

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## Building a Dream

**South Dakota's  
Unique Getaway**  
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**CPR & AED  
Training**  
Pages 12-13



# Line Crew Activities



**Gene Alex**  
Line Superintendent

Greetings from Renville-Sibley! I would like to update you on the latest activities and projects our line crews have been working on so far this year and our plans for the remainder of 2023.

To start off 2023, lineworkers used an overhead line patrol app while patrolling lines during the winter months. This app allows them to gather information on broken conductors, poles, insulators, wires, trees, and leaning poles. They created service orders to track issues that need repair. We also have an app on the iPad to track inspections for line switchgear. Switchgear provides alternate ways to keep your lights on, helping to maintain safe and reliable service.

In April, Lineworkers started changing rejected poles found during line patrol and pole testing and completed annual inspections of equipment. Federal requirements state that trucks over 26,000 pounds, as well as any trailer in combination with these trucks, need DOT inspections.

The 2023 system projects include a continuation of the Renville County Rd. #2 regrade from US Highway #71 to Renville County Rd. #5. Another project is upgrading 4 miles of overhead line to underground. This project is starting at the Emmet substation and heading west. The Emmet substation is located north of Renville. This line sustained damage in the May 2022 storm and is some of the oldest 3-phase on the system. The lineworkers will be replacing 1 mile of overhead line with underground cable. This project ties the Troy Substation to the Birch Cooley Substation.

In mid-May, Renville-Sibley lineworkers, along with the East River line crew, will be doing some upgrades in the Troy Substation. The substation is getting a new transmission switch installed by East River. Renville-Sibley lineworkers will be adding an electronic breaker in the substation. East River will install Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) equipment. SCADA is used to remotely monitor line information. Also in May, the crews will be relocating 0.5 mile of lines underground. This conversion will make way for a new transmission switching station.

In early June, Renville-Sibley lineworkers will switch the Cairo Substation offline. They will use the Wellington Substation as their temporary back feed.

East River and Xcel will install a new transmission switch at the substation. Renville-Sibley crews will add an electronic breaker and update the SCADA equipment in this substation as well.

Renville-Sibley is getting several member-requested service upgrades. Any member thinking about a service upgrade should contact Renville-Sibley as soon as possible. Transformer lead times are a year. Underground cable and overhead wire lead times are around 40 weeks. Material lead time may be an issue depending on your project. Renville-Sibley will review projects as requested by members and will return a quote as soon as possible. However, we may have some questions during this process. Examples may include how much load are you adding to an existing system, are you moving or building a new service, who do you use for an electrician, etc. The Minnesota Electrical Inspector is required to visit the site if there are any changes or alterations to the service.

STAR Energy Services provides our below-ground pole testing. This is the fifth year of a 10-year pole inspection plan. The rejection rate remains around 3%. The goal is to test around 1,610 poles in 2023. This is mostly done with a ranger or some form of 4-wheeled off-road vehicle. The inspector will be in the Renville and Sacred Heart area in 2023. Please call the office if you have any questions during this process.

Renville-Sibley has a contracted locating service to locate our underground utilities. Often a member will ask, "Why didn't the lines get marked in my yard?" Renville-Sibley owns the lines from the distribution system to the meter and the member owns any lines after the meter. Renville-Sibley will help locate member-owned underground lines in the overhead to underground conversion project. However, because the lines after the meter are owned by the member it is the member's responsibility to locate these lines. Any member-owned locating request should be done by the member's chosen electrician. In addition, always call Gopher State One Call (GSOC) at least 48 hours before doing any type of excavation. The GSOC phone number is 1-800-252-1166 or go to [www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org).

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

#### Board of Directors

Roger Manthei – Chair  
Whitey Hinderman – Vice Chair  
Wayland Zaske – Secretary/Treasurer  
Jeff Boersma  
Gary Eekhoff  
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Anthony Carruth – Journeyman Lineman  
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Cali Olson – Cooperative Support Specialist  
Clint Olson – Journeyman Lineman  
Kathy Ridl – Office Assistant  
Shane Suess – PT Janitor

RENVILLE-SIBLEY COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association, 103 Oak Street, Danube, MN, 56230 for its members. Electric cooperative members devote 75 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$9 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Danube Post Office, Danube, MN 56230 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Renville-Sibley Cooperative Connections, PO Box 68, Danube, MN 56230; Telephone (320) 826-2593; Toll Free 1-800-826-2593; Fax (320) 826-2679.

**Web site:** [www.rscpa.coop](http://www.rscpa.coop)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## KILL-A-WATT DEVICE

Have you ever wondered how to identify how much energy an appliance in your home is using? Renville-Sibley Cooperative has a tool called the Kill-A-Watt electricity usage monitor that lets members see how energy efficient their appliances actually are.

