



Cooperative Connections

**Full Steam
Ahead:
150-HP Road
Locomotive**

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**Are You Ready?
Preparedness
Is Key**

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Renville-Sibley is a member of East River Electric. East River Electric is the cooperative that provides transmission and other ancillary services to our cooperative. In other words, they “transmit” the power from the generation plants to our substations, which we then deliver to members. Just like Renville-Sibley,

The bottom line, capital credits are just one of the many benefits of being a member of Renville-Sibley!

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Renville-Sibley

Cooperative Connections

(USPS 019-074)

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RENNVILLE-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 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$6 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.renville-sibley.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ENERGY STAR®

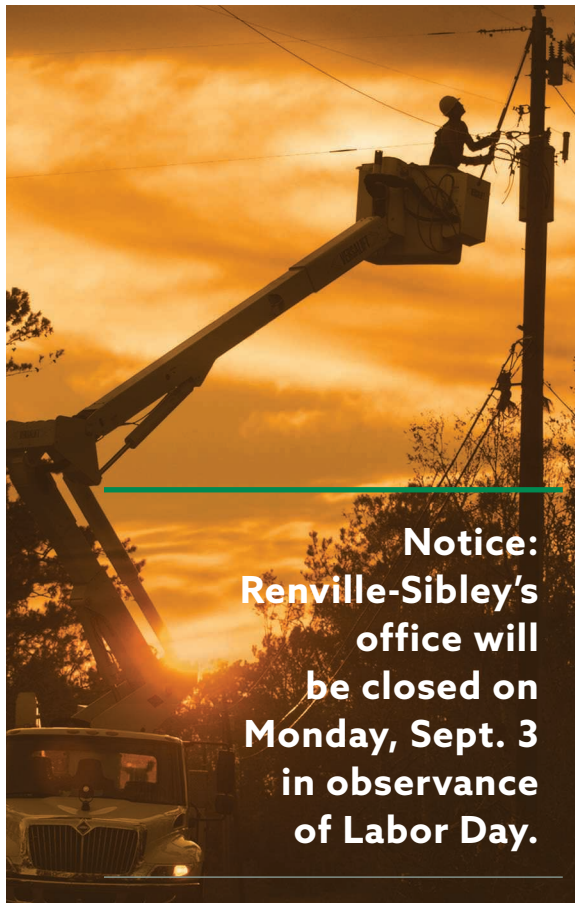
Rebates Available

Renville-Sibley offers rebates to members who purchase the following ENERGY STAR®-certified appliances for their home: refrigerator, freezer, dishwasher, clothes washer, clothes dryer, dehumidifier, central air-conditioner and room air-conditioner.

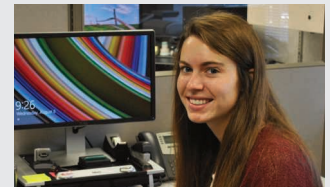
To qualify for the rebate, the unit must be currently ENERGY STAR-certified. Occasionally, ENERGY STAR changes their qualification of what is certified. Therefore, what was ENERGY STAR-certified last year or even last month, may not be currently ENERGY STAR certified due to a change in the requirements.

Renville-Sibley would like to remind members to verify that the appliance they are purchasing is currently ENERGY STAR certified by visiting the ENERGY

STAR website www.energystar.gov. Once in the website, click on the Energy Efficient Products tab at the top of the page and then click on the appliance you are interested in purchasing. Next, click on the “find and compare” product button and enter the model number of the appliance you are purchasing. Renville-Sibley also uses this website to verify that the appliance is currently ENERGY STAR-certified before issuing the rebate. This website has a host of other information to assist members in becoming energy efficient. Rebate forms can be found on Renville-Sibley’s website <http://renville-sibley.coop/content/energy-star-rebates>. Please contact the office if you have any questions on rebates or on Energy Star products.



Notice:
Renville-Sibley's
office will
be closed on
Monday, Sept. 3
in observance
of Labor Day.



Thanks!

Since December of 2015, Elli Honzay has been helping out with a variety of tasks in the Renville-Sibley office on a part-time basis. Some of these tasks include scanning and filing of documents, preparing bank deposits, organizing the storage area and an assortment of other duties. Elli has graduated from high school and will be attending Augsburg University this fall. All of us at Renville-Sibley greatly appreciate all that Elli has done to help out and her cheerful attitude. We wish Elli the best with her future plans.

College Bound?

Keep Safety in Mind

There are several specific causes for fires on in on- and off-campus college housing, including cooking, candles, smoking and overloaded power strips. For most students, the last fire safety training they received was in grade school, but with new independence comes new responsibilities. It is important that both off-campus and on-campus students know their fire risks and prevention actions that could save their lives.

Cooking

- Cook only where it is allowed.
- Keep your cooking area clean and free of anything that can burn.
- Keep an eye on what you are cooking, especially if you are cooking at high temperatures.
- If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.

Candles

- Place candles in sturdy holders.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Keep candles away from anything that can burn.
- Use safe flameless candles.

Smoking

- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.
- Use deep, wide ashtrays. Place ashtrays on something sturdy and hard to burn.
- After a party, check for cigarette butts, especially under cushions. Chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast.
- Don't smoke when you have been drinking or are drowsy.

