicles that the Treasury Department has indicated would be eligible for the new electric vehicle tax credit.

General Manager Timothy O'Leary then gave his manager's report; some of the items reviewed were as follows: the Board reviewed the February power bill and sales to members and compared those

figures to budgeted amounts, looked at line loss for the system, and reported on East River's MAC and REED meetings that he attended. Mr. O'Leary advised the Board on Operation RoundUp Board terms, gave a report on the three District Meetings that had been held, then shared with the board upcoming meetings, events, and notices.

The Board reviewed the March Cyber Security Program Report. Then recessed for lunch at 12:00 P.M. and reconvened at 12:30 P.M. During the lunch recess the Board viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. video report which included the Basin Summary.

The Board then reviewed the Strategic Plan Implementation Tracking Model that was created in March of 2021 and updated April, 2023. There was discussion concerning whether to have District Meetings and how the Annual Meeting should be conducted. After discussion, it was decided that a committee be formed to work on what format the Cooperative should use for District Meetings and the Annual Meeting and what changes should be considered.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice-President, Dale Fier, adjourned the meeting at 1:13 o'clock P.M.





## Electricity & Heat: Both Silent Killers

It is often said that electricity is a silent killer. This is true because you cannot see, hear or smell electricity.

Intense summertime heat is also a silent killer. Unlike hurricanes, floods and tornadoes, the dangers of extreme weather strike without much notice. An average of 702 heat-related deaths occur each year in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**Heat-Related Illnesses-** Hot weather is associated with an increase in heat-related illnesses, including heat stroke and related conditions. Dale Dwire - 690404. Death rates increase during and after heat waves, which is why the number of deaths is attributed to heat-related illnesses. Anyone can be at risk of the health effects of heat, but some are more vulnerable, according to the CDC. Those more vulnerable include: Pregnant women, people with heart or lung conditions, young children, the elderly, athletes, and outdoor workers.

- **Heat Stroke-** Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related illness, as it restricts the body's ability to cool itself. Body temperature can reach 106 degrees or higher within 10 to 15 minutes, according to the CDC. Heat stroke can cause permanent disability or death if emergency treatment is not initiated.

Symptoms of heat stroke include confusion, altered mental status, slurred speech, hot/dry skin or profuse sweating, seizures, very high body temperature and coma.

- **Heat Exhaustion-** This type of heat-related illness is the body's response to an excessive loss of water and salt, usually due to excessive sweating. Heat exhaustion is most like to affect the elderly, people with high blood pressure and those who work outdoors.

Symptoms include headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, irritability, thirst, heavy sweating, elevated body temperature and decreased urine output.

If someone is experiencing heat exhaustion or heat stroke, act quickly to treat the person. If you suspect someone is experiencing heat stroke, act right away by calling 9-1-1. Heat exhaustion also requires medical evaluation and treatment. In both cases, cool the body as quickly as possible.

## How to help someone having a HEAT STROKE:



- Call 9-1-1.
- Stay with them until help arrives.
- Move them to a shaded, cool area.
- Remove outer clothing.
- Place cold cloths on the skin.
- Soak clothing in cool water.
- Circulate air around the person.

Safe  
Electricity.org®

## Win Money

### Find Your Name & Member Number and Win \$

The tradition of listing member names and numbers in the newsletter continues in the Cooperative Connections. If you find your name and member number, call the office and let us know and you will receive a \$20 energy credit.

In last month's Cooperative Connections, John Griffith & James Babcock spotted their names and will receive an energy credit. Once again, there are two new names and numbers hidden in this issue. Good Luck!

## Energy Saving Tip

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: energy.gov



# POWER ON WHEELS

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

## Solar trailer takes renewable education on the road

**Frank Turner**

frank.turner@sdra.coop

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

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

“West Central Electric has approxi-

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

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

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

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

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

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

“What we are really trying to com-



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.

## COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY THROUGH BASIN & OPERATION ROUNDUP® SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, demonstrates its commitment to community by awarding scholarships to deserving students in our service area. This year we were able to award six Operation RoundUp® Scholarships to students from several area schools. The selection of the winners is based on SAT & ACT scores, grade point average, an application outlining high school/college honors, community and school activities, work experience, future career goals, and a short essay focused on an electricity or cooperative theme. In conjunction with our Power Supplier Basin Electric Cooperative, we were also able to present one additional \$1,000 Scholarship.



**BREELEE BERKENPAS**

**Basin Electric Scholarship Recipient**  
Pipestone Area High School  
Daughter of Barry & Tanya Berkenpas  
Post High School Plans: Attend  
University of MN Twin Cities for  
Biochemistry- Pre-Dental



**KYAH ELLEFSON**

RTR High School  
Daughter of Dan & Laurie Ellefson  
Post High School Plans: Attend SD  
State University for Exercise  
Science & Aviation



**LEAH JONES**

Marshall High School  
Daughter of Brian & Kelly Jones  
Post High School Plans: Attend  
Southwest MN State University for  
Business or Education



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO

  
OF OUR  
SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS



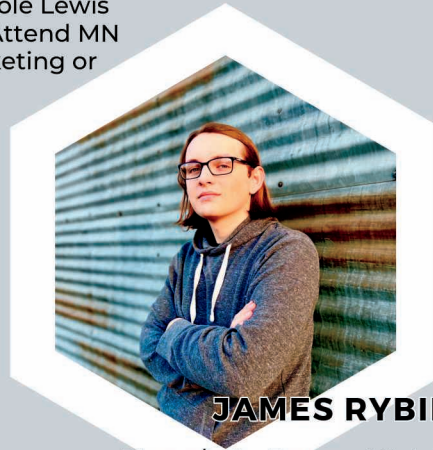
**KAYLEIGH LEWIS**

Marshall High School  
Daughter of Jason & Nicole Lewis  
Post High School Plans: Attend MN  
State Mankato for Marketing or  
Psychology



**LILLY MOORSE**

Minneota High School  
Daughter of Lucas & Marla Moore  
Post High School Plans: Attend MN  
West Community & Technical  
College for Nursing



**JAMES RYBINSKI**

Elkton/Lake Benton High School  
Son of John Rybinski & Jess Gums  
Post High School Plans: Attend SD  
School of Mines for Computer  
Science & Robotics



**JOSEPH WOLLUM**

Canby High School  
Son of Krist and Kari Wollum  
Post High School Plans: Attend  
Simpson College for Data Science





# 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.

## YOU SCHEDULE MEETINGS AND LUNCHES **SCHEDULE YOUR WASHING MACHINE AND DISHWASHER TOO!**

Peak energy demand is a hot topic, but what is it and how does it impact electricity use? Simply stated, PEAK DEMAND is when energy consumption is at its highest.

In much of the U.S., energy use spikes in summer and winter due to INCREASED ENERGY DEMANDS for indoor cooling and heating. In the summer, energy use spikes between mid- to late afternoon and evening. In the winter, energy use is higher in the early morning and late afternoon/evening.

Consider running major appliances during off-peak times to decrease strain on the energy grid.

### **CHANGING THE TIME OF DAY YOU USE ENERGY CAN:**

- ⚡ Help lower your energy bills.
  - ⚡ Avoid service interruptions or glitches.
- Do your part to use energy wisely, especially when energy demands are high.



Safe Electricity.org® Learn more at:

## When the weather is extreme, use energy wisely

We hear a lot about peak energy demand, but what is it and how does it impact electricity use? As the name implies, peak energy demand occurs when energy consumption is at its highest. In much of the U.S., energy use spikes in summer and winter due to the need to heat and cool indoor spaces.

Although it depends on where you live, summertime energy demand increases between mid-to-late afternoon (when outdoor temperatures soar) and evening. In the winter, there are two high-use times of day: early morning and late afternoon/evening. Weekends and holidays are typically considered off peak.

