

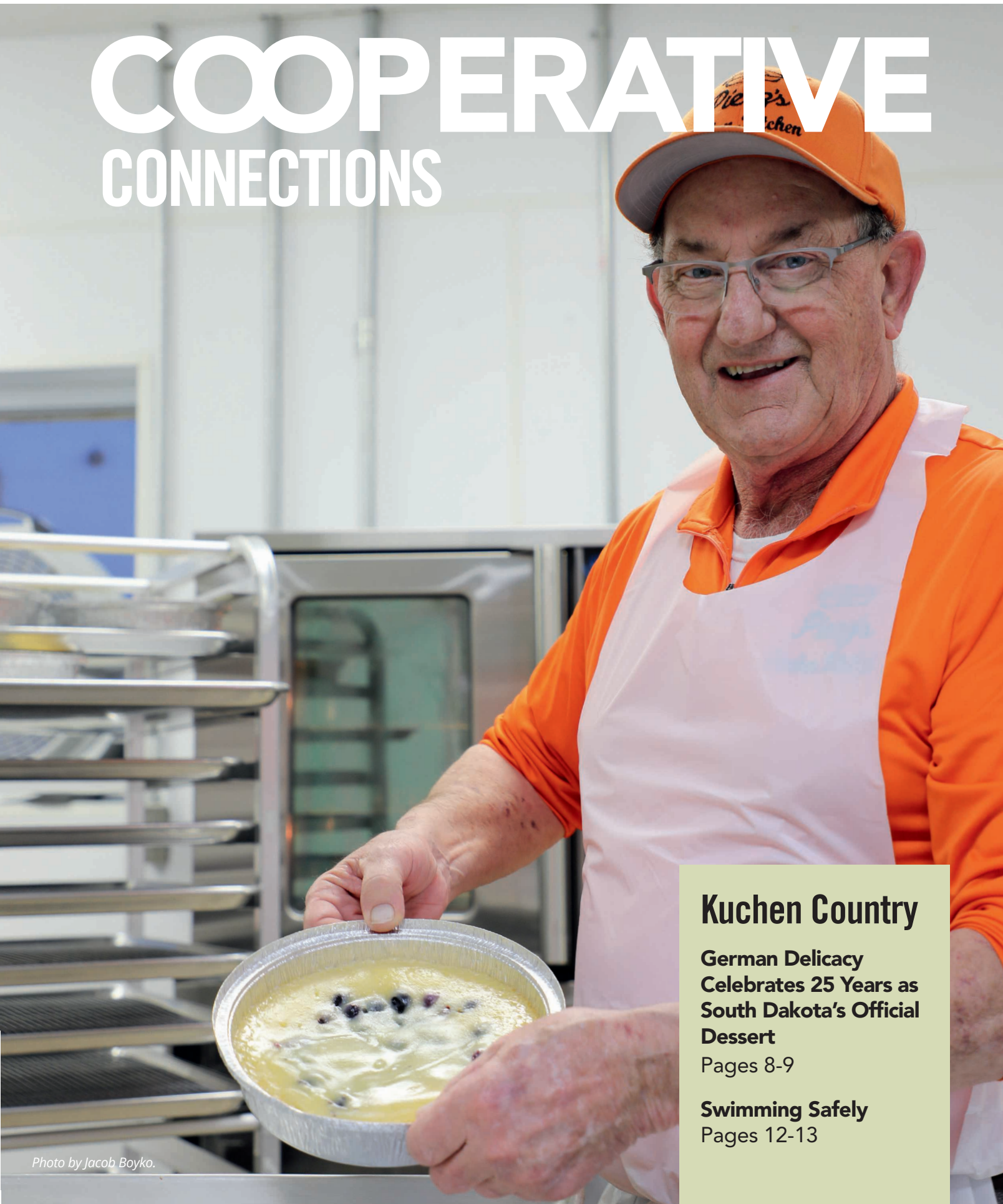


A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**RENVILLE-SIBLEY**  
JUNE 2025 VOL. 26 NO. 2

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## **Kuchen Country**

**German Delicacy  
Celebrates 25 Years as  
South Dakota's Official  
Dessert**

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**Swimming Safely**  
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Photo by Jacob Boyko.

