

Cooperative Connections



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

Page 8

**Celebrating
Midsummer
at Dalesburg**

Page 12

Employee and Member Dedication Outlast Storm



Ken Schlimgen

General Manager

Many thanks to the members who assisted our crews with pushing snow and pulling our trucks out of the mud and snow. A big thanks to those members who let us know where the lines or poles were down.

Spring Storm Wesley travelled across South Dakota and impacted Central Electric beginning Wednesday April 10. The cooperative had outages across six counties with reports of ice the size of pop cans on our lines in the Stickney area. Our lineman did venture out on Wednesday to restore power where possible. Most of the work was kept very close to our warehouses as conditions just kept getting worse throughout the day and our crews were called in before sunset.

Despite the poor visibility and road conditions on Thursday, our employees were asked to report to work at 10 a.m. This was the peak of the storm and outages across our state impacted 9,400 rural electric members across 27 counties.

Of course this was not the first winter storm our employees have experienced. On Monday and Tuesday, preparations were being made. Our storm checklist of responsibilities was reviewed, fuel tanks were filled, generator was ready to go, tire chains were prepared, trucks were stocked, and the dispatch center was ready to take calls. We were prepared for the worst and hoping for the best.

I admire the dedication of our employees and our members especially during events like Storm Wesley. Our linemen, both Central Electric's and the help we received from other electric cooperatives, worked well into the evening hours. Brian Bultje and I stayed until after 11 p.m. each night waiting for the last person to return to the warehouse. No complaining from anyone, and you almost had to convince them to quit for the day.

By Saturday at 8 p.m., power was restored to all residential accounts. Crews worked Sunday to make more permanent repairs and to respond to outage calls that came in throughout the night. We have 30+ poles to replace and numerous line breaks to repair. We expect to discover more issues once road conditions improve, and we travel across our system.

I need to give a huge THANK YOU to so

many people. Many thanks to the members who assisted our crews with pushing snow and pulling our trucks out of the mud and snow. A big thanks to those members who let us know where the lines or poles were down. It is a huge help to know where to send crews and the best route to get there when road conditions are so poor. Thanks to everyone for your patience as we worked to get your power back on.

A big thanks to Arden Lemke. Arden brought snow removal equipment to our office on Tuesday. His hard work allowed us to get equipment in and out of our warehouse throughout the storm. I also need to thank the county and state employees for the help they provided in opening roads and being one phone call away. And a big shout out to Oahe Electric of Blunt, West Central Electric of Murdo, and Northern Electric of Bath. Your crews and equipment recharged our efforts and made such a huge difference in the restoration of power to our members.

After a major event like Spring Storm Wesley, we review what went well and what areas we can improve in. What we did well with everyone's help was get power restored rather quickly in some very tough conditions without a single accident. Where we need to improve is in the area of updating phone numbers for members, county workers, and others. This information is so important during our storm restoration efforts. Please go online, put a note in your bill, or call our office and make sure your phone information is current.

As I write this column, snow is in the forecast for this coming weekend. By the time you read this, people will be enjoying the outdoors and field work will be starting. Be aware of your surroundings this spring. Keep in mind, there could still be damaged poles, or downed wires in and along roads, ditches, and fields. If you see a problem with high voltage power lines, stay away and report it to our office.

Until Next time, Be Safe.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

(USPS 018-963)

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CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 850, Mitchell, SD 57301. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Central Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to their cooperative and living better with electricity. Also available at www.centralec.coop.

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Office Information

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800-477-2892 or
605-996-7516
www.centralec.coop



Mission Statement

Provide Reliable Energy & Services with a Commitment to Safety and Member Satisfaction

Basin Bus Tour July 17-19, 2019

Seats still available on the North Dakota Bus Tour for only \$25 per member



Spots are still available for you to join us on the 3-day Basin Electric Bus Tour! For only \$25 a member or \$50 a couple, you will receive round-trip transportation, lodging, meals, tour access as well as jokes and entertainment by Manager of Member Services/Marketing and tour leader Patrick Soukup.