Electrical safety

- Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything that can burn.
- Never use an extension cord with large appliances, like a refrigerator.
- Do not overload outlets.
- Use only surge protectors or power strips that have internal overload protection.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/college.html>

Are You Registered?

National Voter Registration Day is a national holiday celebrating our democracy. It was first observed in 2012 and has been growing in popularity every year since. Held on the fourth Tuesday of September, National Voter Registration Day will be observed on Tuesday, Sept. 25, this year. The holiday has been endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). It is further supported by the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED).

South Dakotans seeking to vote in the Nov. 6 general election must be a U.S. citizen residing in South Dakota and be 18 years old on or before Election Day. Voter registration forms must be received by the county auditor 15 days before the election day. Additionally, those seeking to vote may register at the county auditor's office, a driver's license station, city finance office, public assistance agencies providing food stamps, TANF or WIC, Department of Human Services offices which provide assistance to the disabled or military recruitment offices.

Minnesotans must be a resident of the state for 20 days prior to the election. They can register online, in person or on election day.

For more information, visit <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/> or call the Minnesota Secretary of State's office at 1-877-600-VOTE (8683) or contact your county election office.



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Don't play on transformer boxes."

Leo Bakeberg IV, Second-grader at Dupree Public School

Leo is the son of Leo Bakeburg and Amanda Grewe, Dupree, S.D. They are members of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Timber Lake, 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.

Garden Goodness

Cheesy Sausage and Potato Skillet Casserole

8 oz. bulk breakfast sausage, crumbled	1/4 tsp. McCormick® Black Pepper, Coarse Ground
1 medium onion, chopped	1-1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
1 medium green bell pepper, chopped	1 cup crumbled feta cheese
6 eggs	2 plum tomatoes, seeded and chopped
1 cup milk	1 T. oil
1 T. McCormick® Oregano Leaves	1 (20 oz.) pkg. refrigerated shredded hash browns
1/2 tsp. salt	

Cook and stir sausage in large skillet on medium heat 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Add onion and bell pepper; cook and stir 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Set aside. Beat eggs in large bowl with wire whisk. Add milk, oregano, salt and pepper; mix well. Add sausage mixture, cheeses and tomatoes; mix well. Set aside. Pour oil into same skillet, swirling to coat the pan. Spread hash browns in bottom and up sides of pan. Pour egg mixture over potatoes. Cover. Cook on medium heat 10 to 15 minutes or until eggs are set. Makes 12 servings

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 221, Total Fat 13g, Saturated Fat 6g, Cholesterol 122mg, Sodium 477mg, Protein 12g, Carbohydrates 14g, Dietary Fiber 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Zucchini Hot Dish

1 medium unpeeled zucchini, washed, seeded and cut into chunks	Sliced onion
1-1/4 cups uncooked rice	Sliced green pepper
Fresh sliced tomatoes	American cheese slices
	Uncooked bacon

Spray a 10x10-inch casserole dish. Layer zucchini chunks in bottom of pan. Sprinkle rice over top of zucchini. Place a layer of tomatoes, sprinkled with oregano, salt and pepper over rice. Next, top this with a layer of onion, green pepper and cheese slices. Lastly, place layer of bacon over all. Bake, covered, at 350°F. for 1-1/2 hours. The raw ingredients will provide enough moisture to cook the rice.

Gail Lyngstad, Pierre, SD

Sandi's Tomato Garden Salad

3/4 cup sugar	6 large tomatoes, coarsely chopped
1/2 cup olive oil	1 large onion, coarsely chopped
2/3 cup tarragon vinegar	2 green peppers, coarsely chopped
2 T. yellow mustard	2 cucumbers, coarsely chopped (optional)
2 T. parsley	Rotini noodles, cooked
1 tsp. basil	
1 tsp. thyme	
Salt and pepper to taste	

In a large bowl, mix together first 8 ingredients. Add vegetables. Refrigerate overnight.

Sandi Polkinghorn, Lake City, SD

Apple Corn Bread Crisp

4 cups peeled, sliced tart apples, about 4 to 5 medium	1 (8.5 oz.) pkg. corn bread/muffin mix
3/4 cup packed brown sugar, divided	1 tsp. ground cinnamon (or to taste)
1/2 cup quick-cooking oats	5 T. cold butter, cubed

Stir together apples and 1/4 cup brown sugar. In another bowl, combine corn bread mix, oats, cinnamon and remaining brown sugar. Cut in butter until crumbly. Add 1/2 cup corn bread mixture to apples. Transfer to a greased 8-inch square baking dish. Sprinkle remaining corn bread mixture over top. Bake at 350°F. for 30 to 35 minutes or until filling is bubbly and topping golden brown. Serve warm.

Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN

Please send your favorite pasta, slow cooker and holiday favorites 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.



Members of the 2018 Basin Electric tour.

