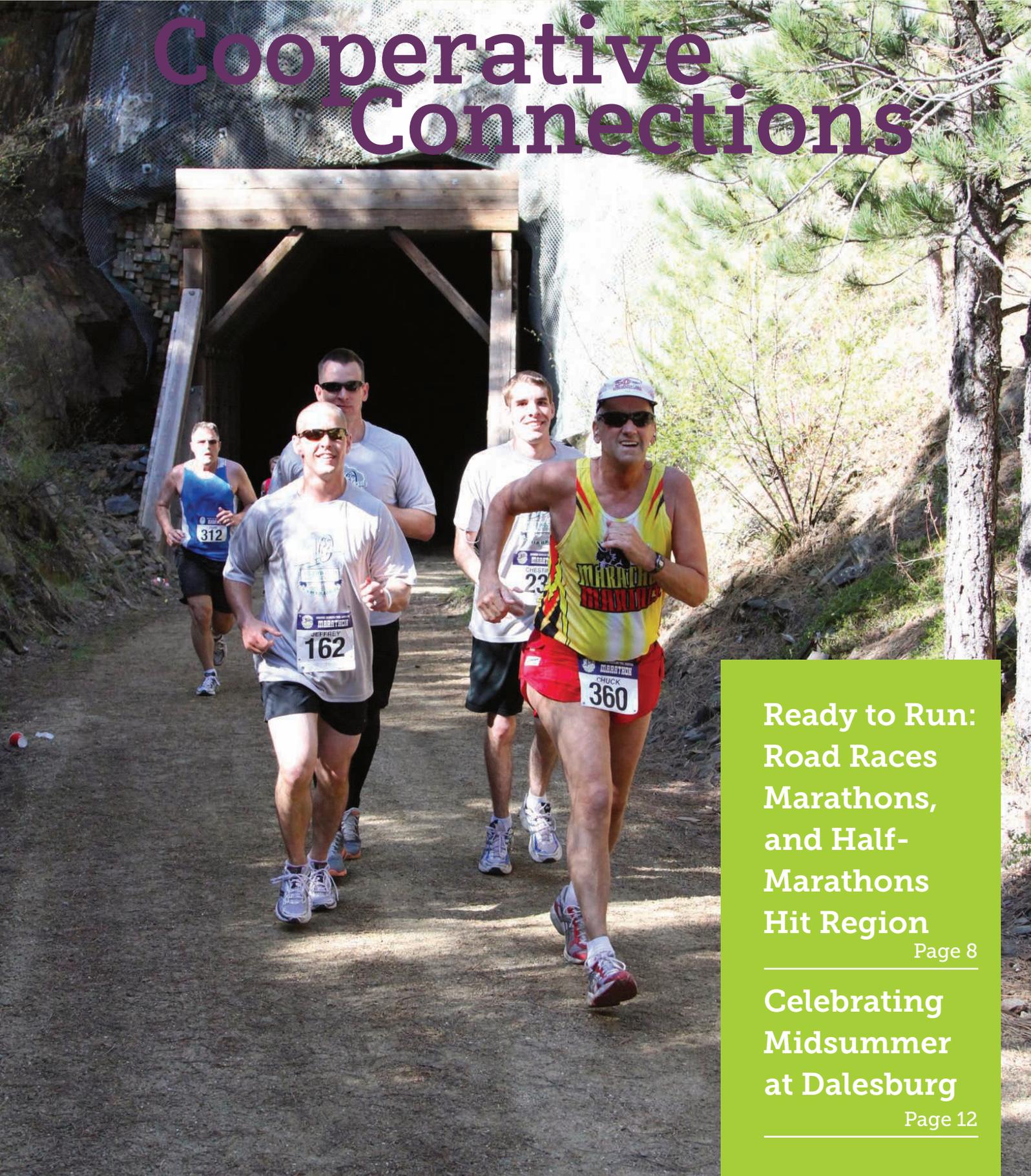




# Cooperative Connections



**Ready to Run:  
Road Races,  
Marathons,  
and Half-  
Marathons  
Hit Region**

Page 8

**Celebrating  
Midsummer  
at Dalesburg**

Page 12

# Line Crew Activities



**Gene Alex**

Line Superintendent  
gallex@renville-sibley.coop  
Phone: 320-826-2593 or  
Toll Free 800-826-2593

**The goal of the tree trimming program, in conjunction with burying the taps, is to reduce tree-related outages.**

Similar to last year, the construction season will start after a mid-April snow/ice storm. This construction season is the fourth year in the scheduled work plan. The line crew completed five distribution system work plan projects last year. In addition, the crew is continuing to work on overhead-to-underground conversion projects.

Renville-Sibley linemen use an overhead line patrol app to gather information while patrolling lines during the winter months. We also used this app to gather information during the April storm. Items the linemen look for while patrolling the lines include broken conductors, broken poles, broken insulators, loose wires and leaning poles. The linemen create service orders while line patrolling to track issues that need repair and to document issues that are repaired on the spot.

Service orders generated from line patrol are typically addressed in March and April. Many of these service orders are for damage due to the elements of Minnesota winters. For example: loose bolts, frays in our wires, faded warning/caution/underground signs, damaged poles and trees. This year, the large amount of snow made getting to tree areas difficult. The goal of the tree trimming program, in conjunction with burying the taps, is to reduce tree-related outages.

Annual inspection of equipment is also completed in the winter months. Federal requirements state that trucks more than 26,000 pounds as well as any trailer in combination with these trucks, need DOT inspections. The booms on the trucks are tested annually for strength and dielectric soundness.

The linemen started changing rejected poles in April and have now added poles damaged in the most recent storm to their list. Soon the crew will be back to working on overhead to underground conversions in the Fairfax/Franklin area. They will then move to the Bird Island and Renville areas to begin other projects including more overhead-to-underground conversions. 517201

One of our system projects is to connect the Honnor Substation with the Henryville Substation. We will construct a new circuit from the Honnor Substation ending three miles south on County Road No. 19. We've added a two-mile project on the Troy-to-Birch Cooley tie. This will add a contingency option for both substations. We are replacing an underground three-phase line by the Birch Cooley Substation. The present conductor has had several faults on it and needs to be replaced.

