



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



The success of the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally requires many megawatts of power provided by member-owned electric cooperatives, including lighting the main stage at the Buffalo Chip
Photo by Travel South Dakota

The Rally

Keeping the Sturgis Rally juiced up
Pages 8-9

High-flying fun at Catfish Bay
Pages 12-13

Renville-Sibley celebrates groundbreaking for new office facility

On a perfect June Monday morning, employees and board members of the Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association (RSCPA) joined Danube city representatives and project personnel to commemorate the groundbreaking of the cooperative's new \$8.3 million, 10-acre headquarters in Danube.

"I am happy and proud today," said Mayor Gene Alex. "The City of Danube is pleased to retain a very good and stable business in the community. I can't say enough about how hard the board and employees have worked to make this day come true. Congratulations. In the future, if we can help, we'll be here for you."

RSCPA CEO DeeAnne Norris kicked off a round of speakers that, in addition to Mayor Alex, also included co-op Board Chair Roger Manthei; Board Secretary/Treasurer Alan Neyers; Elrosa-based project contractor, Breitbach Construction President Ryan Breitbach as well as architect Barbara Marks, Senior Designer and Project Manager with Engan Associates Architects, Willmar.

"The time has come to move into a new facility that will offer the cooperative much-needed internal and external space and allow for a more

efficient workflow to better serve the members of Renville-Sibley," Norris said.

According to Manthei, the new facility has been a long time coming, with initial discussions arising around the time he first came onto the board 20 years ago. The board chair said a formal initiative began to take shape in 2008 before being tabled until 2015, when a Building Committee was formed to investigate space needs and how they could be most prudently addressed.

Driving the need is the size of utility equipment, which has grown beyond the co-op's present capacities making truck storage and maintenance an increasingly uphill battle. Furthermore, relocating the organization's pole yard, presently situated north of Danube, onto the new, singular campus creates improved efficiencies.

"I don't think any of the conversations we've had about the project have resulted in receiving negative feedback from our members," said Manthei. "If anything, it's way overdue. Comments have been, 'I can't believe you've been in the current building that long.' It's really a project that we are all looking forward to and anticipating. I believe our members totally understand the need for a new facility."

RSCPA THEN AND NOW

RSCPA was initially started in 1938 to bring electricity to rural residents in Renville and Sibley

(continued on page 14)



Scott Tedrick
Renville County
Register

Shown at right, from left to right, are Board Members Matt Haubrich, Roger Manthei, Gary Peterson, Whitey Hinderman, Alan Neyers, Helen Ruebel, Kylie Rieke, Gary Eekhoff and Wayland Zaske.



**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS**

**RENVILLE-SIBLEY
CO-OP POWER**

(USPS 019-074)

Board of Directors

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

Renville-Sibley Employees

Gene Allex – Line Superintendent
Brian Athmann – Journeyman Lineman
Shawn Beckler – Crew Chief
Mike Benson – Journeyman Lineman
Brad Braulick – Crew Chief
Nick Bruns – Technology Manager
Anthony Carruth – Journeyman Lineman
Amy Ervin – Member and Board Services Representative
Brayden Fischer – Journeyman Lineman
Cindy Mertens – Administrative Services Manager
DeeAnne Norris – CEO
Clint Olson – Journeyman Lineman
Kathy Ridl – Office Assistant
Shane Suess – PT Janitor
Lenae Wordes – Communications Manager

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Web site: www.renville-sibley.coop

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Scholar of the Year Banquet



The scholars shown above attended the Scholar of the Year banquet (l-r): Tyler Froland, Ella Fuhr, Holly Bratsch, Jennifer Bratsch, Cale Bryan and Molly Mulder.

By Lenae Wordes

The 7th annual Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year banquet was held on Wednesday, June 8 at the Danube Community Center. The event honored the eight high school seniors who were selected as the Scholar of the Month throughout the 2021-22 school year.

As a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power is founded on the four pillars of Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and a Commitment to Community. Based on these principles, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power sponsors the Scholar of the Month program to recognize those high school students who also share these same values. 611000

Each month, teachers from the local school districts nominate a high school senior from their school who demonstrates outstanding academic, school and community achievements. By random drawing, one name is selected each month from those names submitted. The selected student is awarded a \$100 donation to be given to the student's school on their behalf. The student chooses which program the donation should be given to at their school (music, sports, arts, etc.). The monthly winners were featured on their local radio station

(KLGR, KOLV or KNUJ), an ad placed in their local newspaper as well as Renville-Sibley's newsletter, Cooperative Connections.

Schools invited to participate in the program include Renville County West, MACCRAY, Central Minnesota Christian School, BOLD, Redwood Valley, Cedar Mountain, and GFW.