These units are small, lightweight and easy to use. Just plug the unit into any outlet and then plug the appliance into the Kill-A-Watt monitor to view how much power is being consumed, whether the appliance is on or off. The monitors are especially handy for members who have older appliances because the unit will help them decide if it might make economic sense to buy more efficient models that can save on annual energy costs.

The cooperative has these units available for members to borrow on a first-come, first-serve basis. To check one out, call our office at 800-826-2593. We will let you know availability and when you can pick the unit up. There is a \$30 deposit required to check the units out, which will be returned when the unit is returned.



**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**

It's Easy! It's Free!

Planning a digging project in your yard or on your property? If you dig without knowing what is located below, you could damage an underground line.

Not only could you become seriously injured, but you will be responsible for the cost of repairs. To avoid hassles and fines, call 811, the Call Before You Dig number, at least two business days prior to breaking ground. (811 locators do not mark privately owned underground lines or pipes, such as service to outbuildings, sprinkler systems or invisible fences.)

An uneventful digging project is the best kind to have.

**Safe Electricity.org®**

## Scholar of the Month



Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Ariana Greyhanus on being selected as the April Scholar of the Month. Ariana, a senior at CMCS, shows great initiative and desire to learn the material being taught in her classes. She's a top-notch student and is very self-motivated and uses her time wisely. She participates in drama, with both acting and behind-the-scenes roles and is on the track team this spring. She doesn't let her outside activities interfere with getting her assignments finished. She is also an active member of her church.

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Ariana Greydanus as the April Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month.

# Home Electrical Safety Tips

Electricity always seeks the easiest path to the ground. It tries to find a conductor, such as metal, wet wood, water – or your body! Your body is 70% water, so if you touch an energized bare wire or faulty equipment while you are grounded, electricity will instantly pass through you to the ground, causing a harmful – or fatal – shock.

The amount of electricity used by one 7.5 watt Christmas tree bulb can kill you if it passes through your chest. Even if it isn't fatal, electrical shock can easily cause serious falls, burns, or internal bleeding.

Your Home Wiring is just a number of loops, or circuits. A “live” wire brings current to a light or an outlet. A “neutral” wire returns current to its source. Between inside wiring and outside power lines is a service panel.

Most service panels have a main switch. Use it to cut all power when changing a fuse or in case of fire or shock. If you don't have a main switch, turn off all circuit breakers. Don't tamper with your electric meter. You'll risk shock, explosion, or fire.

Your service panel contains fuses or circuit breakers which interrupt power to specific circuits in case of a short circuit or overload. If this happens:

- Unplug appliances.
- Switch off power at the main switch.
- Try to determine the cause of the problem and correct it if possible.
- Replace the fuse that has a broken metal strip with a new fuse of the same rating – typically 15 amperes.
- If you have circuit breakers instead, switch the one that's “off” to “on.”
- Restore power.

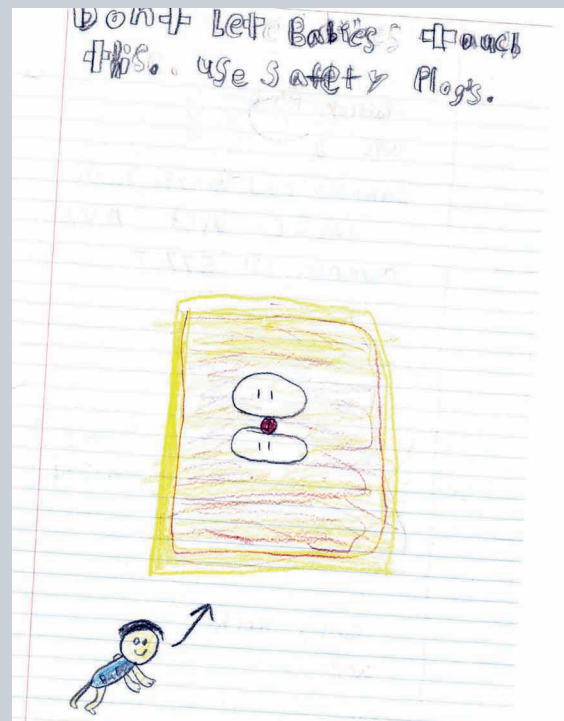
Never use anything other than a fuse to replace a fuse – you could cause a fire. If fuses blow or a circuit breaker trips often, contact a qualified repairman.

## Grounding: The Third Prong

When you use a plug with three prongs, the third prong connects inside the outlet with a “ground wire,” which usually connects to a water pipe or a ground rod at the service panel. As a result, in case of a short circuit, electricity should flow through the grounding system instead of through you. Never remove the third prong.

## Appliance Safety

Remember the most important rule for appliances – electricity and water don't mix. Keep appliances, especially hair dryers, away from bathtubs, puddles, sinks and wet hands. Wet skin increases the risk of shock, so unplug an appliance before cleaning – even if off, it can shock. Never put metal objects in live parts of appliances or in outlets. If an appliance overheats, unplug it and have it checked. Don't overload outlets. Use only appliances that are approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories.



