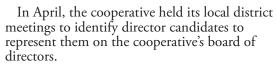




Members: Mark your calendars & join us

The cooperative's 84th Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7th and it will be held at the cooperative's warehouse in Tyler. The annual meeting report is included in this month's newsletter, and we will have copies at the annual meeting.

The Annual Meeting is held each year to update the membership on what is going on at the cooperative and how the cooperative is doing financially. The cooperative also holds its director elections during the annual meeting. The election process is where the membership gets a chance to elect the individuals that will represent them on the cooperative's board of directors.





Tim O'Leary General Manager

This year's director candidates are Scott Johnson and Kelly Sik in District 1, Galen Grant for a 3-year term and Joel Buyck for a 1-year term in District 2, and Dale Fier in District 3.

You can find more information about all of the director candidates on pages 8 and 9 in the annual meeting report. Once the district's business meeting was completed, cooperative staff provided an update on cooperative activities for the previous year, programs offered by the cooperative and answer questions from the members at the district meetings.

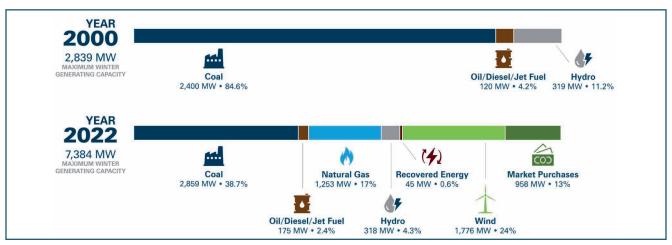
We are still waiting on the updated numbers for 2022's electric generation and what resources were used to generate the electricity that our members use each day. I will share the updated information in a future newsletter article.

However, I was able to share information on what our power supplier, Basin Electric, has been doing over the last 22 years as they transition their generation resources. In 2000, 84.6% of their 2,838.9 MW generating capacity consisted of coal-based generation. By 2022, 38.7% of their 7,383.7 MW generating capacity came from coal. Over this same time period, Basin added 1,775.8 MWs of wind, 45.1 MWs of recovered energy resources, 1,252.7 MWs of natural gas and purchases 958.1 MWs from the open market. John Griffith - 90802. While we continue to advocate for an all of the above energy strategy, Basin Electric continues to take an aggressive approach to lower the carbon intensity of their generation resources.

We want to assure you that this transition will not change our mission on making sure that we are supplying you with reliable and affordable electricity.

Please mark your calendar and join us for your annual meeting on Wednesday, June 7th.

The annual meeting represents our largest scheduled event during the year, and it includes a catered meal from the Lincoln County Pork Producers and the Country House. It is a great opportunity to meet and visit with cooperative employees and directors and hear reports on the cooperative's financial position and other activities going on at your electric cooperative. A schedule of events is included on page 3 in this newsletter if you want to learn more about what to expect.



COOPERATIVE

CONNECTIONS

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC

(ISSN 1540-6989)

Board of Directors

Dale Fier, Taunton – Vice President Kathleen Schreurs, Tyler - Sec./Treas. Jared Dritz, Porter Galen Grant, Russell Mary Gunnink, Lake Benton Scott Johnson, Tyler Mike Longtin, Taunton James Rokeh, Minneota

Staff and Personnel

Tim O'Leary – General Manager Lyle Lamote – Line Superintendent Kristi Jensen - Finance Manager Brian Jeremiason - Manager of Marketing & External Relations Rochelle Borresen – Accountant Lisa Hauswedell - Billing Clerk Jessica Gums - Executive Assistant

Staff and Personnel Journeyman Linemen:

Ross Birath Dan Tutt Tyler Blomme Tyler Sand Nathan Pavek Trent Skjefte – Apprentice Lineman Sam Rohde – Apprentice Lineman Wade Thooft - Operations Staff Assistant

Alan Fischer – Warehouse Coordinator/Work Order Clerk

www.llec.coop

Lyon-Lincoln Electric hours from May 1 to September 30, 2023 are 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM Mon. thru Fri.

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, 205 W. Hwy. 14, PO Box 639, Tyler, MN 56178. Electric co-op members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Tyler Post Office, Tyler, MN 56178 and at additional mailing offices.

