



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**RENVILLE-SIBLEY**

MAY VOL. 27 NO. 1

# COOPERATIVE

## CONNECTIONS



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Meatcutting in  
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# A message from Renville-Sibley Board Chair – Roger Manthei



Dear Members,

I hope this message finds you well. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, our 86th annual meeting scheduled for March 26th had to be cancelled. I regret that we were unable to connect in person, but I want to ensure you are kept informed about important updates from Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.

An outbound recorded call was made to all members to inform them about the cancellation of our annual meeting and to remind those who had not yet submitted their board election ballots to mail or drop them off at the Renville-Sibley office by April 15th. Ballots will be counted on April 16th, and the results will be posted on our website at [www.rscpa.coop](http://www.rscpa.coop). They will also be included in next month's newsletter. Regarding the rescheduling of the annual meeting, the board will discuss various options during their April meeting.

At our March board meeting, a decision was made to adjust rates, which will be reflected on your June invoices. Renville-Sibley will need to increase revenue for 2024 by over 2%, excluding the market rate load, simply to cover the increase we received this year in the cost of wholesale power. The market rate received an increase in January to cover the wholesale power impact tied to their load.

The last rate adjustment for members, excluding the market rate, occurred five years ago and was less than 1% at that time.

The general service monthly charge will be adjusted to \$48.00 and the small 3 phase monthly charge will increase to \$98.00. Controlled air conditioning and controlled grain drying energy rates will increase to 9 cents and the electric heat rate will increase to 6.5 cents per kilowatt hour. Additionally, the monthly meter charge for these special metered programs will increase to \$4.00. Off Peak Irrigation, Small 5/7 interruptible, curtailed, demand & energy rates will increase to 6.3 cents per kWh, and the Large 3 Phase rate will increase to 5.9 cents per kWh.

It's important to note that these rate adjustments are not intended to cover costs associated with the new facility. We

Single-Phase General Service Rate	
Monthly Customer Charge	
Previous	New
\$42 / month	\$48 / month

Small 3-Phase Rate	
Monthly Customer Charge	
Previous	New
\$92 / month	\$98 / month

Electric Heat, Controlled Air, and Controlled Grain Drying		
	Previous	New
Heat Energy	6.0 cents / kWh	6.5 cents / kWh
Controlled Air and Controlled Grain Drying	6.0 cents / kWh	9.0 cents / kWh
Monthly Meter Charge	\$2.50 / month	\$4.00 / month

Commercial Rates Energy Increase		
	Previous	New
Off Peak Irrigation	6.0 cents / kWh	6.3 cents / kWh
Small 5/7 interruptible	5.88 cents / kWh	6.3 cents / kWh
Small Curtailed	5.88 cents / kWh	6.3 cents / kWh
Small Demand & Energy	5.85 cents / kWh	6.3 cents / kWh
Large 3 Phase	5.38 cents / kWh	5.9 cents / kWh

will be using a portion of the revenue deferral to cover the associated depreciation and interest expenses in 2024. If you have questions or concerns about how these changes will affect you specifically, I encourage you to call the office at 800-826-2593 to schedule a call, meeting, or zoom with our CEO, DeeAnne Norris.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these times. We remain committed to providing reliable and affordable electricity to all our members.

# Notice:

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

The May board meeting will be held on  
Thursday, May 30 at 8 a.m.

**SUBMIT A LOCATE REQUEST**

Twin Cities Metro: (651)454-0002 Greater MN Area: (800)252-1166

...or go online at [www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://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

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

Gopher State One Call is the nonprofit corporation formed in 1987 by the enacting of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 2160. GSOC ensures the safety of all Minnesotans by receiving notices of intent to excavate from any person engaged in excavation activity and notifying underground facility operators who have requested notification in the areas of excavation.

## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

#### Board of Directors

Roger Manthei – Chair  
Whitey Hinderman – Vice Chair  
Wayland Zaske – Secretary/Treasurer  
Jeff Boersma  
Gary Eekhoff  
Vicky Firl  
Alan Neyers  
Gary Peterson  
Helen Ruebel

#### Renville-Sibley Employees

Gene Alex – 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  
Amy Ervin – Member and Board Services Representative  
Brayden Fischer – Journeyman Lineman  
DeeAnne Norris – CEO  
Clint Olson – Journeyman Lineman  
Kathy Ridl – Accounting Clerk  
Marc Snyder – Business Finance & Accounting  
Shane Suess – PT Janitor

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Your Safety Matters

## Prevent home electrical fires

Eight out of 10 fire-related deaths occur at home – the place that embodies comfort and security. That’s why it’s important to take steps to keep everyone safe.