Members Learn About

ENERGY PRODUCTION

Lenae Wordes

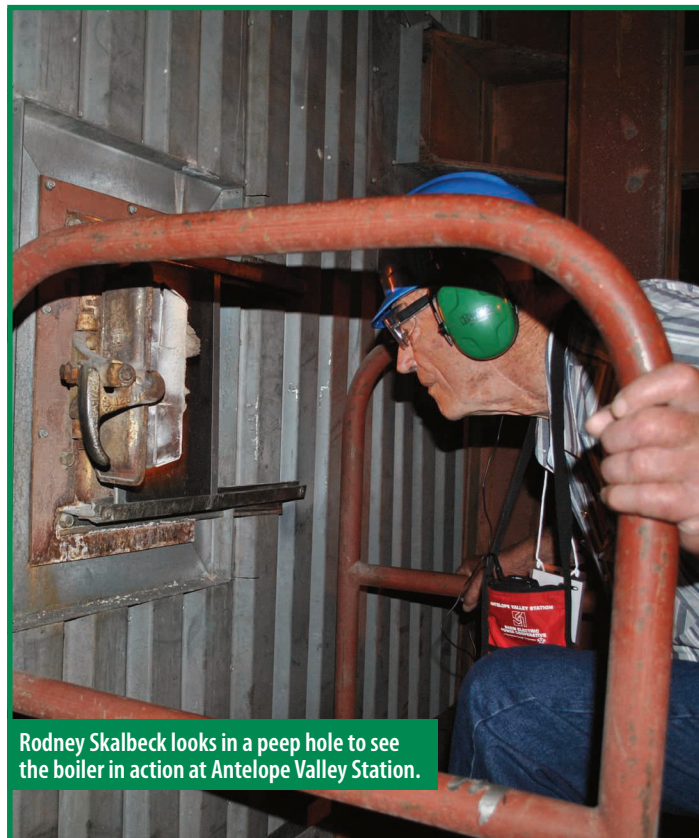
lwordes@renville-sibley.coop

Have you ever wondered how your energy is produced? You could ask any of the members in the picture above and they would be able to explain the process to you.

On July 25, I had the opportunity to take 40 members and their families on a trip to beautiful North Dakota to learn about electricity. This three-day adventure included a tour of Garrison Dam, Antelope Valley Station and the Coteau Freedom Coal Mine. As a bonus, we had a host hop on our bus in Bismarck to learn more about that city's history as we drove through town. On our way home, we visited Frontier Village, which is a village of old buildings to walk through and reminisce of years gone by. This is also the home of the World's Largest Buffalo Monument.

Our first stop after arriving in Bismarck was at Basin Electric headquarters where we learned about Basin Electric. Erin Huntimer shared information on the various generation resources Basin Electric has in their portfolio to serve its members across nine states. The group had the evening on their own to get a bite to eat at one of the nearby restaurants, relax at the hotel, shop at the mall across the street or take a walk at a nearby park.

The second day was really our big tour day. We started out at Garrison Dam, which is the fifth largest earthen dam structure in



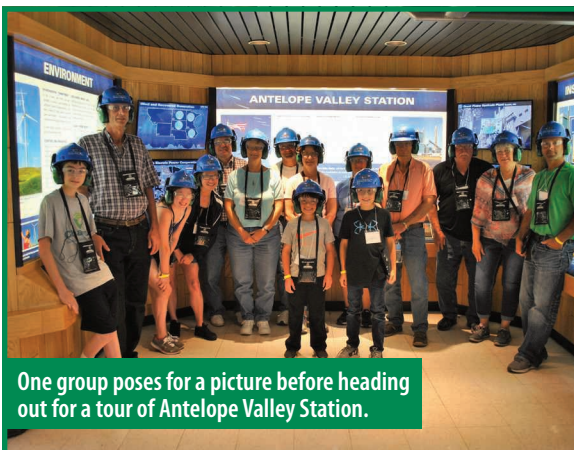
Rodney Skalbeck looks in a peep hole to see the boiler in action at Antelope Valley Station.

the United States. The group heard about what transpired in the seven years it took to construct the dam and had the opportunity to take a peek at one of the five generating units. The unique experience on this year's tour was the opportunity to see that the regulating tunnels were open and the amount and speed of the water running through them.

The second stop that day was at Antelope Valley Station to learn how coal is used to make our electricity. After a delicious sandwich, chips and a cookie, the tour began at a large display model, which visually helps us to see how the plant operates. The tour guide divided us into three groups before we adorned hard hats on our heads, headphones in our ears and headed out to take a personal look at the plant. Thank goodness it was a little cool outside as the temperature on the 17th floor of the plant was only 120 degrees. The excess heat on this floor is due to the heat generated from the boiler.

Following the tour, we loaded the bus and headed off to the Coteau Freedom Coal Mine. The weather was perfect for our bus to drive right down into the coal mine and see how coal is extracted from the earth. The equipment they use is HUGE! It is very interesting to see how the coal is mined and amazing to see the land put back to its original state after the mining is complete. I have taken this tour a number of times and this year was the best tour of the mine. The guide was great answering our questions and we had some extra time to watch the coal being dug from the ground and loaded into the trucks. The driver of the pay loader came right up to the bus so we could get a better perspective of the size of his equipment. After seeing all this, we all appreciate the work that goes into generating our electricity.

Those travelling on this tour learned all kinds of new information about electricity, made some new friends and had the opportunity to win a "fabulous prize." Comments were made that they would recommend those that have not taken this tour to sign-up the next time it is offered. This trip is taken every other year so watch your newsletter in two years to get signed up for our next trip to North Dakota.