All Scholars of the Month, their families and teachers who made the nomination were invited to attend the banquet. Tyler Froland was selected, by random drawing, as the Scholar of the Year and the winner of a \$1,000 scholarship from Renville-Sibley.

Renville-Sibley board member Matt Haubrich was the guest speaker at the banquet. Matt shared his story of the path life has taken him and the experiences he has had since growing up in the area. He has now come full circle back to owning and operating the family farm. Matt's wife Kristie also offered some insights into the challenges they experienced and a perspective on what students could expect in their future endeavors.

Renville-Sibley will continue this program in the 2022-2023 school year. I encourage members to reach out to their high school and urge the school to participate in this program.

Electrical safety basics for children

The back-to-school season is a time when parents and school children fall back into the familiar routine of getting up early, getting dressed, grabbing breakfast, preparing lunch and shuffling out the door each day.

It's a time when students return to a learning mindset, ready to take on new ideas, knowledge and information.

Parents should seize the opportunity to teach school-age children a valuable and potentially lifesaving lesson: Respect electricity.

Here are several electrical safety basics every child should know:

- Mixing water and electricity can be deadly. Teach children not to use electric toys or other devices near water or in the rain.
- Plugging multiple devices into a single outlet or power strip can create sparks and even cause a fire if that outlet can't handle the load. Teach kids to plug into surge-protected power strips or to use one device at a time and unplug the rest.

When they unplug those devices, they should grab them by the plug, not the cord. Yanking a cord out of an electrical outlet can damage the appliance, the outlet or the plug.

- Electrical cords can be strangling hazards and might cause electrical burns if they are misused. Make sure youngsters keep cords away from their mouths and necks. It's best to hide cords so they aren't a temptation.

- Electrical outlets are receptacles for electrical plugs only. Children should know from an early age that it's a no-no to put foreign objects or fingers into power plugs. Sticking any other items into an electrical socket can lead to electric shock or death. Use childproofing outlet covers.

- Flying kites and climbing trees are never safe activities near power lines. If a tree has a power line running through it - or if it's even within reach of the line - it's not a safe place to play. If a kite gets caught in a power line, the child should not tug on it to get it loose. The string could conduct electricity and seriously hurt the child.

- Electrical substations are fenced off to keep children and animals out of the area. If a toy or small pet gets inside the fence, the child should inform a parent or teacher, who can call a trained worker to come and retrieve it.

COOPERATIVES HELP OUR MEMBERS SOLVE PROBLEMS



Electric co-op member services personnel focus their attention on making sure co-op members get the power they need when they need it. They help homeowners and businesses solve problems and find solutions to operate more efficiently. A group of co-op representatives recently took a guided tour of the Riverview Dairy near Watertown to learn how the dairy functions and how the local co-op can provide better service to the facility.

You can find out more about the many ways our electric cooperatives serve our members by visiting Cooperative Connections Plus. Simply scan the QR code at right.



Swim safely

Alayna Smith

Alayna, age 10, alerts both the young and old alike to refrain from swimming when any thunderstorms are around. Alayna is the daughter of Myles and Amber Smith and they are members of H-D Electric Cooperative based in Clear Lake.

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.

TASTY SUMMER SALADS

SHELL MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

1 7-oz. box of shell macaroni, cooked, rinsed and cooled
2-3 fresh tomatoes, chopped
1/3 green pepper, chopped
3 celery ribs, sliced thinly
1/4 c. chopped onion
1 cucumber, seeded & chopped

Toss ingredients together; set aside.

Dressing

1/2 c. canola oil
3/4 c. sugar
1/2 c. vinegar
3/4 c. catsup
Dash of lemon juice

METHOD

Mix dressing ingredients well with wire whip and add to veggies and macaroni.

Joan Antonen, Arlington

TUNA AND EGG SALAD

Ingredients:

3 6-oz. cans tuna packed in water
3 eggs hard boiled, peeled and chopped
2 small dill pickles diced
1 large celery rib diced
1/4 cup red onion minced
1 tbsp. lemon juice or red wine vinegar
2 tsp. garlic powder, optional
1/4 tsp. salt, to taste
Ground black pepper to taste
1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt, 2%+ fat
2 tbsp. mayo

METHOD

Drain cans with tuna well by pressing hard on the lid while draining. Transfer to a large bowl and separate into flakes with a fork. Add chopped and peeled hard boiled eggs, pickles, celery, red onion, lemon juice, garlic powder (if using), salt, pepper, yogurt and mayo. Stir well with a fork and refrigerate. Serve cold in a sandwich or over salad greens.

ifoodreal.com

GARDEN VEGGIES 'N ROTINI

Ingredients:

3/4 c. oil
3/4 c. white vinegar
3/4 c. white sugar
1 tsp. garlic salt
2 tbsp. onion flakes
1 tbsp. mustard
Bring the above ingredients to a boil and remove from heat.
Cook 4 cups colored rotini noodles. Rinse and chill.
Cut up the following in chunky pieces:
1 tomato
1 cucumber
assorted peppers
1/2 red onion

METHOD

Stir veggies together with the rotini and dressing. Chill before serving.

