

Cooperative Connections



**Up, Up & Away:
Balloons Take
to Skies in
August**

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**Innovative
Research
Underway**

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What is Grid Resiliency?

Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts being talked about in the electric industry today. This concept recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric



DeeAnne Newville, CEO

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Phone: 320-826-2593 or

Toll Free 800-826-2593

how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our member-owners.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation – such as wind, solar, coal, natural gas and hydro – to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our

grid resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resiliency became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid. Here in Minnesota, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things – it's reliability in your electric service, it's our ability to efficiently restore your power, it's being able to meet the demands of new technology and it's how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is

systems react to advancements in technology – from demand response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles – all factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong – or as resilient – as it can be.

Living in Minnesota, we know that significant power outages can occur, especially during spring and summer storm season and as a result of snow, ice and wind during the winter. No matter what season we are facing, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible. 723500

In the dictionary, resilience is defined as “the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched.” When it comes to providing our member-owners with resilient service, this is what we work toward – day in and day out!

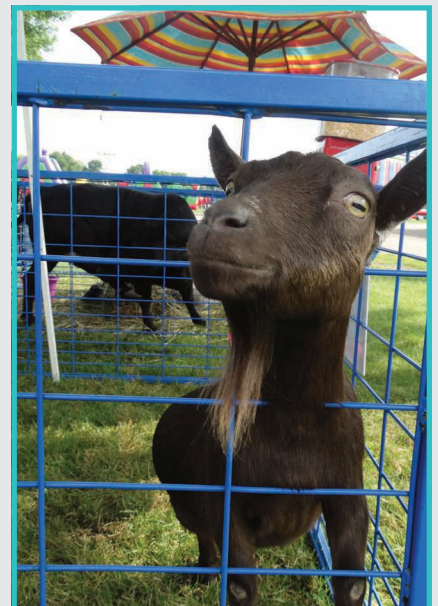
Family-a-Fair Night is Aug. 9

Renville-Sibley is pleased to continue our Family-a-Fair Night tradition of inviting members to attend the Renville County Fair compliments of the cooperative. This great event brings families and neighbors together to enjoy all the fun activities of a fair. Who can resist a bag of fresh donuts or cotton candy after eating a delicious pork sandwich and smooth strawberry malt? Don't forget about taking that annual ride on the Tilt-A-Whirl after enjoying a walk through the livestock barns. There is so much to do at the fair!

Cooperative members (up to four family members) are invited to attend the Renville County Fair **FREE** on **THURSDAY, AUG. 9**. Members will receive a postcard in the mail the week of July 23. This postcard entitles up to four family members **FREE** entrance into the fair. Postcards should be brought to the west gate of the Renville County Fair on Thursday, Aug. 9, between the hours of 3 and 7 p.m. Renville-Sibley employees will be located just outside the fence to assist you. The postcard will be used to enter members into a drawing for an energy gift certificate. Children will have the opportunity to submit their name for a prize drawing as well.

If you have any questions, be sure to give us a call at 800-826-2593 or 320-826-2593.

See you at the fair!!



Renville-Sibley

Cooperative Connections

(USPS 019-074)

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ELECTRICITY IS A BARGAIN

<p>HERE'S WHAT \$1 OF ELECTRICITY WILL BUY YOU:</p>  <p>10 HOURS OF WASHING DISHES</p>	<p>HERE'S WHAT \$1 OF ELECTRICITY WILL BUY YOU:</p>  <p>1,111 HOURS OF LED BULB USAGE</p>	<p>HERE'S WHAT \$1 OF ELECTRICITY WILL BUY YOU:</p>  <p>76 HOURS OF USING A 42" LED TV</p>
<p>HERE'S WHAT \$1 OF ELECTRICITY WILL BUY YOU:</p>  <p>2,224 HOURS OF PHONE CHARGING</p>	<p>HERE'S WHAT \$1 OF ELECTRICITY WILL BUY YOU:</p>  <p>250 HOURS OF BREWING COFFEE</p>	<p>HERE'S WHAT \$1 OF ELECTRICITY WILL BUY YOU:</p>  <p>14 HOURS OF TOASTING BREAD</p>

Farmfest

Before you know it, August will be here and that brings with it the annual Farmfest event. This great outdoor event for farmers and anyone interested in agriculture will be held on Aug. 7-9 at the beautiful Gilfillan Estate near Morgan, Minn.

Renville-Sibley, along with other electric cooperatives in southern Minnesota, have joined together in this booth. The theme this year will be "Beneficial Electrification." There will be an electric car on display in the booth as well as information on heat pumps. Be sure to stop at Booth 2301 in the large ag tent to visit.

When you come, remember to bring the coupon, below with you. With this coupon you will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of six grill giveaways. You must bring the coupon to be entered into the drawing. No coupons will be available at the booth if you forget to bring the coupon.



Visit us along with other
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, at Farmfest 2018 and
 enter for chance to win one of six grill giveaways!

FARMFEST 2018 • AUGUST 7-AUGUST 9 • REDWOOD FALLS, MN

Bring this coupon to Booth #2301

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE # _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS _____

You must be a member one of the participating electric cooperatives to be eligible to win.