## Power Line Safety

### Paisley Koch, age 8

Paisley Koch, age 8, warns about the dangers of electrical outlets and babies. She gives great advice on keeping children safe. Paisley is the daughter of Cameron and Kayla Koch from Owanka, S.D., members of West River 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.



# DAIRY DESSERTS

## SWEDISH CREME

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 cup plus 2 tps. sugar, divided
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1 tsp. almond extract
- 1 tsp. clear imitation vanilla extract
- 2 cups sour cream
- 1 cup fresh or frozen red raspberries

### METHOD

1. In a saucepan, combine cream and 1 cup sugar. Cook and stir constantly over low heat until candy thermometer reads 160 degrees, or steam rises from pan. (Do not boil). Stir in gelatin until dissolved; add extracts. Cool 10 minutes.
2. Whisk in sour cream. Pour into eight dessert glasses or small bowls. Chill at least 1 hour.
3. Before serving, combine raspberries and remaining sugar; spoon over each serving.

Joanne Singrey-Johnson  
Watertown, S.D.

## NO-CHURN BLACK FOREST RIPPLE ICE CREAM

### Ingredients:

- 12 oz. Pitted cherries (fresh or frozen) thawed, halved
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 cups very cold heavy cream
- 1 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 4 oz. bittersweet choc. chunks

### METHOD

Place the cherries, sugar and 2 tps. water in a large sauce pan. Bring the mixture to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer, stirring often, until the cherries break down and the liquid turns to a thick syrup, 10 to 12 minutes. Transfer to a bowl and refrigerate until cool, about 15 minutes. Using an electric mixer, beat the cream, condensed milk and vanilla in a large bowl on medium/high until stiff peaks form, 3 to 4 minutes. Gently fold in the choc. chunks. Spoon half the cream mixture into a 4 1/2 x 8 1/2 loaf pan or 1 1/2 qt. freezer safe container. Spoon half the cherry mixture on top. Using a knife, swirl the cherry mixture through the cream. Repeat with the remaining cream and cherry mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and freeze until set. Keep frozen for up to 2 weeks.

Sue Hove  
Sioux Falls, S.D.

## RHUBARB STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE

### Ingredients:

- Rhubarb Sauce
- 2 1/2 cups thinly sliced fresh rhubarb
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 tps. orange juice
- Crust
- 2 cups finely crushed oreo cookies, (about 18 cookies)
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- Filling
- 9 oz. white baking chocolate
- 3 packages (8 oz. each) cream cheese, softened
- 1 container (7 oz.) sour cream, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tps. cornstarch
- 2 tps. pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 extra large eggs
- Topping
- 1 pint strawberries, remove tops
- 1/4 cup strawberry jelly
- 2 tps. water
- Prepared whipped cream

### METHOD

Preheat oven to 350°F. For the Rhubarb Sauce, mix rhubarb, sugar and orange juice in a medium saucepan. Bring just to boil and reduce heat. Cook about 5 minutes or until rhubarb is tender, stirring occasionally. Set aside to cool. For the Crust, mix cookie crumbs and butter in a medium bowl. Press mixture evenly into bottom of 10-inch springform pan sprayed with no stick cooking spray. Set aside. For the Filling, melt chocolate according to package directions and set aside. Beat cream cheese, sour cream, sugar, cornstarch, vanilla and salt on medium-high until well blended (about 5 minutes). Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each addition just until blended. Gradually beat in chocolate. Add cooled Rhubarb Sauce to the filling mixture, stirring gently to incorporate. Pour Filling mixture over cookie crust. Bake 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until edge of cheesecake is firm and center is almost set. Allow to cool 30 minutes. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight. When cheesecake is completely cooled, place strawberries on top cut side down. Mix strawberry jelly and water in a small bowl. Brush over strawberries. Pipe whipped cream border around the cheesecake before serving.

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.

# Stay safe while spending time outdoors

As temperatures increase and sunny days abound, it is easy to be footloose and fancy free. As you spend more time outdoors, keep these safety tips in mind to have a great summer.

## Pools and hot tubs

Before opening your pool or hot tub for the season, ensure there is ground fault circuit interrupter protection on underwater lighting circuits, as well as for lighting around pools, hot tubs and spas. Have your pool's electrical system inspected. Faulty wiring can cause swimmers to experience electric shock drowning.

## Boating and swimming

When boating or swimming, know that faulty wiring can cause the water to become energized. Never go swimming near boats plugged into shore power or docks with an electrical source. Energized water can cause electric shock drowning.

## While recreating

According to the National Lightning Safety Council, approximately 440 people are struck and killed by lightning each year.\* Nearly two-thirds of the deaths occurred while enjoying outdoor leisure activities — 33% of the fatalities occurred during water-related activities such as boating, spending time on the beach and swimming, while 14% happened during sporting activities such as fishing, soccer and running.

