

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



South Dakota Art

**Trashyard
Treasures**

Pages 8-9

**The Story of
Dude Dad**

Pages 12-13

The City of Sacred Heart Fire Department Receives Loan from Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association's REED Fund



DeeAnne Norris
CEO
320-826-2593 or
800-826-2593

The City of Sacred Heart Fire Department received financing on Feb. 1, 2023, when Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association issued a Rural Electric Economic Development, or REED, loan to the City. The funds will be used to purchase a fire department pumper truck to be used to service numerous townships in Renville County.

Working closely with local banks, other loan funds, state and federal agencies to finance community and economic development projects, Renville-Sibley provides financing from REED to help start and expand a business, create jobs and help communities improve facilities, services and infrastructure.

Providing funding to the Sacred Heart area Fire Department is a great opportunity to positively impact the lives of many. In today's economy, employment, housing, economic and community development continues to be challenging, so being able to assist through the REED Fund is very gratifying for us, knowing we are making a difference in our small communities and rural areas.

Approximately 80% of REED's lending is established in communities of less than 4,000 people and the majority of the REED-financed projects have local ownership. Specific to Fire Departments across the East River service territory, since 2021 the REED Fund has closed on loans to four volunteer fire departments in Minnesota and South Dakota.

The REED Fund was organized in 1996 by the member systems of East River Electric Power Cooperative (one of Renville-Sibley's

wholesale power providers). Initially financed with \$2 million in lending capital, the REED Fund has grown to a total capital of more than \$45 million today. The Fund is governed by a board of directors of 26 cooperative managers appointed by their cooperative. In addition to being appointed to the REED fund board of directors, I have served as the REED Fund Board Secretary for the past several years.

The mission of the REED Fund is to provide financing and leverage investment in small communities and rural areas needed to keep the rural economy viable. It provides loans for:

- Community development to enhance community facilities, services, and quality of life
- Business and Industry to support local business growth, development and provide employment
- Agriculture to provide capital to add value to agriculture products, services, and marketing activities

Here are some statistics about the REED Fund as of January 2023:

- 279 loans
- Over \$110 Million loaned
- Over 10,000 jobs created and retained
- \$970 million in total investment
- 83% of loans in towns of 4,000 or fewer
- 95% of projects locally owned

One of Renville-Sibley's core principles is Commitment to Community and the REED Fund is a good example of how we support local communities. If you are planning a new business or looking to expand, or if your community needs financing for facilities or services, please contact me at 320-826-2593 or via email at dnorris@rscpa.coop for an application. You are also welcome to contact REED at (605) 256-8015 for more information.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

Board of Directors

- Roger Manthei – Chair
- Wayland Zaske – Vice Chair
- Alan Neyers – Secretary/Treasurer
- Gary Eekhoff
- Matt Haubrich
- Whitey Hinderman
- Gary Peterson
- Kylie Rieke
- Helen Ruebel

Renville-Sibley Employees

- Gene Allex – Line Superintendent
- Brian Athmann – Journeyman Lineman
- Shawn Beckler – Crew Chief
- Mike Benson – Journeyman Lineman
- Brad Braulick – Crew Chief
- Nick Bruns – Technology Manager
- Anthony Carruth – Journeyman Lineman
- Brayden Fischer – Journeyman Lineman
- Amy Ervin – Member and Board Services Representative
- Cindy Mertens – Administrative Services Manager
- DeeAnne Norris – CEO
- 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

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ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The 85th Annual Meeting of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. The meeting is being called in accordance with the bylaws of the association to transact the following business:

1. Report of officers, directors and committees.
2. Election of three (3) directors, one (1) from District 1, one (1) from District 2 and one (1) from District 3.
3. Any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

Voting ballots for director election, including candidate information, will be mailed to all members the week of March 13th. If you cannot attend and you wish to mail your ballot, you may do so. However, if mailed, it must be received through the mail by March 30, 2023.

