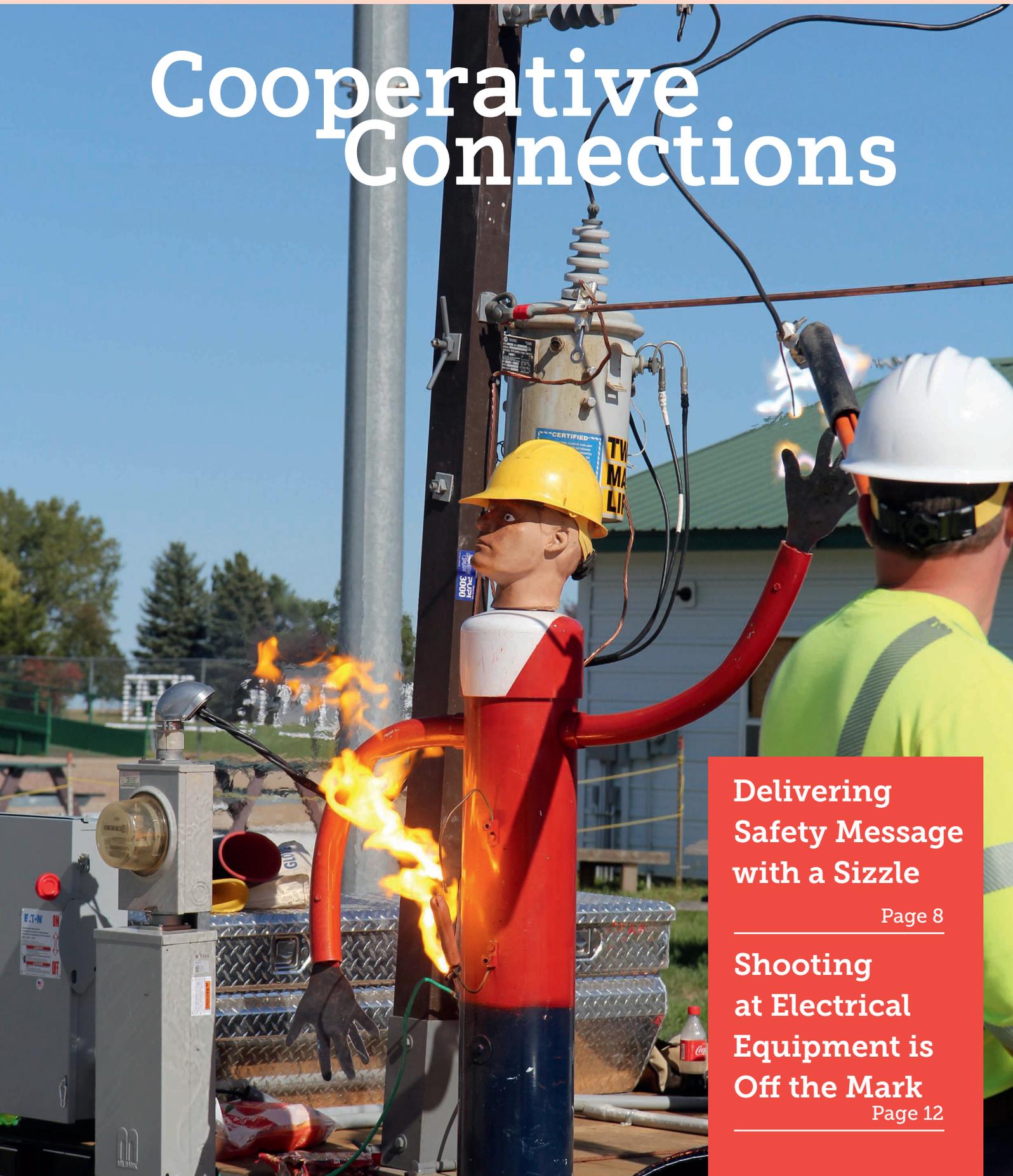




# Cooperative Connections



**Delivering  
Safety Message  
with a Sizzle**

Page 8

**Shooting  
at Electrical  
Equipment is  
Off the Mark**

Page 12

# By the Community, For the Community

October is National Co-op Month.



Lenae Wordes

lwordes@renville-sibley.coop

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how Renville-Sibley was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Renville-Sibley's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members (that's you!) have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our member informational meetings or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments that will benefit the membership. 498500

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." We support local communities by bringing Co-op's in the Classroom to local elementary schools, a Scholar of the Month for high school seniors, give an annual donation to each community to support their community event and offer Operation Round Up® among other worthy programs. We participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of Renville-Sibley Co-op as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.