## During a storm

When angry clouds roll in, take them seriously. Have a weather app installed on your phone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of the storm, so if you hear thunder, take cover. A watch means that conditions are likely for severe weather to develop; a warning means take action.

## When playing

When flying drones, remote-controlled planes, toys or kites, fly them in a wide-open area free from overhead power lines. If a toy or object gets stuck in an overhead power line, do not try to remove it. Instead, call your electric utility and a crew will address the issue safely. 977600

Ensure that overhead power lines do not run through or over a tree before your child starts to climb. Select trees that are in a wide-open space without overhead power lines nearby.

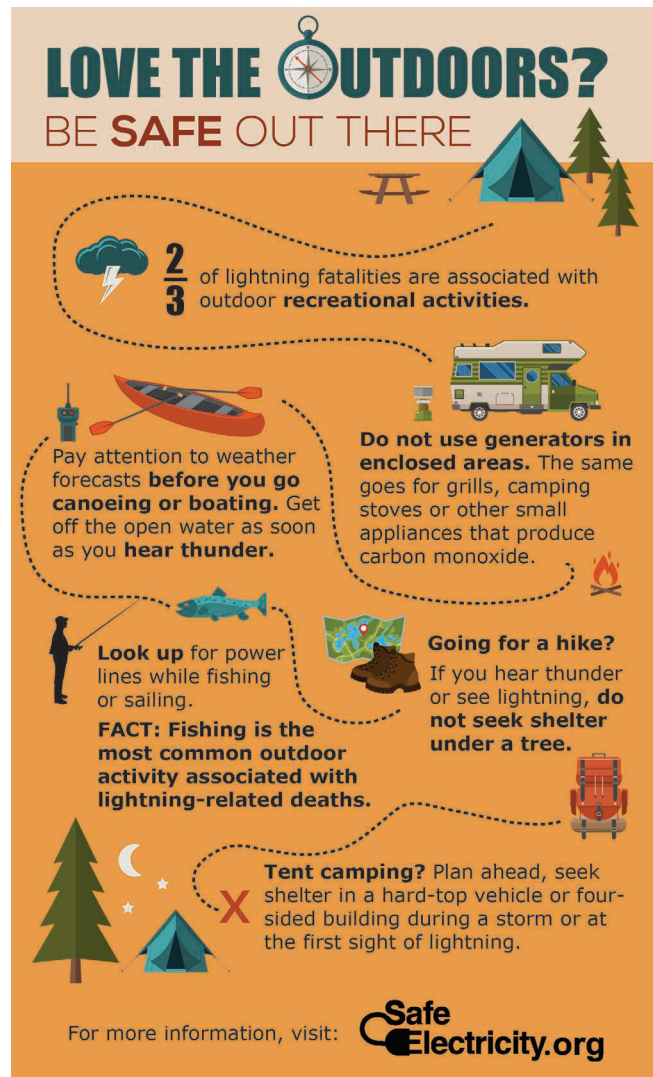
If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them to never touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call your electric utility to safely take care of it. The same precaution applies to a pet or animal inside the fenced area of a substation.

## Releasing balloons

Although not an outdoor recreational activity per se, be careful with metallic balloons. If they are released or accidentally let go and get caught in a power line or other utility equipment, they can cause a major power outage. Additionally, be careful during a balloon release regardless of the type of balloon. Be sure to release balloons in wide-open areas that far from overhead power and airports.

For additional electrical safety tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

*\*Analysis of lightning-related deaths in the U.S., 2006–2021*





## Operation Round Up

The Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association Charitable Trust met in April to review Operation Roundup grant applications. The board reviewed the applicants and awarded two grants of \$1,000 each to non-profit and community organizations. The recipients were Learning Fun House for childcare support and Fairfax Royalty for the community celebration.

All funds for Operation Round Up are placed in a trust fund that is separate from the cooperative accounts. The next application deadline is July 1, 2023.

## IN CASE OF POWER OUTAGE

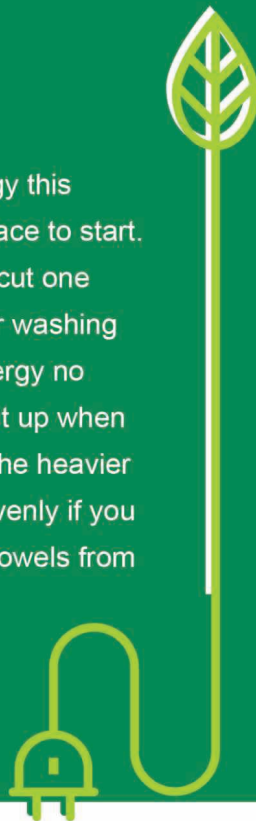
*Here are the steps to follow if you are out of power:*

1. Check the fuses or breakers in your home. Make sure your entire farm site is without power and not just one building.
2. Call your neighbor. If their power is also off, then it is probably a line outage.
3. Report your power outage. Have your member number available to assist with a prompt response.
4. Call the Renville-Sibley Office number: 320-826-2593 or 800-826-2593.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

*Source: Dept. of Energy*



## WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month the member number did not get included in the newsletter. We apologize to all those who searched endlessly for the number. The value of the energy credit will be increased from \$60 to \$75. Guaranteed, the member number that should have been in May's issue is placed in this month's newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 1st of June, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

## OUTAGE REPORT

*Affecting 10 members or more*

### **Date: 3/6/23**

Time off: 9:35 a.m.