Faulty or deteriorating electrical cords are a top cause of fires at home. Cords that become frayed or cracked can send sparks to flammable surfaces. Check your cords to ensure that they are in good shape, and replace any that are worn.

In addition, make sure you are not overloading circuits. If you’ve been in your home for more than 10 years, have your circuit breaker box inspected by a licensed electrician to tighten loose connections and check for overloaded circuits.



Homes with copper wiring need to be inspected every 20 years, and homes with aluminum wiring should be inspected every five years.

Check all Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets several times each year by pushing the test/reset button to be sure they are working properly.

If breakers are continually tripping or if fuses are blowing frequently, that’s a sign of potential trouble. The cause could be old wiring unable to handle the load demand of today’s modern appliances. If needed, ask a licensed electrician to install additional circuits for safety.

Use surge protectors and power bars to help prevent overloading an electrical outlet, plugging no more than three cords into the strip.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. We urge you to take the time and steps needed to lower the risks of electrical fires. Keep your family safe.



### Stay Away from Power Lines

#### Weston Koistinen, Age 6

Weston Koistinen warns readers to be safe by staying away from power lines. Weston’s parents are Dion and Stephanie Koistinen, members of H-D Electric Cooperative.

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.

# SUMMER CASSEROLES

## BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

### Ingredients:

- 1 5 oz. package croutons, any flavor
- 2 cup sharp Cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 lb. sausage, fried and drained
- 9 eggs
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1 tbsp. mustard

### Method

Spray 9x13 pan with vegetable oil. Arrange croutons on bottom. Sprinkle cheese over croutons and put sausage over cheese. Combine eggs, milk and mustard. Beat to blend and pour into pan. Bake covered at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Janet Ochsner  
Box Elder, S.D.

## CHICKEN CASSEROLE

### Ingredients:

- 1 package Chicken Stove Top Stuffing mix
- 3 cups cooked cut up chicken
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups chicken broth

### Method

Grease a 9x13 pan and put 1/2 of the stuffing mix in the pan. Cover with chicken. Combine soups and milk and spoon over chicken. Spread other 1/2 of stuffing over the top. Pour 2 cups of chicken broth over all and spread with beaten eggs. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Gail Lee  
Brookings, S.D.

## TACO CASSEROLE

### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef
- 1 package taco seasoning mix
- 1 can (16 oz.) pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 oz.) tomato sauce
- 1 can (11 oz.) whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup coarsely crushed tortilla chips

### Method

Preheat oven to 400°F. Brown meat in large skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat. Stir in seasoning mix, beans, tomato sauce and corn. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Spoon into 2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese and tortilla chips. Bake 5 to 10 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with assorted toppings, if desired.

McCormick

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 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

## Do Not Overlook Overhead Power Lines

It can be easy to overlook things that we see every day, including overhead power lines. However, failure to notice overhead lines can be deadly. If you or an object you are touching contacts or gets too close to a power line, you could be seriously injured or killed. 956100

Overhead power lines require 10 feet of clearance in all directions. This distance rule applies to the power lines draped from pole to pole that line roads (distribution lines), as well as the drop-down lines that service homes or other structures.

If your job requires you to operate equipment in the vicinity of large transmission lines and towers, they require even more clearance than distribution and drop-down lines. That clearance is determined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA mandates line clearance distances for all types of power lines.

Be mindful of overhead power lines when completing the following tasks:

### Home Maintenance

Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long tools, such as ladders, pool skimmers and pruning poles. Lower long tools and equipment before moving or transporting them. Other safety tips include:

- Carry ladders and other long items horizontally whenever possible.
- Be careful when working on or around your roof.
- Never go on a roof in windy or bad weather.

### Yard Work

When trimming trees, do not allow yourself or trimmers to come within 10 feet of overhead power lines, including service lines to your home or outbuilding. Also:

- Do not trim trees near power lines; instead, leave this to certified line clearance tree trimmers.
- Do not use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines.