There have been a fair number of member-requested service upgrades. Any member thinking about a service upgrade should contact Renville-Sibley as early as possible to allow time to order needed materials. Renville-Sibley will review projects as requested by members and will return a quote as soon as possible. Renville-Sibley may have questions for members during this process. Examples may include how much load are you adding, are you moving or building a new service, who do you use for an electrician, etc. The Minnesota electrical inspector is required to visit the site if there are any changes or alterations to the service.



Renville-Sibley has a contracted locating service to locate our underground utilities. Often a member will ask, "Why didn't the lines get marked in my yard?" Renville-Sibley owns the lines from the distribution system to the meter and the member owns any lines after the meter. Renville-Sibley will help locate member-owned underground lines in the overhead-to-underground conversion project. However, because the lines after the meter are owned by the member, it is the member's responsibility to locate these lines. Any member-owned locating request should be done by the member's chosen electrician. In addition, always call Gopher State One Call (GSOC) at least 48 hours before doing any type of excavation. The GSOC phone number is 1-800-252-1166 or go to [www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org).

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

# Renville-Sibley

## Cooperative Connections

(USPS 019-074)

### Board of Directors

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

### Renville-Sibley Employees

Gene Alex – Line Superintendent  
Brian Athmann – Journeyman Lineman  
Shawn Beckler – Crew Chief  
Mike Benson – Journeyman Lineman  
Brad Braulick – Crew Chief  
Nick Bruns – Systems Coordinator  
Anthony Carruth – Journeyman Lineman  
Amy Ervin – Consumer Accounts Representative  
Brayden Fischer – Journeyman Lineman  
Cindy Mertens – Administrative Services Manager  
DeeAnne Newville – CEO  
Brandon Ochs – Journeyman Lineman  
Clint Olson – Journeyman Lineman  
Kathy Ridl – Office Assistant  
Lenae Wordes – Communications Manager

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Web site: [www.renville-sibley.coop](http://www.renville-sibley.coop)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Operation Round Up<sup>®</sup> Set to Kick Off

By Lenae Wordes

[lwordes@renville-sibley.coop](mailto:lwordes@renville-sibley.coop)

In the past five newsletters, at our member informational meetings in February and at our annual meeting in March, we have been sharing information on the Operation Round Up<sup>®</sup> program. The program is set to launch on the statement members will receive in June. I have been spending a lot of time talking about this opportunity as I want all members to know about this great program and also give the membership time to opt out of the program if they are not interested in participating.

As a reminder, the Operation Round Up program rounds up the member's electric bill to the next even dollar amount. For example, if your bill was \$53.67, the bill would be rounded up to \$54. The maximum any member could contribute in a 12-month period is \$11.88. To reach this amount, the electric bill would have to end in \$0.01 each of the 12 months. On average, members will contribute \$6 in a calendar year.

First let's talk about the benefits of this great program. Cooperatives across the country have been using the Operation Round Up program for years. Funds collected from the member's electric bill are put into a special fund with the money to be donated to various nonprofit organizations. A board of trustees, made up of cooperative members, will review applications from organizations requesting the funds and determine where to donate and how much to give each organization. What a great opportunity our members have to pool their funds and give back to their communities.

Renville-Sibley has elected to automatically opt all members into the program. However, any member who does not want to participate can contact the office and we will remove them from the program. At any time, now or in the future, if a member no longer wishes to participate, they can ask to be removed from the program. We realize the Operation Round Up program may not be for everyone.

I will continue to talk about the Operation Round Up program in future newsletter articles. Any member who has questions about the program may call the office at 800-826-2593. Thank you to all who are interested in supporting Operation Round Up.

**SMALL CHANGE**  
THAT CHANGES LIVES



— OPERATION ROUND UP —



# Summer Electrical Safety Tips for Kids

As school begins to let out, families are starting to enjoy some outdoor time with their young children. Backyards, local parks and pools are great places to spend your summer days, but to ensure a happy, healthy and safe summer, parents should be aware of a few electrical safety basics to share with their children.

- Be aware of power lines around you and always assume that wires are "live and dangerous." Never touch an outdoor wire with any part of your body, toys or other objects.
- Do not throw items such as gym shoes onto electric lines and equipment or try to retrieve items from around overhead power lines.
- Fly kites and model airplanes and other toys in large open areas such as a field or a park – safely away from trees and overhead power lines. Also, do not attempt to retrieve balloons, kites or other objects that may get stuck on power lines or other electrical equipment.
- Do not climb trees near power lines. Even if power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch during climbing when more weight is added to a branch.
- Never climb a utility pole or play on or around electrical equipment.
- Never post or tie signs, hang banners or tie ribbons or balloons onto utility poles or other electrical equipment. This can be dangerous to you and endanger utility workers.
- Do not go into an electric substation for any reason – even on a dare. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Also, never attempt to rescue a pet that goes inside. Instead, call your local utility company.
- Never try to rescue a family member, friend or pet that has come into contact with any electrical equipment – Call 911 immediately.
- Keep electrical toys, appliances and tools at least 10 feet away from pools and wet surfaces.
- Never touch any electrical toys, appliance and tools while you are wet or standing in water. Energy flows easily through water, like a puddle or a pool.