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lessica Gums. Editor





YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON			
	Feb 2022	Feb 2023	
Total Revenue	\$2,169,284	\$2,080,000	
Cost of Power	\$968,315	\$998,362	
Operating Expenses	\$825,076	\$755,876	
Operating Margins	\$375,893	\$325,762	
KWH's Purchased	22,178,535	21,022,317	
Services in Place	4,130	4,123	
Miles of Line	1,671	1,670	
Revenue per Mile	\$1,298	\$1,246	

Home Electrical Safety Tips

Electricity always seeks the easiest path to the ground. It tries to find a conductor, such as metal, wet wood, water – or your body! Your body is 70% water, so if you touch an energized bare wire or faulty equipment while you are grounded, electricity will instantly pass through you to the ground, causing a harmful – or fatal – shock.

The amount of electricity used by one 7.5 watt Christmas tree bulb can kill you if it passes through your chest. Even if it isn't fatal, electrical shock can easily cause serious falls, burns, or internal bleeding.

Your Home Wiring is just a number of loops, or circuits. A "live" wire brings current to a light or an outlet. A "neutral" wire returns current to its source. Between inside wiring and outside power lines is a service panel.

Most service panels have a main switch. Use it to cut all power when changing a fuse or in case of fire or shock. If you don't have a main switch, turn off all circuit breakers. Don't tamper with your electric meter. You'll risk shock, explosion, or fire.

Your service panel contains fuses or circuit breakers which interrupt power to specific circuits in case of a short circuit or overload. If this happens:

- Unplug appliances.
- Switch off power at the main switch.
- Try to determine the cause of the problem and correct it if possible.
- Replace the fuse that has a broken metal strip with a new fuse of the same rating – typically 15 amperes.
- If you have circuit breakers instead, switch the one that's "off" to "on."
- Restore power.

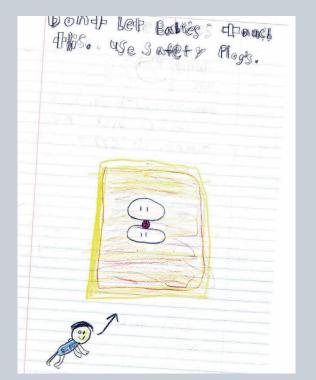
Never use anything other than a fuse to replace a fuse – you could cause a fire. If fuses blow or a circuit breaker trips often, contact a qualified repairman.

Grounding: The Third Prong

When you use a plug with three prongs, the third prong connects insidet he outlet with a "ground wire," which usually connects to a water pipe or a ground rod at the service panel. As a result, in case of a short circuit, electricity should flow through the grounding system instead of through you. Never remove the third prong.

Appliance Safety

Remember the most important rule for appliances — electricity and water don't mix. Keep appliances, especially hair dryers, away from bathtubs, puddles, sinks and wet hands. Wet skin increases the risk of shock, so unplug an appliance before cleaning — even if off, it can shock. Never put metal objects in live parts of appliances or in outlets. If an appliance overheats, unplug it and have it checked. Don't overload outlets. Use only appliances that are approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories.

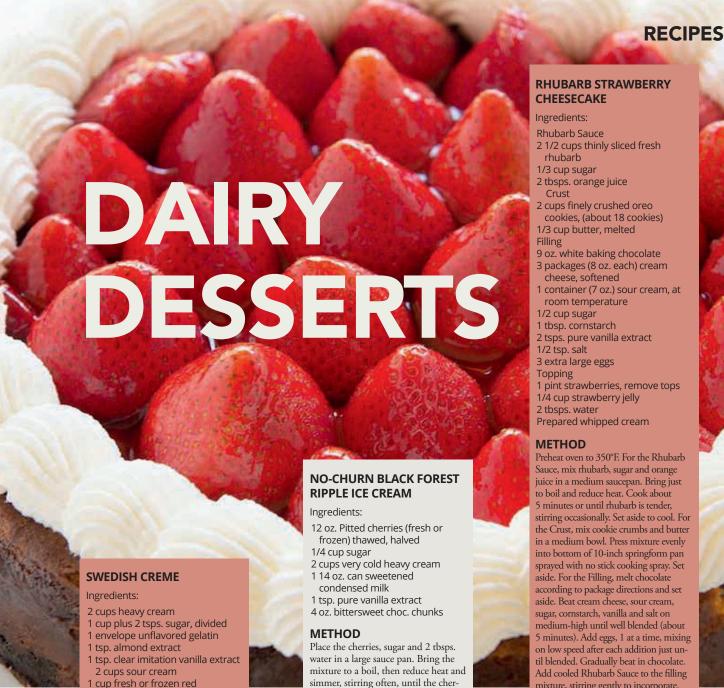


Power Line Safety

Paisley Koch, age 8

Paisley Koch, age 8, warns about the dangers of electrical outlets and babies. She gives great advice on keeping children safe. Paisley is the daughter of Cameron and Kayla Koch from Owanka, S.D., members of West River Electric.