# Line Crew Activities



**Gene Alex**  
Line Superintendent

Greetings from Renville-Sibley!

I would like to update you on the latest activities and projects our line crews have been working on this year, as well as our plans for the remainder of 2025.

Our line workers use an overhead line patrol app during the winter months. This app helps us gather information on broken conductors, poles, insulators, wires, trees, and leaning poles, and we track issues that need repair.

STAR Energy Services conducts our below-ground pole testing. We are in the seventh year of a 10-year pole inspection plan, with the rejection rate at five percent last year. The line workers will spend much of April and May changing these poles. Our goal is to test approximately 1,700 poles in 2025, primarily using a ranger or other 4-wheeled off-road vehicles. The inspector will be in Norfolk, Beaver Falls, and Henryville townships this year. Please call the office if you have any questions during this process.

We completed a biannual inspection of all line regulators in March. A line regulator maintains proper voltages to your service, boosting voltage if needed or holding it back if the transmission system is too high. We rely on East River Electric and other testing contractors for any regulator repairs.

This spring, we also conducted our annual inspection of equipment. Federal requirements mandate that trucks over 26,000 pounds, as well as any trailer combined with these trucks, undergo DOT inspections.

Our 2025 system projects include a 2-mile overhead-to-underground conversion in Troy township south of Olivia. Another project involves upgrading 2 miles of overhead single-phase line to underground three phase in the Olivia area. This will be a main contingency line between the Troy and Kingman substations. We have a 4-mile single phase overhead to underground project in Henryville township. This project starts 1 mile East of the Henryville substation and continues East for 4 miles. Other projects include a 0.5-mile underground project in Flora township.

We have received several member requests for service upgrades. If you are considering a service upgrade, please contact us as soon as possible. Transformer lead times are 30 weeks for single-phase and 8 months for a three-phase unit. Underground

cable and overhead wire lead times are still 26 weeks. Material lead times may vary depending on your project. We will review your project and return a quote as soon as possible, though we may have some questions during this process. For instance, we might need to know how much load you are adding to an existing system, whether you are moving or building a new service, or who your electrician is. The Minnesota Electrical Inspector must visit the site if there are any changes or alterations to the service. The quoting process can take up to three weeks or longer, depending on equipment quotes from our vendors.

We have a contracted locating service for our underground utilities. If you wonder, "Why didn't the lines get marked in my yard?" It is because Renville-Sibley owns the lines from the distribution system to the meter, while members own any lines after the meter. It is the member's responsibility to locate the lines on their side of the meter. Member-owned locating requests should be handled by your chosen electrician. Additionally, always call Gopher State One Call (GSOC) at least 48 hours before any excavation. The GSOC phone number is 1-800-252-1166 or visit [www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org).

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the energy used to power the oven or stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!


Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

# In Case of Power Outage

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

1. Check the fuses or circuit breakers in your home, including those on the meter pole, to see if they have blown or tripped. Make sure your entire farm site is without power and not just one building. Members may be billed a service call if the trouble is caused by the member's own fuses or equipment.
2. Call your neighbor. If their power is also off, then it is probably a
3. line outage.
3. Report your power outage. Have your member number available to assist with a prompt response
4. Call the Renville-Sibley Office number: 320-826-2593 or 800-826-2593. If you call at a time other than the regular business hours, the phone will be answered by the Cooperative Response Center (CRC). CRC will dispatch a crew to your location.


Cancel
New Contact
Done


Add Photo

First name

Last name

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Assoc...


work > (320) 826-2593

## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

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

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# Summer Safety

## Mosquitoes and Ticks

*Source: American Red Cross*

Don't let mosquitoes and ticks ruin your carefree summer fun. As we spend more time outdoors for activities like camping, hiking, swimming, picnicking and barbecuing, there is a greater chance of getting bitten by mosquitoes and ticks. According to the American Mosquito Control Association there are 176 known species of mosquito in the U.S. – putting Americans at risk from coast to coast. And while mosquitoes may be the most obvious detractor from summer fun – ticks are silent but dangerous. Most active during warmer months (April to September), it is especially important to be vigilant of blacklegged ticks, more commonly known as deer ticks, especially if you live in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, North-central or Northwest.

