


Central Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

JANUARY 2016 VOL. 16 NO. 9



**Youth
Tour:
Inspiring
Teens
Since 1963**

P8-9

Merry Christmas to All!



Ken Schlingens
General Manager

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each and every one. It seems like 2015 has come and gone quickly.

In the spirit of giving, your Board of Directors authorized the retirement of \$400,000 of capital credits in November. Active members have received the refund as a credit on their most recent electric bill while inactive accounts received a check.

While I am on the topic of giving, your cooperative launched Operation Round-Up

in November of 2015. The purpose of the Operation Round-Up program is to provide funding in our service area for charitable and educational purposes, including emergency energy assistance. Where this money is ultimately donated will be controlled by a new, nine person, volunteer Board of Directors. The new board will be made up of one person from each county in our service area, as well as a representative from the Central Electric Cooperative Board of Directors.

The Operation Round-Up Foundation Board will follow the bylaws, policies, and guidelines as set by the Operation Round-Up program. These tools will help the board to determine who is eligible to receive funding, and how much funding they can receive.

Each Central Electric Board Member will appoint someone from their county to serve on the Operation Round-Up Foundation Board. If you have an interest in serving on the Foundation Board, you should contact your local director or our office. Foundation Board Members will need to attend a few meetings each year and will seek out applications for projects in the local area that would benefit from this program.

In last month's newsletter, I announced the need for an increase in revenue for 2016 in order to meet our financial requirements. The 4% increase will take effect on January 1, 2016 payable on the electric billing you receive in February. The additional revenue is needed to offset the gradual increase in expenses we have seen over the past three years and the expenses we anticipate for the coming year.

We tend to put our expenses in two different categories. The first category is the expense for the electric power we ultimately

deliver to you. This is our single largest expense, accounting for 71% of our total costs in 2015. Simply said, 71 cents of every dollar your cooperative receives is sent to our power suppliers. The costs of electric power have not changed over the past three years, but it is increasing by approximately 2% for 2016 and is forecasted to be another 2% in 2017.

The second expense category includes the costs associated with building and maintaining the electrical system and the costs for operating the cooperative. This category uses the remaining 29 cents of every dollar received from you. These costs are also increasing each year despite our best efforts to control them.

Our distribution system is approaching 75 years of age and needs constant maintenance and upgrades. Your cooperative invests approximately \$3 million in improvements annually to keep our system safe and reliable. This investment hits our bottom line in the form of interest and depreciation expense. Interest and depreciation expenses represent our largest expense items after power costs. Next in line would be the cost of labor and large purchases such as vehicles and equipment.

We are doing our best to control the costs for making improvements to our system. We have joined buying groups so we are purchasing materials at the same volume rates as much larger utilities. We purchase lightly used equipment coming off of lease programs when it makes economic sense. We are applying for and receiving mitigation funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for qualifying system improvements. FEMA funds reduce project costs by almost 75 percent. We have refinanced our long term debt to take advantage of lower interest rates. These and many more efforts are helping to lower our

operating costs, but it does increase a little each year.

When you combine the fact that costs are increasing with the fact that the cooperative has one of the fewest number of members per mile of power line to maintain in our state, along with minimal growth, it equals a lot of pressure on increasing rates. We know an increase in electric rates is difficult for our member owners, and we will continue to look for ways to control the costs for operating your electric cooperative.

I want to remind everyone of the eight district meetings scheduled in January. The night will consist of a good meal and a gift certificate for each member in attendance. My staff and I will provide updates on the cooperative operations, the new electric rates, and national issues affecting your cooperative. Please make every effort to attend.

I want to wish you and your family a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Central Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS 018-963)

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Mission Statement
Providing Reliable Energy and
Services at a Good Value

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer.

Co-op News

District Meeting Dates

Each member who attends their district meeting will be given a gift certificate worth \$10 towards their electric bill or \$15 towards any other service or product sold by Central Electric.

A meal will be served prior to the business meeting. All members will be notified by mail stating the official time, date and location of their district meeting.

Hanson County
Monday, Jan. 4, 2016
St. Mary's Catholic Church Hall
Alexandria

Jerauld County
Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016
Springs Inn
Wessington Springs

Miner County
Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016
4-H Building
Howard

Sanborn County
Monday, Jan. 11, 2016
4-H Building
Forestburg

Davison County
Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016
Davison County Activity Center
Mitchell

Aurora County
Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016
Ag Building
Plankinton

Brule County
Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016
Ag Building
Pukwana

Buffalo County
Tuesday, Jan. 26 2016
Tribal Headquarters Gym
Ft Thompson



Central Electric Offices will be **closed on December 25th and January 1st** so our employees may spend the Holiday Season with family and friends.

