



# Cooperative Connections



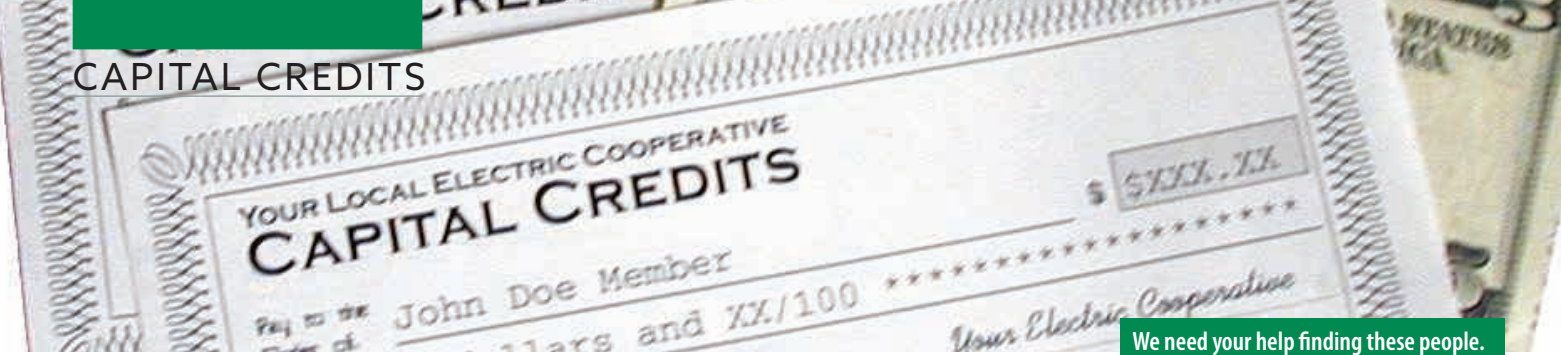
**Cooperatives:  
Committed to  
Community**

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**Investing  
in Our  
Communities**

Page 12

## CAPITAL CREDITS



We need your help finding these people.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Capital credit checks were returned for the following individuals. Help us find them and get the money they are owed into their hands. Contact the office with any information. Thank you for your assistance.

- |                            |                             |                        |                          |                         |                        |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Abbott, Albert             | Cooper, Tracy               | Grassrope, Jefferson   | Johnson, Jody S          | Marjorie Noldner, Edyth | Speer, Mark            |
| Aby, Perry                 | Countryside, W.W.           | Graves Construction    | Johnson, Kevin B         | Noteboom, Dick          | Speidel, Darlene F     |
| Amsden, Shirley            | Cross, Andrea               | Gregory, Marie         | Johnson, Wesley          | Oien, Alfred            | Stevahn, Reinhold L    |
| Andersen, Clarence D       | Dakota West LTD             | Grimes, James R        | Joyce, Viola E           | Oliver, Will            | Stirling, Maxine       |
| Anderson, Amos             | Dejong, Leo                 | Grohs, Vickie          | Juhnke, Delford          | Olson, Duane C          | Stoeser, Alex          |
| Anderson, Ray F            | Denton, Paulette            | Hale, Bernard          | King, Clifford           | Olson Ranch Inc         | Stone, Barbara         |
| Bad Horse, Cheryl          | Desersa, Clement            | Hall, Lois M           | Kirscher, Peter          | Opbroek, Eugene         | Streifel, Karen        |
| Barber, Lesa               | Dias, Harriet               | Harris, Katherine      | Kittson, Nicole L        | Ostlien, John           | Swan, Marvin E         |
| Barr, James                | Donelan, Nancy              | Harry, Clayton E       | Knecht, Marvin T         | Ott, Katharina          | T & S Hospitality      |
| Barthel, Gene              | Dorothy, Julia              | Hartley, Randy         | Langdeau, Rita D         | Pan Am Agri Inc         | Tanner, Virginia M     |
| Bearheels, Stacey          | Drabek, Anton               | Haughland, Nels        | Laroche, Melvin D        | Pankratz, Duane         | Teichroew, Kevin       |
| Beckwith, Leslie           | Driving Hawk, Ben           | Hayes, Randy J         | Laverdure, Colleen       | Parsons, Quentin        | Tennyson, Jack M       |
| Belvidere Christian School | Driving Hawk, Ronald J      | Healy, John E          | Lebeau, Michel           | Patton, Dorothy         | Terca, J               |
| Bennett, Merlin O          | Dupris, Victoria            | Heenan, Ronald J       | Leightnam, Mark          | Paulus, Barbara         | Thompson, Brian        |
| Berg, Alice                | Dykstra, Jeff J             | Heintzman, Mark        | Lemon, Charlene E        | Pfeifle, Robert         | Totton, Darrell        |
| Betchner, Robert           | Eastman, Dennis R           | Hendricks, Timothy J   | Lemon, Don               | Pickner, Kelly          | Totton, Sandra         |
| Bingen, Noel D             | Egerdal, John               | Herbener, Nyle S       | Lewison, Golda           | Pier, J.E.              | Tusberg, Bruce E       |
| Blair, James               | Ellston, Verne D            | Herman Bros            | Loney, A Flesner S       | Pierce, Mark D          | US West Communications |
| Boe, Raymond               | Elvaker, Ida R              | Herman, Louis          | Loveday, Clifford N      | Plumley, Robert L       | Urban, James R         |
| Boschee, Ronald            | Egen, Oscar                 | Hewitt, Charles        | Marsh, Dennis            | Poper, Michael E        | Valandra, David A      |
| Brakke, Marc A             | Erikson, Norman             | Hill, David C          | Marvin, Shirley          | Rapid City Production   | Vanrooyen, David       |
| Braswell, David L          | Farmers Home Administration | Hilmoe, Whitey         | McDonald, Thomas         | Regas, Donald           | VFW Post 3653          |
| Brooks, Sundae R           | Farris, Alice               | Hofer, Mildred L       | McGrath, Howard          | Reutter, Randall J      | Waara, Cheri           |
| Brown, Jeffrey             | Fast Horse, Martha          | Hofmann, August        | Mednansky, Edna          | Rigney, Patrick         | Wagaman, Veryl         |
| Brown, Robert C            | Fehilly, Caryn L            | Hofmeister, L.D.       | Metropolitan Life Ins Co | Risseeuw, Wesley        | Walker, Julie P        |
| Buchholz, Carl J           | Fennell, John T             | Hofwolt, Paul A        | Meyer, Steve             | Sack, Robert M          | Walker, Wilbur         |
| Buckles, Edna E            | Fishburn, Gene C            | Hovland, Wade          | Middletent, Lorenda      | Sanders, Darin          | Wall, John             |
| Burkholder, Patty A        | Fitch, Edward               | Hoyer, Bruce           | Miller, A.C.             | Schelle, H.B.           | Watkins, Richard K     |
| Buxcel, Shirley            | Folkerts, Rommert F         | Hubbard, G.A.          | Miller, Vern             | Schelle, Mary J         | West, John             |
| Byre, Rhonda               | Forney, Paul E              | Hulm, Andrew D         | Monroe, Jeff             | Schmidt, Robert         | Whiteco Metrocom       |
| Caldwell, Louis            | Foster, Kenneth             | Hunt, Effie L          | Moore, Patty G           | Schulte, Donald F       | Williams, Donald E     |
| Carr, Millard              | Frame, Marie                | Illian, Marie K        | Moore, Shirley M         | Schweitzer, Cherly L    | Williams, R.T.         |
| A.W. Cherry and Sons       | Garnos, Veran               | Ino, George            | Morgan, Ola F            | Seachris, Teresa        | Williamson, Anita      |
| Christensen, Ronald        | Gebur, Denise               | Isanti Contractors Inc | Moriarty, Marianne       | Seaton, Robert          | Yager, Eldon           |
| Christensen, Steven W      | Goodface, Margaret          | Iwan, Kevin L          | Morrison, Ed             | Sheriff, Glen           | Yonkee, Teresa A       |
| Clifford, Helen            | Goodman, Ralph              | Jacob, Tonda           | Motorola Inc             | Simmons, Douglas        | Yost, Ralph            |
| Coleman, Tracy             | Goodwin, Esther             | Jacoby, Joe            | Mulcahy, Thilda          | Sinkey, Nyla            | Young, Irwin H         |
| Coleman, Tyler J           | Grassrope, Altwin           | Jennerjahn, Susan      | Muller, Albert           | Smith, Delmar E         | Zelenka, Sharon        |
| Comp Bros                  |                             | Jensen, Robert W       | Nebola, Deanna           | Sommer, Don             |                        |
| Cook, Julie                |                             | Jessop, Jody           | Neeman, Arla             | Sorensen, Merlyn        |                        |
|                            |                             |                        | Neumann,                 | Sparks, James W         |                        |