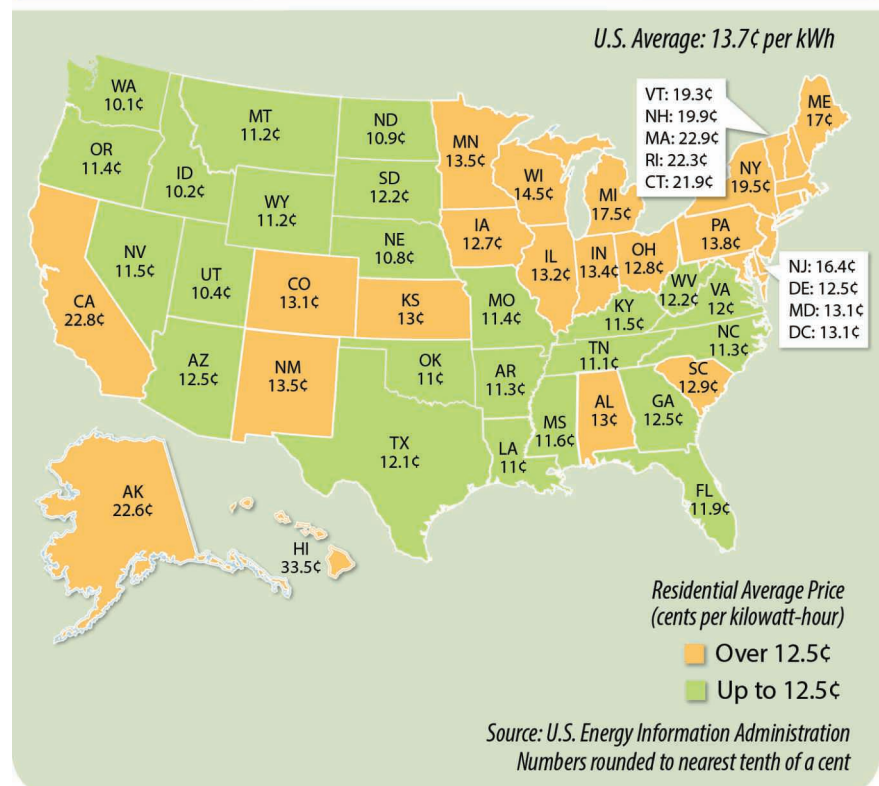
A \$15 energy credit attendance prize will be given to members (one credit per member) who attend the annual meeting. All members are encouraged to attend the 85th annual meeting of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.

Alan Neyers, Secretary

Notice: Candidates for the director positions will be listed in the April Cooperative Connections and candidate information for each district will be included with the ballot mailing.

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2021 figures, in cents per kWh



Spring Planting Safety

Farming equipment has become more massive and technologically advanced over time. While these welcome improvements help farmers cover more ground in less time, taller equipment and longer extensions can bring added challenges around power lines.

As farmers prepare to enter the fields for planting, we urge everyone working in the agricultural field to be alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines, poles and other electrical equipment.



Follow the 10-foot distance rule

To stay safe around overhead power lines, follow safe work practices at all times to help prevent serious and even deadly accidents. Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a minimum 10-foot clearance from power lines.

This 10-foot rule applies not only to the area underneath the power line, but to the full 360 degrees around it. Not only can electricity change paths if direct contact is made, it can also happen when someone or something gets too close to a power line, and the current jumps, also known as arcing.

Other precautions

In addition to the 10-foot rule, take these steps to help decrease the chances of an electrical-related incident:

- If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line, do not get out of the cab because you could be electrocuted. Instead, stay where you are and call 9-1-1 to dispatch the appropriate utility to deenergize the power.
- If it is not safe to stay in the cab due to fire or smoke, make

a solid, clean jump with both feet landing at the same time. Hop away with feet together as far as you can.

- If you come across an accident or incident near a downed power line, alert individuals (from at least 50 feet away) to stay in the cab or vehicle as long as there is no imminent danger. Call 9-1-1 and do not approach the scene.
- Have a daily meeting with staff to go over possible hazards. Map out and review routes where equipment will be moved and ensure it will clear power lines.
- Teach anyone working with or for you (including family members and seasonal employees) about power line awareness and proper clearance distance.
- When working around power lines, always use a spotter, who has a broader vantage point than the person in the cab.
- Visually inspect overhead lines, which may not meet height codes due to age or pole damage. If a wire is hanging low, never try to move it; instead, contact your electric utility for assistance.
- Lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.



Take care when plugging in appliances

Stella Nilson

Stella Nilson gives good advice on circuit safety. Overloading circuits is a major cause of residential fires, and she warns people to take care when plugging in appliances. Stella is the daughter of Kyle and Alision Nilson, members of Moreau-Grand Electric based in Timber Lake.

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.

SEAFOOD SPECIALTY

SEAFOOD PARTY DIP

Ingredients:

1 pkg. mock crab sticks
 1 pkg. mock crab pieces
 1 pkg. mock lobster
 1 pkg. salad shrimp
 1 can water chestnuts
 1 medium onion (optional)
 1 c. real mayonnaise
 2 pkg. Philly cream cheese
 Dried parsley, garlic powder, salt, and pepper to taste

METHOD

Grind crab, lobster, shrimp, and water chestnuts. Chop onion. Using a mixer, blend mayo and cream cheese until smooth. Add parsley, garlic powder, salt, and pepper to taste. Combine with seafood. Mix well and refrigerate. Serve with various kinds of crackers.

Kari Larson Reder, Warner, S.D.

WALLEYE CAKES

Ingredients:

8 oz. walleye (cooked, cooled, and flaked)
 1 1/2 c. mayonnaise
 4 eggs
 1 c. cooked wild rice
 1/2 c. Parmesan cheese
 4 green onions (chopped)
 1 sleeve saltine crackers (crushed)
 1 tsp. crushed garlic
 2 tsps. seasonings (salt, pepper)
 2 tbsp. oil or butter

METHOD

In large bowl, combine walleye, mayo, rice, onion, garlic, and cheese. Add eggs and seasonings. Fold in crushed saltines until the mixture is firm enough to form cakes. Fry in olive oil for 2-3 minutes on each side or until crispy. Serve with topping: 1/2 c. mayo, 1 tsp. garlic powder, and 1 oz. crumbled blue cheese. Mix together.

