



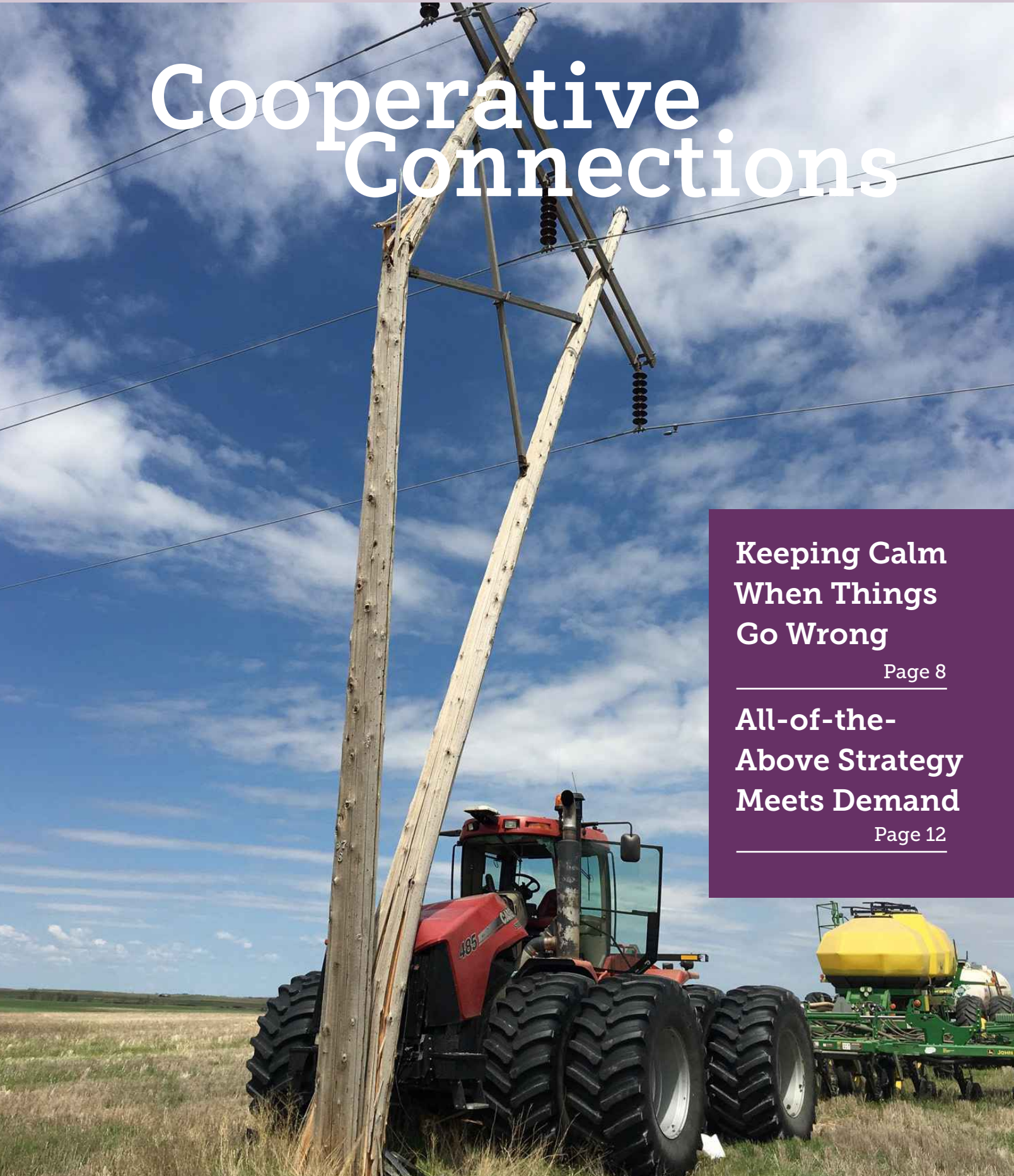
Cooperative Connections

**Keeping Calm
When Things
Go Wrong**

Page 8

**All-of-the-
Above Strategy
Meets Demand**

Page 12



District Meeting Information for Members

No Rate Increase in 2019

**Tim McCarthy, GM/CEO**

tim.mccarthy@siouxvalleyenergy.com

It is district meeting season! We are always so appreciative of all our members who brave the winter temps to attend their local meeting. On average, more than 4,000 members turn out for these events which are held in 10 different locations throughout our service territory. As you have seen in past editions of the magazine, district meetings are where Sioux Valley Energy members elect their board representatives. It is also a time where we can provide a management update to the membership. Unfortunately, not everyone can attend the meetings, so we wanted to provide you with the information we gave to the membership at the meetings. Here is my management report I gave at each meeting (adjusted for print):

Sioux Valley Energy is anticipating a revenue shortfall of approximately \$2.6-million dollars this year. However, we plan to cover that deficit by using deferred revenue which will allow us to keep rates steady in 2019. The main factor behind the inadequate revenue requirements is that power supply costs are placing additional pressure on rates. You may wonder how that can happen when market costs for energy are going down. It's because the driver of increased rates is the need to replace electric infrastructure. The power lines and other equipment needed to deliver electricity to your homes and businesses are aging and need to be replaced. In addition, the cost of the actual materials required to build that infrastructure is higher than it used to be. Now, compound that with the pressure of increasing interest rates and the result is a revenue deficit this year and very likely for a few years to come.

Our power supply bill looks different than it used to. There is a greater emphasis placed on electrical demand, rather than energy consumed. More than half of Sioux Valley Energy's power bill (approximately \$27-million) comes from six hours of time. Demand is measured by the highest electrical demand peak on the electric system for 30 minutes each month.

That is why Sioux Valley Energy is developing programs that incentivize members to shift their electrical use to off-peak times. The goal is to put more power into our members' hands. A perfect example is the co-op's Time of Use (TOU) Rate which was designed based on the demand curve. The electrical demand on the system typically peaks between 7 and 10 am and 4 and 9 pm. During that time the cost of electricity is at its highest. The TOU program allows members to get a significantly reduced rate during our off-peak hours but the rate is higher during peak hours, so it's a program that requires you to manage your electric usage. Sioux Valley Energy is offering a risk-free three-month trial period for those of you who want to just give it a try and see how it works for you.

