

## Cooperative Connections



**Ready to Run:  
Road Races  
Marathons,  
and Half-  
Marathons  
Hit Region**

Page 8

**Celebrating  
Midsummer  
at Dalesburg**

Page 12





Tough  
training.  
Safe &  
reliable  
power.



Linemen play a critical role in our mission to provide reliable, affordable electricity. Tough training and a focus on safety is behind everything they do. Simulated field operations and emergency-response training are ways Basin Electric invests in their safety and in providing reliable power to you.



**BASIN ELECTRIC  
POWER COOPERATIVE**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Your energy starts here.

[basinelectric.com](http://basinelectric.com)

# South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections

ISSN No. 1067-4977

## Produced by the following electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota:

Black Hills Electric, Custer, S.D.  
Bon Homme Yankton Electric, Tabor, S.D.  
Butte Electric, Newell, S.D.  
Cam Wal Electric, Selby, S.D.  
Central Electric, Mitchell, S.D.  
Charles Mix Electric, Lake Andes, S.D.  
Cherry-Todd Electric, Mission, S.D.  
Clay-Union Electric, Vermillion, S.D.  
Cordington-Clark Electric,  
Watertown, S.D.  
Dakota Energy, Huron, S.D.  
Douglas Electric, Armour, S.D.  
East River Electric, Madison, S.D.  
FEM Electric, Ipswich, S.D.  
Grand Electric, Bison, S.D.  
H-D Electric, Clear Lake, S.D.  
Kingsbury Electric, De Smet, S.D.  
Lacreek Electric, Martin, S.D.  
Lake Region Electric, Webster, S.D.  
Lyon-Lincoln Electric, Tyler, Minn.  
Moreau-Grand Electric, Timber Lake, S.D.  
Northern Electric, Bath, S.D.  
Oahe Electric, Blunt, S.D.  
Renville-Sibley Co-op Power,  
Danube, Minn.  
Rosebud Electric, Gregory, S.D.  
Rushmore Electric, Rapid City, S.D.  
Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, S.D.  
Southeastern Electric, Marion, S.D.  
Traverse Electric, Wheaton, Minn.  
Union County Electric, Elk Point, S.D.  
West Central Electric, Murdo, S.D.  
West River Electric, Wall, S.D.  
Whetstone Valley Electric, Milbank, S.D.  
City of Elk Point, S.D.

SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly for \$6 annually for member cooperatives, \$12 annually for non-members by South Dakota Rural Electric Association, 222 W. Pleasant Drive, Pierre, S.D. 57501. Correspondence to: Editor, South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 1138, Pierre, SD 57501; telephone (605) 224-8823; fax (605) 224-4430; e-mail editor@sdrea.coop

**Brenda Kleinjan**, Editor  
**Dawn Trapp**, Communications Specialist  
**Jocelyn Romey**,  
Staff Communications Professional

## EDITORIAL

### June is National Safety Month

# Take the SafeAtWork Pledge

Workplace fatalities are unacceptable. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics data, U.S. workplace fatalities reached 5,147 in 2017 – the second consecutive year surpassing 5,000 deaths. Preventable work deaths continue an upward trend, increasing from 4,398 in 2016 to 4,414 in 2017.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Employers are responsible to provide a safe work environment, the financial support, management oversight, tools and training workers need to do their jobs safely. Both management and workers need to do their part to make safety a personal priority. Together, these elements are part of a greater safety management system – one which aims to continuously identify hazards and reduce risks to an acceptable level thus lessening the likelihood of an incident occurring on the job.

### Pledge to:

- Never compromise your own safety or the safety of your co-workers to get the job done
- Actively look for hazards, promptly report them, and take appropriate action to warn others
- Be a good safety role model for your friends and family even when off the job



## Fatigue

70 MILLION AMERICANS  
SUFFER FROM A SLEEP  
DISORDER. DO YOU?



## Impairment

DRUNK, DRUGGED, DROWSY,  
DIFFERENT. NO LEVEL OF  
IMPAIRMENT IS SAFE.



NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2019

[nsc.org/nsm](http://nsc.org/nsm)



## Summer Electrical Safety Tips for Kids

As school begins to let out, families are starting to enjoy some outdoor time with their young children. Backyards, local parks and pools are great places to spend your summer days, but to ensure a happy, healthy and safe summer, parents should be aware of a few electrical safety basics to share with their children.

- Be aware of power lines around you and always assume that wires are "live and dangerous." Never touch an outdoor wire with any part of your body, toys or other objects.
- Do not throw items such as gym shoes onto electric lines and equipment or try to retrieve items from around overhead power lines.
- Fly kites and model airplanes and other toys in large open areas such as a field or a park – safely away from trees and overhead power lines. Also, do not attempt to retrieve balloons, kites or other objects that may get stuck on power lines or other electrical equipment.
- Do not climb trees near power lines. Even if power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch during climbing when more weight is added to a branch.
- Never climb a utility pole or play on or around electrical equipment.
- Never post or tie signs, hang banners or tie ribbons or balloons onto utility poles or other electrical equipment. This can be dangerous to you and endanger utility workers.
- Do not go into an electric substation for any reason – even on a dare. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Also, never attempt to rescue a pet that goes inside. Instead, call your local utility company.
- Never try to rescue a family member, friend or pet that has come into contact with any electrical equipment – Call 911 immediately.
- Keep electrical toys, appliances and tools at least 10 feet away from pools and wet surfaces.
- Never touch any electrical toys, appliance and tools while you are wet or standing in water. Energy flows easily through water, like a puddle or a pool.

