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**Manager's moment**



**Mark Doyle**  
General manager/CEO

I would appreciate a moment of your time...

As I write this, we had just gone through an unprecedented time when our region had faced rolling blackouts. This is not something that you anticipate, but is something we must plan for. Our responsibility here at McLean Electric Cooperative is to provide the member-owners with safe, affordable, reliable

electricity. We strive every day to make sure that we deliver electricity in the safest manner available for both our member-owners and staff.

We also strive to make sure that we are using the best fiduciary practices to bring you affordable electricity. When it comes to reliability, the staff at McLean Electric Cooperative takes great pride in the system that is built to serve its member-owners.

Since my arrival at McLean Electric Cooperative in September 2020, we have seen events with high sustained winds, frost buildup and other situations Mother Nature has provided for us. Still, our outage times were minimal.

The events on Feb. 16 were not directly related to McLean Electric Cooperative's system. They were due, primarily, to demand and capacity issues in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) with which we are associated for our bulk power delivery. We greatly appreciated the patience and understanding from the member-owners during these extraordinary times. McLean Electric Cooperative will always strive to provide its member-owners the services requested with the greatest integrity.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions or comments. My door is always open.

Regards,  
Mark Doyle  
General manager/CEO

**MEC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**New! H.S. JUNIORS – RECEIVE \$1,000 BY WRITING AN ESSAY**

McLean Electric Cooperative is excited to offer H.S. Juniors a chance to win \$1,000 by writing an essay.

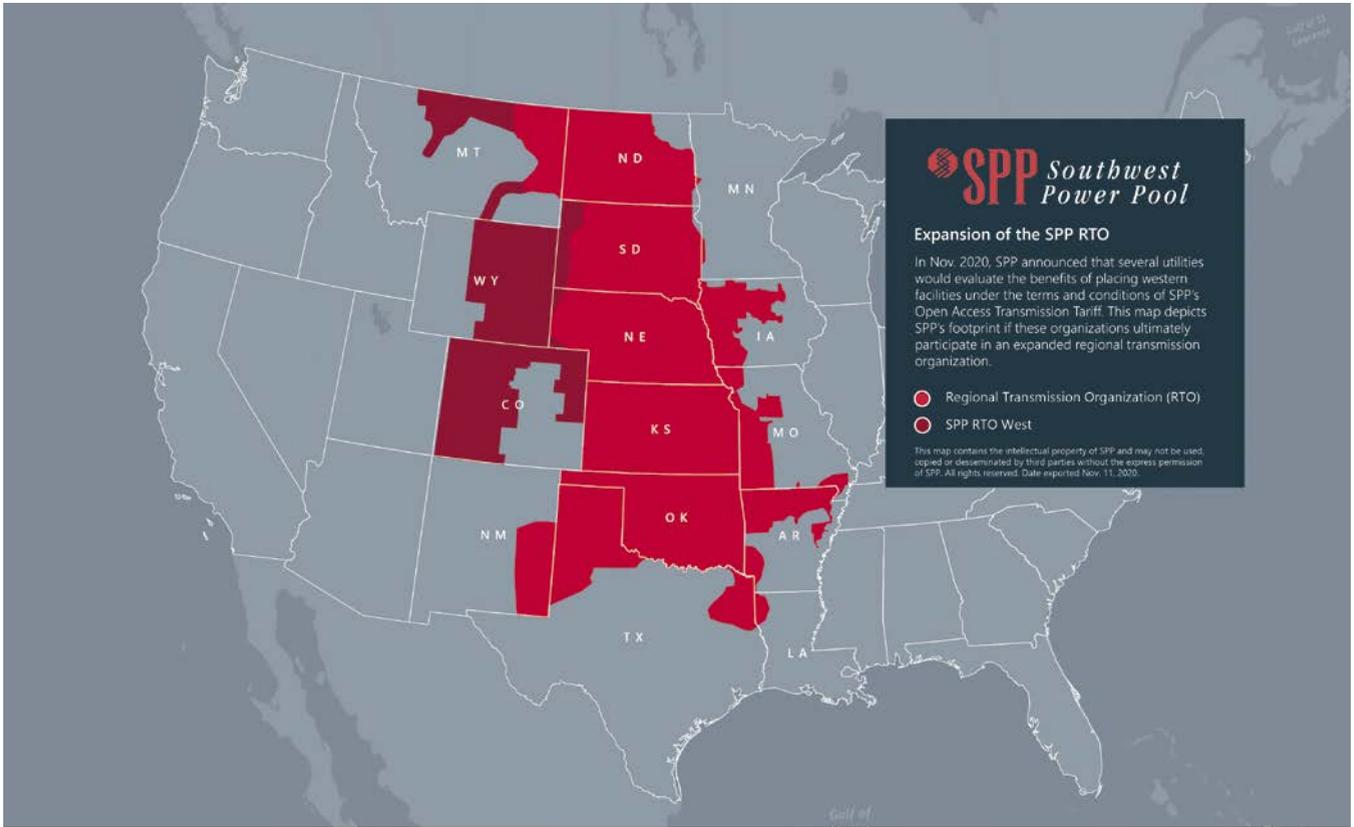
Requirements:

1. Your parent(s) or guardian must have an active account with MEC.
2. You must be a junior in H.S.
3. Answer the following essay topic (not to exceed two 8 ½ typed pages).
4. Deadline: **May 1, 2021**

**Essay Topic:** *McLean Electric Cooperative is an energy provider, which you are a member. What do you see as challenges for your Cooperative in the future?*

**New! MEC COMMUNITY YOUTH INITIATIVE GRANT**

The McLean Electric Cooperative (MEC) Community Youth Initiative Grant is a way to honor youth organizations in the McLean County communities we serve. MEC will award a grant, up to \$3,000, to a McLean County youth organization that has made a positive impact in their community. It can be something new or part of an existing project. Only non-profit organizations, including schools can enter. The organization must involve at least three youth, which one youth must have a parent/guardian with an active MEC account. Youth must be in grades 7-12. The grant will be made out to the organization and must be used towards their community project. Entries will be judged by MEC Board of Directors and more than one group may be awarded. **Deadline is May 1, 2021.** Applications are at [www.mcleanelectric.com](http://www.mcleanelectric.com) For more information, contact Sonja Moe at 463-6700 or [sonjadm@mcleanelectric.com](mailto:sonjadm@mcleanelectric.com)



The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is a regional transmission organization, an electric grid operator, serving all or parts of 14 states. McLean Electric Cooperative receives its wholesale electricity from one of SPP's members, Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck. When parts of the southern United States suffered a major winter storm in February, SPP requested its members initiate rolling blackouts, which included some communities and parts of rural North Dakota.

# Understanding the 'perfect storm': How a Texas storm rocked America's electric supply industry

BY PATRICIA STOCKDILL

## Mid-February 2021.

North Dakota and other parts of the Northern Great Plains were easing out of their first major winter Arctic cold snap. Temperatures were emerging from a couple of weeks when the thermometer never touched the zero-degree mark – night or day. There was wind and occasional snow. Compared to what can and has happened in North Dakota winters, it wasn't all that bad – at least it didn't last a couple of months.

However, while it wasn't a blizzard, it was a reminder that Mother Nature still rules and it can be with a heavy fist at times.

Elsewhere across the United States, including some 1,500 miles south in Texas, Mother Nature dealt more

than a heavy-fisted punch.

She pummeled Central and Southern Plains states with a brutal beating; a near knockout sending Texas reeling.

And she almost took a chunk of the electric grid with her. Multiple states, including North Dakota, had rolling blackouts, when substations are shut down for a specific time period to conserve electricity throughout the nation's electric grid. The goal is to prevent blackouts, a dangerous situation when there is no control over who goes out of power, where, when or for how long.

## THE WEATHER

Beginning Feb. 13 and lasting until Feb. 17, a winter storm beginning in the Pacific Northwest moved rapidly

down into the southern U.S., continuing east into the Midwest before curling into northeastern states. By the time it wore down, the rare snow and ice event put almost one-half of the U.S. population – more than 170 million Americans – under various weather alerts.

Cold temperatures, ice and snow occurred at such extreme levels in places unprepared for what some in the electric energy industry described as an 80-year weather event. Texas saw the brunt of it – Dallas was minus 2 degrees on Feb. 16 – warm for North Dakota; bitterly, brutally cold for Texas.