Mosquitoes and ticks are more than just itchy and annoying – if infected, these pests can pose a major health risk to people by possibly transmitting diseases. Follow these tips to prevent mosquito and tick bites this summer:

- Use insect repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) when you are outdoors. Be sure to follow the directions on the package.
- Consider staying indoors at dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants and tuck your pant legs into your socks or boots.



*Photo by Jimmy Chan*

- Use a rubber band or tape to hold pants against socks so that nothing can get under clothing.
- Tuck your shirt into your pants. Wear light-colored clothing to make it easier to see tiny insects or ticks.
- When hiking in woods and fields, stay in the middle of trails. Avoid underbrush and tall grass.
- If you are outdoors for a long time, check yourself several times during the day. Especially check in hairy areas of the body like the back of the neck and the scalp line.
- Inspect yourself carefully for insects or ticks after being outdoors or have someone else do it.
- If you have pets that go outdoors, spray with repellent made for their breed/type. Apply the repellent according to the label and check your pet for ticks often.
- Get rid of mosquito breeding sites by emptying sources of standing water outside of the home, such as from flowerpots, buckets and barrels.



### "Never Touch a Power Line!!"

#### Kashton Schecher, Age 7

Kashton cautions readers not to touch power lines. Thank you for your picture, Kashton! Kashton's parents are Brad and Brooke Schecher from Bison, 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.



# SOUPS & SALADS

## GERMAN KRAUT SOUP

### Ingredients:

2 pork steaks  
Water  
1 diced onion  
3 stalks celery  
1 large carrot  
Butter  
6 diced potatoes  
1 qt. sauerkraut  
3 cups heavy cream  
Salt and pepper (to taste)

### Method

Gently simmer pork steaks in about three cups of water until done. (You can substitute other meat you have on hand – left over roasts or Polish sausage is nice). Dice meat. Sauté onion, celery and carrots in butter. In a Crock-Pot, add four cups of water, potatoes, sautéed veggies, diced meat and sauerkraut. Cook on low four to six hours until potatoes are tender. Add cream, salt and pepper. Transfer to a serving dish to share and enjoy!

**Kari Bevers**  
Cotington-Clark Electric Member

## BLACK BEAN SALAD

### Ingredients:

3 tbsps. lemon juice  
1 clove garlic (minced)  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
3/4 tsp. ground cumin  
2 tbsps. olive oil  
(2)15 oz. cans black beans (drained and rinsed)  
1 pt. cherry tomatoes (halved)  
4 scallions or green onions  
1 yellow or green bell pepper (cut into thin strips)  
3 tbsps. fresh cilantro or parsley (chopped)

### Method

In a small bowl, stir together lemon juice, garlic, salt, pepper and cumin until salt is dissolved. Slowly whisk in oil until dressing mixture thickens. In a large bowl combine beans, tomatoes, scallions or onions, peppers and cilantro or parsley. Toss with dressing to coat. Let stand at least 15 minutes before serving. \*Makes 6 servings.

**Reta Eidem**  
Clay-Union Electric Member

## LASAGNA SOUP

### Ingredients:

1 lb. lean ground beef  
1 cup chopped onion  
1 can (28 oz.) petite diced tomatoes, undrained  
1 can (15 oz.) tomato sauce  
2 tbsp. garlic, herb and black pepper and sea salt all purpose seasoning  
1 container (32 oz.) chicken stock, (4 cups)  
8 oz. (about 10) lasagna noodles, broken into small pieces

### Method

Brown ground beef in large saucepan on medium heat. Drain fat. Add onion; cook and stir 2 to 3 minutes or until softened.

Stir in tomatoes, tomato sauce, Seasoning and stock. Bring to boil. Add lasagna noodle pieces; cook 6 to 7 minutes or until noodles are tender.

