

Cooperative Connections



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

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**Celebrating
Midsummer
at Dalesburg**

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Unplug to be More Connected



John Lee, CEO

jlee@butteelectric.com

“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.” Author Anne Lamott cleverly captures the benefits of unplugging in today’s device-driven, multi-tasking world. Keeping up with work, family and school activities or the latest trends on social media makes most of us feel compelled to constantly check our devices.

Summer is a great time to take a family vacation, but it’s also a good opportunity to unplug from our devices and enjoy the great outdoors with family and friends. Research has shown that we all need downtime after a busy day to recharge – even though we may resist it. Take a moment to slow down and enjoy some peaceful hours away from technology.

While you’re unplugging from your devices, take a look around your home to identify electronics that consume energy even when they are not in use (this is known as “vampire” energy loss). TVs, gaming consoles, phone chargers and computers are some of the biggest culprits.

If your summer plans include a staycation, take time to recharge your relationships and be more present with those you love. Stop by the Butte/Lawrence County Fair in Nisland, Festival in the Park in Spearfish or any of the Downtown Thursday or Friday night events in Belle Fourche or Spearfish. Enjoy our beautiful surroundings with your family and friends.

Speaking of spending time outdoors, you can also enjoy energy savings by incorporating LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces.

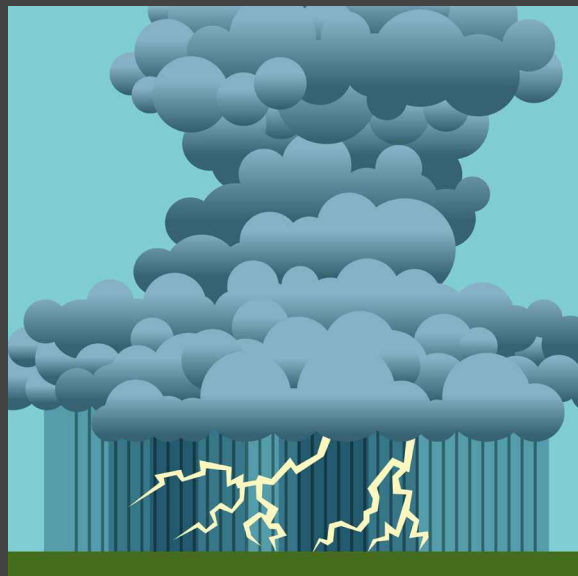
Save energy by keeping warm summer air outside where it belongs. Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows. You can also employ a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home.

In our connected world, we have forgotten how to slow down. We multitask and text. We check email, then voicemail, then Facebook. Do yourself and your family a favor. Put down the device and smell the fresh air.

While Butte Electric can’t help you recharge your relationships, we can help you save money and energy by connecting you with our energy-saving programs and services. When you do plug back in, we’re just a call or click away.

Shocking Facts About Lightning

- There are more than 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes annually in the U.S.
- Every year, 300 Americans are struck by lightning.
- Of those struck, 30 are killed and others suffer lifelong disabilities.



#StormSafety

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Butte Electric

Cooperative Connections

(ISSN 1531-1031)

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BUTTE ELECTRIC BEACON COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 137, 109 S. Dartmouth, Newell, SD 57760 for its members. Families subscribe to Butte Electric Beacon Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Butte Electric Beacon Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Post Office, Newell, SD 57760 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Butte Electric Beacon, PO Box 137, Newell S.D. 57760 TELEPHONE (605) 456-2494; TOLL FREE 1-800-928-8839; FAX (605) 456-2496; E-MAIL butte@butteelectric.com

Did You Know?

- All thunderstorms produce lightning.
- Lightning often strikes outside the area of heavy rain and can strike as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.
- If you hear thunder, you're in the danger zone.

#StormSafety



Shallow Digging is Still Digging

One in eight survey respondents have decided to dig without calling 811 because they thought their project was too shallow to interfere with buried facilities.

2018 CGA Public Awareness Research



Mission Statement

The mission of Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc., is to continually improve customer services; provide safe, reliable and competitively priced electricity; and continue to lead in developing our communities for the benefit of our members.



Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® 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

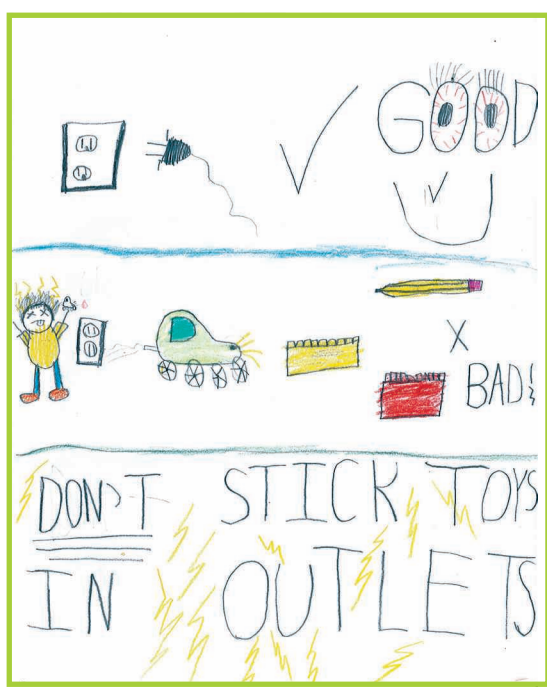



Falls

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.

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.

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.



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>

TIPS FOR MAINTAINING AN EFFICIENT HVAC SYSTEM

Abby Berry

NRECA

Ah, summer. Cookouts, swimming pools, camping – it's the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. And when it's time to come back indoors, there's nothing better than that cool blast you feel from your home's air conditioning unit.

Your heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system is essential to keeping your home comfortable during summer months, and if it breaks down, it's also the most expensive equipment to repair or replace. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to lengthen the life of your HVAC system.

- **Change or clean filters.** Dirty filters block airflow, which can greatly decrease the efficiency of your system. The Department of Energy recommends changing or cleaning filters every month or two during the cooling season. If your unit is in constant use or is subjected to dusty conditions or pet hair, consider checking filters more frequently.
- **Clean the HVAC unit.** Outdoor condenser coils can become clogged with pollen, dirt and small debris. Use a hose to spray the HVAC unit once each season to ensure maximum

airflow. (Warning: Do not use a pressure washer to do this, as it can damage the equipment.)

- **Clear space around the HVAC unit.** Dryer vents, falling leaves and grass left behind from the lawnmower can create buildup. Remove any debris around the HVAC unit. If you have foliage near the unit, trim it back at least 2 feet around the condenser to increase airflow.

If you want to evaluate the efficiency of your HVAC system, try this quick test below.

You should also have your HVAC system periodically inspected by a licensed professional. The frequency of inspections depends on the age of your unit, but the Department of Energy recommends scheduling tune-ups during the spring and fall, when contractors aren't as busy.

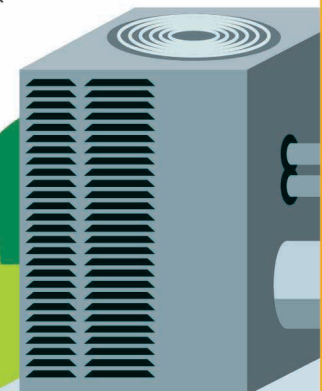
When HVAC equipment fails, it's inconvenient and uncomfortable – especially during the dog days of summer. Remember, your HVAC system runs best when it's regularly cleaned and serviced. With a little maintenance along the way, you can add years to your system's lifespan.

3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.



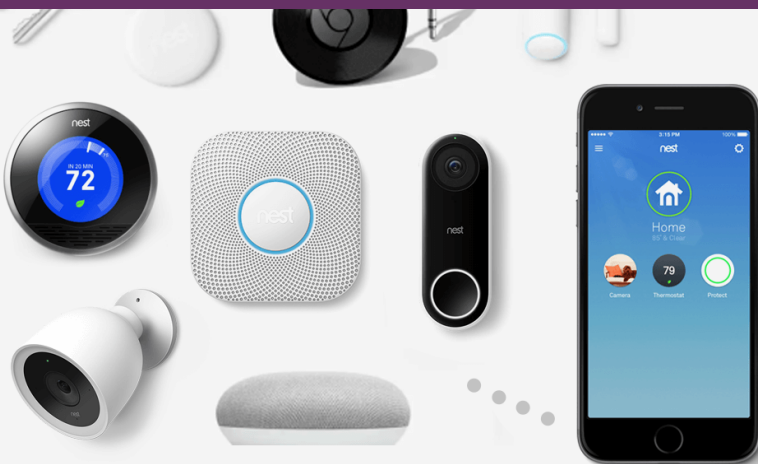
We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs



Maintaining rights of way improves service reliability for you – our members!

BUILD YOUR NEST



Nest® Home Products are available at Butte Electric!

Special discounted prices available for members!



