



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



RENVILLE-SIBLEY
SEPTEMBER 2026 VOL. 27 NO. 5

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Pristine Prairie

**Tellus & Lori Waddell Grow,
Harvest Native Plants**

Pages 8-9

Drive Out to a Drive-In!

Pages 12-13

Outage Report

Date: 6-15-26
Time off: 1:49 PM
Time on: 2:21 PM
Substation: Kingman
Cause: Farm Equipment

Date: 6-23-26
Time off: 9:00 AM
Time on: 11:06 AM
Substation: Birch Cooley
Cause: Other Prearranged

Date: 6-28-26
Time off: 1:09 AM
Time on: 2:18 AM
Substation: Emmet
Cause: Small Animal/Bird

Date: 6-28-26
Time off: 8:11 AM
Time on: 11:10 AM
Substation: Troy
Cause: Lightning

Affecting 10 members or more

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

Changes to Payment Due Date Practices



Nick Bruns
Office Manager

Due to increasing uncertainty regarding the United States Postal Service mail delivery times, Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association (RSCPA) is adjusting our payment due date practices.

Effective October 3rd, payments must be physically received in our office to be considered "on-time". We will no longer accept "post-marked" dates. If the 3rd falls on a weekend or recognized holiday, payments will be due the following business day. Accounts with balances not received by this deadline will be subjected to a 1.5% late fee.

To help you avoid penalties due to potential mail delays, RSCPA has several convenient, secure, and instant payment options available.

- **Smarthub Pay Portal:** Visit our website at www.rscpa.coop to log into the Smarthub Pay Portal (Email and password required).
- **PayNow:** Click the "PayNow" link on our homepage. No login is required; you will only need your account number and last name.
- **Pay-by-Phone:** Call us toll free at 855-939-3674 to pay using a debit/credit card or your checking/savings account.
- **Auto-Pay:** Set up an automatic monthly payment to be safely deducted from your bank account or card on the 3rd of each month.

Please call our office if you have any questions or need

Holiday Closings

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association
will be CLOSED on Monday, September 7th
in observance of Labor Day.



Digging? Click or Call First.

Whether you're excavating at a job site or installing a new fence post, underground utilities could be at any depth below the ground's surface. Keep yourself – and those around you – safe by having the dig site located through your local contact center before you dig.

RED	Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
YELLOW	Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
ORANGE	Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
BLUE	Potable water
GREEN	Sanitary sewers and drain lines
PURPLE	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
PINK	Temporary survey markings
WHITE	Proposed excavation



Find us online
www.gopherstateonecall.org

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

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Roger Manthei – Vice Chair
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Jill Woods – Member Services Professional

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Web site: www.rscpa.coop

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STAYING PREPARED IN RURAL S.D.

As most South Dakotans know, weather on the Great Plains can be frightfully unpredictable. In fact, South Dakota holds the record for the fastest temperature rise ever recorded. On Jan. 22, 1943, the temperature in Spearfish climbed from 4 degrees below zero to 45 degrees above zero in only two minutes.

Winter storms also offer reminders of how quickly severe weather can reshape daily life. The Blizzard of 1966 brought wind gusts of 70 mph and snowdrifts reaching more than 30 feet. Roads remained blocked for days, and massive livestock losses made it one of the most severe blizzards in state history.

Winter Storm Atlas, another devastating blizzard in October 2013, dropped several feet of snow over the Black Hills. Heavy snow and strong winds toppled trees and power lines, and devastated livestock operations, leaving some residents without electricity for a week or longer.

Although not every storm will make the record books, severe weather can still disrupt a household. A little preparation on an ordinary day can make a difficult day much easier.

Make A Plan

Emergency preparedness begins with a plan. FEMA recommends that households develop a plan for alerts, appropriate shelter, evacuation and communication if family members become separated.

Start by identifying the types of emergencies most likely to affect your area. For rural South Dakotans, that may include anything from blizzards and tornadoes to severe thunderstorms and wildfires. A good safety plan starts by choosing a safe place inside the home for high winds and tornadoes, generally a basement or small interior room, away from windows.

Next, consider who in your household may need extra help during an emergency, including infants, older adults and pets. Make sure everyone knows where to go and what to do, then walk through the plan together.

Build A Practical Supply Kit

Once the plan is in place, start collecting and organizing supplies your household could rely on if the power goes out or travel becomes difficult. FEMA recommends keeping enough food and water for at least several days, with one gallon of water per person for each day. For example, a

family of four preparing for three days would need at least 12 gallons of water.

Choose nonperishable foods your household already eats and that can be prepared without electricity. Then add the basics needed to get through an outage, including flashlights, extra batteries, a first-aid kit and a way to recharge cellphones. A NOAA Weather Radio can also provide important updates even when cellphone service is unavailable.

Next, tailor the kit to your household. Set aside medications and other essentials.

