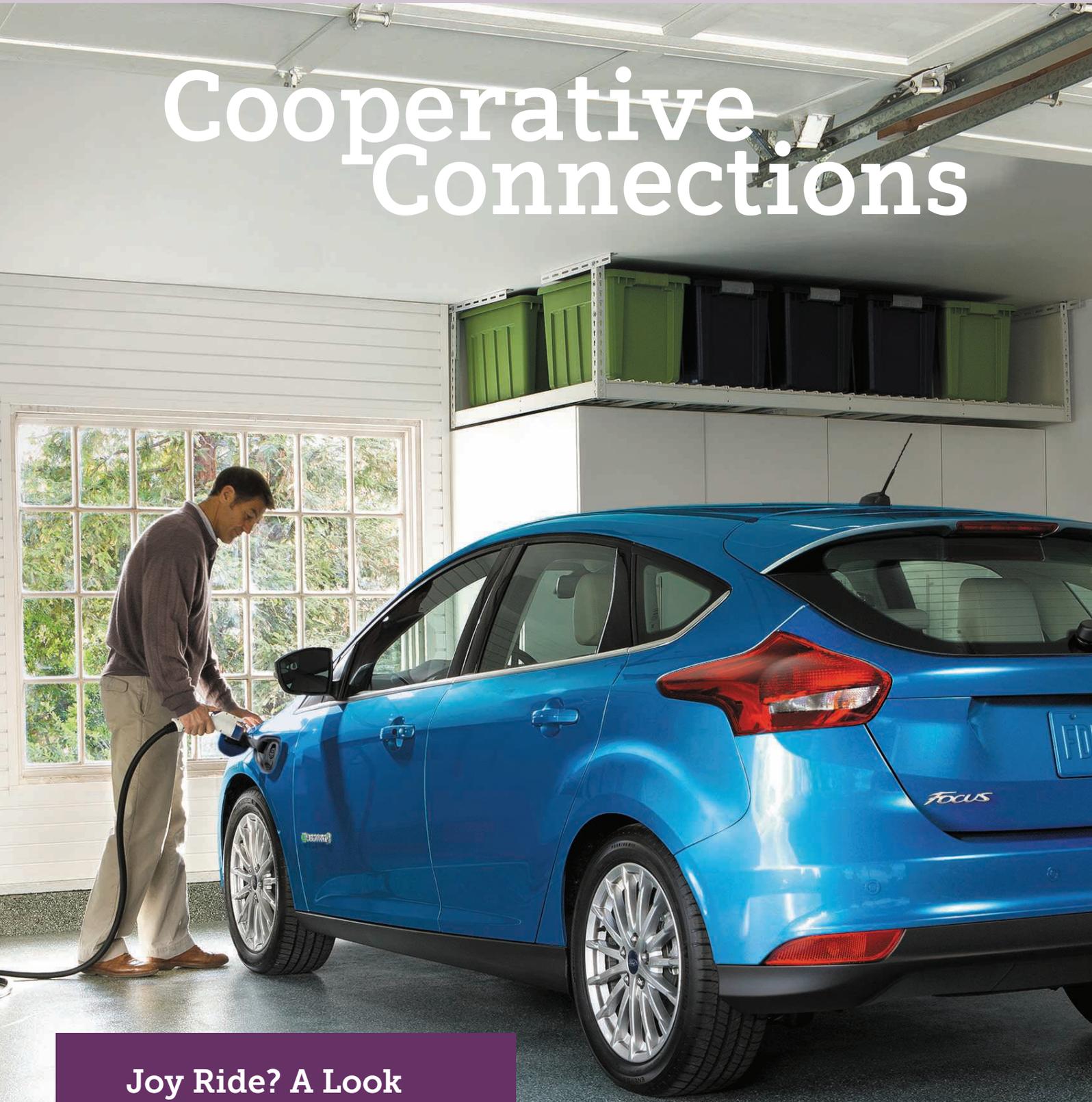




Cooperative Connections



**Joy Ride? A Look
at Electric Vehicles**

Page 8

Tractor of Tomorrow?

Page 12

Plan on Safety While You Plant Your Seeds



DeeAnne Newville, CEO

dnewville@renville-sibley.coop
 Phone: 320-826-2593 or
 Toll Free 800-826-2593

Spring planting is upon us and Renville-Sibley Co-op Power would like to remind our local farmers to stay safe this season. Overhead power lines can be easily overlooked and deadly if ignored. While you focus on putting those seeds in the ground, Renville-Sibley urges you to review these important tips.

BE ALERT

Awareness doesn't spread as fast as an electrical current, but a little goes a long way. Remember to look up and look out for power lines this

planting season. Follow these Four S's to Stay Safe.

- **STAY ALERT.** Avoid distractions when operating farm equipment. While spring planting days can run long, failure to be aware of your surroundings can lead to power line contacts and other accidents.
- **SLOW DOWN.** Cold weather delayed spring planting in our region this year. When you get in the fields, avoid the temptation to rush through your work. Slow down and stay safe.
- **STUDY.** Educate yourself on any new equipment you may have purchased recently. New equipment has higher antennas and attachments than ever before. What cleared power lines in previous years may not in your new ride. Know what you're working with.
- **SEARCH.** Sometimes, trees or brush can make power lines difficult to see. Don't just glance up – really take a minute to search your surroundings when moving equipment.

BE PREPARED

Hitting a power line can be scary. In certain situations, there may be a lot of noise, which may spur your instinct to run. You've got seconds to understand what's happening and respond appropriately. Do you know what to do if you come in contact with a power line?

- **STAY PUT.** Unless there is a fire, you need to stay calm and stay in the vehicle. Touching the ground and the vehicle at the same time (i.e. stepping out of the equipment) can be deadly. Don't risk becoming a conduit for the electricity to move from the vehicle to the ground through you, stay put. Even if it's loud.

- **CALL FOR HELP.** Call for help from the vehicle if possible. 911 is a good place to start, especially if you don't know Renville-Sibley's phone number. If you don't have your phone, try radioing for help. If someone comes to assist you, they need to stay at least 40 feet away from the vehicle until professional help has arrived.
- **JUMP CLEAR.** If there is a fire forcing you to leave, jump clear of the equipment. Jump with your feet together and with your arms folded over your chest, as far away from the vehicle as possible. Be sure that no part of your body touches the equipment and the ground at the same time. Then, shuffle (tiny, quick steps) or hop with your feet together at least 40 feet away. Electricity spreads through the ground in ripples. Keeping your feet together prevents one foot from stepping into a higher voltage zone than the other foot, which could cause electrocution. Stay away from the equipment and keep others away until the authorities tell you it's safe to return.