Time on: 10:40 a.m.

Substation: Cairo

Cause: Cause Unknown

### **Date: 3/16/23**

Time off: 11:46 a.m.

Time on: 12:44 a.m.

Substation: Emmet

Cause: Cause Unknown

### **Date: 3/28/23**

Time off: 2:26 p.m.

Time on: 2:30 p.m.

Substation: Cairo

Cause: Cause Unknown

### **Date: 3/31/23 - 4/1/23**

Time off: 11:50 p.m.

Time on: 3:36 p.m.

Substation: Wellington, Cairo

Cause: Transmission

### **Date: 3/31/23 - 4/1/23**

Time off: 11:50 p.m.

Time on: 3:36 p.m.

Substation: Cairo

Cause: Transmission

Please contact Renville-Sibley's office for more details about these power outages.



# BUILDING A DREAM

J. Dylan Moro and his cousin, Knut Finnevolden, stand outside Moro's family-built treehouse yurt.

## Moros' Treehouse Yurt Offers Unique Dakota Getaway

**Frank Turner**

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

From the vast, open prairies of the east to the towering Black Hills in the west, South Dakota's diverse landscape presents a breathtaking tapestry of natural beauty for camping enthusiasts to explore. With 13 state parks, six national parks, and numerous recreation areas at their disposal, visitors and residents alike are always within arm's reach of a world-class camping experience, complete with the guarantee of an unforgettable sunset.

The allure of South Dakota's outdoors extends well beyond aesthetics. Outdoor enthusiasts can also find a plethora of adventure by rock climbing the steep quartzite cliffs of Palisades State Park or catching a glimpse of a wild buffalo or bighorn sheep in Custer State Park.

Given the abundance of breathtaking

locations, it comes as no surprise that many enthusiasts desire a camping experience that matches the splendor of their natural surroundings. Simply put, sometimes a basic tent just doesn't suffice. Campers have embraced a variety of specialty camping styles, such as staying in treehouses and fully furnished cabins. With options ranging from off-grid yurts to glamping tents outfitted with complimentary Wi-Fi, these innovative accommodations elevate the traditional outdoor experience, catering to each individual's preference, comfort, and style.

J. Dylan Moro and his wife, Keena Byrd-Moro, both residents of Spearfish,



Moro's treehouse yurt is fully furnished, complete with tables, couches and a wood stove.



S.D., erected one such location on the outskirts of Lead, S.D., with the help of their family and neighbors in 2015. After both serving in the military as Army Reserve Nurses, Dylan and Keena saved up enough money to purchase a lot of land and realize their dream of building a treehouse yurt in the Black Hills.

“It was always my dream to build up there,” said Dylan. “We wanted to create an experience where people could escape and reconnect with nature.”

Their dream became a reality thanks to the amazing effort put forward by their family, friends and neighbors. More than 10 individuals contributed to the project, assembling the yurt in just two days despite a snow storm during the construction process.

“I remember being so close to finishing the project in one day,” he recalled. “Despite the snow, I could see the finish line and wanted to keep going, but the conditions were getting slippery. For safety, my wife convinced us to wait, and she was right, of course.”

Even Keena’s late father, who had Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s during

the project, assisted how he could by peeling logs and building railings for the treehouse yurt. Dylan shared that having Keena’s father as part of the project made the experience even more special for their family. The structure now stands as a testament to his memory and provides a connection with their family’s past.

“He loved being up there and part of the project,” he shared. “I can honestly say that we built this structure by hand without any machinery. We relied on the many hands of our friends and family to get the job done.”

When the family finished, the end result was a rustic treehouse yurt perched between two pine trees on a mountain slope, overlooking the Mickelson Trail. Today, the Moros’ treehouse yurt guarantees a remote escape, free from nearby tents or campers. And while it’s only accessible by dirt road, the location still offers easy access to some major attractions of the Black Hills, including Deer Mountain Ski Resort and Pathways Spiritual Sanctuary.

“It’s a really cool spot, and for me, I love having access to the trail for easy

biking and running,” said Dylan. “And it’s not unusual to catch a glimpse of an ongoing bike race or marathon on the Mickelson Trail from the deck of the yurt.”