Dar Duncan, Milbank, S.D.

SHRIMP PASTA

Ingredients:

1 can (14 1/2 oz.) diced tomatoes, undrained
 1 can (6 oz.) tomato paste
 1 c. water
 2 tsps. sugar
 1 tsp. basil leaves
 1 tsp. garlic powder
 1 tsp. oregano leaves
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper
 8 oz. pasta, such as linguine or spaghetti
 1 lb. medium shrimp, peeled and deveined

METHOD

Mix tomatoes, tomato paste, water, sugar, basil, garlic powder, oregano, salt and red pepper in large saucepan. Bring to boil on medium-high heat. Reduce heat to low; simmer, uncovered, 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Meanwhile, cook pasta as directed on package, adding shrimp during last 3 minutes of cooking. Drain. Return pasta and shrimp to saucepot. Pour tomato sauce over shrimp and pasta. Toss gently to coat well. Serve immediately with shredded Parmesan cheese, if desired.

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.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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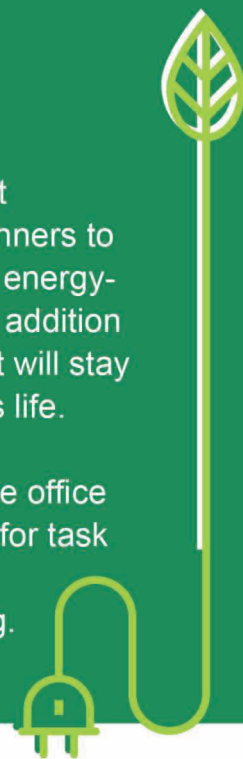


**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



...or go online at www.gopherstateonecall.org

Get the Dirt

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW ABOUT EXCAVATION SAFETY

Welcome to the Excavator Safety Guide, Minnesota edition! 2016 brings a number of changes to Gopher State One Call (GSOC) that will provide excavators with new and easy to use technology for excavation ticket processing. These changes are intended to keep the basic goal of damage prevention in clear focus. See the custom pages in this guide for important information about both the new electronic ticket system and basic facts that will help you dig safely in Minnesota, this time and every time.

Inside You'll Find...

- ▶ An Overview of GSOC's Technology Suite
- ▶ Who Should Call 811? Don't Forget, Farmers!
- ▶ The Process for Safe Excavation
- ▶ What Doesn't Get Marked: Private Lines
- ▶ Get the Scoop on the GSOC Team



Choose Renewable Energy for Your Home or Business

You can easily purchase renewable energy from your local electric cooperative, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power. Renville-Sibley has Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) available for purchase to offset your current usage with 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% renewable energy options. The price of the RECs will be added to your current electric bill.

The electricity you receive will still be the same reliable, affordable energy you have always received from Renville-Sibley Co-op Power but, by participating in this program, you will be supporting current and future renewable projects in our area.

Your home or business will be joining hundreds of other people from across the nation who are supporting renewable energy. By purchasing RECs, your business could add value to your products or services, promote future regional renewable projects and showcase your support for renewable energy sources.

FAQ's

What is a Renewable Energy Credit (REC)?

- 1,000 kWh (kilowatt hours) produced by a renewable energy source equals 1 REC
- RECs are also called Green Tags
- RECs represent the valuable renewable attributes of wind energy

Where do the RECs come from?

The RECs come from several wind farms in the region that supply renewable energy to Renville-Sibley Co-op Power. These include, but are not limited to:

- North Dakota: PrairieWinds 1, Wilton 1 & 2, Baldwin Wind Project and Minot Wind Project
- South Dakota: Crow Lake Wind, the Chamberlain turbines, Day County Wind Farm and South Dakota Wind Project

How much does it cost?

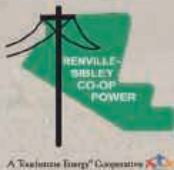
To participate a rate adder per kWh will be added to your bill:

- \$0.001 /kWh for 100% renewable
- \$0.00075 /kWh for 75% renewable
- \$0.00050 /kWh for 50% renewable
- \$0.00025 /kWh for 25% renewable

For example, if your monthly usage is 1,200 kWh and you would like to participate at the 100% renewable level, you would pay an additional \$1.20 for the month.

Do I need to purchase any special equipment?

No. Renville-Sibley will continue to fulfill all your electric needs and you can enjoy the benefits of renewable energy.



800.826.2593
renville-sibley@rscpa.coop

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power is an equal opportunity provider & employer.