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.



raspberries

- In a saucepan, combine cream and 1 cup sugar. Cook and stir constantly over low heat until candy thermometer reads 160 degrees, or steam rises from pan. (Do not boil). Stir in gelatin until dissolved; add extracts. Cool 10 minutes.
- Whisk in sour cream. Pour into eight dessert glasses or small bowls. Chill at least 1 hour.
- Before serving, combine raspberries and remaining sugar; spoon over each serving.

Joanne Singrey-Johnson Watertown, S.D.

simmer, stirring often, until the cherries break down and the liquid turns to a thick syrup, 10 to 12 minutes. Transfer to a bowl and refrigerate until cool, about 15 minutes. Using an electric mixer, beat the cream, condensed milk and vanilla in a large bowl on medium/high until stiff peaks form, 3 to 4 minutes. Gently fold in the choc. chunks. Spoon half the cream mixture into a 4 1/2 x 8 1/2 loaf pan or 1 1/2 qt. freezer safe container. Spoon half the cherry mixture on top. Using a knife, swirl the cherry mixture through the cream. Repeat with the remaining cream and cherry mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and freeze until set. Keep frozen for up to 2 weeks.

Sue Hove Sioux Falls, S.D.

RHUBARB STRAWBERRY

2 1/2 cups thinly sliced fresh

cookies. (about 18 cookies)

3 packages (8 oz. each) cream

1 container (7 oz.) sour cream, at

Preheat oven to 350°F. For the Rhubarb Sauce, mix rhubarb, sugar and orange juice in a medium saucepan. Bring just to boil and reduce heat. Cook about 5 minutes or until rhubarb is tender, stirring occasionally. Set aside to cool. For the Crust, mix cookie crumbs and butter in a medium bowl. Press mixture evenly into bottom of 10-inch springform pan sprayed with no stick cooking spray. Set aside. For the Filling, melt chocolate according to package directions and set aside. Beat cream cheese, sour cream, sugar, cornstarch, vanilla and salt on medium-high until well blended (about 5 minutes). Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each addition just until blended. Gradually beat in chocolate. Add cooled Rhubarb Sauce to the filling mixture, stirring gently to incorporate. Pour Filling mixture over cookie crust. Bake 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until edge of cheesecake is firm and center is almost set. Allow to cool 30 minutes. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight. When cheesecake is completely cooled, place strawberries on top cut side down. Mix strawberry jelly and water in a small bowl. Brush over strawberries. Pipe whipped cream border around the cheesecake before serving. mccormick.com

Please send your favorite 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 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.



The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, March 27, 2023. Directors present were James Rokeh, Kathy Schreurs, Jared Dritz, Galen Grant, Mary Gunnink, Scott Johnson, Dale Fier, and Mike Longtin.

Also present at the meeting were General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, and Attorney, Michael W. Cable.

The Board and others in attendance stood and gave the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice-President, Dale Fier, then called the meeting to order and routine business was conducted including approval of the February 27, 2023 meeting minutes, a review of the check schedule, applications for memberships, and shares to be cancelled.

Kristi Jensen, Finance Manager, was not present at the Board meeting and General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, gave the Financial and Statistical Report for the period ending January 31, 2023. The Board then reviewed the Bad Debt Report for 2022 and correspondence that had been received from the National Information Solutions Cooperative concerning the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. capital credits summary.

Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent, gave the Outage Report to the Board for the month of February, 2023. He also gave the February Safety Report indicating that Cory Parr Parr from Federated Insurance and Bud Branham from NRECA were at the headquarters building to review the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. Commitment to Zero Contacts - Phase 2 survey with the crew leaders for Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. Mr. Lamote also indicated that the linemen would be cutting trees on the west side of the district and would be performing maintenance on lines.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, reviewed his report with the board which included the following: review of the gifts that were going to be available for the 2023 District/Annual Meetings, advised on questions about generator programs and whether the Cooperative offered or would offer a program, and reviewed the Basin Electric/Operation Round-Up Scholarship winners.

General Manager Timothy O'Leary then gave his manager's report; some of the items reviewed were as follows: The Board reviewed the February power bill and sales to members and compared those figures

to budgeted amounts, looked at line loss for the system, and reported on East River's MAC and REED meetings that he attended. Mr. O'Leary advised the Board that Linemen Appreciation Day will be Monday, April 10, 2023, then shared with the board upcoming meetings, events, and notices.

The Board reviewed the February Cyber Security Program Report. Then recessed for lunch at 12:01 P.M. and reconvened at 12:30 P.M. During the lunch recess the Board viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. video report which included the Basin Summary.