Renville-Sibley has FREE "Powering Your Safety" window clings for you to put on your equipment as a reminder of what to do if you hit a power line. Stop in the office to pick some up or give us a call at 800-826-2593 and we would be happy to put some in the mail for you.

This article was provided by our power supplier, East River Electric Power Cooperative.

 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives


PoweringYourSafety.com
KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE



STAY PUT

If your equipment contacts a power line, stay inside. **DO NOT EXIT. Call 911.**



JUMP CLEAR

If you must exit due to a fire, jump from the equipment so that no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time. Hop or shuffle with your feet together at least 40 feet away.



STAY AWAY

When you are clear of the area, call for help and keep others away. **DO NOT** approach your vehicle again until utility crews and emergency responders tell you it is safe.

Renville-Sibley

Cooperative Connections

(USPS 019-074)

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Web site: www.renville-sibley.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Members from the 2016 Basin Tour are all geared up and prepared to tour Antelope Valley Station.

Member Tour

Visit Beautiful North Dakota with Renville-Sibley

Renville-Sibley is excited to offer a trip-of-a-lifetime to beautiful North Dakota. On this three-day trip, you will learn all about how the electricity you depend on every day is generated. 943500

Guests will strap on a hard hat as we walk the corridors of Antelope Valley Station. This is one of the power plants that generate your electricity and you will see how this happens! Another stop will be at the Coteau Properties Freedom Mine, which delivers the coal to Antelope Valley Station so they can generate your power. Weather permitting, the bus will go right into the coal mine, giving you an up close and personal view of the drag lines at work. Also on the agenda is a stop at Garrison Dam and Powerhouse. At the Garrison Dam, you will hear how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages this multi-purpose project including hydro-electric power production, irrigation,

flood damage reduction amongst a host of other projects.

All this, and possibly some sightseeing in North Dakota, can be yours by calling the office to get your name on the guest list. The trip will take place July 25 to 27. The first and last day of the tour are travel days with a lot of fun mixed in. Motor coach transportation will be provided by Thielen Travel out of Redwood Falls. Breakfast and noon meals, along with your room for two nights, will be provided by the cooperative. Guests are responsible for their evening meals. We invite all members who have not taken this tour before to travel with us. The cost is \$15/person or \$25/couple or family (staying in the same room). Families with children over 8 years old are welcome to attend.

If you would like to sign-up for this tour, give Lenae a call at the office or e-mail her at lwordes@renville-sibley.coop.

Comparative Report

	Current (through Mar. 31)	One Year Ago (through Mar. 31)	10 Years Ago (through Mar. 31)
Average No. of Consumers	1,882	1,888	1,971
kWhs Purchased	58,314,247	50,298,426	55,273,176
Cost of Purchased Power	\$3,598,277.96	\$3,128,545.09	\$1,764,681.03

Electrical Safety on the Farm

Farming is among the more dangerous occupations for several reasons, including potential for encounters with electrical hazards. Before taking to the fields, the Safe Electricity program urges farm workers to be aware of overhead power lines and to keep equipment and extensions far away from them.

Safe Electricity encourages farm managers to share this information with their families and workers to keep them safe from electrical accidents.

- Start each morning by planning your day's work. Know what jobs will happen near power lines and have a plan to keep the assigned workers safe.
- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions, at all times. Use a spotter when moving tall equipment and loads.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance and sometimes, a power line is closer than it looks. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines.
- Always lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level, under 14 feet, before moving or transporting them. Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can cause you to lose control of equipment and make contact with power lines.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call your utility to repair them.
- Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods, into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay, will conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.
- If you are on equipment that contacts a power line, do not exit the equipment. When you step off the equipment, you become the electricity's path to ground and receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit the vehicle. If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together. Keep your feet together to prevent current flow through your body, which could be deadly.

Electrical work around the farm can also pose hazards. Often, the need for an electrical repair comes when a farmer has been working long hours and is fatigued. At such times, it's best to step back and wait until you've rested.

Source: safeelectricity.org

Primary Elections Near

Voters in South Dakota head to the polls in June for the primary election while voters in Minnesota follow suit Aug. 14.

A primary election determines which candidates will be on the ballot in the November general election.

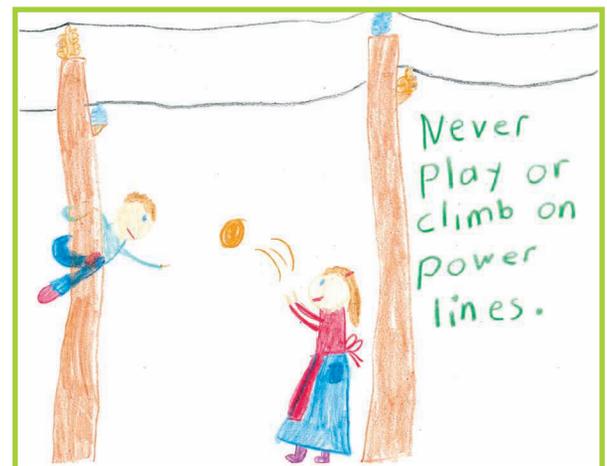
In South Dakota, there are 24 House and Senate races with primary elections that will be decided on June 5. Those wishing to vote in the primary election have until May 21 to register to vote. Absentee voting began on April 20.

Minnesota's Primary Election Day is Tuesday, Aug. 14. Minnesotans can vote by mail or in person from June 29 through Aug. 13.

As part of the election cycle, co-ops across the county are engaging in Co-ops Vote, a non-partisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. The Co-ops Vote campaign seeks to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops and their communities into the public discussion.



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Never play or climb on power lines."

Caroline Ekberg, 9 years old

Caroline is the daughter of Lance and Doris Ekberg, Hamill, S.D. They are members of Rosebud Electric Cooperative, Gregory, 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.