Attendees will depart Wednesday, July 17 and return the afternoon/evening of Friday, July 19. Tours include the Oahe Dam, a coal gasification plant, coal generating plant and working coal mine. The Bus Tour is an opportunity for members to see their electricity generation first-hand!

For more information, contact our office at 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516 or visit www.centralec.coop.

Employee Years of Service

Brian Bultje

June 9 - 33 years

Gene Gaikowski

June 12 - 2 years

Al Spader

June 15 - 32 years

Tim Johnson

June 26 - 41 years

Thank you for your service to the cooperative!

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



Hazard Recognition

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

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2019
nsc.org/nsm

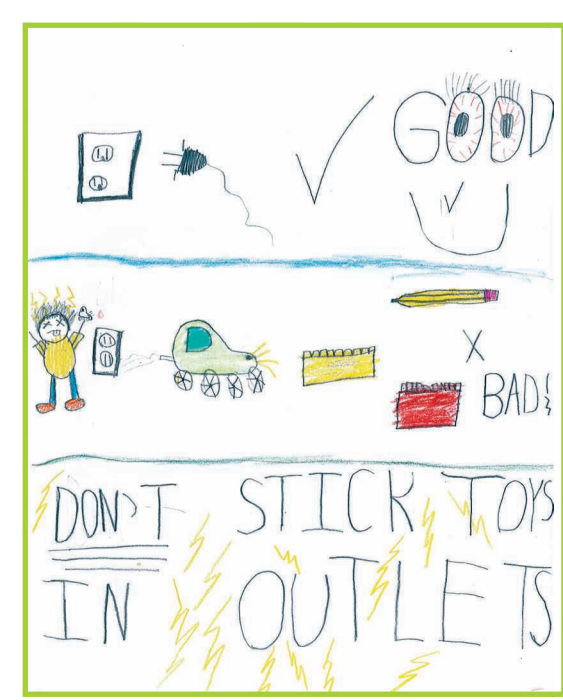



Falls

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

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2019
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

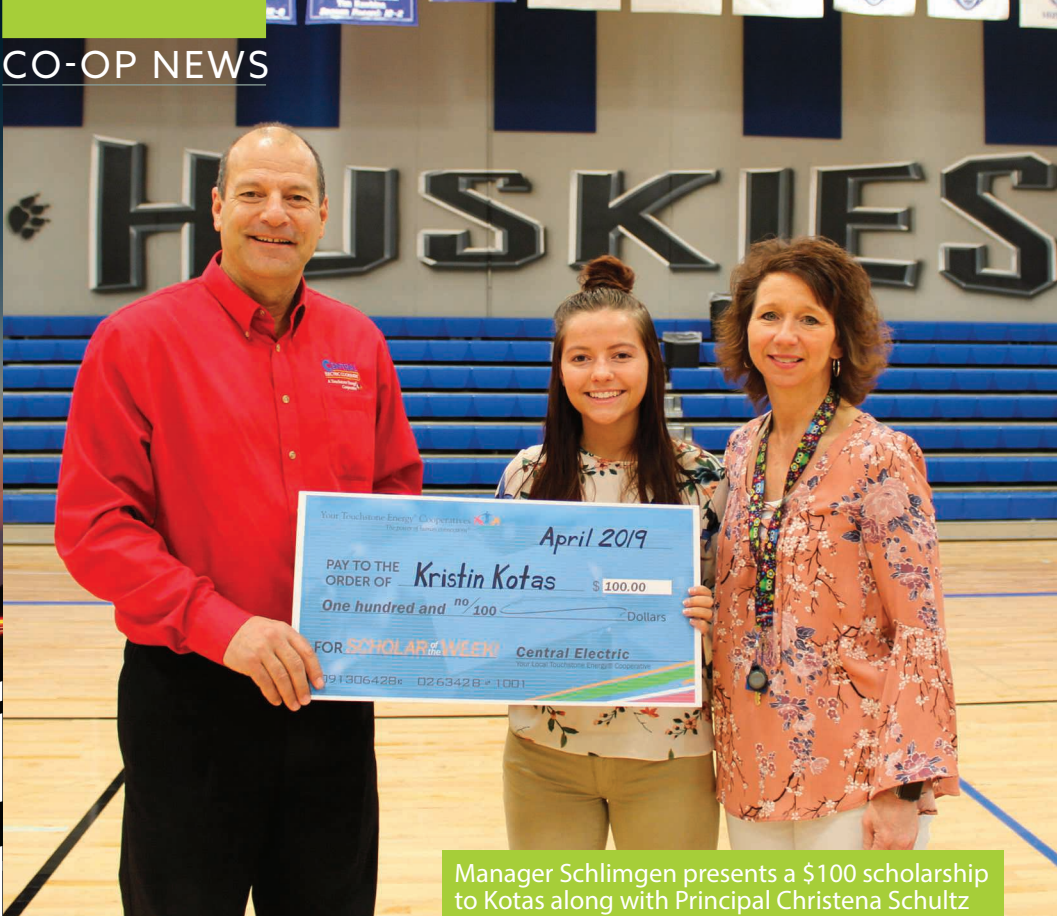
Combine sugar and cocoa in large microwavable bowl; make a well in the center. Place cut-up butter and milk in well; do not stir. Microwave on HIGH for 2 minutes; add vanilla. Blend with stick blender or mixer until smooth; stir in nuts. Pour into greased 8x8-inch square pan. Refrigerate until firm;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