There is no need to build the entire supply kit at once. Start with what is already in the house, then add supplies during regular shopping trips. Check the kit a few times each year to replace expired food, medications or batteries.

Preparedness cannot stop a storm, reopen a highway or restore electricity, but it can provide time and options when conditions begin to change.

For more information, visit Ready.gov for additional tips on making an emergency plan, building a supply kit and staying prepared.



"Don't plant trees near power lines."

Owen Williams, age 7

Owen reminds members to not plant trees near power lines. That is great advice, Owen! Thank you!

Owen's parents are Bruce and Jing Williams from Wakonda 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.

FALL DESSERTS

GOLDEN GRAHAM/ SMORES BARS

Ingredients:

7 cups Golden Graham cereal
16 oz. mini marshmallows
1/2 cup butter
6 full size Hershey bars

Method

Unwrap Hershey bars and break apart on lines and then each piece again in half. Set aside. Melt the butter and 6 cups of the marshmallows. Stir in the Golden Grahams cereal. Cool for one minute. Stir in remaining marshmallows and Hershey pieces. Press lightly into a greased 9x13 pan with slightly wet hands. Cool and serve.

Valerie Marso
Oahe Electric

THE BEST APPLE CRISP

Ingredients:

6 cups sliced apples
1 1/2 cups white sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
6 tbsp. flour

Topping

(makes enough for two pans)

2 cups flour
2 cups soft butter
1 tsp. baking powder

Method

Mix ingredients in a bowl and place in a 9x12 glass baking dish. Mix topping ingredients together until crumbly and sprinkle over apple mixture. Don't pack. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour or until apples are done.

Ginny Jensen
Sioux Valley Energy

VERY GOOD PEACH DESSERT

Ingredients:

First layer:

1 cup flour
1/2 cup nuts
1 stick margarine
Mix together and press in 9x13 pan. Bake at 350 F for 10 minutes.

Second layer:

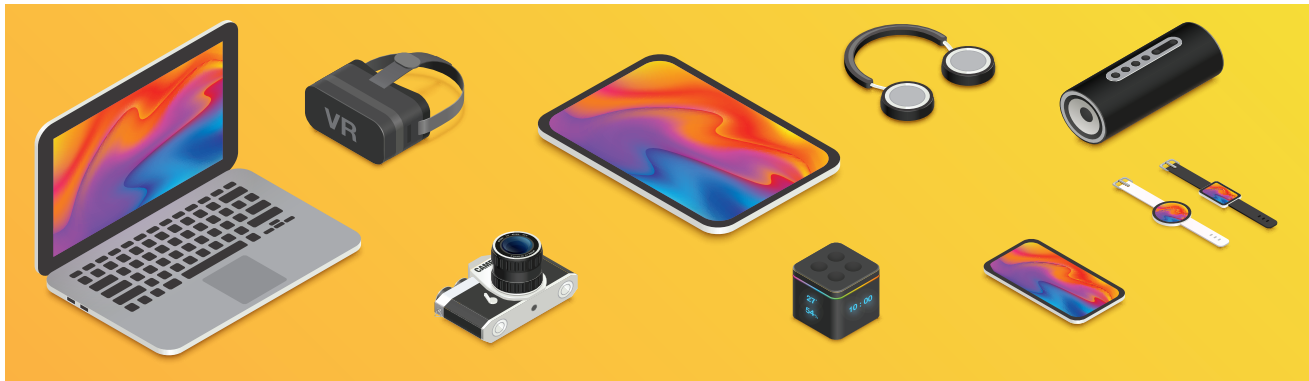
1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese
1 cup powdered sugar
Cream together and add 1 cup Cool Whip. Spread on top of cooled crust.

Third layer:

1 cup sugar
2 tbsp. white corn syrup
3 tbsp. cornstarch
1 cup water
Combine ingredients, cook until thickened, then remove from heat. Add 3 tbsp. of peach-flavored gelatin and 1/4 tsp. almond flavoring. Cool. Peel and slice fresh peaches, then combine with the cooled mixture. Spread on top of cheese filling. Top with a layer of whipped topping and chill.

Ginny Jensen
Sioux Valley Energy

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 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.



LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY AT HOME

Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries power many everyday devices, including phones, laptops, e-bikes, tools and toys. These batteries store a lot of energy in a small space. Learn how to buy, charge, store and recycle batteries safely to help prevent fires at home.

Use lithium-ion batteries safely

- Buy batteries and chargers with a nationally recognized safety certification mark.
- Only use chargers made for your devices and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Don't leave devices charging for longer than is necessary.
- Charge on hard, flat surfaces. Do not charge on beds, couches or under pillows.
- Store batteries at room temperature and away from anything that can catch fire.
- Have repairs conducted by a qualified professional.

! Stop using a battery if it smells unusual, gets very hot, makes popping sounds or changes in shape or color.

