

# South Dakota Electric

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## Cooperative Connections

APRIL 2013 VOL. 65 NO. 4



### BRINGING IN THE CLOWNS

Pg. 8



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# Make a Call to 811 Part of Your Springime Plans



**Ed Anderson**  
General Manager, South Dakota  
Rural Electric Association

**Spring if finally here!** Or very nearly here. The snow has been melting and soon the ground will be ready for planting, making homeowners eager to gear up to start those outdoor digging projects. Before you reach for that shovel to start digging, remember to call 811, the national call-before-you-dig number, to ensure that your buried utility lines are marked.

The Common Ground Alliance and its 1,400 members, including electric cooperatives in South Dakota, recognize April as National Safe Digging Month. Throughout April, South Dakota's electric cooperatives and South Dakota One Call will be promoting National Safe Digging Month through statewide outreach and local events.

For more information, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).

National Safe Digging Month was designated to remind residents that our land is made up of a complex underground infrastructure of pipelines, wires and cables. Striking an underground utility line while digging can cause harm to you or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

## The Common Ground Alliance and its 1,400 members, including electric cooperatives in South Dakota, recognize April as National Safe Digging Month.

A call must be placed to 811 before every digging project, from simple landscaping projects like planting trees or shrubs, to building a deck or installing a rural

mailbox. Every eight minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. Don't become part of the statistic – make sure to call 811!

### Here's how it works:

- One free, simple phone call to 811 makes it easy for South Dakota One Call to notify all appropriate utility companies of your intent to dig.
- Call at least 48 hours prior to digging to ensure enough time for utility lines to be properly marked.
- When you call 811, a representative from South Dakota One Call will ask for the location and description of your digging project.
- South Dakota One Call will notify affected utility companies, who will then send a professional locator to the proposed dig site to mark the approximate location of your lines.
- Once lines have been properly marked, roll up those sleeves and carefully dig around the marked areas.

## Senior Takes on Teen Drinking



**Renville County West** high school senior Jack Bryan and his peers are taking on an issue that can be found in communities of all size: teen drinking.

The students are part of the Renville, Minnesota-based high school's TADA

(Teens Against Drugs and Alcohol) organization.

"We've reduced drinking at RCW quite a bit and other counties have been asking how we've done it," said Bryan, 17, who has been involved with TADA since seventh grade and is in his second year as the group's president.

The group has also been advocating for Social Host Ordinances to require responsible beverage server training, which requires all retailers of alcohol to provide their employees with proper training to help reduce sales to minors.

"Before we initiated the program, about half of our alcohol retailers had failed the compliance check, but now 99 percent to 100 percent have passed that check," said Bryan.

Another initiative the group has been advocating for are Social Host Ordinances which make it a criminal offense for any adult to provide an environment where underage drinking takes place.

"When we went in front of the county commissioners, they unanimously passed the ordinance and the four cities in Renville County have also passed the ordinance," Bryan said.

"I think it's making a really big difference," said Bryan. "We've built up a strong group that's making a difference and we're getting that message out to other kids."

"The little kids look up to the big kids. We don't want them to look up to people doing bad things," said Bryan.

Because of RCW's TADA accomplishment and the role Bryan played in them, he spoke at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul in September 2012 to share with state leaders what the teens in Renville County were accomplishing.

He's also met with officials at the Minnesota Department of Health and Human Services and spoke at the "Shutting Off the Tap to Teens" meeting in Coon Rapids.

Bryan is the son of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association members Clay and Lisa Bryan of rural Renville, Minn.

## All Terrain Vehicle Safety Tips

**Like other activities** involving high speeds and heavy machinery, riding an ATV can be risky. To help stay safe, follow common sense safety tips.

- Take a hands-on safety training course. Formal training teaches drivers how to control ATVs in typical situations. Drivers with formal, hands-on ATV training have a lower injury risk than drivers with no formal training.
- Always wear protective gear – especially a helmet – when riding ATVs. Many ATV injuries are head injuries. Wearing a helmet may reduce the severity of these injuries. Select a motorcycle or other motorized sports helmet and make sure the helmet is certified by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and/or the Snell Memorial Foundation. In addition, wear over-the-ankle boots, goggles, gloves, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt to protect against cuts, abrasions and other injuries from rocks, trees and other debris.
- Do not drive ATVs with a passenger or ride as a passenger. The majority of ATVs are designed to carry only one person. ATVs are designed for interactive riding – drivers must be able to shift their weight freely in all directions, depending on the situation and terrain. Interactive riding is critical to maintaining safe control of an ATV especially on varying terrain. Passengers can make it difficult for drivers to control the ATV.
- Do not drive ATVs on paved roads. ATVs – because of how they are made – are difficult to control on paved roads. Collisions with cars and other vehicles also can be deadly. Many fatalities involving ATVs occur on paved roads.
- Do not permit children to drive or ride adult ATVs. Children are involved in about one-third of all ATV-related deaths and hospital emergency room injuries. Most of these deaths and injuries occur when a child is driving or riding on an adult ATV. Children under 16 on adult ATVs are twice as likely to be injured as those riding youth ATVs.
- Do not drive ATVs while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Alcohol and drugs impair reaction time and judgment, two essential skills for safe ATV use.

