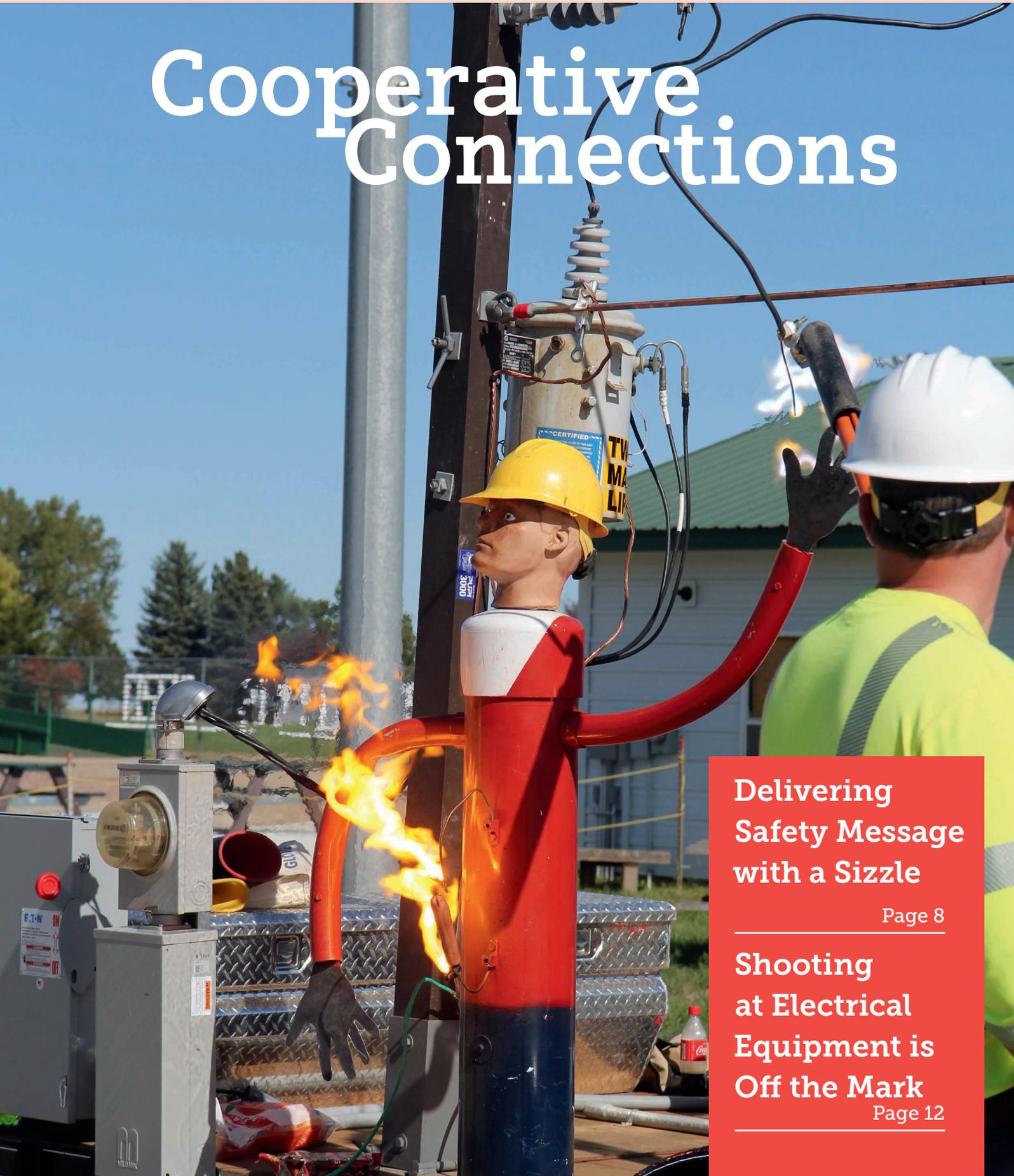


Cooperative Connections



**Delivering
Safety Message
with a Sizzle**

Page 8

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

Page 12

We're Thankful for Our Sister Cooperatives



Joel Janorschke, General Manager

jjanorschke@traverseelectric.com

When you think about Traverse Electric Cooperative, you probably associate us with the local community. And you would be right. Our leadership team, board of directors and employees all live and work right here in the community we serve. But you may not realize that