### Farming

Review power line locations and other potential electrical hazards with all workers at morning safety meetings. Equipment that could get too close or contact a power pole or line includes sprayer tips, tall equipment, dump trucks, augers and other extensions.

### At Work

Follow all OSHA distance requirements when operating dump trucks, cranes, concrete pump truck extensions and when working on a roof or in a bucket.

### Other Reminders

- Do not come within 50 feet of a downed or damaged power line. Warn others to stay away. Call 9-1-1 to report it.
- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could come in contact when weight is added to the branch.

Look up and look out for overhead power lines. Contact can happen in an instant. For additional electrical safety tips, go to [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

**DON'T LET POWER LINES become part of the landscape**

### 3 Types of Overhead Lines

- Transmission Lines
- Distribution Lines
- Service Drop Lines

Regardless of the type or voltage, any power line can kill if the path of the electrical current is disrupted.

Always look up and look out for power lines when working outdoors.

Be careful any time you go up, whether it be on a ladder, scissor lift or in a cherry picker.

### Also look for power lines when:

- Operating a crane, concrete pump truck
- Raising a truck bed
- Using any long tool or equipment that extends

Learn more at: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

# Renville-Sibley Welcomes New Director



**Vicky Firle**

As a newly appointed director, I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve our cooperative membership. Attending the New Director Orientation was an invaluable experience that has equipped me with some of the knowledge and resources needed to effectively contribute to the success of our cooperative and it is an honor to be entrusted with this responsibility.

During the orientation, I had the privilege of participating in various sessions and engaging with industry experts and cooperative leaders. The agenda was packed with informative and insightful presentations that covered a wide range of topics relevant to our cooperative's governance and operations.

One of the highlights of the orientation was the opportunity to meet and interact with the senior leaders of CFC, NRECA, NRTC, and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. Their willingness to listen to our challenges and circumstances



was truly valuable. We had conversations about the issues on our radar screen and the unique challenges facing our cooperative. It was reassuring to know that these national organizations are dedicated to supporting us and providing resources and initiatives that can assist our cooperative.

Particularly impactful was the session focused on safety. Safety is paramount in our industry! We learned about the benefits of instilling a culture of safety at our cooperative and the crucial role that directors play in that effort. The session was led by the President & CEO of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, Phil Irwin, who provided valuable insights and guidance.

Throughout the orientation, we delved into advocacy, governance concepts, legal issues, and financial policies, providing us with a comprehensive understanding of our



responsibilities as directors.

In addition to the educational sessions, the orientation provided ample networking opportunities. I had the chance to connect with fellow new directors from different cooperatives across the nation and exchange ideas and experiences. These networking opportunities fostered collaboration and allowed us to learn from one another.

I am grateful for the resources and support provided by NRECA and CFC. The speaker directory and the various certificate programs offered by NRECA are valuable tools for continuous learning and professional development. Additionally, CFC's Solutions News Bulletin and podcasts keep us updated on the latest cooperative and economic news.

As I embark on this journey, I am eager to apply what I've learned and collaborate with my fellow directors to ensure the success and sustainability of our cooperative. While there is much to learn, I embrace the challenge and opportunity to serve our cooperative membership diligently.

Together, let us work towards a prosperous future for our cooperative.





Patsy Besson helps package fresh cuts of meat at the Wall Meat Processing plant.  
Photo Credit: Shannon Marvel

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## Wall Meats Revives Local Meatcutting in South Dakota Through New Underwood Expansion

**Shannon Marvel**

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

A local meat processing plant is expanding its footprint in Pennington County in a way that will put more locally produced protein on dinner tables and bolster the local meat processing workforce throughout South Dakota.

The man behind this plan is local business owner Ken Charfauros, who owns Wall Meat Processing, which has locations in Wall and Rapid City.

Charfauros is currently raising funds through a capital drive campaign to finance the construction of a 30,000 square foot meat processing facility in New Underwood. The new facility will help train the next generation of meat processors through a partnership with Western Dakota Tech in Rapid City.

“We are at \$2.8 million in our drive. We also have the \$3.3 million USDA Rural Development grant, which is a meat and poultry expansion plan grant. We are about \$200,000 short of our goal,” Charfauros said.