# West Central Electric

## Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-988)

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**Our Mission is to Provide  
Safe, Reliable Service  
to our Member Owners.**

West Central Electric Cooperative,  
Inc., is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.

**Call 605-669-8100  
24-hour Dispatching**

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Twitter: @WCElectric; Facebook:  
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Design assistance by SDREA

Nov. 5, 2018

# Getting Ready for Camp



**Steve Reed, CEO**

steve.reed@wce.coop

We continue to work on Keystone XL activities. Our current focus is on getting service to their work force camp. This camp is intended to house up to 1,200 workers and is a set up to provide all the necessary services for the workers including dining and recreation. The camp is located approximately 1 mile north of Philip on Highway 73.

To serve this, we installed an underground line from our north Philip substation as well as a line from our existing rural line west of the site. After the camp is closed, we will leave the facilities in place and the line will provide backup for both our Hilland and South Rural substations. It will also provide power to those accounts on the west side of Philip that are served

by our rural system. We are also working to provide service to several pipe yards and contractor yards. While TransCanada has not given us the go ahead to start construction on the 50-plus miles of transmission lines and substations for the project, all indications are that they will be proceeding with construction in 2019 and completion in 2020.

It is also the time of year when we look back and are thankful for all the good things that have come our way. On behalf of all of us, we want to wish everyone a joyous holiday season.

# Join Us Dec. 4!



**A retirement party/open  
house will be held at the  
new Kadoka warehouse on  
Dec. 4 from noon to 2 p.m.  
We'll be serving hot dogs,  
cake and refreshments.**



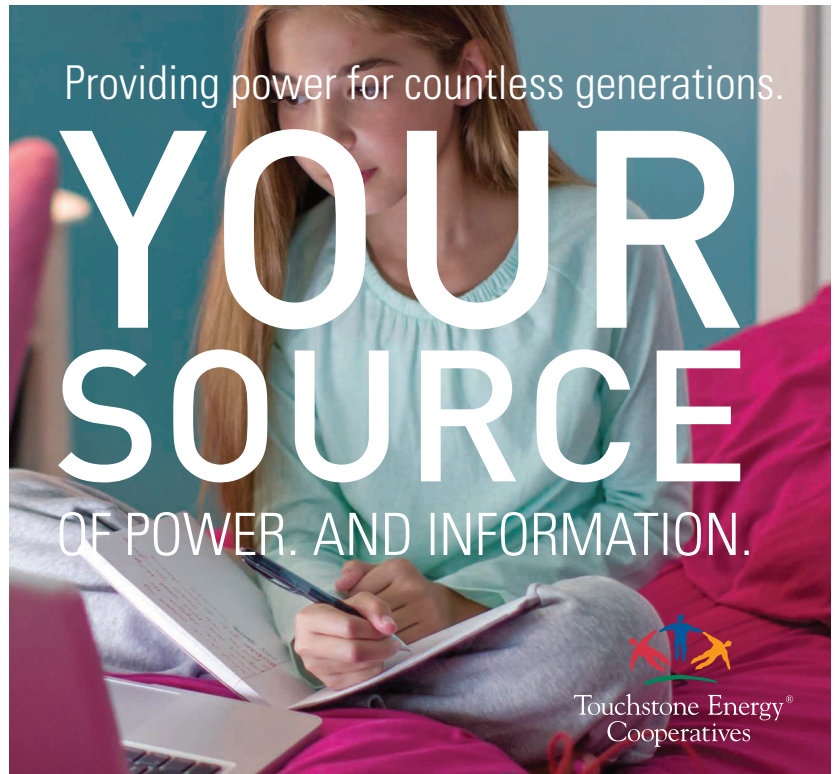
**Marv Moor**  
Retiring after  
36 years with WCE