One group poses for a picture before heading out for a tour of Antelope Valley Station.

It's Not Just a Green Metal Box

Perhaps you've seen – or have – green metal boxes in neighborhood yards. But do you know what these boxes people mow around are for? These "boxes" contain pad-mount transformers and they step down high voltage electricity to a lower voltage needed for the underground wires supplying power to the lights and appliances in homes. They perform just like the gray, round transformers you've seen on power poles connected to overhead power lines.

In most cases, these boxes pose no danger, but they must be recognized and respected for the electrical equipment they contain. A box knocked askew by equipment or tampered with and missing a lock, can become a serious danger to anyone, especially children who often use them as platforms.

Parents should explain to children that these boxes are potentially dangerous, and not to be played on or around. Parents also need to make sure that their utility has properly locked

the box. A pad-mount transformer that isn't properly secured can be a serious hazard. This is a lesson that Aaron Studer learned the hard way.

Aaron and his brother, Brett, were playing using sticks as swords when he came upon an unlocked pad-mount transformer box. He opened the box, stuck his stick inside and created a bright flash. Aaron suffered second and third degree burns to his face. Fortunately, he had no permanent scars. (See their story at <https://safeelectricity.org/tlc-recognize-respect-report/>)

Safe Electricity also has these tips for landscaping around pad-mount transformers:

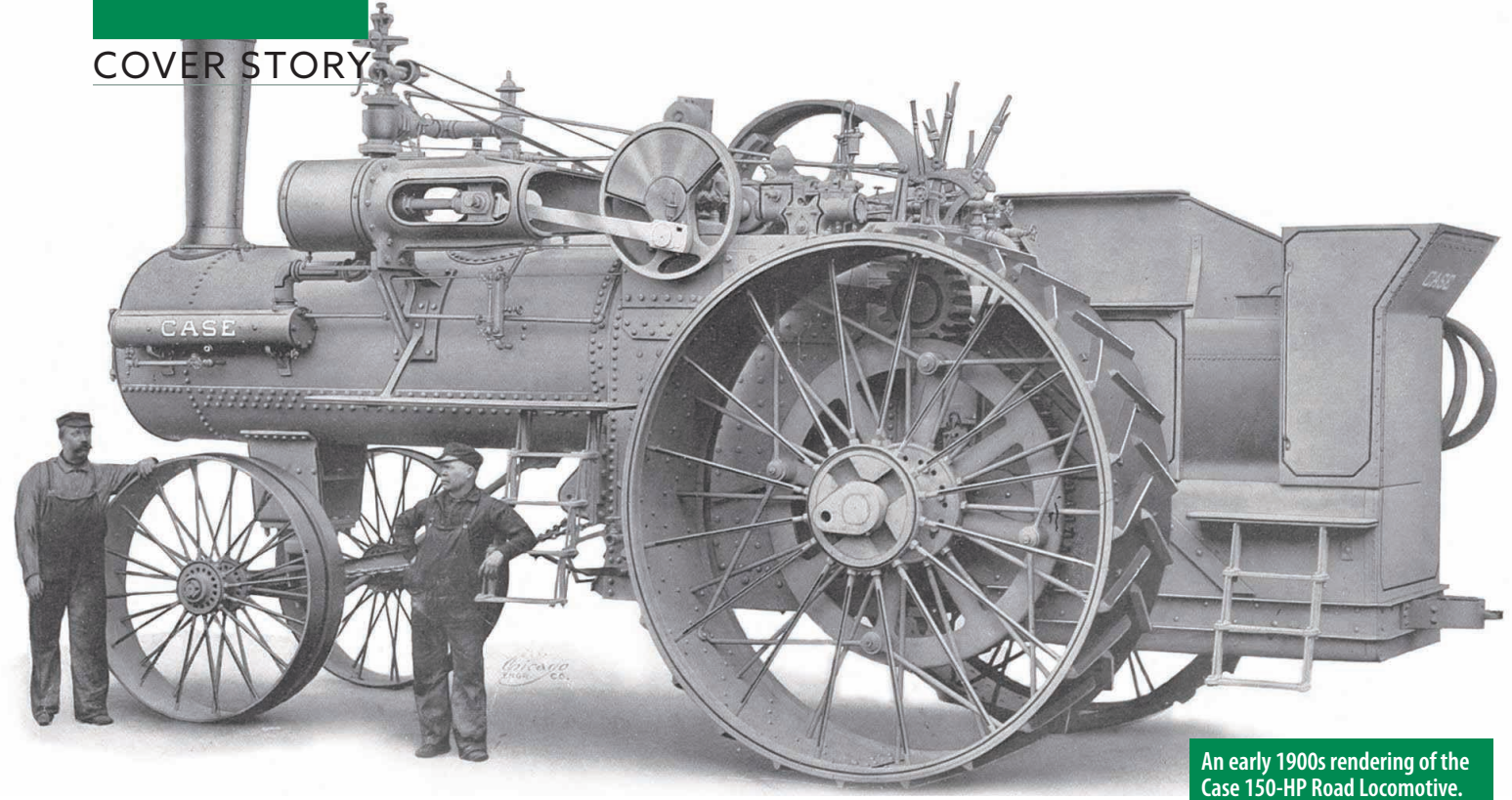
- Keep shrubs and structures 10 feet away from doors and four feet away from the other sides of the transformer.
- Consider the mature height so as not to obstruct the transformer when fully grown.
- Make sure plant roots will not grow to interfere with wires and buried cables.