## Mark your Calendar:

**Christmas Open House will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Those who attend can register to win a \$50 energy credit.**

# 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

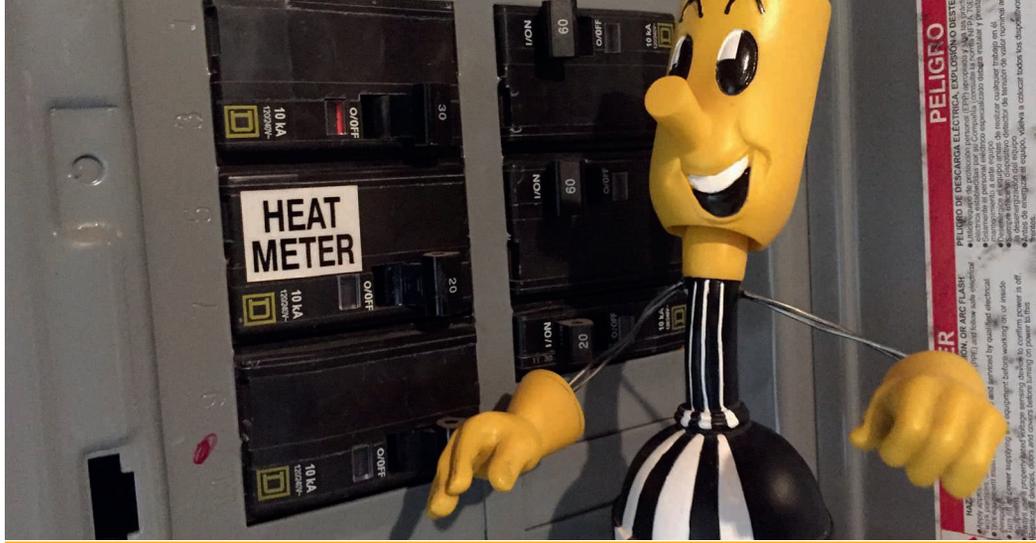
Gene Alex - Line Superintendent  
Brian Athmann - Journeyman Lineman  
Shawn Beckler - Crew Chief  
Mike Benson - Journeyman Lineman  
Brad Braulick - Crew Chief  
Nick Bruns - Systems Coordinator  
Anthony Carruth - Journeyman Lineman  
Amy Ervin - Consumer Accounts Representative  
Brayden Fischer - 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

RENVILLE-SIBLEY COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association, 103 Oak Street, Danube, MN, 56230 for its members. Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$6 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Danube Post Office, Danube, MN 56230 and at additional mailing offices.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



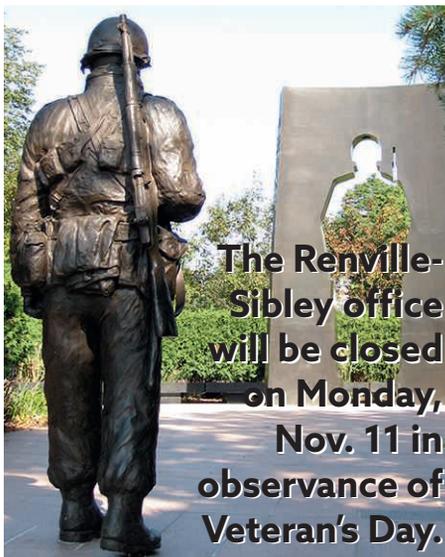
## Heat Credit Begins

Members who have electric heat (metered with a separate sub-meter) pay only \$0.06/kWh for energy used to heat your home/shop during the months of October thru April. This lower rate will be reflected starting with the November statement. If you have a separate breaker for your heat meter, please remember to turn it on or you will be billed at the regular energy rate. If the majority of your home is heated with electric heat and you are not on our metered electric heat rate, please contact the office for more information.

## Co-op Seeks Nominating Committee Members

Renville-Sibley is looking for members who would like to serve on the cooperative's nominating committees. Nominating committees (one for each director district) will be meeting in December or January and will be looking for candidates to run for the board of directors. Candidates chosen by the Nominating Committee will be put on the ballot. A member may also appear on the ballot by petition of 10 or more members residing in such district. The candidates for each district will be voted for at the annual meeting.

If you would like to be on one of the nominating committees, if you would like to be considered as a candidate or if you know of someone that you would like to be considered as a candidate, please let us know by calling Lenae at 800-826-2593.



# Electrical Safety Tips to Help Protect Homes and Businesses

Every year, electrical equipment, wiring, appliances and tools cause injuries and fires at both homes and workplaces.

Paying close attention to the condition of electrical equipment and taking appropriate and prompt action to correct electrical problems can help to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.

Below are guidelines to help identify and reduce electrical hazards.

### Electrical Outlet Safety

- Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances, and ensure that electrical loads are appropriate for the circuits.
- Unplug appliances when they are not in use to conserve energy, as well as minimize the opportunities for electric shock or fire.
- Use outlets instead of relying on extension cords and power strips. Consider having additional permanent outlets installed where needed.
- Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) in wet/damp areas like kitchens, bathrooms and outdoors.