PRE-PLANNING CAN
SAVE LIVES
 DURING PLANTING



Manager Schlimgen presents a \$100 scholarship to Kotas along with Principal Christena Schultz

Bridgewater-Emery Senior Named Scholar of the Week

Kristin Kotas was named the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week for the week of April 28 – May 4, 2019.

Kotas is the daughter of Greg Kotas and Angel Eddy and is currently a senior at Bridgewater-Emery High School.

In addition to her 4.0 GPA, Kotas is an athlete and active member of her school through student council, FFA, FCCLA, National Honor Society, yearbook, newspaper, oral interpretation, school play and band. She also is in 4-H and serves on the Emery Development Committee. In her spare time, Kotas runs her t-shirt business that she developed for her senior project.

Kotas plans to attend the University of Sioux Falls for criminal justice and hopes to attend law school.

Central Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, awarded a \$100 scholarship to Kotas. Central Electric Manager Ken Schlimgen visited Bridgewater-Emery High School to recognize her and present the award. Kotas was featured on KSFY TV news on Monday, April 29 and again on Tuesday, April 30, which can be found on KSFY.com.

The Scholar of the Week scholarship was created by KSFY and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to recognize outstanding students across the state who set an example of hard work and high academic standards. Area school principals and faculty nominate students for this award, based on excellence in the classroom, service in the community and extracurricular participation. The KSFY staff makes weekly selections throughout the school year.

When it's go-time, it's go-time.

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

Together we are

**RE-
 ENERGIZING
 FARM SAFETY**

Service Department Named "Geothermal Dealer of the Year"

Central Electric Cooperative's heating and cooling department earned 2018 Geothermal Dealer of the Year from vendor Comfort Products Distributing.

Central Electric actively supports geothermal installations for its energy efficiency and cost savings to our members by offering financing and rebate options. Thank you to our members who support your local service department!



Lincoln Feistner



Donn Koster



Wade Brozik



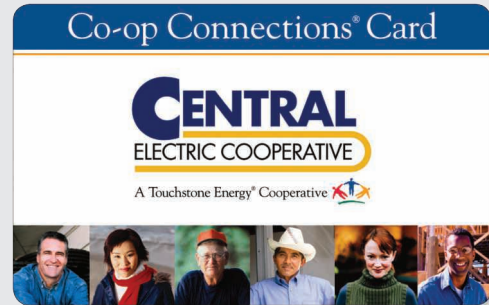
Aaron Punt

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR \$95 SPRING TUNE-UP

\$95 Tune-Up price does not include additional parts, material or tax.