The Lone Star State had miles of solar panels buried beneath heavy snow, unable to capture sunlight and their batteries unable to store energy for the electric grid. Encased in ice, wind towers froze and stood still, unable to generate at the minimum level of 7 miles per hour (MPH) necessary to generate electricity.

Gas pipelines couldn't provide natural gas to make up for the lack of renewable energy. In Texas, they're buried at shallower depths than in colder northern states and gas couldn't flow when water froze in low-lying areas.

Coal-based power plants needed to be ramped up to meet baseload demand, but given the nature of how those plants operate, it had to be done over a period time. It's not like starting a gas generator.

To borrow a cliché, Texas had a perfect storm.

Electric demand exceeded available supplies and something had to be done to keep it from worsening across a broader region of the country.

It was imperative to avoid a blackout.

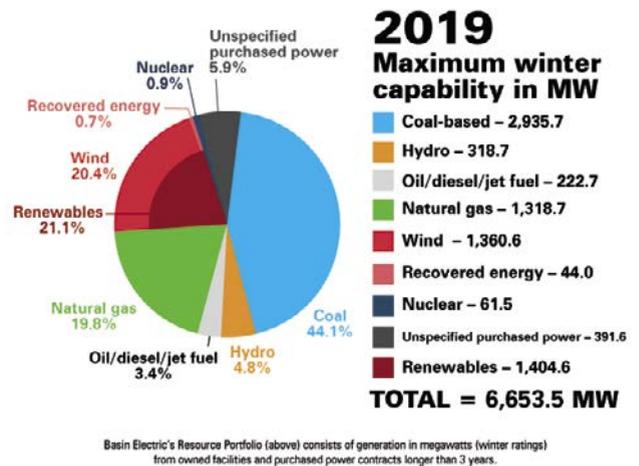
The combination of cold temperatures, ice buildup on wind turbine blades, lack of natural gas and challenges of ramping up coal and nuclear plants would send rippling effects throughout the central U.S.

## THE ELECTRIC GRID

Just as vehicles need physical roads, trains need physical tracks, and manufacturers use assembly lines to get from Point A to Point B, electricity needs a path to get from Point A – its generation source – to Point B, the consumer. It travels on a physical path on transmission lines down to distribution lines and farther down to electric wires into homes and businesses to power the country, part of a nationwide network even extending into parts of Canada with generation and transmission utilities working together.

The transmission grid is more than ensuring the ability to charge a cellphone. It is the heart and soul of the nation's economy, keeping America running.

Electricity travels on "the grid," a complex system that seemingly runs silently in the background with



Basin Electric Power Cooperative has a diverse source of ways to generate electricity to serve its cooperative members. At the end of 2019, coal-based power plants still comprised more than 44 percent of the generation resources.

little to no glitches. If there is a glitch, it's usually a localized weather event: a North Dakota blizzard, a Florida hurricane or a southern California heat wave, for example. They're limited to a particular region and repairs are done as quickly as possible. Outages are fixed and rolling blackouts are usually limited to the impacted region.

McLean Electric Cooperative's (MEC) electricity comes from its regional generation-and-transmission cooperative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, transmission cooperative Central Power Electric Cooperative, and the federally owned hydropower generation and marketing agency, Western Area Power Administration (WAPA).

WAPA is one of four wholesale marketing arms of the U.S. Department of Energy, providing transmission as well as serving as a grid operator. In the February rolling blackout, WAPA was the entity coordinating substation shutdowns to conserve electricity and prevent major uncontrolled blackouts in North Dakota and surrounding states.

Basin Electric believes in an all-of-the-above energy strategy, described Communications Manager Joan Dietz, providing electricity from several resources: Coal-based power plants comprised 44.1 percent of its 2019 portfolio, hydropower from WAPA – including Garrison Dam Power Plant – 4.8 percent; wind, 20.4 percent; and natural gas, 19.8 percent, with the remainder from other sources.

They represent Basin Electric's total capacity across its entire nine-state service area, including its owned-and-operated resources and purchase agreements. Basin



*Basin's Antelope Valley Station located near Beulah is part of Basin Electric Power Cooperative's coal-based power plant electric generation portfolio. The multi-state generation-and-transmission cooperative uses coal, natural gas, renewable energy and other resources to provide electricity to electric cooperatives, such as McLean Electric.*

Electric uses all of them to serve its load demand so at various times electricity from any of those resources are used on the grid.