Vice-President, Dale Fier; Director, Scott Johnson; and Director, James Rokeh, gave a report on the NRECA Power Exchange Annual Meeting that they had attended on March 5th thru March 8th of 2023 in Nashville, Tennessee. The Board then reviewed the District meeting presentation topics and viewed the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. Notice of District Meetings Form that had been prepared and a document showing the Townships in each of the three districts.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice-President, Dale Fier, adjourned the meeting at 1:43 o'clock P.M.

Right-of-way spraying



In the upcoming weeks, if you see guys on 4-wheelers spraying in the ditches, don't be alarmed, it is Lyon-Lincoln's rightof-way (ROW) spraying program in action.

The spraying will be completed by Central Applicators with 4-wheelers during the month of June, 2023. The contractors used are fully licensed and certified and use a more targeted method of spraying to prevent drift, overspray, unnecessary spraying, and reduces the amount of herbicide used.

Central Applicators will be spraying in are electric distribution right-of-way and underneath powerlines on both sides in an effort to control the growth of woody-

stemmed vegetation, such as trees, that encroach on overhead powerlines causing outages and other problems.

The Townships in the 2023 ROW spraying program include:

Hansonville, Marble, Hendricks, Royal, Shaokaton, Ash Lake, Drammen, Diamond Lake, Verdi, and Lake Benton Townships in Lincoln County as well as Florida and Fortier Townships in Yellow Medicine County.

If you have questions or concerns about the right-of-way spraying program, please call our office at 1-800-927-6276 or 1-507-247-5505.

Vehicle Bid

Lyon-Lincoln Electric has the following item for sale by sealed bid. Bids will be accepted until 4:30pm, Friday, June 16, 2023. Sealed bids can be sent to LLEC, P.O. Box 639, Tyler, MN 56178. Vehicle is sold "as is". Payment will be made by cashiers or certified check. LLEC reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Bids will be opened at the June 26, 2023 board meeting. The vehicle can be seen at our office at 205 W. Hwy 14, Tyler, MN. Ask for Al Fischer. You may also call our office at 1-800-927-6276 for any questions.





Win Money

Find Your Name & Member Number and Win \$

The tradition of listing member names and numbers in the newsletter continues in the Cooperative Connections. If you find your name and member number, call the office and let us know and you will receive a \$20 energy credit.

In last month's Cooperative Connections, David Dybsetter & Wayne Livingston spotted their names and will receive an energy credit. Once again, there are two new names and numbers hidden in this issue. Good Luck!

Energy Saving Tip

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: energy.gov



J. Dylan Moro and his cousin, Knut Finnevolden, stand outside Moro's family-built treehouse yurt.

Moros' Treehouse Yurt Offers Unique Dakota Getaway

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

From the vast, open prairies of the east to the towering Black Hills in the west, South Dakota's diverse landscape presents a breathtaking tapestry of natural beauty for camping enthusiasts to explore. With 13 state parks, six national parks, and numerous recreation areas at their disposal, visitors and residents alike are always within arm's reach of a world-class camping experience, complete with the guarantee of an unforgettable sunset.

The allure of South Dakota's outdoors extends well beyond aesthetics. Outdoor enthusiasts can also find a plethora of adventure by rock climbing the steep quartzite cliffs of Palisades State Park or catching a glimpse of a wild buffalo or bighorn sheep in Custer State Park.

Given the abundance of breathtaking

locations, it comes as no surprise that many enthusiasts desire a camping experience that matches the splendor of their natural surroundings. Simply put, sometimes a basic tent just doesn't suffice. Campers have embraced a variety of specialty camping styles, such as staying in treehouses and fully furnished cabins. With options ranging from off-grid yurts to glamping tents outfitted with complimentary Wi-Fi, these innovative accommodations elevate the traditional outdoor experience, catering to each individual's preference, comfort, and style.

J. Dylan Moro and his wife, Keena Byrd-Moro, both residents of Spearfish,



Moro's treehouse yurt is fully furnished, complete with tables, couches and a wood stove.

S.D., erected one such location on the outskirts of Lead, S.D., with the help of their family and neighbors in 2015. After both serving in the military as Army Reserve Nurses, Dylan and Keena saved up enough money to purchase a lot of land and realize their dream of building a treehouse yurt in the Black Hills.

"It was always my dream to build up there," said Dylan. "We wanted to create an experience where people could escape and reconnect with nature."

Their dream became a reality thanks to the amazing effort put forward by their family, friends and neighbors. More than 10 individuals contributed to the project, assembling the yurt in just two days despite a snow storm during the construction process.