Source: [www.ehstoday.com](http://www.ehstoday.com)



## Hazard Recognition

**HAZARDS ARE EVERYWHERE. WHAT RISKS AREN'T YOU SEEING?**

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2019  
nsc.org/nsm

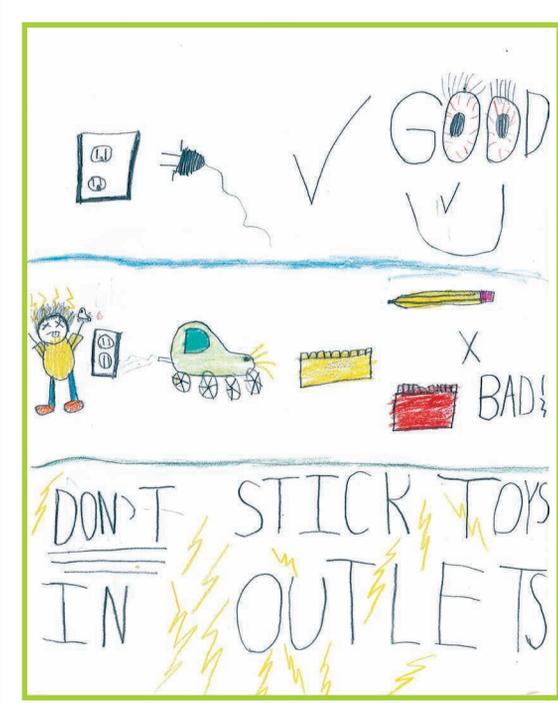



## Falls

**DON'T GET TRIPPED UP! CLEAN UP SPILLS IMMEDIATELY.**

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2019  
nsc.org/nsm

### KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Don't stick toys in outlets"**

**Jarron Kruger,**  
8 years old

Jarron is the son of Jarrod and Cadgie Kruger, Dell Rapids, S.D.

They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, 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

## Orange Cream Chiller

3 oz. orange juice concentrate  
1 cup milk  
1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt

1 small frozen banana  
1 tsp. honey  
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Combine all ingredients; blend until smooth. Serves 2.

**Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, SD**

## Rhubarb Dessert

2 cups flour  
2 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. salt  
4 T. butter  
4 T. milk  
2 eggs, beaten

**Filling:**  
3 cups rhubarb  
1 (6 oz.) pkg. red gelatin

**Topping:**  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup flour  
1/3 cup butter

Combine first 6 ingredients. Pat into a 9x13-inch pan. Distribute rhubarb over crust. Sprinkle gelatin over rhubarb. Mix together topping ingredients. Sprinkle over rhubarb. Bake at 350°F. for 45 minutes.

**Roxanna Streckfuss, Mansfield, SD**

## Butter Pecan Pumpkin Dessert

3 cups pumpkin  
3 eggs  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. nutmeg

1/2 tsp. cloves  
1 (13 oz.) can evaporated milk  
1 butter pecan cake mix  
1/2 cup butter, sliced thin  
1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

Combine pumpkin and eggs. Add spices and salt to sugar. Blend sugar mixture and milk with pumpkin mixture. Pour into a 9x13-inch pan. Sprinkle cake mix over all. Top with butter slices and pecans. Bake at 350°F. for 40 to 45 minutes. Serve with whipped topping or ice cream.

**Arlene BaanHofman, Corsica, SD**

## Monkey Bread with Sausage

3/4 cup milk  
1 pkg. McCormick® Original Country Gravy Mix  
1/4 cup melted butter  
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese, divided

3 (7.5 oz. each) cans refrigerated buttermilk biscuits  
1/2 lb. ground breakfast sausage, cooked and drained

Mix milk, gravy mix and melted butter with whisk in large bowl until well blended. Reserve 1/2 cup of gravy mixture; set aside. Cut biscuits into quarters. Add biscuit pieces to gravy mixture in large bowl; gently toss to coat. Stir in 1-1/2 cups cheese and cooked sausage until well blended. Place biscuit mixture into greased 10-cup bundt pan. Pour reserved gravy mixture over top. Bake at 350°F for 35 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Bake 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Cool in pan 5 to 10 minutes. To unmold, loosen sides of monkey bread from pan with a knife. Invert, cheese side up, onto serving plate. Makes 12 servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 321, Total Fat 17g, Saturated Fat 8g, Sodium 855mg, Cholesterol 37mg, Carbohydrates 31g, Protein 11g, Dietary Fiber 1g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Goat Milk Fudge

1 lb. powdered sugar  
1/2 cup cocoa powder  
1/2 cup butter

1/4 cup whole goat milk (may use cow milk)  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1/2 cup nuts, optional

Combine sugar and cocoa in large microwavable bowl; make a well in the center. Place cut-up butter and milk in well; do not stir. Microwave on HIGH for 2 minutes; add vanilla. Blend with stick blender or mixer until smooth; stir in nuts. Pour into greased 8x8-inch square pan. Refrigerate until firm; cut into squares.

**Jersi Kruger, 5 years old, Dell Rapids, SD**

Please send your favorite dessert, vegetarian or 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 December 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



Strong winds caused the line to gallop.

