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Easy money-saving tips for summer:

ONE/ For every degree you raise your thermostat above 72, you save up to 3 percent of your cooling expenses. Set your thermostat to 78, or as high as your comfort allows.

TWO/ A good ceiling fan will allow you to raise your thermostat 4 degrees while maintaining the same level of comfort. If you don't mind the light breeze, raise the temperature on your AC because fans can be very effective.

THREE/ Ovens and stoves can raise your kitchen's temperature up to 10 degrees. Your microwave uses just 1/3 the energy and produces only a fraction of the heat. Or fire up the grill.

Additional resources
available 24/7 at
www.mvec.net

ElectricEye

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

June 2020

MVEC awards \$16,000 in high school scholarships

MVEC has awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 15 local high school seniors. An additional \$1,000 scholarship was funded by wholesale power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Five winners from each of MVEC's three voting districts were randomly

selected from a total of 143 entries received. MVEC's scholarships are funded with unclaimed Capital Credits — money that otherwise would be given to the state of Minnesota. Here are the 2020 recipients, their high schools and the college they plan to attend.



Basin Scholarship:
Rachel Henderson
Jordan
Winona State University



Dylan Androli
W-E-M
U of Wisconsin -
River Falls



Caden Bruzek
Jordan
U of Minnesota -
Twin Cities



Mitchell Callahan
New Prague
U of Wisconsin -
LaCrosse



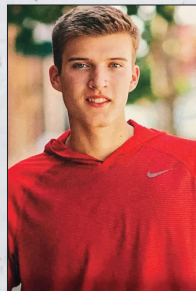
Mackenzie Close
SW Christian
Carthage
College



Benjamin Fink
Holy Family
University of
St. Thomas



Mark Friedges
New Prague
Montana State -
Bozemen



Theodore Kakacek
Chanhassen
University of
Iowa



Ariana Krautkremer
Tri City United
U of Minnesota -
Duluth



Parker Long
Prior Lake
Minnesota State -
Mankato



Carson Meurer
Shakopee
Winona State
University



Mary Monson
homeschool
Normandale
Community College



Hunter Nelson
Prior Lake
U of Minnesota -
Twin Cities



Katie Struzyk
Burnsville
U of Wisconsin -
Madison



Charles Tesch
Le Sueur-Henderson
South Dakota
State University



Alexis Wondra
Cleveland
Minnesota State -
Mankato

MVEC
Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



— Congratulations to all graduating seniors! —

Be prepared



Trees and wind are major reasons for power outages caused by severe weather. MVEC works year-round on a regular tree trimming schedule to remove trees, branches and other types of vegetation that could come in contact with power lines. Despite best efforts, major storms can damage substations and power lines, as well as the transmission equipment that powers us. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

Your phone number helps us restore power quicker

The phone number you use when you call in an outage works with our member database to quickly identify your location. If the phone number you use to call in is different than the number MVEC has listed for your address, it is not populating our outage map correctly, and it may take longer to locate your outage.



Average Outage Duration:

56 
MINUTES*

Average Member Experiences:

.76 outages
(some may not experience any)
per year*

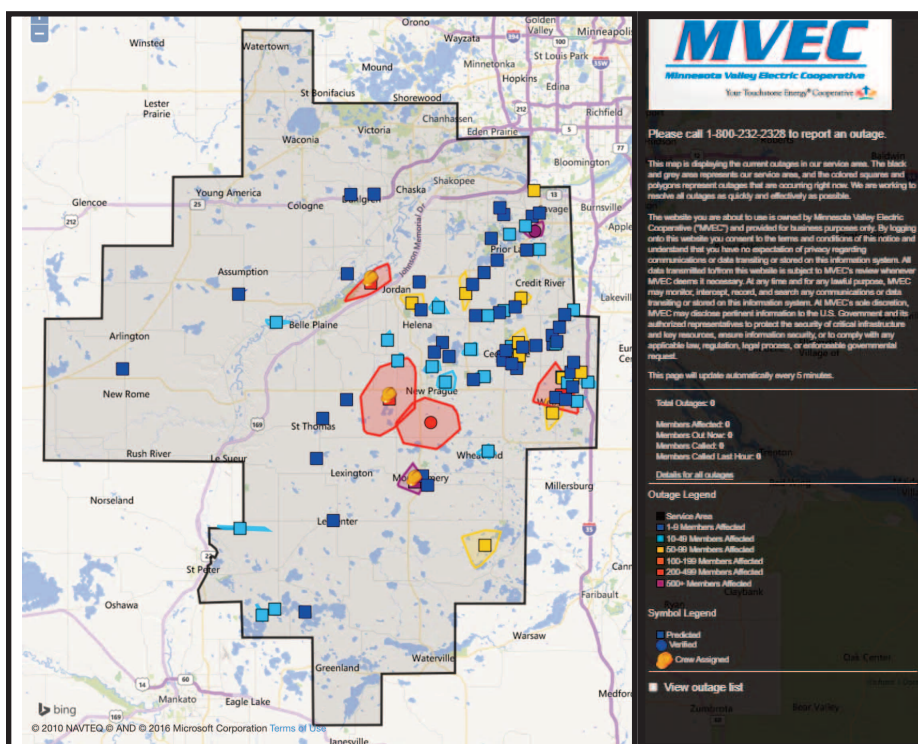
Trees/branches account for 17% of MVEC outages

*5-year average

Notify MVEC if you have branches that interfere with power lines.

Easily update your phone numbers

online form at www.mvec.net/power-outages or by calling 952.492.8333 or 1.866.492.8333



When a power outage affects 500 members or more, alerts appear at www.mvec.net. Our live outage map keeps you updated on the location and size of outages as they occur. A yellow hard hat means a crew is on the way. Additional updates are often posted on our Facebook page.

Call Dispatch to report an outage: 952.492.8255 or 800.232.2328

Be safe during and after the storm

Severe thunderstorms, tornados and flooding leave visible damage in their wake — and hidden dangers as well. Be aware of electrical hazards.

In your home:

- **Have flashlights** and extra batteries easily available in a predetermined location.
- **Have on hand** bottled water, non-perishable food that doesn't require cooking and snacks. Don't forget supplies for your pets.
- **Keep your cell phone charged** before severe weather.
- **Disconnect appliances** and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- **Never step into a flooded basement** or area where water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Never touch electrical appliances or wires while wet or standing in water.

Outdoors:

- **If you see one of our crews** working, maintain a safe distance - not only to avoid COVID19 contact, but so they can focus on their work. If you pass them on the road, shift over a lane and slow down.

- **Stay away** from downed power lines and be alert that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard.
- **Treat all downed or hanging power lines** as if they are energized. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Inform MVEC of the hazard.
- **Do not touch** downed power lines and objects or puddles of water in contact with those lines. There is no way to know if they are energized.
- **If you are driving** and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Never drive over a downed line, as it could pull down poles and other items along its path.
- **Before entering** storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call MVEC to shut off power at the meter.

Keep an eye on the sky:

A watch means severe weather is possible in and near the watch area. A warning means severe weather has been reported by spotters or radar.

Use home generators safely

Never directly connect a standby generator to household wiring. Make sure your generator is properly grounded and kept dry.



- **Portable Generators** should be used in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is deadly. Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator. Do not overload the generator. Start the generator first before connecting appliances.
- **Stationary Generators** are hardwired and should be installed by a professional.

If the storm is over and your power is still out. . .

1. Check to see if a circuit breaker is tripped or a fuse is blown.
2. Ask nearby neighbors if they are also out of power.
3. After checking 1 and 2 and you are still out of power, call our Dispatch Center.

Learn more with our outage safety videos

- What happens during an outage
- Food safety during an outage
- Restoring your power
- How to prepare an emergency kit
- Causes of power outages
- Automatic garage door openers

Find our video library at www.mvec.net/stay-informed



Follow us for more tips on:



2020 Youth Tour trip to nation's Capitol cancelled

Peterson was MVEC's youth leadership choice

It is bittersweet to announce that Nicholas Peterson of Chanhassen, a junior at Eden Prairie High School, was selected to represent MVEC on the 2020 Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. The annual youth leadership experience, usually held in June, was cancelled by the host, the National Rural Electric Association, due to COVID19.