Home Project Safety

More people are doing their own remodeling, repairs, maintenance, landscaping, and construction projects inside and outside the home. Safe Electricity urges all do-it-yourselfers to take precautions, especially when working around electrical equipment and overhead power lines.



Make sure outdoor outlets have a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them. It's also a good idea to have GFCIs professionally installed in wet areas of the home, such as the kitchen, bath and laundry.

Safety tips to remember include:

- Look up and around you. Always know of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools, like ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning poles, or when installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes or doing roof repair work.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines. Never trim trees near power lines — leave that to the professionals. Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.
- If your projects include digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, call the national underground utility locator at 8-1-1 before you begin. Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. This service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury.
- Always check the condition of cords and power tools before using them. Repair or replace worn or damaged cords and tools.
- Electricity + water = danger. If it's raining or the ground is wet, don't use electric power or yard tools. Never use electrical appliances or touch circuit breakers or fuses when you're wet or standing in water. Keep electric equipment at least 10 feet from wet areas.

Make certain home electrical systems and wiring are adequate to support increased electric demands of new electric appliances, home additions, or remodeling projects. An older home may be inadequately wired for today's electricity consumption, putting your family at risk for fire and electrical shock. Have a professional replace worn and outdated circuitry and add outlets for appliances and electronics – this is not a job for casual do-it-yourselfers!



**It took years to make it a farm...
It takes one call to keep it safe.**

The soil on your farm or ranch is rich with nutrients and minerals... AND underground gas, oil and water pipelines.

Excavations, terracing projects, fence post installation, tiling or subsoiling can create safety hazards due to the depth of the excavations.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG in order to notify utility companies who will be affected by the excavation. This service is FREE.

No one digs more dirt than America's farmers and ranchers. Understanding what is below ground will help you DIG SAFELY above ground. Call before you dig!

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Never remove a plug when your hands are wet."

Aida Mikkonen, 10 years old

Aida is the daughter of Patrick and Carrie Mikkonen, Mt. Vernon, S.D. They are members of Central Electric Cooperative, Mitchell, S.D.

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

Sensational Salads

Tzatziki Potato Salad

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 lbs. unpeeled Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into 1-inch cubes (about 6 cups) | 2 tsp. McCormick® Garlic Powder |
| 3/4 cup (6 oz.) plain Greek-style yogurt | 1-1/2 tsp. McCormick® Oregano Leaves |
| 1/4 cup reduced fat sour cream | 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Black Pepper, Coarse Ground |
| 2 T. milk | 1/2 tsp. Sea Salt from McCormick® Sea Salt Grinder |
| 1 T. lemon juice | 1 cup diced unpeeled, seeded cucumber |
| 2 tsp. honey | 1/4 cup chopped red onion |

Place potatoes in water to cover in large saucepan. Bring to boil on high heat. Reduce heat to low; simmer 10 to 12 minutes or until potatoes are fork-tender. Drain well. Cool completely. Mix yogurt, sour cream and milk in small bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Add lemon juice, honey and seasonings; mix until well blended. Place potatoes, cucumber and onion in large bowl. Add yogurt dressing; toss gently to coat well. Garnish with crumbled feta cheese, if desired. Cover. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes 10 (2/3 cup) servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 97, Total Fat 1g, Sodium 109mg, Cholesterol 3mg, Carbohydrates 18g, Protein 4g, Dietary Fiber 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Pineapple Pretzel Salad

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 stick butter | 1 (12 oz.) container whipped topping |
| 1 cup crushed pretzels | 1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained |
| 1 cup sugar, divided | |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese | |

Melt butter. Stir in pretzels and 1/2 cup sugar. Spread on 9x13-inch baking sheet. Bake at 350°F. for 7 minutes. Cool. Break into pieces and set aside. Beat together softened cream cheese and remaining 1/2 cup sugar. Stir in whipped topping and pineapple. Add pretzel mixture just before serving.

Beth Eickman, Salem, S.D.

Chicken Salad

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 chicken, roasted, deboned and diced | 2 cups diced celery |
| 2 lbs. red grapes, washed and halved | 1 to 1-1/2 cups real mayonnaise |
| 2 cups diced carrots | 1 (9 oz.) can Pik-Nik Shoestring Potatoes |

Mix together first 5 ingredients. Add shoestring potatoes just before serving. This looks lovely on a large leaf of lettuce.

Judy Mendel, Doland, S.D.

Make Ahead Rhubarb Salad

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 cups diced rhubarb | 1 cup chopped celery |
| 1/2 cup sugar | 3/4 cup chopped nuts |
| 1 (3 oz.) pkg. strawberry gelatin | 1 (8 oz.) container whipped topping |
| 1 (3 oz.) pkg. cream cheese | |

In a saucepan, cook rhubarb and sugar for 10 minutes; remove from heat. Stir in gelatin and cream cheese; cool. Add celery and nuts. Fold in whipped topping. Refrigerate overnight.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis, S.D.

Fruit Salad

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 can peach pie mix | 1 pint fresh strawberries, sliced or diced |
| 1 small can chunk pineapple, drained | 1 (16 oz.) container whipped topping |
| 2 bananas, sliced or diced | |

In a large bowl, fold together all ingredients.

Shirley Thedorff, Centerville, S.D.