## Holiday Decorating Safety Tips

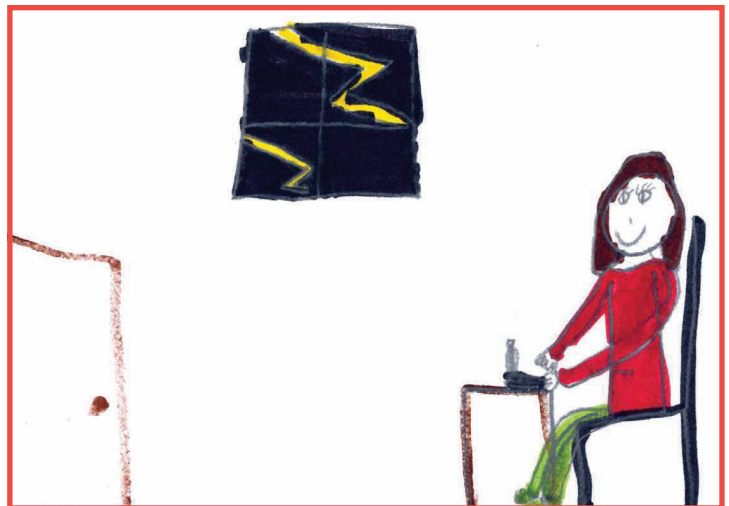
While decorative lights and other electrical decorations add to the splendor of the season, they can increase the risks of fire and electrical injuries if not used safely.

- **Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use.** Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- **Do not overload electrical outlets.** Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires. Avoid overloading outlets and plug only one high-wattage into each outlet at a time.
- **Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.** More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire.
- **Keep trees fresh by watering daily.** Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.
- **Use battery-operated candles.** Candles start almost half of home decoration fires (National Fire Protection Association).
- **Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources.** A heat source that was too close to the decoration was a factor in half of home fires that began with decorations (NFPA).
- **Protect cords from damage.** To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors and windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.
- **Check decorations for certification label.** Decorations not bearing a label from an independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL) have not been tested for safety and could be hazardous.
- **Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking.** Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires (NFPA).
- **Turn off, unplug and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.** Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. (NFPA).

Source: esfi.org



### KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Do not use electronics when there are thunderstorms."**

**Hope Wagner, 8 years old**

Hope is the daughter of Bryan and Lynita Wagner, Wetonka, S.D. They are members of FEM Electric Association, Ipswich, 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.

# Holiday Favorites

## Holiday Streusel-topped Squash

1 butternut squash (2 to 2.5 lbs.) peeled, seeded and cut in 1/2-inch chunks, about 4-1/2 cups	1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup water	1/4 cup chopped pecans
1/2 tsp. salt	2 T. softened butter
1/3 cup flour	1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
	1 cup sweetened dried cranberries

In an 11x7-inch microwavable dish, spread squash cubes. Add water and sprinkle with salt. Cover with plastic wrap, folding back one edge or corner 1/4-inch to vent steam. Microwave on high 5 minutes or until crisp tender. Meanwhile mix flour, brown sugar, pecans, butter and pumpkin pie spice together using a fork. Top squash with sweetened cranberries. Sprinkle streusel evenly over cranberries and squash. Bake at 350°F. uncovered 40 to 45 minutes or until streusel is brown. Serves 8.

Michelle Ommen, Mitchell, SD

## Coconut Macaroons

2/3 cup sweetened condensed milk	2-1/2 cups flaked coconut
2 T. flour	1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 tsp. vanilla	

Combine sweetened condensed milk, flour and vanilla. Stir in coconut and chocolate chips. Drop by spoonfuls onto well-greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350°F. 10 to 12 minutes until golden brown. Remove to wire racks to cool.

Maxine Smith, Owanka, SD

## Honey Chew Candy

1/2 cup butter	1/2 cup chopped dates
1 cup honey	1 cup chopped walnuts

Cook butter and honey for 20 minutes, stirring constantly. Add dates and nuts; mix well. Put into an 8-inch buttered pan. Cool. Cut candy into bite-sized pieces; wrap each piece in waxed paper. Makes about 48 pieces.

Helen Gregory, Lemmon, SD

## Gingerbread Whoopie Pies with Lemon Crème

3 cups flour	1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 tsp. ground ginger	1/4 cup granulated sugar
1 tsp. ground cinnamon	1 cup crushed peppermint candies
1 tsp. baking soda	<b>Lemon Crème:</b>
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg	1 (7 oz.) jar marshmallow creme
1/4 tsp. salt	1/2 stick butter, softened
1-1/2 sticks butter, softened	4 oz. (1/2 pkg.) cream cheese, softened
3/4 cup packed brown sugar	1 tsp. lemon extract
1/2 cup molasses	
1 egg	

For the Gingerbread Whoopie Pies, mix flour, ginger, cinnamon, baking soda, nutmeg and salt in large bowl. Set aside. Beat butter and brown sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add molasses, egg and vanilla; beat well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Press dough into a thick flat disk. Wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll in granulated sugar to coat. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350°F. 8 to 10 minutes or until edges of cookies just begin to brown. Remove to wire racks; cool completely. Meanwhile, for the Lemon Crème, mix marshmallow creme, butter, cream cheese and lemon extract in medium bowl until well blended. To assemble whoopie pies, place about 1 T. filling on the flat side of 1 cookie. Top with a second cookie, pressing gently to spread the filling. Repeat with remaining cookies. Roll edge of cookies in crushed candy. Store whoopie pies between layers of wax paper in airtight container in refrigerator up to 5 days. Makes 30 servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 203, Total Fat 7g, Protein 2g, Cholesterol 28mg, Sodium 135mg, Protein 22g, Carbohydrates 33g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

Please send your favorite soup, brunch or seafood recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Thinking of switching your home's heating system?

# Heat Pump is a Good Option



**Pat Keegan**

Collaborative Efficiency

**Heat pumps are about 1.5 times more efficient than they were in the 1970s, and they're functioning better in colder temperatures.**

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips)

**Dear Pat:** We're considering buying an electric vehicle and switching from a propane furnace to a heat pump. We care about the environment and are wondering if using more electricity would be beneficial. – Jason and Chelsea

**Dear Jason and Chelsea:** The decisions about how to heat your home and how to fuel your transportation needs are among the most important environmental decisions you can make. There are a number of changes happening in the energy sector, and with electric co-ops in particular, that are making your electricity cleaner.