"I remember being so close to finishing the project in one day," he recalled. "Despite the snow, I could see the finish line and wanted to keep going, but the conditions were getting slippery. For safety, my wife convinced us to wait, and she was right, of course."

Even Keena's late father, who had Alzheimer's and Parkinson's during

the project, assisted how he could by peeling logs and building railings for the treehouse yurt. Dylan shared that having Keena's father as part of the project made the experience even more special for their family. The structure now stands as a testament to his memory and provides a connection with their family's past.

"He loved being up there and part of the project," he shared. "I can honestly say that we built this structure by hand without any machinery. We relied on the many hands of our friends and family to get the job done."

When the family finished, the end result was a rustic treehouse yurt perched between two pine trees on a mountain slope, overlooking the Mickelson Trail. Today, the Moros' treehouse yurt guarantees a remote escape, free from nearby tents or campers. And while it's only accessible by dirt road, the location still offers easy access to some major attractions of the Black Hills, including Deer Mountain Ski Resort and Pathways Spiritual Sanctuary.

"It's a really cool spot, and for me, I love having access to the trail for easy

biking and running," said Dylan. "And it's not unusual to catch a glimpse of an ongoing bike race or marathon on the Mickelson Trail from the deck of the vurt."

Listed on Airbnb, the location has garnered over 241 reviews and 4.83 stars from campers from all over the United States, featuring two beds, a wood stove, and an indoor fireplace. Even still, the getaway location isn't for the faint of heart. With no running water or onsite electricity, campers must rely on the yurt's amenities, which cater to campers seeking a balance of comfort and authenticity in their outdoor experience.

"Part of the beauty of the yurt is that it's totally off-grid, but people need to know what they are getting into," he said. "But that shouldn't scare anyone away. We have hosted people from all walks of life: people who have never camped before, people who are driving across the country and want a unique stay, and even locals who just want to get away. Everyone finds something here that they enjoy."



Perched between two trees, the Moro family yurt provides a unique getaway location for visitors to the Black Hills of South Dakota.



Help us return capital credits to our members

The "capital credit" refund that our members receive simply for being a member of, and purchasing power from, a rural electric cooperative is a yearly occurrence. Capital Credits are issued to our current Lyon-Lincoln Electric members as a credit on their electric bill. Although, for our former members that are now inactive, a check was placed in the mail. But what happens if the check gets lost, goes uncashed, or is returned to us by the post office?

Lyon-Lincoln Electric goes on the search for our "missing members" by publishing a list of checks from the previous year that remains undeliverable or uncashed for one reason or another. James Babcock - 11101. Please take a look at the list on the next page. If you know where any of our "missing members" are located, please call our office at 1-800-927-6276 or 1-507-247-5505.

It's also the right time to remind our members that when receiving a capital credit check in the mail, please make an effort to cash it as soon as possible, even if it's a small amount.

LLEC is ranked #20 out of 700

Co-Ops Nationwide for capital credit retirement

In total, LLEC has retired \$18.14 MILLION capital credits through 2022

We know that life takes people down many different paths, but as members come and go, it's always a good idea to provide us with a valid address. For members of Lyon-Lincoln Electric that are planning on moving from the area, its recommendable to inform us of your forwarding address, so future refund checks can be delivered to you.

For those dealing with the loss of a family member who was on "REA" at any time, remember to check with Lyon-Lincoln Electric for a possible lump-sum settlement for their estate.