800-477-2892 · 605-996-7516
www.centralec.coop

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10% discount on residential service or maintenance work only. Discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount or for commercial work or installation.
- 6) **Two Dreams Boutique, Mitchell, SD;**
10% off in store order.

For a full list of ways to save, visit www.centralec.coop.

To request a card or become a participating business, visit www.centralec.coop or call 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516.





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.

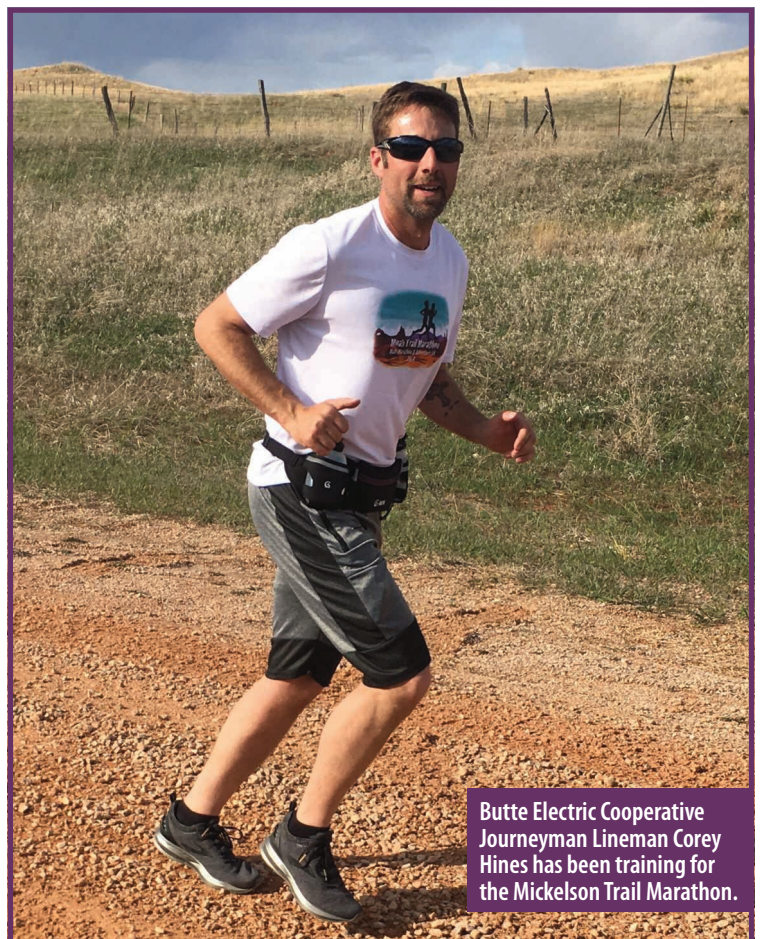
Corey Hines, journeyman lineman from Butte Electric Cooperative in Newell, S.D., will be running the full Mickelson Trail Marathon for the first time this year. He started running recently for the fun of it and it snowballed into a marathon challenge, one he hasn't backed down from.

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)



Crews reported ice the size of a pop can on lines near Stickney, SD.

SPRING STORM WESLEY

“All Hands on Deck” for April Storm

Courtney J. Deinert

courtneyd@centralec.coop

The April winter storm nicknamed “Wesley” affected our members beginning Wednesday, April 10th as the rain, ice and wind conditions rolled into our territory. This caused both East River’s transmission lines and our own distribution lines to gallop.

Over 4,000 Central Electric members experienced some kind of power blink or outage that Wednesday. Outage calls rang in non-stop that afternoon, and we thank our members for your patience on the line and to those who had to leave a voicemail.