Charge e-bike and e-scooter batteries safely

- Charge your battery outdoors in a flat, dry area away from direct sunlight.
- Do not use a battery or charger that is damaged.
- Store batteries at room temperature, away from hot or cold areas.
- Never charge in areas that may block exits or create tripping hazards.
- Keep batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

What if batteries have been exposed to floodwater?

- Do not charge lithium-ion batteries that have been submerged or show signs of damage.
- Place exposed devices or batteries in noncombustible containers. Store them outside, away from buildings until recycled.

Recycle batteries the right way

- Do not throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or curbside recycling bins. Doing so can start fires.
- Recycle batteries and devices at an approved battery recycling location.
- Contact your local waste department or visit batterynetwork.org to find a recycling site near you.

! The best way to cool a lithium-ion battery that is overheating or on fire is to flood it with water or submerge it in water.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

To learn more, visit:

Safe
Electricity.org®

2025 Margin Allocated to Renville-Sibley Members



Amy Ervin
Executive Admin
and HR

As a member of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association (RSCPA), you own a portion of the cooperative. One of the many ownership benefits is receiving an allocation of the cooperative's

margin. Generally, cooperatives operate at cost. That means the goal of a cooperative is to collect enough revenue to run and expand the business, without overcharging the membership.

Any excess revenue is allocated back to the membership in the form of capital credits. This allocation is based on the amount of electricity each member consumed during the year. The 2025 allocation information will be located on the August statement. Past members who received electricity from RSCPA in 2025 and no longer have an active service with us will receive their allocation notice in the mail. 744700

Please remember, this allocation is not payable now and does not represent cash, but rather your equity in the cooperative. You cannot apply this amount to your electric bill. RSCPA uses the allocated, but unretired capital credits to improve and expand our electric system and meet our other capital needs. This reduces our need to borrow money and helps us provide reliable electric service to the membership.

When the co-op's financial condition permits, the co-op retires, or pays, the capital credits to members in cash. Allocating and retiring margins to

NNNN



Renville-Sibley Co-op Power
515 Hwy 212 W
PO Box 68
Danube MN 56230-0068

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Phone: (320) 826-2593 Toll Free (800) 826-2593
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday
www.rscpa.coop

ANY MEMBER
12345 ELECTRIC ROAD
ANYWHERE MN 56565



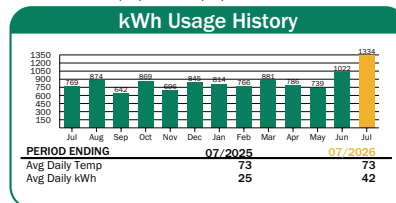
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Statement Date	08/13/2026
Account Number	123400
Payment Due	09/03/2026

Service Summary	
Previous Balance	\$162.00
Payment Received 08/03/2026	Thank You! -\$162.00
Balance Forward	\$0.00
Current Charges	\$195.00
Total Amount Due	\$195.00

Message from your Co-op
August member events include Farmfest and Family-a-Fair night. Remember to bring the coupon from the newsletter with you to Farmfest so you can be registered for a prize drawing. More information on both of these events can be found in the Cooperative Connections newsletter.

Meter No.	From	To	Days	Previous	Present	Meter Multiplier	kWh Usage	Rate Description
8824816	06/30/2026	08/01/2026	32	50365	51699	1	1334	GENERAL SERVICE
1824888	06/30/2026	08/01/2026	32	7988	8262	1	274	CONTROLLED AC



Capital Credit Statement			
Total Patronage for 2025			\$1,455.84
Category	Unretired Balance	2025 Allocation	TOTAL
RSCPA	\$2,001.01	\$88.17	\$2,089.18
East River	\$516.03	\$40.90	\$556.93
Basin	\$822.90	\$29.30	\$852.20
TOTAL	\$3,339.94	\$158.37	\$3,498.31

▲ **KEEP**

▼ **SEND** Please do not staple or paperclip.

ANY MEMBER
12345 ELECTRIC ROAD
ANYWHERE MN 56565

☐ Please check here and complete the appropriate section on the reverse side to update your Mailing Address, Phone Numbers, or Email.

Account Number	123400
Total Due 09/03/2026	\$195.00
Total Due After 09/03/2026	\$197.92

RENNVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER
PO BOX 68
DANUBE MN 56230-0068



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members helps distinguish the difference between cooperatives and other utilities. RSCPA is proud to support our communities by putting money back into the local economy—and into the pockets of those we serve. The best way to ensure you receive this allocation when it is retired is to keep your

mailing address up-to-date with the cooperative.

A common question regarding the allocation and retirement of capital credits is if this amount should be reported to the IRS. RSCPA recommends members visit with their tax advisor on this matter.



WONDROUS WILDFLOWERS & PRAIRIE PRESERVATION

Tellus and Lori Waddell.
Photo by Jacob Boyko

Waddell Native Seeds Turns Rural Acreage into Prairie Paradise

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Journeying east on U.S. Hwy. 12 toward Milbank, as you make a steep descent into Whetstone Valley, you'll pass the usual South Dakota crops – corn, soybeans, some wheat here and there.