### Electrical Cord Safety

- Inspect electrical cords to ensure that they are not frayed, cracked or damaged.
- Do not place electrical cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across doorways where they pose a potential tripping hazard or could be easily damaged.

### Certification and Awareness

- Ensure that all electrical products and equipment are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and read the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- Allow only trained and qualified electrical workers to perform work on electrical equipment.
- Be aware of signs of electrical problems such as flickering lights and/or buzzing, sizzling or humming sounds from electrical systems.

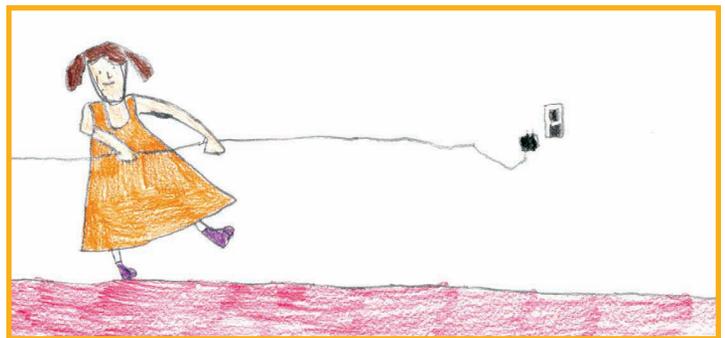
Source: [acadiainsurance.com](http://acadiainsurance.com)

## EMPOWER THE HEROES of TOMORROW.

One day, they'll be saving us!



### KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Never jerk cords out of the outlets; grip the plug only."**

**Traci Tschetter, 8 years old**

Traci is the daughter of Ryan and Elaine Tschetter, Revillo, S.D. They are members of Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Milbank, 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.

# Slow Cooker Sensations

## Slow Cooker Egg Casserole

1 (32 oz.) bag frozen hash browns	1-1/2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
1 lb. ham, cooked and cubed	12 eggs
1 onion, finely chopped	1 cup milk
1 green pepper, chopped	1/2 tsp. salt
1 T. olive oil	1/2 tsp. pepper

Spray inside of slow cooker with cooking spray. In a small frying pan, saute onion and green pepper in oil until tender. Cool 10 minutes. Place 1/3 frozen hash browns in slow cooker. Add 1/3 ham, onion and green pepper mixture and cheese. Repeat layers, ending with cheese. In large bowl, beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper until well blended. Pour over hash browns. Cook, covered, on LOW for 10 to 12 hours or overnight until casserole is set and eggs are thoroughly cooked. Serves 12.

Mary Jessen, Holabird, SD

## Cream Cheese Chicken Taquitos

2 boneless chicken breasts	8 oz. 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

Combine chicken, chili powder, garlic powder, cumin, cream cheese and water in slow cooker. Cover and cook on LOW for 8 hours or 4 hours on HIGH. Place 1/4 cup 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, SD

## Pork Sausage and Rice

2 boxes Uncle Ben's Wild Rice	1 (8 oz.) can of mushrooms
1 lb. seasoned pork sausage	1 (10.5-oz.) can cream of mushroom soup

Prepare Uncle Ben's rice as directed. Brown pork sausage. Combine all ingredients in slow cooker. Cook on LOW for 3 to 4 hours.

Robert Bernhardt, Aberdeen, SD

## Slow Cookers Tamale Pie

2 lbs. lean ground beef	1 (4 oz.) can chopped green chiles
1 pkg. McCormick® Slow Cookers Chili Seasoning	1/2 cup water
2 (14.5 oz. each) cans stewed tomatoes, cut-up	<b>Topping:</b>
1 (14.5 oz.) can kidney or pinto beans, drained and rinsed	1 (8.5 oz.) box corn muffin mix
	1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Cook ground beef in large skillet on medium-high heat until no longer pink; drain. Place in slow cooker. Add Seasoning Mix, tomatoes, beans, chiles and water; mix well. Cover. Cook 8 hours on LOW or 4 hours on HIGH. For the Cornbread Topping, if using low setting, increase to HIGH. Prepare corn muffin batter as directed on package. Drop batter by spoonfuls on top of simmering chili. Cover. Cook 30 minutes longer or until toothpick inserted into center of cornbread topping comes out clean. Sprinkle with cheese. Makes 10 servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 362, Total Fat 14g, Cholesterol 89mg, Sodium 9340mg, Protein 26g, Carbohydrates 33g, Dietary Fiber 4g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Mississippi Pot Roast

1 3 to 4 lb. chuck roast	1/4 cup butter
1 pkg. ranch dressing mix	4 to 5 pepperoncini peppers with some juice
1 pkg. au jus gravy mix	

Place roast in slow cooker. Sprinkle dressing mix and au jus mix on top. Place peppers on top of the mixes; add butter. Cook on LOW 8 hours. *Note: Do not add any water or broth to this. It will make enough liquid as it cooks.*

Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN

Please send your favorite holiday, soup or brunch 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.