Ladle soup into serving bowls. Serve with dollops of ricotta cheese and sprinkle with shredded mozzarella 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 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

# Kill-a-Watt Device

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

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

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



## Operation Round Up

At the April Operation Round Up board meeting, the Board of Trustees awarded four (4) donations to local non-profit organizations. A \$500 donation was given to MACCRAY After Prom to support post-prom activities. A \$500 donation was also given to 2B Continued for suicide prevention tools to be used in area schools as well as in the community. A third \$500 donation was given to Sibley County Public Health & Human Services for their child car seat clinics. Lastly, a \$500 donation was given to the Youth Firebird Association to help promote extracurricular activities at the elementary and middle school levels.

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 July 15, 2025. The deadline for applications is July 1.

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



## 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



**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 216D. 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.





Pietz's Kuchen Kitchen & Specialties employees Amanda Garcia and Myra Bachman with owners Lori and Roger Pietz.  
Photo by Jacob Boyko

# SOUTH DAKOTA IS KUCHEN COUNTRY

## German Delicacy Celebrates 25 Years as State's Official Dessert

**Jacob Boyko**

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

On a brisk spring morning, balls of dough rise hours before the sun. One at a time, they're placed onto a press and flattened before being positioned into tins. Carefully, Lori Pietz ladles custard overtop, sprinkles in fruit, and passes off a tray of the desserts to her husband, Roger, for baking. As Roger pulls open the door of the stainless steel commercial oven, a wave of heat emanates across the kitchen. He slides the tray of five desserts onto a shelf in the oven, then removes another tray and sets it aside to cool before they begin packaging.

Roger and Lori will repeat this process at least 100 more times this morning to keep up with their customers' orders.

In the town of Scotland, northwest of Yankton, Pietz's Kuchen Kitchen & Specialties is one business that has turned South Dakotans' love for kuchen – a

delectable unification of cake, custard and pie – into a thriving business.

Kuchen, the German word for cake, has been a staple at European kitchen tables for centuries. The delicacy has stood the test of time, continuing to serve as a tea-time – or any-time – favorite across cultures and continents, especially right here in South Dakota.

"I think it's because of the population, because the greatest proportion of immigrants (in South Dakota) are the Germans from Russia," co-owner Lori Pietz said of kuchen's popularity. "There are German areas, there are Czech areas, there are Norwegian areas — but there are a lot of Germans from Russia."

Roger comes from one of those German-Russian families where the tradition of baking homemade kuchen has been passed down for generations.

"I watched my mother make kuchen as a little kid," Roger remembered. "I'd stand a little ways from the oven and I'd watch

her make it and I loved it."

Staying true to his German-Russian roots, Roger's love for kuchen never faded. After marrying Lori, Roger remembers telling her that if he could ever recreate his mother's kuchen recipe, he could probably market it and sell it.

Owning a kuchen shop was always a retirement dream, the couple recalled. But after going through several farm accidents, the Pietzs' decided to pivot in 2008. Trading plows for whisks, Pietz's Kuchen became a reality.

The operation quickly outgrew their make-shift basement kitchen, so Roger and Lori opened up a storefront and commercial kitchen in the nearby town of Scotland in 2011.

Today, the store ships an estimated 2,500 kuchen monthly to grocery stores, butcher shops, and restaurants across South Dakota and the Midwest.

Roger and Lori's kuchen offerings range from Americanized options – blueberry, peach, strawberry – to the more traditional blends of 18th and 19th century Europe, including rhubarb,

prune and cottage cheese.

Lori explained that historically kuchen was made using ingredients that were readily available, making it the ideal comfort-food and cultural dish for immigrants building their lives on South Dakota farms.

“There are a lot of Germans from Russia who brought rhubarb over with them, so they made a lot of rhubarb kuchen,” Lori said. “Flour and sugar were available, and they all had chickens and cows, so that’s kind of how it kept going.”

Lori didn’t grow up eating much kuchen. Her mother, who was of Czech descent, favored fluffy pastries called kolaches – filled with jam, poppy seeds or cream cheese.

But once Lori joined the Pietz family, she saw an opportunity to bridge both traditions. Drawing on the popularity of poppy seed kolaches in the Czech community, she created a Czech-inspired twist: poppy seed kuchen.

“There’s a lot of Czech people out there that like poppy seed kolaches,” Roger said. “And when they hear there’s poppy seed kuchen, they’re buying it.”

