

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Wings of Valor

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Retreat**

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Indian Heritage**

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The Impact & Challenges of Policies



Walker Witt - CEO
wwitt@bhec.coop

I recently attended a conference where I listened to several “experts” discuss the state of our industry including generation, supply, transmission, and reliability. Out of the numerous speakers and hours of lecture, the one statement that resonated with me was: “The number one threat to reliability is policy.” The topic was the EPA’s proposed rules to limit greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing fossil fuel-fired electric generation units, known as the Clean Air Act (CAA) under sections 111(b) and (d), that was proposed on May 11th.

I do not like writing and criticizing EPA policy. In fact, I looked back, and the last article I wrote about the EPA was exactly eight years ago. As I stated then, regardless of our individual opinions of the EPA’s proposed rules, if implemented, they will impact the reliability and cost of electricity. These new rules come at a time when the industry is struggling to keep adequate generation due to the swift transition from base-load generation to intermittent resources, such as wind and solar. The National Energy Reliability Corporation (NERC), in their summer assessment of generation sources, found that our country was at great risk of energy shortfalls, especially during times of peak demand. NERC is a not-for-profit international regulatory authority whose mission is to assure the effective and efficient reduction of risks to the reliability and security of the grid.

If implemented, these rules will significantly increase the risk of energy shortfalls by forcing power plants to retire prematurely or become much less efficient. The proposed rules set emission limits on existing and new fossil fuel generators based on three emission-control strategies: Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS), “co-firing” a coal plant with natural gas and co-firing a natural gas plant with green hydrogen.

The most stringent limits are aimed at existing coal-fired power plants and a mandate to reduce the CO₂ emissions rate by almost 90% by 2030, unless they commit to a legally binding retirement agreement by 2040. The CCS technology to achieve the mandated reduction is not yet technically or economically developed for large scale use; and if the CCS technology is developed for large scale use, it is estimated that it will reduce efficiency and output by 25%. The reality of the rules is that coal fired power plants will be forced into early retirement and shut down, and the rules will make new natural gas plants exceedingly difficult to permit, site and build.

There is most certainly a disconnect between the EPA’s proposed rules on power plants and its proposed federal emissions standards that came out in a rule on April 12th, that aims to ensure 67% of new light-duty vehicles and 25% of new heavy-duty trucks sold in the United States are electric by 2032. The EPA’s rules will shut down generation while mandating increased demand on electricity!

The EPA must recognize the disruptive impact these requirements will have on the future of reliable energy before it’s too late. You can have your voice heard by contacting our Congressional delegation, who are by the way on board with our industry, or go to voicesforcooperativepower.com and post comments and concerns there.

We need a national energy policy that embraces all energy generation options at a transition pace to renewables that does not threaten reliability. I am certain that I will not wait another eight years to comment on this issue.

Happy Halloween!

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC

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WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE GREAT DEEDS YOU'VE DONE FOR OUR COUNTRY.

**Our office will be closed
Friday, November 10th.**

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★



Drowsy Driving

Drowsy Driving Prevention Week (Nov. 5-11, 2023), held every year during the first full week of November, is a good time to remember that drowsy driving is impaired driving.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 in 25 adult drivers report having fallen asleep while driving in the previous 30 days, and many more admit to driving when they were sleep-deprived.

These startling figures show how prevalent drowsy driving is. What drivers may not realize is how much drowsy driving puts themselves – and others – at risk. In fact, an estimated 6,400 people died annually in crashes involving drowsy driving, according to the National Sleep Foundation.

Impact of Drowsiness on Driving

Driving while drowsy is similar to driving under influence of alcohol.

- Drivers' reaction times, awareness of hazards and ability to sustain attention all worsen the drowsier the driver.
- Driving after going more than 20 hours without sleep is the equivalent of driving with a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08% – the U.S. legal limit.
- You are three times more likely to be in a car crash if you are fatigued.

A driver might not even know when he or she is fatigued because signs of fatigue are hard to identify. Some people may also experience micro-sleep – short, involuntary periods of inattention. In the 4 or 5 seconds a driver experiences micro-sleep, at highway speed, the vehicle will travel the length of a football field.