Traverse Electric is actually part of a much larger cooperative network that brings additional value, tools and knowledge that benefit you, the members of the co-op.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

When a severe weather event is predicted for our region, we call on our sister co-ops in areas unaffected by the approaching storm. Through this system of mutual aid, we coordinate with other co-ops to bring additional trucks, equipment and manpower to our area. We work together and share resources in order to restore power to our community. And Traverse Electric reciprocates by assisting other electric co-ops when they request help.

A defining characteristic of a cooperative is “cooperation among cooperatives.” This is a way that co-ops work together to meet bigger challenges such as power restoration after a severe weather event.

Another area in which Traverse Electric benefits from cooperation among cooperatives is cybersecurity. Through the National

Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) “Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program” (RC3), we are able to access training, resources and tools to strengthen our efforts to combat cyber threats.

Traverse Electric’s ability to tap into the larger electric cooperative network and access tools, products, resources and leading practices from across the nation ultimately makes our co-op and our community stronger.

Bright spot

The Solar Utility Network Deployment Acceleration (SUNDA) project is another example of an area where Traverse Electric has benefitted from collaboration with other electric co-ops.

Through the SUNDA project, electric co-ops were able to collect data and case studies that provide insight into challenges and solutions related to solar energy technologies. Now, electric cooperatives across the country, including Traverse Electric, have access to a set of knowledge and resources to more efficiently tailor our renewable energy mix to meet the needs of our local communities.

Global impact

Lastly, communities across the globe have benefitted from the lessons learned and experience of co-ops in electrification of rural areas in the U.S.

NRECA International has provided access to reliable and affordable electricity to 120 million people in 43 countries. This effort is made possible through the support of electric co-ops in this state and across the country.

Hundreds of lineworkers, engineers and other co-op employees have served as volunteers to bring first-time access to electricity and train local partners to help utilities be sustainable in their own communities.

November is a time of year for reflection and giving thanks. I am grateful for our sister co-ops who enable us to better serve you and our broader community. When electric co-ops collaborate, we strengthen each other and the communities we serve – and that is something in which to be truly thankful.

August Financial Information			
	August 2018	August 2019	YTD 2019
Total Revenue	\$876,855	\$882,377.00	\$6,336,282
Cost of Power	\$558,522	\$554,636	\$3,922,521
Total Cost of Service	\$852,492	\$849,057	\$6,232,230
Operating Margins	\$24,362	\$33,319	\$104,052
Total Margins	\$52,675	\$60,897	\$249,912
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	8,681,852	8,937,909	67,894,137
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	8,206,033	8,532,161	64,774,497
Line Loss	5%	5%	4%

Traverse Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-903)

Board of Directors

President: Alan Veflin, Sisseton, SD
Vice President: Pat Homan, Beardsley, MN
Secretary: Mark Pearson, Rosholt, SD
Treasurer: Karen Kath, Campbell, MN
 Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN
 Russ Armstrong, Wheaton, MN
 Terry Monson, Veblen, SD
 Michael Marks, Norcross, MN
 Tom Frisch, Dumont, MN

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Joel Janorschke – General Manager
 Karen Lupkes – Office Manager
 Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager
 Vacant – Member Service Representative/Electrician
 Melissa Przymus – Accountant
 Susan Wilts – Billing Clerk

Operations Personnel

Richard Davis – Foreman
 Lonnie Tekrony – Journeyman Linemen
 Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Linemen
 Chris Faulk – Journeyman Linemen
 Josh Shoutz – Journeyman Linemen
 Austin Reinke – Journeyman Linemen
 Dennis Koch – Facility Technician

General Managers Contact Information

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**In case of a power outage call
1-800-927-5443**

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Web site: www.traverseelectric.com. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Our Mission: To provide dependable service at the lowest possible rates, consistent with sound business principles.