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

### Kids' Corner Safety Poster



**"Don't stick a fork in the toaster."**

**Ethan Hofer, 10 years old**

*Ethan is the son of Chris and Angela Hofer, Tea, S.D. They are members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Marion, 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.



# Appetizers & Beverages

## Artichoke Dip

- |                                       |                              |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened | 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese |
| 1 can artichokes, drained             | 1 cup mayonnaise             |
| 1 (3 oz.) can diced mild green chiles | 3 or 4 chopped green onions  |
|                                       | Sliced French bread, toasted |

Blend cream cheese until soft. Fold in next 5 ingredients; mix well. Place in greased 9-inch pan. Bake at 350°F for 45 minutes or until golden brown. Service with toasted French bread.

**Carol Mizera-Amick, Lead Cooperative Connections**

## Rhubarb Breakfast Drink

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8 quarts rhubarb, cut up       | 1 (3 oz.) box strawberry jello |
| 8 quarts water                 | 1 pkg. strawberry Kool-aid     |
| 1 (46 oz.) can pineapple juice | 4-1/2 cups sugar               |

Boil rhubarb and water together until rhubarb is tender. Put thru sieve or strain thru cheesecloth. Add remaining ingredients; bring to a boil. Cool and serve. Extra juice can be frozen and used at a later time. For punch, 7-up, ginger ale and ice cubes can be added.

**Mary Jessen, Holabird Cooperative Connections**

## Beefy Bagel Dip

- |                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 16 oz. mayonnaise       | 1 or 2 bunches green onions, diced |
| 16 oz. sour cream       |                                    |
| 1 jar dried beef, diced | 1 to 2 tsp. dill weed              |
| 2 tsp. Accent           |                                    |

Mix together; serve with bagels or chips.

**Donna Reit, Sioux Falls Cooperative Connections**

## Caramel Apple Dip

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 (14 oz.) bag caramels, about 41 | 1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk |
| 2/3 cup evaporated milk           |   |

Melt together caramels and sweetened condensed milk. Add evaporated milk; heat thru. Serve warm or cold with fruit.

**Sharon Nichols, Brookings Cooperative Connections**

## Orange Vanilla Bliss

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1/4 cup Vanilla Flavor NESTLÉ COFFEE-MATE NATURAL BLISS All-Natural Low Fat Coffee Creamer | 1 cup freshly squeezed orange juice<br>1/2 frozen or room temperature banana<br>1/2 cup ice cubes |
|--|---|

Place orange juice, Coffee-mate, banana and ice in blender; cover. Blend until smooth. Makes 2 servings.

*Nutritional information per serving: 120 calories; 20 calories from fat; 2.5g total fat; 1g saturated fat; 5mg cholesterol; 10mg sodium; 26g carbohydrates; 1g dietary fiber; 20g sugars; 1g protein.*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Spinach Brownies

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 (10 oz.) pkg. spinach, rinsed and chopped | 1 cup milk                                |
| 1 cup all-purpose flour                     | 1/2 cup butter, melted                    |
| 1 tsp. salt                                 | 1 onion chopped                           |
| 1 tsp. baking powder                        | 1 (8 oz.) pkg. shredded mozzarella cheese |
| 2 eggs                                      |   |

Lightly grease a 9x13 baking dish. Place spinach in a medium saucepan with enough water to cover. Bring to a boil. Lower heat to simmer and cook until spinach is limp, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat, drain and set aside. In a large bowl, mix flour, salt and baking powder. Stir in eggs, milk and butter. Mix in spinach, onion and mozzarella cheese. Transfer the mixture to a lightly greased 9x13-inch baking dish. Bake at 375°F for 30 to 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool before serving.

**Cherry Frasier, Faulkton Cooperative Connections**

## Tuna Pinwheels

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1/2 cup diced celery      | 1 egg, beaten             |
| 1/2 cup drained peas      | 2 cups Bisquick           |
| 1/4 cup chopped onion     | 1/2 cup water             |
| 1 T. butter               | 1 can Cheddar cheese soup |
| 1 small can tuna, drained | 1/4 cup milk              |

Brown first four ingredients; add tuna and egg. In separate bowl, combine Bisquick and water. Roll out 1/2-inch thick; top with tuna mixture. Roll up; slice 1-1/2-inch thick. Place on cookie sheet. Bake at 400°F for 10 to 12 minutes. Meanwhile, combine soup and milk; heat thru. Pour over hot pinwheels.