Prevalence of Drowsy Driving Crashes

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that every year about 100,000 police-reported, drowsy-driving crashes result in nearly 800 fatalities and about 50,000 injuries. The real number may be much higher, however, as it is difficult to determine whether a driver was drowsy at the time of a crash.

A study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety estimated that 328,000 drowsy driving crashes occur annually. That's more than three times the police-reported number. The same study found that 109,000 of those drowsy driving crashes resulted in an injury and about 6,400 were fatal. The researchers suggest the prevalence of drowsy driving fatalities is more than 350% greater than reported.

Beyond the human toll is the economic one. NHTSA estimates fatigue-related crashes resulting in injury or death cost society \$109 billion annually, not including property damage.

Interventions for Drowsy Driving

Drowsy driving affects everyone, including adolescents and teens, who are not getting enough sleep (according to the CDC, it is recommended that teens get 8-10 hours of sleep each night). That means interventions focusing on this age group can help reduce drowsy

driving. One such intervention is for parents to incorporate discussions and rules on drowsy driving while completing their parent-teen driving agreements.

Other ways to reduce drowsy driving include:

- **Crash avoidance technologies:** New and existing safety technologies, such as drowsiness alert and lane departure warnings, can detect common drowsy driving patterns and warn drivers to stay in their lane or take a break
- **University interventions:** College students receive less than average sleep, with some estimates at less than six hours a night; education programs aimed at college students may help curb drowsy driving and instill healthier behaviors that can last into adulthood
- **Getting more sleep:** According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the Sleep Research Society, adults should get seven or more hours of sleep each night
- **Medication labels:** An article by Consumer Reports found that side-effect warnings are not always clear; new labeling guidelines may help drivers understand when to drive or not drive after taking these medications
- **Employers:** Workplaces with strong off-the-job safety and health programs can include key information on getting sufficient sleep and refraining from driving drowsy

Source: National Safety Council



Don't Fly Kites Near Power Lines!

Jason Willman, Age 9

Jason Willman advises people it's not safe to fly kites around power lines. Jason is the son of Dave and April Willman from Yankton, S.D., members of Clay-Union Electric Corporation.

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.

EASY CROCKPOT CREATIONS

MOM'S ROAST

Ingredients:

3-5 lbs. beef roast
1 can beefy mushroom soup
1 pkg. au jus (dry)

Method

Place roast in crock pot at bedtime. Mix au jus and soup together and pour over the roast. Cook on low. Roast will be ready to serve in its own gravy for dinner tomorrow.

Elaine Rieck
Harrisburg, S.D.

CREAMY GARDEN ROTINI

Ingredients:

1 lb. cooked and drained sausage or beef
1 large can (26 oz.) cream of chicken soup
1 soup can of milk
1 can (14.5 oz.) chicken broth soup
1 tbsp. Italian seasoning
1 cup fresh mushrooms
6 cups fresh spinach
1 pkg. Garden Rotini

Method

Add ingredients in the order given to the instant pot. Pressure cook on high for 20 minutes. Allow pressure to reduce to normal for 10 minutes, then serve! You will need an instant pot for this recipe!

Jean Cave
Sioux Falls, S.D.

CROCKPOT CASHEW CHICKEN

Ingredients:

1 pkg. slow cookers limited edition cashew chicken seasoning
2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken thighs, cubed
1 cup frozen chopped onion and pepper blend
1/3 cup water
3 tbsps. soy sauce
2 tbsps. ketchup
1 cup cashew pieces
2 green onions, finely chopped

Method

Place chicken and vegetables in slow cooker. Mix seasoning, water, soy sauce, and ketchup in bowl until well blended. Pour over chicken and vegetables; stir to coat. Cover. Cook eight hours on low or four hours on high. Stir in cashews. Sprinkle with green onions. Serve over cooked rice, if desired. If cooking on low, decrease water to 1/4 cup.

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.

Consumer Guide to Stovetops

Q: I'm considering a new stovetop. Can you explain the different options available?