Design assistance by SDREA.



TEC Now Selling Generators

Traverse Electric is now selling 2200W Briggs & Stratton portable inverter generators. The cost is \$640.

Designed with camping and tailgating in mind, this inverter generator is quiet, lightweight and efficient.

Features:

- **Safe for Sensitive Electronics** – With inverter technology, it produces smoother power for sensitive electronics such as laptops, phones and gaming systems.
- **Quiet Power Technology** – Automatically adjusts the engine speed further reducing noise, fuel consumption and emissions.
- **Quiet Portable Generator** – At 59dB operating volume, it's quieter than a normal conversation, so it blends into the background of social situations.
- **Your Pick of Outlets** – A convenient control panel includes three outlets (one DC and two household) and a USB adapter, offering enough flexibility to power an extensive combination of lights, music, TVs, crock-pots, blenders, personal electronics and more.
- **Convenient Carrying** – An H-handle design lets one person easily move the light generator when needed or also allows two people to conveniently share the load.
- **Built to Go Anywhere** – A lightweight design and quiet generator operation makes this the best backup power solution for tailgating, camping and outdoor recreation.

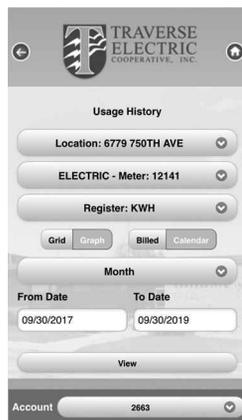


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You can now view your daily usage online using your online account access or by using our Mobile App. Simply click on the Services Tab, which is under Usage History, choose your service, then view your usage by meter number.

You then have the option to view your billed usage or you can view by calendar usage. By choosing to view by calendar usage, you can enter a date range and then choose to view your use by day or month. Choosing to view by day will give you access to your most recent use.

If you don't have online access please visit our website at www.traverseelectric.com and click on Online Bill Pay. From there you can register by creating a user name and password and link your account(s). You will need to know your account number and the meter number or phone number we have on file in order to complete the registration process. You can also



download and register for access via our mobile app, which can be found in your app store by searching for Traverse Electric. Your same user name and password is used for the mobile app and the online access. If you have any questions please call our office at 800-927-5443.

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

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	Topping:
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.

Six Efficient Holiday Gifts to Give (or Keep!)



Pat Keegan

Collaborative Efficiency

Don't forget to put on your favorite sweater and pair of fuzzy slippers so you can lower the thermostat a couple of degrees.

Dear Pat and Brad: With the holidays approaching, I'm starting to think about unique gifts for my family and friends that won't use too much energy. Can you share any ideas? – Monica

Dear Monica: It's always a great idea to give energy efficient gifts! Here are a few ideas based on a range of prices. You might even want to keep one or two of these for yourself!

1. Smart power strip. Price: \$15 to \$100: Smart power strips are the perfect gift for your tech-savvy family members and friends because they'll likely need the extra outlets for their many devices. Smart power strips give more control than traditional ones. By plugging the main hardware item, such as a computer or monitor, into the master outlet, you can easily control the rest of the devices. When that main device is turned off, everything else plugged into the strip also powers off. Some smart power strips can also be operated through a remote control or smartphone app and some include programmable timers.

2. Solar backpack. Price: \$30 to \$325: Walking or biking to the office, the field or a mountain lake? It may sound crazy, but you can actually make the most of the sun's energy with a solar backpack. These handy devices collect and store enough electricity to power a phone, tablet or even a laptop. The solar panels stitched onto the back of the packs are flexible and waterproof. Best of all, they have all the features and functionality of their traditional non-solar cousins.

3. Smart thermostat. Price: \$30 to \$600: A smart thermostat can adjust the temperature by learning your energy use habits over time, which saves you money and keeps you more comfortable. It can also be controlled through a smartphone app. Just make sure you're going to use all of its functionality before taking the leap.