Dairy Delicious

Cream Cheese Chicken Taquitos

2 boneless chicken breasts	1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
1 tsp. chili powder	1/3 cup water
1 tsp. garlic powder	1/2 cup shredded cheese
1 tsp. cumin	12 6-inch flour tortillas

Place chicken, chili powder, garlic powder, cumin, cream cheese and water in crock pot. Cover and cook on LOW for 8 hours or 4 hours on HIGH. Place 1/4 cup of the chicken mixture into each tortilla. Top with 1 to 2 T. shredded cheese. Roll tightly and place in a single layer on greased baking sheet. Bake at 400°F. for 10 minutes or until tortillas are slightly browned and cheese is melted.

Cortney Reedy, Tea, S.D.

Crunchy Ice Cream Bars

1/2 cup light corn syrup	4 cup Kellogg's Cocoa Krispies
1/2 cup peanut butter, creamy or chunky	1 pint ice cream

Mix corn syrup thoroughly with peanut butter. Pour over Cocoa Krispies and stir until well coated. Press mixture into a 9x13-inch buttered pan. Place in freezer to firm up. Cut into 12 3-inch squares. Place a slice of ice cream between 2 squares. Cut each square into 2 bars. Wrap individually in foil and keep in freezer until needed.

Cindy Reu, Luverne, Minn.

Strawberry Cheesecake Pie

2 cups sliced fresh strawberries	1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup chopped almonds	2 cups cold milk, divided
1 T. sugar	1 (3.4 oz) pkg. instant vanilla pudding
1 9-inch graham cracker crust	

In a bowl, combine strawberries, almonds and sugar. Pour into crust. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth; gradually add 1/2 cup milk. Add pudding mix and remaining milk. Beat for 1 minute or until blended; pour over strawberries. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours or until set.

Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, S.D.

Lemon Ginger Blueberry Muffins

2 cups flour	1/4 cup milk
2/3 cup sugar	1/4 cup vegetable oil
1-1/2 tsp. baking powder	1 egg, lightly beaten
1 tsp. McCormick® ground ginger	1 tsp. McCormick® pure lemon extract
1/2 tsp. baking soda	1 cup blueberries
1 cup sour cream	

Lightly grease 12 muffin cups or line with paper baking cups. Set aside. Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, ginger and baking soda in large bowl. Mix sour cream, milk, oil, egg and lemon extract in medium bowl. Add to flour mixture; stir just until dry ingredients are moistened. (Batter will be thick and slightly lumpy.) Gently stir in blueberries. Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups, filling each cup 2/3 full. Bake at 400°F. 20 to 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of muffins comes out clean. Serve warm. Makes 12 (1 muffin) servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 213, Total Fat 9g, Sodium 122mg, Cholesterol 29mg, Carbohydrates 30g, Protein 3g, Dietary Fiber 14g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Cowboy Caviar

2 cans Mexicorn	1 can diced tomatoes and green chilies
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese	6 green onions, chopped
1 cup Miracle Whip	Fritos Scoops corn chips
1 cup sour cream	

Mix together all ingredients; serve with corn chips.

Jane Ham, Rapid City, S.D.

Please send your favorite dessert, salad and garden produce recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Kill-A-Watt Device Available

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.



Where's the Number?



Last month Renville-Sibley neglected to include a member number in the newsletter. The credit was at a value of \$10. However, because this was our error, the credit will jump to a value of \$30. Guaranteed, a number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by June 4, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

FREE Want Ad Service

Members can submit ads for the following categories: Giveaway, For Sale, For Rent and Wanted. Ads should be or are limited to no more than 15 words and must be received by the first of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter. Renville-Sibley reserves the right to edit content or exclude ads due to space restrictions. Ads will be run one time only unless resubmitted. Please complete the following information and mail to the Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power, PO Box 68, Danube, MN 56230.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Ad to be placed (limit of 15 words per ad)

Type of ad: Giveaway For Sale For Rent Wanted

Reminder

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2018 to please contact our 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 material are received.

Thank you...

I am sincerely honored to have received the random drawing scholarship. Thank you for allowing the balance of the scholarship applicants to have the opportunity to be in the random drawing scholarship. Again, thank you for your generosity in helping financially support my college education. I am very appreciative to be the recipient. I will be majoring in agriculture education. I can't wait to begin my career path in the agriculture field. Thank you for this scholarship.

Sincerely,
Meghan Beckendorf

Thank you for the gift certificate I received at the annual meeting. I enjoyed the speaker you chose and the dinner.

Darlene Konz



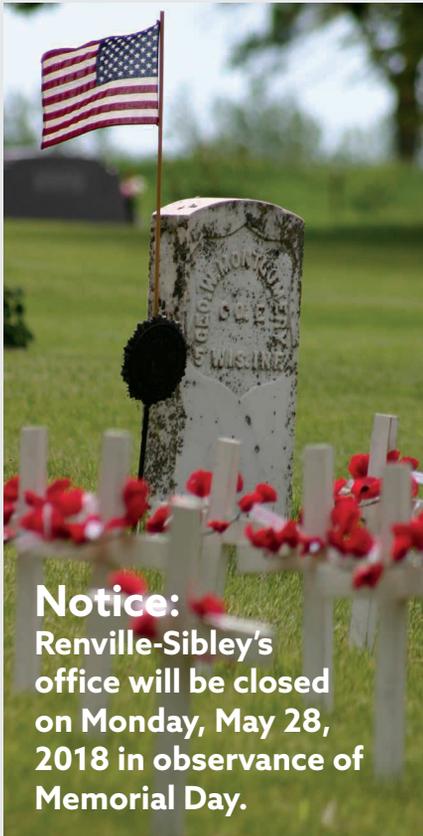
Mission Statement:

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

Scholar Honored

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power would like to recognize Ellie Thein as April's Touchstone Energy® Scholar of the Month. Ellie is a senior at MACCRAY High School. She was nominated because she is highly dedicated to her studies, extracurricular activities and her community. Ellie takes challenging classes in school, including college classes, is a three-sport athlete and participates in Business Professionals of America, National Honor Society and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. When the school stopped offering a program to visit residents of the local care facility, Ellie took it upon herself to request approval to continue visiting the residents once a week during her teaching assistant hour. Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Ellie as the April Touchstone Energy Scholar of the month.