Electric utilities combine generation-and-transmission resources as part of a network of larger regional transmission organizations (RTO) across the county, interconnecting transmission lines to enable a controlled, coordinated electric grid flowing to meet the nation's electric energy demand.

Think of a RTO as an air traffic controller of the electric power grid. They don't own the grid, but operate it on a minute-by-minute basis to ensure electricity reaches consumers. In addition, they work to reduce or eliminate power shortages because of demand and use.

Basin Electric is a member of Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a not-for-profit RTO founded in 1944. It serves a mix of generation-and-transmission cooperatives, wholesale generators, independent transmission companies, investor-owned utilities, power marketers, municipalities and state authorities in the central U.S. – 19 million people across 14 states. Basin Electric joined SPP in October 2015.

In Texas, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is the grid operator for 90 percent of the state's

electricity. Its portfolio to meet the 381 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity used by Texans in 2020 came from a mix of 45.5 percent natural gas, 22.8 percent wind, 17.9 percent coal and other sources.

SPP is the grid operator for the remaining 10 percent of Texas.

In both examples of Basin Electric and ERCOT, the portfolio percentages mean they comprise what makes up their generation resources. The amount used from the available resources within the portfolio varies, in part, because of intermittent availability of wind and solar generation.

SPP's January 2020 portfolio serving its service area of about 546,000 square miles consisted of 40.9 percent natural gas, 26 percent coal, 24.9 percent wind, and 3.8 percent hydropower with the rest generated from other resources. Basin's portfolio is part of SPP's total portfolio.

All RTOs must follow Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulations to ensure reliable electric supplies, adequate transmission infrastructure, and competitive wholesale pricing. FERC also requires a minimum amount of baseload electric power be available based on load demand.

## THE TIMELINE

Basin Electric, SPP and McLean Electric have a timeline of the events leading to McLean Electric member-owners receiving a Feb. 16 telephone audio recording produced by MEC's after-hours outage monitoring service, SRS. It notified MEC member-owners they could potentially experience a controlled outage lasting about 45 minutes anytime through Feb. 18.

MEC wanted to give its member-owners as much advance notice as possible, General Manager/CEO Mark Doyle described, even though the cooperative itself would not know how many, when, or where any of its substations could possibly be shut down for the estimated time.

- Feb. 9, midnight: Responding to the storm, SPP declared its first conservation efforts effective until further notice.
- Feb. 15, midnight: SPP requested members within its region conserve energy for the next 48 hours, effective immediately, mitigating the risk of more widespread and longer outages.
- Feb. 15, 5 a.m.: SPP declared an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) Level 1 when all available resources were committed to meet obligations and SPP was at risk of not meeting its FERC required operating reserves.
- Feb. 15, about 5 a.m.: McLean Electric General Manager/CEO Mark Doyle was notified MEC substations could potentially be shut down, but it wasn't determined which substations, when or for how long.
- Feb. 15, 7:22 a.m.: An EEA Level 2 was issued because SPP was no longer able to provide its expected energy requirements. SPP asked members to appeal for public energy conservation. The electric grid market was notified that rolling blackouts may be required.
- Feb. 15, 10:08 a.m.: SPP needed to use its required reserve energy and declared an EEA Level 3 situation. It was below its required minimum and needed assistance through the Reserve Sharing Group.
- Feb. 15, about 12:10 p.m.: SPP was still under EEA Level 3 and exhausted its reserves, so it directed members to begin controlled, temporary service interruption – rolling blackouts.
- Feb. 15, 2 p.m.: The situation improved, allowing SPP to return to EEA Level 2 as it met its required minimums.
- Feb. 16, 6:15 a.m.: Extremely cold temperatures and inoperable wind and gas generation capabilities dropped SSP's system-wide generating capacity below its current 42 gigawatt load demand, prompting

SPP to return to EEA Level 3. Members were again directed to initiate rolling blackouts.