4. Energy efficient tablets. Price: \$40 to \$4,000: You may already have at least one tablet in your home, but have you considered how energy efficient it is? Try this: Instead of using your TV to binge that new show, consider an ENERGY STAR®-rated tablet and you can use seven times less power! Simply look for the ENERGY STAR label when you're shopping for new tablets.

5. Electric scooter. Price: \$80 to \$3,000: The \$49 foldable, foot-powered scooter that exploded onto the scene a decade ago has grown up in a big way. In some larger cities, electric scooters are now available to rent at various locations, found and paid for via app. Or you can buy one to use for your daily commute or as a fun way to simply scoot around the neighborhood. Higher-quality versions will have longer range, larger tires and better suspension – along with a higher cost, of course. The catch is that they're still largely confined to paved surfaces.

6. E-bike. Price: \$250 to \$9,000: Electric bikes, or e-bikes, are regular bicycles with an electric motor that can be engaged as needed. E-bikes are becoming increasingly popular with people who face challenging terrain, bike to work and don't want to work up a sweat or perhaps find regular cycling too physically challenging. Studies also show that e-biking can bring many of the same physical benefits as non-assisted pedaling. They even come in foldable versions. One downside is they are heavier than regular bicycles.

Looking for an efficient gift that costs practically nothing? Enjoy a good book and a cozy evening at home, which requires no energy use at all. Don't forget to put on your favorite sweater and pair of fuzzy slippers so you can lower the thermostat a couple of degrees. Now that's an energy efficient evening worth repeating!

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

Scholarship Prizes Available

Resource Conservation Speech Contest Announced

Contestants in the 2020 State Finals of the Resource Conservation Speech contest are eligible to win a total of \$2,300 in college scholarships.

All South Dakota students in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete for \$2,300 in higher education scholarships, which are provided by the East River and Rushmore Electric power cooperatives and the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. Scholarships are awarded to the top three finalists: first place is \$1,100; second place is \$750; and third place is \$450.

The 2020 contest theme is "What Does a Tree Do for Me?" Contests are coordinated by local conservation districts. Local winners advance to area contests held in seven locations. The top area speakers compete at the state finals in Pierre on Saturday, April 25, 2020.

The contest is sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA), in cooperation with Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

An entry form and complete list of rules can be found online at:

<https://sdda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry/educational-programs/resource-conservation-speech-contest/PDF/2020%20Speech-Brochure.pdf>

For more information on the Resource Conservation Speech Contest, contact your local conservation district or call Bailey Gullikson, natural resource specialist for SDDA, at 605-773-7570.



East River's Chris Studer, right, speaks with former S.D. Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson and Linda Daugaard at the Connected Home Research Project launch.

Connected Home Research Project Launches

A Connected Home Research Project launched on Oct. 2 as part of Dakota State University's (DSU) MadLabs facility grand opening. The Connected Home project is a partnership between East River Electric Power Cooperative, DSU and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and is exploring technologies that will be included in the next generation rural home. It is also working to find solutions that will allow electric cooperatives to play an integral role in helping consumers optimize their energy use.

East River Electric is a wholesale power supply cooperative headquartered in Madison, S.D., which serves 24 distribution cooperatives and one municipal electric system across eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. NRECA is a national association of more than 900 electric cooperatives and is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

"From wi-fi thermostats to smart appliances, our network of electric cooperatives is seeing increased adoption of smart home technologies among consumers," said East River Chief Member and Public Relations Officer Chris Studer. "While current technologies can help manage electricity usage and benefit consumers, we noticed a gap between the capabilities of those technologies and the needs of our utility network to connect to those technologies. We hope to close that gap through this project."

Researchers will investigate current products on the market and determine how utilities could potentially utilize existing technologies to control appliances and connected technologies within a home. They will also research the potential to build utility-specific technologies, both hardware and software, that could be used in homes to optimize energy usage and control power costs. A final phase of the project could include field testing of potential products in end consumer homes to determine the viability of any hardware and software that is developed.