The TOU rate also goes hand in hand with our Electric Vehicle program. Special rates and rebates are available to members who purchase an electric vehicle. One of Sioux Valley's strategic initiatives is to offer competitive rates and programs to help members manage their costs. To do this, we need to be the experts on new and emerging technologies. That's why we recently leased a Nissan Leaf, which we have nicknamed "EVie". We plan to bring EVie to our annual meeting this year to allow you to kick the tires and maybe even test drive her!

Last year we unveiled an initiative that would push us to a higher level of customer service. We based it on the American Customer Satisfaction Index or ACSI. The initiative was called 90X5--a score of 90 on the ACSI within five years. I am happy to report that we received our second highest score ever of an 88 this year. Our employees really stepped up to the challenge and I want to publicly thank them for all the work they have done. They truly go above and beyond for the member. While that score is great, we still have a ways to go because as your scores increase, the differential between an 88 and 90 becomes much more steep. Member expectations grow because they have already experienced exceptional service. That will require a delicate balance of reliability, rates and customer service.

We've already covered rates and customer service so I want to briefly touch on reliability. To maintain the 99.98 percent reliability that we now have, Sioux Valley Energy must continue to invest in its infrastructure. As I mentioned earlier, lines and poles are getting old which has led us to the decision of implementing an aggressive replacement plan of 125 miles per year. Some of the major projects this year include 23 miles of overhead and 15 miles of underground near the Madison substation. In the Hartford area we plan to replace three miles of overhead and 2 miles of underground. The Colton area will have a major project with 18 miles of overhead being replaced. We also have quite a few small projects throughout the service territory that will tie the system together, allowing us to backfeed power when there is an outage—thereby helping with reliability. Finally, we will be adding what we call SCADA or Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition to all of our substations that used to be owned by Alliant Energy in Minnesota. SCADA gives us more remote control of the system which allows us to transfer power without being right at the substation—it's a quicker fix which means less down time for our members.

With all this construction, you will very likely see our lineworkers on the road side doing some work. I want to implore you to take notice of our employees when you drive past them. Please hang up and drive... our employee's lives are on the line. The other safety message we cannot stress enough—in fact we say it every year—is to be aware of your surroundings. We see a significant uptick in public contacts during both the spring and fall seasons when farmers are in the field.

At the end of each district meeting we ask members to submit any questions they have about Sioux Valley Energy. We would like to provide all of you that opportunity as well. My email is tim.mccarthy@siouxvalleyenergy.com. If you have questions about the Cooperative, don't hesitate to send me a note. If I don't have the answer, I will find it for you! In closing, I wanted to mention that the Board has set the date and location for our annual meeting—June 4 in Pipestone Minnesota. Hopefully, the snow will be gone by then!

Sioux Valley Energy

Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Editor: Carrie Vugteveen

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Rodney DeMent, Humboldt, S.D.

Dave Daniel, Wentworth, S.D.

Co-op Leaders Advocate for Members



Sioux Valley Energy employees and Board members traveled to Pierre, SD to take part in a 'Electric Cooperative Day at the Capitol'. Pictured Left to Right (Back Row): Craig Namken, Paul Anderson, Nick Smith & Brian Meyer (Front Row): Amy Voelker and Jay Buchholz. Not pictured: Rodney DeMent, Dave Daniel and Allan Kooima.

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e-mail: sve@siouxvalleyenergy.com

Website: www.siouxvalleyenergy.com

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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Sioux Valley Energy representatives also met with Minnesota State Senator, Bill Weber in St. Paul. Pictured from Left to Right: Debra Biever, Arlyn Zylstra, Henning Hansen, Sen. Bill Weber, Gregg Johnson, Mark Rogen, Tim McCarthy and Allan Weinacht.



Representative Joe Schomacker learned about electric co-op issues from Sioux Valley Energy directors and staff. Pictured from Left to Right: Allan Weinacht, Tim McCarthy, Rep. Joe Schomacker, Arlyn Zylstra, Mark Rogen, Debra Biever, Henning Hansen, Bruce Martinson and Gregg Johnson.



Protect Your Family

According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical cords and temporary wiring account for more than 25 percent of the estimated 81,000 electrical system fires that occur each year. These fires can be prevented by following these essential home electrical safety tips.

Extension cord safety

- Don't use extension cords as a substitute for repairing building wiring.
- Inspect extension cords for broken connectors, damaged insulation and missing hardware before each use.
- Do not run extension cords through walls, over beams, around corners or through doorways.
- Only use extension cords approved for the environment and loads expected.
- Equip extension cords with ground fault interruption (GFI) devices.
- Don't use coiled extension cords.
- Discard damaged extension cords; don't try to repair them.
- Use only surge protected power strips. Inspect the power strips regularly for damage or signs of overloading.

Temporary wiring

- Don't substitute temporary and flexible wiring for repairing building wiring.
- Use temporary wiring only when needed for maintenance, repair or demolition activities.
- Limit temporary wiring for holiday or ornamental lighting to no more than 90 days.
- In outdoor settings, use only outdoor approved temporary wiring and extension cords.
- Don't route temporary wiring across floors, around doors or through walls.
- Locate temporary wiring at least 7 feet above any walking or working surface.
- Protect temporary wiring from sharp edges, heat and sunlight to avoid breakdown of the insulation.

Equipment power cords

- Inspect equipment cords for damage before each use.
- Don't operate equipment cords without a ground connection unless they are double insulated.
- Don't splice equipment cords to repair damage or to extend the original length.

Safeguards to install

- Inspect all electrical appliances to ensure they're properly grounded.
- Write the purpose of each circuit breaker, fuse or switch on the panel board.
- Label all disconnecting switches and circuit breakers.

Source: nationwide.com



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Call before you dig.

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Do not use cords with bare spots."