He added that the New Underwood processing plant will also use funding from the Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program (MPILP), which according to the USDA’s website “provides grant funding to intermediary lenders who finance – or plan to finance – the start-up, expansion, or operation of slaughter, or other processing of meat and poultry. The objective of the MPILP is to strengthen the financing capacity for independent meat processors, and to create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain.”

Charfauros said he’s still meeting with potential investors and has a financial team focused on creating relationships with local ag producers.

“After we get our capital drive, the plan itself will be about \$21 million,” he added. “And then we start the project. The groundbreaking is going to happen in about a year and the facility will begin operations six months after that.”

Charfauros said he expects to purchase the property to site the new plant this spring.

### Returning to a Passion

Wall Meats Processing opened for business 57 years ago, but



Charfauros took ownership over the facility in 2017. His passion for meat cutting began when he was a teenager while working for a local meat plant in Delaware.

“It was my high school job and I loved it. After I graduated high school, I felt that my country needed me, so I joined the Air Force and did 30 years. But I always missed that part of my life,” Charfauros recalled.

“A guy that taught me how to cut was like my second dad, and I always wanted to come back to it. My son had just graduated from South Dakota State University, and I had retired from the Air Force. That’s when we decided to buy a plant.”

His son manages the store in Rapid City while Ken’s three nephews help run the family’s businesses in Wall, which include Wall Meats and the Red Rock restaurant.

## Supporting Local Producers

Building the new facility has been a challenging venture that’s been years in the making.

“We started building this plan about four years ago, then COVID hit and got in our way. Then, we were lucky enough to get those grant awards last year, and ever since we have been working diligently to get the format right,” Charfauros said.

“I have drawings. I have an equipment list all put together — everything is ready to go except for this capital drive that we are undergoing.”

Charfauros said he has been meeting with both potential and locked-in investors daily over the last year to produce the required financing.

“We have met with over 600 people with 99 percent of those people being producers, because this is all for them. This plant offers them premium pricing above the market rates,” Charfauros said.

While the cattle market is high now, Charfauros remains realistic that the market can change for the worse.

While he hopes the market remains high enough for producers to survive, his partnership with producers will serve as

added security. That means the partnership must be tightknit.

He knows he cannot do it alone.

## Reviving a Dying Art

“Meat cutting is a dying art, and we teach meat processing at our store in Rapid City to bring that art back. We’re trying to fight for that industry as it is,” he said.

Three meat processing students are currently being taught at the Rapid City facility through a partnership with Western Dakota Tech, which recently began offering the two-year program.

Pam Stillman-Rokusek, director of communications and marketing at Western Dakota Tech, said three students are currently enrolled in the Meat Processing program. Of those three, two will graduate in May.

But the college is still working on more outreach.

“Enrollment has been a bit low in the program, so the plan is for a hiatus this fall. They’ll revamp the curriculum. Then, we will certainly do additional outreach. We have done advertising, gone to the schools. We have reached out to 4-H

groups and done some traveling, but we need to turn it up a notch to produce more students in the program. That is our goal,” Stillman-Rokusek said.

Despite the Meat Processing program being put on hiatus, the school will still ensure that the remaining student completes the program while actively working on developing the program and outreach methods.

“There’s such a high need for meat processors and we’re looking at different ways to fill that gap. It’s something we’re committed to doing,” she added.

The goal is to enroll at least five students in the following school years when the program restarts.

The learning center that will be built within the New Underwood facility will also teach producers, in addition to students, the art of meat cutting.

“We are trying to bring that industry back to what it should be—regionally processed protein,” Charfauros said.

“That means we must build the environment to spark that passion. In anything you do, you need to learn how to do it the right way.”



Wall Meat Processing plant, established in 1957. Photo Credit: Shannon Marvel

Source: Consumer Reports

## Making the Switch to **ELECTRIC LAWN EQUIPMENT**

Considering electric equipment to maintain your outdoor space? Check out the benefits of electric and considerations before making the switch.



### Benefits of Electric Equipment

- Battery-powered equipment produces zero emissions
- No hassle and mess from gasoline and oil
- Quieter and more reliable than gas-powered equipment
- Require less energy to do the same amount of work as gas-powered tools

### Considerations Before Going Electric

- Purchasing from a single brand can streamline charging
- Consider the size of your property and battery run time
- Backup batteries may be needed for larger properties
- Electric equipment is pricier up front

## 5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

### 1. **Raise your thermostat.**

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

### 2. **Install window coverings**

like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.