Source: [www.ehstoday.com](http://www.ehstoday.com)



## Hazard Recognition

**HAZARDS ARE EVERYWHERE.  
WHAT RISKS  
AREN'T YOU SEEING?**



NATIONAL **SAFETY** MONTH **2019**

[nsc.org/nsm](http://nsc.org/nsm)



## Falls

**DON'T GET TRIPPED UP!  
CLEAN UP SPILLS  
IMMEDIATELY.**



NATIONAL **SAFETY** MONTH **2019**

[nsc.org/nsm](http://nsc.org/nsm)

## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Don't  
stick toys  
in outlets"**

**Jarron  
Kruger,**  
8 years old

Jarron is the  
son of Jarrod  
and Cadgie  
Kruger, Dell  
Rapids, S.D.

They are  
members of  
Sioux Valley  
Energy,  
Colman, 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.



# Dairy Delicious

## Orange Cream Chiller

3 oz. orange juice concentrate  
1 cup milk  
1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt  
1 small frozen banana  
1 tsp. honey  
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Combine all ingredients; blend until smooth. Serves 2.

**Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, SD**

## Rhubarb Dessert

2 cups flour  
2 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. salt  
4 T. butter  
4 T. milk  
2 eggs, beaten

**Filling:**  
3 cups rhubarb  
1 (6 oz.) pkg. red gelatin

**Topping:**  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 cup flour  
1/3 cup butter

Combine first 6 ingredients. Pat into a 9x13-inch pan. Distribute rhubarb over crust. Sprinkle gelatin over rhubarb. Mix together topping ingredients. Sprinkle over rhubarb. Bake at 350°F. for 45 minutes.

**Roxanna Streckfuss, Mansfield, SD**

## Butter Pecan Pumpkin Dessert

3 cups pumpkin  
3 eggs  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. nutmeg

1/2 tsp. cloves  
1 (13 oz.) can evaporated milk  
1 butter pecan cake mix  
1/2 cup butter, sliced thin  
1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

Combine pumpkin and eggs. Add spices and salt to sugar. Blend sugar mixture and milk with pumpkin mixture. Pour into a 9x13-inch pan. Sprinkle cake mix over all. Top with butter slices and pecans. Bake at 350°F. for 40 to 45 minutes. Serve with whipped topping or ice cream.

**Arlene BaanHofman, Corsica, SD**

## Monkey Bread with Sausage

3/4 cup milk  
1 pkg. McCormick® Original Country Gravy Mix  
1/4 cup melted butter  
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese, divided

3 (7.5 oz. each) cans refrigerated buttermilk biscuits  
1/2 lb. ground breakfast sausage, cooked and drained

Mix milk, gravy mix and melted butter with whisk in large bowl until well blended. Reserve 1/2 cup of gravy mixture; set aside. Cut biscuits into quarters. Add biscuit pieces to gravy mixture in large bowl; gently toss to coat. Stir in 1-1/2 cups cheese and cooked sausage until well blended. Place biscuit mixture into greased 10-cup bundt pan. Pour reserved gravy mixture over top. Bake at 350°F for 35 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Bake 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Cool in pan 5 to 10 minutes. To unmold, loosen sides of monkey bread from pan with a knife. Invert, cheese side up, onto serving plate. Makes 12 servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 321, Total Fat 17g, Saturated Fat 8g, Sodium 855mg, Cholesterol 37mg, Carbohydrates 31g, Protein 11g, Dietary Fiber 1g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Goat Milk Fudge

1 lb. powdered sugar  
1/2 cup cocoa powder  
1/2 cup butter

1/4 cup whole goat milk (may use cow milk)  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1/2 cup nuts, optional

Combine sugar and cocoa in large microwavable bowl; make a well in the center. Place cut-up butter and milk in well; do not stir. Microwave on HIGH for 2 minutes; add vanilla. Blend with stick blender or mixer until smooth; stir in nuts. Pour into greased 8x8-inch square pan. Refrigerate until firm; cut into squares.

**Jersi Kruger, 5 years old, Dell Rapids, SD**

Please send your favorite dessert, vegetarian or garden produce 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.



# Get Smart!

## Energy-Saving Apps and Devices



Pat Keegan

Collaborative Efficiency

**Don't forget to check with your local electric cooperative on additional programs and services designed to help you save on your energy bills.**

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency.

For more information, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).

**Dear Pat and Brad:** It seems like I'm always hearing about some new device or app that will save energy, but I wonder if they're worth the time and money. I want to learn about simple ways I can use technology to save energy. Any advice on where I should start looking? – Lily

**Dear Lily:** Every new piece of technology seems to come with a lot of promise, doesn't it? Then we have to find out for ourselves if it lives up to the hype. Here are a few products we recommend.

### Smart Phone Apps

There are several energy apps available today, but two stand out. They're free, easy to use, effective and available for both Android and iOS devices.

**JouleBug** is a fun app that helps you save energy. You collect points for each energy efficient move you make inside the home, on your daily commute and in daily life. The app helps you make changes and build ongoing energy-saving habits. It's designed as a competition among friends and can help you and your family create an energy efficient household together. The app also includes fun, educational videos and links to helpful articles.