- Feb. 16, 10:07 a.m.: SPP restored its load with enough generating capacity to meet system-wide demand, although it stayed at EEA Level 3, because it was still operating below it required operating reserves.
- Feb. 16, 11:30 a.m.: SPP was able to drop to EEA 2, now able to meet demand and minimum reserve requirements.
- Feb. 16, 12:31 p.m.: SPP dropped to EEA Level 1, although it was still somewhat at risk.
- Feb. 16, 6:28 p.m.: SPP returned to EEA Level 2, again asking members to appeal to their member-owners for energy conservation. They were meeting obligations but working to mitigate outage risks.
- Feb. 17, 1:15 p.m.: SPP went back to EEA Level 1.
- Feb. 17: SPP elevated to EEA Level 2, again requesting conservation appeals.

SPP would alternate between EEA Level 1 and “conservation operations status” as it adjusted to meet load demand and availability until 10 p.m. Feb. 20.

Three McLean Electric substations – Douglas, Raub, and Roseglen – were involved with rolling blackouts. Raub and Douglas substations shut down for 45 minutes beginning Feb. 16 at 6:48 a.m. The Roseglen substation shut down for 38 minutes beginning at 7:35 a.m., Doyle described.

The loss of the Roseglen substation also shut off electricity for the White Shield community.

Rural electric cooperatives throughout North Dakota tried to provide as much advance notice as possible, Doyle added, even though they had no way of knowing what substations WAPA, as the operator, was shutting down or when.

## LESSONS LEARNED/WHAT'S NEXT

Now that weeks and nearly a couple of months have passed since the storm pummeled parts of the U.S., time allows the opportunity to reflect, learn and look ahead. One lesson learned is that the events underscore how vital it is to have 24/7 reliable base load energy, Doyle stressed, such as coal-based power plants.

While it's true the sun is going to shine and the wind is going to blow somewhere to generate electricity, electricity still needs to get from Point A to Point B on a transmission grid and it needs to be available 24/7. Because wind and solar are intermittent sources, a baseload source always needs to be available to help ensure reliability.

From an outage perspective, Doyle said it was a learning experience to recognize “we have less control

than we think we have and it's important for us to work with our energy providers to develop a contingency plan."

In addition, Doyle said the cooperative learned it has to be better able to communicate with its member-owners on a more immediate basis when critical situations arise. In hindsight, he would have preferred to have been able to simply notify only those on the three substations involved with the rolling blackouts.

When stepping back and looking at the massive, highly intricate system that is the nation's electric energy grid, "the only scenario that will work is a diverse energy portfolio. ... You have to have a diverse portfolio. You can't rely on any one energy source," he suggested.

In 2021, renewable sources are part of the energy equation, but are not yet technologically available on a commercial scale as a primary electric energy source.

Another harsh reality is that "the likelihood of this reoccurring is at least moderate to high," Doyle added. "As it sets today, our job is the redistribution of electricity to our members (not distribution)."

The February events provide learning opportunities

for those directly involved, as well. Basin Electric Director of Asset Management and Commodity Strategy Valerie Weigel said it underscored the value of having a large market with a RTO where others on the grid and throughout the system work together to prevent even larger scale energy crises.

It also underscored the importance of communication, especially among those directly coordinating the switching of substations throughout a multi-state region – and how well it worked to avert an even greater problem.

It showed the importance of diversified loads.

Above all, it showed the dedication of people to do what they could to help make the electric energy system work under extreme situations.

There will be more in-depth analysis of the event and more take away lessons from Mother Nature's heavy pummeling of Texas – from McLean Electric's distribution level up through the electric generation and supply system. ■

*(Data courtesy of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck)*

## McLean Electric Cooperative items for sale on sealed bids

- Winco generator: 540 PTO driven, single phase, 25KW, 120/240 volts
- 2019 Ford 350 front bumpers for Ford pickup, new, chrome, two for sale
- 8x10 drop ramp utility trailer: tire size ST205/75R15
- 6-foot Schulte 7400 snowblower for skidsteer
- Job site electric service center for temporary power
- Electric barbecue grill
- Scaffold, 500 lb. load capacity
- 10'x5"x8" metal utility box
- 2 electric garage heaters 5KW (ceiling mount) and 8-foot electric base board heater 2,500 watts
- Metal cargo back seat security shield - universal
- LOT No. 4 – 1 pallet of mixed wire
- LOT No. 5 - 1 pallet of electric and plumbing supplies
- LOT No. 6 - 1 pallet of conduit benders
- LOT No. 7 – 1 pallet of conduit benders
- LOT No. 8 - 1 pallet misc. tools (drill bits, trouble light, flashlights, etc.)