But for Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative members Tellus and Lori Waddell of Marvin, the most fascinating – and lucrative – harvest is one most of us would overlook, growing tall in roadside ditches and uncut fields.

For more than 30 years, the Waddells have allowed their Grant County acreage to run wild as they grow, harvest and sell the seeds of dozens of native wildflowers and grasses.

"We started noticing wildflowers up in the pasture, and at that time [the internet was] coming out so we could do some research on what they were," Lori recalled. "Tellus started calling nurseries asking them if they wanted this or that ... and that's how we built into this – and there are not a lot of people that do this."

When Lori says "this," she's referring to more than just collecting seeds. She means getting up early before the weather

is too hot, rolling up her sleeves and driving around the property in a side-by-side scanning the ground for patches of whichever wildflower type is ready to be harvested – by hand – for seeds.

"It's very, very labor-intensive," Tellus added. "It's not like picking flowers – because we don't pick a flower. You have to let [the seeds] develop. Right now, we're picking things that blossomed about six weeks ago."

With dozens of plants and just as many harvest schedules, the Waddells have a steady amount of work to do from mid-spring all the way into fall.

Traversing the lightly traveled trails over their expansive, glacially carved property, (this reporter was joined by two labs in the back seat of the side-by-side) Tellus and Lori are quick to point out distant patches of coneflowers, blazing star, wild turnips, vervain and their personal favorite flora they cultivate, milkweed.

"It's for the butterflies," Tellus explained as he pulled the vehicle up to the family's newest experiment: milkweed planted as a row crop.

"It's the first time we've ever done that," Tellus said, proudly explaining his youngest son, Levi Waddell, is heading up the initiative.

Tellus added, "As every generation takes over, you'll get different things."

Most outbuildings on the Waddells' land double as drying rooms for at least one harvest during the season.

That includes their three-stall garage – a more accurate description may be the seed processing facility – where the Waddells dry the seeds, separate them from the chaff and package them for shipment to area greenhouses and other customers.

Demand has grown to the point where the Waddells have hired about a dozen part-time summer workers to help harvest seeds.

Their harvesting efforts don't stop at the

The Waddells are row cropping milkweed for the first time. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on milkweed, making it an important resource for conservation efforts.

Photo by Jacob Boyko





Lori Waddell enjoys photographing native flowers on the acreage.
 Top row: prairie lily, pasque flower (S.D. state flower), wild turnip.
 Bottom row: blazing star, scarlet gaura, coneflower.
Photos by Lori Waddell

fence line – Tellus is known to park his car, knock on the doors and ask to collect seeds if a patch of prairie catches his eye.

"We have picking rights [agreements with property owners] from here to Pierre down to Grand Island, Nebraska," Tellus said, recounting an especially vibrant purple field of vervain near Forestburg.

This led Tellus to a more solemn conversation. Piece by piece, he and Lori have bought surrounding acreage in an effort to isolate their native plants from the effects of drifting pesticides. Tellus said that when mixed into a slight breeze, the chemicals are potent enough to wipe out their native broadleaf plants for years at a time – even if the spraying takes place miles away.

Tellus and Lori's observation is that biodiversity is shrinking throughout the region for this same reason – diverse fields of native flowers and grasses are becoming more difficult to find, and the wildlife that relies on native plants for food are becoming increasingly scarce.

"You talk to people in their 80s, and they'll talk about walking through a field of lilies," Tellus said. "And then they just sit there for a bit and try to think of the last time they've seen that. Sometimes 40 or 50 years ago."

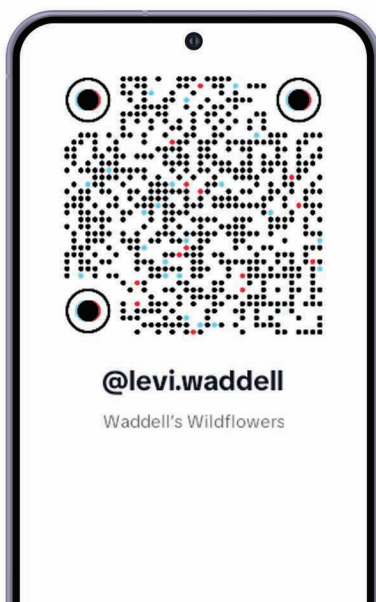
He continued, "that's when people realize the prairie is pretty much gone."

Levi Waddell uses social media to spread awareness about native plants, conservation and his family's operation.

His TikTok page, Waddell's Wildflowers, has more than 1,000 followers and 19,000 likes and chronologizes the day-by-day life of a native plant harvester.

The Waddells hope to share their story to educate others on the importance of conservation and inspire them to preserve the native prairie for generations to come.

"God gave us this beautiful earth and we're ruining it," Lori said. "If we can at least preserve and protect our little corner, I feel like we've done our job."