**Lois Sears-Ahrendt, Sioux Falls Cooperative Connections**

Please send your favorite casserole, ethnic and 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 2013. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

# Replacing Windows?



**Jim Dulley**  
[www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com)

**Dear Jim:** We need replacement windows for our home. Every window salesman makes his windows sound like the best and most efficient. How do I choose among the various frame materials, styles and glass types? — Sandi F.

**Dear Sandi:** It can be extremely difficult to sort through all the marketing hype from salespeople to

make the proper replacement window decision. Without telling salespeople who I was, I sat through many sales presentations at my mother's house. I was appalled at some of the absurd claims I heard.

It's important to note that because windows are an expensive project, energy efficiency should not be your only reason to purchase new ones. Other efforts will save more money and you can find ways to make your existing windows more energy efficient — try [EnergySavers.gov](http://EnergySavers.gov). But if you truly need new windows, there are some considerations.

The proper selection not only depends on the characteristic of the window, but also on your specific house and family lifestyle. What is best for your next-door neighbor's house may not necessarily be best for yours. For example, you may want a view of a particular area outdoors or want springtime ventilation whereas your neighbor may keep their blinds closed and air-condition continuously.

You have mentioned the three main decision criteria for selecting replacement windows: frame material, style of window and glass type. From the standpoint of energy efficiency, the glass type and style of window are more important than the frame material, which has a greater affect on the functionality, durability, maintenance and appearance.

The four most common frame materials for residential windows are vinyl, fiberglass, wood and clad wood and each has its own advantages. Vinyl is energy efficient and virtually maintenance free. They also are made to the precise dimensions of the window opening instead of having to shim out standard sizes.

In order to attain adequate rigidity, the vinyl frame extrusions have many webs and chambers inside. These chambers create natural insulation, plus the vinyl material itself is a poor conductor of heat. For greater R-value, several vinyl window manufacturers inject expanding foam insulation inside the chambers as the frame is assembled.

Always look for sash frames that have welded corners for strength. Because the outer window frame is screwed rigidly into the window opening framing, welded corners in it are not as important as with the sash frames. If you select vinyl frames for large windows, especially in hot climates, they should have steel reinforcement internally. When vinyl gets hot in the sun, it loses strength and rigidity.

Fiberglass frames are extremely strong and can be painted any color to match interior or exterior house colors. Because its primary component is glass, fiberglass frames expand and contract with temperature changes about the same rate as the glass panes to minimize stress.

This characteristic is an advantage for dark frame colors exposed to the sun, which can create a substantial temperature range throughout the day and night. The strength of fiberglass frames is also an advantage for smaller windows because narrower frame cross-sections are acceptable. With other frame materials, a thicker frame can reduce the glass area too much.

Wood window frames have been around forever and when properly maintained, have a very long life. Wood frames are also the most attractive. This is true even if you choose to paint the frames. It's easier to cut more complex and sharp detail into wood frame surfaces. The drawback of wood is some regular maintenance is required for appearance and energy efficiency.

Exterior vinyl- or aluminum-clad wood frames greatly reduce the maintenance requirements. The natural wood can still be exposed on the indoor surface so they look like wood windows from indoors. Some vinyl and fiberglass frames are available with natural wood indoor cladding to provide the appearance of real wood frames.

The proper style of window depends primarily on the appearance and features you desire more than the energy efficiency characteristics. For example, people often select double-hung windows because they can be tilted in for easy cleaning from indoors. Windows that close on a compression seal, such as casement and awning windows, tend to provide the best long-term airtight seal. Also, casement windows can catch breezes and direct them into the house for natural ventilation.

Because glass is most of the window, the type you choose is the key to its energy efficiency. Double-pane glass with low-E (low-emissivity) coatings and inert gas in the gap between the panes is adequate for most climates. Triple-pane glass may make sense for severely cold climates.

The location of the low-E coating on the various pane surfaces, often more than one, affects whether the glass is better for winter or summer savings. You may end up selecting different glass options for different windows in your house.

Have a question for Jim? Send inquiries to: James Dulley, *Cooperative Connections*, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com).

## Rapid City Dominates Science Bowl

**Teams from Rapid City** swept the top places at the South Dakota Science Bowl held in Huron in February.

The Rapid City Central High School's Team 1 will represent South Dakota at the 2013 National Science Bowl held in late April in Washington, D.C., after capturing the state tournament's top title.

Rapid City Central Team 2 placed second, while Rapid City Christian placed third and Watertown placed fourth.

Minnesota will be represented at the national tournament by St. Paul Central High School Team 1.

Teams from Stillwater and Wayzata took second and third in the Minnesota event.

## East River Electric Awarded "Wind Cooperative of the Year"

**East River Electric** Power Cooperative has been awarded the 2012 "Wind Cooperative of the Year" award. The award was presented during the NRECA-sponsored "Tech Advantage" Conference in New Orleans, La. on Feb. 21.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Power America Initiative in partnership with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the designation honors one electric generation and transmission cooperative for its leadership in wind power.