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

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a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		1675	1679
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	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		1568	1572
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	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0	0
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		102	102
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		1670	1674
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		5	5
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		1675	1679
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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner  
 Signature: Lenae Wordes  
 Title: Communications Manager  
 Date: 09-30-19

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

# Where's the Number?



Last month Louise Kiecker found her member number in the newsletter. Congratulations Louise! The credit will now start over with a value of \$10. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by Nov. 4, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

# Thank you...

I would like to thank the Renville-Sibley Power for the EGO leaf blower I won at Farmfest. **Benedict Grosam**

Our sincerest thanks for your contribution in making Summerfest 2019 a memorable one! Despite the heat, we celebrated the 25th year of our Grand Parade. We couldn't bring a jammed packed weekend full of summer fun without the local support of our fantastic businesses, individuals and organizations. You make us proud to call Sacred Heart our home! See you in 2020 - July 15-19!

**The Summerfest Committee**

# Outage Report

affecting 10 members or more

- Date: 9-9-19
- Time off: 11:29 a.m.
- Time on: 12:56 p.m.
- Substation: Cairo
- Cause: Lightning
- Date: 9-17-19
- Time off: 9:16 a.m.
- Time on: 10 a.m.
- Substation: Troy, Emmet
- Cause: Unknown
- Date: 9-17-19
- Time off: 12:15 p.m.
- Time on: 3:41 p.m.
- Substation: Troy, Emmet
- Cause: Substation equipment failure
- Date: 9-23-19
- Time off: 8:52 p.m.
- Time on: 12:15 a.m.
- Substation: Birch Cooley
- Cause: Equipment failure
- Date: 9-23-19
- Time off: 8:52 p.m.
- Time on: 12:15 a.m.
- Substation: Kingman, Birch Cooley
- Cause: Equipment failure



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

## Comparative Report

	Current August 31, 2019	One Year Ago August 31, 2018	10 Years Ago August 31, 2009
Avg. # of Consumers	1,882	1,882	1,943
kWhs purchased	94,189,310	114,664,013	96,922,282
Cost of purchased power	\$5,518,470.22	\$6,750,042.37	\$3,666,498.83



As agriculturists are well-aware, many dangers are present in their long and arduous workdays.

# Farmers:

## Remember Electrical Safety This Harvest Season

In 2017, farmers ranked eighth in the list of the most dangerous jobs (civilian jobs with highest fatality rates) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics/U.S. Dept. of Labor. Unfortunately, farmers, ranchers and other agricultural managers rank right below other hazardous jobs such as logging, roofing and steel work.

It is no wonder farmers make that list. As agriculturists are well-aware, many dangers are present in their long and arduous workdays.

Safe Electricity and Renville-Sibley Co-op Power remind farmers that accidents related to power and electricity are also possible but in most cases they can be prevented. Especially during the busy harvest season, take the following steps to decrease the chances of an electrical-related incident:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.

- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines – at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call us right away.
- If your equipment does hit a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

Although harvest season is a time filled with tight deadlines and heightened work stress, take the time to consider electrical safety. It could save your live or the lives of others.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



Dakota Energy lineman Brandon Moore draws an arc on the high voltage demonstration as DEC's Greg Palmer explains the dangers of getting close to electrical equipment.

# CO-OPS DELIVER SAFETY MESSAGE

## High Voltage Trailer Brings Safety Messages to Local Communities

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

The hum of electric current arcing can be heard split seconds before the eye registers the glowing arc on the wire and the flames shooting from the ends of a grapefruit attached to a human-like model of the rural electric cooperatives' high voltage demonstration trailer.

As the hum subsides and the gasps of Miller High School students dwindle, Dakota Energy Cooperative's Greg Palmer continues his explanation of electricity's need to find a path to ground.

"This will show you what would happen to your body



Moore shows the scorched insides of a grapefruit that had been used on the high voltage demonstration trailer.

Photos by Brenda Kleinjan/SDREA

**“This will show you what would happen to your body internally if you were to come in contact with 7,200 watts of electricity.”**

internally if you were to come in contact with 7,200 volts of electricity,” said Palmer, who works out of the Huron, S.D.-based cooperative’s Miller office. Palmer, along with lineman Brandon Moore were part of the Miller High School FFA Chapter’s Ag Safety Day in early October.