Please send your favorite salad, garden produce and pasta 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 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



Youth Tour delegate Andrew Black poses for a photo with the Washington Monument in the background.

Youth Tour Delegate Report

ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

Andrew Black

2018 Youth Tour Delegate

This year I was honored to be chosen as Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association's 2018 Youth Tour delegate to Washington, D.C. In the six days I was in D.C., I became friends with people from all over the country. I got the opportunity to see the amazing monuments and Smithsonian Museums.

It's cool to see the things in real life that I have been learning about.

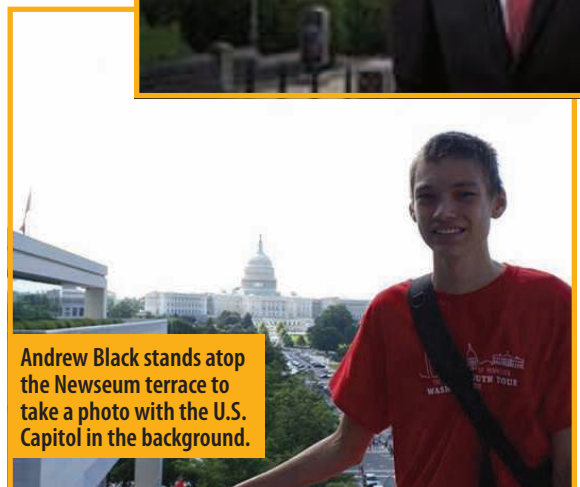
Our group of 40 from Minnesota saw the Veterans' Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the Korean Memorial, the Martin Luther King statue, Franklin D Roosevelt Memorial, the WWII Memorial, Iwo Jima, the 9/11 Memorial at The Pentagon, the Air Force Memorial and

the Jefferson Memorial. We got to see the changing of the guard, John F Kennedy grave and the eternal flame. We saw the Hope Diamond in the Natural History Smithsonian and the Wright Brothers and Amelia Earhart's plane at Air and Space. We also spent some time in the Holocaust, Marine Corps Museum, American History and the Modern Art Smithsonian. We even got to see Vice President Mike Pence outside the Hard Rock Cafe.

We spent a day on Capitol Hill and got to see the house chamber, the Library of Congress and meet with Rick Nolan, Tina Smith and their teams. They



Dressed for his visits with Minnesota's senators and representatives, Andrew Black pauses for a photo with the U.S. Capitol in the background.



Andrew Black stands atop the Newseum terrace to take a photo with the U.S. Capitol in the background.

answered all of our questions. It was nice to know that they were addressing our issues.

This was an amazing life-changing, once-in-a-lifetime experience. I want to thank Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association and everyone who made this trip possible. I hope other high schoolers have his opportunity. I'll never forget mine.

Minnesota's Extreme Heat Law

Minnesota Statute 216B.0975 requires that, "a utility may not involuntarily disconnect residential services in affected counties when an excessive heat watch, heat advisory, or excessive heat warning is in effect and has been issued by the National Weather Service."

Renville-Sibley will continue to make efforts to stall involuntary disconnection of our members' electric service for non-payment and will continue to provide our members with past-due accounts the opportunity to work out a feasible payment schedule. However, in order to construct a payment plan, members must contact Renville-Sibley ahead of time to make payment arrangements.

Renville-Sibley does not want to interrupt service to any member at any time, but in a cooperative, all members are affected by those whose electric bills remain unpaid. To ensure fair and equitable rates for all our members, members with past-due accounts who neglect to contact the office to make mutually agreed upon payment arrangements, or members who fail to meet agreed upon payment arrangements, will have their electric service disconnected once the excessive heat watch, advisory or warning has expired.

For energy assistance, please contact:

- **Renville County Energy Assistance**
320-523-5522 (Olivia)
- **Minnesota Valley Action Council**
800-767-7139 (Mankato) or
507-237-2981 (Gaylord)
- **United Community Action Partnership**
507-537-1416 Marshall
320-235-0850 Willmar
320-523-1842 Olivia
507-637-2187 Redwood Falls
- **Prairie Five Community Action Council**
320-269-6578 (Montevideo)

Auto Pay and Budget Billing: An Option for Members

Renville-Sibley members have a variety of options available to pay their monthly electric bill. Located on Renville-Sibley's website www.renville-sibley.coop is the SmartHub and PayNow option. The difference between these two options is the SmartHub application requires a username and password and will give more account information such as billing and payment history, the ability to manage the contact information, set-up account notifications along with the option to make a payment or set-up auto pay. The PayNow option can be accessed by entering the account number and last name. The only option available on this site is to make a payment on the account.

Along with the traditional payment method of mailing or dropping off a check, Renville-Sibley offers an automated pay-by-phone option which is available in both English and Spanish. Members can call 844-244-1498 to make a payment on the account, update phone number or update bank draft information.

Also available to the membership is budget billing. Members on budget billing pay the budget amount, which is the average bill calculated over the past 12 months factoring in any rate increases for the next year, if applicable. Budget billing is great for members who experience a higher electric bill during the winter months and want to level their payments throughout the year. All accounts in the budget payment plan must be paid in full each year with the July 3 payment. The new budget amount begins with the next bill. Anyone interested in budget billing should contact the office to determine what their monthly budget amount will be and to get signed up for the program.