A panel of wind industry, utility, government, national laboratory and cooperative experts selected East River from a group of 15 nominees nationwide.

Fairbanks, Alaska-based Golden Valley Electric As-

sociation was selected in the distribution cooperative category.

A wholesale electric power supply cooperative serving eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota, the co-op, in 2009, created South Dakota Wind Partners LLC (SDWP), a model for community-based, locally owned wind development that relied on South Dakota citizens rather than large equity investors.

SDWP targeted the 151-megawatt (MW) Prairie Winds SD1 project as its first opportunity adding another 10.5 MW and worked with East River to promote investor meetings across the state. The concept met with overwhelming acceptance, meeting the aggressive offering goal of \$16 million in just 60 days with



investments from more than 600 South Dakotans.

"South Dakota Wind Partners demonstrated a new model for development of a renewable energy project by enabling widespread local ownership," said Jeff Nelson, East River Electric Power Cooperative general manager. "East River and its members are committed to increasing local value. We are very pleased that the South Dakota Wind Partners created new local wealth and proved a new model for accomplishing that goal."

## April Is Safe Digging Month in South Dakota

**As South Dakotans** gear up for spring construction and planting projects, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and the South Dakota One Call Board remind all residents to always call 811 a few days before any digging project to have underground utilities marked.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to the South Dakota One Call center which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, paint or both. The 811 call and the subsequent marking of utilities are free to the homeowner or contractor.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

A utility line is damaged by digging once every three minutes nationwide, according to Common Ground Alliance, a national membership organization of damage prevention stakeholders. One-third of these damage incidents are caused by failure of the professional excavator or homeowner to call 811 before beginning their digging project, CGA reported.

Striking a single line can cause injury,

repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck and planting a tree are all examples of digging projects that should only begin a few days after a call to 811.

State law requires notification to the One Call center at least 48 hours before digging. Weekend projects should be called in to 811 the Monday or Tuesday before.

In 2011, the South Dakota One Call center received more than 127,000 locate requests. As a result, 741,500 locate tickets were issued to utilities to mark underground facilities.

The depth of utility lines can vary for a number of reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces. Utility lines need to be properly marked because even when digging only a few inches, the risk of striking an underground utility line still exists.

Read more about digging safely, including a proclamation by Gov. Dennis Daugaard naming April as safe digging month, at [www.puc.sd.gov/safedigging](http://www.puc.sd.gov/safedigging). Learn about the South Dakota One Call program, laws and color codes for marking lines at [www.SDOneCall.com](http://www.SDOneCall.com).

# The Circus Is Coming To Town

“The smiles you get from the children and adults is what I enjoy most.”

by Brenda Kleinjan

FOR YEARS, THE SHRINE CIRCUS HAS BEEN MAKING annual appearances in towns large and small in South Dakota and 2013 will be no exception.

While the Shrine Circus provides family fun, it's also serving another purpose.

“Our biggest purpose is our 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The circus is where we raise money to provide health care for children up to 18 who have been burned or have spinal or bone disorders and for general operating expenses,” said Naja Shrine Potentate Willis Kopren. Attend a circus in western South Dakota – the area comprised by the Deadwood, S.D.-based Naja Shrine

– and chances are you'll see Kopren or one of his two sons (the youngest, Randy, is the lead lineman at Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison) working at the circus. Potentate Willis, Randy and Wade belong to the West River Shrine, you can see them driving in their small model T cars.

“We will not turn a child away,” said Kopren of the hospitals. Kopren said that the Naja Shrine is providing treatment for 438 children in western South Dakota. That service also includes







transportation to the Shriner's Children Hospital, which in this area typically means Minneapolis, Minn. Kopren noted that different hospitals specialize in different areas. An evaluation clinic for children who might be needing care at a Shriner's Hospital will be held Oct. 18-19 in Rapid City, (Shrine-sponsored burn seminars are being held in Yankton, Sioux Falls and Brookings in late March for first responders and medical professionals.)

Along with the Koprens, circus-goers in western South Dakota will likely encounter Katchup the clown. During the normal workweek, Katchup is known by his co-workers at West River Electric Association in Wall, S.D., as Journeyman Lineman Joel Stephens.



But, for an average of 250 hours a year, Stephens is clowning around as Katchup or one of his other clown personas as part of the Rapid City Shrine Clowns.

Nearly 10 years ago, Stephens' family benefitted from the work of Shriners.

"The reason I become a Mason and eventually a Shriner is because

my boy went to the Shriners Hospital," said Stephens. "We went to the Shriners and they did it all for free. After that, becoming a Shriner was a goal of mine."

"My personality fit with the clowns," said Stephens with a chuckle.

At the circuses, Katchup and other members of his unit will be on the welcoming committee, greeting families, welcoming them to the circus and thanking them for coming.