3. **Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping** around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.

4. **Run ceiling fans** for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.

5. **Lower your water heater thermostat** to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.



Source: Dept. of Energy

# March Board Meeting Highlights

The March board meeting was held on Thursday, March 21 at 8 a.m. All board members were present other than Jeff Boersma and Helen Ruebel. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Attorney Jeff Whitmore, Gene Alex, and Amy Ervin.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the February 27 board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of February
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Safety Report for February– no report this month
- 2023 Financial Audit Report
- Rate Increase

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:

- o High-level Statement of Operations review – YTD through February (unaudited)
- o Organization activities
- o East River update
- o Basin Electric update
- o NRECA update
- o MREA update
- o Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
- o Accounts Receivable
- Annual Meeting
- RESCO Request for Director Candidate Nominations
- CFC Section 4 At-Large Request for Director Candidate

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

## THANK YOU

Thank you to John Sperl for providing lunch for us while working at your place! – Linemen Brad and Mike

## NOTICE TO CO-GENERATORS

In compliance with Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association's (RSCPA) adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, RSCPA is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers, whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. RSCPA is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the RSCPA Board. Interested members should contact Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association, PO Box 68, 515 Hwy 212 W, Danube, MN 56230, or call 800-826-2593.

## FOR SALE:

Grass fed, grass finished beef. Burger-Individual Cuts-Quarters-Halves when available. Call for pricing.

Dave Pastoors  
Olivia, MN 56277  
320-522-4851





# CYBERSECURITY ON THE GRID

**Frank Turner**

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Imagine sitting at your desk on a typical Monday morning. You have logged into your computer with coffee in hand, ready to tackle the day. But as you begin, your computer displays an ominous message: “Your files have been encrypted. Pay a ransom to regain access.” It’s not just your computer; your co-workers have received the same message. Overnight, the entire office has fallen victim

to a ransomware attack that has locked away critical data. Your office computers will remain unusable until a payment is made.

This scenario, among others, has become a primary concern for workplaces everywhere, including electric cooperatives. As a result, local co-ops are taking action in the cybersecurity space to prevent bad actors from disrupting the critical goal of delivering power that is safe, affordable and reliable to their members. Electric co-ops are focused

on enhancing cybersecurity resilience and readiness to defend against potential cyber threats.

Co-ops are routinely monitoring and managing cyber risks, working with federal and local law enforcement agencies and the North American Electric Reliability Corp. to protect critical infrastructure. By working as a network, co-ops are enhancing grid resilience, ensuring reliable electricity for their members.

According to an FBI Internet Crime Report, the U.S. reported more than \$12.5 billion in annual losses in 2023 due to cyberattacks like the one described. A significant number of these attacks target the elderly and vulnerable. When breaking down the losses by age group, individuals aged

20 to 29 accounted for \$360.7 million of the total losses, while those 60 and older incurred losses of \$3.4 billion in 2023 alone.

And it's not just about the money. These attacks also have the potential to undermine the stability of entire systems, including the electrical grid. This year, directors of the FBI, NSA, and CISA testified before Congress about Chinese Communist Party hacking groups that had gained access to the electric grid and other critical infrastructure to "wreak havoc and cause real-world harm to American citizens and communities."

"Many cyberattacks are conducted by criminals trying to steal money or collect a ransom," explains Chief Security and Compliance Officer Daniel Graham of Basin Electric Power Cooperative. "Nation-states

target electric utilities for different reasons. Some nation-states want to steal intellectual property. Others want to be able to disrupt our electric grid."

So how is it done? To execute their schemes, bad actors employ a long list of complex strategies and techniques, such as phishing, data breaches and malware to adversely impact their targets. Business email compromise, one of the most common techniques, occurs when an impostor poses as a legitimate business contact, seeking to steal sensitive information such as credit card numbers, bank account information or login credentials.