Decades ago, coal was the preferred fuel for electricity generation. As investments in environmental upgrades took hold, the energy industry increased the use of low sulfur coal, and found ways to clean the coal and burn it more efficiently. Scrubbers were installed in coal plants to reduce sulfur emissions, but even after these improvements were made, natural gas turbines were still considered environmentally preferable to coal plants. In 1990, utilities depended upon coal to generate more than half of their electricity, but by 2016, that dropped to less than one third.

In recent years, solar and wind generation have taken off and now provide more than 8 percent of utility energy generation. Electric co-ops have installed solar at a record pace, with solar capacity growing more than four times since 2015. Electric co-ops have pioneered community solar programs, where members subscribe to a community project and the co-op installs a large array that is much less costly per kilowatt than smaller rooftop projects. Nearly 200 co-ops offered community solar programs in 2017, and more than 500 co-ops across the country use electricity generated by wind power.

These statistics are national, but the environmental impacts of electricity depend upon where you live and where your electric co-op purchases electricity. Many co-ops publish this information on their website or in their annual reports on the sources of electric generation.

With all that in the back of your mind, let's get to the decisions you are looking to make: home heating and vehicle purchase.

The heat pump you're considering is a good option. Heat pumps are about 1.5 times more efficient than they were in the 1970s, and they're functioning better in colder temperatures. Heat pumps take care of your cooling needs as well, and can do so with about half the energy they required in 1990. The best choice for home heating and cooling depends to a large degree on the climate where you live. In more extreme climates, you'll need more heating or cooling capacity, and can justify splurging for the more energy efficient models.

As our energy supply becomes cleaner, electric vehicles are becoming a better environmental choice across the country. The environmental advantage depends upon how electricity is generated in different locations, and there are other factors to consider when looking at an electric vehicle. The fuel cost of an electric vehicle is, on average, half as much per mile as a gasoline vehicle. Electric vehicles generally require less maintenance, but the batteries eventually need to be replaced. Battery costs are dropping, but potential buyers should note this will still be a hefty bill. Electric vehicles cost more upfront than their gas counterparts, but the cost is coming down with every new model.

As you make your decision on a heating system and new vehicle, remember there are other things you can do to reduce the environmental impact of your energy use. You can insulate and seal the air leaks in your home. You can set the thermostat a little lower in the winter and a little higher in the summer. You can also check with your local electric co-op to see if they offer a community solar program or additional energy-saving tips.

I hope these ideas help you make your decision.

## Scholarship Prizes Available

### for Resource Conservation Speech Contest Winners

Contestants in the 2019 State Finals of the Resource Conservation Speech contest will be eligible to win a total of \$2,300 in college scholarships.

All South Dakota students in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete for \$2,300 in higher education scholarships, which are provided by East River and Rushmore Electric Power Cooperatives, as well as the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. Scholarships are awarded to the top three finalists: first place is \$1,100, second place is \$750 and third place is \$450.

The theme for the 2019 contest is "Ag Technology: Farming and Ranching for a Future."

Contests are coordinated by local conservation districts. Local winners advance to area contests held in seven locations. The top area speakers compete at the state finals in Pierre on Saturday, April 27, 2019.

The contest is sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA), in cooperation with Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of South Dakota, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

For more information on the Resource Conservation Speech Contest, contact your local conservation district or call Tiffany Thompson, natural resource specialist for SDDA, at 605.773.3623.

An entry form and complete list of rules can be found online at: <http://sdda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry/educational-programs/resource-conservation-speech-contest/PDF/2019Speech-Brochure.pdf>



## Future Engineers Sought for Co-op Scholarship

Beginning in 2017, the Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation Scholarship Committee has proudly awarded two \$2,000 scholarships to individuals pursuing a career in engineering through the foundation's Engineers of the Future Scholarship.

This annual opportunity would not be possible without the foresight and generous contributions of the IEEE: Rural Electric Power Committee (REPC). Together, the foundation and REPC hope to support future engineers with an interest and passion for defining and solving the electric utility challenges of the future.

Applications are available at <https://www.electric.coop/engineers-future-scholarship/> beginning on Dec. 1 and are due by April 1, 2019. Winners are announced in mid-July with the awards distributed in August 2019.

Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen and enrolled in an ABET, four-year program of electrical engineering or electrical engineering technology and have at least a 'B' average in major subjects. Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student and must have already received academic credits equal to at least one year of college.

To be considered for the Engineers of the Future Scholarship, applicants must submit an essay using the following requirements as your guide:

- Essays need to be between 1,000 and 1,500 words.
- Essays must describe, in detail, the applicant's plans to pursue a career as an electrical engineer, with an emphasis in electric power, in an electrical utility serving a rural area.
- Essays must demonstrate applicant's knowledge of the unique challenges facing the electric industry in Rural America and describe how you might address these issues as an engineer.

Through your essay, application and (optional) video, please demonstrate your commitment to a career in electrical engineering and your passion for improving rural communities via this career path.



WREA employees gathered for a Day of Service in the town of New Underwood, S.D. The cover photo features one of the projects the group undertook: painting the community's fire hydrants.

# COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

## Electric Co-ops Active Locally

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

Across South Dakota and western Minnesota, the region's electric cooperatives – and their employees and members – can be found not only providing reliable, affordable energy to thousands, but also rolling up their sleeves and helping to improve their local communities.

This fall, West River Electric Association in Wall undertook a Day of Caring project that saw dozens of co-op employees on the streets of New Underwood, a western South Dakota town with a population of about 660.

Working with local community leaders, the co-op identified a variety of projects they could assist with. Crews helped remove trees, paint fire hydrants, fences, a walking bridge and prepare a wall for a future mural. As they worked, community members joined in the effort.

At Colman, S.D., on a Saturday in September, co-op employees and members gathered in the



Sioux Valley Energy Customer Electrical Technician Dana Foster sands a board as part of the co-op's Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build project.



## Investing in Youth: Scholarships

Each year, electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota, offer more than \$100,000 in scholarships to students – usually children and dependents of co-op members – to further their educations.