"We have a photo booth where they can buy a button with their child and one of the clowns on it," said Stephens. The clowns will also perform a skit between performances.

"The smiles you get from children and adults is what I enjoy most. It's that small little thing you can do to make someone's day," said Stephens.

And as Katchup, Stephens may be doing rope and magic tricks or pulling out lighted thumbs from his pockets to coax smiles out of people.

In addition to the circus, Shrine clowns can be found at parades, fund-raisers, school carnivals and other community events.

Stephens has even found a way for Katchup to contribute to his job as a line worker and his work as a volunteer fireman.

At the co-op's member appreciation days the last couple of years, Stephens has "clowned up" as he puts it. "You get to show

up at work in the clown makeup and 12 hours later, you're still in your clown makeup."

During the appreciation days he can be found performing one-clown skits, making balloon animals and in general entertaining young and old alike.

When Katchup helps spread the message of fire safety, Stephens work as a volunteer fire fighter in Wall comes in to play. Katchup has gone with members of the Rapid City Fire Department to pass out burn books to area schools and has also helped with puppet shows on fire safety.

"I've even given blood in clown makeup," said Stephens.

Shrine clowns are also fixtures in northeast South Dakota's Yelduz Shrine Temple, headquartered in Aberdeen and southeast South Dakota's El Riad Shrine Temple, headquartered in Sioux Falls.

Shrine Clubs affiliated with all three temples will be putting on Shrine Circuses throughout the state beginning in late March and continuing through the end of July.

For more information on Shriners Hospitals for Children, visit <http://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/en.aspx> or contact a Shriner. For more information on Shriners, visit <http://www.shrinersinternational.org/>

**Opposite page:** Potentate Willis Kopren and Katchup award a bicycle to a lucky winner at the circus. (Photo Courtesy Willis Kopren). **Cover:** Katchup and his clown buddy clown around at the West River Electric Association appreciation meetings last summer. **Top:** Katchup performs rope tricks during the appreciation meetings. **Left:** Katchup joins fire fighters in Rapid City and Wall to spread fire safety messages to area schools.

Photos courtesy West River Electric Association

## 2013 Local Shriner Circuses



Photo courtesy Naja Shrine Circus

Among the Shriner Circuses being held in 2013 are the following. Contact the local Shrine Temple for more information about possible additional locations.

**Yelduz** (<http://www.yelduzshrine.org/circus.html>)

March 28, 29 and 30 – Aberdeen (605-225-4841)

April 1 – Huron (605-353-4931)

June 21-22 – Mobridge (605-845-2745 or 605-845-3983)

June 24 – Eagle Butte

June 26-27 – Pierre (605-223-9040)

**El Riad Shriners** (<http://www.elriad.org/Circus.php>)

April 25-28 – Sioux Falls

April 29-May 1 – Mitchell

June 23 – Worthington, Minn.

**Naja Shriners** (<http://www.najashriners.com/events/circus/>)

May 3-5 – Rapid City (605-343-4076)

June 29 – Deadwood

June 30 – Lemmon

**Abu-Bekr Shriners** (<http://abu-bekr.com/default.html>)

April 15-21 – Sioux City, Iowa (712-255-7991)

# We Can Meet Challenges

By Steven Johnson | ECT Staff Writer

**T**HE INCOMING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE NATIONAL RURAL Electric Cooperative Association says she is confident electric co-ops can generate the creativity, ingenuity and common purpose needed to confront future challenges.

Taking the stage briefly at the NRECA annual meeting after being introduced as the next CEO, Emerson said she has been inspired by everyone she has met in the co-op movement, from directors to linemen to young people.

“We face challenges because people don’t understand all that we do to make lives better for people in our communities,” Emerson said Feb. 20. “If we stick together, if we work hard, if we remember that we are family, we can beat anybody.”

Emerson is succeeding Glenn English, who is retiring after 19 years as NRECA CEO. She represented Missouri’s 8th Congressional District from late 1996 until January 2013, and will become the fifth CEO in the association’s history when she takes over March 1.

NRECA Board President Curtis Nolan, who introduced Emerson, called her “a longtime co-op ally because her focus in Congress has been on supporting a vital rural America.”

In her remarks, Emerson thanked the NRECA Board for giving her the opportunity to work “with such a fabulous

family” and commended English for his service to the cooperative movement.

During her congressional career, Emerson said she saw firsthand the sacrifices made by co-op linemen in southern Missouri, as they worked to restore power in harsh circumstances after devastating ice storms hit the state.

She said she’s also drawn inspiration from students on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. At the annual meeting, she spent time with them, as they logged postcards and messages from meeting participants to representatives and senators on Capitol Hill.

Emerson also credited local CEOs and members of boards of directors who work to better their communities.

“You are making a difference in the lives of people. You are lifting people up in your communities,” she said.



Jo Ann Emerson

**Below:** Delegates from electric cooperatives across the country vote on a variety of resolutions and by-law amendments at the NRECA annual meeting in February.