TRASHYARD TREASURES

Lee Lindsley of Piedmont turns trash into treasure when he isn't on the clock working for the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

South Dakota Man Welds Junkyard Scraps Into Pieces of Art

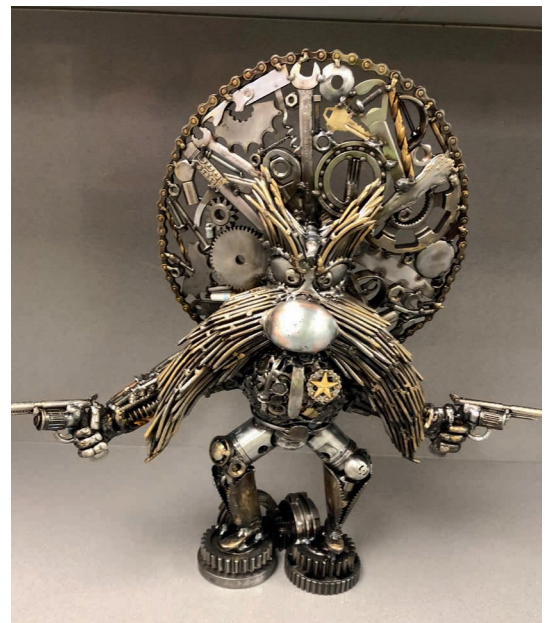
Frank Turner
frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Lee Lindsley has a real talent for welding trash into treasure. Given the time, Lindsley can sculpt even the most unwanted junkyard scrap – busted gears, rusted lug nuts and mangled bicycle chains – into an artistic masterpiece.

By day, Lindsley works as a region inspector for the South Dakota Department of Transportation in the Black Hills, but by night, he can be found in his shop putting hours of work into his metallic puzzles, welding them together piece by piece.

When not on the clock, Lindsley is busy tackling his next project, investing anywhere from 30 to 100 hours into each sculpture. The end result often portrays a snapshot of rural life in the Black Hills: a life-size hunting dog made from a mix of old tools and spent rifle rounds, a miniature snowmobile standing on a displaced piston and a gun-slinging Yosemite Sam with a beard fashioned from old nails.

“Metal sculpting is some-



Famous cartoon character Yosemite Sam is one of Lindsley's favorite metal creations.

thing that anyone can do if they put their mind to it,” said Lindsley. “All I do is throw parts of junk together.”

In many ways, Lindsley’s passion for sculpting and welding echoes the resourcefulness of the very artwork he makes. When Lindsley began his metal sculpting journey, he didn’t have a formal education or even a background in art to guide him. Instead, he relied on his welding skills and the bits of scrap he had available to make his remarkable artwork.

“It’s hard to put a price on these pieces, but if my artwork does sell, I want to donate a portion of the sale to a charity.”

It was Lindsley’s second cousin Chris Degen, a teacher at Mitchell Technical College, who inspired Lindsley’s first foray into metal sculpting four years ago. Degen recalls gifting Lindsley’s son, a former lineman, a simple lineman made from nuts and bolts during the holidays. The quirky Christmas gift became a catalyst for the two to start creating new projects and bouncing new ideas off each other. According to Degen, Lindsley just ran away with the idea.

“He went crazy with it,” Degen laughed. “Lee started making sculptures that went way above and beyond what I was doing. I would put an hour into my project, and he would put one hundred into his.”

Taking another step forward in his hobby, Lindsley began researching works and art pieces posted online by world-famous metal sculptors, including metal sculptors John Lopez – a South Dakotan – and Brian Mock, whose masterpieces provided Lindsley a roadmap of what can be accomplished.

Since embarking on his metal sculpting journey, Lindsley has completed more than 18 metal sculptures, and his hobby continues to blossom. For the first time ever, Lindsley put one of his sculptures

up for sale in A1 Al’s Pheasant Ranch in Emery S.D. Since November, Lindsley’s metal hunting dog has stood proudly in one of the ranch’s hunting cabins, waiting for a buyer, and although the dog hasn’t left the shelf just yet, Lindsley said he is

excited to see his work out in the open and visible to the public eye.

“It’s hard to put a price on these pieces, but if my artwork does sell, I want to donate a portion of the sale to a charity,” he said. “We will see what happens.”



Lindsley’s metal German shepherd sits proudly in his workshop.

NEW FACILITY UPDATE

All rough heating and plumbing have been installed and inspected in the office, along with the completion of rough-in electrical. Insulation and sheetrock installation had also begun. On the shop side, all overhead doors have been installed along with the railings for the mezzanine. Framing and 90% of shop mechanical, electrical, and plumbing have also been completed.

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

When you watch this video, it will seem like everything happened so fast at first, then nothing happened for a bit. 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. However, there is a lot of activity going on this winter to prepare for our move into the building in 2023.

Comparative Report			
	Current YTD Through Dec. 31, 2022	One Year Ago YTD Through Dec. 31, 2021	10 Years Ago YTD Through Dec. 31, 2012
Average # of Consumers	1,889	1,882	1,920
kWhs purchased	179,725,369	187,065,101	161,604,756
Cost of purchased power	\$10,096,015.01	\$12,176,062.38	\$8,089,716.29

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

OUTAGE REPORT

Affecting 10 members or more

Date: 12/6/22

Time off: 1:11 p.m.