Standby Generator

While owning an emergency generator comes in handy during an extended power outage, it is important that you consider the following.

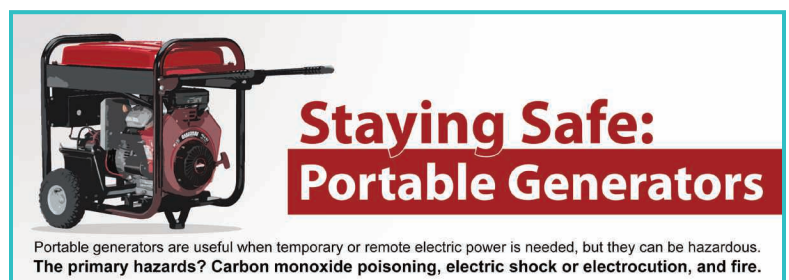
- To safely use standby generators, operate them only in well-ventilated areas outdoors so emissions can't enter your home. In addition, always turn off a generator when refueling it and store gasoline, diesel fuel or propane outside of living areas. Plug appliances directly into a generator or use an extension cord. Do not try to power a home's wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet.
- A permanently installed standby generator for a home or business requires a transfer switch to isolate it from the power grid. The main breaker on an electric panel does not qualify as a transfer switch under the *National Electrical Code*.

Transfer switches are critical for two reasons:

- They prevent the backflow of current across distribution lines that could electrocute lineworkers trying to restore power during an outage.
- They protect the generator from damage when electric service has been restored.

Installation of a standby generator should be done by a licensed electrician and must comply with the *National*

Electrical Code as well as state and local codes.





On a previous visit to the Rushmore State, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives balloon made a stop near the Crazy Horse Memorial, pictured in the background.

UP, UP AND AWAY

Cooperative Brand takes to Southern Hills Skies

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

Look to the skies above Hot Springs in late August and you'll likely see a familiar sight, albeit in a slightly unfamiliar location.

The Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives brand will be wafting above the Southern Hills when it takes part in the Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival Aug. 25 and 26 in Hot Springs.

The Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives balloon is one of five operated by the Illinois-based Cooperative Balloon Associates. CBA was organized in 1999 to help promote the newly launched brand of America's electric cooperatives. Two decades later, the brand ambassador continues its journey.

The Touchstone Energy Cooperative balloon is just one of about 20 hot air balloons scheduled to appear at the third annual Fall River Balloon Festival.

Weather-permitting, balloons will launch at 6 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday mornings at the Hot Springs Municipal Airport. A night glow – where the balloons inflate their envelopes and illuminate their craft with their burners – is set for 8:30 p.m. Saturday at the airport.

Throughout the day, visitors to Hot Springs can



Between 15 and 20 balloons are expected for the 2018 Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival in Hot Springs, S.D.

take part in ballooning inspired activities.

A Plein Air arts event is scheduled for downtown and organizers are seeking 15 artists to participate. Those registering prior to Aug. 15 have a chance to win a hot air balloon ride.

On Saturday morning, visitors can walk on the inside of a balloon envelope from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Mammoth site.

A vintage car show and an art walk and chalk are also planned.

For more information about the festival, visit their Facebook page at [facebook.com/FallRiverHotAirBalloonFestival](https://www.facebook.com/FallRiverHotAirBalloonFestival) or go to the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce site at HotSprings-SD.com.

About the Touchstone Energy Balloon

The Touchstone Energy® Hot Air Balloon serves as a goodwill ambassador for Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives and its member cooperatives. The fleet's two newest balloons are 77,000 cubic foot hot air balloons that stand over 77 feet tall and are 60 feet wide when fully inflated. Each are built of hyperlife fabric panels and boast a 14 cubic foot ascot basket. They carry a pilot and two average size passengers. The balloons are fired by dual propane burners and fueled by two 15-gallon propane tanks. The balloons

were built by Lindstrand Balloons of Hanover, Ill., in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2014. The first two balloons have been retired.

The balloons have the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives logo in bold letters on three sides. Everywhere the balloons go,

Everywhere the balloons go, they promote the brand and the values of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

they promote the brand and the values of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives... providing service with integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community. These values are demonstrated through the presence of the balloons at national competitions and special events, and the team's interactions with spectators. These values are also conveyed in local philanthropic fundraising activities which the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon program supports whenever and wherever the balloons are flying.



Mount Rushmore was another stop on a previous visit of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives Balloon. The 2018 Fall River Balloon Festival will make the balloon visible in the southern foot hills.



Great Plains Balloon Race

Look to the skies over Sioux Falls Aug. 10-12 and you will likely see a colorful display.

The Great Plains Balloon Race is set to launch from Kenny Anderson Park near Sioux Falls Washington High School in the city's northeast corner. About 10 or 11 balloons are expected for this year's race.

Among the balloons scheduled for the race is the Call811.com balloon which will be promoting the importance of calling before you dig. The balloon's appearance coincides with national 8-1-1 Day on Aug. 11.

Schedule

All launches at Kenny Anderson Park

Aug. 10 – Founders Cup Challenge
Balloon Launches at 7 p.m.

Aug. 11 –
Launches at 6:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Balloon Glow at 8:30 p.m.