There are several energy cost calculator apps that help you identify where you use the energy most in your home. With the **EnergyCost** app, you can enter how many hours a day you use each appliance or electronic device (some have a dropdown of typical household items) and the rate you're paying for power, which you can find on your energy bill. The app creates a total operating cost for that specific device.

How much is that hallway chandelier costing you every month and how much would you save by turning it off for an additional hour each day? How about that second freezer or the big-screen TV? The answers aren't exact, but they will give you a better idea of your overall energy use and help you focus your efforts on the opportunities that will save the most energy.

### Smart Thermostats

A smart thermostat connects to the internet and your computer and/or smart phone through

your home's Wi-Fi and could shave \$50 off your energy bill every year. Most fall within the \$100 to \$250 range. If the price for a feature-rich model is more than you're comfortable spending, ask yourself if it's worth buying a lower-cost model or if your current thermostat is doing the job.

Here are some features to keep in mind if you're considering a smart thermostat:

- **Learning:** A learning thermostat will figure out your habits and adapt – this is probably the best way to make the most of a smart thermostat's energy-saving potential.
- **Geofencing:** This will detect when you leave home and return and adjust the temperature up or down so energy isn't being wasted.
- **Additional features** include remote room sensors and voice control.

Before you buy, learn what you can about the functionality of the smart thermostat's app. And take a look at how easy it is to program the thermostat unit directly. Finally, consider the installation. Some models are more difficult to install and may require re-wiring.

### Smart Power Plugs and Switches

Smart outlets and light switches are still considered a relatively new technology, and we think there are improvements that will be made over time. That said, if this is a technology you're interested in, there are a couple of options that consumers seem to like.

Hub-based systems like the Curren Dual Smart Outlet and Philips Hue smart lighting systems are highly rated and cost about \$200 or more for eight to 10 smart outlets or light switches. That's a pretty big investment, so we recommend using an energy cost calculator app first to decide if it's worth the additional cost.

We hope these reviews will be helpful as you consider smart technology that promotes energy efficiency. Don't forget to check with your local electric cooperative on additional programs and services designed to help you save on your energy bills.



## Legislative Committee to Study Electric Service

The South Dakota Legislature will take a closer look at diverse issues impacting economic development, mental health, electric services in an annexed area and the consequences of the use of controlled substances through four interim committees and five task forces that will meet this summer.

The Executive Board of the South Dakota Legislature announced member appointments to the groups during its April 23 meeting in Pierre. Studies will be conducted in the following areas:

- **Industrial Hemp:** Chairman: Rep. Lee Qualm, Vice Chairman: Sen. Rocky Blare
- **Special Education:** The committee was authorized by the passage of Senate Bill 3, introduced by 2018's Extraordinary Cost Fund for Special Education Study. Chairwoman: Rep. Nancy Rasmussen, Vice Chairman: Sen. Jim Bolin.
- **Electric Services in an Annexed Area:** Including the options for municipal utilities to provide electrical services in annexed areas and how electrical rates are established. Senate Bill 66 prompted the formation of the committee. Chairman: Sen. Alan Solano, Vice Chairman: Rep. Thomas Brunner. Other committee members include Reps. Shawn Bordeaux, Kirk Chaffee, Spencer Gosh and Tim Reed and Sens. Lee Schoenbeck, Susan Wismer and Jordan Youngberg.
- **Offenses regarding Controlled Substances:** Senate Bill 167 authorized the creation of the committee which will include legislators and non-legislators. The Executive Board expanded the study to include a subcommittee on fighting methamphetamine addiction. Chairman: Rep. Steven Haugaard, Vice Chairman: Sen. Craig Kennedy
- **Sustainable improvements to the Continuum of Mental Health Services:** The passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 2 continues the work of the 2018 Access to Mental Health Services Study by creating five task forces to address specific mental health service issues. Each task force includes legislators and non-legislators.
  - **Task Force #1** (Chairman: Rep. Michael Diedrich, Vice Chairwoman: Sen. Kris Langer) will redefine acute mental health hospitalizations.
  - **Task Force #2** (Chairman: Sen. Alan Solano, Vice Chairwoman: Rep. Erin Healy) will look at how to reduce overall use of acute mental health hospitalizations.
  - **Task Force #3** (Chairwoman: Sen. Deb Soholt, Vice Chairman: Rep. Herman Otten) will look at how to effectively leverage telehealth and telemedicine services.
  - **Task Force #4** (Chairwoman Rep. Jean Hunhoff, Vice Chairwoman: Rep. Rebecca Reimer) will redefine nursing home criteria for persons with organic brain damage
  - **Task Force #5** (Chairman: Rep. Tim Reed, Vice Chairman: Sen. Wayne Steinhauer) is charged with studying community services and caregiver supports.

For more information on the committees and their meeting times and agendas, go to: <https://sdlegislature.gov/Interim/Documents.aspx?Session=2019&tab=Detail>

## 2019 Resource Conservation Speech Contest

The 58th annual State Finals of the Resource Conservation Speech Contest were held at the South Dakota State Capitol in Pierre on Saturday, April 27. The theme of this year's contest was, "Ag Technology: Farming and Ranching for a Future."