RosaLee Masson, 8 years old

RosaLee is the grand-daughter of Steve and Ruby Niklason, Bryant, S.D. They are members of Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative, Watertown, 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.



Appetizers and Beverages

Hot Chicken Dip

3 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened
 1 (4 oz.) can sliced jalapeños, chopped
 2 (10 oz.) cans chicken breast, drain 1 can
 1 can cream of chicken soup

Mix together and heat in microwave or crock pot. Serve warm with any snack crackers or scoop chips.

Nancy Stenson, Fort Pierre, SD

Crab Roll-Ups

2 (8 oz.) pkgs. cream cheese
 1/2 to 1 pkg. Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix
 1 pkg. frozen crab meat, thawed
 1 pkg. large flour tortilla shells

Melt cream cheese in microwave until soft enough to stir; mix in ranch dressing mix. Cut up crab meat into small pieces; mix with cream cheese. Spread over tortilla shells and roll up. Refrigerate 1 hour. Cut into 1-inch slices. Store in refrigerator.

Patricia Cerny, Gregory, SD

Rise and Shine Smoothies

1 cup fresh strawberries
 1 banana
 1 ripe mango
 1/4 cup orange juice
 1/2 cup vanilla yogurt
 2 T. honey
 1 cup ice cubes

Wash and hull strawberries. Peel banana and cut into chunks. Pit, peel and slice mango. In a blender, combine all ingredients, blending until smooth. Pour into glasses. Makes 2 servings.

Eileen Holzerland, Waubay, SD

Cocktail Weiners

1 cup brown sugar
 1 cup ketchup
 1/3 to 1/2 cup grape jelly
 2 pkgs. cocktail smokies

Combine all ingredients; simmer on low heat.

Linda Rauscher, Aberdeen, SD

Orange Glazed Turkey Meatballs

1 egg
 1/4 cup milk
 1/2 cup plain bread crumbs
 1 tsp. salt
 1/2 tsp. McCormick® Poultry Seasoning
 1/4 tsp. McCormick® Black Pepper, Ground
 1 lb. ground turkey
 1 T. olive oil
 1/2 cup chicken broth
 1 cup orange marmalade
 1 T. white wine vinegar
 1 pinch McCormick® Red Pepper, Ground

Beat egg and milk in large bowl. Stir in bread crumbs, salt, poultry seasoning and pepper. Add ground turkey; mix well. Cover. Refrigerate 1 hour. Shape into 1-inch meatballs. Heat oil in large skillet on medium heat. Place meatballs in single layer in skillet. Cook until well browned on all sides. Remove meatballs from skillet. Set aside. Mix orange marmalade, broth, vinegar and red pepper in skillet on medium heat. Bring to boil, stirring to release browned bits in bottom of skillet. Return meatballs to skillet. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook 10 minutes or until meatballs are cooked through and sauce has reduced to glaze consistency. Makes 15 (2 meatball) servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 123, Total Fat 3g, Protein 7g, Cholesterol 37mg, Sodium 245mg, Carbohydrates 17g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Cappuccino Mix

1 cup coffee creamer
 1 cup chocolate drink mix
 2/3 cup coffee crystals
 1/2 cup sugar
 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
 1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg

Combine all ingredients. Add 3 tsp. mix to 1 cup hot water.

Verna Nelson, Wakonda, SD

Please send your favorite casserole, dairy or dessert recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and co-op name.

Enter this quarter's contest for a chance to win a new refrigerator! Send us your ugly fridge photos!

QUARTERLY CHALLENGE TO SAVE MONEY AND WIN BIG!

You Could be a Winner!

Watch for our quarterly Energy Makeover Contest to have chances to win valuable prizes to enhance efficiency and conservation efforts in your home or business. Learn how little changes can help you save big!

The information gathered will help Sioux Valley Energy continue to educate our members about energy saving practices, safety, and to ensure the programs we offer meet your needs.

Do you have an ugly, old, inefficient refrigerator that's chilling your energy dollars? Send us a picture and enter for a chance to win up to \$2,200 towards purchasing a new Energy Star rated refrigerator at a retailer of your choice. Members will get to vote for their favorite "ugly fridge" finalist at the Annual Meeting in Pipestone on June 4th.

*Please complete the entry below and mail to Sioux Valley Energy, Energy Makeover Contest, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017. The entry is also available online at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com. Send/ email a picture of your "Ugly Fridge". One entry per member. Enter by **May 24th, 2019**. (Winner must provide an estimate/invoice for the energy star rated refrigerator of their choosing from any retailer. Check will be issued to retailer up to \$2,200 (not to exceed the cost of new refrigerator/recycling of old appliance. Proof of disposal of old appliance required via retailer/recycler affidavit. Refrigerator must be purchased by December 1, 2019.)*

UGLY FRIDGE MAKEOVER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Account Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

I would like more information on:

- Heat Pump Rebate Electric Heat Rebate Marathon/Westinghouse Water Heaters Energy Audit Weatherization Program Electric Vehicle Program rebate Time of Use Rate SmartHub Program Yard Light Rebate Commercial/Ag LED Program Irrigation Rebate Renewable Energy Program Energy Saving Tips

CHALLENGE - SECOND QUARTER

UGLY FRIDGE MAKEOVER

Did you know that refrigeration accounts for about 8 percent your energy dollars?

The first step in reducing your energy consumption is understanding where the majority of your energy dollars go. Heating, cooling and water heating account for at least 50%, followed by your clothes washer/dryer and refrigerator/freezer. Refrigeration uses approximately 8% of your energy costs. Replacing those old inefficient appliances with new Energy Star certified ones can help you save money. Energy Star labeled refrigerators use 20% less energy than required under current federal standards and 40% less than a conventional model sold in 2001.

Selecting an appropriately sized refrigerator is important as well since larger appliances use more energy. Top freezer models are more energy efficient than side-by-side models. Added features such as ice makers and water dispensers, especially through the door, generally use more energy.