Speaking Out

The start of the new year brings many state legislatures back to their respective capitol cities to tend to the business of the people.

The Nebraska Legislature convenes Jan. 6 and South Dakota lawmakers start work back in Pierre on Jan. 12. Minnesota's Legislature reconvenes at noon on March 8.

While lawmakers are in the capitol, there are several ways to reach them:

South Dakota:

Write to local legislators in care of the Legislative Research Council, Capitol Building, 3rd Floor – 500 East Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501-5070

South Dakota Senators can be reached at 605-773-3821 while Representatives can be reached at 605-773-3251. During session, faxes can be sent to legislators at 605-773-6806

To e-mail legislators, go to: <http://legis.sd.gov/Contact/LegislatorEmail.aspx> and select the legislator's name from the drop-down box.

Minnesota:

To reach Minnesota Senators, write to: Honorable (Full Name), Minnesota State Senate, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

To reach Minnesota Representatives, write to: Honorable (Full Name), Minnesota House of Representatives, (Room #) State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298

Email is most effective if it is not a blanket mailing to all members. When sending an email, remember to include your name, postal address and phone number.

For more information on contacting Minnesota legislators, go to <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/faq/faqtoc?id=47>

Nebraska:

Find contact information for Nebraska Senators at http://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_list.php

Electric Blanket Safety Tips Can Save Your Life

During the cold of winter, an electric blanket may provide extra warmth in your home. Please consider several important safety tips to assure your electric blanket does not start a fire.

- Make certain your blanket is approved by a nationally recognized testing agency.
- When not in use, turn your blanket off. Most models have no internal temperature control that turns the heat off when the blanket temperature gets too hot.
- Place your blanket on top of you, not below you. Sitting or lying on an electric blanket may damage the internal coils of the blanket, exposing the heating element to a combustible material (the blanket).
- Never place items such as books, pillows or stuffed animals on top of the blanket. These items can trap the heat, leading to elevated temperatures and serve as a source of ignition.

• Keep the blanket flat, not crumpled or in a ball. If left on, a crumpled blanket allows for excessive heat build-up within the blanket. Always turn the blanket off when leaving the room.

- Do not wash an electric blanket.

The twisting, tugging and turning action of the washing machine will most certainly damage the internal coils.

• Unplug your blanket if you see or smell smoke coming from it. Discoloration of the blanket may indicate the heating elements are burning internally.

If you have any doubt about the safety of your blanket, discontinue using it. Electric blankets are usually a safe way to add a little warmth and are widely used throughout the country. However, this is only true if blankets are well maintained and properly used.

Source: seattle.gov



Kids' Corner Safety Poster



"Play safe around cords."

Allison Bruns, 10 years old
She is the daughter of Matt and Kim Bruns, Madison, 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.

Super Soups



Creamy Lasagna Soup

- 1 (23 oz.) can low-sodium, low fat tomato soup
- 3 cups hot water (equivalent of using 1 empty soup can)
- 3 cups low fat milk (equivalent of using 1 empty soup can)
- 3 T. Tone's Italian seasoning
- 1 lb. ground beef, cooked and drained
- 10 lasagna noodles, broken into pieces
- 8 oz. low fat cream cheese
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Combine first 5 ingredients until near boiling on medium high heat. Cook lasagna noodles in boiling water until soft; drain. Add to soup mixture. When heated through, add cream cheese, stirring thoroughly. Serve with mozzarella cheese sprinkled on top. Makes 12 servings.

Julie Thonvold, Erwin

Crockpot Potato Soup

- 1 (32 oz.) bag diced hash browns
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 32 oz. chicken broth
- 3 oz. real bacon bits
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 8 oz. cream cheese (do not use light)
- Salt and pepper to taste (may add onion powder and celery salt if desired)

Place all ingredients in crockpot except cream cheese. Cook on low, covered, for 8 hours. Add cream cheese that has been cut into small chunks during last hour of cooking, stirring often. Top with additional Cheddar cheese if desired.

Diana Spence, Utica

Crockpot Harvest Soup

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 (29 oz.) can Veg-All
- 1 (28 oz.) can diced tomatoes
- 1 (15 oz.) can tomato sauce
- 1 (28 oz.) can green beans
- 1 (15 oz.) can corn
- 1 (7 oz.) can green chilies
- 2 T. jalapenos, if desired
- 2 tsp. chili powder
- 6 beef bouillon cubes

Brown and drain ground beef. Place in crockpot; add remaining ingredients. Do not drain any can. Cook on low for 3 hours.