# APRIL 2019 ICE STORM

## 14 Poles Broken; 417 Members Without Power

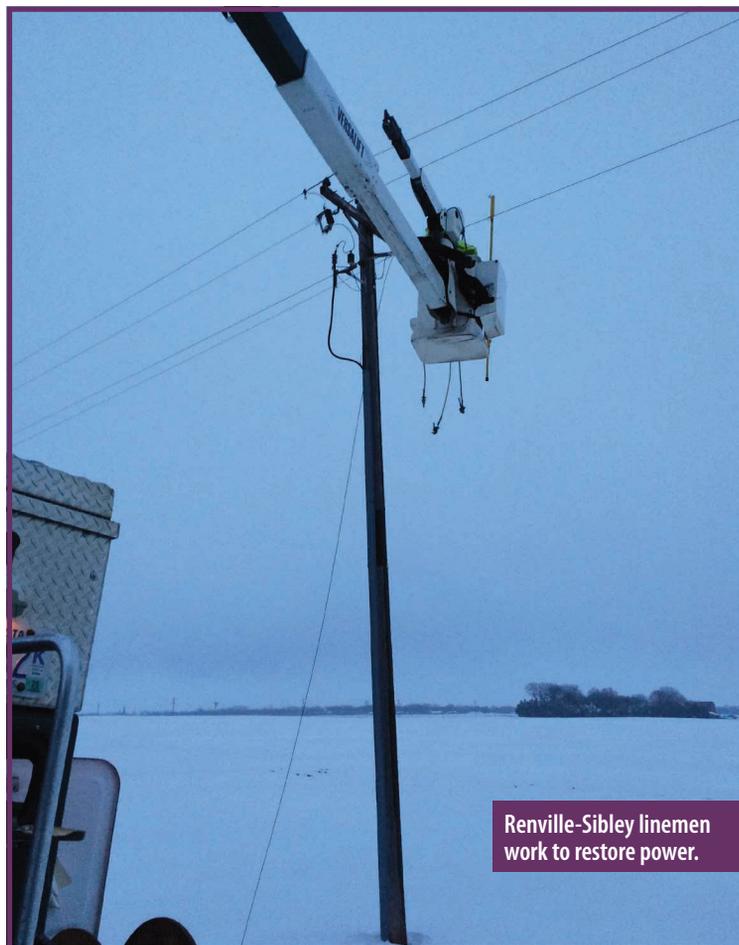
### Gene Alex, Line Superintendent

gallex@renville-sibley.coop

During the winter season, an ice storm can affect our members at any time. Engineers design lines to withstand wind and ice. The United States is divided into three regions – light, medium and heavy loading. The Midwest and Northeast parts of the country are in heavy loading areas. The minimum line construction standard for our area is to have lines designed to withstand a half-inch of ice and winds more than 40 mph and last 50 years under those periodic conditions.

On the night of April 10, our cooperative started seeing ice form on the lines. The outage crew was dispatched to the Henryville Township area around 9 p.m. The crew found a broken insulator. They made the repairs and restored power. By the time the crew returned to the shop, another outage was reported in the Cairo Substation area. They headed to that area to fix the problem and restore power. The crew just returned to the shop and the third outage call came from Cooperative Response Center (CRC), our after-hours response center. The outage crew headed down to the Cairo Substation again. It was approaching 4:30 to 5 a.m. when they arrived at the third outage. The visibility was deteriorating rapidly. This was mostly due to snowfall. They fixed the problem and headed back to the shop.

By this time, the rest of the linemen showed up for their normal working day. The snow switched from a snow/



Renville-Sibley linemen work to restore power.

rain mix to mostly rain. The combination of rain and 24-degree temperatures doesn't mix well. The southern half of the state was getting significant accumulations of ice on equipment. Outages started to pour into the office. The Cairo, Birch Cooley, Kingman and Henryville substations all had outages associated with them.

The line crews started reporting broken poles and downed wires. I sent a crew to the Cairo Substation, one to the Birch Cooley Substation and another to the Kingman Substation. The crews patrolled the lines and made necessary repairs to restore power to the members. Some of the members in the Cairo and Birch Cooley areas lost power multiple times. The Kingman Substation outages were only on one circuit. The crew found a broken insulator and wires galloping. This insulator was repaired around 6 p.m. Thursday night. The crews continued work in the Cairo and Birch Cooley areas until all power was restored. This round of power outages was restored around 1 a.m. Friday morning.

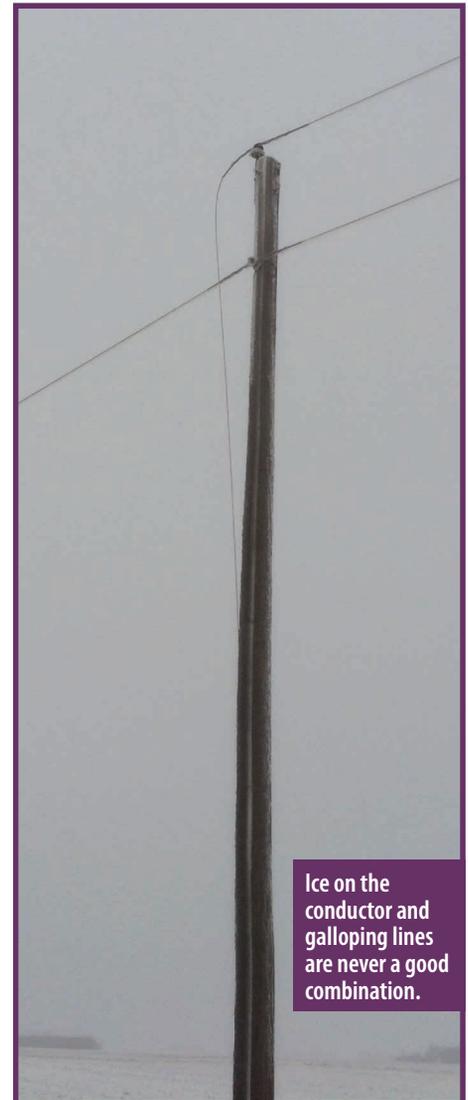
The crews returned Friday morning at 8 a.m. Although the wind had subsided, outage calls started coming in on the Troy and Kingman substations. The ice was releasing from the lines causing them to slap together. The power outages associated with these two substations was

restored mid-morning.

The crews can temporarily fix a broken pole depending on the severity of damage and how many poles are down in a row. The poles will break at ground level in most cases. We knew from the previous night that three mainline three-phase poles were broken on the major tie line between Cairo and Birch Cooley substations. This is the mainline for a contingency to both substations. I made this a priority to replace these before the weekend. I requested help from Kandiyohi Power Cooperative. The ditches were unsuitable for our trucks. Kandiyohi Power brought a tracked digger truck to assist us in replacing these poles. Several members lost power during a planned outage for us to repair the three broken poles. The members in Bandon, Wellington and Camp townships were affected.

The crews fixed a few more broken conductor problems throughout the day on Friday. We temporarily fixed all the remaining broken poles. In all, we had 14 broken poles and approximately 417 members without power. The 417 includes multiple times some members were without power.

We thank our members for their patience during this storm.