A: I have found that most people who enjoy cooking have pretty strong opinions about their preferred fuel choice: gas or electric. Induction is a newer option for home stovetops, which is growing in popularity.



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

According to a study completed by Electric Power Research Institute, 74% of the energy from an electric range is transferred to food, versus 40% on a gas range. Induction cooktops are the most efficient option at 90% energy transferred to food. Regardless of your stovetop choice, right-sizing pots and pans to the burner is important to avoid wasting energy.

Electric cooktops are a tried-and-true option for many homes, and they are typically the most affordable option. Glass top models offer a cleaner look than the traditional coil elements and are easier to clean but tend to be a bit more expensive. The most common complaint about electric cooking is that the heating controls are not as fast or precise.

Many home chefs prefer gas stovetops because you can easily see the size of the flame, a visual clue that helps you control the cooking temperature. Temperature adjustments are also faster and more precise than on electric stovetops. However, there are some concerns with safety and indoor air quality associated with gas stoves because gas emissions can be harmful to your health. To help reduce indoor air pollution, always use your exhaust fan when using your gas stovetop. Ideally, your exhaust fan should be vented to the exterior of the home.

Access is also a consideration. Natural gas is typically available in more populated areas, while rural customers may need a propane storage tank installed outside their homes to use a gas stove.

An induction stovetop can offer a higher-end cooking experience than a standard electric stovetop, and some people prefer it to cooking on gas.

Induction stovetops use electromagnetic energy to heat the pan, reducing energy waste. Instead of heating the stove's surface, they heat the pans themselves. Because the pans heat directly, you don't have to wait for the heat to transfer like you do with gas and electric stovetops, resulting in faster cooking times. They also allow for more precise temperature control, which can deliver better results.

Cool burners offer additional safety benefits. You don't have the indoor air quality issues associated with gas, and they won't ignite items like dishrags or paper left on the stovetop.

Induction cooktops are typically more expensive than similar gas or electric models. They also require you to use specific cookware. Stainless steel and cast-iron cookware are both compatible with induction cooktops. If you want to test your pots and pans to see if they are induction compatible, do the magnet test. If a magnet sticks to the bottom of the pan, it will work on an induction stove.

Cooking on an induction stovetop takes a little time to get used to, but many people have made the switch and enjoy the experience.

If you are remodeling and have a gas range, consider running electrical to support an induction cooktop if you change your mind in the future. Setting up the power supply during a remodel can offer significant savings.

If you are considering making the switch, be sure to keep an eye on any incentives for your state or region. A rebate for replacing your gas stove with an electric one may be available under The Inflation Reduction Act.



RattleSnake Randy

Scott Waltman

Thousands of prospectors flocked to the Black Hills after the 1847 expedition of Gen. George Custer and accompanying stories that there were riches to be found in the streams and beneath the pine trees.

South Dakota wasn't even a state back then. But when folks heard there was "gold in them thar hills" of western Dakota Territory, they didn't want to miss out.

That was the onset of the Black Hills Gold Rush, which peaked in 1876 and 1877 not far from the town that's now named for Custer, according to a history account published by Black Hills Visitor Magazine.

Eventually, of course, the discovery of gold led to full-scale mining, much of it near the outlaw and gambling town of Deadwood.

While the big mines have since closed, visitors to the Black Hills can still try their hand at panning for a little gold.

That's where RattleSnake Randy can help out. He'll take folks to a claim of his not far from Rockville for an authentic gold-panning experience. He can't guarantee gold will be found, but said that for those who work at it, the odds of finding a few flakes are good. And he does guarantee fun.



Randy first went panning more than 20 years ago in California.

"Once I did my first pan, I was hooked on it."

Like the prospectors of old, he had the fever.

Randy said he always had an interest in gold, which grew from watching old westerns in which the outlaws would steal gold belonging to the cowboys.

He started Black Hills Gold Mining a few years back after a series of health issues, which included five back surgeries and an aortobifemoral bypass surgery because of problems with some of his blood vessels. It all changed Randy's perspective on life, including the realization that there are more important things than money.

Now, he spends the spring and summer months offering a unique experience to folks from around the world.