Jane Ham, Rapid City

Easy Broccoli-Potato-Cheese Soup

- 4 cans cream of potato soup
- 4 soup cans milk
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese, cut into small chunks
- 1 small head of broccoli, cut into florets
- Black pepper, to taste

Combine all ingredients in crockpot. Cook on low for 4 hours.

Lois Odien-Page, Hermosa

Chunky Chicken, Vegetable and Rosemary Stew

- 2 T. canola oil, divided
- 12 ounces boneless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 medium onion, cut in 8 wedges
- 3 medium carrots, quartered lengthwise and cut into thirds
- 1 medium celery stalk, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 cups water
- 2 dried bay leaves
- 1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 (15 oz.) can reduced-sodium navy beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup grape tomatoes, quartered
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh Italian parsley
- 1 T. chopped fresh rosemary
- 3/4 tsp. salt

In Dutch oven, heat 1 T. canola oil over medium-high heat. Add chicken and cook about 3 minutes per side or until it begins to brown (center will still be slightly pink). Remove from oven and set aside. Add remaining canola oil, onion, carrot and celery. Sauté, stirring frequently, for 5 minutes or until vegetables just begin to lightly brown on edges. Add water, bay leaves and pepper flakes. Bring to boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium low and simmer covered for 20 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir in chicken, beans, tomatoes, Italian parsley, rosemary and salt. Cover and cook 5 minutes or until tomatoes are tender and chicken is cooked. Serve immediately or let stew stand 30 minutes to develop flavors and texture. Yields 6 1-cup servings.

Nutritional analysis per serving: 220 calories; 7 g total fat (1 g saturated fat); 50 mg cholesterol; 17 g carbohydrates; 6 g fiber; 3 g sugars; 22 g protein; 380 mg sodium; 532 mg potassium

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Chicken Taco Soup

- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 (16 oz.) can kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (16 oz.) can pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (16 oz.) can corn, drained or 1 can cream-style corn
- 1 cup diced tomatoes
- 1 can Rotel tomatoes and chilies
- 1/2 cup diced green pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 lb. cooked chicken, shredded
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning

Place all ingredients in a crockpot. Cook on high for 2 hours or low for 4 hours. Can be garnished with sour cream and/or cheese once scooped into a bowl.

Colleen Noecker, Yankton

White Chicken Chili

- 5 to 6 (15 oz.) cans Northern beans, drained
- 3 (13 oz.) cans chunk chicken with juice, shredded
- 8 oz. can green chilies
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cheese soup (Fiesta or Cheddar) or 4 cups shredded cheese
- 16 oz. sour cream
- 1 pkg. white chicken chili seasoning

Combine all ingredients in crockpot. Cook until heated thru.

Jeanine Greenwood, Sioux Falls

Please send your favorite bread/ breakfast and 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 2016. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Calling for Volunteers: Operation RoundUp[®] Foundation Board

You donate extra cents each month, but you'd like to do more. What else can you do? Consider serving on the Operation Round Up Foundation Board and help decide where to distribute the charitable funds.



What does the Foundation Board do?

The Foundation Board will be responsible for the charitable funds, including an accounting system, responsible investment decisions, and ultimately, grant funds to organizations/ individuals based on the applications they've received.

The Board of Trustees will meet several times a year. They will also report to the Board of Directors on the operation and expenditures of the funds.

Who is eligible to serve?

Those interested in serving must be a Central Electric member.

Those who are **not** eligible to serve are as follows: current members on the Central Electric Board of Directors, immediate family members* of the Board of Directors, employees of Central Electric Cooperative, and immediate family members* of employees of Central Electric Cooperative.

(*Immediate family members will refer to spouse, parent, son, daughter, brother, sister, niece, nephew, half-sibling, step-sibling, grandparent, grandchild, in-laws and step-parents).

Is there compensation?

There is no stipend for serving on the Foundation Board. Members are serving on a volunteer basis. However, members will be reimbursed for mileage.

How is the Foundation Board selected?

A Foundation Board representative will be selected from each of the eight counties in our service territory. These selections will be made by the Board of Directors member from that district:

District 1 - Aurora Co:	Duane Wolbrink
District 2 - Brule Co:	Roger Campbell
District 3 - Buffalo Co:	David Gaulke
District 4 - Davison Co:	Darwin "Butch" Morrison
District 5 - Hanson Co:	Mark Hofer
District 6 - Jerauld Co:	Mark Reindl
District 7 - Miner Co:	Bernetta Burghardt
District 8 - Sanborn Co:	Todd VanWalleghen

How can I express my interest in serving on the Foundation Board?