Ginny Jensen, Volga

NANCY'S MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

Dice:

1 onion
1 green pepper
1-2 carrots
1 cup celery
2 cups Velveeta Cheese

Add:

1 can peas
1 - 16 oz. pkg. macaroni cooked and drained

Dressing:

1 cup sugar
1 pint mayo
1 cup white vinegar
1 - 14 oz. can evaporated milk

METHOD

Mix together gently and refrigerate, best overnight. Add any type of meat, boiled eggs etc., as desired.

Nancy Nelson, Mission Hill

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Renville-Sibley recovers from Memorial Day storm

By Gene Alex

Memorial Day 2022 wasn't a relaxing holiday for Renville-Sibley linemen. Linemen know storms can happen anytime, day or night, on weekends or holidays. Being available to restore power to our members at any time comes with the job. Yet there is also great satisfaction in seeing the lights come on for our members when everything was dark.

Storms started rolling through the area in the early morning hours of Monday, May 30. The first call was for an outage at the Troy Substation. There was a lightning strike close enough to blow two main fuses in the substation. The first crew was dispatched to that outage around 4 a.m. As more calls started coming in from different substations, I knew this storm restoration would require more than one crew. Fortunately, the storm moved through quickly and the crew was able to begin restoration in good weather conditions. That is until the next storm came through in the late afternoon causing some more outages.

The hardest-hit area of our system was north of Bird Island on circuit 122 out of the Kingman Substation where 15 poles were broken. The linemen were able to restore the power to most members on this circuit by 7 a.m. except for those living near the broken poles and north. Members who receive their power from the Emmet Substation, circuit 322, and live around Sacred Heart also experienced an outage due to 6 broken poles.

When that second-afternoon storm hit, members on the same circuit 322 experienced another outage due to a tree falling through the line and breaking 2 more poles. Other outages that day were caused by lightning, tree branches, and a grain bin rolling into a pole. Power was restored to all members by 10:00 p.m.

Pictured at right, Renville-Sibley linemen set a new power pole after the May 30 storm. In the photo below, the wind neatly placed a row of power poles on the road north of Bird Island.



except for one. This member needed an electrician to repair a broken yard pole. In total, there were 11 outages affecting 870 members. A total of 32 poles were broken.

During storm restoration on May 30, the linemen set the existing broken poles back in the ground to quickly restore the power. The next 2 ½ weeks were spent replacing the 32 set-down broken poles with good poles. Repairs were also made to 135 other issues that were discovered other than broken poles. This includes straightening leaning poles, broken ties, broken conductors, and tree issues.

When rough weather hits, be it summer or winter storms, there are steps you can take to ensure your electricity is restored as quickly and safely as possible. The first step is to make sure Renville-Sibley has your correct contact information. After hours, or in this case, on a holiday, the calls are routed to Cooperative Response Center (CRC). If

the phone you are calling in on is tied to your account, your member information will automatically show when the call comes into CRC.

This saves CRC time in trying to find your location and relaying that information to the linemen. It also helps to have your account number available when calling CRC or our office. When you get your next statement, look at your contact information on the back and update this information if necessary.

I also wanted to mention the power restoration process. The linemen will work to restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible. I understand that no one likes to be without power. The linemen work as quickly, but most importantly, as safely as possible so that all members can enjoy the benefits of electricity. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to restore power anytime your electricity goes out.

August member events

Be sure to visit us at the Farmfest and Family-a-Fair events

FARMFEST

The annual Farmfest event will be held on Aug. 2-4 at the Gilfillan Estate near Morgan, MN.

Renville-Sibley, along with other electric cooperatives in the region, have joined together to sponsor a booth at this event.

We will be located at booth #2301 in the large ag tent. Bring the coupon shown below. This coupon will be used to register for the grand prize drawing for one of these battery-powered electric yard tools shown at the right.

to give our cooperative members a night of FREE entertainment.

That's right, the Annual Family-a-Fair Night will be held as part of this year's Renville County Fair on Aug. 11. Renville-Sibley members will receive an invitation in the mail for free admittance to the fair.

Once arriving at the gate, members will register for prizes and receive discount coupons for a malt at the American Dairy Association booth or a pork sandwich at the Pork Producers booth. If you have ever had either of these



at the fair, you know what a treat that certainly is.