More information on the Scholar of the Month program can be found on our website under the Customer Service tab.



Notice:
Renville-Sibley's office will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2018 in observance of Memorial Day.

April Board Meeting Highlights

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

The election of officers was held with the following results:

- Chairman – Roger Manthei
- Vice Chairman – Philip Nestande
- Secretary/Treasurer – Alan Neyers

The following items were reviewed and approved by the board:

- Minutes of the March board meeting
- Director compensation – no change
- Board committees
- Board meeting dates and times from June 2018 to May 2019
- Officer appointments of the cooperative
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of March
- Capital credits to an estate

Notice:

The May board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 31, 2018, at 8 a.m. The June board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2018, at 8 a.m.

- Safety report for April
- Secretary's Certificate for Articles of Incorporation Amendment to file with Secretary of State
- Articles of Incorporation Amendment approved by the membership at the annual meeting
- Revisions to Schedule B – Rates
- Revisions to Policy 308 – Large Power 5-7 Interruptible
- Revisions to Policy 309 – Small Off Peak Power – 5/7
- Policy 527 – Sick Time Donation

The board reviewed:

- List of new members and capital credits transferred
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department. Items in the reports include:
 - High level Statement of Operations review – YTD through March 2018 (unaudited)
 - Organization activities
 - East River update
 - NRECA update
 - MREA update
 - Line crew work in progress and pending work
 - Accounts receivable
 - 80th annual meeting
 - Basin Electric tour
- Upcoming meetings were discussed.

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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip:

Use rubber or wool dryer balls, which help separate clothing in the cycle, providing better airflow and a shorter drying time. Wool dryer balls can help absorb moisture, which also reduces drying time.

Source: energy.gov





The 2017 Ford Focus, with a price tag in the \$35,000 dollar range, can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 6 to 11 seconds, which is about average for all U.S. cars.

What You Don't Know about Electric Cars Could

THRILL YOU

Electric Vehicles Aren't Just for City Driving.

Paul Wesslund

NRECA Contributing Writer

If you want a really powerful car, maybe one that can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in less than 3 seconds, consider an electric vehicle like the NIO EP9.

You're right, that's too powerful. The NIO EP9 would also cost you more than a million dollars. But even more modest versions offer a respectable kick. The Chevy Bolt and Ford Focus, with price tags in the \$35,000 dollar range, make the jump to 60 mph in 6 to 11 seconds, which is about average for all U.S. cars.

There's a built-in reason electric cars hold their own in performance, says Brian Sloboda, a program and product manager at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"In an electric car, all of the power is going into the wheels. With a gas-powered car, a lot of power is lost inside the mechanical engine," says Sloboda. "If you sit in an electric car and the driver smashes down on the accelerator, you are going to be thrown into the back of your seat, much more so than many gasoline cars."

In March, Goodyear announced a new tire that would hold up better under the "instant torque from electric motors."

Photo Caption



But wait, there's more.

"The battery is at the bottom of the car, so you have a lower center of gravity, which means you can take the corners crisper," says Sloboda. "If you do a lot of driving in the hills or mountains, they are fun."

Electric vehicles hold a lot of other surprises compared to the

traditional view of them as a glorified golf cart. Even electric co-op in rural parts of the country are hearing interest from their members.

About 700,000 electric vehicles drive on U.S. roads today, according to an analysis by CoBank, a financier for electric co-ops. That number could jump to 3 million in the next five years, says CoBank. The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration projects electric vehicle sales growing from about 1 percent of the market today, to 12 percent by 2050.

Car makers are pushing those trends. In October, General Motors said it would launch 20 new electric vehicles by 2023. In January, Ford announced plans to invest \$11 billion in a lineup of 40 hybrid and electric vehicles by 2022. In March, Volkswagen said it had secured \$25 billion in electric car batteries and technology and plans to scale that up to \$60 billion.

One of the most radical new notions about electric vehicles, advises Sloboda, is to think of them not as cars or trucks, but as consumer electronics.

"The internal combustion engine is a perfected technology, so those cars aren't improving at a very rapid pace," says Sloboda. "But electric vehicles are evolving at a very rapid pace, so you're really kind of comparing it to a cell phone or a computer."

What that means for consumers, says Sloboda, is that they might consider leasing an electric car rather than buying one, to make it easier to trade in the car to take advantage of the annual improvements in battery life, and other features.

Other unexpected benefits of electric vehicles that could speed their acceptance, says Sloboda, include range, maintenance and more competitive costs.

Will I run out of juice?

The electric vehicle industry has a term for the biggest roadblock to its growth—range anxiety. But Sloboda says the fear of getting stranded far from home with no way to refuel may be overblown, and getting less concerning.

"The range on the electric cars you can buy today is perfectly sufficient to cover almost everyone's daily commute," he says. Sloboda says that while electric cars won't work for someone regularly commuting 100 miles a day, "For most people, even in rural areas, that number is under 40 miles a day. Most electric cars on the market today have between a 120 mile range and some of them are getting close to a 200 miles."

The Federal Highway Administration reports the average American drives 37 miles a day.

Less hassle

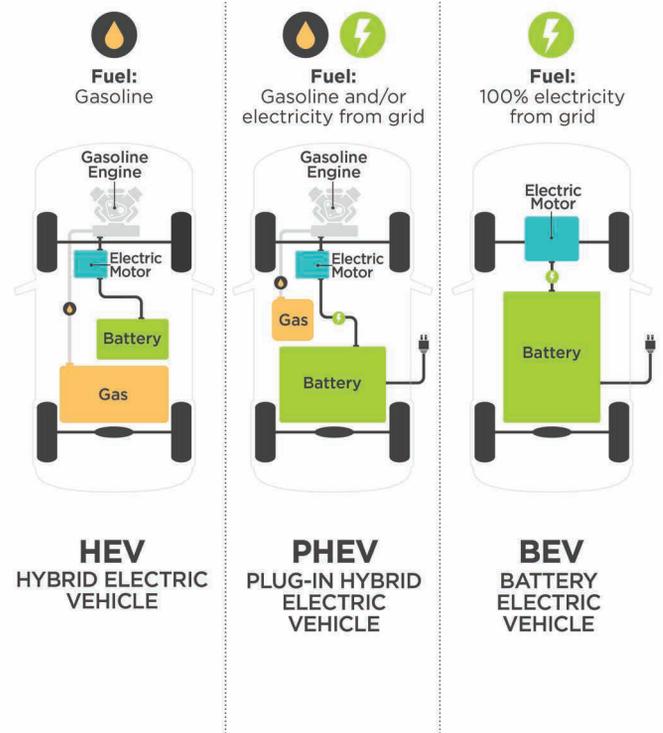
Electric car acceptance doesn't need to wait for a network or charging stations to appear around the country, says Sloboda. He sees refueling more like this: you plug your car into an outlet in your garage at the end of each day, and by morning it's fully charged.