Remember, these boxes provide electricity to your home. Keeping the area around the transformer in your yard or your neighbor's yard unobstructed, can speed up restoration during outages and routine maintenance checks.

For more information on staying safe around pad mount transformers, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Do you know what these boxes are for?



An early 1900s rendering of the Case 150-HP Road Locomotive.

STEAM POWER DREAM

Recreating the Case 150-HP Road Locomotive

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

A legacy preserved in pictures and technical drawings has been brought back to life and debuts Sept. 7-9 at the James Valley Threshing and Tractor Club Show at Andover, S.D.

More than 100 years ago, the largest steam tractor ever produced – the 150-horsepower Case Road Locomotive – rolled off the drawing boards and onto the landscape. Fewer than 10 were produced and the behemoth's sheer power created technical issues for its ongoing reliability. But despite the issues that would eventually silence its massive engine, the giant – its rear wheels stood 8 feet tall and the front wheels reached the shoulders of a full-grown man – made an impression on Kory Anderson.

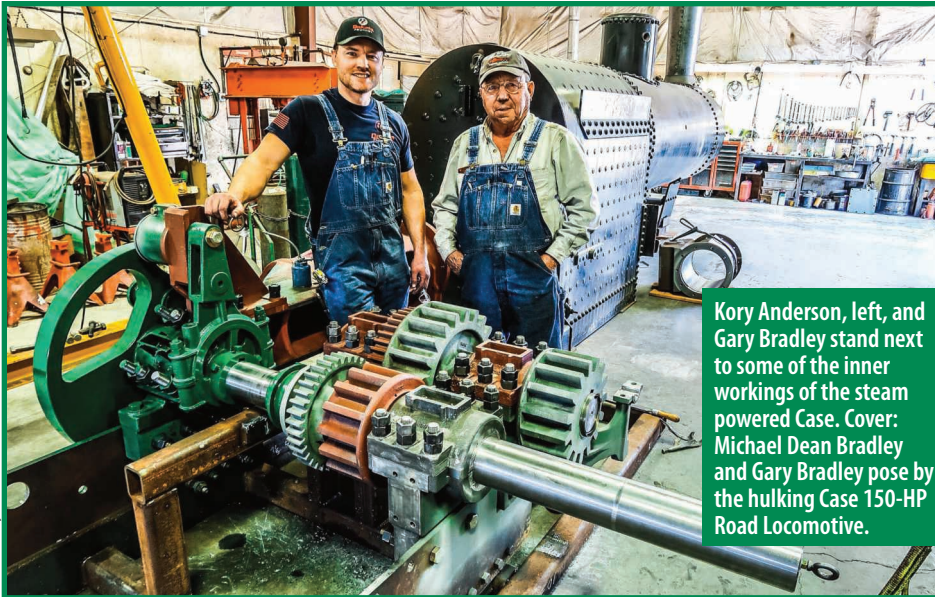
Anderson, an entrepreneur and mechanical engineer started with an idea 12 years ago to build a scale-model replica of the 25-foot, 10-foot wide machine. He spent the ensuing years researching the machine – including a visit to the Case archives in Wisconsin, recreating the drawings in CAD and researching what materials would overcome the original issues caused by lack of metallurgical advancements 100 years ago.

Anderson crafted mahogany molds for the parts that would need to be cast at Dakota Foundry in Webster. The services of an Amish boilermaker in Ohio would be secured.

The machine's rear wheels – each standing 8 feet tall and

Kory Anderson, right, an entrepreneur and mechanical engineer, is bringing to life a replica of the Case 150-HP Road Locomotive.





Kory Anderson, left, and Gary Bradley stand next to some of the inner workings of the steam powered Case. Cover: Michael Dean Bradley and Gary Bradley pose by the hulking Case 150-HP Road Locomotive.

measuring 3 feet wide – would need to be fabricated. Finished, they would weigh three tons each. Parts would be painted, lettering and graphics would be applied. And thousands of hours would be spent breathing life into a machine not heard from since the 1920s.

In the age of railroads and horse-drawn power, the turn of the 20th century saw some innovative tractors that would transform the agriculture. The Case Road Locomotive had the potential to eclipse them all. Designed to move heavy loads where rail lines didn't exist, it was used to haul copper ore in New Mexico, and was used for jobs ranging from plowing beet fields, threshing and hauling stone from a quarry in states including Georgia, Kansas,

Kentucky, New York and Wisconsin.

The thing was built for power, if not speed. (In low gear, it crawled along at just over 2.5 miles an hour, while high speed doubled the pace, reaching more than 5.6 miles per hour.)

While the original machine sold for around \$4,000 in 1904 (roughly four times the cost of a 1904 Cadillac). The 2018 version will cost considerably more: an estimated \$1 million.