First place was awarded to Elias Grimsley who received a \$1,100 scholarship. The second place scholarship of \$750 was awarded to Grace Lentz while Taylor Storbakken received the \$450 third-place scholarship. Fourth-place honors went to Connor Hansen and fifth place went to Justice Forster.

Each year the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Resource Conservation and Forestry Division sponsors a resource conservation-oriented speech contest. Any South Dakota student in grades 9-12 is eligible to enter. This includes public, private and home-school students.

The contest consists of three levels – local, area and state. Two winners from each of the local contests advance to the area contests. Two winners from each of the seven area contests advance to the state competition.

East River Electric Power Cooperative, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative and the South Dakota Rural Electric Association present the winners with scholarships to be used at any college, university or accredited vocational technical school within South Dakota. Other co-sponsors include the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

<http://sdda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry/educational-programs/resource-conservation-speech-contest/>



The Top 5 Winners, from left, are: Justice Forster (5th), Connor Hansen (4th), Elias Grimsley (1st), Taylor Storbakken (3rd), and Grace Lentz (2nd). They are joined by S.D. Department of Agriculture Resource Conservation and Forestry Division Director Bill Smith, far left, and East River Electric and SDREA representative Ken Gillaspie.





The Mickelson Trail Marathon takes runners through the scenic Black Hills.

# RUNNING FOR FUN

## Marathons, Road Races and 5Ks Provide Challenge

By Jocelyn Romey

jocelyn.romey@sdrea.coop

Among the runners lining up for the start of a well-known South Dakota marathon – the Deadwood Mickelson Trail Marathon – will be a first-time runner with co-op ties.

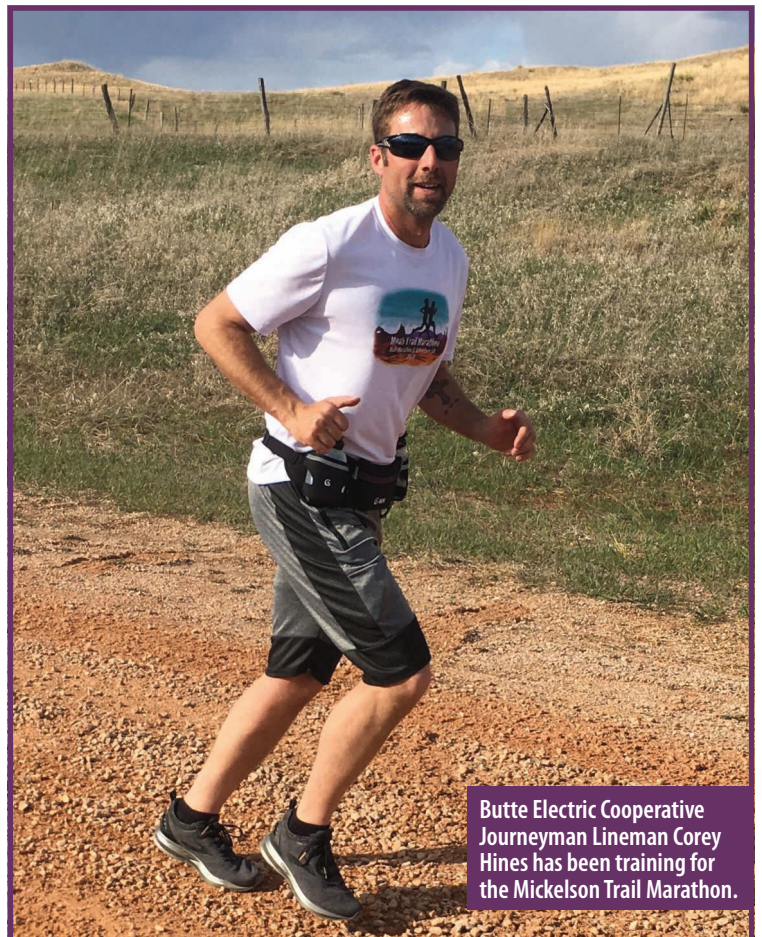
Corey Hines, journeyman lineman from Butte Electric Cooperative in Newell, S.D., will be running the full Mickelson Trail Marathon for the first time this year. He started running recently for the fun of it and it snowballed into a marathon challenge, one he hasn't backed down from.

Previously, Hines ran a half marathon in the same race eight years ago. Otherwise, he has had no competitive racing experience.

"I figured for whatever reason, God gave me the ability to run, so I will enjoy it while I can," Hines said.

On June 2, Hines will be racing with more than 3,000 runners from across the nation as well as Canada, Germany, Russia and Denmark. These runners have the option of competing in the Mickelson Trail full marathon, half marathon or relay race. Beginning in Rochford, S.D., runners will experience the beauty of the Black Hills before finishing at the historical Engine House in Deadwood. Black Hills Electric Cooperative in Custer, S.D., is a sponsor of this event.

Other prominent co-op runners throughout the state are Russell Gall, manager of Charles Mix Electric Association in Lake Andes, S.D.; Dick Johnson, general manager and CEO of



Butte Electric Cooperative Journeyman Lineman Corey Hines has been training for the Mickelson Trail Marathon.



### Did you Know?

The modern marathon that many competitive runners enjoy has historical roots. The name itself is derived from a Greek legend in 490 B.C. that tells the story of a messenger who raced nearly 25 miles from the site of Marathon to Athens to deliver news of a Greek victory over invading Persians. Unfortunately, the story ends poorly for the messenger who died from exhaustion after delivering his news.