"No more having to stop and fill your tank up once or twice a week," he says. "You can charge it at home while you're sleeping and wake up to a full tank every single day."

Electric cars can also save on maintenance, says Sloboda.

Types of Electric Vehicles

If you're looking to purchase an electric vehicle, use this cheat sheet to help determine the various options. Drivers can choose between three types of electric vehicles (EVs). EVs are classed by the amount of electricity that is used as their energy source.



Source: Electric Power Research Institute

"With an electric vehicle, you don't have oil changes, and you don't really have transmission fluid changes," he says.

And regenerative braking in electric cars uses the electric motor to slow the car rather than relying only on brake pad friction. Sloboda says, "A lot of electric vehicle owners are saying they've never replaced their brakes because you just don't have the physical wear and tear on the brake pad."

Costs are coming down.

Sloboda says electric car costs today make them a luxury car, but that's changing. As electric car research, development and production increases, costs will be coming down. Tax breaks for electric cars at the federal level and in some states can reduce costs by several thousand dollars. And Sloboda notes that electric costs less per mile than gasoline.

But one of the main reasons drivers buy electric cars is for environmental reasons.

Sloboda says an electric car "is cleaner than a gas-powered car, no doubt about it."

Another advantage of an electric car, he adds, is that "you're powering it with electricity from your local electric co-op."

Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Renville-Sibley members joined together at the 80th annual meeting of the members.

RENVILLE-SIBLEY HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

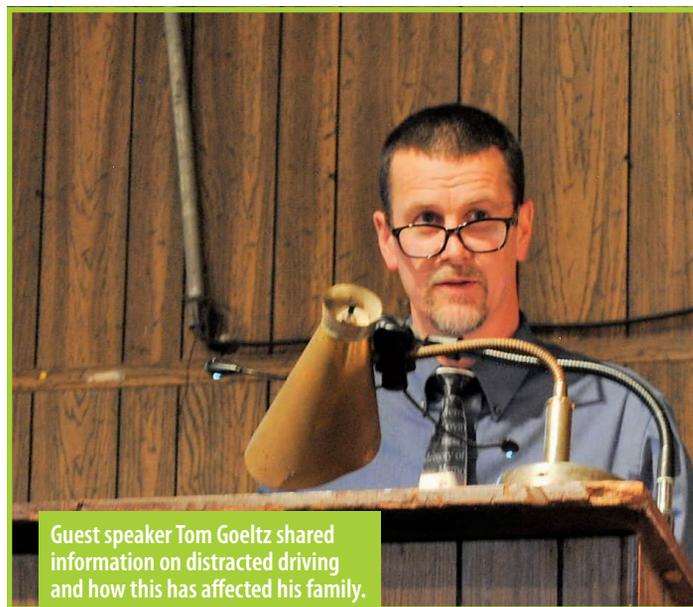
Lenae Wordes

lwordes@renville-sibley.coop

Renville-Sibley held its 80th annual meeting on Thursday, April 5 at the Island Ballroom in Bird Island with 324 members and guests in attendance. Drawings for prizes were held prior to the start of the meeting and following the meeting. A list of prize winners can be found following this article.

Guests had the opportunity to view a demonstration on driving hazards organized by the Renville County Sheriff's department. This demonstration correlated to the message shared by the guest speaker, Tom Goeltz, Vice President of Hays Companies. He presented information on distracted driving, sharing his personal story of the impact a distracted driver had on his family. He shared different forms of distracted driving and statistics on how many deaths are related to distracted driving. Rubber thumb bands were available at each place setting with "W8 2 TX" imprinted on the band. He encouraged everyone to wear this or pass on to someone else as a reminder to not text and drive. Goeltz closed the presentation with various steps each of us can do to prevent this from happening to our family.

Scholarship winners selected by the Scholarship Committee were recognized. They included: Ryan Albrecht, selected as the \$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship winner and Katie Filzen, selected as the \$1,000 Renville-Sibley Scholarship winner. A random drawing was held from the remaining scholarship applicants for a \$1,000 scholarship. Congratulations to Meghan Beckendorf for having her name drawn.



Guest speaker Tom Goeltz shared information on distracted driving and how this has affected his family.

Phil Nestande announced the results of the election. The following were elected for a three-year term: District 1 – Alan Neyers, District 2 – Helen Ruebel and District 3 – Gary Peterson. The membership also voted in favor of the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

Following the meeting a delicious meal was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all who attended the 80th annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Prize List

(Items listed in **red** are children's gifts.)

- 1) Flashlight Glove – Ron Kopacek
- 2) **Spinning Water Sprinkler – Levi Swanson**
- 3) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Barb Robertson
- 4) Night Light Outlet Cover – Orlin Kiecker
- 5) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – John Sietsema
- 6) **Sidewalk Chalk – Erica Jaenisch**
- 7) Laser Level – Jim Schewe
- 8) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – James Santjer
- 9) Disc Golf Set – Butch Buschette
- 10) Smoke Detector – Eloid Penke
- 11) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Howard Jahnke
- 12) \$25 Cenex gift card – James Gartner
- 13) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Curt Groen
- 14) Mosquito Protection Lantern – Jack Kiecker
- 15) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Donn Stellmacher
- 16) **Giant Bouncing Ball – Anika Lee**
- 17) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Larry Mueller
- 18) Solar LED Outdoor Light Set – Rodney Peterson
- 19) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Clay Bryan
- 20) Household Vacuum – Dave Muench
- 21) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Darlene Konz
- 22) \$25 Cenex Gift Card – Dale Frank
- 23) Six Player Croquet Set – Tom Kodet
- 24) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – David Fischer
- 25) \$25 Cenex gift card – Scott Refsland
- 26) **Inflatable Body Bumpers – Felicity Johnson**
- 27) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Dale Filzen
- 28) Black & Decker Electric Screwdriver – Randy Albrecht
- 29) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Wayne Zaske
- 30) 3 Cup Chopper – Mike Haubrich
- 31) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Kevin Ziesmer
- 32) Climbing Cart – Kathleen Frank
- 33) **Curve Ball Set – Carson Lee**
- 34) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Doug Krause
- 35) Toaster Oven – Jeff Rice
- 36) \$25 Energy Gift Certificate – Jason Swanson
- 37) Slow Cooker – Dwayne Lee
- 38) East River Electric picnic basket/cooler – Fred Amberg
- 39) East River Electric picnic basket/cooler – Mark Chan