For more about the build, visit <https://www.facebook.com/Anderson-Industries-LLC-115448931876302/>

For more about the Threshing Show, go to <https://www.facebook.com/jvthreshers/> or <http://www.jamesvalleythreshers.com/>



Among those lending a hand to the project's build are Mark Knox, left, and Bob Johnson, second from right. Johnson is system support/member services manager at Codington-Clark Electric in Watertown.

Case 150-HP Road Locomotive Specifications

from the Case archive documents:

- **BOILER** – Shell 42 inches in diameter.
- **TUBES** – Ninety-three 2 inch tubes, 108 1/2 inches long, of cold drawn, seamless steel tubing
- **FIRE BOX** – 58 1/4 inches long, 39 1/4 inches wide, and 45 inches high, made of the best open-hearth flange steel.
- **HEATING SURFACE** of boiler, 515 square feet. Grate area of boiler is 15.8 square feet.
- **BOILER PRESSURE** – The boiler tested at 350 pounds hydrostatic pressure, and can carry 160 pounds as a working pressure.
- **WATER TANK** – The capacity of the tank is about 500 gallons
- **WATER FEED** – An ejector will fill the water tank in eight minutes from any stream or other accessible water supply
- **FUEL CAPACITY** – The coal capacity is about 2,750 pounds.
- **ENGINE CYLINDER** – 14 inches diameter by 14 inch stroke.
- **HORSE POWER** – The engine easily develops 150 brake horse power running at its normal speed of 300 revolutions per minute.
- **TRACTION POWER** – The engine has been built for heavy hauling purposes and is capable of drawing 40 to 50 tons up grades from 5 percent to 10 percent. The engine itself, not loaded, will go up a 40 percent grade.

www.jamesvalleythreshers.com/case150.htm

July Board Meeting Highlights

The July board meeting was held on Monday, July 30, at 8 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Newville, Attorney Jeff Whitmore, Gene Alex and Lenae Wordes.

The following items were reviewed and approved by the board:

- Minutes of the June board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of June
- Safety report for July
- Danube Historical Society donation
- CoBank loan documents
- CoBank director 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 – June 2018 (unaudited)
- Organization activities
- East River update
- NRECA update
- MREA update
- Line crew work in progress & pending work
- Accounts receivable
- Basin 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.

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, Wilmer Boeder did not find his member number in the newsletter.



The credit will increase to a value of \$60. A new number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by Sept. 4, you will receive this credit on your electric statement.

Good luck in your search!

Notice:

The August board meeting will be held on Monday, Aug. 27, 2018, at 8 a.m.
The September board meeting will be held on Monday, Sept. 24, 2018, at 8 a.m.

Mission Statement:

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



For Sale:

Wood and steel fence posts, rolls of wire fencing, small pellet feeders, etc.

Steve Herschman, Gibbon, MN
 507-276-0628

Help Wanted

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association has a part-time office assistant position available. This position is for up to 1,000 hours in a calendar year with paid time off. The schedule will be determined between the applicant and Renville-Sibley Co-op. More details on the position and an application can be found on our website www.renville-sibley.coop under the Your Co-op tab. Position open until filled.

Renville-Sibley is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Thank you...

Thank you for awarding me such a generous scholarship. This scholarship will be beneficial in the fall as I start the next chapter of my education at Augsburg University. I am truly grateful for the people I've met and the things I have learned while being employed at Renville-Sibley. Thanks again.

Elizabeth Honzay

Thanks for your sponsorship and support again this year. Your support made our weekend a success!

Fairfax Dayz of Thunder Committee.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Source: energy.gov



EXCAVATOR QUICK GUIDE

File Locate Requests by Phone

<i>Emergency</i> _____	866-640-3637
<i>Twin Cities Metro</i> _____	651-454-0002
<i>Greater MN Area</i> _____	800-252-1166
<i>Nationally</i> _____	811

File Locate Requests Online

www.gsocsubmit.org

Search for Tickets Online

www.gsocsearch.org

Visit our Website

www.gopherstateonecall.org

Contact Customer Support

By phone: 651-681-7326

By email: customersupport@gopherstateonecall.org

Private Facilities

Some underground lines in your work area may not be utility owned. These are considered private facilities and will NOT be marked by public utility companies. Inspect your job site prior to entering a ticket for clues as to where private facilities may be buried. Investigate who may have installed them and determine if any records or maps exist. Suggest that the property owner hire a private utility locator. A list of private locators can be found at -

<http://gopherstateonecall.org/private-facility-locators>



www.gopherstateonecall.org



Comparative Report

	Current (through June 30)	One Year Ago (through June 30)	10 Years Ago (through June 30)
Average No. of Consumers	1,882	1,887	1,967
kWhs Purchased	96,075,994	79,646,506	81,690,945
Cost of Purchased Power	\$5,733,505.28	\$4,936,772.97	\$2,648,655.50

Power in Preparation

Co-ops Committed to Preparedness Every Day

Derrill Holly

NRECA

Preparation is the key to success in many things we do in life. Planning, practice and thoughtful assessment provide opportunities to work out potential problems in advance.

September is National Preparedness Month, and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency is encouraging all of us to prepare for emergencies. But most of us do better when we prepare for the routine, the extraordinary and the unexpected.

For electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota, preparation plays a huge role in ensuring that our members have the electricity they need as soon as they flip a light switch or start an appliance.