The duo used a newly constructed demonstration trailer used by South Dakota’s electric cooperatives to deliver safety messages to student groups, community groups, fire departments and others across the state. The co-ops have been using one trailer for more than two decades and this fall added the second trailer to the safety fleet.

Moore continues the demonstration, draws an arc on the example power lines.

“Electricity travels at the speed of light – you can’t just let go,” explains Palmer. “You can’t see it, you can’t smell it. The only time you see it is when something bad is about to happen.”

Moore removes the grapefruit from the demonstration trailer and cuts it in half.

With this grapefruit, it looks normal from the outside, you can see where the electricity went in and out. But when you cut it open, you see what it does to the inside of the body – it chars everything,” Palmer explains.

“You’ve heard the same story before: don’t climb on the green boxes, don’t fly kites near power lines. But especially this time of year, be aware of where power lines and underground boxes are located,” Palmer said.



Employees at Moreau-Grand Electric helped construct the state’s second High Voltage Demonstration trailer used by South Dakota electric cooperatives.

Photo by Roger Lawien/Moreau-Grand

“This morning we changed a pole because someone ran into it with a (silage) chopper and broke it off,” Palmer said.

Palmer went on to explain that if an accident like that happens and the power line comes in contact with the equipment or tractor, the best plan is to stay in the tractor or piece of equipment until the line can be de-energized.

For information about bringing this safety demonstration or other safety demonstrations to your school, community group or fire department, contact your local electric cooperative.



Miller High School students examine the insides of a hotdog held by Dakota Energy’s Greg Palmer. The hotdog is used as an example of what an electrical contact can do to human muscle. On the Cover: Flames shoot out the ends of an energized hotdog as Brandon Moore guides an electrical current into the demonstration unit to show the impact an electric contact has on the human body.

# September Board Meeting Highlights

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

## The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the August board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of August
- Capital credits to estates
- Safety report for September
- Cooperative Network voting delegates
- Policy revisions:
  - Policy 425 – Cogeneration and Small Power Production
  - Policy 509 – Insurance, Retirement and Savings Plans
  - Policy 510 – Sick Leave
  - Policy 513 – Vacation Leave
- Policy deleted:
  - Policy 540 – Cell Phone Reimbursement

## The board reviewed:

- Total new members for the month of August
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department. Items in the reports include:
  - High level Statement of Operations review – YTD through August (unaudited)
  - Organization activities
  - East River update
  - Basin Electric update
  - NRECA Update
  - MREA Update
  - Line crew work in progress, equipment update and outage update
  - Accounts receivable
  - Alaska tour
  - Christmas Open House
  - Co-ops in the Classroom

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



## Notice:

**The October board meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 28, at 8 a.m.**  
**The November board meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 25, at 8 a.m.**

## For Sale

**For Sale:** Double burner oil heater – \$60; 7-drawer desk – \$30; recliner chair – \$60; brown 5-drawer dresser – \$14; microwave oven – \$75

Elsie Heutinek, Olivia, MN  
320-523-1705 – call after 6 pm

**For Sale:** 2008 Ford Edge Limited, runs great, high miles, leather interior, no rust, good tires – \$3,000

Dave Wensauer, Sacred Heart, MN  
320-212-5068 (no text)

**For Sale:** IHC 5 shank v-ripper – \$850 or best offer, Dakon-Miller 12-foot offset disk with 24" blades – \$1,000

Karl Breitreutz, Redwood Falls, MN  
507-641-3397

**For Sale:** '04 Buick LeSabre Limited, Presitge package, 3.8L engine, V6, white-gold exterior, light cashmere interior, 134,000 miles.

Don Schroeder Renville, MN  
320-329-8441 or 320-522-0981

**Give Away:** Tame kittens, born early July

Lenae Wordes, Renville, MN  
320-522-0789

## 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



# THE Process FOR Safe Excavation

**Don't assume you know what's below. Protect yourself and those around you. Use GSOC this time and every time.**

Whether you are a professional excavator or homeowner, in accordance with Minnesota State law, you must contact Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before starting any excavation project if you are using any machine-powered equipment of any kind, or explosives. You may be simply installing a new mail box or planting a tree, whatever the project may be, contacting GSOC before starting your project may allow you to avoid costly damages to underground facilities.

## File Locate Request

File online [www.gopherstateonecall.org/](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org/) ticketing over the phone by calling GSOC, or from a mobile device using ITIC Mobile

Specific information about the work site and the surrounding area, as well as marking instructions for the work site must be provided. Other information can also be included.

Call GSOC...

**Greater MN Area:**  
(800)252-1166

**Twin Cities Metro:**  
(651)454-0002

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

GSOC processes the provided information, and the area gets mapped out using specialized software that detects possible conflicts with underground utilities.