"To me, it's to make a memory for a family," he said.

He offers three four-hour gold-panning tours a day with no more than five people per group. Randy's been on a dozen or so TV shows, including one shown in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. And he's taken international rock star Ozzie Osbourne out for a day of panning.

"He called me a lunatic, so if that's any indication..." Randy said with a chuckle. "I took it as a compliment coming from him."

Randy said Osbourne is a history buff, which sparked his interest in trying to find some gold.

The panning experiences are a



combination of science, geology, physics and gold-mining history, Randy said.

Going out with the expectation to have fun is the best plan, he said. With that mindset, finding some gold adds to the excitement. And there's something to realize when the panning yields a little gold.

"When you find it, you're the first one to ever see that gold," Randy said.

His peak months are June through August, but he leads tours from whenever the temperatures warm up until the claim freezes.

Oh, and as for the name RattleSnake Randy? Well, he put a rattlesnake rattle on his gold mining cap, which led to the whole cap being covered with snake rattles. So, a neighbor started calling him Rattlesnake Randy. The name fits in more than one way as others call on him to remove the venomous serpents.

More often, though, he's leading people on panning adventures or exploring the nine other claims he has in the Back Hills.

Randy said it's smart to book early as his business has been increasing every summer. A panning adventure costs \$50 for adults and \$40 for kids 5 to 16. To book or learn more, visit blackhillsgoldpanning.com.



Veterans enjoying their stay at Wings of Valor.

WINGS OF VALOR

A Veteran's Retreat

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

Wings of Valor Lodge isn't just a hunting retreat offering veterans a good time and a free pheasant hunt, it's a place for them to come home.

The non-profit organization offers all U.S. military veterans an all-expense paid hunt in the heart of pheasant country, about five miles south of Parker, South Dakota.

The organization runs almost entirely on volunteers, donations and sponsorships and has already served more than 500 veterans from over 40 states since it began operations in 2019.

Sean Adams, the organization's president and co-founder, said the idea to open a hunting lodge came after discussions with the organization's now-CEO Bruce Weller back in 2018.

Weller owned a private hunting lodge called Birds, Bucks and Berries, and was host to Adams and other veterans during his annual veterans' hunt.

"Bruce was saying how the veterans' hunt was always the best day of the year, so I said, we can make every day the best day of the year if you want," said Adams.

Adams, who was grievously injured while serving in Afghanistan resulting in a double amputation of his legs in 2012, said he was well-versed in the non-profit community by the time he and Weller began discussing opening a hunting lodge that served veterans.

"I know pretty much how it works. If you do what you say, do it on time, do it well, serve veterans with a level of professionalism, and have a little faith, people will come," Adams said.

"From that conversation to Nov. 1, 2019, we worked on build site plans that I designed with one of the volunteers. We took a pavilion area that (Weller) used for weddings and put chalk lines everywhere, which is how we mapped out a building plan."

Adams said he rolled his wheelchair around each room, and if he hit a chalk line, he'd remark the line to ensure it was handicap accessible. That was in



Above: CPL USMC (RET) Sean Adams

Right: Sean Adams recovers in a hospital after suffering serious injuries in an IED explosion in Afghanistan in 2011.



January of 2019. Eleven months later, the lodge had been built and a group of veterans came to hunt under the newly established Wings of Valor Lodge.

Adams said a premise of Wings of Valor Lodge is to welcome veterans' home to something that's not chaotic, a place where they can find purpose and peace.

There's no religious angle, nor any requirements other than having taken the oath to serve our country for a veteran to have their travel expenses and entire hunting trip paid for by the non-profit.

"My generation fought in a war that was religious based," Adams explained. "We do have a spiritual setting, but we don't press anything. We never want a veteran to feel that they are oppressed by any sort of a faith."

Whether a veteran is religious, Christian, Muslim, atheist, or simply spiritual, they will be amongst others who understand what they've been through.

"No veteran is broken, they just need to come home," Adams said.

"God did not call the qualified, he called the unqualified that were willing to do

whatever was asked. Don't think because you did something overseas that your any worse than the pastor in the pulpit. We're all sinners on this earth."