If you have an old, second refrigerator in the garage or basement that you use for extra items, consider recycling it or upgrading to a smaller, more efficient refrigerator. It is likely that the cost of operating the old appliance is more than any savings gained from buying in bulk or keeping extra items on hand.

*****DON'T FORGET TO MAIL A PICTURE OF YOUR UGLY FRIDGE ALONG WITH THE CONTEST ENTRY!*****

Scholarship Winners

Twenty-one graduating high school seniors were awarded a total of \$16,000 in college/vocational school scholarships from Sioux Valley Energy and its power suppliers this year. The majority of scholarship funds came from Sioux Valley Energy's Operation Roundup® program, with additional funds from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, L&O Power Cooperative, and the Rodney Park Memorial Scholarship.

More than 90 high school seniors applied for the scholarships. Applications were judged on the basis of grades, ACT or SAT test scores, work experience, school activities, volunteer community service and an essay question.

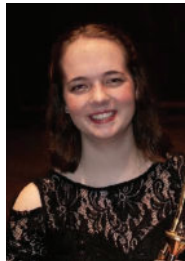
Each student was recognized at their local district meeting and read a portion of their essay to attending members.



Aden Baumberger



Alexis Stoffers



Alyson Johnson



Ashley Anderson



Bayden Schneider



Danica Kocer



Garrett Raymon



Grace Bowar



Isaac Burchill



Jack Olson



Jadon Wages



Jaycie Pulscher



Jorie Ziegeldorf



Kadyn Nolz



Keara Beck



Kristina Pike



Kylie Tucker



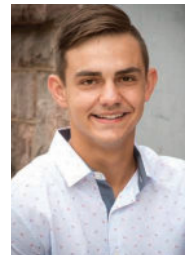
Nathan Overgaard



Rebekah Bahn



Reid Homann



William Brown

AWARD RECIPIENTS

\$500 Scholarships:

Kylie Tucker-Brookings High School
Aden Baumberger-Chester High School
Keara Beck-Garretson High School
Grace Bowar-Brandon Valley High School
Nathan Overgaard-Luverne High School

\$750 Scholarships:

Rebekah Bahn-Sioux Valley High School
Jadon Wages-Chester High School
Kristina Pike-Lincoln High School
Alyson Johnson-Lincoln High School
Jorie Ziegeldorf-Brandon Valley High School
Danica Kocer-Brandon Valley High School
Isaac Burchill-Brandon Valley High School
Kadyn Nolz-West Central High School
Alexis Stoffers-Roosevelt High School
Reid Homann-Pipestone High School

\$1000 Scholarships:

Ashley Anderson-Brookings High School
Jaycie Pulscher-Flandreau High School
Jack Olson-Rutland High School
Bayden Schneider-Chester High School
William Brown-Brandon Valley H.S. (Basin scholarship)
Garrett Raymon-Hills-Beaver Creek High School (L&O scholarship)



Planting season brings reminders for the importance to keep equipment away from power lines.

KEEPING CALM

Know the Steps if an Accident Occurs

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

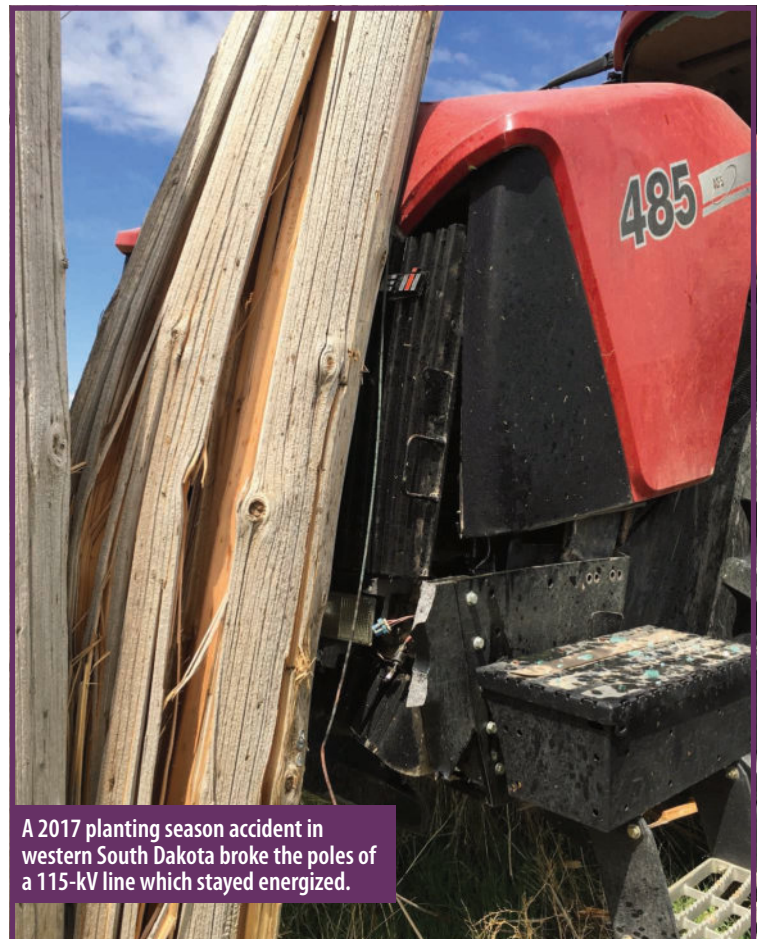
In the spring of 2017, an operations manager of a cooperative in western South Dakota cooperative got a call from a member.

There had been an accident and the member's tractor was now resting against two broken poles which were supporting an energized 115-kilovolt line.

Even though the power line did not ultimately belong to the cooperative, it served to illustrate an on-going concern: accidents between agriculture equipment and power lines appeared to be on the rise.

Cooperatives have engaged in educational efforts to inform people what to do to first avoid the accident and secondly what steps to take if an accident occurs.

The first thing to keep in mind is to avoid the accident. Know the height of your equipment, the width of your equipment and the location of various electric facilities that should be avoided. Then, make sure that all involved are taking the steps to avoid having equipment come in contact with electric utilities.



A 2017 planting season accident in western South Dakota broke the poles of a 115-kV line which stayed energized.