For nearly 30 years, Basin Electric Power Cooperative has partnered with its member cooperatives to offer more than 180 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 for each school year. This program is for dependent children of member cooperative employees, member cooperative consumers and children of Basin Electric employees. Thirty-one of those scholarships go to students in South Dakota and western Minnesota.

Basin Electric offers scholarships for dependent children of employees of Basin Electric and its subsidiaries who are in college or will be entering college in the fall. Five scholarships are designated for qualified applicants who plan to attend a certified vocational or technical school, and five are designated for qualified applicants who plan to achieve an engineering degree. Up to two awards are designated for students majoring in information services and telecommunications. Basin Electric also offers 20 \$1,000 scholarships to children of member cooperative employees. A handful of these scholarships are awarded to South Dakota and western Minnesota students each year.

Many local cooperatives also offer additional scholarships.

- One co-op uses monies from their Operation Round Up® program to fund more than \$10,000 in scholarships. Other co-ops offer scholarships in conjunction with other programs such as the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives Scholar of the Week program.
- And, some co-ops offer scholarships to students seeking a specific career path, such as becoming a line worker.
- For more than 20 years, the South Dakota Rural Electric Line Superintendents Association, which is made up of those in charge of cooperative operations managers, have awarded scholarships to students pursuing a career as a line worker, particularly those attending Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D.
- Students selected to represent their co-op on the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., are eligible to apply for a \$10,000 scholarship and four \$1,000 scholarships once they are a sophomore in college through the Glen English Foundation. English was the former CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Cam Wal Electric's Scott Artz conducts a safety demonstration for Selby, S.D.-area youth.

Sioux Valley Energy parking lot east of town along S.D. Highway 34 to construct beds for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a volunteer organization that builds, assembles and delivers bunk beds to children and families in need.

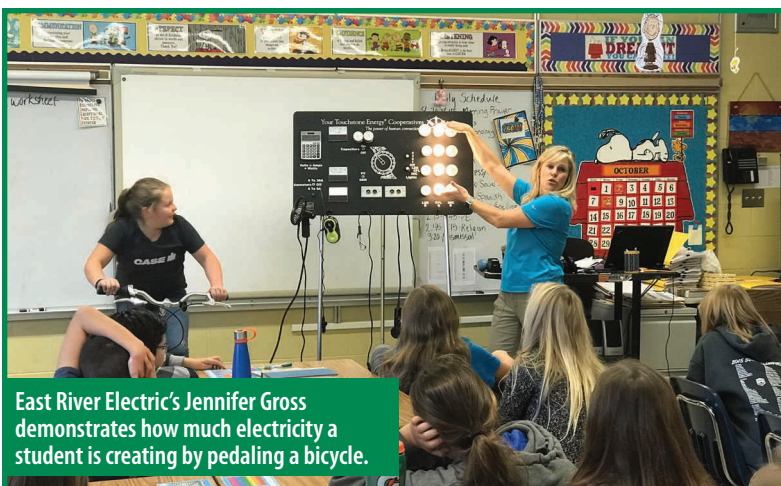
During the Sioux Valley Energy build, 20 beds were constructed, which is 10 percent of the Brookings chapter's goal of 200 beds built in 2018. The Brookings Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace is one of 69 in the country.

Co-op employees have also assisted with clean-up projects in Sioux Falls and also at an abandoned rural cemetery near Dell Rapids, S.D.

These examples are in addition to the on-going local community commitment cooperatives throughout the state have.

Throughout the year, electric cooperatives can be found working to educate area youth on the importance of energy efficiency and safety around power lines.

And, heading into the holiday season, co-op crews can be seen in various towns hanging municipal holiday decorations in towns like Bison in northwestern South Dakota and other communities in the state.



East River Electric's Jennifer Gross demonstrates how much electricity a student is creating by pedaling a bicycle.



Marv Moor prepares to do hotline work from a bucket.

# MOOR HANGS UP HOOKS AFTER 36 YEARS

Jessie Tucker

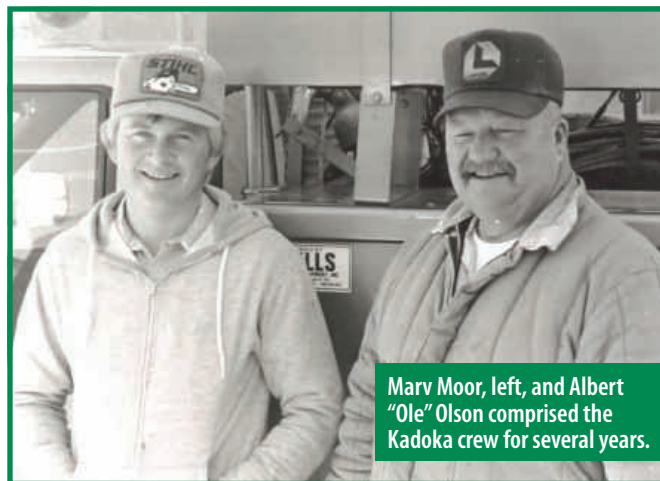
[jessie.tucker@wce.coop](mailto:jessie.tucker@wce.coop)

Marvin Moor was the third son in a hard-working farming family on the “Old” Rosebud Reservation of Gregory County near St. Charles, S.D. Their small family farm received power from the local Rosebud Electric Cooperative, and though Marvin didn’t realize it then, power line work would be his future.



Marv Moor

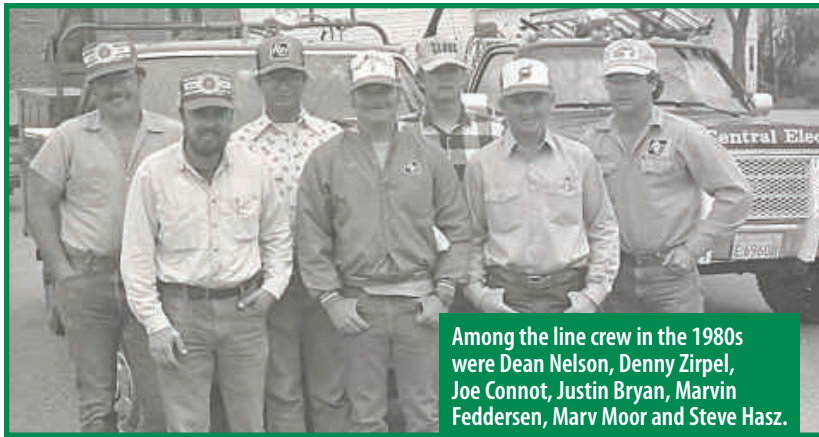
His first job after high school was at Kolberg’s as a welder, constructing large conveyors. While working there and visiting friends at SDSU in Brookings, a lifelong neighbor and friend of Marv introduced him to her freshman roommate, Debra Kusters. They hit it off and a couple years later they decided to marry. It was during this time that Marv changed jobs. He began work with the State of South Dakota in Pierre for the South Dakota Department of Transportation, Foundations Division. Marv worked on a crew that traveled throughout the state drilling test holes and taking soil samples for future structural projects, like bridges, buildings and more.