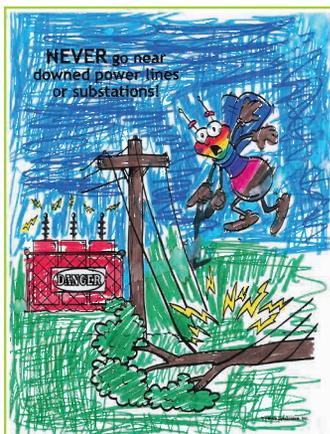
Congratulations to scholarship winners, from left, Ryan Albrecht, Katie Filzen and Meghan Beckendorf.



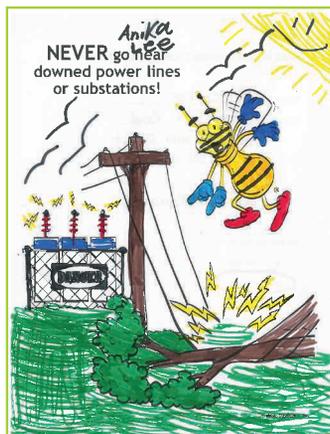
Renville County Sheriff's Department was at the meeting to share information on distracted driving.

Stay Safe Around Electricity

Each year Renville-Sibley invites children in attendance 12 years old and under to color a picture about being safe around electricity for a coloring contest. The winners, by age category, are as follows:



5 – 8 years old: **Anika Lee**



9 – 12 years old: **Erica Jaenisch**

Meet the Electric John Deere

Battery-run Tractor Showcased in Paris

Kaley Lockwood

editor@sdrea.coop

In order for the SESAM to take off, the battery capacity will need to expand to support the sun-up to sun-down longevity of farm work.

Green and yellow are arguably the second-most American set of colors, behind red, white and blue of course. This rings true particularly for those who operate John Deere machinery on a daily basis, as the growth of our nation is supremely dependent on the country's agriculture industry, including the good folks who support it.

Technology in recent years has been the catalyst for the boom and bust of many industries. In the past decade or so, advancements in farming technology have primarily been focused on automation and precision, but with the automobile industry moving towards electric vehicles, the ag-industry is following suit.

John Deere showcased the first, fully battery-powered tractor in 2017 at SIMA, an international agribusiness tradeshow in Paris. This technological innovation was given a 'special mention' as it truly the first of its kind. Nicknamed SESAM, for Sustainable Energy Supply for Agricultural Machinery, this all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6r series tractors.



A peek under the hood of John Deere's first, fully battery-powered tractor. The all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6r series tractors.

In a press release by John Deere, SESAM is said to have all of the same "features and functionality of a 'conventional' tractor while offering the benefits of electric power." This emissions-free tractor runs at a lower noise level than other traditional tractors and is operated using two independent electric motors. The electrification of this tractor simplifies the moving parts and thus, greatly reduces the need for maintenance.

These two motors power an adapted DirectDrive transmission, producing 130 kilowatts of continuous power with a peak output of 400 horsepower, according to Farm-Equipment.com. The website also affirms that the tractor takes three hours to fully charge and can run up to four hours in the field with speeds ranging from 2 mph to 30 mph. As a comparison, the Tesla model 3 may have a capacity of up to 75 kilowatt hours of battery storage (kWh), providing a range of about 310 miles. The SESAM has a capacity of 130 kWh with a range of about 34 miles, which

means that this tractor uses a lot more electricity in a shorter period of time.

In order for the SESAM to take off, the battery capacity will need to expand to support the sun-up to sun-down longevity of farm work. In fact, the President and CEO of Autonomous Tractor Corporation, Kraig Schulz, purported that a 200 horsepower electric tractor would hypothetically need about 1,500 kWh of batteries to complete a full day's work. As energy storage technology continues to advance, it's only a matter of time before John Deere manufactures a tractor that can meet this need.

Although SESAM's battery technology may not yet be practical for a full day of farming, the all-electric tractor is a very exciting development for the agriculture industry. This is one of many future steps in the direction of electrifying agricultural machinery and integrating this equipment with renewables. As the press release

stated, "The SESAM tractor is a major part of John Deere's vision of the energy-independent farm of the future."

This push towards electrification of farm machinery in lieu of using fossil fuels directly supports the beneficial electrification movement. This concept, known fully as "environmentally beneficial electrification," is gaining traction among a growing number of groups in the U.S. including local electric cooperatives. Frequently promoted as a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping the environment, beneficial electrification also helps consumers by providing products that are cleaner, quieter and easier to maintain. John Deere's SESAM tractor does just that.

Kaley Lockwood writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

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In 2017, John Deere showcased the first, fully battery-powered tractor. This technological innovation is truly the first of its kind. Nicknamed SESAM, for Sustainable Energy Supply for Agricultural Machinery, this all-electric tractor is modeled after John Deere's 6R series tractors.





Did You Know?



The contact information for a number of locating companies who will locate privately owned underground facilities on your property can be found in the industry directory at www.gopherstateonecall.org/private-facility-locators.