MISSING MEMBERS

Name	Last Known Address	City, State
Almjeld, Chad	1355 Creekside Circle	Waconia, MN
Baze, Heather	2109 County Road 9	Marshall, MN
Boeck, Brandon & Theresa	1104 Hackberry Dr. Apt. 2	Marshall, MN
Bos, Herman	1533 41st St.	Edgerton, MN
Brazil, Crystal	26706 171st Place SE Apt. E301	Covington, WA
Bunnell, David A.	1045 Lochland Rd.	Geneva, NY
Carey, Kristine	PO Box 1021	Miles City, MT
Castle, Tom	603 Kaye St.	Tyler, MN
Chaulsett, Cory	541 Mound Ave.	Balaton, MN
Enga, George	23178 Red Rock Shores DR. SW	Hoffman, MN
Gomez, Angelica	PO Box 164	Lynd, MN
Grabau, Gary	PO Box 37	Lynd, MN
Guerra, Ysidro	PO Box 33	Lynd, MN
Guza, Alvin	PO Box 313	Minneota, MN
Harmon, Aaron	716 16th Ave. Apt. C	Brookings, SD
Hauschild, Kathryn	1207 Horizon Drive	Marshall, MN
Hedge, Matt	2901 190th St.	Amiret, MN
Her, Pao	600 Greenwood Ave. Lot 30	Tracy, MN
ohnson, Bruce & Suzanne	27924 240th St.	Belle Plaine, MN
ohnson, Marion M.	401 S. Hill St. Apt. 218A	Marshall, MN
ohnson, Shirley R.	240 Willow St.	Tyler, MN
ones, Laura	1953 State Hwy. 19	Marshall, MN
Kelly, Caroline	2077 180th St.	Marion, KS
Kesselring, Kenneth S.	2414 Chimney House Ter.	Midlothian, VA
Kirsch, Stephen	22754 Rolling Hills Rd.	Lewiston, MN
Kramer, Jon S.	105 Whitney Circle	Marshall, MN
Krueger, Sheila	112 Sherman St.	Lake Benton, MN
Middlen, Rick O.	507 W. Sweetbriar Place	
<u> </u>		Sioux Falls, SD Burnsville, MN
Miller, Chad	639 E. 143rd St.	
Moua, Blia-Thae	1229 Fairview St.	Marshall, MN
Neisen, Nancy	211 N. Park St.	Hendricks, MN
Nice, Bill & Susan	21352 Old US Highway 93	Florence, MT
Polfliet, Charity	413 Kossuth Ave.	Marshall, MN
Raynes, Ronald M.	3900 Coburg Rd. Spc 76	Eugene, OR
Roberts, Gary H.	307 Carrow St.	Marshall, MN
Rothmeier, Michael	312 Emory St.	Tracy, MN
Ruppert, Tammy	207 1/2 S. 4th St.	Marshall, MN
Scholten, Lacy	107 Spruce Drive	Marshall, MN
Schreier, Randy	PO Box 451	Balaton, MN
Shaw, Curtis	810 8th St. Apt. 111	Walnut Grove, MN
Spindler, Danielle	8308 Zane Ave. N.	Brooklyn Park, MN
Stassen, Bernadette	601 Village Dr. Apt. 213	Marshall, MN
Swedzinski, Bill	220 S. Prairie Ave. Apt. 3	Porter, MN
Thorstad, Gary J.	417 6th Ave. E.	Alexandria, MN
Vandenbroeke, Lee	617 Lincoln Drive NE	Saint Michael, MN
Verschelde, Thomas	210 S. Jackson St.	Minneota, MN
Weber, James	21348 476th Ave.	Aurora, SD
Welker, Robert	109 Walnut Ave. N.	Canby, MN



Phone number update

In order to best serve our members, Lyon-Lincoln Electric requires accurate telephone contact information. Please help us ensure that we have the correct number for vour account.

In times of high after hours call volume, such as during an electrical outage, we use your phone number to automatically route your call. We also use the number on your account to contact you in advance of planned outages.

In many cases cell phones have replaced landlines, and the information we have on file may no longer be accurate.

Please fill out the "Change of Address/Phone Number" portion on your next payment stub so that we can be sure that we have current and accurate contact information. call our office at 1-800-927-6276 or 1-507-247-5505.

With all of these ways to get information to you, we hope you won't be left in the dark the next time we have a planned outage.

March Outage Report

(10 or more consumers)

3/5-48 consumers were off 2 hours and 30 minutes in Lynd Township. The cause was an underground fault on a primary wire

3/10-19 consumers were off 1 hour and 30 minutes in Marble and Norman Townships. The cause was frost on the lines that opened an OCR.

3/31-11 consumers were off 3 hours and 30 minutes in Hendricks Township. The cause was ice on the lines that opened an OCR.



Photo Credit: Nate Breske

Essential No Matter What Field You Work In Or Play On

Laura London

Lake Region Electric Association

Millions of sports fans who tuned into Monday Night Football on January 2nd watched in shock as what had moments before appeared to be a regular night of sporting rivalry, turned into a heroic lifesaving response. Buffalo Bills defensive safety Damar Hamlin, a strong, athletic 25-year-old, suddenly collapsed on the playing field seconds after making a routine play against the Cincinnati Bengals. Almost instantaneously medical personnel sprang into action. The grave situation was reflected in the faces of the players, coaches, staff and fans. While Hamlin had no underlying medical condition, it was later determined that he had

experienced an often-fatal condition called commotio cordis, which is a rare disruption of the heart rhythm caused by a blunt, nonpenetrating impact to the chest that causes arrhythmia without structural damage to the heart. The quick response and administration of CPR saved Hamlin's

There are certain professions where the possibility of using life-saving interventions such as CPR and AEDs is more likely than others, and training is necessary. Certain risk factors, whether it be profession, age or health condition, can also increase the likelihood of someone experiencing a cardiac event. The fact is that cardiac arrest can happen anywhere, at any time, to any person. CPR and AED training is vital regardless of what field you work in or play on.