# Electric Co-op Day at the Capitol Held

**More than 160** electric co-op directors, members and employees gathered in Pierre Feb. 26 for the Electric Cooperative Day at the Capitol. The event afforded the co-op leaders a chance to watch the legislature in action and meet with their Representatives and Senator.

In the morning, participants attended committee hearings to see the legislative process first-hand. They also had a chance to talk one-on-one with several legislators. Co-op leaders also met with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and its staff to review different initiatives electric cooperatives are involved in, especially in the area of the smart grid.

In the afternoon, the group took a photo with Gov. Dennis Daugaard and were recognized on the floors of both chambers.



**Left:** South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard, third from right in front row, posed for a photo on the rotunda steps with a portion of those attending Electric Cooperative Day at the Capitol on Feb. 26 in Pierre, S.D.

# Buried Beneath

## One Co-op Goes Increasingly Underground

By Brenda Kleinjan

**C**O-OPS NATIONWIDE ARE DEDICATED TO PROVIDING their members with affordable, reliable power. And achieving that end is a balancing act that each co-op faces. No two co-ops' circumstances are the same. Co-ops have different terrain they serve, differing numbers of members balanced against thousands of miles of infrastructure needed to deliver energy.

"We've been putting in underground for about 35 years," said David Eide, general manager of Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative in Watertown, S.D. "The decision was made here that when anything new goes in, it goes in underground."

The co-op's geographic location and topography played a role in that decision.

The co-op, located in Codington and Clark counties in eastern South Dakota, has an area that's historically been susceptible to bad weather.

"The decision was made in part because of the Coteau Hills," said Eide.

"Heavy frost and ice storms would cause problems with the overhead in that area," said Eide.

"That area was always the area hit first and hard, so the co-op put a number of those lines underground. We've kept doing that same practice today.

We don't build anything new overhead," said Eide.

That decision has proven beneficial for the co-op, especially in recent years.

"We would have been devastated in the 2009-2010s ice storm had that decision not been made 35 years ago," said Eide, referring to an ice storm that caused considerable damage in the area. The co-op still has less than one-third of its power lines overhead. About 1,400 miles of the co-op's 1,900 miles of power lines are buried.

Of the co-ops located in South Dakota and Minnesota, Codington-Clark has the largest percentage of its plant buried. In fact, it compares favorably nationwide among co-ops as well. About 34 percent of all Minnesota distribution power lines are buried, compared to nearly 22 percent in South Dakota.

The bulk of the nation's cooperative energy (including that provided to subdivisions) continues to be delivered via overhead lines. About 17 percent of the 2.5 million miles of distribution lines owned and maintained by electric co-ops across the nation are found underground, an amount that grows by approximately 1 percent annually. Cooperatives are not-for-profit, selecting distribution methods with



two goals in mind: keeping electricity affordable and reliable for consumers.

There are pros and cons to both forms of power distribution which local boards of directors must balance in establishing policies that are best suited for their local cooperative. For instance, underground facilities are more reliable during storms and generally require less right-of-way maintenance because there are no trees, brush and other vegetation to clear away.

However, faults in underground power lines are not easy to track down and fix. A North Carolina study found that outage restoration times averaged 92 minutes for overhead lines versus 145 minutes for underground lines.

For Codington-Clark, the move to a predominately underground system took decades and had its challenges.

"You have to stay on top of the replacement schedules with the older wire that was installed in the '70s," said Eide.

That wire that was put in 35 years ago was projected to last 20 years, but much of it has ended up going more than 30 years.

"We watch the fault rates. If we're getting too many in a mile of line, we put it up for replacement," Eide said.

Eide said the new underground being installed is supposed to last for 40 years, according to the manufacturers.

While ice and frost don't affect the co-op as much, lightning can cause outages.

"We've put in lightning arrestors that have helped with that," said Eide.

Another trade off for utilities is animal-caused outages.

"With overhead, you're dealing with tree branches and animals more," said Eide, who noted that branches falling into lines can cause outages as can animals such as birds, squirrels and raccoons that make contact with lines and equipment.

"With the underground, you have less animal-caused outages, except for gophers," said Eide. The gophers have a history of chewing into the underground line.

"We've been putting in a different wire that's wrapped in a sheath that the gophers don't like to chew into," said Eide.

Preventing human-caused outages is another story.

Dig ins also occur when people fail to have lines properly marked. By law, people who intend to dig must first have utilities marked. Failure to do so not only endangers their life and can cause damage to buried utilities, but can also carry stiff fines and penalties.

"You definitely increase the number of wire locates. We do a lot of those," said Eide who noted that one co-op employee spends most of his time from April through October doing locates.

"We haven't set a goal to be 100 percent underground by a certain date. We're not just going to go out and take out overhead. But, as work comes in, as new services, replacements and upgrades come in, it all goes in underground," said Eide.

"We try to make the best decision we can for the members," said Eide.