## Excavation



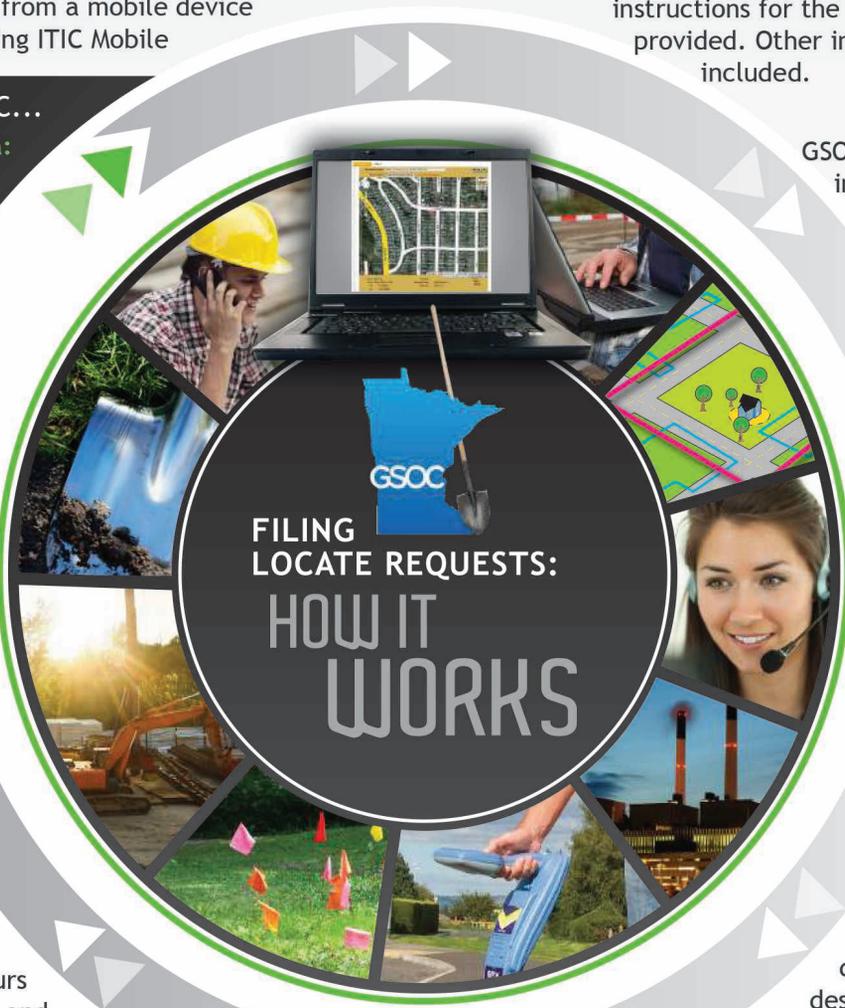
To practice safe excavation, always hand dig within the tolerance zone.

Remember to wait 48 hours (excluding holidays and weekends) after submitting the locate request. Check facility operator response using positive response on ITIC and inspect the work site for marks. Contact the facility operator if you have questions regarding their marks.

GSOC then contacts each underground facility operator in the excavation area identified in the locate request.

The underground facility operators that requested notification in the excavation area dispatch locators to the described excavation site.

Locators use specialized equipment to determine the underground utilities in the excavation area. They locate and mark the horizontal location of underground facilities within the excavation site with different colored flags and paint that correspond to the specific underground facility.



# Don't Shoot!

## Vandals and Errant Shots Wreak Havoc with Equipment

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

**"You get really cold weather and the line tightens up and that's when you'll see those weak spots break."**

With fall comes an increase of outdoor hunting activities.

One thing not on any responsible hunter's bag list is electrical equipment.

The irresponsible actions of those firing the shots can have costly – and untimely – consequences for electric cooperative members.

Shots fired at electric equipment can cause immediate, noticeable damage, often times causing for emergency, after-hours dispatch of crews to locate and repair the problem disrupting power to members.

Other times, the damage weakens a line or piece of equipment. Time, weather or storms can cause the weakened area to fail, likely at an inconvenient time for members.

"It never comes at a convenient time," said Dale Schwagel, line superintendent at Traverse Electric Cooperative in Wheaton, Minn., of when the damage occurs...and when past damage usually surfaces.

"You get really cold weather and the line tightens up and that's when you'll see



Fall decor at some South Dakota electric cooperatives carry an important safety reminder about not shooting at or near power lines.



Bullet holes caused by vandals riddle a co-op transformer.



Routers are being installed at Traverse Electric Cooperative in Wheaton, Minn., as part of a system-wide meter upgrade.

When vandals target power lines and electrical apparatus, system reliability is at stake.



A newly installed router at Traverse Electric Cooperative in Wheaton, Minn., was destroyed by a vandal's bullet, causing more than \$1,600 in damage.

those weak spots break,” said Schwagel.