When a co-op crew pulls a truck into a loading bay, warehouse workers have already pulled the parts and equipment needed for that crew's scheduled day's work. When a member services representative discusses balanced billing by telephone, they're helping a member with preparations to ease the impact of seasonal high bills.

When meteorologists call for exceptionally hot or cold weather, electric co-ops work closely with their generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) to ensure adequate supplies of electricity are reserved to meet anticipated demand.

South Dakota and western Minnesota electric co-ops are constantly preparing for the future. Engineers and construction crews design, build and upgrade the electric system to move electricity from

Be Prepared Before the Storm

Here are some basic items you should store in your home in case of emergency:







-  **Water:** Three day supply, one gallon per person per day
-  **Food:** Three day supply, non-perishable, high-energy
-  **Clothing, bedding, and sanitation supplies**
-  **Tools:** Can opener, plates, utensils, flashlight, batteries, cash, bleach, hand sanitizer
-  **First aid supplies, medicine**
-  **Important documents**



Photo Caption.

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency

power plants and substations to farms, homes and businesses.

All of these actions prepare electric co-ops to deal with the daily challenges of meeting the electricity needs of their members. But working together, we put in just as much effort preparing for the uncertainties posed by flooding, tornadoes, wildfires, high winds, blizzards and ice storms. Electric co-ops maintain and constantly update emergency response plans. Employees train for major events and know in advance what their primary and secondary roles would be. Electric co-ops also subscribe to mutual aid agreements. That's why you see trucks and crews from co-ops in other states in your communities when major power outages occur.

We also work with state and national

officials to help ensure that crews can get to your communities when they are needed and have the lodging, food and support necessary to work effectively far from home.

September may be National Preparedness Month, but the region's electric cooperatives are committed to preparedness every day – for the routine, the extraordinary and the unexpected.

Derrill Holly writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.

Are You Ready?

The heat of August and September make it hard to remember that winter snows will be here before we know it.

The South Dakota Office of Emergency Management offers the following preparedness tips:

Winter storms, especially blizzards, can be very dangerous. Preparing before extremely cold, snowy weather occurs can save your life. Know what winter storm watches and warnings mean. If a Winter Storm Watch has been issued for your area, hazardous winter weather conditions (such as snow greater than 6 inches in 24 hours, winds gusting over 35 mph, or visibilities less than a 1/4 mile) are expected in the next 12 to 36 hours. A Winter Storm Warning means the conditions listed for the Watch exist.

Try to stay indoors during a blizzard. If you have to go outside to check on animals or for another reason, be sure to dress warmly in loose fitting layers of clothing.

Wear heavy gloves to protect your hands and heavy socks with boots that will not absorb water. Cover your mouth so that you don't breathe in freezing cold air that can damage your lungs. Keep your body dry.

Know the signs of hypothermia or frostbite.

If you are traveling at all when a winter storm is possible, then you should always bring emergency supplies with you. You can never predict when you might get stranded and need them. If stranded, make sure you stay in your vehicle. Run your vehicle about 10 minutes every hour. Open windows a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Make yourself visible to rescuers by turning on the dome light at night, tie a colored cloth to your antenna, and raise the hood after the snow stops falling.

If you are caught outside, find a dry shelter and cover all exposed parts of the body. If shelter is not available, prepare a lean-to, wind break, or snow-cave for protection from the wind.

Build a fire for heat and to attract attention. Place rocks around the fire to absorb and reflect heat. Do not eat snow, it will lower your body temperature. Melt it first.

Weather related dangers can be very unexpected. Being prepared for a potential hazardous situation could save your life.



Supply Kit

Prepare your family for any disaster by putting together an emergency supply kit. Make sure your kit is always ready, easily accessible and stored in a durable container.

Recommended Kit Supplies

- Water, one gallon per person per day for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask or cotton t-shirt to help filter the air
- Moist towelettes for sanitation
- Wrench or pliers
- Can opener for food
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape
- Unique family needs, such as daily prescriptions, infant formula or diapers, and copies of important family documents
- Garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation

Other Items to Include

- Change of clothing
- Sleeping bag or blanket
- Hat, mitten, scarf
- Waterproof matches
- Toys, books, puzzles, games
- Extra house and car keys
- List of contact names and numbers
- Sturdy shoes
- Gloves for clearing debris
- Tent
- Fuel for cooking
- Plastic knives, forks, spoons
- Paper plates and cups
- Paper towels
- Heavy-duty aluminum foil
- Hand sanitizer
- Bar soap and liquid detergent
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Feminine supplies
- Toilet paper
- Household bleach with no additives
- Newspaper to wrap garbage and waste
- Ax, shovel, broom
- Screwdriver, hammer
- Coil of one-half inch rope
- Knife or razor blades
- Garden hose for siphoning and fire fighting

Source: <https://dps.sd.gov/emergency-services/emergency-management/preparedness>



It can be tough to help kids understand the importance of saving energy.

Electrifying Ways to Help Kids Be **SMART ENERGY USERS**

“Did you turn off the lights in your room?”

“We’re not paying to heat the whole neighborhood!”

“Save some hot water for the rest of us!”