From this legend, a formalized race called a marathon was created. The official length we know today of 26.2 miles was originated in the 1908 Olympics hosted in London when Queen Alexandra planned the route – which was consequently 26.2 miles. Since then, the length of the race stuck.

West River Electric Association in Wall, S.D.; and Tim McCarthy, general manager and CEO of Sioux Valley Energy in Colman, S.D.

Gall has a history of competing in Tough Mudders, which entail a 12-mile run through various obstacles that include racing with a partner through mud, water, ice and electric fencing while climbing barriers, swinging from ropes, pushing blocks and lifting a number of heavy items.

“My training was foremost running. I tell anyone wanting to do a Tough Mudder that the first thing you have to do is be able to run a 5k without stopping,” Gall said. “The second part of training for the Tough Mudder is upper body strength, as in lots of push-ups and pull ups.”

Johnson is another runner who began running half marathons around his 50th birthday during the half Mickelson Trail Marathon. He finds enjoyment in running to relieve stress.

“It’s something I can do pretty much whenever I can fit it in, although I do most of my running early in the mornings,” Johnson said. “I don’t especially like later in the day as I struggle to motivate myself to do it then.”

He also noted that running was good for his overall health, even while jokingly stating that you cannot “outrun a bad diet!”

McCarthy is a well-known runner in many national marathons and was featured in the October 1996 edition of Runner’s World magazine after participating in a marathon in Illinois.

“On any given day, I will run about three miles up to about a half marathon (13.1 miles) depending on the time I have and how I feel,” McCarthy said.

“Running is a place I can go to sort out a lot of things whether the issues I’m facing are personal or professional.”

Even though he has retired from his more competitive marathons, McCarthy is still addicted to running and says he runs for physical and mental health.



Medals commemorate some of the races Tim McCarthy has run over the decades.

## Tough Mudder

Russell Gall, manager of Charles Mix Electric Association in Lake Andes, S.D., is a veteran of Tough Mudder races which combine a 12-mile run with an obstacle course. Gall said the obstacles encountered in the race rely on that strength. “The Tough Mudder had lots of obstacles with funky names.”

### Here is a list of Gall’s (least) favorites:

- **Funky Monkey** – 30 feet of monkey bars over a pool of muddy water.
- **Augustas Gloop** – traverse a small pool of muddy water, duck under obstacles and then climb the inside a 20-foot tube with water cascading down.
- **Hold Your Wood** – Carry a big hunk of log for 300 feet
- **Artic Plunge** – slide down a 10-foot tube that ends in ice water. “And I mean ICE – as in bags and bags of ice are poured into the small pool of water so you have to swim through the cubes, and duck under two obstacle walls. I drank a lot of muddy water on that one since I kept inhaling as I tried to catch my breath.”
- **Hero Carry** – carry one of your team mates for a couple hundred feet then switch off. “My daughter had blisters by the time we hit this obstacle, so I just carried her the whole way.”
- **Electro Shock Therapy** – This obstacle is just as it sounds: you run through a 50- to 75-foot of mud over hay bales. There are electric fencing strings hanging down every three feet and yes they are connected to an electric fencer. “That one is tough as the first time I went through it, it knocked me down to my knees.”
- **Berlin Wall** – A 20-foot high wooden wall that you have to ascend on one side, using a rope, go over the top and down the other side with another rope.
- **Block Ness Monster** – Two 4-foot by 4-foot rolling pin blocks that are half submerged in a pool of muddy water. The teams have to push the block from one side and hang on it as you go over the top. This keeps it rotating so your team can make it over.

And a tie for the worst obstacle goes to:

- **The Death March** – In Colorado it was a 5 mile trek up the side of a mountain. “By the time we made it to the summit we were all sunburned and tired.”
- **Everest** – It’s a half pipe about 15-foot high (Google Tough Mudder Everest) that you have to try to get over. “Mind you are wet and usually covered in mud so this obstacle is definitely a team effort. I would never have made it was it not for the group of strangers that pulled me up.”

[https:// toughmudder.com/obstacles](https://toughmudder.com/obstacles)





Sen. John Thune, middle back, poses for a photo with South Dakotans participating the NRECA Legislative Conference.

# LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

## Electric Co-ops Converge on D.C.

**Brenda Kleinjan**

[editor@sdrea.coop](mailto:editor@sdrea.coop)

South Dakota electric cooperative leaders joined with thousands of other electric co-op advocates during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Conference April 28-30 in Washington, D.C. While in Washington, cooperatives addressed four key issues with their U.S. Senators and Representatives.

### Promote Needs of Rural Communities in Infrastructure Package

Electric cooperatives support bipartisan efforts to develop a robust infrastructure package that improves the economic outlook in America's rural communities. As owners of critical infrastructure, electric co-ops play an important role in our nation's economy—supporting 612,000 American jobs and generating \$88 billion annually toward U.S. GDP.

Congress should look beyond urban centers and traditional improvements such as roads and bridges as an infrastructure proposal takes shape. Congress should support three key infrastructure investments: 1) modernize the grid; 2) expand rural broadband access; and 3) electrify the economy.

Congress should support electric cooperative priorities in infrastructure legislation to address the needs of rural communities.