Time on: 1:20 p.m.

Substation: Cairo

Cause: Material or Equipment Fault/Failure

Date: 12/25/22

Time off: 11:47 a.m.

Time on: 1:53 p.m.

Substation: Kingman, Troy

Cause: Ice, Sleet, Frost, Not Trees

Date: 12/29/22

Time off: 12:07 p.m.

Time on: 12:36 p.m.

Substation: Troy

Cause: Scheduled

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

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.

January Board Meeting Highlights

The January board meeting was held on Tuesday, January 24, at 9 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Gene Alex, and Amy Ervin.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the December 20 board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of December
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Safety Report for January
- Depreciation Resolution
- REDL Loan Documents
- Revenue Deferral Resolution

The board reviewed:

- Total new members
 - 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 through December (unaudited)
- Organization activities
- East River update
- Basin Electric update
- NRECA update
- MREA update
- Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
- Accounts receivable
- New facility update
- Member Informational Meeting Schedule
- CoBank 2023 Director Election, request for Director Candidates

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

NOTICE:

The February board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 9 a.m.

The March board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28, at 8 a.m.

Scholar of the Month



Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, congratulates Isaac Haen on being selected as the January Scholar of the Month.

Isaac is a senior at Renville County West High School and was nominated because of his integrity in his everyday life making mature, responsible decisions that can set him apart from his peers. He quietly does the right thing and leads by example. He is a member of RCW school student and sports groups and serves his community through his involvement in his church, scouts, and booster groups to positively impact our area.

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Isaac Haen as the January Touchstone Energy® Scholar of the Month.

WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month, Nathan Breitreutz did not find his member number in the newsletter. The credit will increase to a value of \$30. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 1st of March, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

OPERATION ROUND UP

At the January Operation Round Up board meeting, the Board of Trustees awarded two (2) donations of \$500 each to Santa's Closet for educational material for children and RCW Post Prom to support post-prom activities.

If your non-profit organization has a project or event that would benefit the community, Operation Round Up funds may be available to help your group reach its goal. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on April 18, 2023. The deadline for applications is April 1. 525701



THE STORY OF DUDE DAD

Taylor and Heidi Calmus play with their kids (Theo, Juno and Otto) on a playset Taylor built. The family will welcome another baby in March.

Howard Grows More Than Corn

Tara Miller

Central Electric Cooperative

His kids may only know him as dad, but Jimmy Kimmel, the entire internet and 7 million followers can't be wrong – Howard native Taylor Calmus has evolved into a new-age celebrity. Better known as Dude Dad, Calmus is an accomplished actor, video producer, digital content creator, author, builder, television show host and comedian. Besides making regular appearances on Jimmy Kimmel Live, Calmus has also shared the screen with home remodeling experts Chip and Joanna Gaines, acclaimed actor Anthony Anderson and several YouTube stars.

Calmus is the son of Larry and Julie Calmus. He grew up west of Howard with siblings Zach and Maggie, and graduated from Howard High School in 2005. He now lives in Fort Collins, CO, but Calmus credits much of his creativity to his rural upbringing.

“Growing up in rural South Dakota was awesome because it forced us to create our own fun. My parents were big advocates of that. They would say, ‘Go outside and

find something to do.’ It enabled us to be creative,” Calmus said.

His mom, Julie, agrees. “We were sticklers. We didn't let them play Nintendo or watch tv all day.” Instead, the kids often spent time outside constructing BMX bike ramps, among other things.

Building Strong Connections

Now a dad himself, Calmus enjoys putting his ingenuity and building skills to work for his kids. “Building things with your kids is one of the best ways to bond with them,” he said. “I've made carnival rides, backyard bike parks, multiple tree houses, a boat, just so many things. Being a dad gives you permission to imagine the impossible like kids do. It allows me to connect with them.”

Calmus and his wife Heidi, who is originally from Fargo, have three children and another baby due in March. Heidi is often the subject of her husband's videos. Calmus puts his acting skills to work, sporting a long brunette wig as he comedically embellishes her life. Luckily, Heidi is a good sport, and they often share reaction videos in which she critiques his performance.

The couple went on tour this year, performing comedy shows as a team in North Dakota, South Dakota and Colorado. Calmus said without his wife, they would not have experienced this level of success. “Heidi believed in me before I did. Without her, Dude Dad wouldn't exist today.”

The Evolution of Dude Dad

Success didn't happen overnight, Calmus explained. Early on, he would often pick up work doing set construction for tv shows and movie projects to make ends meet.

“When I moved away, I worked hard to make it in Hollywood as an actor, and I had some success,” he said. “Then, when Heidi was pregnant with our second child, it was clear to me that I needed to do something more stable to support a family. That's when we created Dude Dad.”

Mastering the Dude Dad brand took a great deal of time and commitment. Calmus constantly brainstormed new ideas for videos that would align with the brand and appeal to viewers. After all, the more views his content generates, the more income he earns from paid advertising on the various platforms.