"As use of smart home technology continues to increase among consumers, we're hoping to use this research project to identify technologies that will help us in our transition to a new energy management future or to develop our own utility-specific technologies that can be replicated at cooperatives around the country to help consumers optimize energy usage and save them money," said Studer.

The project's research space resembles a smart home kitchen with additional appliances including a washer, dryer and water heater. "Many of the products included in the space were sourced from local companies. We are grateful to Rosebud Cabinets, KolorWorks, Karl's Appliance and Montgomery's for assisting in the construction and design of the space," said Studer.



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.

August Board Meeting Highlights

The August board meeting was held on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2019, at 8 a.m. Absent: None.

Staff members present were General Manager Joel Janorschke, Dale Schwagel and Karen Lupkes.

- The minutes of the July board meeting were approved.
- The July check register was approved.
- Viewed the Basin Electric and East River Electric video reports.
- Homan reported on East River board business.
- Frisch reported on MREA's New Director Orientation.
- Veflin reported on the MREA Board Chair Roundtable he attended.
- Armstrong and Marks reported on MREA Energy Issues Summit.
- Janorschke presented the Manager's Report, which included:
 - ▶ Recapped the East River manager's meeting topics.
 - ▶ Updated the board on Minnesota and South Dakota legislative issues.
 - ▶ Researched the cost of installing a 10 KW solar array.
 - ▶ Discussed Basin Electric's rates for 2020.
- Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:
 - ▶ July 31, 2019, accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
 - ▶ Dairyland Power will print and mail our billing statements beginning with the Aug. 31 bills.
 - ▶ Attended the REMA Finance Managers meeting.
 - ▶ Reviewed and approved the July Financial Report.
- Schwagel gave the Operations Report. Items discussed included:
 - ▶ July outages were reviewed.
 - ▶ Contractors have finished with the cable for the East River projects. They will move to the new dairy and our other three-phase plowing projects next.
 - ▶ Our tree trimming contractor is working in the Beardsley area.
 - ▶ Meter changes are going slower than anticipated.
- Approved revisions to Policy 509 Nepotism.
- Reviewed and approved the Basin Electric 2020 Load Forecast
- Went into Executive Session.
- A list of upcoming meetings and attendees was reviewed.

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e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		5	5
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Date: **Sept. 23, 2019**

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Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the **November 2019** issue of this publication.

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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner:
Joel Janorschke, General Manager

Date: **Sept. 23, 2019**

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d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (19b divided by 19c x 100)		

I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

TEC Statistics

Members Served 2,200

Meters Served 3,194

Number of meters including off-peak meters 4,388

Miles of Overhead Line 1,170

Miles of Underground Line 532

Total Miles of Line 1,702

Members Served Per Mile 1.8

Number of Poles to Maintain ... 22,624

Thank you so much for your support and help! We appreciate you lots! Thanks.

Essential Health Graceville Foundation Board, Graceville, MN

Minnesota Cold Weather Rule Explained

During the cold weather months from Oct. 15 to April 15 both the cooperative and the electric consumer have rights and responsibilities as set by law. South Dakota does not have a cold weather rule. This applies to Minnesota accounts only.

One of the most basic responsibilities of the consumer (cooperative member) is to give us a call to arrange a payment schedule if he/she is unable to pay their monthly electric bill. Do not be under the misconception that the cooperative cannot disconnect for nonpayment during the winter! The fact is that if a consumer does not fulfill his/her responsibilities as outlined in the Cold Weather Law, the electricity can be disconnected if the cooperative follows the proper notification procedure.

The consumer has the right to enter into a payment schedule. However, it is up to the consumer to call the cooperative to arrange the schedule. Once the payment schedule has been determined, it must be kept!

The consumer has the right to fill out the Inability to Pay Form with the co-op. Along with the completed Inability to Pay Form, income documentation must be provided to the cooperative. If the total household income is less than 50 percent of the state median income, the member is eligible for protection from winter shutoff. However, the consumer must provide the household income documentation to the cooperative in order to determine if the account is eligible for cold weather protection.

If the consumer is eligible for wintertime protection because the household income meets the criteria set forth in the Cold Weather Law, he/she would also be eligible to receive energy assistance.