Listed on Airbnb, the location has garnered over 241 reviews and 4.83 stars from campers from all over the United States, featuring two beds, a wood stove, and an indoor fireplace. Even still, the getaway location isn’t for the faint of heart. With no running water or onsite electricity, campers must rely on the yurt’s amenities, which cater to campers seeking a balance of comfort and authenticity in their outdoor experience.

“Part of the beauty of the yurt is that it’s totally off-grid, but people need to know what they are getting into,” he said. “But that shouldn’t scare anyone away. We have hosted people from all walks of life: people who have never camped before, people who are driving across the country and want a unique stay, and even locals who just want to get away. Everyone finds something here that they enjoy.”



Perched between two trees, the Moro family yurt provides a unique getaway location for visitors to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

## NEW FACILITY UPDATE

As we near the end of the construction of our new facility, we would like to remind everyone of our Open House on August 22nd from 10:30 am – 8:00 pm. Internally, all tile and cabinetry work has been completed along with the flooring throughout the office. In the shop/warehouse, all painting and electrical have been completed. With the late spring and road restrictions lasting until mid-May, the finishing of our exterior work won't begin until the end of May. We hope to be completed in the coming weeks and begin the moving process in July. Reminder on August 7th we will officially open our doors and will no longer be open to members at our old location.

To watch the outside activity at the new facility, check out the video on our website: [rscpa.coop/news/renville-sibley-new-facility](https://rscpa.coop/news/renville-sibley-new-facility)

When you watch this video, it will seem like everything happened so fast right away then nothing happened for a bit. Then, when the walls and roof went up, there was a lot of activity on site. Now that the walls and roof are installed, the contractors are working inside the building so it will again appear as if nothing is happening at the site.

### Comparative Report

	Current YTD Through March 31, 2023	One Year Ago YTD Through March 31, 2022	10 Years Ago YTD Through March 31, 2013
Average # of Consumers	1,881	1,889	1,918
kWhs purchased	17,221,084	16,897,480	18,794,444
Cost of purchased power	\$1,050,625.98	\$1,061,473.36	\$974,089.09

## FREE Want Ad Service

Members can submit ads for the following categories: Giveaway, For Sale, For Rent, and Wanted. Ads should be or are limited to no more than 15 words and must be received by the first of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter. Renville-Sibley reserves the right to edit content or exclude ads due to space restrictions. Ads will be run one time only unless resubmitted. Please complete the following information and mail it to the Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power, PO Box 68, Danube, MN 56230.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad to be placed (limit of 15 words per ad)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Type of ad: ☐ Giveaway ☐ For Sale ☐ For Rent ☐ Wanted

## THANK YOU

Thanks for the meal, the annual meeting attendance credit and for drawing our name for the additional credit. Your work is very appreciated. Thank you again. – Gary & Janice Simondet

## REMINDER

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2023 to please contact the office as soon as possible. In order to complete these projects on time, material may need to be ordered well in advance as often there is extended lead time to get the appropriate material. In addition, crew time will be scheduled in the order projects and materials are received.

## FOR SALE:

**MTD Huskee 20" tiller, walk behind, 5 HP, needs one cable.**

\$150.00

Roger Freitag  
Renville, MN 56284  
320-220-1832

**WeatherTech floor mats fit a 2018 Ford F150 pickup**

\$100

Daryl Wendt  
Gibbon, MN 55335  
507-327-8101



# April Board Meeting Highlights

The April board meeting was held on Tuesday, April 25 at 8 am. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Attorney Jeff Whitmore, Cindy Mertens, and Amy Ervin.

The election of officers was held with the following results:

Board Chair – Roger Manthei  
Vice Chair – Whitey Hinderman  
Secretary/Treasurer – Wayland Zaske

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the March 28 board meeting
- Director Compensation – increased regular board meetings from \$225/meeting to \$250/meeting and \$275/meeting – board chair to \$300/meeting – board chair. Increased other meetings from \$200/day to \$225/meeting and virtual meetings from \$35/hour to \$50/hour with a maximum of \$225/day
- Board Committees
- Annual Meeting is set for Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at the Redwood Area Community Center
- Board meeting dates and times through December 2024
- Officer appointments of the cooperative
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of March
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Safety Report for April

- 2024 Material Order
- Loan Application Documents AB45
- Resolution on Corporate Debt Limit
- CFC Cooperative System Integrity Fund
- CFC Annual Meeting voting delegates

The board reviewed:

- Conflict of Interest disclosure
- Minnesota Electric Cooperatives' Commitment to Transparency & Accountability
- Cooperative Attorney report
- Total new members
- Capital Credits Transferred
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department. Items in the reports include:
  - o High-level Statement of Operations review – YTD through March (unaudited)
  - o Organization activities
  - o East River update
  - o Basin Electric update
  - o NRECA update
  - o MREA update
  - o Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
  - o Accounts receivable
  - o New facility update

Please contact the Renville-Sibley office if you would like more information regarding the board meeting.