PROCESSING NATIVE SEEDS



The harvested seeds are spread indoors to dry for several weeks.



The dried seed heads are broken apart to loosen the seeds from the surrounding plant material.



The seeds are fed into a hammer mill to break apart remaining plant material from the seeds.



The cleaned seeds are sifted one final time to remove any extra material. The separated chaff is spread where the seeds were harvested so any unseparated seeds can germinate.

Outstanding Capital Credit Checks

Listed below are Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association (RSCPA) members who were mailed a capital credit check in December of 2019 and have either not cashed the check or the check was returned to our office due to an old address. If you know the correct address or telephone number for these members, please contact RSCPA at 800-826-2593. If no contact is made with these members, the money is paid out to students through our scholarship program.

ALLTEL COMMUNICATIONS
AZURE LAWRENCE
BAUMANN FRANCES
BERAN CHAD
BLAUERT ERIC AJR
BLEICK CHARLES JR
BLUME DAVID
BRATTSCH HARVEY
BRELJE JERRY
CARNES WILLARD
CHAPMAN JEANNIE
CHIQUITA PROCESSED FOODS
OLIVIA CANNING CO
CLARKE JEFF
CROOKS CHERI
CRUM EDDIE
DALLENBACH VICKY
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FOUSEK VERNON
FREITAG GARY
FRIESE LYNN
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HAUGEN JAMIE
HILLESHEIM, JENNIFER
HINDERMAN FARM TRUST
HOLSTAD JAMES
HOLZBAUER OWEN
HUNT'S LIVESTOCK
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JAIME ARMANDO
KANE JANA
KIECKER KERMIT
KNUTSON ERVIN
KODET KRISTA R
KOHLER DARWIN
KOPLIN ANGIE
KORSMO BEN
KORSMO DONALD
KRAMER DUSTIN
KUELBS ELEANORA
LARSEN DAVID
LARSEN SANDRA
LAUWAGIE NATHAN
LEPP KAYLA
LOTHERT DEAN
LOTHERT DENNIS S
LYLE TOM
MAIERS WAYNE
MARRIOTT ANDREW
MARTI JON
MESSNER PAM
MEYER JEREMY

MIDWEST WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS
MINKEL JANET
MINNESOTA VALLEY MINERALS INC
NEISES JIM
NERUD BRENDA
NEUBECK CHARLES DSR
NEWHOUSE DOUG
NYQUIST FRED
OLSON ERNEST
PANTHER PROPERTIES
PAULSEN RANDY
PRESCOTT LARRY
PRESCOTT MARTIN
PRIBBLE RONALD
RAHIER SHEREE
RAMSDELL BRIAN
RECK LEONARD
REID MARY
REYES JERRY L
RHAM ED
RICE JOHN C
RING CARL
ROBERTS GLEN
ROBERTSON DON
ROBERTSON JOSHUA L
ROEBKE ALAN
RUTER KENNETH
SALINAS ERASTO JR
SCHMIDT RODNEY

SCHROEDER WILLIAM
SCHULER DAVID
SCHULTZ LEE
SCHUMER JAMES
SCHWECKE HARLAN
SCHWEINFURTER JOE
SCRABECK MICHAEL
SEABURG JUSTIN
SMITH ARCHIE
SOMMERS COREY
SPERL NANCY
STILLSON RAE
STOLTENBURG KYLE
STREY DARON
SVOBODA PETER
SWARD ROGER
SWITZER ALAN
TROTTER DUFFY
UNIVERSAL ENSCO INC
VALENTIN KARL
VAVRICKA GEORGE W
VIG JIM
WEILAGE ALVIN
WINTER CREEK FARMS
WRIGHT DAVID
WRIGHT MEAGHAN
YEAGER LAUREL

Nominating Committee 2027

Renville-Sibley is looking for members who would like to serve on the cooperative's Nominating Committees. Nominating Committees (one for each director district) will be meeting in mid-December or early January and will be looking for candidates to run for the board of directors. Candidates chosen by the nominating committee will be put on the ballot.

A member may also appear on the ballot by petition of 10 or more members residing in such district. The candidates for each district will be voted for by mail or at the annual meeting. If you would like to be on one of the Nominating Committees, if you would like to be considered as a candidate, or if you know of someone that you would like to be considered as a candidate, please let us know by the office at 800-826-2593.

Standby Generator – Keep Safety in Mind When Using Standby Generators

While owning an emergency generator comes in handy during an extended power outage, you must consider the following.