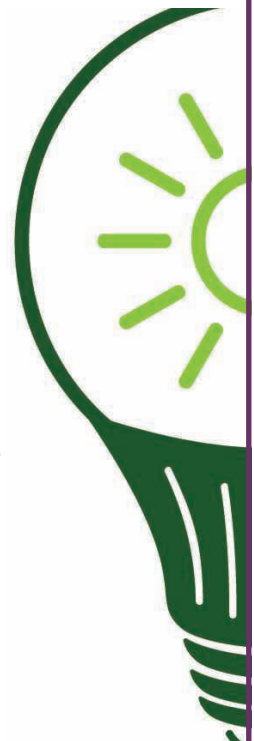
Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Stop in to the Spearfish Service Center to see which Nest products are the right fit for your home and family!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Want to light up your outdoor space without increasing your energy use? Try outdoor solar lights! They're easy to install and virtually maintenance free. Remember solar lights work best when the solar cells receive the manufacturer's recommended hours of sunlight.

Source: energy.gov



Celebrating Midsommar

For 150 Years, Dalesburg Community Has Gathered in Celebration

Brenda Kleinjan

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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."

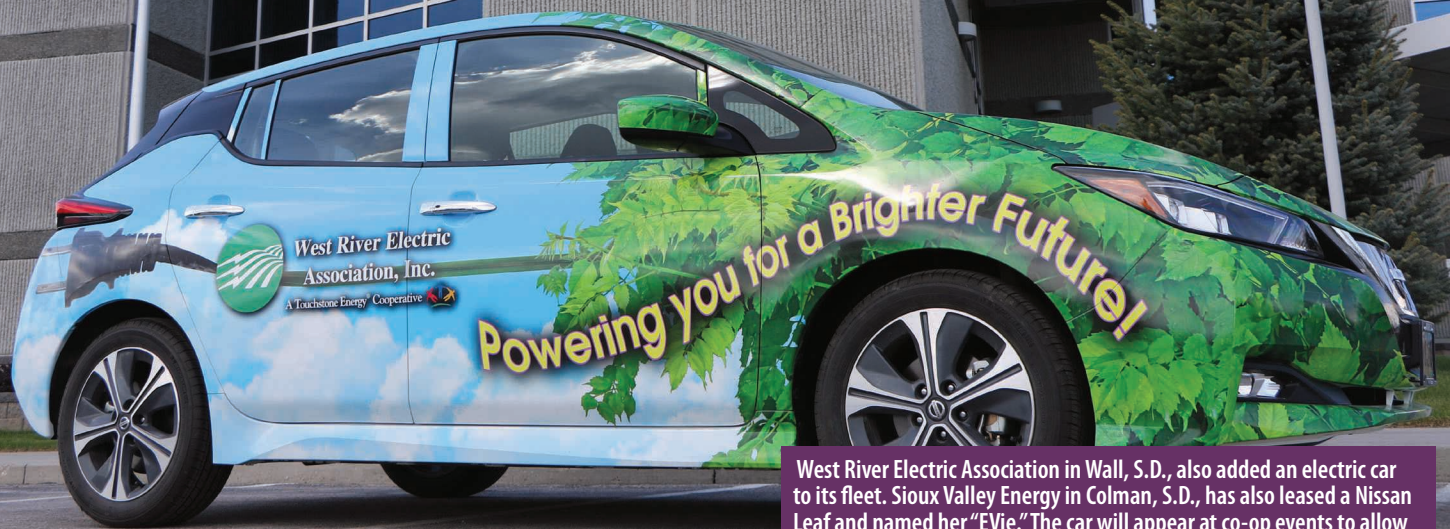
Midsommar at Dalesburg

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.

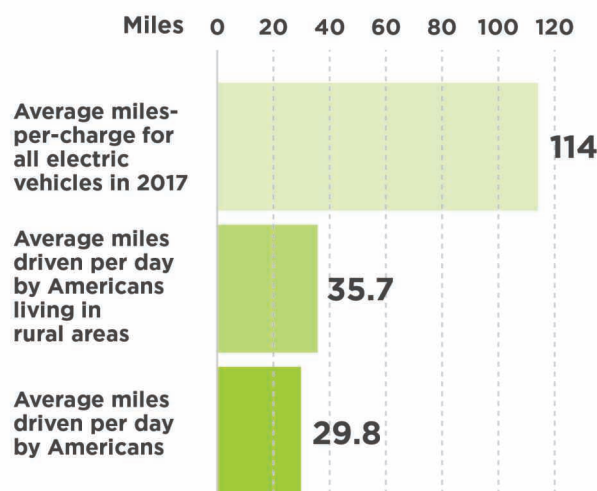
Easing Electric Vehicle Range Anxiety

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

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 Westerville 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,
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 28-29

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

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

July 26 -27

Meade County Fair and 4-H
Achievement Days, Meade
County Fair Barn and Sturgis
Brown High School, Activities
both days for all ages, Sturgis,
SD, 605-347-2436,
Meadecountyfairsd.com

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.