Nature is also a powerful tool that Adams believes helps mend the mind, body and spirit. It's peaceful, which he said is the type of environment veterans need.

"You need all those to regroup yourself back in society. It's really hard to come out of a war, or wars, and describe that to the average human being," Adams said.

The lodge has hosted veterans of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam to veterans who have served in the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Operation Desert Storm.

Many of the veterans that have come to the lodge have never had a chance to heal or "come home", Adams said.

Some of those men were Marines that Adams served with directly a decade ago.

"They saw me in an IED blast. They didn't have time to heal. They were able to see that I was okay and it was time for them to start healing. They had given enough to the country. It was time to start the healing process," Adams said.

"We also had a veteran talk about Vietnam. He hadn't talked about it since 1968," Adams said.

Combat veterans, regardless of where they served or experienced warfare, establish a connection with one another at the lodge.

Older veterans find purpose in helping their younger counterparts. Adams said the connection can be overwhelming at times for the Vietnam veterans because of the newfound sense of purpose they find in these interactions.

Adams said raising kids and having companionship with your wife or husband is meaningful to veterans, but they often go without the relationships they had with their fellow soldiers they had beside them in the heat of battle.

"Giving someone millions of dollars, houses, or trip – that's great. But that's only mending the problem. Giving someone a sense of purpose is something we have to do," Adams said.

"When the Vietnam veterans tell my generation 'I get it, and it won't last forever', it gives the Vietnam guys a sense of purpose. The longer you hold it in the deeper it gets. That's something we realized at Walter Reed. We started getting off our medications the more we talked about what happened."

Adams said any veteran who wants to come and hunt at the Wings of Valor Lodge need only apply.

Individual applications come to the lodge free of charge. That means the organization will cover the cost of travel and any other expenses incurred to ensure the veteran doesn't pay a dime out of their own pocket.

To apply for a hunt or learn more about Wings of Valor Lodge, go to www.wingsofvalorlodge.org.



A handicap accessible bedroom at Wings of Valor lodge

DO WE OWE YOU MONEY?

THIS FOLLOWING LIST CONTAINS the names of former Black Hills Electric Cooperative members whose capital credit checks have not been cashed or were returned to us. Please review the list and if you know anyone listed, or his or her heirs, please contact BHEC at 605-673-4461 or 800-742-0085. **A-O was published in the October edition.**

P

PACLIK, DENNIS/CATHY
 PAGAN, BRUCE J.
 PALM, VIRGINIA
 PALMER, ERVIN E.
 PARKER, DAVID A.
 PARKER, PATRICIA
 PARKS, DORATHEA E.
 PARLIAMENT, ELEANOR
 PARSON, DAVID A.
 PARSONS, BILL
 PARSONS, DONALD/VERONICA
 PARSONS, STAN/TEDDI
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 PROBST, ROBERT G.
 PROSPERI, ROBERT/SUSAN
 PROVART, ROBERT (MACK)
 PUCKETT, LARRY
 PUGH, JAY
 PULLEN, PAMELLA
 PUSHING, BRENT

Q

QUELCH, DEBORAH

R

RACZYNSKI, ROBERT/LORI
 RADERMACHER, JAMES A.
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 RILEY, DORAN/JUDITH
 RINEHART, JOSEPH/IVA J.
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 RISDALL, BILL
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 ROBERTS, JOSEPH F./CARSON-ROBERTS, SHEILA
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 ROBINSON, DIANA L.
 ROBLEY, QUENTIN/GLORIE A.
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 ROHDE, DIANE M.
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 ROMINGER, VERN
 RONEY, FLOYD W.

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 ROSE, ROGER
 ROSE-FROELICH, SHARON
 ROSENBERG, PAUL
 ROSS, DONALD H.
 ROSS, MICHAEL E./KAREN L.
 ROSS, SCOTT K.
 ROSSMAN, TERRY
 ROSSOW, SHAUN A./ANGELA
 ROWE, SUE/SAM
 ROYSTON, EDNA
 RUBY, SCOTT/PATTI
 RUD, JOHN M.
 RUFFING, CHARLES F.
 RUGGIERI, BILL
 RUNGE, WILLIAM F.
 RUPP, RICHARD/LEA
 RUSHMORE RANCH ESTATES
 RUSSELL, WILLIAM J./EVELYN
 RUSSO, PETER/SHARON
 RUTHERFORD, KATHRYN
 RYAN, MICHAEL
 RYLAND, PATRICIA/JAMES
 RYTTER, DEANNA D.