The co-op has been relatively vandal-free for the last several years.

However, this summer the co-op encountered damage to newly installed routers which are part of a system-wide meter upgrade.

Schwagel estimates the cost of the damage will total more than \$2,500 once labor is tacked on to replacing the \$1,600 piece of equipment.

“Shooting this piece of equipment is a cost to the co-op and the members. Ultimately that’s where the costs go,” said Schwagel.

If you see damage to co-op equipment, report it to the co-ops so repairs can be made.

# Are You Interested in a New Adventure?

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association is beginning to plan for the 82nd annual meeting of the membership that will be held March 26, 2020, at the Island Ballroom in Bird Island, Minn. Three (3) directors will be elected during that time, each for a three-year term.

The First District, consisting of the townships of Cornish, Severance and Moltke in Sibley County; the townships of Ridgely and West Newton in Nicollet County; and the townships of Cairo, Wellington, Martinsburg, Camp, Bandon and Palmyra in Renville County is represented by Alan Neyers, Whitey Hinderman and Philip Nestande. Philip Nestande's term will expire in 2020.

The Second District, consisting of the townships of Honner and Delhi in Redwood County; and the townships of Beaver Falls, Flora, Henryville, Birch Cooley, Norfolk, Melville, Bird Island and Kingman in Renville County is represented by Helen Ruebel, Wayland Zaske and Matt Haubrich. Matt Haubrich's term will expire in 2020.

The Third District, consisting of the townships of Roseland and Holland in Kandiyohi County; Rheiderland Township in Chippewa County; and the townships of Troy, Winfield, Emmet, Crooks, Sacred Heart, Hawk Creek, Ericson and Wang in Renville County is represented by Gary Eekhoff, Gary Peterson and Roger Manthei. Roger Manthei's term will expire in 2020.

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association Director Districts



## As stated in the Renville-Sibley bylaws, the following is the Qualifications and Tenure for the position of Director:

- Each director shall be a member of the Cooperative and shall be elected by the members within their respective district at the annual meeting of the members for a term of three years. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who is not a bona fide resident in the area served by the Cooperative, or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or space heating/cooling appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the members. When a membership is held jointly by two or more persons, including husband and wife, only one of such joint tenants may be elected a director, provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become a director, unless all shall meet the qualifications herein set forth.

## Director qualifications required for service to the cooperative shall include:

- A. Must be an individual and must be at least 18 years of age.
- B. Must be competent and able to execute a contract.
- C. Must not have been convicted of a felony or gross misdemeanor during the preceding 5 years prior to becoming a director for the Cooperative or during the period while serving as a director.
- D. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- E. Must make a reasonable effort to become and remain knowledgeable about special issues regarding electric cooperatives by attending training, workshops and seminars.
- F. Must attend at least three-fourths (3/4) of all monthly scheduled board meetings during any twelve (12) month period.

Upon becoming a candidate for and/or to remain a Director, an individual must

complete an annual conflict of interest disclosure form, approved by the Board of Directors. All Directors and/or Director candidates must comply with or meet the following conflict of interest qualifications:

- A. Shall not be a close relative of an existing Director, employee, agent or representative of the Cooperative other than an existing Director who will cease being a Director upon the candidate assuming office;
- B. Within 5 years immediately prior to becoming a Director, shall not have been a Cooperative Officer, employee, agent or representative of the Cooperative or any subsidiary or affiliated company;
- C. Shall not be employed by, materially affiliated with, nor share a material financial interest with any current Director;
- D. Shall not be engaged in any business, nor employed by, nor materially affiliated with, nor have a material financial interest in any individual or entity that:
  1. Is regularly, directly, and substantially competing with the Cooperative or any other entity that the Cooperative controls or in which the Cooperative owns a majority interest (Cooperative Subsidiary).
  2. Is regularly selling goods and services to the Cooperative or the Cooperative Subsidiary.
  3. Possesses a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative or the Cooperative subsidiary.
- E. A former Director is ineligible for employment by the Cooperative for five years following the end of the tenure as a Director.

## As a Director, the member agrees to:

- Abide by, promote and uphold the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, both of which can be found on our website, and Policies of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.
- Attend regular and special Board meetings of the Cooperative.
- Attend, when appointed, committee meeting of the Cooperative.

If anyone should decide to seek candidacy for the board of directors, there are many rewards to be enjoyed when elected. A director has the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership quality and increase

their knowledge within the cooperative business environment and the electric industry. As a director, this person could play a significant role in the future development of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.

A director also has a very important responsibility which is to uphold and abide by the bylaws of the cooperative. Directors are to act as the trustees for the assets of the cooperative and are assigned the duties of formulating, approving and reviewing the policies that provide guidelines for the cooperative.