### Protect the Power Marketing Administrations and TVA

PMA's are an important source of renewable energy for more than 600 co-ops serving communities across 34 states. The Administration's budget proposal calls for the sale of PMA and TVA transmission assets, as well as changing the rate structure from



Sen. John Thune, left, visits with Clay-Union Electric Corporation Manager Chris Larson, center, and Anneliese Taggart of Vermilion. Taggart represented Clay-Union on the 2016 Youth Tour.



a cost-based system to a market-based system. This change would jeopardize the affordability of electricity for more than 100 million Americans.

Requiring consumers to pay more than is necessary for electricity is harmful to millions of consumers that depend on this energy resource.

Congress again should reject proposals set forth in the Administration's budget for FY2020 that harm customers of the PMAs and TVA.

## Protect Your Electric Cooperative's Tax-Exempt Status

Recent changes to the tax code created an unintended consequence for electric co-ops. To maintain tax-exempt status, a co-op must receive at least 85 percent of all income from its members. Government grants may be considered non-member income and could jeopardize a co-op's tax-exempt status.

Co-ops receive grants for a variety of purposes, including economic development and storm restoration. Electric co-ops should not be forced to choose between their tax-exempt status and restoring power after a natural disaster.

Congress should pass legislation to correct this unintended consequence and protect



West River Electric Association General Manager Dick Johnson addresses an issue with Sen. Mike Rounds during the NRECA Legislative Conference.

the tax-exempt status of electric co-ops.

## Stop PBGC from Overcharging Electric Co-op Pension Plans

Electric cooperatives are engines of economic development in their communities, providing good jobs with benefits. NRECA offers retirement and health insurance benefits to co-op employees, including a defined benefit pension plan called the Retirement Security (RS) Plan that helps co-ops attract and retain a qualified workforce.

Congress recognized that pension plans like the RS Plan pose virtually no risk of default. Yet, co-ops in the RS Plan continue to pay insurance premiums to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) as if there is such a risk. Legislation championed by Reps. Kind (D-WI) and Kelly (R-PA) adjusts PBGC premiums to be in line with the low risk posed by the RS Plan.

Congress should pass retirement legislation that includes this provision, and members of Congress should co-sponsor such legislation.



Rep. Dusty Johnson, right, talks with co-op employees, their spouses and co-op directors during the NRECA Legislative Conference.



# Celebrating Midsommar

For 150 Years,  
Dalesburg  
Community  
Has Gathered  
in Celebration

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

**It was important  
to the first Swedes  
who came to Dakota  
Territory in the 1860s.**

For the past 150 years, the community of Dalesburg in the southeast corner of South Dakota has gathered to celebrate Midsommar with a distinctly Scandinavian flair.

Every summer, the community holds the Dalesburg Midsommar Festival to honor its heritage and to celebrate its future.

The first Swedes arrived in the area of Dakota Territory in 1868, so the first Midsommar was celebrated June 24, 1869, said Ron Johnson, a member of the committee who organizes the Dalesburg Midsommar Festival set for Friday, June 21.

“We have oral history written down in the 1940s that the first Midsommar picnic was held in 1882,” said Johnson, noting that Midsommar was observed before that picnic.

Johnson noted that one settler’s memoir noted that a Swedish man arrived by train in Beresford and then headed southwest until he encountered the Midsommar



A Moeller pipe organ was added to the Dalesburg church in 1916.

gathering at Dalesburg.

By 1896, the festival had expanded to include a ball game and foot races.

“It was considered important to the first Swedes that came to this county,” said Johnson.

Around World War I, the festival moved to the grounds of the Dalesburg Lutheran Church.

“The holiday observance is older than the church,” Johnson said.

The Clay County church, located north of Vermillion, was formed in 1871 to serve a largely Swedish community in what was then Dakota Territory. The congregation first met in a



Dancing around a midsummer pole with ring dances is part of the celebration.





Weather permitting, Midsummer performances take place on the grounds of Dalesburg Lutheran Church.

sod house before building it's first church in 1874. By 1897, the current sanctuary was constructed.

The farming community of Dalesburg (in Swedish: Dalsborg) is from Dalarna – the name of the province from where many of the first homesteaders came in central Sweden. Today the residents of the Dalesburg Community are served by the Vermillion, Beresford, Centerville, and Burbank Post Offices.

About 600 people attend the festival each summer. More than 300 people eat at the Scandinavian smörgåsbord held in the church's basement while others visit one of several food stands on the church grounds at 30595 University Road, Vermillion.

"The smörgåsbord supper features Swedish-American dishes typical of what people ate 100 to 125 years ago," Johnson said. "We still try to remember these old recipes and things."

Several community members gathered in May to help make potatis korv, a Swedish potato sausage that will be served in June.

The festival starts at 1 p.m. and concludes with a ballgame that night.

This year's featured performer is Church Suchy, a performer and songwriter from Mandan, N.D.

"He does stories about rural life in the 1950s into the 1970s," said Johnson, noting that past performers at the festival have included visiting groups from Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

High water in the area will make the trek to the festival a bit tricky, but well worth the drive.

Among the routes Johnson recommended were to turn off of Interstate 29 at the Beresford exit and go west a ways and then south on University Road or alternatively go to Vermillion and head north on University Road.

Johnson had one last bit of advice for those venturing to the 2019 festival.

"It's a good idea to bring your own lawn chairs and insect repellent, especially this year with the water."