Ice on the conductor and galloping lines are never a good combination.



There were 14 poles broken during the storm.



The Mickelson Trail Marathon takes runners through the scenic Black Hills.

# RUNNING FOR FUN

## Marathons, Road Races and 5Ks Provide Challenge

By Jocelyn Romey

[jocelyn.romey@sdrea.coop](mailto:jocelyn.romey@sdrea.coop)

Among the runners lining up for the start of a well-known South Dakota marathon – the Deadwood Mickelson Trail Marathon – will be a first-time runner with co-op ties.

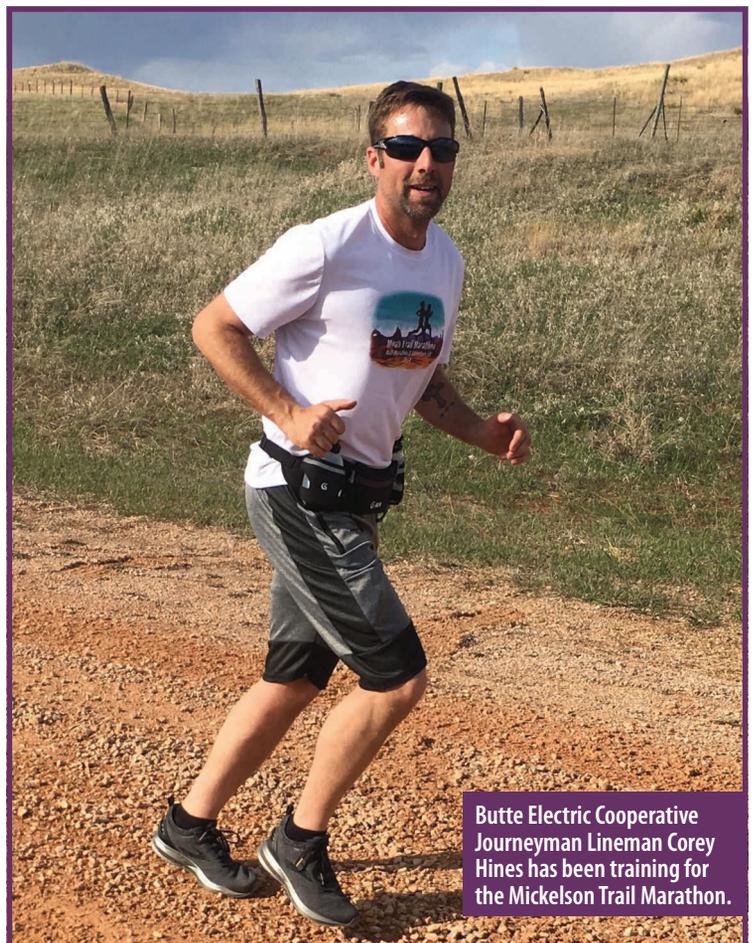
Corey Hines, journeyman lineman from Butte Electric Cooperative in Newell, S.D., will be running the full Mickelson Trail Marathon for the first time this year. He started running recently for the fun of it and it snowballed into a marathon challenge, one he hasn't backed down from.

Previously, Hines ran a half marathon in the same race eight years ago. Otherwise, he has had no competitive racing experience.

"I figured for whatever reason, God gave me the ability to run, so I will enjoy it while I can," Hines said.

On June 2, Hines will be racing with more than 3,000 runners from across the nation as well as Canada, Germany, Russia and Denmark. These runners have the option of competing in the Mickelson Trail full marathon, half marathon or relay race. Beginning in Rochford, S.D., runners will experience the beauty of the Black Hills before finishing at the historical Engine House in Deadwood. Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, S.D., is a sponsor of this event.

Other prominent co-op runners throughout the state are Russell Gall, manager of Charles Mix Electric Association in Lake Andes, S.D.; Dick Johnson, general manager and CEO of



Butte Electric Cooperative Journeyman Lineman Corey Hines has been training for the Mickelson Trail Marathon.

### Did you Know?

The modern marathon that many competitive runners enjoy has historical roots. The name itself is derived from a Greek legend in 490 B.C. that tells the story of a messenger who raced nearly 25 miles from the site of Marathon to Athens to deliver news of a Greek victory over invading Persians. Unfortunately, the story ends poorly for the messenger who died from exhaustion after delivering his news.

From this legend, a formalized race called a marathon was created. The official length we know today of 26.2 miles was originated in the 1908 Olympics hosted in London when Queen Alexandra planned the route – which was consequently 26.2 miles. Since then, the length of the race stuck.

West River Electric Association in Wall, S.D.; and Tim McCarthy, general manager and CEO of Sioux Valley Energy in Colman, S.D.

Gall has a history of competing in Tough Mudders, which entail a 12-mile run through various obstacles that include racing with a partner through mud, water, ice and electric fencing while climbing barriers, swinging from ropes, pushing blocks and lifting a number of heavy items.

“My training was foremost running. I tell anyone wanting to do a Tough Mudder that the first thing you have to do is be able to run a 5k without stopping,” Gall said. “The second part of training for the Tough Mudder is upper body strength, as in lots of push-ups and pull ups.”

Johnson is another runner who began running half marathons around his 50th birthday during the half Mickelson Trail Marathon. He finds enjoyment in running to relieve stress.

“It’s something I can do pretty much whenever I can fit it in, although I do most of my running early in the mornings,” Johnson said. “I don’t especially like later in the day as I struggle to motivate myself to do it then.”

He also noted that running was good for his overall health, even while jokingly stating that you cannot “outrun a bad diet!”

McCarthy is a well-known runner in many national marathons and was featured in the October 1996 edition of Runner’s World magazine after participating in a marathon in Illinois.

“On any given day, I will run about three miles up to about a half marathon (13.1 miles) depending on the time I have and how I feel,” McCarthy said.

“Running is a place I can go to sort out a lot of things whether the issues I’m facing are personal or professional.”