Kuchen’s footprint in South Dakota extends far beyond Scotland. Annual events like the Kuchen Festival in Delmont and Schmeckfest in Freeman invite locals and visitors alike to sample a variety of recipes and baking styles.

In McPherson County, the town of Eureka also has a reputation for being a kuchen-tasting hot spot, with several local kitchens offering their own takes on the dish.

South Dakotans’ love for kuchen runs so deep that it’s been codified into law; In 2000, State Sen. James Lawler, whose district included Eureka, helped lead the charge in Pierre to designate kuchen as the official state dessert.

Lawler, who once served as a judge for a local kuchen contest in Eureka, said the bill was part of a broader push to support local industries and breathe new life into small towns.

“The town of Eureka really got behind me and supported that bill,” Lawler recalled. “Those women up there got together and made enough kuchen for the whole legislature, and we fed them all and got the bill passed.”

A framed commemorative print of that bill hangs on the wall by the checkout counter in Roger and Lori’s shop – a tribute to all of the kuchen fans who have made their business what it is today.

“If you asked me 15 years ago what our business was going to be...I’d have said we’d sell a few,” Roger laughed. “I thought if it flopped, my friends would buy some from me and they wouldn’t let me down. Never did I anticipate this. Never. It’s just unbelievable.”

## The Germans From Russia

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Russian leaders made an appeal to German families to emigrate to Russia, promising land, religious freedom and military service exemptions.

According to the Prairie Public Broadcasting documentary, *The Germans From Russia: Children of the Steppe*, Children of the Prairie, the first wave of German immigrants arrived in 1764 during the reign of Catherine the Great. For Catherine, this was strategic; adding population to the sparser areas of her empire not only developed Russia’s agricultural economy, but also helped create a buffer against invaders from central Asia.

The settlements dotted the Volga River in Russia and the Black Sea in modern Ukraine and Crimea. The German villages closely resembled the communities they left behind as well as the ones they’d later build on the American prairie, with distinct churches and earth-brick houses.

While the Germans held onto their language, culture, and customs, Slavic influence gives the Germans from Russia a distinct identity. One notable difference is in their kuchen. While the traditional German dish resembles a yeast-based fruit cake, the eastern version is typically richer and made with custard.

Later in the 19th century, the special privileges German settlers had been granted were slowly being eroded. The Germans’ special status was lowered to that of common peasants, they could now be drafted into the Russian army, and were forced to assimilate to the Russian language and education system.

Many German settlers left their villages in Russia to start over once again in North America and South America, while those remaining in Russia would go on to suffer through civil and world wars and the man-made Holodomor famine during the 20th century.

The Germans who had settled the banks of the Volga River went on to populate large swaths of Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado, while the Germans from the Black Sea region primarily settled the Dakota Territory and Canada – bringing kuchen with them.



Fruit is sprinkled over the dough, followed by a ladle of custard. Lori Pietz uses a scale to ensure nutrition labeling is precise.

*Photo by Olivia Opland*



# Keep Your Home's Second Floor Cool in the Summer

Are you struggling to keep the second story of your home cool on these sizzling summer days? As heat and hot air rises, so does the temperature in your upper level. Keeping it cool can be a challenge, even if you have an air conditioner. The key is to limit heat gain and to keep the air circulating.

These steps can help cool down your upper floor, as well as keep your entire home cool through the end of the season. No sweat!

Keep blinds and drapes closed. Close blinds or curtains when the sun is shining to reduce solar heat. Remember that light colored window coverings are most effective at blocking heat energy from the sun. Consider investing in thermal blocking drapes or insulated shades to keep your rooms cool and reduce demand on your air conditioning (AC) system.

- Limit heat being created upstairs. Devices such as computers and hair dryers emit hot air. Use them downstairs to help reduce heat upstairs.
- Use ceiling fans. Ceiling fans make you feel cool by circulating air and providing a cooling sensation on your skin. Be sure to set ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise in the summer to push cool air downwards and turn them off when you leave to conserve energy.
- Adjust the dampers. Control airflow by adjusting dampers up and down to restrict or increase airflow. If the second floor is warmer in the summer months, keep dampers on second-floor vents fully open, and only partially open the vents on the first floor to force more cool air to the second floor.
- Check for air leaks. EnergyStar.gov estimates that between 25% and 40% of the money spent on cooling and heating homes is lost due to air leakage problems.