But if an accident does happen, knowing the steps to take could save your life and those around you.

If your equipment does come in contact with a power line:

- Stay inside the cab and call 911.
- Wait for electric crews to clear the area and keep others away from the accident scene.

If the equipment catches fire and one must exit the cab, there's a process to follow, too.

"Tuck your arms up and give yourself a bear hug and hop clear. Don't touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Then hop away," said Courtney Deinert, communications director at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D.

One of Central Electric's members was involved in an incident involving a grain cart and a power line on a farm near Mitchell. The auger of the grain cart became entangled in the lines.

The member immediately called the cooperative and stayed inside the cab of the tractor. Thankfully, a fire did not start so the member did not have to exit and hop away.

Accidents involving underground cabinets – commonly called the green boxes – have also been occurring as equipment gets wider. And, the sheer volume of snow accumulation that occurred in the winter

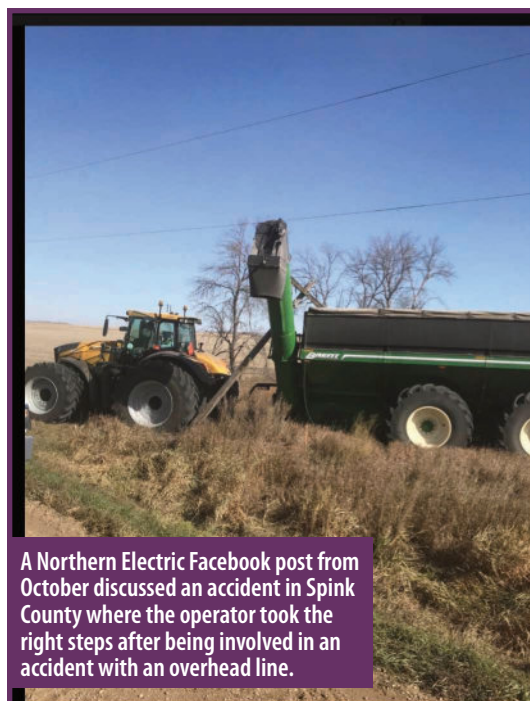
of 2018-2019 resulted in several cabinets being hit or buried during snow removal operations.

The equipment housed in the cabinets is energized and can pose the same

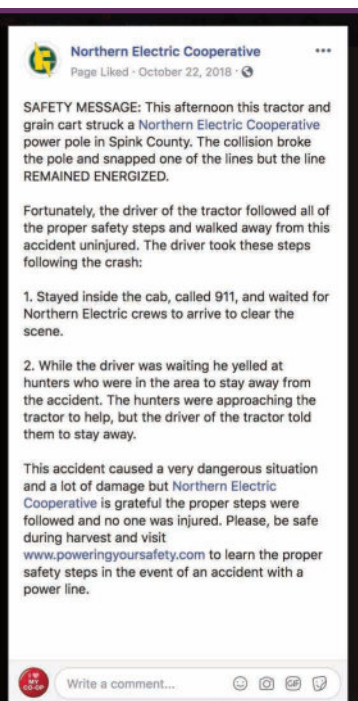
issues that occur when equipment contacts overhead lines.

In either case, the best option is to prevent the accident from occurring by being aware of the location of the equipment. But, if an accident does occur, call your local electric cooperative, stay inside the vehicle's cab and keep others away from the scene until co-op crews arrive.

If an accident does happen, knowing the steps to take could save your life and those around you.



A Northern Electric Facebook post from October discussed an accident in Spink County where the operator took the right steps after being involved in an accident with an overhead line.



PRE-PLANNING CAN SAVE LIVES DURING PLANTING



When it's go-time, it's go-time. We understand that every second counts during planting season, but taking a moment to be mindful of safety during this anxious time could save you a lot of heartache in the long run. Remember to check your equipment, be aware of power lines, keep your cellphone on you at all times, dress appropriately and stay rested this spring.

Together we are

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TO APPLY:

- Must be a junior during the 2019-2020 school year.
- Fill out an application and return to Sioux Valley Energy by Friday, May 10th. Applications are available from your school counselor or on the Sioux Valley Energy website. Submit via email to Chinelle.Christensen@siouxvalleyenergy.com.

www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-community/empower-youth-leadership-program

Free Trees Available to SVE Members

Earth Day Celebration



Earth Day is celebrated on Monday, April 22nd and in recognition of Sioux Valley Energy's commitment to community and caring for the environment initiatives, the Cooperative will purchase a limited number of **bare-root trees** for members to plant.

The give-away event* will take place Tuesday, April 23 at each of the Co-op's service centers in Colman, Brandon and Pipestone. Members can stop by one of the offices on Tuesday April 23 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Any extra trees will be available Wednesday, April 24 and Thursday, April 25 during the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. There will be 1,000 trees in total available to the membership and they will be given out on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Each member is eligible for four trees in total--two Hackberry and two Black Hills Spruce. So once the trees are gone; they are gone! The give-away event is dependent upon weather, shipment dates and availability. Check Facebook and www.siouxvalleyenergy.com for updates!

In Spring of 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day to bring the issue of pollution to national attention. Twenty-two million Americans demonstrated in different cities and Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency, EPA, to promote ecology and awareness for the growing issues related to air, water and soil pollution.

***Give-away event is dependent upon weather, shipment dates and availability.**

Mark Your Calendar!

Annual Meeting

The Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors has set the date and location of the 2019 Annual Meeting.

This year, the meeting will be held at the Pipestone Area School in Pipestone Minnesota on Tuesday, June 4.



The meeting will include a short business session as required by the bylaws and the musical group 'Divas Through the Decades' will perform. 'Divas Through the Decades' is a musical tribute to some of the most influential female vocalists in American pop music, featuring songs from the 40's, through today's current hits.