Aug. 12
Balloon Launches at 6:30 a.m.
All activities are weather-permitting.

Also on the Calendar

Balloons over DTSF on Aug. 3. and Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. – Downtown Sioux Falls

Sept. 1 – Balloons and Beer at A Homestead Brew at Valley Springs.

For more information, contact the Sioux Falls Ballooning Association.

"Move Over Bill" Receives Minnesota Governor's Signature

The Move Over bill passed both bodies and was signed by the Governor on Saturday, May 19.

Sen. Goggin, chief author on the Senate side, is an IBEW member and a great promoter of this legislation. Chair Davids was the chief author on the House side. Both Sen. Goggin and Rep. Davids are excellent supporters of electric cooperatives.

In 2015, Minnesota electric cooperatives promoted, and the legislature passed, legislation that expanded Minnesota's move over law to include parked utility vehicles with their emergency or warning lights activated.



This legislation applied to a highway having two lanes in the same direction.

The legislation this year adds to the statute streets or highways having only one lane in the same direction. The legislation requires that drivers slow down, maintaining a safe speed for traffic conditions, and operate the vehicle at a reduced speed until safely past the parked utility or emergency vehicle.

Safety is a priority for electric cooperatives, who have employees working alongside roadways every day. Traffic is always an issue. This additional piece of legislation will further increase the safety of our lineworkers

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 to the Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power, PO Box 68, Danube, MN 56230.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

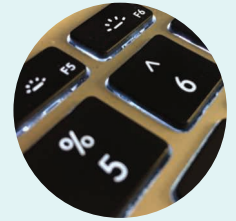
Ad to be placed (limit of 15 words per ad)

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

Where's the Number?

Last month, Paul Balderston did not find his member number in the newsletter. The credit will increase to a value of \$50. A new number has been

hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by Aug. 3, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!



Mission Statement:

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

For Sale:

2008 Damon motor home, six slide-outs, 360 Cummins, \$130,000, tow gear option available.

Leon Greenslit, Olivia, MN,
320-522-1685

Hay rack 14', always shedded, excellent shape.

John Sietsema, Sacred Heart, MN
320-765-2794

Davenport set, recliner chair, 7-drawer desk, sewing machine, TV, kitchen table/4 chairs, 2 good sets of dishes, microwave.

Elsie Heutinck, Olivia, MN
320-523-1705 (after 6 p.m.)

Meyers 225 Bu manure spreader, \$890. Always shedded.

Wally Runck, Fairfax, MN
507-276-6406

Thank you...

I would like to thank you for recognizing students based on integrity, accountability, innovation and a commitment to the community in your Scholar of the Month program. I am greatly appreciative to be the recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship that was awarded at the Scholar of the Year banquet. I was honored as February's Scholar of the Month.

I will be attending Southwest Minnesota State University this fall and majoring in agricultural education. I plan on becoming an ag teacher in a rural area.

Thank you for the opportunity to be the 2018 February Scholar of the Month and for the generous scholarship.

Meghan Beckendorf

Thank you so much for your token of appreciation and for the invitation to be at the scholarship banquet. Renville-Sibley does a great job of treating these students to an informative and inspirational evening. The speaker was so insightful and uplifting for all ages in the audience. Thank you for honoring the students, for money donated to the many school programs and the student scholarship! Hope all at Renville-Sibley have a great summer!

Kathy Froland

I want to thank everyone at Renville-Sibley Co-op Power for choosing me as your 2018 youth delegate to Washington, D.C. It was truly a life-changing experience and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I am working on the article for the newsletter and can't wait for you to read about my trip.* Thanks again.

Andrew Black

* Andrew's article is on Page 6.

Thanks so much for donating to the 2018 upcoming Gibbon Funfest weekend! With your generous donation, it will help offset costs for the weekend's events and activities in our Gibbon community. Please come and join the Gibbon Funfest celebration on July 13, 14 and 15. Hope to see you there! We truly appreciate your ongoing support!

The 2018 Gibbon Funfest Committee

Warning: Signs on Utility Poles Can Cause Harm

In the summer, we often see utility poles littered with fliers for garage sales, signs looking for lost pets or a community event that's coming up. While it may seem like a harmless act with no malice intended, these little pieces of paper can cause big harm for utility workers and are illegal in many areas.

Utility workers are tasked with climbing those same utility poles to work around power lines that carry 7,200 or more volts of electricity. Foreign objects such as staples or nails embedded in the pole can lead to the utility worker snagging or getting a hole in their gloves. Those gloves are meant to insulate workers from high voltage and protect them from being electrocuted.

Hunting stands and basketball hoops are other items that have been found attached to utility poles. It is extremely dangerous for utility workers, yourself and anyone who uses these items. Satellite dishes are never to be installed onto a utility pole.

There's also a public safety risk that comes

with posting signs and other items on utility poles. Nails, staples and other materials put into wooden utility poles can cause poles to deteriorate more quickly. This can reduce their structural integrity and stability, increasing the risk for the pole to fall over when struck by a vehicle.

"Fallen poles mean power outages, which at the very least are an inconvenience," said Molly

Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council. "Utilities must spend valuable resources on repairing or replacing damaged utility poles." Downed lines also create dangers for pedestrians and motorists. If you see a downed power line, stay away and call 911.