## Midsommar at Dalesburg

Each year the Dalesburg community celebrates the traditional Midsummer (or Midsommar) Festival. The event includes afternoon programs, a Swedish meatball dinner and a free evening concert. It is held on the grounds of the Dalesburg Lutheran Church.

### Schedule

#### Friday, June 21

- 1 p.m. – Food Stand/Inflatables/ Country Store Opens
- 2 p.m. – Afternoon Program
- 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. – Scandinavian Smorgasbord
- 7 p.m. – Evening Program
- 8:30 p.m. – Ball Game





West River Electric Association in Wall, S.D., also added an electric car to its fleet. Sioux Valley Energy in Colman, S.D., has also leased a Nissan Leaf and named her "EVie." The car will appear at co-op events to allow members to kick the tires and maybe even test drive her!

# IS AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE RIGHT FOR YOU?

The Economics of Electric Vehicles Are Affected by Geography, Climate and How Your Electricity Is Generated.

**Paul Wesslund**

NRECA

Should your next car be an electric vehicle? The answer could depend on where you live.

Electric vehicles account for just 1.2 percent of the U.S. vehicle market, but sales are booming, growing 25 percent last year. And they're getting better and cheaper as researchers improve the batteries that power them. Here's a guide to help you decide if an electric car is for you – or if you just want to be smarter about one of the next big things in energy.

The first thing to realize about electric cars is they can drive more than enough miles for you on a single charge, even if you live out in the wide-open countryside.

## Location issue #1: The Distance Myth

Try keeping track of your actual daily use, advises Brian Sloboda, a program and product manager at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"If you're an insurance salesman, you're logging a lot of miles, so an electric car's not going to be for you," he says, noting that a typical range for an electric car today is more than 100 miles and ranges of 150 to 250 miles are becoming common. "But if you look at how many miles you drive in a day, for most people in the United States, even in rural areas, that number is under 40

miles per day. So if your car has a range of 120 miles, that's a lot of wiggle room."

According to the Federal Highway Administration, the average American drives 25 miles a day and for rural areas, that average is 34 miles a day.

Sloboda says another reason it's worth thinking realistically about your daily mileage comes from the most likely way an electric car would be refueled. When an electric car is done driving for the day, you can plug it in to recharge overnight. Essentially, you're topping off the gas tank while you sleep, giving you a fully-charged battery every morning.

### There are three ways to charge an electric car:

- **Level 1** – The simplest charging technique is to plug the car into a standard home outlet. That will charge the battery at a rate that will add from two to five miles to its range each hour. That's pretty slow, but Sloboda notes the battery might start the charging session already partly charged, depending on how far it's driven that day.
- **Level 2** – Faster charging will require a professional installer to upgrade the home's voltage for a unit that will add between 10 and 25 miles of range for each hour of charging – a rate that would fully charge the battery overnight. Sloboda says installing a Level 2 charger in a house or garage would run \$500 to \$800

for the equipment, plus at least that much for the labor. Timers can also be used to charge the vehicle in the middle of the night when electric consumption is typically lower.

■ **Level 3** – DC fast charge requires specialized equipment more suited to public charging stations and will bring a car battery up to 80 percent of capacity in 30 minutes. Sloboda warns this high-speed technique should only be used for special long-distance driving, since it can degrade the battery over time. That's also why DC chargers shouldn't be used to bring the battery up to 100 percent.

## Location issue #2: Off-peak Electric Rates

What you pay to charge your electric car could also depend on where you live, says Sloboda. He advises checking to see whether your local electric co-op offers a lower rate to charge an electric vehicle overnight, when the utility has a lower demand for electricity.

"It's different depending on where you are in the country," says Sloboda. Some local co-ops have fairly stable electric demand throughout a typical day, so they may not offer a special electric vehicle rate. He adds, "There are areas of the country where the on-peak, off-peak difference in price is extreme," so that it might make financial sense for the utility to offer an overnight charging rate.

Another factor affecting the economics of an electric car is, of course, the cost of the vehicle.

"These cars are really in the luxury and performance car categories," says Sloboda. As electric cars improve, projections put their cost coming down to match conventional vehicles by about the year 2025. But today, the average electric car costs close to \$40,000, compared with less than \$30,000 for an internal combustion engine.

## Location issues #3 and #4: Environment and Geography

For many people, one of the biggest selling points for electric cars is their effect on the environment and that can also depend on where you live.

The sources of electricity for a local utility vary across the country – some areas depend heavily on coal-fired power plants, others use larger shares of solar or wind energy. One major environmental group analyzed all those local electric utility fuel mixes and determined that for most of the country, electric vehicles have much less of an effect on the environment than conventional vehicles. That study by the Union of Concerned Scientists shows that in the middle part of the country, driving an electric vehicle has the equivalent environmental benefits of driving a gasoline-powered car that gets 41 to 50 miles per gallon. For much of the rest of the country, it's like driving a car that gets well over 50 miles per gallon.

"Seventy-five percent of people now live in places where driving on electricity is cleaner than a 50 MPG gasoline car," says the report from the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Other local factors that will affect an electric car's performance include climate and geography, says Sloboda. The range of the vehicle will be affected by whether you regularly drive up and down mountains or make a lot of use of the heater or air conditioner.