Rebates & Incentives Available

Members Can Save Energy & Money

Sioux Valley Energy offers an entire suite of programs available to members to help them save energy and money. From water heaters and LED yard lights to energy audits and electric vehicles, the Co-op can help make your home or business more efficient. Take a look at the suite of programs available:

Sioux Valley Energy Rebates & Incentives

- Water Heater Program
- SmartHub Sign Up Credit
- Electric Vehicle Incentives
- Time of Use Rate
- Weatherization & Energy Audit Program
- Residential Heat Pump Rebate
- Electric Heat Rate
- Irrigation Rebate
- LED Yard Light Rebate
- Commercial Electric Heat Rebate
- Commercial Lighting Rebate
- Commercial Energy Audit
- Loans

To learn more about Sioux Valley Energy Programs, log on to:
www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-programs/rebates



Extreme cold temperatures put the components of wind towers at risk of failure, which is the reason many wind towers in North Dakota and South Dakota shut down at the end of January.

POWERING THROUGH WINTER

Extreme Cold Requires An 'All of the Above' Approach to Meet Demand for Electricity

Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

The record-setting cold and snow in South Dakota this winter led to record demand for power. The cold snap also highlighted the need for the continued use of coal and natural gas generation as many wind generators in the region had to be shut down as a result of the frigid weather.

Extreme cold descended into the Upper Midwest in January and didn't release its grip for several weeks. East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, S.D., which supplies wholesale power to 24 rural electric cooperatives and one municipally owned system in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota, experienced an all-time record peak for electric demand on Jan. 29 and 30. Wind chills dipped to 20 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit below zero during that time period.

"The East River system performed well under these extreme weather conditions with very few issues," said East River General Manager/CEO Tom Boyko.

Member co-ops of East River Electric depend on a reliable supply of power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative

in Bismarck, N.D., as well as hydropower from the Western Area Power Administration. Basin Electric owns and operates the coal, gas, diesel and wind generation resources needed to meet the demand of member co-ops located in nine states in the middle of the United States.

"Basin Electric is your cooperative," said Dave Raatz, Basin Electric senior vice president of asset management, resource planning and rates. "We are trying to do what we can to ensure everyone has the appropriate power so they do have the ability to have the electric heat and they do have the ability to have electricity at the house."

Basin Electric had plans in place to meet the demand of co-op members during the extreme cold in January and February despite the challenges the frigid temperatures caused its generation resources. Basin Electric saw many of its wind towers in North Dakota and South Dakota shutdown as a result of cold temperatures and had to rely on natural gas and coal generation as well as market purchases.

According to Basin Electric Senior Vice President of Operations John Jacobs, wind towers become brittle and cannot operate

Weather stations installed on wind turbines automatically shut down the wind tower when temperatures drop to 22 degrees F below zero. Those temperatures put the components of the wind tower at risk of failure.

during extreme cold. Weather stations installed on each turbine automatically shut down the wind tower when temperatures drop to 22 degrees F below zero. Those temperatures put the components of the wind tower at risk of failure.

“The best analogy I can give is a rubber hose,” explained Jacobs. “If you warm it up enough, it will melt. If it gets too cold, it will get too brittle.”

That is the reason production from Basin Electric’s wind resources bottomed out in the early morning hours of Jan. 30 when the Bismarck area saw air temperatures of 31 degrees F below zero in North Dakota and the National Weather Service in Aberdeen, S.D., reported record low temperatures of 33 degrees F below zero or lower in Aberdeen, Watertown and Groton. Basin Electric’s fleet of natural gas and coal-fired power plants paired with energy purchases from the market provided co-op members with a reliable supply of electricity during that period.

“That’s why we have gas peaking units and you have that coal resource base that just continued operating despite cold weather over the entire area,” Raatz said.

‘All of the Above’ Approach

Basin Electric uses an ‘all of the above’ approach to supply electricity to member co-ops throughout South Dakota. Nearly 45 percent of its generation portfolio comes from coal-fired resources while 20 percent comes from natural gas units and another 20 percent from wind generation. Basin Electric is also a member of four power pools, which are large regions of the United States where utilities can buy and sell electricity in the market, and Basin Electric has the contractual transmission rights to more power between these regions.

“It is a combination of all those owned-assets and market purchases that come to bear to serve member load obligations,” Raatz said.

Basin Electric generates electricity for 141 electric co-ops in nine states and has power plants and resources

in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Iowa. Raatz said that regional diversity is just as important to providing reliable power as a diversified generation mix.

“That’s so valuable in coming up with a power supply. You don’t necessarily see that cold weather over the whole area,” said Raatz.

“People take electricity for granted. Sometimes that is good because it means we are doing our jobs.”

That regional diversity was evident during the cold snap in North Dakota and eastern South Dakota at the end of January. Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, S.D., which supplies power to eight electric cooperatives in western South Dakota saw higher demand for electricity during those time periods but never saw a record peak like the East River co-ops experienced. During that period, Basin Electric was also able to pull generation from resources in Montana and Wyoming because it wasn’t as frigid in those states.

Raatz said load management programs

which control water heaters, grain bin fans and other large loads during peak demand periods are also a piece of the power-supply puzzle. Raatz said the team at Basin Electric which forecasts electric demand can rely on members who have load management devices installed at their service locations to make those peaks less extreme.

“As you get into these types of conditions when it gets really cold, it is easier to predict because load management is taking out the spikes. It is really valuable,” Raatz said.