We hope you will come to enjoy a night out, compliments of Renville-Sibley.

FAMILY-A-FAIR

The 4-H kids are busy getting their projects finished and the animals groomed and trained in preparation for the Renville County Fair.

At Renville-Sibley, we are preparing

Visit Renville Sibley Co-op Power, along with other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, at Farmfest 2022 and enter for a chance to win a grand prize!

FARMFEST 2022 • AUGUST 2 - 4 • REDWOOD FALLS, MN

Bring this coupon to Booth #2301.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

You must be a member of one of the participating electric cooperatives to win.



CO-OPS KEEP THE RALLY ROLLING



Electric co-ops are committed to keeping The Rally energized

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The frenetic atmosphere that has come to be associated with the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally can be loud, chaotic and - well let's just say - very colorful.

But behind those vivid scenes are electric cooperative employees working hard to make sure the Rally has the juice required to keep the lights glaring, the amps blaring, the air conditioners humming and the blenders blending.

The three local co-ops that serve the Black Hills and surrounding area are Butte Electric, West River Electric and Black Hills Electric. In conjunction with wholesale supplier Rushmore Electric in Rapid City and power generator Basin Electric based in Bismarck, N.D., the co-ops deliver much of the electricity used by campgrounds, restaurants, shops, concert stages, biker bars and other entertainment venues.

The power providers are diligent about keeping pace with the increasing growth of The Rally, which is rebounding from a temporary drop in attendance brought on by the coronavirus pandemic over the past two years.

Corey Trapp, chief engineering officer at Rushmore Electric, said power demand can increase significantly during The Rally. For instance, he indicated the area north of Sturgis served by Butte Electric that includes Full Throttle and other sites can jump from 1-2 MW to 8-9 MW during the event.

At the Buffalo Chip, West River Electric has nearly 40 meters located across the 600-acre spread serving scores of bars, campgrounds and cabins, as well as the main stage. Power use skyrockets from about 30 KW to more than 4.2 MW.

This year marks the 82nd installment of The Rally. Ten years ago, organizers were concerned about the potential future of the event if younger riders didn't start joining in on the fun. According to data gathered by local government agencies, Mount Rushmore National Park and other sources, attendance is back on the upswing.

An estimated 555,000 riders participated in the Rally last August, up nearly 14 percent from 2020 and an increase of 9.5 percent over the five-year average from 2016 to 2020.

Statistics show that nearly 30 percent of attendees were first-timers in 2021, which is welcomed news for promoters who work year-around to keep The Rally rolling, including



RALLY FACTS

- 🏍️ 555,000 – No. of 2021 participants
- 🏍️ 54 – avg. age in 2019
- 🏍️ 46.5 – avg. age in 2021
- 🏍️ 52% - campground attendees
- 🏍️ 18% - hotel attendees
- 🏍️ \$81,005 - avg. household income
- 🏍️ \$382 - spent per day
- 🏍️ 85% - motorcycle owners
- 🏍️ 81% - Harley owners
- 🏍️ \$1,090,398 - raised for charity

the city of Sturgis, the South Dakota Department of Tourism, the Black Hills and Badlands Tourism Association and scores of business owners who depend on the seasonal revenue to sustain their operations.

The increased buzz of activity keeps the V-twin economic engines purring throughout the Black Hills area, but delivering the power has its own set of challenges that may not be apparent to partiers. Electric cooperative officials report that global shortages in materials and supplies make it difficult to meet the increase in power demand, but they're committed to doing everything possible to meet that demand.

"We're seeing delays in equipment necessary for infrastructure upgrades, but we know how important electricity is for The Rally to run successfully," said Brett Fosheim, director of operations at Butte Electric based in Newell. "A lot of visitors and business owners are

An estimated 555,000 visitors enjoyed the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally last year. As attendance climbs, electric cooperatives are committed to delivering the power needed to keep the party going. *Photos by South Dakota Travel*

depending on us, so we're prepared every year to step up to the plate with power that's affordable, reliable and there when everybody needs it."

Fosheim said just as organizers work all year long to plan and promote the 10-day event, electric cooperatives also anticipate the rise in electricity demand and coordinate with their common power generator, Basin Electric, to fill the need and handle peak loads. Butte Electric serves Full Throttle, Days Inn Campground and the Sons of Silence Campground, among other venues.

Because electric cooperatives are created by their members to serve their members, they've been delivering electricity since the early days of The Rally. The annual event traces its roots back to 1938 when a group of Indian Motorcycle enthusiasts led by local franchise owner Clarence "Pappy" Hoel got together to race one another, pull off some riding stunts and party together around a common interest in the brand.