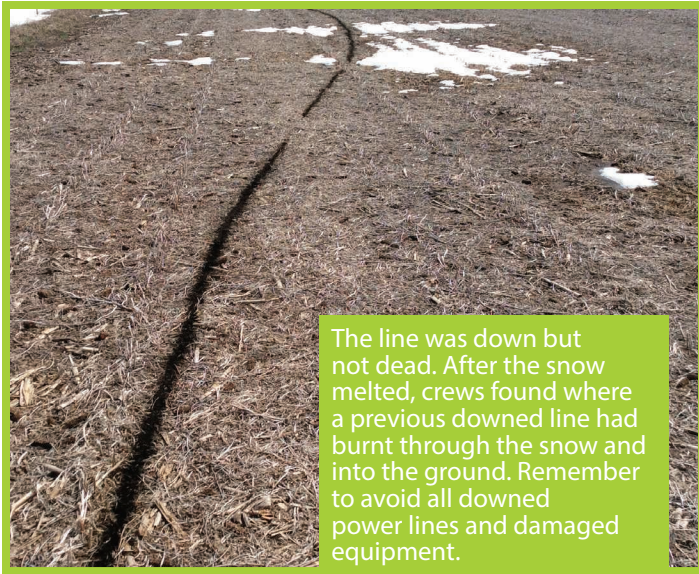
Overnight into Thursday morning, the heavy snow arrived. On Thursday and Friday, crews and employees battled the deep and drifting snow to make it to work and begin restoration.

Central Electric had over 730 members out of power beginning Thursday, April 11, and still 650 on Friday morning, April 12. The conditions truly slowed down repairs those two days as crews battled visibility and digging out trucks while out on the roads.

Central Electric requested additional help from the South Dakota Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, and on Friday afternoon, twelve additional



Sometimes climbing poles is the easy part! Lineman Jon Reichert waded out into an “ice bath” to make repairs on a pole located 3 miles north of Loomis, SD. Photo by Electrician Rodney Weber who assisted linecrews during the storm.



The line was down but not dead. After the snow melted, crews found where a previous downed line had burnt through the snow and into the ground. Remember to avoid all downed power lines and damaged equipment.

linemen and extra equipment arrived from Northern Electric (Bath, SD), Oahe Electric (Blunt, SD), and West Central Electric (Murdo, SD).

Crews arrived in high spirits on Saturday and made significant progress on the remaining 300 outages. All known residences were restored Saturday evening. A couple dozen more outages came in that night, and crews resumed efforts on Sunday to restore power and repair equipment.

Crews from the assisting three co-ops were dismissed on Sunday morning to go help at Sioux Valley Energy near Sioux Falls who still had roughly 2,000 members out of power on Sunday.

Outages were scattered across our territory, which required crews to cover lots of ground to restore power. The majority of damages included line breaks on single-phase lines.

Thank you to our members for your continued patience, understanding and support of our employees throughout the storm repairs. We know many of our members had their own storm challenges including calving in the mud and snow, water in basements, going to work with no electricity at home, and more. Our members were in our thoughts as crews pushed hard to restore power, and we appreciated the support in return.



Electric cooperatives nationwide celebrated "National Lineman Appreciation Day" on April 8. The family of Foreman Curt Guindon made this cake to celebrate our crews!

Can We Reach You During an Outage?

During the April storm, our office was able to keep in contact with members via email and phone. Additionally, crews would contact individual members if they needed information about an area or assistance clearing roads to restore power. In some cases, we were unable to reach members during the storm.

For future events, please make sure our office can reach you. Many members have retired their landline phones, and our information is out of date.

To update your information, please:

- 1) Contact our office at 800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516;
- 2) Email billinggroup@centralec.coop or cec@centralec.coop; or
- 3) Sign up/Log in to your SmartHub account by visiting www.centralec.coop. A SmartHub mobile app is also available.

Members can also take advantage of additional notifications such event cancellations by providing their mobile phone numbers or email.



Pictured: A member assists Plankinton Area Foreman Curt Guindon in southeastern Aurora county.

Central Electric crews contacted individual members where needed to help clear roads so they could restore power. Thank you to the landowners and farmers as well as our state, county and township plows who assisted these crews! Please update your information for any future situations where our crews or office need to reach you.