Traverse Electric Cooperative would like to remind customers about Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule. Traverse Electric will not disconnect the utility service of a residential customer who meets certain criteria between Oct. 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects their primary heat source. The criteria is as follows:

1. The customer declares an inability to pay on forms provided by Traverse Electric.
2. The household income of the customer is less than 50 percent of the state median income.

3. Verification of income may be conducted by the local energy assistance provider or Traverse Electric, unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconnection as a recipient of any form of public assistance, including energy assistance that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility.
4. A customer whose account is current for the billing period immediately prior to Oct. 15 or who, at any time, enters into a payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the household and is reasonably current with payments under the schedule.



Before disconnecting service to residential customers between Oct. 15 and April 15, a utility must provide the following information:

- A notice of proposed disconnection.
- A statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities.
- A list of local energy assistance providers.
- Forms on which to declare an inability to pay.

If you are having financial difficulties and cannot pay your electric bill and if you do not meet state guidelines for cold weather protection, contact our office immediately to set up a mutually acceptable payment plan. Remember your bill is your responsibility. Arrangements for payments need to be made before the crew is sent out to disconnect.

A residential customer may be involuntarily disconnected for failure to comply with or for inability to meet any one of the four conditions mentioned directly above.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND WEATHERIZATION CONTACTS

West Central MN Communities Action
Elbow Lake, MN • www.wcmca.org
218-685-4486 or 800-492-4805

Prairie Five, CAC, Inc.
Montevideo, MN • www.prairiefive.com
320-839-2111, 320-269-6578 or 800-292-5437

South Dakota LIEAP
Pierre, SD • <http://dss.sd.gov>
605-773-6480 or 800-233-8503

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.



Pierre Junior Shooters took the top spot on the podium at the Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match while the Marshall County 4-H Sharp Shooters took the third tier.

South Dakota Youth Are

NATIONAL TOP GUNS

Daisy®

<https://www.daisy.com/daisy-nationals/>

Each year the Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match features youth teams from across the nation competing in this five-meter, four-position National Championship match, and this year the Pierre Junior Shooters from Pierre, S.D., edged the team out of Walton County, Ga., to take home the Gold Medal and traveling trophy. The event wrapped Saturday night, July 6, with a festive medal ceremony that named not only the Team National Championship, but also Championships in Individual, Alternate and Champion Divisions.

Sixty-four teams converged on Rogers, Ark., for the 54th year of the “Daisy Nationals.” Teams consist of five shooters and two alternates ages 8 to 15, who have completed the Daisy Curriculum and other training provided by organizations such as the 4H Shooting Sports, Royal Rangers, the American Legion and other community and youth-based clubs. Teams must also place first, second or third in their state’s NRA-sanctioned contest to get an invite.

“The Daisy Nationals is a celebration of youth competitive shooting,” said Daisy Public Relations Director Lawrence Taylor. “Competitive BB gun shooting is your gateway to the shooting sports. We’ve had youth compete in the Daisy Nationals who went on to compete – and win – in Olympic shooting events.”

Youth competitors shoot 10 shots from each of four positions – standing, kneeling, sitting and prone – at the target placed at 5 meters. They shoot Daisy Model 499B Champion BB guns, billed as the world’s most-accurate BB gun. Each year multiple shooters place all 10 shots in the bullseye.

There’s also a safety aspect to this match. On the first day, every competitor takes a 50-question written test that covers gun safety, match rules and shooting knowledge. The results of the test make up 20 percent of each competitor’s final score and that can be the difference between the Gold and Silver medals.

Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match Top 5 Teams

Pierre Junior Shooters
Pierre, S.D.

Walton County 4H
Walton County, Ga.

Marshall County 4H Sharp Shooters
Marshall County, S.D.

Humboldt Sharpshooters
Humboldt, S.D.

Permian Basin Young Guns
Midland, Texas

An award is given to the team that scores highest on the test, and this year for the first time, three teams from South Dakota tied to win this award: the Humboldt Sharpshooters, Marshall County and the Pierre Junior Shooters.