## Member Notice

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association will be closed **Monday, May 29, 2023**, in observance of Memorial Day.

## Mission Statement

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association will provide efficient, reliable electric energy and services to enhance the quality of rural living.

## Nondiscrimination Statement

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## NOTICE:

The May board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23 at 8 a.m.

The June board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 27 at 8 a.m.



Photo Credit: Nate Breske

## Essential No Matter What Field You Work In Or Play On

**Laura London**

Lake Region Electric Association

Millions of sports fans who tuned into Monday Night Football on January 2nd watched in shock as what had moments before appeared to be a regular night of sporting rivalry, turned into a heroic lifesaving response. Buffalo Bills defensive safety Damar Hamlin, a strong, athletic 25-year-old, suddenly collapsed on the playing field seconds after making a routine play against the Cincinnati Bengals. Almost instantaneously medical personnel sprang into action. The grave situation was reflected in the faces of the players, coaches, staff and fans. While Hamlin had no underlying medical condition, it was later determined that he had

experienced an often-fatal condition called commotio cordis, which is a rare disruption of the heart rhythm caused by a blunt, nonpenetrating impact to the chest that causes arrhythmia without structural damage to the heart. The quick response and administration of CPR saved Hamlin's life.

There are certain professions where the possibility of using life-saving interventions such as CPR and AEDs is more likely than others, and training is necessary. Certain risk factors, whether it be profession, age or health condition, can also increase the likelihood of someone experiencing a cardiac event. The fact is that cardiac arrest can happen anywhere, at any time, to any person.

CPR and AED training is vital regardless of what field you work in or play on.

Nate Breske, a Webster graduate, and member of Lake Region Electric Association is the head athletic trainer for the Buffalo Bills NFL franchise. Breske's affable personality and engaging smile can seem out of place when pictured amongst the hard appearing coaches and personnel of the NFL, but there he is shining bright on the sidelines and behind the scenes to make sure the program runs smoothly. The multi-faceted position of head athletic trainer comes with a load of responsibility, including looking out for the health and safety of the athletes, designing rehabilitation programs for injured players, working closely with the performance and coaching staffs to get the most out of each player on gamedays, managing the medical



staffs, administering care for injured players, and working with the GM and upper management to bring in players through free agency and the draft. Breske never expected that one of his players would suddenly collapse on the field from cardiac arrest seconds after attempting a tackle, but Breske and his team were prepared.

Breske described what went through his mind when he saw Hamlin collapse on the field, “I instantly knew that it was a major medical issue that would require our assistance and expertise to help. We were prepared, willing and able to help do whatever we could to help save his life.” Lifesaving action was taken and CPR was performed by multiple people on the field in what Breske describes as “a complete team effort.” An AED was also used before Hamlin was transported by ambulance to the hospital. Something that Breske would like others to know: “You have permission to help out to the best of your ability when there is an emergency situation that may make you uncomfortable. Doing something is better than doing nothing at all!”

Breske says the Bills organization requires even non-medical personnel

to have CPR training “Everyone is certified, and we practice our EAP regularly to ensure that we are prepared for emergency situations such as this. The non-medical personnel are educated and will continue to be educated in the importance of knowing what to do in an emergency situation.” Breske has never had to personally perform CPR but recalls performing the Heimlich maneuver on Andy Meek, a high school classmate. Breske said the incident with Hamlin taught the Bills, “It is important to be prepared for situations like this. You never want to be put in this situation, but if you are, being prepared will help to give you the best chances for a good outcome. Not everything was perfect, but we had the best outcome that we could have hoped and prayed for.”

Due to the quick response and efforts by everyone on the field and the medical staff in Cincinnati, Hamlin was recently cleared to return to the game. Breske travelled with him to several heart specialists around the country to make sure all of the doctors were in agreement that Hamlin was physically and mentally healthy enough to return to action.

Damar Hamlin has teamed up with the American Heart Association to encourage people to learn how to perform CPR. Breske calls this a great thing. “The more people that know what to do in this situation will help save lives.” You can join Damar Hamlin’s #3forheart CPR Challenge by visiting the American Heart Association website <https://www.heart.org/en/damar-hamlin-3-for-heart-cpr-challenge>.

Electric Cooperatives in the state of South Dakota require all linemen to be CPR trained and get a refresher every year per OSHA regulations. Mark Patterson, Manager of Loss Control Services at South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) said that not all co-op staff are required to have the training, but the majority are trained because emergencies don’t just happen in the field.

AED devices are recommended at each work site through the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP.) Patterson concurs with Breske that CPR is a good skill to have and refresh. He said employees go through the training “hoping that you never have to use it but if you do, it will come back to you automatically.” While there have been a number of electrical contacts during Patterson’s 13-year career with SDREA, only one time has CPR been performed and in that case, saved the life of a lineman.