Even though he has retired from his more competitive marathons, McCarthy is still addicted to running and says he runs for physical and mental health.



Medals commemorate some of the races Tim McCarthy has run over the decades.

## Tough Mudder

Russell Gall, manager of Charles Mix Electric Association in Lake Andes, S.D., is a veteran of Tough Mudder races which combine a 12-mile run with an obstacle course. Gall said the obstacles encountered in the race rely on that strength. “The Tough Mudder had lots of obstacles with funky names.”

### Here is a list of Gall’s (least) favorites:

- **Funky Monkey** – 30 feet of monkey bars over a pool of muddy water.
- **Augustas Gloop** – traverse a small pool of muddy water, duck under obstacles and then climb the inside a 20-foot tube with water cascading down.
- **Hold Your Wood** – Carry a big hunk of log for 300 feet
- **Artic Plunge** – slide down a 10-foot tube that ends in ice water. “And I mean ICE – as in bags and bags of ice are poured into the small pool of water so you have to swim through the cubes, and duck under two obstacle walls. I drank a lot of muddy water on that one since I kept inhaling as I tried to catch my breath.”
- **Hero Carry** – carry one of your team mates for a couple hundred feet then switch off. “My daughter had blisters by the time we hit this obstacle, so I just carried her the whole way.”
- **Electro Shock Therapy** – This obstacle is just as it sounds: you run through a 50- to 75-foot of mud over hay bales. There are electric fencing strings hanging down every three feet and yes they are connected to an electric fencer. “That one is tough as the first time I went through it, it knocked me down to my knees.”
- **Berlin Wall** – A 20-foot high wooden wall that you have to ascend on one side, using a rope, go over the top and down the other side with another rope.
- **Block Ness Monster** – Two 4-foot by 4-foot rolling pin blocks that are half submerged in a pool of muddy water. The teams have to push the block from one side and hang on it as you go over the top. This keeps it rotating so your team can make it over.

And a tie for the worst obstacle goes to:

- **The Death March** – In Colorado it was a 5 mile trek up the side of a mountain. “By the time we made it to the summit we were all sunburned and tired.”
- **Everest** – It’s a half pipe about 15-foot high (Google Tough Mudder Everest) that you have to try to get over. “Mind you are wet and usually covered in mud so this obstacle is definitely a team effort. I would never have made it was it not for the group of strangers that pulled me up.”

<https://toughmudder.com/obstacles>

# April Board Meeting Highlights

The April board meeting was held on Monday, April 29, at 8 a.m. All board members were present except Philip Nestande. Others present were Attorney Jeff Whitmore, CEO DeeAnne Newville, Gene Alex and Lenae Wordes.

The election of officers was held with the following results:

- Chairman – Roger Manthei
- Vice Chairman – Wayland Zasko
- Secretary/Treasurer – Alan Neyers

## The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the March board meeting
- Minutes of the April 15 special board meeting
- Directors compensation – no change
- Board committees
- Annual meeting set for March 26, 2020
- Board meeting dates and times from June 2019 to May 2020

- Officer appointments of the cooperative
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of March
- Capital credits to an estate
- Safety report for April
- Donation to CFC Cooperative System Integrity Fund
- Schedule B – Rates – revised
- Policy 318 – Installation of Electric Distribution Facilities (Line Extension Policy) – revised
- Policy 321 – Member Request for Underground (URD) Services – revised
- Policy 323 – Renville-Sibley Loans to Members – revised
- Policy 521 – Cooperative Paid Holidays – revised
- Policy 523 – Safety Program (AWAIR) – revised
- Policy 532 – Use of Cooperative Facilities, Tools and Equipment – revised

## Notice:

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

**The June board meeting will be held Monday, June 24, at 8 a.m.**

## The board reviewed:

- Total new members for the month of March
- Total capital credit accounts 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 (unaudited)
  - Organization activities
  - East River Electric update
  - Basin Electric update
  - NRECA Update
  - MREA Update
  - Line crew work in progress, equipment update and outage update
  - Accounts receivable
  - 81st annual meeting
  - Alaska tour
  - Scholar of the Year banquet

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

## 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

## For Sale

**For Sale:** New Idea 1 row corn picker, excellent condition, \$900 OBO.

Randy Mertz  
Olivia, MN, 320-522-0776

**Wanted:** Pull behind lawn sweeper.

Randy Mertz  
Olivia, MN, 320-522-0776

# Alaska is Calling



**Lenae Wordes**

lwordes@renville-sibley.coop

Renville-Sibley members have the opportunity to take a trip to Alaska in July of 2020. Most of us have heard and can picture in our mind the majestic mountains, beautiful forests or the abundant wildlife roaming in this great state. Others may dream of fishing in one of the many lakes and streams or catching a glimpse of a humpback whale. Join your neighbors and friends and make your Alaska dream come true.

A few of the places we will be going include Fairbanks, Denali National Park, Anchorage, Hubbard Glacier, Glacier Bay, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, Inside Passage and Vancouver. This is a land and cruise trip. Anyone not able to be gone for the extended time frame can join us for

the cruise only portion of this trip.

Rates for 2020 will not be available until after September of 2019. For comparison purposes, per person rates in 2019 varied from just over \$5,000 to just over \$6,100 depending on the type of room selected. Included in the tour rates are the following:

- Roundtrip Delta flights from Minneapolis to Fairbanks and return from Vancouver to Minneapolis
- Accommodations at superior and deluxe hotels
- All sightseeing/entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary (contact the office for a copy of the itinerary)
- A seven-night southbound cruise on the Royal Princess
- All sumptuous meals and lavish entertainment while aboard the Royal Princess
- All transfers to and from the airport, hotel and pier
- Onboard ship gratuities
- Luggage handling at the hotel and on the ship (1 suitcase per person)

Larry Alvey from 4 Seasons Vacations will be escorting this tour. He has led many trips to Alaska with members of BENCO Electric Cooperative in Mankato and Freeborn Mower Cooperative Services from Albert Lea. I feel we are in good hands with Larry.