The board is responsible for sending representatives to the affiliated association meetings that often include voting requirements. They include East River Electric Power Cooperative, Minnesota Rural Electric Association, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, National Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, CoBank, Cooperative Network and the National Rural Electric Association.

Directors attend seminars and meetings of several organizations to learn about the industry. Directors are asked to lobby and remain informed on legislative issues that could impact this industry and/or the cooperative way of doing business. The Board meets monthly and reviews financial reports, work plans, annual audits, planning documents and evaluates the cooperative operations while approving budgets and purchases.

Most of all, a director should be available to visit with their constituents and have a genuine spirit of helping others at all times. Board meetings are typically held on the last Monday of every month, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in December, January and February and beginning at 8:00 a.m. the rest of the year. The estimated time needed to be committed annually is approximately 30 days which includes monthly meetings and committee assignments. Directors are compensated per diem for their time as well as all personal expenses.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for the Renville-Sibley Board of Directors, contact the Renville-Sibley office at 1-800-826-2593 before Dec. 13 for further information.

## Scholar of the Month

Congratulations to Lauren Wulf from Renville County West High School for being selected as the September Scholar of the Month. She was nominated because of the role she has taken as a leader for younger students at RCW and her hard work both academically and in sports. Lauren has helped with the Renville County Walk in the Park and participated in the Ecumenical Youth Mission trip.



Lauren Wulf

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.

## Notice to Co-Generators

In order to comply with Minnesota Statutes 216B.164 and in compliance with RSCPA's adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, RSCPA is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers, who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. RSCPA is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the RSCPA board.

Interested members should contact our office at 103 Oak Street, PO Box 68, Danube MN, 56230 via email at [renville-sibley@renville-sibley.coop](mailto:renville-sibley@renville-sibley.coop) or by calling 800-826-2593 or 320-826-2593.

## RSCPA Mission Statement

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





# SMALL CHANGE THAT CHANGES LIVES

— OPERATION ROUND UP —




Area organizations have until Dec. 1 to apply for the inaugural funds from Renville-Sibley's Operation Round Up®.

Applications can be found on our website at [www.renville-sibley.coop](http://www.renville-sibley.coop) under the "Your Co-op" tab or by contacting the office.

## October 19

4th Annual Fall Festival, East Pierre Landscape and Garden Center, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pierre, SD, 605-224-8832

## October 19

Spooky Science, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

## October 19-January 5

Pheasant Hunting Season, Statewide, Pierre, SD, 605-223-7660

## October 25-27

Autumn Festival, An Arts and Crafts Affair, Sioux Falls, SD, 402-331-2889

## October 25-27

ZooBoo, Great Plains Zoo, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7003

## October 26

ZOO BOO, Bramble Park Zoo, Watertown, 605-882-6269

## October 26

Scare in the Square, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

## October 31-November 2

Ringneck Festival and Bird Dog Challenge, Huron, SD, 605-352-0000

## November 1-2

First Chance Bonanza, PRCA Rodeo, Brookings, SD, [www.suttonrodeo.com](http://www.suttonrodeo.com)

## November 2

Fall Fling Craft/Vendor Fair, Dakota Christian School, Corsica, SD, 605-243-2211

## November 9

Area Merchants and Crafters Annual Holiday Extravaganza, Sisseton, SD, 605-698-7425

## November 9

Hairball, Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430



Photo courtesy: Harvest Halloween

## November 15-December 18

Black Hills Christmas Tree Permit Season, Custer, SD, 605-673-9200

## November 16

Christmas Craft Fair, Legion Hall on Main Street, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Free admission, Tripp, SD, Contact Becki Hauser at 605-480-3009

## November 22-23

Holiday Arts Christmas Craft Show, Masonic Hall, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

## November 22-January 5

Winter Wonderland, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-275-6060

## November 23-24

Winterfest: A Winter Arts Festival, Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-1557

## November 26-December 26

Christmas at the Capitol, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3178

## November 29-30

1880 Train Holiday Express, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

## November 30

Holiday Celebration and Winter Market, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

## December 6-7

Strawbale Winery Twilight Flights, Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

## December 7

Frontier Christmas, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

## December 7

Holidazzle Light Parade, Spearfish, SD, 605-717-9294

## December 7-8, 14-15, 21-24 and 27-28

1880 Train Holiday Express, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

## December 14-15

Black Hills Cowboy Christmas, Lead, SD, 605-584-2067

## December 15-March 31

South Dakota snowmobile trails season, Lead, SD, 605-584-3896

## January 7-9

Dakota Farm Show, Vermillion, SD, 800-873-1411

## January 16-17

Media One Funski, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-339-0000

## January 24-25

Pro Snocross Races, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

## January 31-February 9

Annual Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo, Rapid City, SD, 605-355-3861

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.