Identify air leaks in your home and use caulking, weatherstripping and insulation to seal the gaps.

- Turn the fan from auto to on. Use "on" instead of "auto" to keep your thermostat fan on and maintain air circulation throughout the home. This allows the entire house to stay cool, whether or not the air conditioner is running.
- Evaluate ductwork. Check your ductwork for leaks or improper sizing to ensure even air distribution in every part of your home. If you don't feel cold air coming from second floor vents, or you see old and cracked seals in your ductwork, it could be time for maintenance.
- Check your air filters. Regularly change your air filters to optimize airflow — dirty filters decrease air movement.
- Add portable air conditioners. Use portable AC units in specific rooms that need extra cooling. They are relatively easy to install, effectively remove heat and provide a cool environment for sleeping.
- Adjust HVAC systems. Consider a zoned HVAC system, with thermostats on each floor, to control the temperature on each floor separately.
- Keep heat-generating appliances off during the hottest hours. Your dryer, oven and television produce heat, causing your air conditioner to work harder. Limit use of these appliances to early morning or evening when possible and consider grilling outdoors if you plan to cook.
- Don't forget the attic: If your roof and attic area are not properly insulated, heat will seep in through the roof and heat the second floor. You can also have an attic fan or vents installed to help remove hot air from the attic.

## Notice:

The May board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 29th, 2025 at 8 a.m.

The June board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 24th, 2025 at 8 a.m.

The July board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 22nd, 2025 at 8 a.m.



# SUMMER IS COMING

## PREPARE YOUR HOME NOW

### Don't Let Summer Heat Up Your Utility Bill



Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air out.



Change the air filter on your cooling unit.



Wash your outdoor AC unit and have your HVAC unit inspected.



Clear the air vents throughout your house.



Install a programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature when you are away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.



Update your insulation to keep cool air in your home and warm air out.

Learn more at:  **Safe Electricity.org**

## FOR SALE:

Nolting Pro 24 longarm quilting machine, Custom 12-foot frame, accessories, pantographs, threads, \$7500

Judy Jacobs

Olivia, MN 56277

320-894-2028

## NOTICE

The Renville-Sibley office will be closed on the following holiday: Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th, 2025

## OUTAGE REPORT:

*Affecting 10 members or more*

**None to report this month.**

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

# SWIMMING SAFELY

## Tips to Ensure Your Family Swims Safe This Summer

**Jacob Boyko**

[jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop](mailto:jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop)

The leading cause of death for American children under the age of five: drowning.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 4,000 fatal drownings occur each year in the U.S., with the number of deaths sharply increasing in May and reaching a peak in July.

And according to Consumer Affairs, that number has been on the rise since 2020, especially among young children.

Whether at a waterpark, lake, backyard pool, or even a hot tub, being safety-aware and educating others can prevent drownings and other pool accidents and save lives.

According to Holly Hardy, aquatics director for the Oahe Family YMCA in Pierre, safety begins with supervision.

“Somebody should always be observing the water when there are kids in a pool,”

Hardy said. “It doesn’t matter if it’s our (YMCA) pool, a backyard pool, or the river. There needs to be a person there that’s responsible for watching the kids.”

At the YMCA’s pool, lifeguards who aren’t sure about a child’s swimming skills can have them do a swim test, where the child has to either show they can swim the length of the pool or remain in the shallow end.

“At our (YMCA) pool, we have those big slides and kids want to go down them because their buddies are going down them, and they want to go down but they can’t swim,” Hardy explained. “That’s where we pull the most people out of the water – the slide or the diving board.”

The YMCA lifeguards also have a rule against seeing how long you can hold your breath – children can hyperventilate before submerging and faint, which is called a

hypoxic blackout. Hardy also stresses the importance of swimming lessons, since understanding basics like how to float, swim, exit water and feeling oriented and calm are critical for water safety. She recommends to begin swimming lessons as soon as possible – The YMCA offers swimming lessons for children as young as six months old.

But swimming lessons are not a substitute for properly securing a pool.