Keep yourself and those in your community safe by not posting or hanging anything on utility poles.

Find other alternatives to post in your community, such as yard stakes or online community groups.

For more information on staying safe around power lines, utility poles and electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Comparative Report

	Current (through May 31)	One Year Ago (through May 31)	10 Years Ago (through May 31)
Average No. of Consumers	1,882	1,888	1,967
kWhs Purchased	87,835,048	72,103,298	74,633,882
Cost of Purchased Power	\$5,283,746.83	\$4,510,680.01	\$2,419,061.67



Basin Electric Cooperative's Dry Fork Station is home to the Wyoming Integrated Test Center, where conversion methods turning carbon dioxide waste into useful materials are tested. (Photo By: Ryan Hall/Rural Montana)

INNOVATIVE

Carbon Test Center Opens at Basin Electric's Dry Fork Station

Derrill Holly

NRECA

Research getting under way at an electric co-op power plant in Wyoming could lead to game-changing breakthroughs diverting carbon dioxide from the power generation waste stream to manufacturing processes for use in new products.

"This is not a lab; it's a facility where testing will take place in 'real world' conditions," Gov. Matt Mead told an audience of about 150 attendees during a dedication ceremony for the Wyoming Integrated Test Center on May 16.

Mead's comments topped a nearly decade-long quest for creation and development of a facility designed to advance technologies that expand the use of CO₂ as a marketable byproduct with commercial value.

Bulk Waste to Useful Products

The facility, which takes on its first tenants this summer, is located at Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Dry Fork Station. The 385-megawatt power plant commissioned in 2011 is one of the most modern coal-based generation facili-

ties in the electric cooperative fleet.

Bismarck, North Dakota-based Basin Electric is majority owner and operator of the plant, which is co-owned by the Wyoming Municipal Power Agency.

With the encouragement of electric cooperative officials, including representatives of Basin Electric, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and NRECA, Wyoming legislators approved \$15 million for the project. The investment is seen as a way to preserve and support coal production as the state's top industry by reducing or eliminating concerns about CO₂ emitted through fossil fuel use.

"This is about saving coal and making coal viable for America," says Paul Sukut, CEO of Basin Electric, adding that even as renewable energy and natural gas use expands, coal remains an abundant and reliable resource. "We need in America an 'all of the above' energy solution."

Emissions from up to 20 MW of energy production will be diverted to a ported vent system feeding five small test bays and one larger working facility at the ITC. Researchers will be able to draw CO₂ from that waste stream for industri-

al-scale production use.

The nonprofit XPRIZE Foundation, headquartered in Culver City, California, is using the Dry Fork Generation Station as one of two test sites for the NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE. Participants have been competing for a total of \$20 million in prize money since 2015.

Westminster, Colorado-based Tri-State G&T began developing the concept for a carbon inducement prize and test center eight years ago and has contributed \$5 million to the ITC project.

“Early on, we identified promising activity in the nascent field of carbon utilization and the need to provide venues for innovators to bring new technology forward,” said Ellen Connor, Tri-State senior vice president and chief technology officer.

“The technology acceleration from the XPRIZE and creation of a test center at an operating coal plant will make an impact on both the speed and scale of development and demonstration of these important technologies,” Connor said.

NRECA has also contributed \$1 million to development of the ITC in support of the association’s commitment to a national energy policy recognizing electric generation diversity that includes fossil fuels and renewables.

“If there is a carbon constraint in the future, it’s going to hit natural gas as well,” says Jim Spiers, senior vice president of NRECA’s Business and Technology Services department.

Spiers, formerly Tri-State’s senior vice president of business strategies and chief technology officer, worked to identify institutions, companies and individuals committed to the carbon waste issue and found 135 entities worldwide are studying the issue.

According to the Energy Information Administration, coal-based electricity generation produced more than 1.2 million metric tons of CO₂ in 2016. That number accounts for 68 percent of the total CO₂ emissions from the energy sector.

Forty-one percent of the power used by electric cooperative members is produced through coal-based generation. Co-ops also rely heavily upon natural gas to operate peaking plants, run primarily

This project is poised to crack the carbon code and create a new future for managing carbon dioxide emissions.

during periods of high demand.

“As co-ops across the nation work to meet tomorrow’s energy needs, this project is poised to crack the carbon code and create a new future for managing carbon dioxide emissions,” Spiers added. “The Wyoming ITC is proof that public-private partnerships spur innovation.”

Facilities related to the ITC project now occupy 226,000 square feet of space at the Dry Fork site. While the five test bays used by the Carbon XPRIZE finalists will share access to flue gas produced by 1.5 MW of generation capacity, a separate large test center can use up to 18.5 MW of flue gas flow.

Promising Paths

The 10 teams in the juried research competition designed to advance clean energy technologies are divided equally between the coal-based ITC test site and Canada’s Shepard Energy Centre in Calgary, Alberta, where the Alberta Carbon Conversion Technology Centre is fueled by natural gas.