*We reserve the right to refuse any or all bids. Items are sold as is – no warranty*

**SEALED BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 15 AT 4 P.M.**

Contact Kelly if you would like to schedule a viewing of the items at 463-6700.

**Items on pallets are sold by the LOT No. (write down LOT No.)**

- LOT No. 1 - 1 pallet of mixed wire
- LOT No. 2 – 1 pallet of mixed wire
- LOT No. 3 – 1 pallet of mixed wire

Please mail sealed bids to the following address:  
**McLean Electric Cooperative**  
**Keith Thelen**  
**P.O. Box 399**  
**Garrison ND 58540**

**Access photos on [www.mcleanelectric.com](http://www.mcleanelectric.com)**

# From a telegraph to a national day of recognition: Celebrating National Lineworker Appreciation Day.

BY PATRICIA STOCKDILL

It began with the tap-tap of a telegraph, the modern communication form for Americans throughout decades of the 1800s.

For a telegraph to work, though, wires had to be strung across the country, allowing the tap-tap sent from one person to reach someone miles away. Trees served the simple purpose of supporting a telegraph line with the early advent of the telegraph. But trees aren't always available – especially across the treeless plains.

Wooden poles quickly replaced actual trees and telegraph lines often mirrored railroad lines. Even today, a few remnant telegraph poles dot parts of North Dakota.

Wooden poles meant jobs for workers who earned the nickname “linemen,” setting and stringing telegraph lines. It brought the need for workers to maintain those same lines.

It brought the advent of a career that evolved as technology and innovation evolved.

It brought the lineworker.

As telephone communications began in the United States in the 1870s, line work advanced so workers strung and maintained telephone lines on poles.

And then electricity came to cities across the country. Line work evolved yet again to include not only telegraph and telephone communications, but the electric industry.

When Congress established the Rural Electrification Administration, the need for electric lineworkers stretched beyond small towns and major cities to rural America, including North Dakota and McLean Electric Cooperative, which was incorporated in 1945.

With electricity expanding to rural America, early lineworkers often followed the job. Its dangerous and arduous work, coupled with constant travel, meant it was a lifelong career choice for only the hardy.

However, by the time of World War II was ending and much of the country obtained the wonder of modern electricity throughout the 1950s, the lineworker job evolved again. Rural electric cooperatives needed workers to maintain lines and build additional ones as new members joined cooperatives.

Tornadoes, windstorms, blizzards and ice would take a toll on lines. Lineworkers needed to be available to repair downed power lines in any weather, on any given day. They needed to be available 24/7/365.

That's the modern lineworker, often the first vehicles

on the road during storms at any time of year, in any condition. Today, in addition to working overhead power lines, they work with underground electric cable.

Whether it's underground or overhead, electric lineworkers still need respond to outages, repairs, and service calls 24/7/365.

Dealing with electricity remains one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States despite continuing education, training, technological advancements and vastly improving equipment.

U.S. Senate Resolution 95 recognized the work of a lineman in 2013 by establishing National Lineworker Appreciation Day. It celebrated lineworkers from across the country after joining together to assist 24 states whose electricity was disrupted by Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

While the official Congressional day is April 18, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association considers the second Monday in April as the day to honor lineworkers, designating it as National Lineworker Appreciation Day.

Regardless of the date and title, McLean Electric Cooperative extends “thanks” to lineworkers from its past and the current line crews who bring, keep, and restore electricity to its member-owners: Line foremen Nathan Ruud and Travis Voth, lead lineworker Rick Gienger, and lineworkers Jesse Carter, Loren Desjardins, Lucas Dusek, Brian O'Shea, and Trevor Thomas. ■

## GARRISON LINE CREW



**Nathan Ruud**  
Line foreman  
19 years



**Rick Gienger**  
Lead lineworker  
44 years



**Lucas Dusek**  
Lineworker  
13 years



**Jesse Carter**  
Lineworker  
6 years



**Loren Desjardins**  
Lineworker  
2 years

## TURTLE LAKE LINE CREW



**Travis Voth**  
Line foreman  
18 years



**Brian O'Shea**  
Lineworker  
12 years



**Trevor Thomas**  
Lineworker  
5 years

**M**cLean Electric Cooperative's 75th anniversary of incorporation was in 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the cooperative to move its celebration to 2021. Please follow our website, Facebook page, and your *North Dakota Living* local pages for details and the date so we can celebrate together.