According to Consumer Affairs, 87% of fatal drownings for the 0-5 age range occur in backyard pools.

That’s why a sturdy fence and self-latching gate around the pool area are still essential for preventing accidents. Even temporary mesh fence options can work in some instances.

Additionally, submersion alarms and door alarms can audibly alert you when someone enters the pool or pool area.

By communicating the pool safety rules to children and guests, as well as taking preventive measures to prevent accidents in the first place, you may be saving lives.

# Pool Safety Checklist

## Is there supervision?

- All children should be under responsible adult supervision.
- Designate “water watchers” and minimize distractions.
- Keep a phone close by for calling 911.
- Always swim with a buddy – Never alone.
- Keep throwing equipment or reaching equipment nearby.
- Consider CPR training – it could save a life.

## Can everybody in the pool swim?

- Ensure everyone in the pool can at least swim from one end of the pool and back.
- Weak or new swimmers should keep to shallow water and use flotation aids.
- Parents should stay close – preferably within arm’s reach – to weak or new swimmers.
- Sign up for swimming lessons – it’s a lifesaving skill.

## Are there safety barriers?

- Install and maintain a proper fence and self-latching gate around the pool.
- Consider a door alarm and pool alarm for an audible alert when someone enters the pool or pool area.
- Hot tubs should have properly-latched covers.

## Recognize hazards.

- Stay away from drains and water intake pipes, as body parts, hair, jewelry, and loose clothing can get pulled in. Drains should have anti-entanglement drain covers, and pumps should have accessible shut-offs.
- Ensure tiles, handrails, anti-slip pads, and ladders are properly installed and maintained.

- Electrical work should be done by a qualified electrician. Chargers, extension cords and other electronics should be kept away from the pool area.
- Check your pool water regularly to avoid illness from contaminants and chemical burns.
- Avoid slips and falls by picking up pool toys and other hazards. Do not run or roughhouse near the pool.
- If you’re not sober, don’t swim.
- Diving can result in serious injury. Make sure others know when a pool is not safe for diving.
- Store pool chemicals and additives somewhere inaccessible to children.
- Ensure proper lighting is installed around the pool area and never swim in the dark.
- Consider an animal escape ramp for pets and wild animals.

## Remind your children and guests...

Establish pool-safe rules for your children and any guests at your home. Remind your children to...

- Never swim without permission and supervision. Other children are not supervisors.
- Don’t enter a pool area or go near water alone.
- Never roughhouse or run in the pool area.
- Never dive in shallow water.
- Stay away from chemicals and additives.
- Keep the pool area tidy and hazard-free.
- Keep electrical devices and cords away from the pool area.
- Never hyperventilate or try and see how long you can hold your breath underwater. Hyperventilating can induce fainting, called hypoxic blackouts and lead to drowning.



# April Board Meeting Highlights

The April board meeting was held on Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025 at 8 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Attorney Jeff Whitmore, and Carren Frank.

All directors submitted Conflict of Interest Disclosures to Cooperative Attorney. Election of board officers was held with the following results:

- Chair – Whitey Hinderman
- Vice Chair – Roger Manthei
- Secretary/Treasurer – Vicky Firl

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the March 25, 2025 board meeting
- Minnesota Electric Cooperatives' Commitment to Transparency & Accountability
- CFC Officers Certificate of Compliance
- East River Director appointment
- Board Committee Appointments
- 2026 Annual Meeting – Thursday March 26, 2026 at the Redwood Area Community Center
- Board meeting dates and times from September 2025 to December 2026
- Officer Appointments of the Cooperative
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of March

- Safety Report for April
- Director Expenses
- 2025 Rates
- CFC Annual Meeting Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate
- CoBank Election Delegates

The board reviewed:

- Governance Information from NRECA
- 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Cooperative Attorney Report
- Total new members
- Capital Credits Transferred
- Capital Credits to Estates
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department. Items in the reports include:
  - High-level Statement of Operations review – YTD through March (unaudited)
  - Organization activities
  - East River update
  - Area Co-ops Annual Meetings
  - Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
  - Accounts receivable
- Member Comments and Concerns

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

## 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 \$45. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 1st of June, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search! 609300

## REMINDER

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2025 or 2026 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.