The five teams conducting research at ITC include:

- **Breathe:** Based in Bangalore, India, they will combine hydrogen compounds, extracted from water, with CO₂ to produce methanol. Researchers will use a variety of catalysts, including copper, nitrogen and iron to gauge the economic viability of commercial scale production.
- **C4X:** The Suzhou, China-based team will use CO₂ extracted from flue gas to develop new foam-based bio composite plastics for potential use as insulating and building materials.
- **Carbon Capture Machine:** The team, headquartered in Aberdeen, Scotland, will dissolve CO₂ in a mixture of brine, calcium and magnesium to produce

carbonate solids as an additive for building materials, replacing other carbon-based feedstocks in the manufacture of concrete.

- **CarbonCure:** The team, led by researchers from Dartmouth, Canada, will use CO₂ to produce materials described as “greener concrete” using current manufacturing processes and modified chemistry to reduce water and CO₂ use in concrete fabrication.
- **Carbon Upcycling UCLA:** The Los Angeles-based team will attempt to scale up production of a concrete material that absorbs CO₂ during the production process, bonding with limestone for use in construction.

Researchers working the natural gas track in Alberta will conduct production scale testing on plastics, concrete alternatives, new building compounds and nanoparticles for use in bioplastics and other products. The 10 semifinalists shared \$5 million awarded in April.

Beyond Research

After 10 months of production, XPRIZE judges will consider factors including operational costs, total production and net reduction of CO₂ waste as factors in awarding \$20 million in prize money. Winners from the two test sites will split the proceeds.

Kawasaki Heavy Industries, working with the Japan Coal Energy Center on a solid sorbent-based carbon capture technology, is the first tenant for the larger space at the ITC. Up to \$9 million will be spent on the project, which will use sorbent as a low-cost carrier to absorb CO₂ for later use as manufacturing feedstocks.

“The work of JCOAL and Kawasaki, along with the other Carbon XPRIZE teams, positions the Wyoming ITC as a world-class facility for testing carbon management technologies,” said Mead.

“We continue to move the needle forward on advanced carbon technologies and find real-world solutions to capturing carbon emissions,” said Jason Begger, executive director of the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority. While Basin continues to operate Dry Fork Station, the authority is serving as the managing entity for the ITC.

Derrill Holly is a staff writer for NRECA.

Outage Report

affecting 10 members or more

Date: 5-24-18
Time off: 4:31 pm
Time on: 6:06 pm
Substation: Cairo
Cause: Equipment failure

Date: 5-24-18
Time off: 4:32 pm
Time on: 5:30 pm
Substation: Emmet
Cause: Transmission failure

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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Look for LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces.

Source: energy.gov



June Board Meeting Highlights

The June board meeting was held on Thursday, June 21, at 8 a.m. All board members were present except Gary Peterson. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Newville, Gene Alex and Lenae Wordes.

The following items were reviewed and approved by the board:

- Minutes of the May board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of May
- Safety report for June
- East River Director nomination
- East River annual meeting voting delegates
- NRECA regional and annual meeting voting delegates
- RESCO board election

The board reviewed:

- List of new members and capital credits transferred
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department. Items in the reports include:
 - High level Statement of Operations review

– YTD – May 2018 (unaudited)

- Organization activities
- East River update
- NRECA update
- MREA update
- Line crew work in progress and pending work
- Accounts receivable
- Basin Electric tour
- Farmfest
- Family-a-Fair night
- Upcoming meetings were discussed.

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

Notice:

The July board meeting will be held on Monday, July 30, 2018, at 8 a.m.

The August board meeting will be held on Monday, Aug. 27, 2018, at 8 a.m.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.

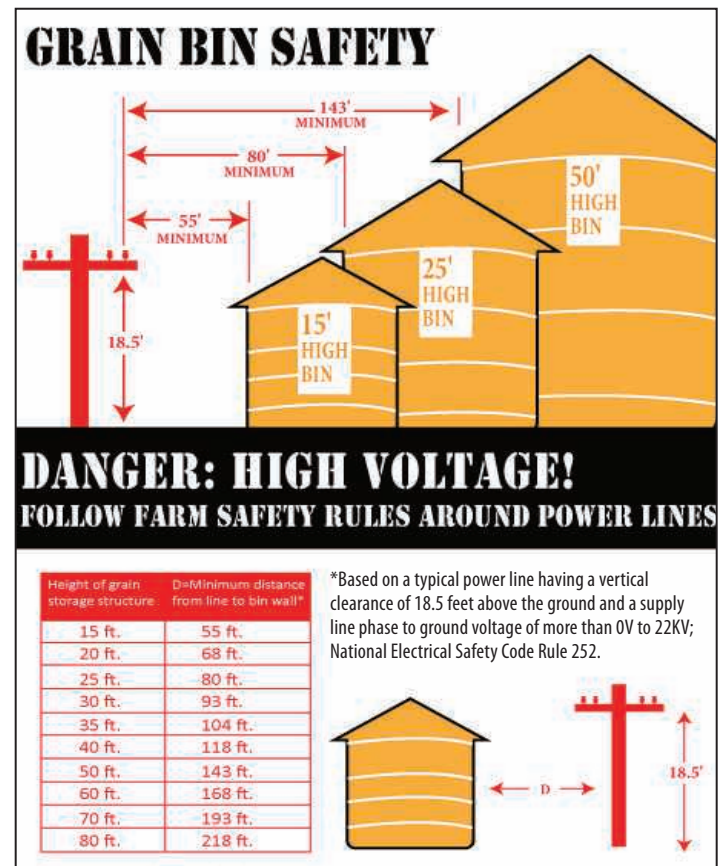


New Grain Bins Near Overhead Power Lines

Members can save time, save money and avoid aggravation by talking to Renville-Sibley before locating new grain bins. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) specifies minimum distances and clearance requirements that are required between grain bins and the nearest overhead power line.