**McLean County community food pantry March distributions:**

- **Community Cupboard of Underwood:** April 1, 4-6 p.m.; April 17, 10 a.m.-noon, and May 6, 4-p.m., 208 Lincoln Ave.
- **Garrison Area Resource Center & Food Pantry, Garrison:** April 22, noon-2 p.m., 5-7 p.m., former Lazy J's building back door.
- **Our Saviors Lord's Food Pantry, Max:** April 19, noon-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m., Max City Hall, 215 Main St.
- **The Lord's Pantry, Turtle Lake:** April 8, 2-4 p.m. and April 24, 10 a.m.-noon, Trinity Lutheran Church, 515 Kundert St.
- **Wilton Food Pantry, Wilton:** "Mini" distributions every Friday, 11:30 a.m. until gone; full distribution, April 15, 4-6 p.m., Wilton Senior Citizens Center, 42 Dakota Ave.

**Area food pantries often experience high needs for the following items:** Baked beans, pork-and-beans, canned fruit, tuna, chicken, cereal, oatmeal, granola and breakfast bars, juice, mac-and-cheese, hamburger and tuna helper, pancake mix and syrup, pasta and pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, rice side dishes, soups and household items such as body wash and soap, dish soap, laundry detergent, shampoo and conditioner, toilet paper, and toothpaste and toothbrushes. Contact local food pantries for drop-off information or list of additional needs.

County residents with questions or concerns regarding COVID-19 vaccines should contact their local health care facility or First District Health Unit office with questions, appointment scheduling, or place their name on a waiting list if the vaccine isn't available:

- **Garrison:**  
CHI Garrison Family Clinic, 701-463-2245.  
First District Health Unit, McLean County Garrison office 701-463-2641.  
Trinity Community Clinic, 701-463-2626.
- **McClusky:**  
First District Health Unit, Sheridan County McClusky office, 701-363-2506.  
Northland Health Center, 701-363-2296.

- **Turtle Lake:**  
Northland Health Center, 701-448-9225.
- **Underwood:**  
Underwood Clinic, 701-442-3148.
- **Washburn:**  
Washburn Clinic, 701-462-3389.  
First District Health Unit, McLean County Washburn office 701-462-3330.

*PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHEDULED EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS. PLEASE FOLLOW HEALTH GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONTACT EVENT SPONSORS FOR DETAILS AND UPDATES.*

**Tentative April events:**

- **April 2:** McLean Electric Cooperative closed for Good Friday and Easter holiday.
- **April 3:** Lunch with the Easter Bunny, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Garrison City Auditorium. Children can have photos with the Easter Bunny, lunch, games and a movie to follow at Kota Theatre.
- **April 3:** Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30 a.m., Underwood Poolside Park, sponsored by the Underwood Civic Club.
- **April 10:** Maple Sugaring Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fort Stevenson State Park three miles south of Garrison. Learn about maple sugaring history, tools and North Dakota tree that produces sugar, along with fresh pancakes served with "maple syrup" from box elder trees. Contact the park, 701-337-5576, for more information.
- **April 12:** National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's National Lineworker Appreciation Day.
- **APRIL 30:** DEADLINE TO SUBMIT MEC OPERATION ROUNDUP APPLICATIONS
- **MAY 1 DEADLINE:** NEW! \$1,000 MEC YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST (for high school juniors)
- **MAY 1 DEADLINE:** NEW! COMMUNITY YOUTH INITIATIVE GRANT

*McLean County organizations and communities can contact Patricia Stockdill, (stockdill.patricia@gmail.com) or telephone, 701-337-5462, to submit community events.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**Larry Gessele**, president  
701-447-2461  
District 7, Mercer

**Darcy Klain**, vice president  
701-448-2408  
District 4, Ruso

**Rod Stockdill**, secretary-treasurer  
701-337-5462  
District 3, Garrison

**Clarence Behles**, asst. secretary-treasurer  
701-337-5362  
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**Karen Hanson**, director  
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**James Odermann**, director  
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