MVEC's Board of Directors voted to award Peterson with a \$1,000 scholarship. He plans to attend the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and double major in Political Science and Business/Marketing before attending law school.

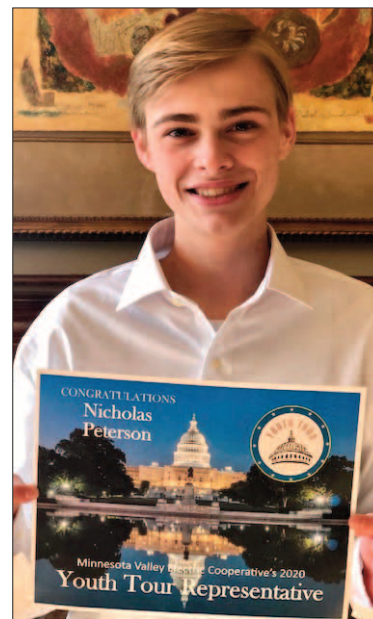
On his application, Peterson said, "I've always had a strong interest in current events and politics. I discovered in fourth grade that I have a strong desire to learn about history and geography.

This has grown into me pursuing classes that increase my knowledge of our government and how it works, or sometimes doesn't work."

Elijah Mechtel, a sophomore from Shakopee, was chosen as the trip's alternative. He received the usual \$200 runner-up prize.

More than 1,800 students from all across the U.S. take part in the Youth Tour to learn more about government and electric co-ops, explore museums, memorials and monuments, and make friendships that will last a lifetime. There have been over 50,000 participants since 1958.

MVEC will announce the application process for the 2021 trip in December, online and in this newsletter.



Nicholas Peterson of Chanhassen



CEO's Corner/Ryan Hentges

Keeping the system safe and reliable during summer storm season

The primary objective of all electric utilities is to provide safe and reliable electricity. Although this is a year-round focus for MVEC, the weather of the summer months creates an environment conducive for the most activity.

To achieve the highest possible reliability, we focus on constructing a resilient electric grid, investing in appropriate maintenance, and having highly trained staff to address issues that arise.

On a yearly basis we make investments in the electric grid in our service territory. These investments include upgrades to current electrical lines and equipment, installing new line, and adding substations. We balance the timing of these upgrades with our overall budget, in an effort to maintain stable electric rates. In 2020,

MVEC's construction plan is over \$15 million. Much of the work is completed by MVEC linemen and technicians, but some of the work is contracted out to other companies to assist with the amount of work necessary.

On a yearly basis, MVEC conducts a variety of maintenance of our grid. This includes employees patrolling the line to look for issues and testing field equipment and substations. Another key component is trimming trees that get too close to the electrical lines. In 2020, MVEC has budgeted \$2.4 million in tree trimming. We believe proactive maintenance is key to help reduce the potential for future outages.

Unfortunately, even with all the right investments in infrastructure and maintenance, outages still occur. There are many causes of outages, but outages related to animals, trees and weather top the list. It's during these times we rely on the dedication and skill of our team – specifically our dispatchers, linemen and

technicians. They often work in complex scenarios and less than ideal conditions. Whether its dark, raining, windy, cold or mosquitos swarming, they keep at it until power to all members has been restored.

From an organizational perspective, our first objective during an outage is to work safely. We all understand mistakes happen when we rush to get stuff done – whether at home or work. Mistakes when working with electricity are unforgiving. For that reason, those working with electricity take the time necessary to keep themselves, and our members, safe during the outage restoration process.

We appreciate you being a member of MVEC. We take our responsibility to serve you with safe and reliable electricity very seriously, and we believe we are making the necessary investments and conducting the necessary maintenance to serve you into the future. And finally, a special thank you to those who brave the elements to restore power.

Ryan Hentges