Not Everything Gets Marked When You Call



- ELECTRIC
- GAS, OIL, AND PROPANE
- PHONE AND CABLE
- WATER
- SEWER

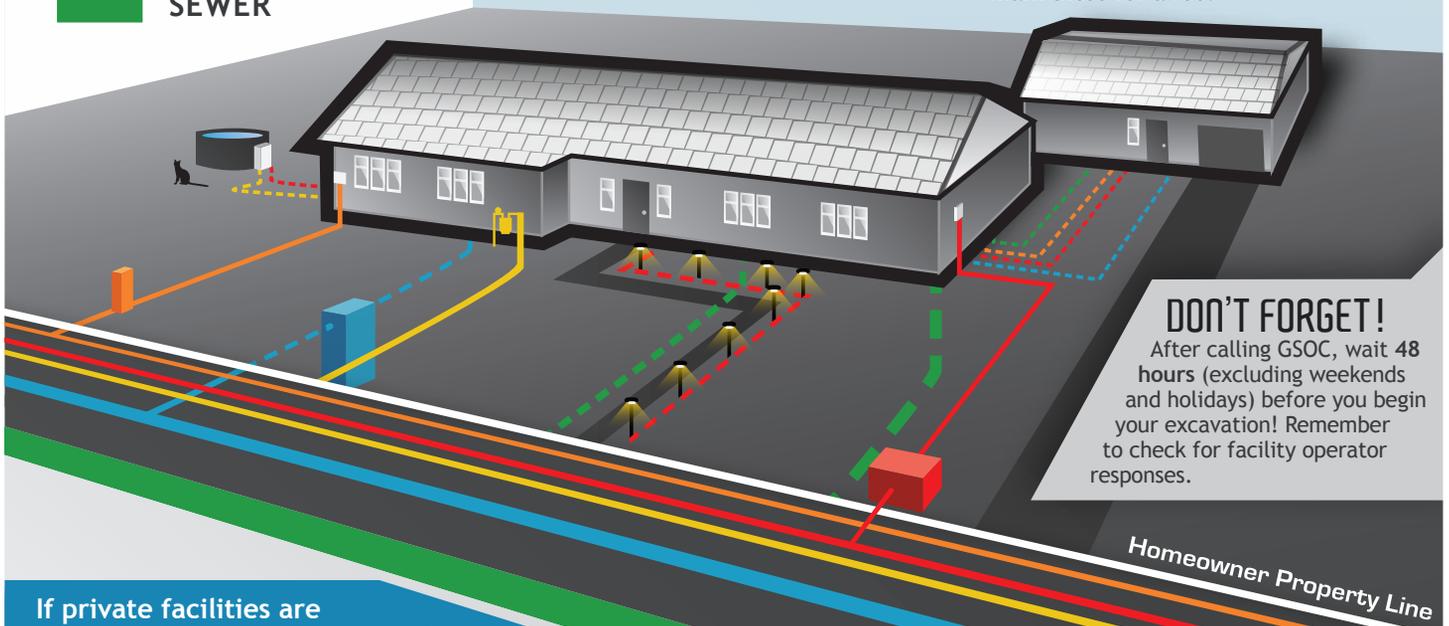
Private underground facilities, such as private utility lines and private distribution networks, do not get marked by facility operators. When a property owner or tenant has any type of private underground facility, they are responsible to locate those facilities or hire someone to locate them.

Customer-owned lines usually include any that serve outbuildings, hot tubs,

security lighting, pools, and natural gas grills.

The free locating service available through Gopher State One Call (GSOC) applies **ONLY** to public facility operators. The diagram below shows a variety of utilities, some owned by the utility and some by the homeowner.

Those utilities marked by dotted lines are typically owned by the property owner. Private locating services will mark these for a fee.



DON'T FORGET!

After calling GSOC, wait 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) before you begin your excavation! Remember to check for facility operator responses.

Homeowner Property Line

If private facilities are suspected, the excavator should:

- Physically inspect the jobsite.
- Ask the property owner.
- See what equipment or power may serve out buildings.
- Contact the original installer of the facilities for any maps of the lines.
- Excavate with caution and be aware of any warning signs of underground facilities.
- Visit www.gopherstateonecall.org/contract-locators-directory for information on private locating companies.

If you are installing private facilities consider doing the following:

- Prepare maps of any new underground facilities.
- Bury tracer wire with the new facilities.
- Use above ground markers or signs to indicate the buried facilities.
- Visit www.gopherstateonecall.org/how-gsoc-works/private-facility-intro for more information about protecting private facilities.

HOMEOWNERS: Tell your excavator about any private underground lines you know of.

Staying Safe After a Storm

Lightning, high winds, heavy rains and tornadoes are all signs of a severe storm that can cause damage. After the storm clears, we assume it is safe to go on with our lives, but just because the storm passes, there can be danger. Destruction left behind from severe storms can mean downed power lines flooding and other electrical safety hazards.

Damaged power lines can still be live and energized. Stay away from all damaged power lines, downed lines and any object that may be in contact with them. Instruct others to do the same. Call 911 to inform your local utility of damaged lines.

Immediately following a storm, follow these safety tips to keep you and your family safe:

- Listen to your weather radio, tune in to a local radio station or check the weather app on your phone for up-to-date information and instructions.
- Never enter a flooded basement if electrical outlets, cords or appliances are under water. The water could be energized by electricity.
- Do not turn off power if you have to stand in water to do so. Call your utility and have them turn off your electricity at the meter.
- Before entering storm-damaged buildings, make sure the gas and electricity are turned off.
- If you detect the smell of gas or suspect a leak, leave the house immediately. Call 911 and your utility to alert them of the issue. Do not light an open flame or flip any switches in the house.
- If at all possible, stay at home and off the roadways to allow emergency personnel and utility crews to tend to the injured and damaged areas.
- Never drive through a flooded roadway. There is no way of knowing how deep the water is. A good rule to follow is *turn around, don't drown*.
- If you are driving and come across a downed power line, stay away and warn other drivers to stay away as well. Contact emergency personnel or your local utility to address the downed line. If you come in contact with a downed power line while driving, stay in your vehicle and wait for a utility to make sure the line is de-energized before exiting the vehicle.
- When cleaning up storm damage outdoors, do not use electrical tools if the ground is wet. Also, do not use electrical equipment that has been damaged by water. Have your water-damaged items inspected and approved by a professional before using them.

For more information on how to stay safe after a storm, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Staying Safe Until Power is Restored



How long it takes to get your power restored depends on:

- the extent of the storm's destruction 
- the number of outages **#?**
- when it becomes safe for utility personnel to get to the damaged areas 

There are many steps in the assessment and restoration process—clearing downed power lines; ensuring public health and safety facilities are operational; checking power stations and transformers; repairing transmission lines, substations, and distribution lines; and getting power restored to consumers within the various damaged areas.