## April Is National Safe Digging Month

In a recent National Safe Digging Month omnibus survey, conducted March 21-25, 2012, by the national association Common Ground Alliance, 650 homeowners were asked to answer a series of questions about "do-it-yourself" (DIY) home and property improvement projects.

Below are the results of this survey and what they mean for public safety and utility service reliability:

- Around four in 10 homeowners (39 percent) plan to dig on their property this year for an outdoor home or property improvement project.
- Among homeowners who plan to dig this year, nearly half (45 percent) will not contact their local one-call utility notification center by making a free call to 811 to learn the approximate location of underground utility lines, putting their safety and the safety of their community at risk.

- Two-thirds of homeowners (67 percent) believe they would not hit an unmarked underground utility line and cause a service outage at their own home or a neighbor's home, despite the fact that an underground line is damaged every three minutes nationwide, according to Common Ground Alliance data.

- Male homeowners are more likely than their female counterparts to believe that no negative consequences would come from digging on their property without knowing the approximate location of nearby underground utility lines.

- 49 percent of male homeowners thought they would not hit an unmarked line while digging, compared to 38 percent of female homeowners.

- Nearly half of homeowners who plan to dig this year (45 percent) follow NASCAR, meaning they watched a race on TV or in person within the past year.

- AJ Allmendinger, driver of the No. 22 Shell/Pennzoil Dodge on the NASCAR Sprint Cup, will sport the 811 logo on his car at the April 1 (Martinsville), April 14 (Texas) and April 28 (Richmond) races during National Safe Digging Month, as well as the Aug. 12 race (Watkins Glen) this summer and the final race of the year at Homestead (Nov. 18).

For more on the Common Ground Alliance, visit [www.common-groundalliance.com](http://www.common-groundalliance.com).



# Rodeo Rough Stock

## Animals Specialize in Ridding Themselves of Riders

By Brenda Kleinjan

**W**HEN ONE THINKS OF A RODEO ATHLETE, ONE invariably thinks of the thousands of cowboys and cowgirls who enter arenas across the country. But, another type of athlete – the four-legged variety – is often there every step of the way.

And those animals among rodeo's rough stock – the bulls and horses that are part of the bull riding, saddle bronc and bareback events – are a special breed.

Their names would make WWE wrestlers jealous; names like Satan, Jim Beam, Gray Wolf, Confusion, Table Talk, Skyrocket and even the seemingly innocent Harry.

“Harry was a black Angus bull that we hauled for six or eight years,” said Johnny Holloway, an Eagle Butte, S.D., rancher who has provided rough stock for amateur rodeos for decades. “No one ever qualified on him.”

That includes Holloway, 68, who was the South Dakota Rodeo Association's bull riding champ in 1963 and also added a few bronc-riding titles to his belt in years following.

“I drew a lot of our own horses; sometimes they bucked me off, sometimes they didn't,” said Holloway. “I drew Harry twice. I knew I couldn't ride him, but I tried.”

And, often these four-legged athletes hail from a lineage of fierce competitors who thrill crowds with their bucks, spins and other antics as they attempt to rid the cowboy from their mighty backs.

“We had a gray paint horse, a stallion, called Skyrocket. The cowboys didn't like to ride him because he was awful hard to ride,” said Holloway. “He has a lot of offspring still competing.”

These animals match their brawn and cunning against the tenacity of the cowboys. At the end of a successful ride, each has scored points for doing their job well.

For the Holloways, providing these animals for

**It's still the cowboy way, the way you're supposed to do it.**





**Horses to be used in saddle bronc and bareback events are driven to Timber Lake for the Days of 1910 Rodeo in July.** Photo by Tonto Livestock

amateur rodeos has been a family business that has spanned generations. When Johnny was starting rodeoing in the late '50s and early '60s, his dad was putting together the rough stock. Today, Johnny's children have restarted the business. (Multi-generational South Dakota stock contractors are also among the professional rodeo ranks with Sutton Rodeo of Onida and Korkow Rodeo of Pierre, which are two of the larger in the state.)

When asked what makes for good rough stock, Holloway gives the animal credit.

"They've got to want to," said Holloway.

His answer was less straight-forward for what makes for a good performance by a rough stock animal.

"I always like to see a nice pretty ride," said Holloway, who quickly rejoined with, "But you also like to see them buck someone off."

The Holloways used to provide rough stock for amateur rodeos in five states. Nearly all those rodeos involved trucking the animals.

"We were messing with bucking stock five days a week, between coming and going and putting on rodeos," said Holloway. "We sold out in 1991, but now

we're back in it."

And, for one rodeo each summer, the Holloways park the trucks and turn the pages of time back.

This will be the fourth summer that the Holloways have been sharing their rodeo heritage with the public through a summer stock drive in late July when they bring their rough stock to Timber Lake, S.D., for the town's Days of 1910 SDRA Rodeo.