What started as a quaint occasion called the Black Hills Classic with just

nine racers and a sparse crowd has become an international attraction.

Except for the World War II years between 1939 and 1941, The Rally has been a much-anticipated mainstay attracting visitors from across the planet. During the war, organizers suspended the event due to gas restrictions in support of the war effort.



While the current supply shortages mentioned by Fosheim have kept power providers on their toes and doubly prepared for The Rally, he said cooperatives are committed to delivering quality service not only during the event but long after the riders have peeled out of town.

Western Governors University is offering an exclusive scholarship opportunity to you. No need to spend your time driving back and forth to a college campus. Earn a respected, affordable degree from anywhere in Minnesota, with just an internet connection. Apply TODAY to earn a \$3,000 scholarship.




wgu.edu/power

Member Reminder

Renville-Sibley encourages any member planning on making changes to their service in 2022 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 project down payments and material are received.

Comparative Report

	Current YTD through May 31, 2022	One Year Ago YTD through May 31, 2021	10 Years Ago YTD through May 31, 2012
average # of Consumers	1,889	1,882	1,924
kWhs purchased	84,064,943	88,077,668	56,341,993
Cost of purchased power	\$4,717,095.92	\$5,702,884.28	\$2,768,051.91

FREE Want Ad Service

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

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

Type of ad: Giveaway For Sale For Rent Wanted

WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month Kraig Winzenburg did not find his member number in the newsletter. The credit will continue to grow with a value of \$60. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 1st of August, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

THANK YOU

Thank you for supporting area schools and students with the Scholar of the Month program! Your commitment to community is appreciated. Thank you also for the gift card.

Brenda Holm,
RCW teacher

Thank you for the opportunity to be the recipient of your scholarship. I am very honored. Your scholarship of \$1,000 will help me achieve my goals as I pursue an education in medicine.

Caylee Weber

June board meeting highlights

The June board meeting was held on Monday, June 27 at 8 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Cindy Mertens, Gene Alex, and Lenae Wordes.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the May 23 board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of May
- Safety report for June
- East River Resolution Committee member
- Sacred Heart Fire Department request for financing for a fire truck through the REED/REDLG fund
- RUS Form 674
- RUS Form 675
- Hometown Bank account agreement
- FM Bank account agreement
- Minnwest Bank account agreement
- Minnwest Bank IntraFi account agreement
- East River annual meeting voting delegates
- Allocation of the 2021 margin

The board reviewed:

- Capital credits transferred
- Total new members
- Reports from staff members as to the activities in their department. Items in the reports include:
 - High-level Statement of Operations review – YTD through May (unaudited)
 - Organization activities
 - Facilities update
 - East River update
 - Basin Electric update
 - NRECA update
 - MREA update
 - Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
 - Accounts receivable
 - Scholar of the Year banquet
 - Farmfest
 - Family-a-Fair night
 - New facility update

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

NOTICE:

The July board meeting will be held on Monday, July 25 at 8 a.m. The August board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 30 at 8 a.m.

Renville-Sibley Outage Report

Date: 05-24-22
 Time off: 9:44 a.m.
 Time on: 10:43 a.m.
 Substation: Wellington & Cairo
 Cause: Transmission

Date: 05-24-22
 Time off: 9:48 a.m.
 Time on: 10:45 a.m.
 Substation: Wellington & Cairo
 Cause: Transmission

Date: 05-30-22
 Time off: 3:40 a.m.
 Time on: 5:48 a.m.
 Substation: Troy & Emmet
 Cause: Lightning

Date: 05-30-22
 Time off: 3:42 a.m.
 Time on: 12:50 p.m.

Substation: Troy & Henryville
 Cause: Wind

Date: 05-30-22
 Time off: 3:42 a.m.
 Time on: 12:58 p.m.
 Substation: Emmet
 Cause: Wind

Date: 05-30-22
 Time off: 3:53 a.m.
 Time on: 9:00 p.m.
 Substation: Kingman & Troy
 Cause: Wind

Date: 05-30-22
 Time off: 4:07 a.m.
 Time on: 6:36 a.m.
 Substation: Kingman
 Cause: lightning

Date: 05-30-22
 Time off: 4:09 a.m.
 Time on: 12:15 p.m.
 Substation: Henryville
 Cause: Tree

Date: 05-30-22
 Time off: 5:30 a.m.
 Time on: 9:05 a.m.
 Substation: Emmet
 Cause: Wind

Date: 05-30-22
 Time off: 5:24 p.m.
 Time on: 9:55 p.m.
 Substation: Emmet
 Cause: Tree

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

OPERATION ROUND UP

Operation Round Up (ORU) began in 2019 and is managed by a board of trustees appointed for three-year terms with the option to serve a second consecutive three-year term. The District 3 term is up in July and the incumbent will not seek reappointment. The new trustee must reside in District 3 and will begin serving at the October 2022 meeting. District 3 consists of the Townships of Roseland and Holland in Kandiyohi County; Rheiderland in Chippewa County; and Troy, Winfield, Emmet, Crooks, Sacred Heart, Hawk Creek, Ericson and Wang in Renville County.