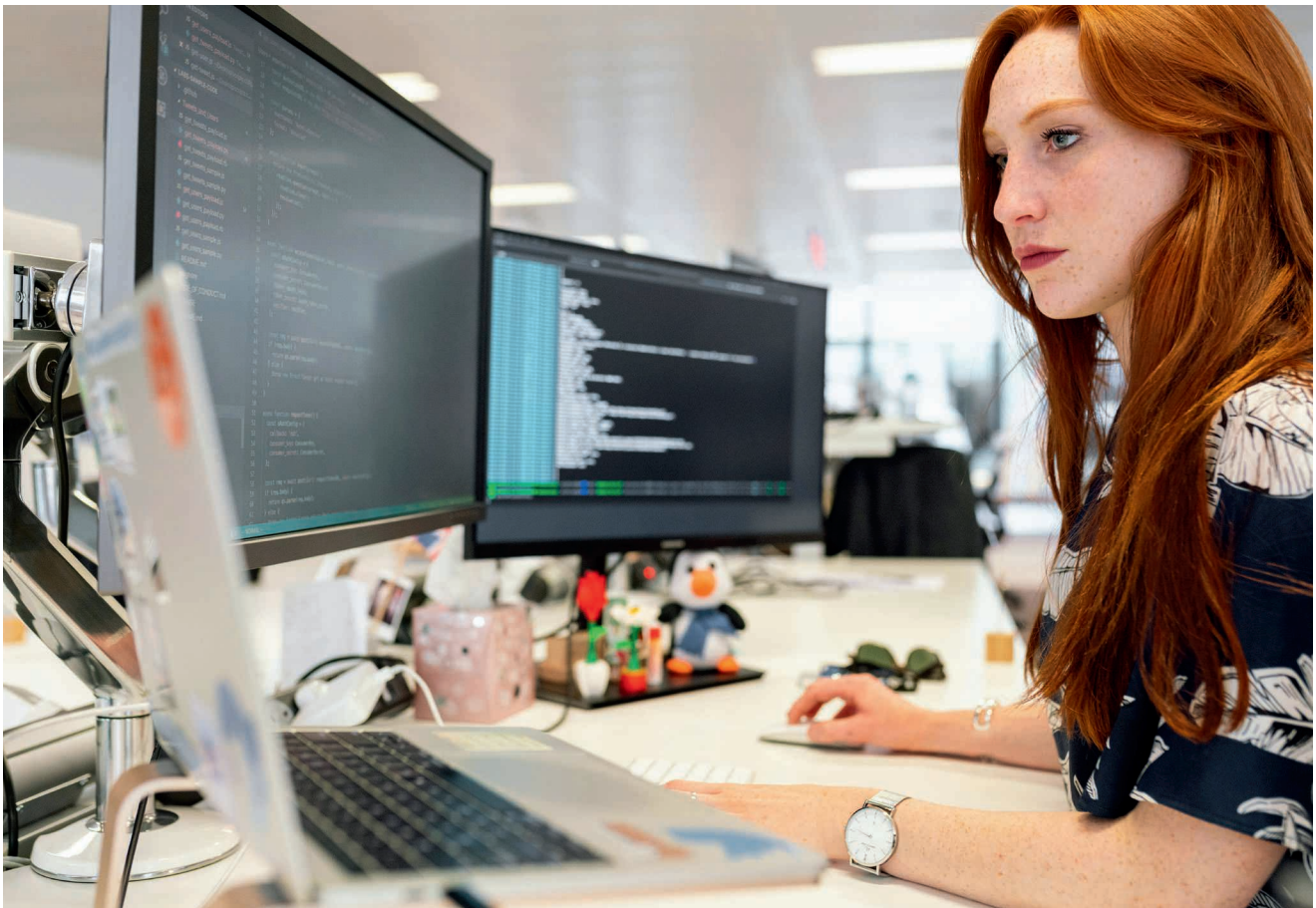
Luckily, co-ops are implementing a variety of tools, policies and training to help mitigate attacks and secure the grid. Programs like NRECA's Co-op Cyber Goals Program help co-ops build fundamental cybersecurity

measures, such as employee training, developing cyber incident response plans, and regular self-assessment. These strategies help co-ops reduce the risk of a successful cyberattack in the ongoing battle against cybercrime.

"Additionally, co-ops can conduct cybersecurity exercises to determine the effectiveness of current defenses and practice responses," Graham says.

Despite these efforts, the threat of a successful cyberattack persists, making vigilance an essential component of effective cybersecurity.