"I think we're one of the few still driving the stock in that way. At least we're the only ones that I know of anyway," said Holloway. The drive will take three days to move the horses from the ranch east of Eagle Butte to the rodeo grounds 42 miles to the north in Timber Lake.

"It's still the cowboy way, the way you're supposed to do it. They did it that way for a lot of years," said Holloway.

For more information on the Fourth Annual Bucking Horse Drive, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/tontolive-stock/> or call 605-964-3088.

## Chuckulator Reigns

**A South Dakota eight-year-old is on top of his game.**

Chuckulator, a bay stocking-legged stud horse, was named the 2012 Saddle Bronc of the Year by top professional cowboys.

The 8-year-old Chuckulator has put together an impressive resume in a short amount of time and finally is getting his due. The horse has been called both hyper and athletic. He won Bareback and Saddle Bronc of the Badland Circuit Finals in 2011, the first horse to win both awards in the same year. He also won Badland Circuit Saddle Bronc Horse of the Year in 2011 and 2012. He has been selected to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in 2010 and 2011, being voted as a Top Ten Saddle Bronc at the National Finals Rodeo in both of those years.

"He's not even reached his prime and he made the top 10 vote the last two years at the NFR," stock contractor Steve Sutton said. "He's just kept getting better all the time and then this year we ventured out to a few more places that had short gos and he drew good cowboys and they all did well on him."



Chuckulator is a product of Sutton Rodeos "Born to Buck" program in which they raise 98 percent of the bucking horses they use. His Sire Justin Boots, Dam Midnight Star and Dam's Sire Mr. T all were all selected to compete in the NFR.

Other Sutton Rodeo stock honored by the PRCA includes

1961 Bull of the NFR in Dallas, Baldy owned by Korkow/Sutton and Reserve Bareback of the NFR, Snake River both owned by Sutton; 1964 Reserve Bareback of the NFR Yellow Jacket in Los Angeles; 1979 Saddle Bronc of the Year, Deep Water; 1985 Bareback Horse of the Year, Tombstone.

For more information, visit [www.suttonrodeo.com](http://www.suttonrodeo.com).

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## Regional Dateline

### March 22-23

Holiday Arts Spring  
 Craft Show  
 Masonic Temple  
 Mitchell, SD, 605-248-2526

### March 28-30

Yelduz Shrine Circus  
 Aberdeen, SD, 605-225-4841

### March 29

South Dakota Cowgirl  
 Public Art Reception  
 Hill City, SD, 605-574-3898

### March 30

Second Annual Spring Fling  
 Vendor Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 James Valley Community  
 Center Mitchell, SD  
 605-770-6247

### April 5

Fourth of July reservations  
 open for S.D. state parks  
 Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

### April 6-7

2013 Spring Big Boy Toy Show  
 Aberdeen, SD, 605-229-3632

### April 6-7

Hats off to the Artists 23rd  
 Annual Art Show  
 Community Center  
 Faulkton, SD  
 605-598-4482

### April 7

Farm Toy & Sports Card Show  
 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
 Davison County Fairgrounds  
 Mitchell, SD, 605-996-4494  
 or 605-996-5816



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## Events of Special Note

### April 6

Lunafest Film Festival  
 Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

### May 1-5

Black Hills Film Festival  
 Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454

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.

### April 12-14

Art Show, Mobridge, SD  
 605-845-2060

### April 13

Stampede Home Game  
 Sioux Falls, SD, 605-336-6060

### April 13

Spring Fling Home & Garden  
 Show, Hot Springs, SD  
 605-745-4140

### April 19-20

Bull Riding Classic  
 Aberdeen, SD  
 701-663-4973

### April 19-21

Aberdeen ABATE &  
 FM Crusaders Bike Show  
 Aberdeen, SD, 605-228-6283

### April 21

Johnny Rivers Concert  
 Watertown, SD, 605-886-6127

### April 26-27

What Women Want Expo  
 Belle Fourche, SD  
 605-892-2676

### April 29-May 1

Shrine Circus  
 Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430

### May 3-4

Platte Chamber Fishing  
 Tournament  
 Platte, SD, 888-297-8175

### May 4

Critter De Mayo  
 Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7003

### May 11

Avera Race Against  
 Breast Cancer  
 Sioux Falls, SD, 605-322-8900

### May 11

Art Extravaganza  
 Hill City, SD, 605-574-2368

### May 11-12 & May 18-19

Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing  
 Aberdeen, SD, 605-680-0201

### May 16

Willie Nelson In Concert  
 Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430

### May 17-19

Statewide Open House & Free  
 Fishing Weekend  
 Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

### May 25-26

SDRA Foothills Rodeo  
 Wessington Springs, SD  
 605-539-1929

### May 25-27

Memorial Day Weekend  
 Live Music, Hill City, SD  
 605-574-3898

### May 25-September 2

Grand Magic Show  
 Custer, SD, 406-291-2004