A humble individual, Calmus doesn't necessarily consider himself famous. He said, “I think my content caught on faster in



Taylor and Heidi perform stand-up comedy as a team. They recently sold out shows in Fargo, Sioux Falls, and Fort Collins.

South Dakota because I have family here.”

But the numbers don't lie. Dude Dad content has more than 1 billion views on Facebook and roughly 150 million views on YouTube. So, his reach is far greater than just the state of South Dakota.

“With TikTok and other apps, there are a billion new creators every year, so it's a challenge all the time,” Calmus said. “Anybody can make videos online now, but not everybody can stand in front of an audience and perform comedy. It's been a fun and rewarding challenge. Now we get to see the people who are connecting with our content.”

Calmus authored a book entitled “A Dude's Guide to Baby Size” to help expectant dads understand their baby's size throughout pregnancy. He shares guy-friendly size comparisons for reference, such as a lug nut, a tape measure, a pound of ground beef and a football.

Giving Back

Because of his success, Calmus has been able to give back in unique ways. In 2019, he partnered with HGTV “Fixer Upper” star Chip Gaines to raise \$1.49 million for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. This partnership led to Calmus's television show, Super Dad, where he helps other dads build custom backyard play areas for their children.

Calmus is also a champion for Horizon Health Foundation's Smiles for Miles program. He helped the non-profit raise more than \$20,000 in a single day to provide free dental care for local kids.

Most recently, Taylor and Heidi performed

a live show in Fort Collins and donated the proceeds to a neighborhood family who sadly lost their father.

“He left behind two little kids who are friends with our kids, and we just wanted to be there for them however we could,” Calmus shared.

Making the Family Proud

Reggie Gassman, Calmus's uncle, is the Manager of Customer Electrical Services at Sioux Valley Energy in eastern South Dakota. He said he's proud of his nephew's accomplishments.

“When the kids were little, Taylor and Zach were already making home movies. His success creating videos doesn't surprise me at all,” Gassman said. “He takes something from normal, everyday life and sees it from a different angle.”

Gassman joked, “I told Taylor acting genes run in the family because I was named best actor in the junior class play. That's like the Emmys of Canova!”

Calmus said both sides of his family – Calmus and Gassman – are naturally funny and talented in different ways. While Gassmans are widely known for their baseball skills, his uncle Kurt (and his mustache) have famously inspired some of Dude Dad's most iconic characters.

He's Still Just Taylor

Despite his growing list of accomplishments, he's still the same guy his family knows and loves.

Calmus's mom Julie shared, “Since he was two years old, Taylor was always entertaining people and goofing around. His older brother Zach is just as clever, so there's always laughter when the family gets together. It's pretty cool he's been able to make a living doing that.”

She said when strangers recognize her son as Dude Dad, she chuckles. “He's still just Taylor to us.”



“Husbands of Target” is a viral video with more than 80 million views that Taylor developed in collaboration with other digital content creators.

Speaking Up About Workplace Hazards is Everyone's Job

How many days do you walk into your workplace, unaware of anything new around you? If you are like most people, probably most days. You walk straight to the break room for some hot java and then to your work area to start your day.

Most of us assume we are safe from on-the-job hazards that can cause incidents, injuries and deaths – yet these things happen every day. Though you may not see or notice them, hazards are present in our workplaces and homes.

Workplace hazards, unless they are obvious (think chemical spill or an obvious trip hazard), can fade into the background or be left for someone else to remedy. However, workplaces that enable every worker – regardless of title or position – to notice and respond to hazards make the workplace safer for everyone. A culture of safety saves lives.

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), workplaces should enable all employees to do the following:

Identify hazards

Nine Elements of Successful Safety and Health System, published by the NSC, categorizes hazards as:

- Chemical: Inhaling, ingesting or contacting chemical substances.
- Physical: Slips, falls, exposure to fire and electrical hazards or being struck by something.
- Biological: Contact with blood-borne pathogens, mold, wastewater or poisons from plants or insects.
- Ergonomic: Working at incorrectly designed workstations, repetitive work or forceful exertions.

As you go through your workday, consider the workstation, environment, tasks and machinery you use. Also think about distractions or factors such as temperature, lighting or noise. There are also other types of hazards, such as an uncomfortable work

chair, a cluttered walkway or equipment that requires a lot of force to operate. Speak up if you notice an unsafe environment or scenario.

Prevent hazards

Everyone's response to hazards is essential for a safe workplace. The NSC recommends taking the following precautionary measures in the workplace:

- Avoid distracted walking.
- Use caution in high-traffic areas, such as doorways and around corners.
- Store heavy objects close to the floor and away from walkways.
- Check workstations for exposed cords.
- Stack materials in such a way that they will not fall.
- Ensure that cups and glasses have spillproof lids.

- Close file cabinet drawers.
- Replace burned-out lighting.
- Wear proper personal protective equipment.
- Know the process for reporting hazards.

In addition, always observe lockout/tagout procedures and immediately address conditions that could cause a slip, trip, fall or another type of injury.