Marv Moor, left, and Albert “Ole” Olson comprised the Kadoka crew for several years.

Although his job brought Marvin new skills and opportunities, the amount of travel time he spent away was great. After much contemplation, Marv decided to attend the power line program at Mitchell Vocational Technical School (now Mitchell Technical Institute). He made lifelong friends while attending vo-tech, as many of his classmates of the class of ’82 were non-traditional students like himself.

Graduation was truly a joyful celebration, as they also



Among the line crew in the 1980s were Dean Nelson, Denny Zirpel, Joe Connot, Justin Bryan, Marvin Feddersen, Marv Moor and Steve Hasz.

welcomed their new son, Matthew, into their little family. The task ahead now was to secure a job in a market where few job openings were available in South Dakota, where both of their families lived. With a tip from Marv's instructor, they took an adventure to Wellington, Kansas, where an eager employer waited. Just as Marv entered the office for the job interview, his instructor called and told him that he had a job at West Central Electric in Murdo, S.D., if he was interested in the position. They were elated to stay in South Dakota and immediately arranged to move to Murdo!

Marv started in the Murdo office with George Fosheim as his first mentor – learning the area, the line and how operations worked. For the first five years, Marv worked at West Central's Murdo office, then, in 1987, an opening for a lineman at the Kadoka outpost became available and Marv jumped at the chance to work outside on the line. They moved their family that summer, which now included a second son, Mitch, with a third son, Marcus, arriving while living in Kadoka.

In Kadoka, Marv found another superior mentor in Albert (Ole) Olson. Working with him, Marv found his true vocation – it really IS what he loves to do! He tells stories about the house moves and storm jobs, JUTS (Joint Utility Training Schools) sessions. He especially enjoys visiting with co-workers, members and friends he meets as part of his work. Line work is always something different – it calls to those who like the challenge of facing danger at times – despite the weather, in unknown circumstances, with uncontrollable conditions. Linemen can take pride in their accomplishments but are dependent on the back-up of coworkers – it's a team effort!

Over the years, Marv has assisted with community activities such as Cub Scout leader, leadership team member and board president for Thrivent. He currently sits on the Kadoka Nursing Home board, serves in a variety of church council/leadership roles and assists other organizations in other ways.

After Marv retires, they plan to travel, visiting family and friends more often. He is very devoted to family, but with Matthew and Marcus' family living so very far away, they don't get to see them often enough, especially their one-and-only grandchild, Leo Finn Moor.

Marv's interest in motorcycles, old cars and watching racing sports on TV has always appealed to him, so he'll finally be able to relax and enjoy these. Always able to make conversation and new friends, Marv will probably join friends at the local coffee shop for his daily-dose of leisure.

The Moor family would like to thank West Central Electric for the opportunities, care and support they provided over the years. It has been deeply appreciated.

A retirement party/open house will be held at the new Kadoka warehouse on Dec. 4 from noon to 2 p.m. We'll be serving hot dogs, cake and refreshments.

## Konst Joins Team

West Central Electric is proud to announce the hiring of new IT coordinator, Jade Konst. He started his career with West Central on Oct. 1 and will be working out of the Murdo office.



**Jade Konst**

Jade was born and raised on West Central lines and is originally from Philip, S.D.

After graduating as a Philip Scotty in 2012, Jade enrolled at Mitchel Technical Institute (MTI) and graduated there with an associates of applied science degree in telecommunications. This degree will fit exceptionally well with job duties with West Central, which will mainly be focused towards networking/IT.

After MTI, Jade worked for Kennebec Telephone Company and Golden West Telecommunications Co-op. Combined, he joins West Central with more than four years' experience in the communications industry.

Jade had this to say about his new job with West Central, "So far there hasn't been anything I haven't absolutely loved about my job. It's always something new and challenging everyday so I'm never bored, to say the least. I am also really proud and happy to be a part of this cooperative. It's great to see how much the members and employees are valued."

In his time away from work, Jade enjoys hunting, watching Steelers and Notre Dame football, spending time with family and friends and playing his drums. Jade, his wife Bailey, and two dogs, Gema and Chibz, are all glad to be in Murdo. "I believe that in a small town, you must be involved if you want to see the community succeed. I coached football in Hot Springs for the past three years, which I would love to get into here." Jade also has plans to be actively involved in the Murdo Lions Club.



West Central welcomes Jade to the co-op as he puts his best foot forward. Jade adds, "Anything worth doing, is worth doing right and I plan to do my best to be a strong employee and member of this cooperative."

# Success in Community Investment by Cooperatives

REED Fund Powers Local Communities

## REED FUND QUICK FACTS:

- Incorporated in 1997
  - Loans issued - 323
  - Total funds loaned - \$84.3 million
  - Total employment by REED borrowers - 8,900
  - Total project investment \$666 million
  - Real estate financed - 2.1 million square feet
- 2017 REED Fund Annual Report



More than 25 fire departments, such as the Wolsey Fire Protection District in Wolsey, S.D., have been recipients of REED Fund investments.

The Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc. (REED) Fund provides business and community project financing in partnership with commercial and other economic development lenders to leverage private investment and make a difference in the region it serves. Established in 1996 and governed by 25 electric cooperatives, REED assists projects that promote growth and contribute to job, business and wealth creation, as well as improve the infrastructure, community facilities/services and economic base of rural areas.

Nearly 83 percent of REED's lending goes to communities with populations of less than 5,000 people and the majority of the projects have local ownership.