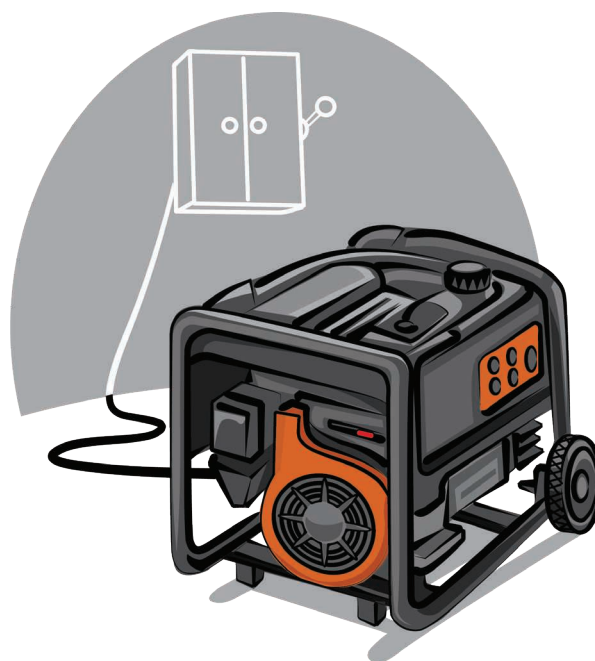
To safely use standby generators, operate them only in well-ventilated areas outdoors so emissions can't enter your home. In addition, always turn off a generator when refueling it, and store gasoline, diesel fuel, or propane outside of living areas. Plug appliances directly into a generator or use an extension cord. Do not try to power a home's wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet.

A permanently installed standby generator for a home or business requires a transfer switch to isolate it from the power grid. The main breaker on an electric panel does not qualify as a transfer switch under the National Electrical Code.

Transfer switches are critical for two reasons:

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

The installation of a standby generator should be done by a licensed electrician and must comply with the National Electrical Code as well as state and local codes.



Energy Star Rebates

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association (RSCPA) offers rebates to members who purchase the following Energy Star-certified appliances for their home: refrigerator, freezer, dishwasher, clothes washer, clothes dryer, dehumidifier, central air-conditioner, room air-conditioner, and LED light bulbs.

To qualify for the rebate, the unit must be currently Energy Star certified. Occasionally, Energy Star changes their qualification of what is certified. Therefore, what was Energy Star certified last year or even last month, may or may not be currently Energy Star certified due to a change in the requirements. RSCPA would like to remind members to verify that the appliance they are purchasing is currently Energy Star certified by visiting the Energy Star website www.energystar.gov.

Once on the website, click on the Find Products tab at the top of the page and then click on the appliance you are interested in purchasing. Next, click on "Explore Models" and search by the brand of the appliance you are purchasing. RSCPA also uses this website to verify that the appliance is currently Energy Star certified before issuing the rebate. This website has a host of other information to assist members in becoming energy efficient.

Rebate forms can be found on RSCPA's website www.rscpa.coop/energy-star-rebates. Rebates must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Please contact the office if you have any questions on rebates or on Energy Star products.



DRIVE OUT TO A DRIVE-IN

Outdoor Movie Theaters Offer Old-Time Fun

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

It's one of the defining cultural behemoths of the 20th century. Load the family into the station wagon – or someone you fancy in a borrowed hot rod – and head over to the drive-in theater. You pick up popcorn and soda pop, tune your car stereo to the transmitter, and settle in for an unforgettable experience.

It all started in 1933, when Richard Hollingshead of Camden, New Jersey, began developing an accessible and comfortable way to bypass the confining indoor theater seats and allow moviegoers a way to enjoy a show from the comfort of their own vehicle.

The Smithsonian Magazine reports a peak of more than 4,000 American drive-in theaters in 1958. But with cities continuously expanding and the price of property increasing, most of them have closed in the time since. Today, it's estimated that fewer than 300 drive-in theaters remain.

But don't fret! If you're reading this magazine, there are still some nearby drive-in movie theater options for you and your family (or your date) to enjoy!

Midway Drive In – Miller, S.D.

In Miller, mid-May through Labor Day weekend is drive-in movie season. Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights are illuminated by the distant glow of the local drive-in movie theater.

Sarah Resel is one of the owners of the Midway Drive-In. Growing up in Miller, the drive-in was her weekend hangout and the site of so many cherished memories. Years later, that's still the case – just under slightly different circumstances.

A show is about to start at the Midway Drive In near Miller.
Photo submitted by Midway Drive In

"We pretty much don't have weekends during the summer," Resel said. "We're committed to being here with the theater. We all have full-time jobs; we always call this our community service."

Despite the hefty commitment, Resel says seeing people turnout from all over the country for an authentic drive-in experience makes it worthwhile.

"I think with us in our Miller community, we take it for granted that it's just here," Resel said. "It's crazy the support we get from other towns coming to our community."

Pheasant Drive-In – Mobridge, S.D.

Cam Wal Electric Cooperative members Jon and Jill Olson of Mobridge have experience with both indoor and outdoor theaters.

"The day-to-day prep is a little bit different," Jill said, explaining



The Pheasant Drive-In sits on the Missouri River hills near Mobridge.
Photo submitted by Pheasant Drive-In

the maintenance needed for the property and screen, along with weather surprises.