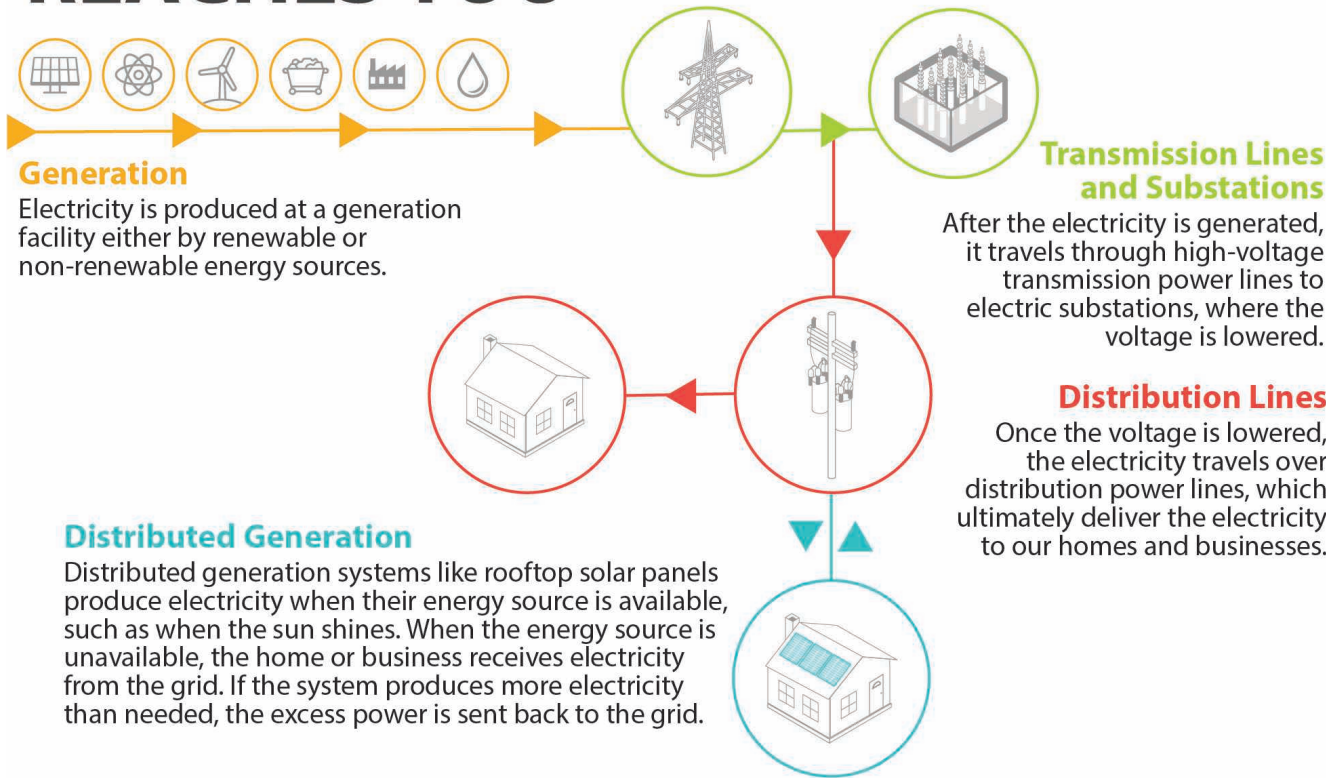
Promote hazard awareness

Employers should incorporate hazard awareness in the workplace to reduce and eliminate risks. A “find and fix” approach should be part of every workplace safety and health program. This mentality empowers employees to speak up when they see hazards and, in turn, makes the workplace a safer place.

For information about electrical safety at work and home, visit SafeElectricity.org.