If you are interested in this trip, I have a flyer available and can mail you a copy or you may stop in the office to pick it up. Anyone wanting more detailed information, please call the 4 Seasons Vacation reservation hotline at 800-328-4298.

Join me on this great trip to Alaska!



## Thank you...

Dear Scholarship Board,

I was excited to see that I was drawn as a recipient for the Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association scholarship for \$1,000. I want to thank you for your great generosity, which will aid me in pursuing my higher education.

I will be attending Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, as of fall 2019. This scholarship will impact my college career by enabling me to pursue my passion of agriculture. I will put good use to the award money as I begin classes and look forward to the start of my freshman year. It is with your financial support that I will prosper not only in college, but also in my future career.

Thank you again for drawing me as a recipient. I appreciate your support in my pursuit of education and I will work hard to exceed in my courses.

Sincerely,  
**Rebekah Muench**

Renville-Sibley REA linemen & staff.

Thanks so much for restoring our power during the awful April snow/wind conditions. We so appreciate all you do. Hope you all have a blessed Easter & spring! Stay safe!

**John & Sheila Robinson**

Renville-Sibley would like to thank **Sheila** for bringing in bars for all to enjoy. This was much appreciated!

Thank you for the gift card. I am happy!

**Jackson Hebrink**

## Mission Statement

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



# Celebrating Midsommar

For 150 Years,  
Dalesburg  
Community  
Has Gathered  
in Celebration

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdea.coop

**It was important  
to the first Swedes  
who came to Dakota  
Territory in the 1860s.**

For the past 150 years, the community of Dalesburg in the southeast corner of South Dakota has gathered to celebrate Midsommar with a distinctly Scandinavian flair.

Every summer, the community holds the Dalesburg Midsommar Festival to honor its heritage and to celebrate its future.

The first Swedes arrived in the area of Dakota Territory in 1868, so the first Midsommar was celebrated June 24, 1869, said Ron Johnson, a member of the committee who organizes the Dalesburg Midsommar Festival set for Friday, June 21.

“We have oral history written down in the 1940s that the first Midsommar picnic was held in 1882,” said Johnson, noting that Midsommar was observed before that picnic.

Johnson noted that one settler’s memoir noted that a Swedish man arrived by train in Beresford and then headed southwest until he encountered the Midsommar



A Moeller pipe organ was added to the Dalesburg church in 1916.

gathering at Dalesburg.

By 1896, the festival had expanded to include a ball game and foot races.

“It was considered important to the first Swedes that came to this county,” said Johnson.

Around World War I, the festival moved to the grounds of the Dalesburg Lutheran Church.

“The holiday observance is older than the church,” Johnson said.

The Clay County church, located north of Vermillion, was formed in 1871 to serve a largely Swedish community in what was then Dakota Territory. The congregation first met in a



Dancing around a midsummer pole with ring dances is part of the celebration.



Weather permitting, Midsummer performances take place on the grounds of Dalesburg Lutheran Church.

sod house before building it's first church in 1874. By 1897, the current sanctuary was constructed.

The farming community of Dalesburg (in Swedish: Dalsborg) is from Dalarna – the name of the province from where many of the first homesteaders came in central Sweden. Today the residents of the Dalesburg Community are served by the Vermillion, Beresford, Centerville, and Burbank Post Offices.

About 600 people attend the festival each summer. More than 300 people eat at the Scandinavian smörgåsbord held in the church's basement while others visit one of several food stands on the church grounds at 30595 University Road, Vermillion.

“The smörgåsbord supper features Swedish-American dishes typical of what people ate 100 to 125 years ago,” Johnson said. “We still try to remember these old recipes and things.”

Several community members gathered in May to help make potatis korv, a Swedish potato sausage that will be served in June.

The festival starts at 1 p.m. and concludes with a ballgame that night.

This year's featured performer is Church Suchy, a performer and songwriter from Mandan, N.D.

“He does stories about rural life in the 1950s into the 1970s,” said Johnson, noting that past performers at the festival have included visiting groups from Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

High water in the area will make the trek to the festival a bit tricky, but well worth the drive.

Among the routes Johnson recommended were to turn off of Interstate 29 at the Beresford exit and go west a ways and then south on University Road or alternatively go to Vermillion and head north on University Road.

Johnson had one last bit of advice for those venturing to the 2019 festival.

“It's a good idea to bring your own lawn chairs and insect repellent, especially this year with the water.”

## Midsommar at Dalesburg

Each year the Dalesburg community celebrates the traditional Midsummer (or Midsommar) Festival. The event includes afternoon programs, a Swedish meatball dinner and a free evening concert. It is held on the grounds of the Dalesburg Lutheran Church.

### Schedule

#### Friday, June 21

- 1 p.m. – Food Stand/Inflatables/ Country Store Opens
- 2 p.m. – Afternoon Program
- 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Scandinavian Smorgasbord
- 7 p.m. – Evening Program
- 8:30 p.m. – Ball Game

# Dig Safely: Know What's Below

Spring showers bring May flowers but digging on your own this spring could spell big trouble. Even if you think you could get lucky or that digging one small hole (or two) won't matter, don't take for granted what lines might lurk beneath the soil in your yard or easement.

Before you use that post hole digger or other unearthing tools, STOP and call 8-1-1 to request that buried electric, gas, cable and other live lines in or near your yard be marked. The service is free but digging in an unmarked yard may not be.

You might think you don't have time for that and ask yourself, what's the worst that could happen? **YOU COULD DIE OR BECOME SERIOUSLY INJURED.**

It doesn't make that yard project quite as pressing, does it?

Other consequences of blindly digging and taking a chance? You could cause a power outage. You could hit a gas line and

get burned or cause an evacuation in your neighborhood. You could be fined. If you hit a telephone line or fiber optic line, you might lose your telephone, cable TV or internet service. Worse yet, it could interfere with your neighborhood's emergency assistance technology.