Across America, parents utter these phrases to their children countless times each day. Despite their best efforts, it can be tough to help kids understand the importance of saving energy – and to put that knowledge into action.

Few people have more experience talking about energy efficiency than the communication professionals who work at America’s electric cooperatives. So we asked them how they persuade the toughest audience they face every day: their kids. Here are a few of their tips.

Deputize an “energy enforcer”

Several parents recommended deputizing children to investigate wasteful energy practices.

When her children were young, Heidi Smith of Tideland Electric Membership Corporation in North Carolina let them take turns playing the role of energy deputy.

Each week, the appointed child was given a badge and empowered to seek out energy waste and hold the offending



A creative way to engage your child in practicing energy efficiency is to deputize an “energy enforcer.”

party accountable.

“My youngest son took it so seriously that he once cracked open the bathroom door and reached in to turn off the light on his dad after he decided daddy had been in there long enough,” Smith said. “All five of my children are now grown, but they continue to practice energy efficiency in their own lives.”

Diana Hersch of Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative in Ohio offered a slightly different twist on the same idea. She suggests offering your little energy deputies a bounty for finding leaks, drafts and other wasteful energy practices around the house.

Their progress can be tracked with stickers on a calendar, and when the kids reach their goal, they can be rewarded with a sheriff’s badge or another small toy of their choice.

Penalty stroke

In addition to teaching her patience and discipline, the rounds of golf Jim Nimmo plays with his 11-year-old-daughter have turned into valuable lessons in energy conservation.

When the kids reach their goal, they can be rewarded with a sheriff’s badge or another small toy of their choice.

Nimmo, of Farmers Electric Cooperative in Texas, has started adding a penalty stroke to his daughter’s score for each time he’s had to turn off her bedroom light and fan since their last round.

“It gives new meaning to the term penalty stroke,” Nimmo said. “We don’t have much of a problem anymore.” No word on whether his daughter is allowed to return the favor.

The invisible hand

If your child’s hand never seems to find its way to the light switch, perhaps the invisible hand of the free market can help them out.

Katie Kothmann Haby of Medina Electric

Cooperative in Texas said her dad used to fine her 25 cents for every light bulb she and her siblings left on in their rooms. For her ceiling fan with four bulbs, that was a costly mistake.

“It taught us that electricity really did cost money since we had to pay when we didn’t conserve it,” Haby said. Though her daughter is very young, Haby says she plans to use the same approach when she’s older.

Game Theory

Other creative strategies to inspire kids to do their chores and keep peace in the home can be found in *The Game Theorist’s Guide to Parenting*. The recently published book, written by Paul Raeburn and Kevin Zollman, shows how Game Theory can be applied to many of daily transactions of parenting, such as sharing, dividing, collaborating and compromising.

No matter what the approach, talking to kids about energy use is sure to pay dividends. They might not always follow through, but they’ll be learning important lessons about the value of energy and the importance of conservation that can last a lifetime.



Other creative strategies to inspire kids to do their chores and keep peace in the home can be found in *The Game Theorist’s Guide to Parenting*.

August 23-25

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

August 25-26

Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival, Sunrise each day at airport, Activities all day, Night Glow Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Hot Springs, SD 605-745-4140

August 25, September 8 and 22, October 6

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

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 2

Studebaker Car Show, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

September 2

Billy Bolander Memorial Demolition Derby, Winner, SD, 605-469-6232

September 6-9

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

September 7-8

Ribs, Rods & Rock n' Roll, Main Street, Vermillion, SD, 605-624-2021

September 7-9

Sixth Annual S.D. Fiddle Festival & Contest, 4-H Grounds, 901 Whiting Drive, Yankton, SD, fiddlersofsouthdakota.com



August 30-September 3

South Dakota State Fair, Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

September 7-9

James Valley Threshing and Tractor Show, Andover, SD, jvthreshers@gmail.com

September 8

Beef N Fun Festival, Mobridge, SD, 605-845-2387

September 8

Sidewalk Arts Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7397

September 8

Eggs, Mushrooms and Microgreens Tours, Noon to 4:30 p.m., Free, Brandon, SD, Contact 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

September 8-9

Fifth Annual Grape Stomp Festival, With the Wind Winery, Rosholt, SD, 605-212-5166, www.withthewindwinery.com

September 8-9

Twin Rivers Old Iron & Kuchen Festival, Delmont, SD, Contact George Sandhoff at 605-505-0535

September 8-9

Quilt Show, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2810

September 11

S.D. Co-op Hall of Fame Induction Banquet, The Lodge, Deadwood, SD, 605-945-2548

September 13-15

St. Joseph's Indian School Annual Powwow, Chamberlain, SD, 605-234-3452

September 14-15

NESD Celtic Faire and Games, Aberdeen, SD, 605-380-5828

September 14-16

North Country Fiber Fair, Watertown, SD, 605-956-7909

September 14-16

Dakota Western Heritage Festival, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-222-0079

September 14-16

German-Russian Schmeckfest, Eureka, SD, 605-284-2332

September 16

Stirling Family Memorial Ranch Rodeo, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-223-7690

September 21-22

Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show, Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

September 21-23

South Dakota Quilt Guild, Crossroads Event Center, Huron, SD, 605-352-9953

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.