Storm Safety Kit

-  Drinking water & food
-  Blankets, pillows, & clothing
-  Basic first-aid supplies
-  Prescriptions
-  Basic toiletries
-  Flashlights
-  Battery-operated radio
-  Battery-operated clock
-  Extra supply of batteries
-  Phone
-  Cash and credit cards
-  Emergency numbers
- Important documents (in a waterproof container)
- Toys, books, & games
- Baby supplies
- Pet supplies



Stay safe until we can restore power to you. We and our partner Safe Electricity recommend the following safety precautions:

- Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines. Just because they are damaged **does not mean they are dead!**
- Never enter a flooded room if electrical outlets are submerged. **The water could be energized.**
- **Do not** turn power off if you must stand in water to do so.
- Before entering storm-damaged buildings, **make sure electricity and gas are turned off.**
- If you clean-up outdoors after a storm, **do not use electric equipment** when it is wet out.
- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, **stay away and keep others away.** Contact emergency personnel or your utility company to address the downed power line.
- If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line, **do not leave the car!** Wait for utility professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.

For more information, visit:



DATELINE

May 19-20, May 26-27
Northeast Area Pari-Mutuel
Horse Racing, Aberdeen, SD,
605-715-9580

May 25-September 30
Legends in Light® Laser
Light Show at Crazy Horse
Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD,
605-673-4681

May 25-27
South Dakota Kayak
Challenge, Yankton, SD,
605-864-9011

May 26-27
Annual SDRA Foothills Rodeo,
Wessington Springs, SD,
605-770-4370

June 1-2
South Dakota BBQ
Championships, Huron, SD,
605-353-7354

June 1-3
Fort Sisseton Historical
Festival, Lake City, SD,
605-448-5474

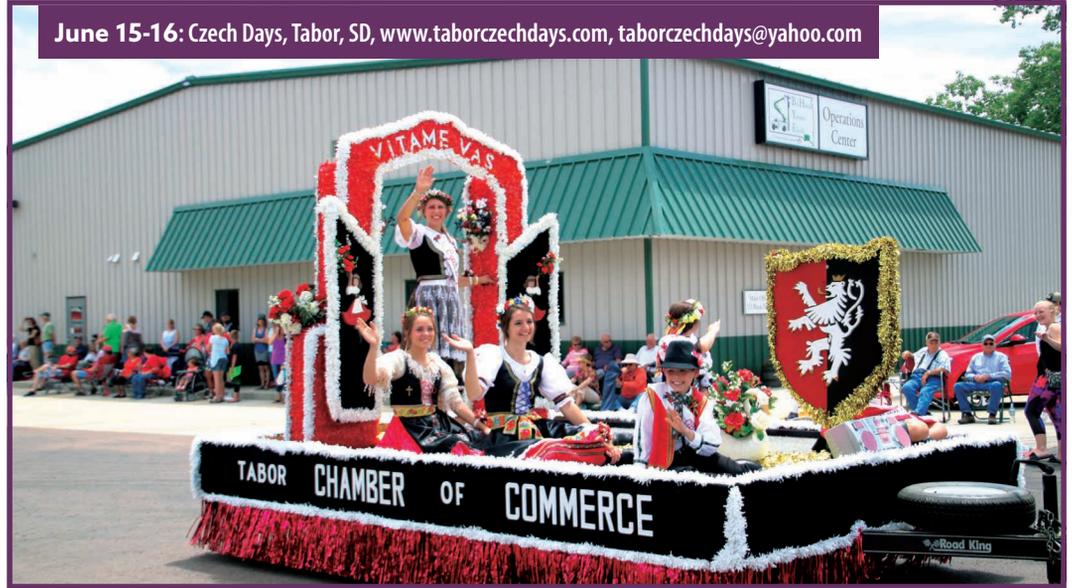
June 1-3
Annual Black Hills Quilt
Show & Sale, Rapid City, SD,
605-394-4115

June 1-3
Wheel Jam, Huron, SD,
605-353-7340

June 1-3
Fish Days, Lake Andes, SD,
605-487-7694

June 2
Annual Casey Tibbs Match of
Champions, Fort Pierre, SD,
605-494-1094

June 2
Dairy Fest, Brookings, SD,
605-692-7539



June 15-16: Czech Days, Tabor, SD, www.taborczechdays.com, taborczechdays@yahoo.com

June 2-3
Spring Volksmarch at Crazy
Horse Memorial, Crazy Horse,
SD, 605-673-4681

**June 2, 16, July 7, 21,
Aug. 25, Sept. 8, 22**
Lawn Mower Races, Pukwana,
SD, 605-680-1718 or
605-682-9781

June 7-9
Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD,
Contact Nick at 605-978-6924

June 7-10
South Dakota Shakespeare
Festival, Vermillion, SD,
605-622-0423

June 8-9
Senior Games, Spearfish, SD,
Contact Brett Rauterhaus at
605-772-1430

June 9-10
Siouxland Renaissance
Festival, Sioux Falls, SD,
866-489-9241

June 14-17
Jamboree Days, Hartford, SD,
605-359-4929

June 15-16
Wild Bill Days, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

June 15-17
Black Hills Fat Tire Festival,
Rapid City, SD, 605-394-5223

June 16
Vinegar Festival, Roslyn, SD,
605-486-0075

June 16-17
South Dakota Peach Festival,
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-789-4098

June 21-23
Crystal Springs Rodeo, Clear
Lake, SD, 605-874-2996

June 21-23
Senior Games, Mitchell, SD,
Contact Howard Bich at
605-491-0635

June 22-23
Oahe Days Arts & Music
Festival, Pierre, SD,
oaheadaysinfo@gmail.com

June 22-24
Annual Main Street Arts and
Crafts Festival, Hot Springs,
SD, 605-440-2738

June 29
Naja Shrine Circus, Wall, SD,
605-342-3402

June 30
Naja Shrine Circus,
Deadwood, SD, 605-342-3402

July 10-15
4th Annual 3 Wheeler Rally,
Deadwood, SD, 605-717-7174,
www.d3wr.com

August 12
Czech Heritage Festival,
Bechyn, MN 320-522-1218,
www.bechynczechfest.org

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.