Nate Breske, a Webster graduate, and member of Lake Region Electric Association is the head athletic trainer for the Buffalo Bills NFL franchise. Breske's affable personality and engaging smile can seem out of place when pictured amongst the hard appearing coaches and personnel of the NFL, but there he is shining bright on the sidelines and behind the scenes to make sure the program runs smoothly. The multi-faceted position of head athletic trainer comes with a load of responsibility, including looking out for the health and safety of the athletes, designing rehabilitation programs for injured players, working closely with the performance and coaching staffs to get the most out of each player on gamedays, managing the medical

staffs, administrating care for injured players, and working with the GM and upper management to bring in players through free agency and the draft. Breske never expected that one of his players would suddenly collapse on the field from cardiac arrest seconds after attempting a tackle, but Breske and his team were prepared.

Breske described what went through his mind when he saw Hamlin collapse on the field, "I instantly knew that it was a major medical issue that would require our assistance and expertise to help. We were prepared, willing and able to help do whatever we could to help save his life." Lifesaving action was taken and CPR was performed by multiple people on the field in what Breske describes as "a complete team effort." An AED was also used before Hamlin was transported by ambulance to the hospital. Something that Breske would like others to know: "You have permission to help out to the best of your ability when there is an emergency situation that may make you uncomfortable. Doing something is better than doing nothing at all!"

Breske says the Bills organization requires even non-medical personnel to have CPR training "Everyone is certified, and we practice our EAP regularly to ensure that we are prepared for emergency situations such as this. The non-medical personnel are educated and will continue to be educated in the importance of knowing what to do in an emergency situation." Breske has never had to personally perform CPR but recalls performing the Heimlich maneuver on Andy Meek, a high school classmate. Breske said the incident with Hamlin taught the Bills, "It is important to be prepared for situations like this. You never want to be put in this situation, but if you are, being prepared will help to give you the best chances for a good outcome. Not everything was perfect, but we had the best outcome that we could have hoped and prayed for."

Due to the quick response and efforts by everyone on the field and the medical staff in Cincinnati, Hamlin was recently cleared to return to the game. Breske travelled with him to several heart specialists around the country to make sure all of the doctors were in agreement that Hamlin was physically and mentally healthy enough to return to action.

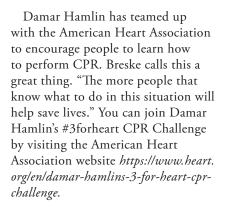
Marican Heart Association

Damar Hamlin's #3forHeart™ CPR Challenge V

Join Damar in taking 3 simples steps to support CPR education and training, research and other lifesaving programs. You can help save lives today.

TAKE THE CHALLENGE





Electric Cooperatives in the state of South Dakota require all linemen to be CPR trained and get a refresher every year per OSHA regulations. Mark Patterson, Manager of Loss Control Services at South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) said that not all co-op staff are required to have the training, but the majority are trained because emergencies don't just happen in the field.

AED devices are recommended at each work site through the Rural **Electric Safety Achievement** Program (RESAP.) Patterson concurs with Breske that CPR is a good skill to have and refresh. He said employees go through the training "hoping that you never have to use it but if you do, it will come back to you automatically." While there have been a number of electrical contacts during Patterson's 13-year career with SDREA, only one time has CPR been performed and in that case, saved the life of a lineman.



STAY SAFE WHILE SPENDING TIME **OUTDOORS**

As temperatures increase and sunny days abound, it is easy to be footloose and fancy free. As you spend more time outdoors, keep these safety tips in mind to have a great summer.

POOLS & HOT TUBS

Before opening your pool or hot tub for the season, ensure there is ground fault circuit interrupter protection on underwater lighting circuits, as well as for lighting around pools, hot tubs and spas. Have your pool's electrical system inspected. Faulty wiring can cause swimmers to experience electric shock drowning.

BOATING & SWIMMING

When boating or swimming, know that faulty wiring can cause the water to become energized. Never go swimming near boats plugged into shore power or docks with an electrical source. Energized water can cause ESD- electric shock drowning.

DURING A STORM

When angry clouds roll in, take them seriously. Have a weather app installed on your phone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of the storm, so if you hear thunder, take cover. A watch means that conditions are likely for severe weather to develop; a warning means take action.