Changing the time of day you use energy can help lower your energy bills and avoid interruptions or service glitches that can occur during peak demand times. Mark King - 1190600. To do this, consider running major appliances during off-peak times; smart devices or appliances that have delay starts can help achieve this goal.

Do your part to use energy wisely when temperatures are high. In the summer months, help decrease demand by doing the following:

- Turn your thermostat up by two degrees or more.
- Program your thermostat to a higher temperature when no one is home.
- If you do not have one, consider purchasing a smart thermostat.
- Make sure your HVAC system is in good working order.
- Use bathroom and kitchen fans temporarily to remove heat and humidity.
- Use your counter top toaster/convection oven instead of your oven.
- Use major appliances in the early morning or late evening.
- Program smart devices to run appliances at off-peak times.
- Close window coverings during the hottest part of the day.
- Use minimal lighting.
- Turn off and disconnect electronics that are not in use.
- Turn off stand-alone dehumidifiers.

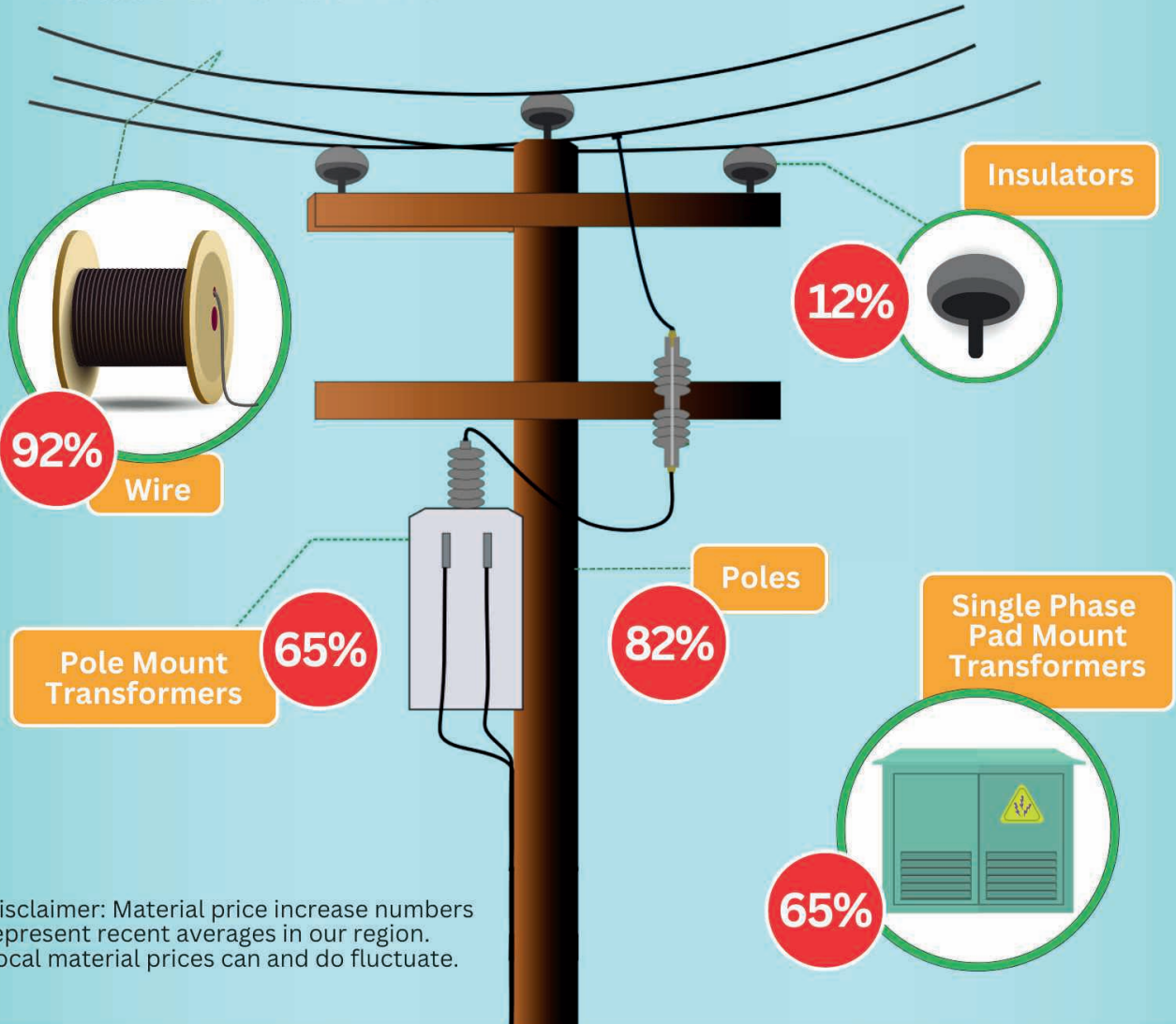
**Making small changes to conserve energy can help even out energy use, save money on your utility bill and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand.**