"I think weather is probably the number one issue," she continued. "We had a windstorm that came through Sunday [July 19] and caused some damage for us."

Even with the unexpected challenges, Jill said owning the drive-in theater is a positive experience, and on summer nights as people from near and far gather for a showing, she's reminded why she does it.

"It's a completely different vibe than sitting inside a dark theater," Jill said. "Parents do such a good job making it a fun experience, like bringing a pickup, backing it in and letting the kids sit in the back end. The other weekend, we had a family bring a bunch of blow-up air mattresses. The kids can talk and run back and forth – it just isn't your typical thing."

Hilltop Drive Inn Theater – Gregory, S.D.

"It's awesome," Rosebud Electric Cooperative member Dawn Boyer said when asked about running a drive-in movie theater.

"It's like owning a piece of the past while being in the present – and hopefully the future."

When Dawn was a kid, her mom worked at the ticket counter, sometimes taking Dawn along too. When she learned in 2018 the theater was looking for a new owner, it just seemed right.

"Two weeks later, I was running a theater I knew nothing about," Dawn laughed.

The drive-in is an 80-year-old landmark in Gregory County, and the oldest operating drive-in theater in the state. The age is catching up with it, Boyer said, explaining the heavy maintenance schedules necessary to keep the theater running.

Though the theater is becoming harder to operate, Boyer says the smiles on visitors' faces make it all worth it.

"The people who come through that have never seen a drive-in before – that's who we do it for," Boyer continued. "The expression on somebody's face when that big screen lights up at night is awesome."

Pheasant City Drive-In Theatre – Redfield, S.D.

Redfield's drive-in theater has been open continuously since 1953, and thanks to Dave and Stacey Marlow, it will continue for many years.

"We bought it at the time the industry was changing over to digital projectors," Stacey said, recalling the 2014 sale. "And [the previous owner] wasn't going to do it, so we went to him and asked if he'd like to sell it."

Since taking over, they've upgraded the display system again, installing a brighter, higher-contrast laser projector that allows shows to begin earlier and helps future-proof the theater.

While modern, the theater retains its original elements: the speaker poles are functional (Dave spends hours wiring each spring) and the propane popcorn maker satisfies hungry moviegoers.

"People tell us all the time, 'We are so glad you took this and have kept it going,'" Stacey said. "This is a part of our town we didn't want to lose, so we decided we were the ones to step up and save it."

Winner Drive In Theater – Winner, S.D.

In 2022, Rosebud Electric Cooperative members Austin and Jill Moser were looking for more space for their family. They finally found the perfect house on a nice chunk of land – with a catch.

"The movie theater was included," Jill said. "We thought, 'Why not?'"

The Mosers say running the drive-in theater with their three kids has been a good experience for the family and has given the kids an opportunity to work concessions.

During the Mosers' second season in operation, a windstorm damaged the screen, necessitating a lengthy rebuild. Luckily, the theater was able to reopen for the 2025 season.

"It's really great to see how many people still support drive-in movie theaters," Jill said. "There's not that many left in the country. We meet people from all over – we've had people from France come to the theater."

Verne Drive In – Luverne, Minn.

Half an hour east of Sioux Falls, the Verne Drive In welcomes hundreds of I-90 travelers Wednesday through Sunday each summer.

Owner and operator Doug Rozeboom said his goal is to provide an experience that is affordable, fun and unique for both locals and travelers.

"I don't want to say drive-in theaters are a thing of the past, but they're becoming it," Rozeboom said. "It's a unique experience because you can't just go anywhere to watch a movie outdoors on a big screen."

He continued, "Kids are able to run around and throw a football, so they can blow off some steam."

Rozeboom described the enthusiasm of moviegoers, recounting creative truck-bed setups, typically with lawn chairs, sofas or mattresses.

"For the Toy Story 5 premiere, someone had a tree-trimming truck, so they had the boom arm out," he laughed. "I was like, 'Huh, that's interesting.'"

Making the perfect setup is part of the drive-in movie theater experience!
Photo submitted by Verne Drive In



Winner's drive-in features a curved screen.
Photo by Kim Boyko



July Board Meeting Highlights

The July board meeting was held on Wednesday, July 29th 2026, at 8 a.m. Directors Boersma, Eekhoff, Firle, Hinderman, Manthei, Neyers, Peterson, Ruebel and Zaske were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Nick Bruns, Bryon Stilley, and Amy Ervin.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Revised Minutes of the May 27, 2026, board meeting
- Minutes of the June 24th, 2026, board meeting
- Director Expenses
- Safety Report for June
- Operating and disbursement reports for the months of June
- Allocation of 2025 Margin

The board reviewed the following items:

- Total new members
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department. Items in the reports include:
 - High-level Statement of Operations review – YTD through June (unaudited)
 - Organization activities
 - REPAC and PAC Dues
 - Basin Electric update
 - East River update
 - Director meeting reports
 - Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
 - Accounts Receivable

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

Notice

The August board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

The September board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

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

WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month's RSCPA member found their member number in the newsletter. Congratulations! The value of the energy credit will start over at \$15. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 1st of September, 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 2026 or 2027 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.