HOW ELECTRICITY REACHES YOU

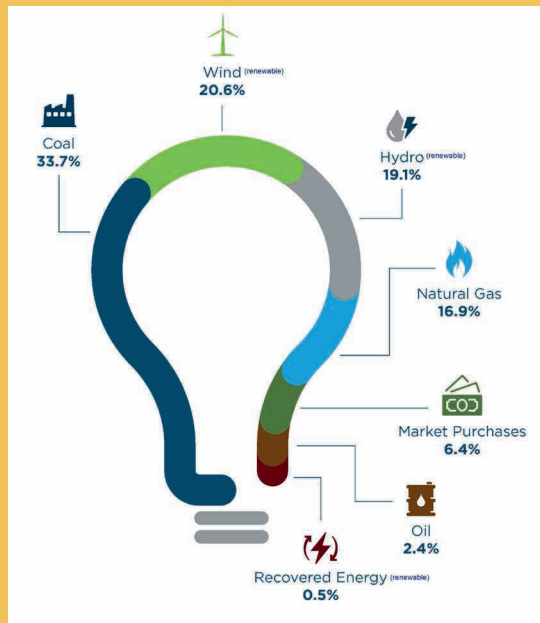


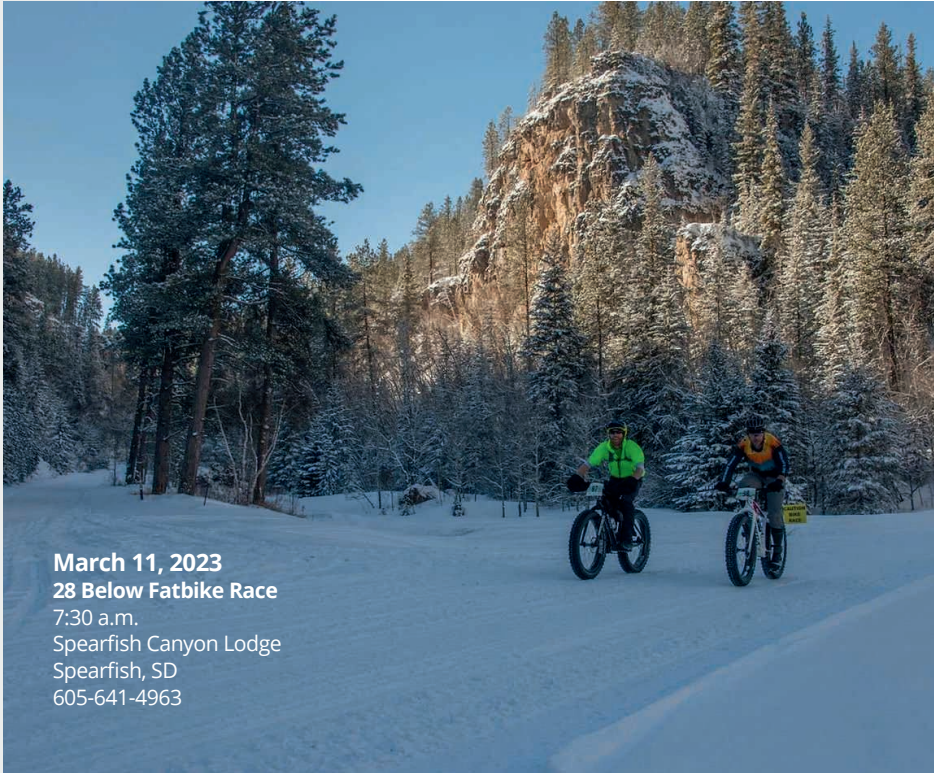
Renville-Sibley 2021 Energy Source Mix

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association, through its membership in East River Electric and Basin Electric Cooperative, is a part of the Southwest Power Pool. We believe that a responsible, reliable, affordable energy mix utilizes an "All of the Above" energy mix.

In 2021, just over 40% of our energy mix came from renewable energy. The chart here shows the 2021 East River Electric sales to all requirement members by fuel type.

Source: <https://rscpa.coop/energy-source-mix>
2022 Energy Source Mix will be available in April.





March 11, 2023
28 Below Fatbike Race
 7:30 a.m.
 Spearfish Canyon Lodge
 Spearfish, SD
 605-641-4963

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.

MARCH 1-7
"In Flanders Fields" Art Exhibit & Silent Auction
 Vermillion Public Library
 Vermillion, SD
 605-658-6654

MARCH 4
Annual Ag Day
 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Washington Pavilion
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-6000

MARCH 4
Hill City Arts Council: Live On Stage
 5:30 p.m.
 High Country Guest Ranch
 Hill City, SD
 605-574-2810

MARCH 11
28 Below Fatbike Race
 7:30 a.m.
 Spearfish Canyon Lodge
 Spearfish, SD

MARCH 18
Shamrock Shuffle Fun Run
 12 p.m.
 Main Street
 Presho, SD
 605-895-2559

MARCH 18
Shriners Kids Fun Day
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Scherr-Howe Event Center
 Mobridge, SD
 605-845-2500

MARCH 18
Hill City Arts Council: Live On Stage
 5:30 p.m.
 High Country Guest Ranch
 Hill City, SD
 605-574-2810

MARCH 21
Knee High Naturalist: Birds
 Peter Norbeck Outdoor Education Center
 Custer, SD

MARCH 24-25
Schmeckfest
 Freeman Academy Campus
 Freeman, SD
 605-321-7351

MARCH 25-26
Greater Sioux Falls Model Train Show
 Multi-Cultural Center
 Sioux Falls, SD

MARCH 30
"The Wildest Banquet Auction in the Midwest"
 5:30 p.m.
 South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-339-1203

MARCH 31-APRIL 2
70th Annual Hayes Play: Trouble in Tumbleweed
 Hayes Community Hall
 Hayes, SD
 605-280-6556

APRIL 1
East Dakota Chapter NWTf 30th Banquet
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-940-0702

APRIL 2-4
"The Psychic-a Murder Mystery of Sorts" Community Theater Performance
 Town Players Theater
 Watertown, SD
 605-882-2076

APRIL 21-22
Junkin' Market Days, Spring Market
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Building
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-941-4958

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