## Community Success Stories

Community facilities and services are necessary for quality of life and sustainable development. REED Fund provides a

wide range of financing for community projects. Loan applicants include, but are not limited to, civic and philanthropic organizations, educational institutions, local governments and special purpose districts. Success stories illustrate the broad spectrum of different types of projects the fund has assisted, including education, public safety, emergency services, recreation, arts, community infrastructure, facilities and equipment.

## Health Care Success Stories

Health Care Financing has been an important sector for the REED Fund. Whether it is a medical clinic, hospital, long term care facility or emergency services, REED fund recognizes the importance of access to quality care. Financing can be for buildings or equipment. These projects may be



Ag-based projects also benefitted from REED Fund investments.



The expansion of Clark, S.D.-based Dakota Butcher to two Watertown locations was financed in part by a REED Fund loan through Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative as well as South Dakota Department of Agriculture financing.

**Investing to build a stronger region, REED partners with numerous financial institutions, regional loan funds and government programs to develop financing packages that help create and expand businesses and employment opportunities, sustain and expand health care and education, as well as develop and support community facilities, services, infrastructure and rental housing.**

eligible to seek zero percent financing through a USDA program available through the local cooperative..

**Business Success Stories**

REED Fund’s business loans support business growth and development and contribute to employment and business ownership opportunities. The loans benefit retail, service, tourism, manufacturing, and technology sectors. REED also finances nonprofit development organizations for activities such as industrial parks, leasehold facilities. Financing to nonprofit development corporations receive a reduced interest rate.

**Agri Business Success Stories**

To recognize agriculture’s impact on the region’s economic base, REED makes loans to support projects that add value to local agriculture production through innovation, improved services, further processing, or marketing. Loans are not made for traditional production agriculture.

**Housing Success Stories**

Loans that support housing development are also available. To qualify the project needs evidence of broad base of community support and must be

able to show need for additional housing and/or infrastructure to support development. REED does not finance home loans to owner occupants.

For more information on the REED Fund, contact a participating cooperative or visit <http://www.reedfund.coop/reed>

**Who REED Has Helped**

- 48 Retail and service businesses
- 37 Office facilities or industrial buildings for lease (all to non-profit owners)
- 31 Health care facilities (clinics, hospitals, nursing care centers)
- 25 Fire protection projects (trucks and buildings)
- 22 Community Infrastructure projects (water, wastewater, Main Street)
- 24 Manufacturing firms (plant and/or equipment)
- 18 Ag processing businesses (nine producer-owned) – \$156 million capital investment
- 22 Education (schools, distance learning, technology), including four childcare centers
- 19 Tourism-related businesses
- 20 Grain handling/agronomy firms (15 are cooperatives) – \$126 million capital investment
- 12 Ag retail/service businesses
- 14 Recreation and arts facilities, non-profit, including community centers
- 11 Partner regional and local loan funds
- 11 Multi-family housing projects (three site development, three elderly housing, five multi-family)



Need a gift for your favorite health nut? Smart watches and wrist bands not only keep track of how far you walk each day, but can appeal to your competitive streak by choosing a virtual walking or running mate. Source: Pixabay

# ELECTRIFY YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT LIST

Advances in electronics offer something for everyone.

**Paul Wesslund**

NRECA

Electricity doesn't just have to light up your tree this Christmas, it can also power your holiday gift list.

Electric gadgets can cook, entertain, help with chores and improve your health, says Brian Sloboda, a program and product manager at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

He says electric devices will almost always get the job done quieter, cheaper and more efficiently.

Sloboda has a couple of tips before you head to the store or online to start shopping:

- **Don't always buy the cheapest.** Inexpensive rechargeable batteries, for example, can catch fire. Or their charges can be limited, giving just a few minutes of use at a time. Buy from reputable companies and shop around to compare prices.



Keep an eye on your fur baby when you're away. Consumers have numerous options for home video monitoring. The PetChatz® system, shown here, allows pet owners to watch and talk to their pets when away – and even toss tasty treats! Image Credit: PetChatz®

■ **Be cyber safe.** Any internet-connected device can be hacked. Even security cameras and smart TVs come with a preset and lousy password. Change it. Keep the software updated – updates often include security fixes. He adds, “Don’t let the fear of hacking prevent you from enjoying these devices. Just be aware of what could happen and take necessary precautions.”

## Here’s your idea list for giving or receiving:

■ **For the cook.** Sous-vide is the latest kitchen trend. In French, it means “under vacuum,” but it’s basically a cooking technique that seals the food in a plastic bag and slow cooks it in water. “It is used by a number of restaurants,” says Sloboda. “It doesn’t get rid of the nutrients in the food through overcooking.” Sous-vide devices come as an electric pot, or for less money, as a wand that you stick into your own pot of water with the plastic bag. And of course, there’s an app for that – you can control the sous-vide cooking with your smart phone.

■ **For the handyperson.** Electric lawnmowers, trimmers and chainsaws eliminate spills and trips to the gas station. But they’re not for everyone – Sloboda says professional landscapers need the power of gasoline. Rechargeable battery models are best for suburban yards where the job takes about 30 minutes. Plug-in versions have the hassle and distance limits of a cord, but are more powerful and cheaper. Another big advantage is electric models are quiet and won’t disturb the neighbors. With leaf blowers in particular, Sloboda says, some states are passing noise-limiting regulations. Electric blowers pollute a lot less – Sloboda says the types of motors in gasoline leaf blowers “put more pollutants into the air than most gas-powered cars.”

■ **For fun.** “It’s a good time to buy electronics,” says Sloboda. “Televisions are getting thinner and lighter and they’re coming down in price. All because LED (light-emitting diode) technology has improved.” If the video games in your house are a few years old, gamers will get much better graphics with an upgrade and they will save energy, says

Sloboda, because “we’ve seen the video game console manufacturers improve the efficiency of their products.”

■ **For outdoor activities,** flying remote-controlled drones has gotten popular and they’re available in a range of prices. Before you buy, check battery life between recharges so you know whether your gift provides 30 minutes of fun or three minutes.

■ **E-readers** make books quickly and cheaply available and now you can even check out electronic books from your library. Virtual reality glasses or goggles not only put you right in the middle of the action in a video game, they can be useful in home repair – companies are starting to offer virtual reality diagnostics for their products that can show details like which way to turn the wrench to fix a problem.