GIVE AWAY

Full size claw tub, farm storage gas tank, blue Dixon lawn mower – not running.

Mark Leitheiser
Fairfax, MN 55332
507-276-5349

3 dozen pint-size canning jars.

Marlys Haug
Sacred Heart, MN 56285
320-765-2928

WANTED

Adult outdoor German Shephard farm dog. At least 1 year old, no pups.

Daryl Wendt
Gibbon, MN 55335
507-327-8101

Operation Round Up

The Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, July 14th to review Operation Roundup grant applications. The board reviewed the applicants and awarded six (6) grants to non-profit and community organizations. The following grants were awarded to:

- **Community Safety Net – \$500**
 - o Their organization provides funds to Renville County children with a powerful family book which teaches kids how to live a healthy lifestyle and avoid dangerous situations. The resources cover important topics like good hygiene, proper nutrition, and mental health.
- **Olivia's House of Hope – \$250**
 - o Funds are needed to replace the damaged weather and years of wear and tear to both exterior doors at Olivia's House of Hope. The doors have been repaired but never replaced in 10 years of business and will provide better protection for staff, volunteers, and visitors.
- **PACT for Families Collaborative – \$500**
 - o Funds are needed to support youth mental health and engagement through weighted blankets and structured conversations materials. Renville County Human Services and Renville County schools partnered together to facilitate small group discussions that build connection, support emotional regulation, and reinforce prevention focused conversations to reduce risk factors associated with substance use and risky behavior.
- **RCW Public School Foundation – \$250**
 - o Funds are needed to award teacher grants and requests such as field trips, band instruments, classroom learning tools, and guest classroom presentations that promote hands on learning that are not funded by classroom budget. This allows teachers to have access to funds to promote educational learning inside & outside the classroom no matter what tools or resources are needed.
- **The Learning Funhouse, Inc. – \$500**
 - o Funds are needed to help fund three (3) field trips for the school-aged children that are attending the Learning Funhouse Center for the summer. The trips will be in August to give the children learning experiences their working parents may not be able to offer them.
- **United Way of West Central MN – \$500**
 - o Funds are needed to provide age-appropriate books in the mail each month to over 200 kids signed up for The Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Renville County. Funds would assist fundraising efforts to send books to these children. Reading with children at an early age has profound benefits to a child's development.

All funds for Operation Round Up are placed in a trust fund separate from the cooperative accounts. The next application deadline is October 1, 2026. 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 October 13, 2026.

Applications for donations can be found at rscpa.coop/operation-round. Contact the office at 320-826-2593 for more information.

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 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. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____ Dakotafest – Find us in the Touchstone Energy Building!
Your Email Address: _____ S.D. State Fair – Find us in the Horticulture Park!



SEPT. 3 (ONE DAY EVENT)
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives
at the South Dakota State Fair
Horticulture Park, State Fairgrounds
Huron, 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.

AUG. 27-30
Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

SEPT. 1-6
20th Annual Sturgis Mustang Rally
Sturgis, SD
SturgisMustangRally.com

SEPT. 6
Studebaker Car Show
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
South 6th St.
Custer, SD

SEPT. 9
BFest Concert Series & Farmers Market
Matt Gauger Performing
Museum Park
Bruce, SD
605-627-5671

SEPT. 12-13
Harvest & Kuchen Festival
Delmont, SD
605-505-0535

SEPT. 12-20
Rustic Designs & More Fall Country Show
9 a.m.-6 p.m.
41450 264th St.
Ethan, SD
605-770-2411

SEPT. 13
Antique Car & Tractor Parade
Registration 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Parade 1 p.m.
Farmer, SD
605-641-5498

SEPT. 18-19
34th Annual Granite Threshermen's Swap Meet & Antique Classic Car Show
Free Admission
Granite, IA
Contact: Darrel Hansen
605-261-9720

SEPT. 19
Veterans Stand Down
8:30-11:30 a.m.
1600 W. Russell St.
Sioux Falls, SD

SEPT. 25-OCT. 4
Masquerade (LightsUp)
Orpheum Theatre
Sioux Falls, SD
Box Office: 605-367-6000
MasqueradeMusical.com

SEPT. 26
Harvest Pumpkin Fest
3-7 p.m.
Eureka City Park North Shelter
Eureka, SD
605-230-1777

SEPT. 26
Harvest Festival Supper
West Nidaros Lutheran Church
25403 471st Ave.
Crooks, SD
605-212-5730

OCT. 3
9th Annual 437th Flea Market
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Salem, SD
605-421-4190

OCT. 3-4
The Black Market
Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.,
Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Bldg.
Sioux Falls, SD
605-332-6004

OCT. 3
Pumpkin Train/ SoDak Vendor Showcase
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

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.