Although it all seems like "your" yard, utilities have the right of way to the live lines lurking under the ground in places where you might dig. In fact, an underground utility line is damaged once every nine minutes across the nation because someone decided to dig without getting their yard properly marked, according to data collected by Common Ground Alliance. You may think one or two "small holes" won't matter, but that's what the person thought who hit a line nine minutes ago.

Take a deep breath, look over your landscaping or fence plans and call 8-1-1 before you dig. Each state has its own call center to help you get digging safely. You might know

the service in your state by a different name – Iowa One Call, South Dakota One Call, or Gopher State One Call (Minnesota), for example – but 8-1-1 is the one-call-fits-all in the U.S. By calling 8-1-1 or your state's digging call center directly, utilities or the companies they contract with will come to your home and mark your yard before you dig.

Safe Electricity reminds you that Call811.com lists the name and contact information for each state's digging notification service. The site also lists the advance notice required for marking services, which is usually two days, not including the day you call.

So tiptoe through the tulips this spring and summer, both literally and figuratively. Know what's underneath that flower bed and everywhere else in your yard.

As call811.com says, "Know what's below." Then dig safely. For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



# 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 returned.

## Scholar Recognized

Congratulations to Nevada Jarett from MACCRAY High School for being selected as the April Scholar of the Month. She was nominated because of her hard work, honesty and the ability to overcome hardships in her life. She helps with neighborhood children and has volunteered in the MACCRAY school kitchen. She has chosen dedication to school work as her top priority over other activities.



**Nevada Jarett**  
MACCRAY High School

More information on the Scholar of the Month program can be found on our website [www.renville-sibley.coop](http://www.renville-sibley.coop) under the Customer Service tab.

## Where's the Number?

Last month, Robert Gummert did not find his member number in the newsletter. The credit will continue to grow for a value of \$70. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by June 3, you will receive this credit on your electric statement.



Good luck in your search!

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Want to light up your outdoor space without increasing your energy use? Try outdoor solar lights! They're easy to install and virtually maintenance free. Remember solar lights work best when the solar cells receive the manufacturer's recommended hours of sunlight.

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



## Outage Report

*affecting 10 members or more*

See article on Pages 6-7 for outage information related to the April 10-12 storm.

Date: 4-25-19  
Time off: 3 p.m.  
Time on: 3:40 p.m.  
Substation: Emmet  
Cause: Scheduled outage



**Outages**

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

## Comparative Report

	<b>Current</b> YTD through March 31, 2019	<b>1 Year Ago</b> YTD through March 31, 2018	<b>10 Years Ago</b> YTD through March 31, 2009
<b>Average Number of Consumers</b>	1,882	1,882	1,955
<b>kWhs Purchased</b>	53,095,021	58,314,247	56,190,139
<b>Cost of Purchased Power</b>	\$3,141,471.65	\$3,598,277.96	\$2,067,072.50

## May 23-25

Music Fest, Lake Benton, MN,  
507-368-9627

## May 24-26

South Dakota Kayak  
Challenge, Yankton, SD,  
605-864-9011

## May 25-26

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

## May 30-June 1

Senior Games, Sioux Falls,  
SD, Contact Nick Brady at  
605-978-6924

## May 31-June 2

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

## May 31-June 2

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD,  
605-353-7340

## May 31-June 3

Fish Days, Lake Andes, SD,  
605-487-7694

## June 1

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

## June 1

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

## June 1-2

Spring Volksmarch, Crazy  
Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

## June 2

Mickelson Trail Marathon,  
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

## June 2

Buffalo Ridge Chorale  
Concert, 4 p.m., St. John  
Cantius, Wilno, MN,  
605-479-3438



**June 29:**  
Rhubarb Festival,  
Leola, SD,  
605-824-0014

Photo courtesy: McPherson County Herald

## June 2-August 11

Red Cloud Indian Art Show,  
Pine Ridge, SD, 605-867-8257

## June 6-9

South Dakota Shakespeare  
Festival, Vermillion, SD,  
605-622-0423

## June 7

East of Westreville with  
Kenny Putnam Kiwanis  
Club Concert, 7 p.m., Riggs  
Theatre, Pierre, SD,  
605-280-0818

## June 7-8

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD,  
Contact Brett Rauterkus at  
605-722-1430

## June 7-9

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

## June 8

Festival of Cultures, Sioux  
Falls, SD, 605-367-7401

## June 8-9

Siouxland Renaissance  
Festival, Sioux Falls, SD,  
1-866-489-9241

## June 13-15

Czech Days, Tabor,  
SD, 605-463-2478,  
[www.taborczechdays.com](http://www.taborczechdays.com),

## June 15

International Vinegar Museum  
Festival, Vinegar Museum will  
be open all day, Roslyn, SD,  
320-808-8873

## June 21

Dalesburg Midsummer  
Festival, Dalesburg Lutheran  
Church, Rural Vermillion, SD,  
605-253-2575

## June 28-29

Senior Games, Madison, SD,  
Contact Bernie Schuurmans  
at 605-270-3327

## July 10

Tracy Area Garden's and  
Quilts Tour, 2 to 8 p.m.,  
Garvin/Lake Shetek Area,  
Maps and tickets at Bitton  
Road House, Garvin, MN,  
507-629-3252

## July 11-13

Senior Games, Aberdeen, SD,  
Contact Gene Morsching at  
605-626-7015

## July 19-20

Gumbo Ridge Bronc Ride and  
Ranch Rodeo, Murdo, SD,  
605-669-3031

## July 26-28

Catfish Derby Days, Franklin,  
MN, 507-557-2259  
[www.franklinmn.us](http://www.franklinmn.us)

## August 2-4

Musicfest 2019, Pla-Mor  
Ballroom, Glencoe, MN,  
320-826-2531

## August 11

Czech Heritage Festival,  
Bechyn, MN, 320-522-1218,  
[www.bechynczechfest.org](http://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.**