S

SAATHOFF, BRAD/DIANA
 SAATHOFF, RICHARD H./MARY A.
 SAATKAMP, ALAN C./JANET N.
 SAHADI, ED/VICKI
 SALATHE, HAROLD
 SALINE, JEFFREY/KAREN
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 SAMPSON, DARLENE A.
 SANCHEZ, ANTHONY M.
 SANDERS, BEATRICE
 SANDERSON, JAMES L.
 SANDOZ, VIONA M.
 SCHABER, WADE/LENORA
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 SCHAEFFER, DAVID/ERIN
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 SCHNOOR, MARK

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 SCHOENFELDER, PAUL
 SCHRAEDER, GLENN G./PAMELA S.
 SCHRODER, CRAIG K./SHARON
 SCHROEDER, LEONARD P.
 SCHULTE, WILMA J.
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 SCHULTZ, MARK/KARA K.
 SCHUMACHER, E. G. ESTATE
 SCHUMACHER, JOYCE
 SCHUTT, PHIL/TERESA
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 SCOTT, LEOTA C.
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 SIEWERT, DENNIS
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 SILVERNAIL, RICHARD
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 SIMMONS, PATRICK
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 SKYBERG, KENNETH D.
 SLABY, RAYMOND T./ELAINE
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 SMALL, JORDAN M.
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 TAFF, W GERALD/CARLA K.
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 TUSKO, CHRIS
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 TWO BULLS, EDWARD (TOM)/MAXINE
 TWO BULLS, GLADYS ESTATE

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 UTTER, DALE F.

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 VAN EKEREN, BARBARA/DANNY
 VAN METER, CLAY/KATHLEEN
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 VANPOOL, RICHARD C./MARILYN
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 VILLALOBOS, RAFAEL/MARIA
 VOAS, BARBARA H.
 VOLLMER, DEB
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 VOSS, ROY D./CRYSTAL

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Dignity courtesy of Travel South Dakota

DIGNITY

Celebrating American Indian Heritage

Scott Waltman

Rising from the prairie land as it gives way to bluffs on the east side of the Missouri River is a spectacular sculpture commemorating both South Dakota's 125 anniversary and the state's original inhabitants.

Dignity of the Earth and Sky was built by Sturgis-based sculptor Dale Claude Lamphere, who used to be the state's poet laureate.

The sculpture was erected in 2016 after Norm and Eunabel McKie announced it as a gift to South Dakota upon the state's quasiquintennial in 2014.

Dignity towers 50 feet above the ground, beckoning motorists as they travel along Interstate 90. From the

east, it's the gateway to West River en route to the beautiful Black Hills. From the west, it's a sign to travelers that they are closer to the Minnesota border than the state's most popular playgrounds that range from Wall to Spearfish to Hot Springs.

Ashley Riehle of Sylvania, Ohio, which is on the northwestern outskirts of Toledo and just south of the Michigan

border, said the stretch of I-90 alone makes South Dakota one of the best road trip states in the nation.

She visited South Dakota in 2021, driving from Sioux Falls to the Black Hills and back and twice stopping at the Dignity monument. She planned to visit the sculpture during her drive but said the Chamberlain area also doubled as a logical place to take a break.

As a history buff, Riehle appreciates





Jeremy and Stacey Waltner of Freeman visit the Dignity of Earth and Sky sculpture in 2018.

both the beauty and the significance of Dignity.

“I thought it was great that South Dakota acknowledges the first people that occupied the state,” she said.

Many states don’t, she said, and she doesn’t know of any such significant recognitions in Ohio or Michigan.

Jeremy Waltner of Freeman, South Dakota, also appreciates the sculpture on multiple levels.