Contact Courtney Deinert or Ken Schlimgen at the cooperative by calling 605-996-7516 or 800-477-2892.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO PREP AN OUTAGE KIT.

Consider pulling together several items for a safety kit in case you're put in the dark this season.

What to Include

- Flashlight & fresh batteries
- Candles & matches
- Bottled water (1 gallon/person/day)
- Non-perishable foods
- First Aid kit
- Family & emergency contact information
- Battery or crank radio
- Blankets
- Can opener
- Games



For more information, visit www.centralec.coop/outage-preparation

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested on the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY QUIZ



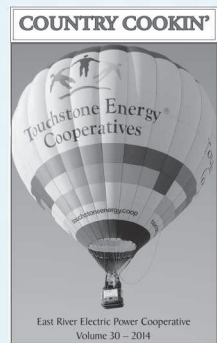
Electricity is great! We use it to light our homes, watch TV with our families and enjoy many other activities. But electricity can be dangerous if we aren't careful when using it. Test your electrical safety knowledge by answering the questions below.

- 1) It is safe to run extension cords under carpet or rugs in your home.
 - A. False
 - B. True
- 2) How often should smoke alarms in your home be tested?
 - A. Once a year
 - B. Once a month
 - C. Once every three months
- 3) How far should items be kept away from space heaters?
 - A. At least one foot
 - B. At least five feet
 - C. At least three feet
- 4) Overloaded outlets can overheat and cause a fire.
 - A. True
 - B. False
- 5) When using an electrical appliance or playing with an electrical toy outside, what is the minimum distance you should keep between yourself and any wet surface or swimming pool?
 - A. Ten feet
 - B. Five feet
 - C. Three feet

How many did you get right? Check the answer key below!

Answers: 1) A. 2) B. 3) C. 4) A. 5) A.

Country Cookin' Recipes Needed!



Recipes are needed for the 32nd volume of East River Electric's *Country Cookin'* cookbook!

Please help us create another great cookbook by submitting your favorite hearty recipes as well as recipes for the "Light Side" section of the cookbook. Submission deadline is Monday, February 1, 2016.

Submit via email to kkaup@eastriver.coop, fax to: 605-256-8057, or contact your local cooperative for more information.

Electric Youth Tour

Inspiring Future Leaders for 50-plus Years

By
**Brenda Kleinjan
and
Magen Howard**

POSITIVE. INFLUENTIAL. LIFE-CHANGING.

All three words hold a host of meaning for students who have participated in the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Since 1963, more than 1,200 South Dakota teens have made the trek to Washington, D.C., to learn about cooperatives, the nation's political process and about their peers from across the country.

"The trip that we took was extremely positive. It was a great influence for leadership," said Shanna (Hilderman) Stueve of Wheaton, Minn., who, as a teenager in 1996 represented West Central Electric

Cooperative in Murdo, S.D., on the trip.

"Basically the experience allowed me to see things that I wouldn't have necessarily been able to participate in. It showed me different leadership styles, not to mention all of the historical and incredibly interesting monuments that we are able to participate in," Stueve said.

"I was incredibly interested in politics. However, I did not end up following that career path," said Stueve who, along with her husband, has an insurance and seed business in western Minnesota where they are members of Traverse Electric Cooperative.





Left: Participants from the 1965 or 1966 Youth Tour walk with Sen. George McGovern, second from right, near the Capitol. *Photo courtesy Steve Smeenk, Butte Electric Cooperative.*

Opposite Page: The 2015 South Dakota Rural Electric Youth Tour delegation consisted of 44 teens.

“As a junior in high school, having the opportunity meet the politicians that represented me was very important to me. I feel like this is a trip of a lifetime!” she said. “Not only did I have the chance to see the different aspects of government, but I also had the opportunity to see the different socioeconomic backgrounds based on region from across the country. I feel like it’s a valuable exposure to culture.”

Rooted in politics

Youth Tour was born from a speech at the 1957 NRECA annual meeting by then-Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson. He was a longtime advocate of electric co-ops, having lobbied for the creation of Pedernales Electric Cooperative in 1937 as a young politician in Texas. “If one thing comes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents,” the future president said.