■ **For health.** Smart watches and wrist bands not only keep track of how far you walk each day, but can appeal to your competitive streak by choosing a virtual walking or running mate. A wide range of power scooters are available for fun or for commuting, some even have pedals to supplement the motor, so you can get a bit of exercise, too. Be aware that good motorized bikes and scooters are expensive.

■ **For the home.** Amazon’s Alexa and Echo, as well as other smart speakers, are getting popular, but Sloboda says they’re not being used to their full potential yet – most people just

ask their speaker to play music or give a weather report. Companies are working on addressing privacy concerns – smart speakers are listening all the time – but Sloboda says solving security questions would open up uses like home banking and controlling appliances with a voice command.

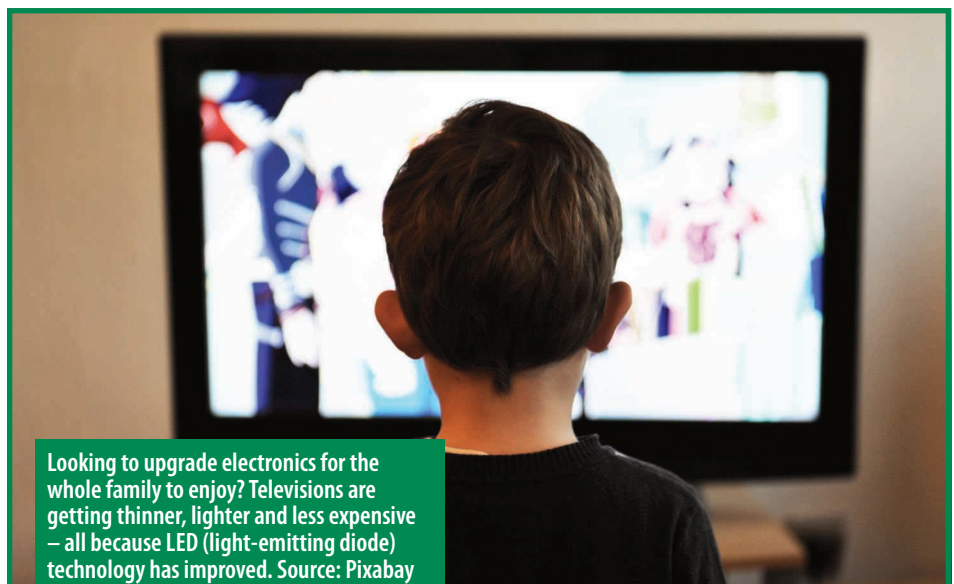
■ **To recharge all your devices,** you can choose options like smart power strips that avoid continuing to use electricity after a device is fully charged or portable block chargers to extend your phone’s battery life while traveling. Sloboda advises against wireless charging devices because they use a lot of electricity to operate.

■ **For your pet.** Electronics will shoot tennis balls for your dog to fetch, feed and water pets while you’re away, monitor their health and cameras can keep track of what they’re up to when you leave. “I aimed one of my security cameras at my dog,” says Sloboda. “Now I always push the chairs up to the dining table before I leave, otherwise within five minutes, our dog is standing in the middle of the table looking for anything he can chew on.”

Sloboda also advises supplementing all the electronic gifts with a good old-fashioned football or basketball.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*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.*



Looking to upgrade electronics for the whole family to enjoy? Televisions are getting thinner, lighter and less expensive – all because LED (light-emitting diode) technology has improved. Source: Pixabay

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**October 20-January 6**

Pheasant Hunting Season, Statewide, Pierre, SD, 605-223-7660

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**November 15-December 18**

Black Hills Christmas Tree Permit Season, Custer, SD, 605-673-9200

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**November 20-December 26**

Christmas at the Capitol, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3178

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**November 23-24, Dec. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23**

1880 Train Holiday Express, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

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**November 24**

Mid-Winter Fair, Memorial Auditorium, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Gregory, SD, 605-830-9778

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**November 29-30**

Festival of Trees, Lead, SD, 605-584-2067

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**December 1**

Christmas Stroll and Holidazzle Parade, Spearfish, SD, 605-717-9294

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**December 1**

Rapid City Garden Club's 57th Annual Wreath Sale, Canyon Lake Activity Center, Canyon Lake Senior Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-343-0710

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**December 1**

Christmas in the Village Craft Fair, Community Center, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oacoma, SD

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**December 1-2**

Living Christmas Tree, Aberdeen, SD, 605-229-6349

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**Dec. 1, 7-8, 13-15, 20-21**

Strawbale Winery Twilight Flights, Renner, SD, 605-543-5071



December 1: Christmas Parade, 5:30 p.m., Downtown, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

Photo courtesy: Kathy Braden

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**December 2**

Festival of Trees and Chili Cook-Off, Cookie Walk and Luncheon, Event Center, De Smet, SD

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**December 8**

Christmas Musicale, Eureka, SD, 605-284-2161

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**December 8**

Frontier Christmas, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

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**December 8-9**

Black Hills Cowboy Christmas, Lead, SD, 605-584-2067

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**December 8-9**

Dakota Territory Gun Show, Astoria Hotel, Dickinson, ND, 701-336-7533

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**December 9**

REO Speedwagon, Deadwood, SD, 605-559-0386

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**December 9**

41st Celebration of the St. Lucia Tradition, Dalesburg Lutheran Church, Rural Vermillion, SD, 605-253-2575

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**December 14**

A Green Dolphin Jazzy Christmas Concert, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

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**December 15-March 31**

South Dakota snowmobile trails season, Lead, SD, 605-584-3896

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**January 18-19**

Media One Funski, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-339-0000

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**January 18-20**

Winterfest: A Three Day Snowbash, Lead, SD, 605-584-1100

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**January 25-26**

Snowmobile Rally, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

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**January 25-February 3**

Annual Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo, Rapid City, SD, 605-355-3861

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**January 26**

Sioux Empire on Tap, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

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**February 8-9**

Strawbale Winery Valentine Twilight Flights, Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

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**February 8-10**

Black Hills Sports Show & Outdoor Expo, Rapid City, SD, 605-939-1812

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**February 21-23**

Sno Jam Comedy Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, siouxfallssnojamcomedyfest@gmail.com

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**March 9-12**

Summit League Basketball Championship, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

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**March 15-16**

28 Below Fatbike Race, Lead, SD, 605-584-3435

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**March 29-30**

Annual Schmeckfest, Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

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.