“It is as impressive as you can imagine just in terms of both size and impact,” he said.

Being a South Dakotan, he knew of Dignity and that he wanted to visit. But he also wanted to make sure his wife Stacey, daughter Ella and son Oliver could share the experience. They stopped during a trip west in summer 2018.

The sculpture pays homage to South Dakota’s Native American population, setting it apart from so many other tourist stops in the state, Waltner said.

“It’s education as much as it is art,” he said, adding that the context behind Dignity is critical.

Three Native American women from Rapid City served as models for the sculpture, which was created east of the town in an isolated area along the Cheyenne River.

Lamphere’s other creations include work in the South Dakota State Capitol in Pierre and the Arch of Dreams in Sioux Falls. He’s done commissioned portraits of Bob and Dolores Hope, Burl Ives, Walter Annenberg, George and Eleanor McGovern and others, according to his website.

For Dignity, he had a specific goal.

“I wanted something that would really honor the indigenous people of the Great Plains, and I kept that in mind all the time. I made the work reflect the name that it has of Dignity, and I think that’s part of what makes it work so well,” Lanphere has said of his creation.

Riehle noted that the star quilt Dignity wears has meaning.

It’s comprised of more than 100 blue diamonds as Dignity holds it behind her back in her outstretched arms.

In Native American culture, star quilts are a sign of respect and are often given as gifts to honor somebody for a substantial achievement in their life.

Including the quilt was a nice touch that took some planning, Riehle said, because it’s a direct tie to the Lakota culture.

While there is a plaque at Dignity that briefly tells the story of the sculpture, Waltner said he’s not sure most people realize the history.

In fact, he said, he’s not sure if most people set out to visit Dignity or just happen across her as they zip through the heart of the state on the interstate.

“It’s South Dakota’s greatest conversational piece outside of two gigantic granite carvings in the Black Hills,” Waltner said, referring to Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial.

Either way, he said, people who take time to admire the grand piece of art wind up learning a little bit.

When he stopped with his family, he said there was a good crowd of people visiting about the sculpture, smiling as they looked on in awe and waiting in line so they could get their pictures taken

with Dignity.

Waltner said he has stopped to see the sculpture twice on his own.

Riehle met friends from Denver and Chicago in the Black Hills as part of her trip. She had been to South Dakota before but got to see and do much more in 2021. She visited Sioux Falls, Mitchell’s Corn Palace, Deadwood, the Badlands, Wall Drug, Spearfish Canyon, Custer State Park, the Chapel in the Hills, Pactola Lake, Palisades State Park and other popular places.

All were fun, but Dignity was special, she said, because it is a reflection of the true foundation of South Dakota’s history.

“So much history focuses on when the white settlers got there,” Riehle said.

Dignity is deeper.

The McKies donated \$1 million to the Dignity project. Less than a decade later, that investment helps the thousands upon thousands of people who stop just east of Chamberlain each year take a moment to remember and acknowledge the rich history of South Dakota’s first citizens.

Additional Facts:

- November is National American Indian Heritage Month. It’s a time to remember and celebrate the important contributions of Native people and their cultures, traditions, and histories.
- The first state to declare and celebrate an American Indian Day was New York on the second Saturday in May 1916.
- In 1990, the month of November was approved by a joint resolution and signed by President George H. W. Bush as “National American Indian Heritage Month.”
- Central Electric Cooperative proudly powers Dignity and the rest area where thousands of visitors stop each year to celebrate the beauty of the American Indian.

CAPITAL CREDITS - STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

(continued from page 11)

W

WACHENDORF, TERRY/MARY
 WACHHOLZ, WALLACE R./NANCY
 WAGNER, JOSEPH
 WALKER, DANIEL R.
 WALKER, RICHARD C.
 WALKER, RUSSELL A./RUTH
 WALKER, TERRY/ALEXIS
 WALKER, VERNA
 WALLACE, BEULAH/JOSIAH A.
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 WYTOSICK, MICHAEL A.

Y

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 YOUNG, LISA/MICHAEL
 YOUNG, W. K.