If you are interested in this position, contact the office by Aug. 22. Per the ORU bylaws, Renville-Sibley's board appoints a representative to serve on the ORU board. The names of interested members will be given to the Renville-Sibley board to vote on the trustee to serve on the ORU board.



FAMILY FUN AT CATFISH BAY

Summer fun for the entire family awaits at Catfish Bay Water Ski Park in Sioux Falls. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

Pigs fly and family fun abounds at Catfish Bay Water Ski Park

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

If you stop by Catfish Bay, you probably won't see a single catfish during your stay. But you will definitely see a pig flying, a chicken hurtling through the air and water skis sprouting up from a pocketful of magic seeds.

Catfish Bay Water Ski Park, located just off I-90 in Sioux Falls, is a family entertainment venue where a squad of highly skilled skiers leap and spin and build four-tier human pyramids as they skim across the water's surface.

Billed as "The Greatest Show on H₂O," the event attracts spectators from miles around who show up each Friday evening during the summer months to see the high-flying theatrics reminiscent of Florida's famed Cypress Gardens. The show features ski jumpers dressed as chickens, Hee Haw-inspired corn pone humor and a daredevil in a pig costume elevating 30 feet into the air astride a water-propelled fly board.

The show is the brainchild of Jim

Bruns, an idea that spawned from his mind as "a God thing." While he was a college student in the early '90s, Bruns joined the Sioux Falls Water Ski Club and honed his skills enough to turn pro.

It was during college that he hatched a plan to establish a show similar to those being staged at SeaWorld and other similar sites. First thing he needed was a lake. He found the perfect spot when a contractor dug out a 25-acre borrow pit adjacent to the interstate. He bought the pit and – voila! – one man-made lake...just add water.

Second thing he needed was a performing cast. Bruns gathered some of his fellow skiers of all ages and sizes, pulled together a program and then plowed forward for a few years determined to make the show a success. Just when he began wondering if he was going to be able to keep the labor-intensive venture alive, he experienced another epiphany. He needed to rededicate the program to building youth, strengthening families and developing leaders. He formed a

mission statement: "MV2 – Mission, Vision and Values."

"It was a simple plan from the start," Bruns said just before the start of the season-opening show on Memorial Day. "But in 2007 I hit a wall. I sat down and prayed about it and came up with MV2. Now I have so many stories of kids who have come out here and learned a skill and learned about teamwork and goal-setting. They learn how to overcome obstacles."

One of those youngsters is Beth Bruggeman, who serves as assistant show director. A recent college graduate, she has been involved in the program for 10 years. She was a 13-year-old gymnast and cheerleader when she decided to try out for the ski team and now she's a star in the show with boundless energy, a beaming smile and a scar on her eyebrow as her personal badge of courage and grit.

"One of the things I like about it is there are people who participate of all skill levels who are anywhere from 6 to 60 years old. You don't find groups with that kind of diversity. You get to form different kinds of connections and friendships," she said.

Brun's own children, James and Amara, are two other stars of the show. Amara, 13, professes to be the more gushingly dramatic. A student at O'Gorman Junior High, Amara has been part of the act since she was 2, riding on her dad's shoulders. Today she barefoots, swivels, climbs the pyramid and charms the crowd with her effervescent smile.

"I like entertaining people and making them feel like they've come to a special place," she said.

Beside Brun's, Jeremiah Newman is another example of the motto: the family that skis together stays together. He and his children, 14-year-old Marissa and 12-year-old Tyler, are involved in all aspects of the show. He's a member of the military and a former international professional skier who still competes around the region and specializes in performing flips and twists on an air chair hydrofoil.

"This is such a family-friendly environment. It's priceless. It keeps me active and it keeps our family close. Instead of sitting on the sidelines watching my kids, I get to be out there with them," he said. "We talk about the importance of making a life-long commitment to fitness and good nutrition and things that will serve them well along the way."

While the skiers are preparing for their next set, attention turns toward the stage area and a charming recurring character named Norman, who always comes up with some crackpot scheme that never fails to fail. Brun's explains that the Norman character stands as a metaphor for anyone who has had a dream and felt the frustration of failure.

"The thing about Norman that makes him different is that he never loses his enthusiasm and keeps on trying," Brun's said. "His motto is to dream big and never give up."