"If you see something suspicious, report it to your cooperative," explains Graham. "Electric co-ops are an essential part of our country's critical infrastructure. We can best protect our electric grid by working with each other."



# Scholar of the Month

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Mazzarine Self on being selected as the March Scholar of the Month. Mazzarine, a senior at Renville County West High School is a bright young woman of strong character and bold confidence that will carry her far in life. She is mature, thoughtful, and looked up to as a role model by her peers. Her strong academics and community involvement are indicators of her determination to do her best and live life to the fullest. Mazzy challenges herself by taking College Now classes, she is a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, FFA, Dance, and Softball. She has emerged as a bright figure of competent leadership, paving the way for herself and her classmates into the future. Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Mazzarine Self as the March Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month.



Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Mazzarine Self as the March Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month.

## WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month RSCPA member did not find their member number in the newsletter. The value of the energy credit will be increased to \$90. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 1st of May, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

## REMINDER

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2024 or 2025 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.

### Comparative Report

	Current YTD	One Year Ago YTD	10 Years Ago YTD
Average # of Consumers	1,880	1,879	1,914
kWhs purchased	16,343,118	16,649,117	18,492,649
Cost of purchased power	\$1,030,252.63	\$1,066,922.68	\$982,026.33

## 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

## OPERATION ROUND UP

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.

Applications for donations can be found at [rscpa.coop/operation-round](http://rscpa.coop/operation-round). Contact the office at 320-826-2593 for more information.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: energystar.gov

## Mission Statement

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

## 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](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



**MAY 11, 2024**  
**Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**  
 Falls Park  
 Sioux Falls, SD

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.

**APRIL 27**  
**66th Annual Lions Pancake Jamboree**  
 7 a.m.-1 p.m.  
 Masonic Hall  
 112 E 5th Ave.  
 Mitchell, SD

**MAY 4-5**  
**Flea Market**  
 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
 Rustic Designs & More  
 Ethan, SD  
 605-770-2411

**MAY 4-12**  
**Spring Show**  
 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
 Rustic Designs & More  
 Ethan, SD  
 605-770-2411

**MAY 11**  
**"Summer Shakes" Midwest Sprint Touring Series**  
 7 p.m.  
 Dakota State Fair Speedway  
 Huron, SD

**MAY 20-JUNE 10**  
**Central Electric Cooperative District Meetings**  
 Dates & locations on page 15

**JUNE 6**  
**"Wild Race Car Night" Wheel Jam**  
 7 p.m.  
 Dakota State Fair Speedway  
 Huron, SD

**JUNE 8**  
**"Challenge Cup XXII" Wheel Jam**  
 7 p.m.  
 Dakota State Fair Speedway  
 Huron, SD

**JUNE 13**  
**IHS Health Fair**  
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 Fort Thompson, SD

**JUNE 15**  
**1st Annual CheeseFest**  
 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Farm Life Creamery  
 Ethan, SD

**JUNE 21-23**  
**Scavenger's Journey**  
 Yard sales, farmer's markets & specialty shops  
 Wall to Wagner  
[www.scavengersjourney.com](http://www.scavengersjourney.com)

**JUNE 22**  
**Alexandria Car Show**  
 Sponsored by Alexandria Fire District  
 Facebook.com/  
[alexandriafiredistrictSD](https://www.facebook.com/alexandriafiredistrictSD)  
 Alexandria, SD

**JUNE 22**  
**Huron MS Walk/Run**  
 8 a.m.  
 Huron Country Club  
 Huron, SD

**JUNE 28-30**  
**Donnie Days**  
 Stickney, SD

**JULY 20**  
**1st Annual John Zens Memorial Parade**  
 Epiphany, SD

**JULY 20**  
**S.D. MCC Relief Sale Food Court, Bake Sale, Live Auction & Silent Auction**  
 Free Admission & Parking  
 Pioneer Hall  
 Freeman, SD  
 605-925-7009

**AUG. 6-8**  
**Minnesota Farmfest**  
 Gilfillan Estate  
 Morgan, MN

**AUG. 7-9**  
**Renville County Fair**  
 Renville County Fairgrounds  
 Bird Island, MN

**AUG. 8**  
**Renville County Family-a-Fair Night (Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association Members**  
 Renville County Fairgrounds  
 Bird Island, MN

**AUG. 11**  
**Czech Heritage Festival**  
 Bechn, MN

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