Z

ZACHOW, ROLAND L.
 ZAFFT, BRYON T./SUSAN A.
 ZEEB, DAVID W./SANDRA
 ZEHR, DAVID/MELISSA
 ZEITLER, CRAIG/VERLA
 ZIEMAN, DALE
 ZIMDARS, ROGER L./PATTI

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Happy
Thanksgiving!



Our office will be closed:
November 23rd -24th



**Black Hills
Electric Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

BHEC and Basin Electric Power Cooperative pays gross kilowatt hour tax

Black Hills Electric is a rural electric cooperative. South Dakota law requires BHEC and our wholesale power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, to pay a tax on the kilowatt hours that are sold during a year. The kilowatt hours are tracked according to the local school district where they were sold. The funds are distributed to the appropriate counties and then sent to the school districts.

The school districts in our service area received a total of \$279,699.69 in gross kilowatt hour tax as a result of electric sales to members in 2022.

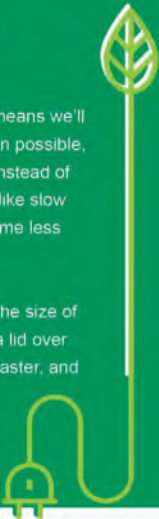
School District	Tax Amounts
Custer	\$79,285.46
Edgemont	\$3,485.71
Elk Mountain	\$5,045.85
Hill City	\$19,520.05
Hot Springs	\$28,138.99
Lead/Deadwood	\$11,705.95
Meade	\$0.09
Oelrichs	\$7,407.43
Oglala Lakota	\$2,149.21
Rapid City	\$122,958.61
Wall	\$2.34
Total	\$279,699.69

**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy.

When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Daylight Savings Reminders

**SET CLOCKS BACK
NOVEMBER 5TH**

**CHECK BATTERIES
IN SMOKE DETECTORS**

**CHECK CLOCK ON
DEMAND CONTROLLER
AND WATER HEATER TIMER
(IF APPLICABLE)**





Nov. 2-4
Huron Ringneck Festival and Bird Dog Challenge
 Huron, SD
 605-352-0000

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.

OCT. 24-28
Grey Goose Halloween Display
 6 p.m.
 19988 Grey Goose Rd.
 Pierre, SD

OCT. 28
Hill City Children's Boo Bash & Pumpkin Festival
 Hill City, SD
 605-574-2368

OCT. 28-29
Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association
 Ramkota Hotel Exhibit Hall
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-731-9155

NOV. 3
Plankinton Service Club Fun Night
 7 p.m.
 Aurora County Ag Building
 Plankinton, SD

NOV. 4-5
Benson's Flea Market
 W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds
 Sioux Falls, SD

NOV. 3-5
Hill City Girlfriends' Weekend
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 10-12
Christmas at the Barn
 10 a.m.
 Groton, SD

NOV. 12
Hill City Senior Sunday Breakfast
 Hill City Center
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 24
Hill City Olde Tyme Christmas Parade
 Main Street
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 24-25
Kris Kringle Craft Fair & Bazaar
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 24-DEC. 30
Olde Tyme Christmas & Lane of Lights Viewing
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 24-30
Trees & Trains Exhibit
 South Dakota Railroad Museum
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 24-30
Holiday Express & Holiday Express Spiked
 1880 Train
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 25
Mid-Winter Fair
 Gregory Auditorium
 Gregory, SD
 605-830-9778

DEC. 1-2
Christmas in the Hills
 Hot Springs, SD

DEC. 2
Rapid City Garden Club's 62nd Annual Wreath and Centerpiece Sale
 8 a.m.
 Central States Fairgrounds
 Rapid City, SD

DEC. 1-30
Trees and Trains Exhibit
 SD State Railroad Museum
 Hill City, SD

DEC. 1-30
Holiday Express and Holiday Express Spiked
 1880 Train
 Hill City, SD

DEC. 10
Hill City Senior Saturday Breakfast
 Hill City Center
 Hill City, SD

DEC. 17
Christmas Cantata
 3 p.m.
 Hermosa United Church of Christ
 Hermosa, SD

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