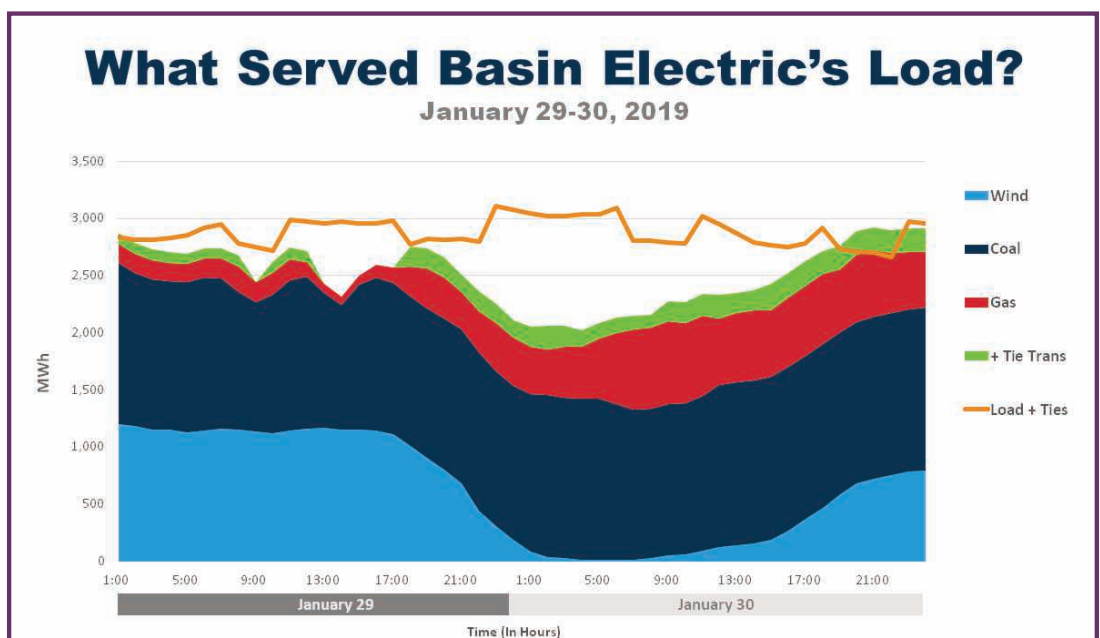
Maintaining Reliability

The main goal of electric cooperatives is to provide safe and reliable power for members at the end of the line. Jacobs said it takes a dedicated team of co-op employees to achieve that mission whether it is the operators at Basin Electric’s power plants or the co-op linemen at the local level.

“We see the importance of having to turn on that (light) switch because most of the time when the weather is bad, our employees are at work,” said Jacobs. “There is a reason for what we do and a good feeling when you walk away.”

And when the Great Plains and Upper Midwest experiences extreme weather, the goal of maintaining reliability becomes even more important.

“People take electricity for granted,” Raatz said. “Sometimes that is good because it means we are doing our jobs.”





LIFE ON THE LINE

Jocelyn Romey

jocelyn.romey@sdrea.coop

It's a unique life. They come in early to create a plan, grab their gear and drink their coffee before heading out in crews. Their office is outside and depending upon the day, they will work through the heat, rain, snow and wind to get the job done. Holidays could be postponed and normal working hours are determined by the weather. The job is considered one of the most dangerous, yet is often overlooked and under appreciated – that is, until the power goes out.

Life as a lineman is both rewarding and unpredictable. The rewards come when power is provided or restored to members down the line or when a farmer or rancher plows snow out of the way for a line crew to get through. There are even boasts among the linemen about a plate of cookies or sandwiches gifted by a member during storm repairs.

Jesse Sorenson, system coordinator for Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, S.D., commented that the hardest part of a lineman's job was bad weather, no sleep and being on call. But he ended by saying that the best part of the job was getting the power turned back on for members after a storm.

"They are just thankful to get the power on and it makes you feel really good to get it back on for them," said Sorenson.

The unpredictability of this job comes when the power is knocked out on a good day due to an overzealous squirrel, when the storm was bigger than predicted or even when the destination to an outage or work site is in the middle of nowhere and getting lost is an unfortunate possibility. However, despite volatile weather, rough terrain and squirrels, linemen have a very important job – getting reliable power through hundreds of miles of lines to thousands of member-owners... safely.

On Feb. 11, just after a minor intrusion of winter weather, Bill Brisk, operations manager at Black Hills Electric, carefully explained how outages were being found that morning due to

Black Hills Electric's Crew Foreman Dean Whitney and journeymen linemen Beau Bradeen, Ken Parker and Corey Scott replace poles near Red Shirt, S.D.



A pole worn out by cattle rubbing on it is replaced.

ice accumulation and wind damage. On the computer screen, areas indicating no power were highlighted, but it was up to the crews to find the exact location and reason for the outages.

“Sometimes it takes a long time to isolate the outage during a storm in the cold and in the dark. Outages during the day are a lot easier than at night,” said Brisk.

Brisk also explained the challenges their crews face in their service territory. Black Hills Electric serves power in rocky and sandy terrain found throughout the Black Hills, Badlands and prairies.

“We have rough terrain. Sometimes, you can see the next pole but it will take you half an hour to get to it,” said Brisk.

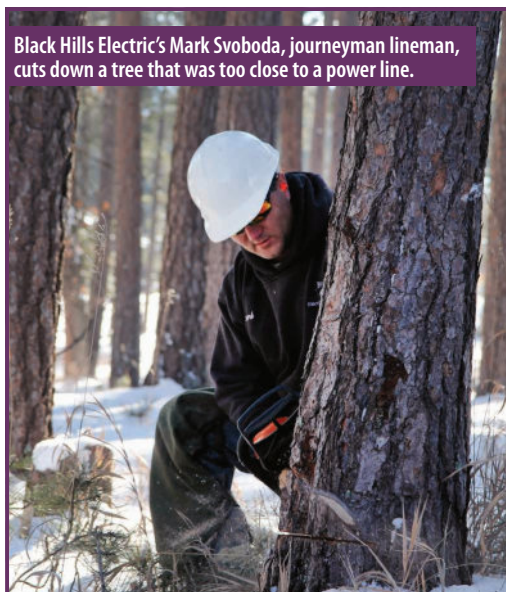
It’s a job that takes time, determination, endurance and concentration. Every day, these linemen work with energized lines, large equipment and changing weather. One mistake can result in serious consequences. This makes safety and mindfulness a priority. Brisk commented on how easy a mistake can be made on the job. He noted that these mistakes are unforgiving. No matter how small the mistake, devastating injuries or even death can occur.

“Linemen need safe equipment...they work 24/7, 365. When the post office shuts down due to bad weather, the linemen still go out,” said Mark Patterson, manager of loss control services for the South Dakota Rural Electric Association in Pierre, S.D.