WHILE RECREATING

According to the National Lightning Safety Council, approximately 440 people are struck and killed by lightning each year.* Nearly two-thirds of the deaths occurred while enjoying outdoor leisure activities — 33% of the fatalities occurred during water-related activities such as boating, spending time on the beach and swimming, while 14% happened during sporting activities such as fishing, soccer and running.

*Analysis of lightning-related deaths in the U.S., 2006-2021

WHEN PLAYING

When flying drones, remote-controlled planes, toys or kites, fly them in a wideopen area free from overhead power lines. If a toy or object gets stuck in an overhead power line, do not try to remove it. Instead, call your electric utility and a crew will address the issue safely.

Ensure that overhead power lines do not run through or over a tree before your child starts to climb. Select trees that are in a wide-open space without overhead power lines nearby.

If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them to never touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call your electric utility to safely take care of it. The same precaution applies to a pet or animal inside the fenced area of a substation.

RELEASING BALLOONS

Although not an outdoor recreational activity per se, be careful with metallic balloons. If they are released or accidentally let go and get caught in a power line or other utility equipment, they can cause a major power outage. Additionally, be careful during a balloon release regardless of the type of balloon. Be sure to release balloons in wide-open areas that far from overhead power and airports.

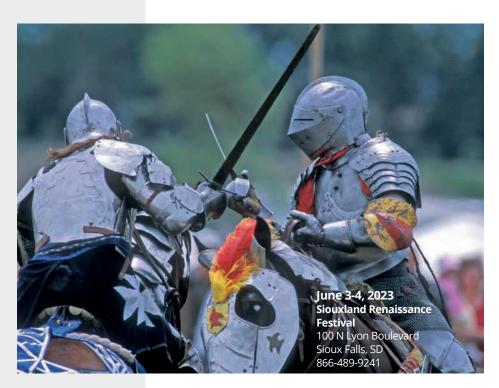
SUMMER WEATHER

June, July and August are the peak months for lightning across the U.S. More than 72% of lightning deaths occurred in these months, with Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays having slightly more deaths than any other day of the week. Lightning often strikes away from heavy rain; it can happen up to 10 miles away from rainfall. To prevent lightningrelated tragedies, when thunder roars, go indoors.

HAVE A PLAN

The best policy is to plan ahead so you do not get caught outside in a storm. If you do get caught outdoors during a thunderstorm and are unable to take shelter in a building, try to take shelter in an enclosed vehicle with a hard-top roof—not an open-frame vehicle like a convertible or golf cart. Do not seek shelter under or stand near trees, canopies, small picnic or rain shelters, fences, or poles. Avoid water, high ground, and open spaces.

For additional electrical safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org



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.

JUNE 3 Health Connect of South Dakota: The Human Race 5K

Sertoma Park Sioux Falls, SD

JUNE 3 Lunafest Zonta Women's Art, Music &

Film Festival 2:30 p.m. Custer Beacon Custer, SD

JUNE 3-4

Siouxland Renaissance Festival

100 N Lyon Boulevard Sioux Falls, SD 866-489-9241

JUNE 8-10 Black Hills Quilt Show

2:30 p.m. The Monument Rapid City, SD info@bhquilters.org

JUNE 11 River Honoring Community

Potluck 5 p.m. Clay County Park River Shelter Vermillion, SD

JUNE 16-17

Czech DaysAll Day Events
Tabor, SD

JUNE 16-18 Fine Arts In The Hills Show & Sale

Main Street Hill City, SD

JUNE 21 2023 McCrossan Boys Ranch Golf Classic for Kids

Central Valley Golf Course Hartford, SD 605-339-1203

JUNE 21-24 Crystal Springs Rodeo

Clear Lake, SD 605-874-2996

JUNE 23

Flandreau Fridays

5 p.m. Downtown Flandreau Flandreau, SD

JUNE 24

Vendor Fair & Farmer's Market

8 a.m. 122 Vilas St Hermosa, SD

JUNE 30

Gregory Community Foundation Polka Fest Fundraiser

6 p.m. Gregory 4H Building Gregory, SD

JULY 4 Philip VFD Firework Display

Lake Waggoner Philip, SD 605-685-3082

JULY 12

Tracy Area Gardens & Quilts Tour

2 p.m. Tracy, MN

JULY 15 Huron MS Walk/Run

8 a.m. Lake Byron Huron, SD 605-350-5922

JULY 15-16

Charles Mix Saddle Club SDRA Rodeo

Geddes, SD 605-680-2763

JULY 28-29

Farley Fest

Lake Farley Park Milbank, SD www.farleyfest.com

AUG 13-14

Twin Brooks Threshing Show

Featuring Allis Chalmers Twin Brooks, SD 605-880-2884

> Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.