Brun's is living out the dream he had as a younger man. To this point, Norman has never revealed his last name. But it could very well be Brun's.

Below, Catfish Bay performers pull off a "four-stack" configuration. At right, the character known as "Norman" rides a flying pig.



GROUNDBREAKING



ENGAN ASSOCIATES
ARCHITECTS/INTERIOR DESIGNERS
shared vision. innovative design.

Renville-Sibley groundbreaking, *continued*

Counties. In 2021, the organization sold 179 million kilowatt-hours to its 1,586 members and 1,882 electric accounts situated in six adjacent counties, although 90 percent of members are located in Renville County. In sum, 14 employees manage the operation, including the maintenance of 1,046 miles of distribution lines, 345 miles of which have been located underground.

In the beginning, the cooperative operated out of a trio of sites in Fairfax until a vote by the co-op's membership approved the relocation of the co-op's headquarters to Danube in 1948. After renting an office and garage space, the cooperative purchased the 1931 Lueck Garage Building in 1949, which would go on to serve as the cooperative's headquarters for the next 73 years.

Norris noted that over the course of those seven-plus decades, the facility was remodeled on six different occasions. The first occurred in 1960 when a brick front was installed and plate windows were replaced by block windows. In 1973, the interior was remodeled, while 1982 saw the addition of a 50 x 90 foot warehouse space to the building's east side. Additional remodeling took place in 1991 and saw the purchase of property north of Danube for a second warehouse and pole yard. The interior was then remodeled again in 1999. Lastly, a portion of warehouse space was converted into a board room in 2002.

BUILDING COSTS

While the building committee

began meeting in 2015, it wasn't until 2020 that the RSCPA Board formally approved a new facility. Initial timelines expected to see the completion of the facility this spring before pandemic-related occurrences created project delays and increased overall costs. In the end, though, it may prove fortuitous.

The first design renderings were completed by Engan and Associates in May of 2021 and put out for bid. Due to extreme increases in the price of steel, however, the project was redesigned and rebid, including pre-cast concrete as a potential alternative to a steel-framed structure.

According to Marks, pre-cast concrete is preferable to steel as a building material because of its greater strength and longevity in addition to lower maintenance costs and climate control benefits. At one point, steel offered significant cost savings for the project, but with rising prices bringing the commodity closer in line with pre-cast concrete, the board acknowledged this material as the smartest way to go.

"The decision by the board of directors to move forward with a new facility was not taken lightly, and the leadership they showed during the process was impressive," said Norris. "They took into consideration the current condition of the buildings, lack of space, and sought out experts within the utility and building industries who said we may see prices level out in the future, but they do not

expect them to go down."

Breitbach Construction was chosen as the lead contractor for the \$8.3 million project. Comments from President Ryan Breitbach during the groundbreaking commended the level of engagement and creativity of the RSCPA building committee throughout the process.

With every penny spent by the co-op coming from its members, Norris said the co-op has sought to be exemplary stewards of the co-op's resources. Using a pair of USDA Rural Development: Rural Utilities Services loans, the co-op is borrowing approximately \$7.6 million—\$4.8 million at 2.689 percent interest and another \$2.8 million at 3.129 percent interest—to finance construction.

Through its revenue deferral account and cost-cutting efforts, Norris said the co-op hopes to minimize rate impacts to members. Overall, the interest and depreciation of the facility is projected to impact rates between three and four percent.

The City of Danube is also contributing to the project by annexing the 10-acre project site into city limits, providing water and sewer hook-ups, and offering a 10-year tax abatement plan.

A SPIRITED FUTURE

According to Manthei, site prep for RSCPA's new facility began this week, and concrete footings are set for July. The pre-cast concrete, which Marks said was made with locally sourced

Renville-Sibley groundbreaking, *continued*

Morton gneiss, is expected to arrive in September. Thereafter, Manthei said the main office is expected to begin going up in October with plans to have interior project work continue through the winter. If all goes to plan, the headquarters would be operational in July of 2023.

Looking to the future, Norris said the plan has been designed to allow for future expansion of programs and services. Additionally, the CEO said she is seeking a grant to develop a bolstered vision for the site that would incorporate solar panels, an electric car charging station, and an interpretive trail into a cohesive package. The solar panels would feed the charging

stations while picnic tables and a path with information on electric co-ops, beneficial electrification, and renewable energy would run under the solar panel canopies providing the visitors an amenity while they charge.

Marks, who not only served as lead project designer but is also a local co-op member, reveled in the opportunity to work on the project. She said she hoped to create a site ideally suited to serve the co-op's employees given the level of service they have provided to her, and the area's residents, over the years.