With that encouragement, Texas electric co-ops began sending summer interns to work in the senator’s Washington, D.C., office. In 1958, an electric co-op in Iowa sponsored the first group of 34 young people on a weeklong study tour of the nation’s capital. Later that same year, another busload came to Washington from Illinois. The idea grew, and other states sent busloads of students throughout the summer. By 1959, the Youth Tour had grown to 130 participants.

South Dakota sent its first delegation of 31 students representing 18 cooperatives in 1963. The following year, NRECA began to coordinate joint activities among the state delegations and suggested that co-op representatives from each state arrange to be in Washington, D.C., during Youth Tour week. The first year of the coordinated tour included about 400 teens from 12 states.

As word spread, the program grew – and grew and grew. Youth Day, generally on the Monday of Youth Tour, is when all the state contingents converge to learn about grassroots politics and hear from inspirational speakers. The students share their state pins, often vying to get the most pins or those that are rare, like those from Hawaii’s small group.

In 2015, South Dakota electric cooperatives sent 44 teens on the trip. It tied with the state’s 1965 delegation as the largest to represent the state. More than 1,700 students participated in the 2015 Youth Tour and the 2016 tour, scheduled for June 10-16, promises to be even bigger.

Inspiring our youth

For the past decade, students have heard the inspiring story of Paralympian Mike Schlappi, a star athlete who was paralyzed as a teen. State coordinators lobby for Schlappi to return year after year because, they say, the students never fail to take his story to heart.

Schlappi was their age when his whole life changed from an accidental gunshot. Today he makes the annual Youth Tour presentation a priority because he loves the kids

“They’re so young and trying to figure out their lives. They’ve heard enough speakers and read enough books, sometimes they’ll roll their eyes,” Schlappi said. “But they’re away from parents and excited about their future and maybe got their eyes on the cute kid across the room. They’re willing to make positive changes. Back home, they get labels, and they have to live up to that. [At Youth Tour], they can make new impressions on new friends.”

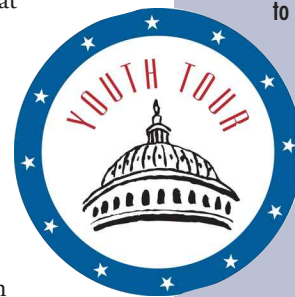
Were you there?

Did you or a family member go on Youth Tour? Let us know!

More than 1,200 South Dakota teens have participated in Youth Tour since 1963 and there are even more Minnesota and Nebraska teens who have gone through.

Sadly, in the past five decades, we’ve lost track of some of them. We’d love to hear from you and how the Youth Tour experience benefited you.

Contact your local electric cooperative or find us on Facebook.



Are you ready?

Do you know of an outstanding teen that would benefit from the Youth Tour experience? Cooperatives participating in the 2016 Youth Tour are taking applications for the program. To find out more about your cooperative’s participation and selection criteria, contact them. You’ll find their address in this magazine.

Humidity and Condensation in Your Home



Patrick Soukup
Manager of Member Services & Marketing

Humidity is present in every home and building. While some amount of humidity is beneficial, higher concentrations can lead to condensation and mold development. With an increased awareness of the causes and places where condensation is most likely to collect, you can reduce its amount and effects.

What is condensation?

Air contains water vapor. The average family produces about 2.6 gallons of moisture a day from activities like cooking, bathing, washing dishes and doing laundry. Condensation is the conversion of invisible water vapor in the air back into a liquid and occurs when the vapor cools. The temperature at which the vapor begins to condense is called the dew point. Condensation occurs

whenever warm, moist air comes in contact with a surface or object cold enough to chill the moisture in the air below its dew point.

As a rule, the coolest visible surfaces in a home in winter or cold weather will be uninsulated cold water pipes, windows, exterior walls, hinges and locks on exterior doors. Condensation usually becomes apparent on these surfaces first. However, condensation may also occur in areas where it is not visible, such as in the attic and in exterior walls.

Condensation on windows may be little more than a nuisance, but condensation on window sills, walls and ceilings can cause paint to peel and promotes mold growth. Hidden condensation can lead to problems that range from mold and mildew to dry rot and damage to the wood-frame structure of the house.



Condensation on windows

Windows are usually one of the coldest surfaces in a house. Condensation forms on a window when warm moist air that contacts it cools rapidly. Like glass, metal is a poor insulator. If a window has a metal frame, condensation can also occur on the frame. Condensation on windows can be reduced and often eliminated by adding inside or outside storm windows or by installing multiple-glazed windows. If you are shopping for new windows, look for ENERGY STAR® labeled windows and sliding glass doors to replace your old ones. ENERGY STAR® windows not only reduce condensation; they also improve your home's comfort. If your windows need to be replaced and are too large, consider replacing them with smaller ones to reduce your heating costs further. Also consider replacing sliding glass doors with insulated doors and outside storm doors.