Eric Bird from Wyandotte County, Kan., shot a 488 with 21 bullseyes to win the Individual National Championship, and he had a perfect score on the written test. Right on Bird's heels was Anthony Stacy from Walton County, Ga., who shot a 485 with 21 bullseyes. The tightest race in the Individual Division was between Stacy and bronze medal winner Irene VanDyke of Carvelius, Ore., who also scored 485 but had two less bullseyes.

In the Team Division, winning the Silver Medal was Walton County 4H out of Georgia. Walton County scored 2,382 with 87 bullseyes – two more than the Pierre Junior Shooters, who won the event with 2,385. The Marshall County 4H Sharp Shooters took the Bronze Medal with a score of 2,363 with 70 bullseyes. Rounding out the top five was the Humboldt Sharpshooters from Hartford, S.D., followed by the Permian Basin Young Guns from

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Midland, Texas.

“Competitive shooting teaches mental focus, patience, coordination and the bigger lessons of practicing to improve a skill,” Taylor said. “That’s very easy to see in shooting because your shot groupings

are big when you first start, but as you practice those groups shrink and get tighter – it’s the perfect illustration of how you improve through practice.

“We’ve also seen how this program improves the lives of those with attention disorders or issues. Competitive shooting requires disciplined breathing and muscle memory and tack-sharp focus. Coaches have repeatedly told us how kids who were struggling with school or other issues have improved in those areas after getting into competitive shooting.”

The Daisy Nationals match rules state that a youth who shoots on a team this year must sit out and let another youth have the opportunity to shoot on the team. But, these former team members are not left out – they can attend and compete in the Champions Match.

The Pierre Junior Shooters have captured national titles in 2004, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, as well as 2017, to go along with the 2019 crown. South Dakota has also had strong national finishes in the 1980s and ’90s – as well as top 10 finishes in other years of competition.

S.D. 4-H Shooting Sports Teams Finish Strong

South Dakota 4-H members received national recognition during the 2019 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships held in Grand Island, Neb. June 23-28, 2019.

Of the 659 youth from across the United States who competed, 36 were South Dakota 4-H members who qualified during the 2019 4-H Spring Shoot in Pierre and the 2018 4-H Fall Shoot in Mitchell.

The South Dakota teams who received national recognition include:

Hunting Skills placed third overall, third in Wildlife ID, second in General Skills and third in Decision Making. The team had top ten finishes throughout the competition including Kaylee Bosma of Lincoln County who placed ninth in General Skills, Hunter Laverack of Bennett County who placed fifth in Decision Making and Dylan Singrey of Brookings County who placed second in General Skills and sixth overall. The hunting skills team was coached by SDSU Extension Youth Safety Field Specialist John Keimig.

Air Rifle placed third overall, second in 3 Position, second in Standing, and fourth in Silhouettes. Throughout the competition, members of the team were recognized with top ten finishes in different phases. Justin Merriman of Hughes County was recognized as first in 3 Position, fourth in standing and eighth overall, Jessica Hays of Hughes County placed in each phase and seventh overall and Alexandra Smith of Hughes County placed seventh in Standing, 10th in Silhouettes and 10th overall. The air rifle team was coached by Sean Kruger, a 4-H Volunteer in Hughes County.

For more information on 4-H shooting sports, contact John Keimig, SDSU Extension Youth Safety Field Specialist by email or call 605.688.4167.



Third-place Hunting Skills team consisted of, from left, Cloe Swanson of Minnehaha County, Kaylee Bosma of Lincoln County, John Keimig with SDSU Extension, Dylan Singrey of Brookings County and Hunter Laverack of Bennett County.

Photo Courtesy of Dawn Foiles



Third-place Air Rifle members Justin Merriman of Hughes County, Eli Dissing of Minnehaha County, Alexandra Smith of Hughes County, Sean Kruger of Hughes County and volunteer Jessica Hays of Hughes County.

Photo Courtesy of Dawn Foiles

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

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.