As an example, a 35-foot-tall grain bin cannot be placed closer than 104 feet away from the nearest overhead power line. Building a grain bin too close to the power line is not only a hazard to the farmers who use the bin, but may mean it will need to be moved, often at the members' expense.

Adequate clearances can reduce the risk of accidental contact between power lines, grain augers, elevators or grain probing devices. Planning electrical needs for crop drying and storage facilities that meet the requirements of the NESC can be explained more completely by Renville-Sibley's Line Service Department. Please call us at your earliest convenience so we can help you avoid costly mitigation that will be required to keep your electrical service in adherence to the NESC.



Stray Voltage Can Cause Livestock Problems

Stray voltage can cause serious problems in certain confinement livestock systems. Dairymen and hog producers can lose production from their livestock and experience health problems due to small electric voltages. These voltages are known by several names, including tingle voltage, neutral-to-earth voltage, neutral-to-ground voltage and nuisance voltage. They all refer to very low voltage between two animal contact points.

The cause of the voltage can be varied and complex. It may be caused by poor load balance, faulty wiring or equipment, improper grounding or a host

of other electrical problems.

One common problem is that the farm operations grow in size, but the electrical service isn't upgraded to grow along with it. Also, electrical systems become obsolete and deteriorate due to improper maintenance.

It must be understood, however, that many factors other than stray voltage may cause behavior, health and production problems. A careful analysis of all possible causes is necessary if proper corrective procedures are to be found.

A special section of the National Electric Code deals

with the special requirements for wiring all livestock buildings. If these are strictly followed and buildings are "up to code," the potential for stray voltage problems is greatly reduced. Many older barns have been converted from one use to another and do not meet code requirements. If you are building new livestock facilities, be sure all work is done in accordance with Article 547 of the National Electric Code.

If stray voltage is suspected on your farm, contact Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association. An investigation will be made to determine if a problem is present. Your elec-

trician is also requested to be present so any problems can be noted and corrected. In dairy operations, consulting your milking equipment dealer and local veterinarian is also recommended. They can determine if equipment problems or health problems that may or may not be related to stray voltage are present.



July 20-21

Senior Games, Brookings, SD, Contact Traci Saugstad at 605-692-4492

July 20-21

Gumbo Ridge Bronc Ride and Ranch Rodeo, Murdo, SD, 605-669-3031

July 20-21

JazzFest, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-335-6101

July 20-21

Storybook Land Festival, Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-7015

July 20-22

Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant, 8 p.m., Pageant Site, De Smet, SD, 800-880-3383

July 20-22

Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-269-2015

July 20-22

Stampede Rodeo, Burke, SD, 605-830-0304

July 21

Annual Heritage Music Fest, Elk Point, SD, 605-366-9466

July 21, Aug. 25, Sept. 8, 22

Lawn Mower Races, Pukwana, SD, 605-680-1718 or 605-682-9781

July 21-22

41st Annual Festival in the Park, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

July 25

Stockyard Ag Experience - Local Foods Fair, 3 to 8 p.m., Free, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact 701-883-4304



August 2-5: 33rd Annual Oglala Lakota Nation Wacipi Rodeo Fair, Pow Wow Grounds, Pine Ridge, SD, 605-867-8420

Photo courtesy: travelid.com

July 28

Growing Ancient Grains and Greenhouse Tomato Tours, Local Foods Potluck, 1 to 5 p.m., Free, Bring a dish to share, Newell, SD, 605-681-6793

August 3-4

Senior Games, Yankton, SD, Contact Kristi Hauer at 605-665-4685 or Brittany Orr 605-668-5238

August 4

Growing Nuts and Hops Tours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Free, Food truck offering meals for sale, Yankton, SD, 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

August 10-11

Senior Games, Huron, SD, Contact Laron Clock at 605-353-8533

August 12

Czech Heritage Festival, Bechyn, MN 320-522-1218, www.bechynczechfest.org

August 19

Small-Scale Farming and Honey Extraction Tours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Free, \$12 meal available, must pre-register, Belle Fourche and St. Onge, SD, 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

August 23-25

Senior Games, Watertown, SD, Contact Jeremy Herrboldt or Josh Maag at 605-882-6260

August 23-26

56th Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree featuring the Minneapolis Moline National Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

August 25

McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme Event Rodeo, 4:30 p.m. - Pre-show entertainment, 5:30 p.m. - Rodeo Show, McCrossan Boys Ranch Campus, 605-339-1203 www.mccrossan.org

August 30

Value Added Ag Day and Specialty Crop Workshops at the State Fair, SD Value Added Ag Development Center and SD Specialty Producers, Huron, SD, 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

September 6-9

Senior State Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Howard Bich at 605-491-0635 or visit southdakotaseniorgames.org

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.