Hidden condensation

Hidden condensation can occur when warm, moist air migrates into the walls, attic or other interior areas of the structure. Most of the moisture is carried into walls and attics by air leaking through openings for plumbing, piping, electrical boxes and wires, gaps between framing and drywall, attic hatches and other openings. If at some area in the walls or attic the moist air encounters a temperature below the dew point, condensation will occur. If the temperature is low enough, moisture may deposit as ice or frost. If the amount of moisture is small, it may change back into water vapor with a rise in temperature and be carried away by natural air



movement. However, large deposits of ice can melt and soak insulation materials, ruin interior and exterior finishes, and lead to structural deterioration.

To minimize problems in attic and wall cavities, it is important to seal these cavities from the interior of the home to minimize the movement of moisture into these areas. It is also important that the cavities are vented to the outside through attic vents and ‘breathable’ exterior siding. This will allow small amounts of moisture that do get into the cavity to escape.

New housing is required to have a continuous vapor barrier, sealed at all penetrations. This requirement is intended to prevent, or at least severely inhibit, hidden condensation.

Causes and solutions

The combination of indoor moisture sources, air exchange rates, and cold surfaces will determine how much condensation occurs in the home. Activities such as cooking, washing, or

bathing will raise the humidity level in your home and often result in some condensation on windows, walls and ceilings for short periods of time during cold weather. Other than causing some deterioration of the finish on wood frames, sills, or casings, such condensation is harmless. Therefore, moderate, intermittent condensation on windows, walls and ceilings is probably no cause for alarm. However, if windows are consistently wet, or water stains appear on ceilings or walls, prompt action should be taken to avoid further problems such as mold growth. Generally, the quickest and most effective response to a condensation problem is to increase the ventilation of the house. This can be done by means such as:

- Using exhaust fans that are vented to the outdoors, particularly when cooking, bathing, or washing.
- Opening doors and windows to increase the amount of outdoor air being brought into the house.
- Installing a heat recovery ventilator (HRV).

Water Heater Pricing

Effective January 1, 2016

Pricing

Central Electric is now offering 85 gallon and 105 gallon water heaters, in addition to the 50 gallon units. The units will be priced as below, effective January 1, 2016. Pricing is subject to change at any time without notice.

Warranty

Effective November 1, 2015, all new Marathon water heaters have a 10 year warranty unless the owner registers the unit with Rheem to qualify for a lifetime warranty.

After registration, the 50 gallon units will have a lifetime warranty. The 85 and 105 gallon units will have a 10 year warranty in the commercial setting and a lifetime warranty in the residential setting.

Rebates

Central Electric will give rebates of \$9 per gallon of tank capacity, not to exceed \$765, towards the installation of any “lifetime warranty” electric water heater. The water heater must have at least 50 gallons capacity, installed at a location served by Central Electric Cooperative, and direct wired into the cooperative’s load management device for a minimum of 4 years.

	50 Gal Model	85 Gal Model	105 Gal Model
Price	\$1,025.70	\$1,159.60	\$1,300.00
Rebate for Members	<u>\$450.00</u>	<u>\$765.00</u>	<u>\$765.00</u>
Price after rebate	\$575.70	\$394.60	\$535.00

**Pricing and rebates are subject to change without notice.
Price does not include applicable tax or installation.**



Teens' Big Ideas Take Shape

Young Entrepreneurs Plan for Success

TEENS ARMED WITH BUSINESS PLANS AND DREAMS descended on Aberdeen in early December to showcase their concepts and compete in the ninth annual BIG Idea Final Competition.

The Bent Perspective plan for an Origami intensive store brought top honors to Pierre student Haley Ketteler.

Ketteler outlined how her company would provide customers with an all paper experience, allowing clients to design paper arrangements for special events, take classes to learn Origami, purchase paper creations, kits and supplies and order custom creations. As part of the experience, she had to identify marketing opportunities, define her competition and outline management and opera-

tions for the business.

Eight high school finalists were selected from the 263 applications submitted from 37 different schools. First round judges included 114 volunteers from the region along with 132 college entrepreneurship and business students. Marketing designs were also submitted by 110 teams which included a logo and ad for their idea. Ellen Schlechter of Faulkton High School was recognized for her Calving Book App which was the The Marketing Design competition winner.