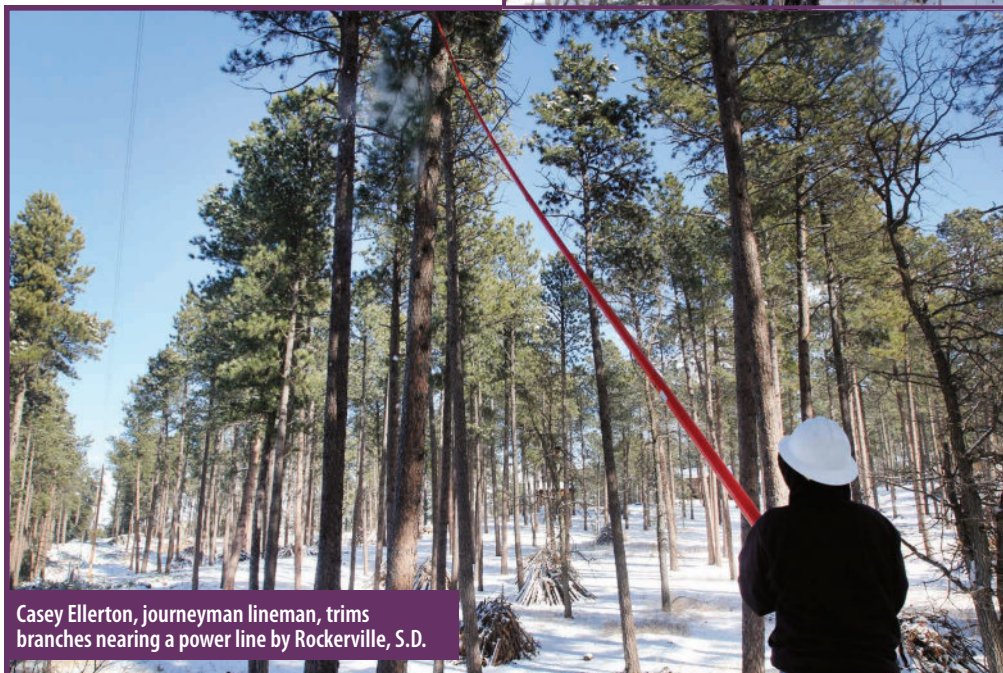
For this reason, safety training, equipment, tools and even fire-retardant clothing are provided to ensure each lineman has what they need to do the job safely.

“There’s a lot of pride in being a lineman. A lineman has to be confident...they have to have a level of confidence in their own knowledge and ability before they work on an energized line,” said Travis Denison, loss control professional for SDREA, who previously served for 22 years as a lineman. As a safety guy, he also views safety as a critical part in lineman culture.

“Out of all the tools you have in your belt, safety is the most important. It’s about getting you home to your families safely,” said Denison.



Black Hills Electric’s Mark Svoboda, journeyman lineman, cuts down a tree that was too close to a power line.



Casey Ellerton, journeyman lineman, trims branches nearing a power line by Rockerville, S.D.

Lineman Items

Clothes

- Fire retardant (FR) jeans
- FR long-sleeve shirts
- FR or 100 percent cotton T-shirts
- High visibility shirts or vest
- Work boots
- Winter boots
- Leather gloves
- Winter gloves
- Rubber gloves
- Rubber sleeves
- FR coveralls
- FR coat
- FR sweatshirt
- FR raingear
- FR stocking hat
- FR balaclava
- Hardhat
- Safety glasses
- Hearing protection

Tools

- Body belt
- Fall restraint
- Climbing hooks
- Safety harness
- Hammer
- Screwdrivers
- Knife
- Wooden tape measure
- Lineman pliers
- Channel lock pliers
- Adjustable wrench
- Rope handline
- Liveline tools
 - Shotgun
 - Extendo
- Overhead grounds
- Underground grounds

National Line Worker Appreciation Day is April 8, 2019.

America’s electric cooperatives will again honor the hard working men and women who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

March 23

Annual Ag Day, Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

March 24

Meat Shoot, Gun Club, Practice rounds at 10 a.m., Shoot starts at 11 a.m., 2378 310th St., Rock Valley, IA, 712-540-9757, 712-470-6794 or 712-451-8366

April 4

McCrossan Banquet Auction featuring Loop Rawlins and the PBR, 5:30 p.m., Arena, Sioux Falls, SD, Tickets: \$75 each, 605-339-1203, www.mccrossan.org

April 4-5

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

April 5-7, 11-14

Green Earth Players presents Drinking Habits, April 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m., April 7 and 14 at 2 p.m., Palace Theatre, Luverne, MN, 507-283-9226

April 6

The Big Grape, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-322-8900

April 13

Izaak Walton Dinner and Raffle, Broasted Chicken and Pork Chop Dinner, Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 6:30 p.m., Annual Fund Raiser for The Conservation of the Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife, Sioux Falls, SD

April 19-20

Sioux Empire Film Festival, Belbas Theater inside the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000



Photo courtesy: RJ Ripper Film

April 15-16: Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour, Elks Theatre, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4101

April 26-28 and May 3-5

The Opland Singers Spring Festival of Music, Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m., Pipestone Performing Arts Center, Pipestone, MN, 507-825-2020 or 877-722-2787

April 27

River Rat Marathon, Yankton, SD, 605-660-9483

April 27-28

Annual JazzCrawl, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-335-6101

May 4

Consignment Auction, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

May 5

Opening Day, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

May 30-June 1

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

June 2

Miss Prairie Village and Miss Prairie Princess Pageant, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

June 7

Northern Bull Riding Tour, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

June 15

Abbey Road Concert, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

June 23

Variety Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

July 6

Redhead Express Concert, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

July 6-7

Railroad Days, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

July 20

Jason Brown Concert, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, www.prairievillage.org

August 3

Brookings Area Quilters Guild Bloomin' Quilt Party at the Barn, Quilt displays, refreshments, boutique, raffle quilt, musical entertainment, Noon to 5 p.m., Bennett Barn, 47435 214th St, Aurora, 605-690-3246

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.