# THE RISING COST OF ELECTRIC UTILITY MATERIALS

As inflation has increased the cost of many goods and services in our daily lives, Lyon-Lincoln Electric remains focused on keeping your rates as stable as possible. That job is becoming more challenging as electric utility material prices have increased in an unprecedented manner over the last two years.

Many of the cost increases being experienced cannot be avoided or easily cut out. We must continue to invest in utility poles, transformers, wire, and insulators to ensure you receive reliable service. The graphic below shows some of the core components that your electric cooperative needs to operate and the corresponding price increases since 2020. As always, we will continue to manage member resources wisely while keeping the best interests of our members in mind.



Disclaimer: Material price increase numbers represent recent averages in our region. Local material prices can and do fluctuate.

## 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

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.

**JUNE 3**  
**Health Connect of South Dakota: The Human Race 5K**  
9 a.m.  
Sertoma Park  
Sioux Falls, SD

**JUNE 3**  
**Lunafest**  
**Zonta Women's Art, Music & Film Festival**  
2:30 p.m.  
Custer Beacon  
Custer, SD

**JUNE 3-4**  
**Siouxland Renaissance Festival**  
100 N Lyon Boulevard  
Sioux Falls, SD  
866-489-9241

**JUNE 8-10**  
**Black Hills Quilt Show**  
2:30 p.m.  
The Monument  
Rapid City, SD  
info@bhquilters.org

**JUNE 11**  
**River Honoring Community Potluck**  
5 p.m.  
Clay County Park River Shelter  
Vermillion, SD

**JUNE 16-17**  
**Czech Days**  
All Day Events  
Tabor, SD

**JUNE 16-18**  
**Fine Arts In The Hills Show & Sale**  
Main Street  
Hill City, SD

**JUNE 21**  
**2023 McCrossan Boys Ranch Golf Classic for Kids**  
Central Valley Golf Course  
Hartford, SD  
605-339-1203

**JUNE 21-24**  
**Crystal Springs Rodeo**  
Clear Lake, SD

**JUNE 23**  
**Flandreau Fridays**  
5 p.m.  
Downtown Flandreau  
Flandreau, SD

**JUNE 24**  
**Vendor Fair & Farmer's Market**  
8 a.m.  
122 Vilas St  
Hermosa, SD

**JUNE 30**  
**Gregory Community Foundation Polka Fest Fundraiser**  
6 p.m.  
Gregory 4H Building  
Gregory, SD

**JULY 4**  
**Philip VFD Firework Display**  
Lake Waggoner  
Philip, SD  
605-685-3082

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

**JULY 15**  
**Huron MS Walk/Run**  
8 a.m.  
Lake Byron  
Huron, SD

**JULY 15-16**  
**Charles Mix Saddle Club SDRA Rodeo**  
Geddes, SD

**AUG 5-6**  
**Pioneer Power Threshing Show**  
MN Machinery Museum  
Hanley Falls, MN  
507-828-9666

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