The eight finalists included Ketteler, second-place finishers George Bernard and Mark Wesolick of St. Thomas More High School in Rapid City, S.D., third-place finisher MaKayla Price of Wess-

By
Brenda Kleinjan





ington Springs High School; Dalton Larson, Jared Miller and Tyndall Petterson of West Central High School in Hartford, S.D.; Eli Gerry of Madison Central High School; Tony Baumann of Redfield High School; and two teams from St. Thomas More: Cierra Veldhuizen, Jenny Rooks and Olivia Facenda; and Brianna McGinnis, Maria Wilson and Sophie Wittenberg.

The competition encourages students to consider new ideas and opportunities for creating a business in their own region.

“We’re trying to get them to start thinking about starting a business, not necessarily starting the business, but what it would take to start and run a business,” said event organizer Kelly Weaver, regional director with the South Dakota Small Business Development Center in Aberdeen, S.D.

Participants were able to take part in panel discussions with the business owners, Weaver said. The competition is coordinated by the Small Business Development Center and funded by Sanford Health, East River Electric Power Cooperative, REED Fund, Dacotah Bank, Student Loan Finance Corporation, Aberdeen Development Corporation, Northwestern Energy, McQuillen Creative Group, The Tom and Danielle Aman Foundation, and Midcontinent Communications. Scholarships are provided by Northern State University and Presentation College. The competition is a result of the input and collaboration of these organizations along with: Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce, Aberdeen Downtown Association, Aberdeen Catholic School System – Roncalli High School, Aberdeen School District – Central High School and Dacotah Bank.

In addition to the schools listed above, students from the following high schools also participated: Aberdeen Central High School, Bridgewater-Emery High School, Bowdle High School, Canistota High School, Canton High School, Durprey High School, Edmund Central High School, Ethan High School, Eureka High School, Faith High School, Groton High School, Hitchcock Tulare High School, Hoven High School, Ipswich High School, Iroquois High School, Lead-Deadwood High School, Leola High School, Milbank High School, Mitchell High School, Montrose High School, Northwestern, Sioux Valley High School, Sioux Fall Christian, Swift Home School, Vermillion High School, Wagner High School, Warner High School, Watertown High School, Wilmot High School, and Yankton High School. A total of 414 students participated in a submission.

For her winning plan, Ketteler won \$1,000, while Bernard and Wesolick’s Caveman Custom Iron plan earned \$500 for second place and Price’s plan for KP Photography received \$250 for third place. Scholarships to both Northern State University and Presentation College were also awarded. Schlechter received \$500 for her marketing design plan.

Go to BIGIdeaSD.com for more information about the competition.

BIG Idea Finalists were, front row, from left: Cierra Veldhuizen, Maria Wilson, Haley Ketteler, Jenny Rooks, Brianna McGinnis and Sophie Wittenberg. Standing from left were: Olivia Facenda, George Bernard, Tony Baumann, Mark Wesolick, Eli Gerry, Tyndall Petterson, Dalton Larson, MaKayla Price, and Jared Miller. Photo by Dawn Sahli Photography

First Place: Bent Perspective

Bent Perspective is an Origami intensive store focused on teaching the customers how to make origami artwork. It will also offer services such as event decoration, custom origami artwork, pre-made origami artwork and kits. This business will provide the community with a unique and fun activity for all ages. It will help eliminate boredom in the community through a relaxing and fulfilling activity that all individuals can enjoy and appreciate.

Haley Ketteler, Pierre Riggs High School

Second Place: Caveman Custom Iron

Caveman Custom Iron will produce hand-crafted steel goods and distribute these goods to people who want unique pieces of functional art to decorate their home, garden, or place of business. Caveman Custom Iron will also produce tools such as knives or garden tools. Potential customers are those who look for pieces of iron work to decorate their home and people looking for quality, specialized tools for tasks such as woodworking and gardening.

George Bernard and Mark Wesolick, St. Thomas More High School

Third Place: KP Photography

KP Photography provides the talent of photography to the Wessington Springs area community. Photographers can take senior pictures, wedding pictures, engagement pictures, family pictures and more. It is very convenient for the community by being close and for a low cost.

MaKayla Price, Wessington Springs High School

Finalists:

The Cooler Backpack Company –
Cierra Veldhuizen, Jenny Rooks, Olivia Facenda,
St. Thomas More High School

The Spink County Outdoorsmen –
Tony Baumann, Redfield High School

All Seasons Lighting – Brianna McGinnis, Maria Wilson, Sophie Wittenberg, St. Thomas More High School

Gerry’s Pumpkins & Produce –
Eli Gerry, Madison Central High School

SoDak Custom Hay Co. – Dalton Larson, Jared Miller,
Tyndall Petterson, West Central High School

Central Electric is Looking for the Next Generation of Leaders

What do 1,500 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, of course!

Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind – to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative. And Central Electric alone has sent more than 250 students since Youth Tour's inception.

It all takes place in June, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country sponsor students to visit Washington, D.C. for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

This spring, Central Electric will begin the selection process of local students to attend Youth Tour 2016 through a full-expense paid trip. If you are a high school junior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience the trip of a lifetime, please contact us for more information.

Perhaps you know of an exceptional student who would be a great candidate for the program. If you do, please share this article with them.



Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skillset of what it takes to be a leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community.

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour experience with a promising student. For more information about Central Electric's Youth Tour program, visit www.centralec.coop.



2016-2017 Scholarships



Central Electric will provide three \$1,000 academic scholarships for the 2016 - 2017 school year. The Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship is in its 26th consecutive year and is funded by Basin Electric Power Cooperative of Bismarck, ND.

The Jay Headley Memorial Scholarships are in their 15th consecutive year and are funded by the family of the late Jay Headley.

Both scholarships are designed to recognize and encourage the academic and community achievements of the students in our area.

For more information, contact Central Electric Cooperative at 605-996-7516 or 800-477-2892.

You can also download information and application forms from the website www.centralec.coop or contact your Guidance Counselor.

See application for eligibility requirements.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516

www.centralec.coop

Regional Dateline

November 20-January 10
Winter Wonderland, Falls Park
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-275-6060

November 24-December 26
Christmas at the Capitol
8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Pierre, SD
605-773-3178

December 5-26
Deck Your Halls Holiday Art
Show and Sale, 10 a.m. to
5 p.m., Spearfish, SD
605-642-7973

December 15-March 31
South Dakota snowmobile
trails season, Lead, SD
605-584-3896

December 17-19
Strawbale Winery Twilight
Flights 2015, 5 to 10 p.m.
Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

December 20
Christmas Caroling at The
Abbey, 2 to 4 p.m., Marvin, SD
605-398-9200

January 7-9
15th Annual Ice Fishing
Tournament, 10 a.m. to
11 p.m., Mobridge, SD
605-845-2500

January 10, 17, 24, 31
Foreign Film Festival
Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973
www.matthewsopera.com

January 12
37th Annual Ranchers
Workshop, Antelope
Multi-purpose Building
9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. CST
Mission, SD, 605-259-3252 ext. 3



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.

Events of Special Note

December 2015
Holiday Bucks Go on Sale,
Purchase Bonus Bucks at 10%
off, American Bank and Trust
Wessington Springs, SD

January 5-7
Dakota Farm Show, Dakota
Dome, Vermillion, SD
507-437-7969

January 16
Bark Beetle Blues Crawl
4:30 to 9 p.m., Custer, SD
605-440-1405

January 21-24
Snowmobile Rally
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

January 22-23
ISOC SnoCross Shootout, 12:45
to 8:30 p.m., Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

January 23-24
Broadway Play Series Dirty
Dancing, Fine Arts Theatre
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
Rapid City, SD 1-800-468-6463

January 29-30
Mardi Gras Weekend
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

January 29-30
35th Annual Farm, Home
and Sport Show, Armory
Webster, SD, 605-345-4468
www.webstersd.com

January 29-February 7
Black Hills Stock Show &
Rodeo, Rapid City, SD
605-355-3861

January 31
Eureka Hymns Annual
Concert, Eureka, SD
jalvarez@mmgyglobal.com

February 5-6
Living History Fair
Watertown, SD, 605-886-7335

February 7
South Dakota's Largest Tailgate
Party, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

February 9-13
Winter Farm Show, 9 a.m. to
4 p.m., Watertown, SD
605-886-5814

February 12
Strawbale Winery Valentine
Twilight Flights 2016
6 to 10 p.m., Renner, SD
605-543-5071

February 24-28
SD State Dart Tournament
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

March 5
Mitchell Area Safehouse
"Night at the Races"
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Highland Conference Center
Mitchell, SD, Tickets can be
purchased at County Fair, \$35

March 12-13
2016 Gun Show
American Legion Hall
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. MST
Philip, SD, 605-859-2635
605-859-2280, 605-859-2892
or 605-859-2219

March 18-20
South Dakota Taxidermy
Competition and Convention
Watertown, SD, 712-540-5868