## 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](https://rscpa.coop/operation-round). Contact the office at 320-826-2593 for more information.

# 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

## Scholar of the Month

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates William Bastian on being selected as the April Scholar of the Month. William, currently a senior at GFW, was nominated because of his growth academically and personally. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills as an officer in FFA and as captain on his football and baseball teams.

William is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as a member of the GFW Student Council. Beyond his extracurricular activities, William demonstrates a commitment to academic excellence by enrolling in college-level courses. Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes William Bastian the April Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month!



## Basin Electric Scholarship Awarded to Lainey Braulick

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association is thrilled to share that Lainey Braulick, daughter of Liz and Brad Braulick, was selected as a recipient of Basin's 2025 Member Cooperative Employee Dependent Scholarship! This scholarship is available to dependents of employees from Renville-Sibley and 140 other distribution cooperatives and municipal utilities across 9 states and is highly competitive. Lainey is a recent graduate of BOLD High School and was actively involved in many student activities and sports during high school. She plans to attend North Dakota State University in the fall where she will study biology. Congratulations Lainey!



## Mission Statement

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association will provide safe, 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.



*Photo courtesy of Travel South Dakota*

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.

#### **MAY 24-SEPT. 13**

##### **Buggy Museum**

Free Buggy Rides + More  
Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Stockholm, SD  
605-938-4192

#### **JUNE 5**

##### **Danish Constitution Day Celebration**

6:15 p.m.-9 p.m.  
Danish Folk Dancing & Music  
Viborg, SD  
danevilleheritage.com

#### **JUNE 5, 7** **Wheel Jam**

7 p.m.  
Dakota State Fair Speedway  
Huron, SD

#### **JUNE 6**

##### **Northern Bull Riding Tour**

6:30 p.m.  
Madison, SD  
www.prairievillage.org

#### **JUNE 6**

##### **Joy Fest**

John Mogen Piano Performance  
7 p.m. CDT  
Okaton, SD  
cristenjoyphotography.com

#### **JUNE 7**

##### **Car Show & Kids Carnival**

11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
202 2nd St. SE  
Watertown, SD

#### **JUNE 7**

##### **Prairie Village Tractor Pull**

3 p.m.  
Madison, SD  
www.prairievillage.org

#### **JUNE 12-14**

##### **Gumbo Ridge Wagon Train**

Murdo, SD  
605-530-3638

#### **JUNE 13-15**

##### **Ipswich Trail Days**

Ipswich, SD  
ipswichtraildays.com  
ipswichtraildays@gmail.com

#### **JUNE 14**

##### **Roslyn Vinegar Festival**

Roslyn, SD  
320-808-8873

#### **JUNE 20-22**

##### **Farley Fest**

Milbank, SD  
605-432-6656  
www.farleyfest.com

#### **JUNE 21-29**

##### **Marshall Area Stage**

##### **Company's Willy Wonka**

Marshall High School  
Marshall, MN  
507-532-2754

#### **JUNE 25-28**

##### **Crystal Springs Rodeo**

Clear Lake, SD  
605-874-2996

#### **JUNE 27-28**

##### **Buckhorn Rodeo**

Britton, SD  
605-880-5077

#### **JUNE 27-29**

##### **Leola Rhubarb Festival**

Leola, SD

#### **JUNE 27-29**

##### **Bowdle Tower Days**

Bowdle, SD

#### **JULY 9**

##### **Tracy Area Gardens & Quilts Tour**

2-7:30 p.m.  
Tracy, MN  
507-629-3252  
Rain Date: July 10

#### **AUG. 5-7**

##### **Farmfest 2025**

8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Giffan Estate, Morgan, MN  
www.ideagroup.com/farmfest

#### **AUG. 6-8**

##### **Renville County Fair**

10 a.m.  
Thurs. Family-a-Fair Night  
Renville County Fairgrounds  
Bird Island, MN  
www.renvillecountyfair.org

#### **AUG. 13-17**

##### **Lyon County Fair**

2-7:30 p.m.  
Marshall, MN  
www.lyoncountyfair.com

#### **AUG. 10**

##### **Czech Heritage Festival**

Bechyn, MN  
302-522-1218

**Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.**