Celebrating Midsommar

For 150 Years, Dalesburg Community Has Gathered in Celebration

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdea.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

Preparing for the Moment

Generator Issues



Patrick Soukup

Manager of Member Services/Marketing

I thought I was ready for what happened—but I really wasn't, and in the middle of the night, I was drilling a hole in my home to drop a cord into the house.

It has been a long cold and heating season this year ending with the reminder who really is control of our weather (Mother Nature). The April storm that had rain, sleet, ice and snow tested the endurance of many of our employees and members. This being my first major storm that significantly affected our area showed me how much I really take for granted.

Due to the intensity of the storm and with members out of power, some for hours and others up to several days, many looked to an alternative source of power. To start, members were dealing with very wet conditions prior to the storm. When the weather conditions threatened power reliability, many looked to generators for a power source.

I was in the same place during the 2005 storm that we had after Thanksgiving. My family had just welcomed my youngest son prior to that ice storm. I was working for the local hospital at the time, and they were out of power also. So I had stress on all sides trying to deal with the outage.

So the night I lost power, I had prepared for the moment. Every gas can I had was filled up and had a fresh oil change on my 5000-watt refurbished generator. I thought I was ready for what happened—but I really wasn't, and in the middle of the night, I was drilling a hole in my home to drop a cord into the house to feed the panel in my home.

My goal was to put the generator on the front steps and run my geothermal heating system. That was my next mistake. I really didn't know what kind of electric load that I was trying to start. To better understand my position, I was a working electrician at the time and didn't take into consideration the starting load of this piece of equipment.

There were other problems that surfaced during the next seven days, but the biggest issue was the quality of power my generator produced. I am not sure what day it was, but at some point, the air intake on the generator had issues getting air into the unit. I heard some different sounds coming from the unit, so I jumped up and grabbed my meter to take some voltage readings. This mistake cost me some electronic equipment that night. I metered power readings all the way down to 90 volts that night (as opposed to a proper 120 volts) and quickly shut the generator down.

Long story short, I needed to give my generator more of my attention. A good maintenance program and understanding what my generator is capable of would have better prepared me for the moment.

I now have a plan to better prepare my home and family, especially if I can't be there. I still have the same generator, and it has seen extended operation just like in 2005. This reconditioned generator is now run or exercised every year, oil changed, and tested under load (or realistic power demands experienced during an outage) to ensure that I will have an option that will not damage any equipment in my home.

I would suggest our membership do the same with their equipment. If you have any questions about what on your generator should be tested or how, give us a call at Central Electric Cooperative so that when Mother Nature takes over again, you're prepared for the moment.

When the power goes out,
you go on.

KOHLER Generators



How much will it cost?

When shopping standby home generators, your cost will vary based upon home size and what you'd like to power during an outage. Our team will walk you through these details and provide you with a personalized quote, no strings attached.

Our Team of Electricians



Dwight Keegel



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May 23-25

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

May 25-26

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

Thursday, June-September

Mitchell Farmer's Market,
Featuring fresh produce,
meats, eggs, baked goods,
handcrafted items and more,
4:30 to 7 p.m., Corn Palace
Plaza, Main Street, Mitchell,
SD

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-August 11

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

**June 29:**

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

June 7-8

Howard Headers, Cruise
Night, Friday at 6 p.m., Car
Show Saturday, Registration
at 10:30 a.m., Show at Noon,
Main Street, Howard, SD,
Contact Gary Hueners at
605-203-1086

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,
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

June 21-July 12

River City Friday Nights
"Bridging Families and
Communities Together!"
Weekly Fridays 6 to 10 p.m.,
Live music, vendors, kids
activities, beer garden, Free
Admission, Main Street,
Chamberlain, SD, Contact
Mollie at 605-682-9051

June 28-29

"Fishing for a Cure" Ladies
Only Fishing Tournament,
Rules Meeting Friday at
6 p.m., Tournament Saturday
at 8 a.m., American Creek
Marina, Chamberlain, SD,
Contact Kelli at 605-730-1967

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 19-20

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

August 17

American Island Days,
American Creek Campground,
Chamberlain, SD, Contact
Donna at 605-680-1202

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.