"I can attest that the team selected to represent all of you, and all of us, has taken their responsibility seriously. As Franklin Roosevelt said, the cooperative

plan is the best organization wherever men have the right spirit to carry it out," she said. "Members will benefit from this project for years to come because we are working within the right spirit."

Following the ceremony, attendees returned to the RSCPA's current headquarters for refreshments before getting back to serving the co-op's membership base.

"We believe the design is practical yet provides modest expansion options for growth and additional services in the future," said Norris. "With the construction of a new pre-cast concrete building, we are looking forward to serving you, our members, for the next 100 years from our new location."

Stray Voltage Can Cause Livestock Problems

Stray voltage can cause serious problems in certain confinement livestock systems. Dairywomen and hog producers can lose production from their livestock and experience health problems due to small electric voltages. These voltages are known by several names, including tingle voltage, neutral-to-earth voltage, neutral-to-ground voltage and nuisance voltage. They all refer to very low voltage between two animal contact points.

The cause of the voltage can be varied and complex. It may be caused by poor load balance, faulty wiring or equipment, improper grounding or a host of other electrical problems. One common problem is that the farm operations grow in size, but the electrical service isn't upgraded to grow along with it. Also, electrical systems become obsolete and deteriorate due to improper maintenance.

Many factors other than stray voltage may cause behavior, health and production problems. An analysis of all possible causes is necessary if proper corrective procedures are to be found.



A section of the National Electric Code deals with the requirements for wiring all livestock buildings. If these are strictly followed and buildings are "up to code," the potential for stray voltage is greatly reduced. Many older barns have been converted from one use to another and do not meet code requirements. If you are building new livestock facilities, be sure all work is done in accordance with Article 547 of the National Electric Code.

If stray voltage is suspected on

your farm, contact Renville-Sibley Cooperative. An investigation will be made to determine if a problem is present. Our electrician is also requested to be present so any problems can be noted and corrected. In dairy operations, consulting your milking equipment dealer and local veterinarian is also recommended. They can determine if equipment problems or health problems that may or may not be related to stray voltage are present.

REGISTER TO WIN!

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

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____

AUGUST 16-18
Dakotafest

Photo Credit: AFBF photo/Philip Gerlach



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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

JULY 25-30
Days of '76 Rodeo and Parades

18 Seventy Six Dr., Deadwood, SD, daysof76.com

JULY 29-31
Badlands Astronomy Festival
Ben Reifel Visitor Center, Interior, SD, 605-433-5243

JULY 29-31
Bruce Honey Days
Various Locations, Bruce, SD, 605-627-5671

JULY 29-31
Paha Sapa Cowboys and Indians Art Festival
Outlaw Square, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

JULY 30
South Dakota Chislic Festival
Prairie Arboretum, Freeman, SD, sdchislicfestival.com

AUGUST 5-6
Foothills Days and Rockin' Ribfest
Citywide, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-539-1929

AUGUST 5-7
Sioux River Folk Festival
Newton Hills State Park, Canton, SD, facebook.com/SDFOTM/

AUGUST 5-13
Sioux Empire Fair
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD, siouxempirefair.com

AUGUST 5-14
Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
Main St., Sturgis, SD, sturgismotorcyclerrally.com

AUGUST 11-13
Clay County Fair
515 High St., Vermillion, SD, claycountyfair.net

AUGUST 14
31th Annual Czech Heritage Festival
Bechyn, MN, 320-522-1218

AUGUST 15-21
Brown County Fair
400 24th Ave. NW, Aberdeen, SD, browncountysdfair.com

AUGUST 19-21
Black Hills Threshing Bee
13380 Alkali Road, Sturgis, SD, 605-490-2024

AUGUST 19-21
Yankton Riverboat Days
Citywide, Yankton, SD, riverboatdays.com

AUGUST 19-27
Central States Fair and Rodeo
800 San Francisco St., Rapid City, SD, centralstatesfair.com

AUGUST 24-28
Corn Palace Festival
604 N Main St., Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430

AUGUST 24-28
Kool Deadwood Nites
Citywide, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

AUGUST 25-28
Prairie Village Steam Threshing Jamboree
45205 SD Hwy. 34, Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

AUGUST 26-27
Hill City Wine, Brew and BBQ
Elm St., Hill City, SD, hillcitywinebrewandbbq.com

AUGUST 26-27
Sizzlin' Summer Nights
Main St., Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-3441

AUGUST 26-28
Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival
Various Locations, Hot Springs, SD, fallriverballoonfest.com

AUG. 30-SEPT. 4
Sturgis Mustang Rally
Thunderdome, Sturgis, SD, sturgismustangrally.com

SEPTEMBER 1-5
South Dakota State Fair
890 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD, sdstatefair.com

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.