American Heart Association

## Damar Hamlin's #3forHeart™ CPR Challenge

Join Damar in taking 3 simple steps to support CPR education and training, research and other lifesaving programs. You can help save lives today.

TAKE THE CHALLENGE

**WWW.HEART.ORG/3**

# BISON CENTER

The annual buffalo roundup is the most popular event each year at Custer State Park. This year's roundup is Sept. 29.  
*Photo courtesy of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.*

## New Attraction Draws in Crowds

**Scott Waltman**

While spring was delayed across much of South Dakota, the tourist season is nonetheless quickly approaching.

In other words, it's time for families to start planning vacations and for the state to prepare for the millions of visitors who stop in South Dakota when the weather is warm.

While iconic Most Rushmore is immensely popular and the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally draws hundreds of thousands of visitors, there are scores of other places worth visiting for those who live in or travel through the Black Hills region.

One of the newer attractions is

the Custer State Park Bison Center, which opened last year.

When it comes to attendance, the center more than held its own in 2022. About 300,000 people visited, said Lydia Austin, interpretive program manager for Custer State Park.

Part of the draw was that the Bison Center was a new feature and something different, Austin said. But she doesn't expect much of a drop-off in attendance this summer.

Taylor Studios of Indiana, which works to create engaging exhibits for museums, history centers and other facilities, did a great job in creating a "wow moment" with the Bison Center, Austin said.

The first thing most people

notice when they enter is a mural of stampeding buffalo near the back, she said.

Interactive displays were designed to appeal to both kids and adults.

Austin said one display visitors like tracks grass from the time a buffalo eats it to the time it is discarded was waste. She said she has seen both young and old people spend 15 minutes or more at the display chuckling and having a good time.

There's also a feature where a model buffalo pie can be flipped over so visitors can see what's eating it, she said.

People who stop in can also hear the rumble of a buffalo herd as they walk through the center, she said.

The Bison Center is along the Wildlife Loop at the buffalo corrals within the state park. So many visitors used to stop at the corrals, wander around and ask what they are used for that it's nice to have a place that explains not only the



corrals but so much more, Austin said.

She wants people to stop in, visit the displays and learn all of the little stories that comprise the big story of the bison at the park.

Many people stop at the Bison Center when they take the wildlife loop, she said.

It was designed to add context to what visitors see as they drive through the southern part of the park where they can spot the bison that roam the South Dakota prairie.

Custer State Park's buffalo herd is estimated to be around 1,400, according to information from the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

The biggest day of the year for the Bison Center comes in September during Custer State Park's annual Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival. This year's event is scheduled for Sept. 28-30. The roundup itself is Sept. 29. Parking lots will open at 6:15 a.m. Mountain Time for people



The Custer State Park Bison Center helps educate visitors about the history and importance of the herd of 1,400 buffalo that live in the park. Photo courtesy of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

who would like to watch the animals get tested, branded and sorted.

A main purpose of the roundup is to manage the health of the herd.

Austin said about 20,000 people visit the park the day of the roundup, easily making it the busiest day of the year.

Now, those folks can visit the Bison Center to learn more about the herd and educate themselves on the importance of the massive, brown, fur-bearing bovine.

Feedback from the center's first year has been very positive, Austin said.

"Wow, this is great. Glad you built it," or some variation thereof, is a common response from visitors, she said.

Austin said there have been no regrets about building the Bison Center. It fits the family attraction niche other visitor centers do, she said.

The aim is for the center is to tell the story of the bison and keep it fresh and dynamic. She wants visitors to learn something new whether it's their first stop or their 10th.

Austin said the goal is to have the Bison Center open from April through November.

The cost of the center was \$5.5 million, Austin said, with \$4 million coming from a grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. Another \$500,000 came from the South Dakota Legislature, while \$500,000 was raised by the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

To learn more about the Custer State Park Bison Center, visit [gfp.sd.gov/csp-bison-center/](http://gfp.sd.gov/csp-bison-center/).



The Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup each September is popular with tourists and helps the state manage the bison that live in the park. Photo courtesy of the South Dakota Department of Tourism.



**June 3-4, 2023**  
**Siouxland Renaissance Festival**  
 100 N Lyon Boulevard  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 866-489-9241

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  
 605-874-2996

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

**JULY 15**  
**Huron MS Walk/Run**  
 8 a.m.  
 Lake Byron  
 Huron, SD  
 605-350-5922

**JULY 28-29**  
**Farley Fest**  
 Lake Farley Park  
 Milbank, SD  
 www.farleyfest.com

**AUG 1-4**  
**Farmfest 2023**  
 8 a.m.  
 Gilfillan Estate  
 28269 MN-67  
 Morgan, MN

**AUG 9-11**  
**Renville County Fair**  
 Family-a-Fair Night Thursday, Aug. 10, (free admittance to members)  
 10 a.m.  
 Renville County Fairgrounds  
 Bird Island, MN

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