Sloboda concedes that electric vehicles are not for everybody – yet. One limit to their growth is that no major carmaker offers an espe-

cially popular choice, a pickup truck.

Sloboda says there's no technological barrier to making an electric pickup. He even suggests possible advantages: a heavy battery in the bottom would lower the center of gravity for better handling and at a remote worksite, the battery could run power tools.

"Within the next 24 months, I believe there will be a credible pickup truck on the market," says Sloboda. "It's just a matter of time."

Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.

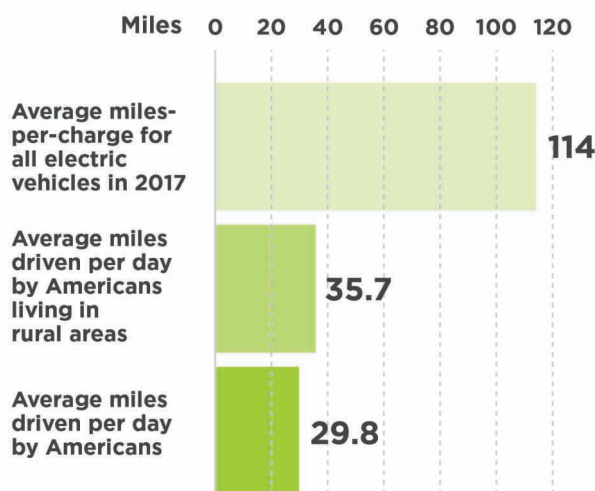
## Easing Electric Vehicle Range Anxiety

Range anxiety—fear of the battery running out before you're able to recharge—is a roadblock to wider use of electric vehicles.

But statistics show this fear is overblown, even if you live in a rural area. While extra planning may be needed for vacations or longer trips, nearly everyone's daily driving needs can be met with one charge.



### AVERAGE MILE COMPARISON



And when you're done driving your electric vehicle for the day, you can plug it in to recharge overnight, "topping off the tank" while you sleep!

Sources: Dept. of Energy, Energy Information Administration, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.



## May 23-25

Music Fest, Lake Benton, MN,  
507-368-9627

## May 24-26

South Dakota Kayak  
Challenge, Yankton, SD,  
605-864-9011

## May 25-26

Annual SDRA Foothills Rodeo,  
Wessington Springs, SD,  
605-770-4370

## May 30-June 1

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

## May 31-June 2

Fort Sisseton Historical  
Festival, Lake City, SD,  
605-448-5474

## May 31-June 2

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD,  
605-353-7340

## May 31-June 3

Fish Days, Lake Andes, SD,  
605-487-7694

## June 1

Dairy Fest, Brookings, SD,  
605-692-7539

## June 1

Annual Casey Tibbs Match of  
Champions, Fort Pierre, SD,  
605-494-1094

## June 1-2

Spring Volksmarch, Crazy  
Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

## June 2

Mickelson Trail Marathon,  
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

## June 2

Buffalo Ridge Chorale  
Concert, 4 p.m., St. John  
Cantius, Wilno, MN,  
605-479-3438



## June 29:

Rhubarb Festival,  
Leola, SD,  
605-824-0014

Photo courtesy: McPherson County Herald

## June 2-August 11

Red Cloud Indian Art Show,  
Pine Ridge, SD, 605-867-8257

## June 6-9

South Dakota Shakespeare  
Festival, Vermillion, SD,  
605-622-0423

## June 7

East of Westreville with  
Kenny Putnam Kiwanis  
Club Concert, 7 p.m., Riggs  
Theatre, Pierre, SD,  
605-280-0818

## June 7-8

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD,  
Contact Brett Rauterkus at  
605-722-1430

## June 7-9

Annual Black Hills Quilt  
Show & Sale, Rapid City, SD,  
605-394-4115

## June 8

Festival of Cultures, Sioux  
Falls, SD, 605-367-7401

## June 8-9

Siouxland Renaissance  
Festival, Sioux Falls, SD,  
1-866-489-9241

## June 13-15

Czech Days, Tabor,  
SD, 605-463-2478,  
[www.taborczechdays.com](http://www.taborczechdays.com),  
[taborczechdays@gmail.com](mailto:taborczechdays@gmail.com)

## June 15

International Vinegar Museum  
Festival, Vinegar Museum will  
be open all day, Roslyn, SD,  
320-808-8873

## June 21

Dalesburg Midsummer  
Festival, Dalesburg Lutheran  
Church, Rural Vermillion, SD,  
605-253-2575

## June 21-23

Scavenger's Journey, A  
treasure trove event with  
antiques, rummages and  
more stretching from  
Mt. Vernon to Kadoka,  
SD, Contact Elaine  
Titze at 605-999-7287,  
[www.scavengersjourney.com](http://www.scavengersjourney.com)

## June 28-29

Senior Games, Madison, SD,  
Contact Bernie Schuurmans  
at 605-270-3327

## July 10

Tracy Area Garden's and  
Quilts Tour, 2 to 8 p.m.,  
Garvin/Lake Shetek Area,  
Maps and tickets at Bitton  
Road House, Garvin, MN,  
507-629-3252

## July 11-13

Senior Games, Aberdeen, SD,  
Contact Gene Morsching at  
605-626-7015

## July 19-20

Gumbo Ridge Bronc Ride and  
Ranch Rodeo, Murdo, SD,  
605-669-3031

**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.**