

# Central Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# Cooperative Connections

MAY 2015 VOL. 16 NO. 1



# CELEBRATING EMTs

Pg 8

# Rate Study Recommendations

## Board Approves Change to General Service Rate



Loren Noess  
General Manager

In 2014, your cooperative received the results of a rate study. You may ask, what is a rate study and why is it important? A rate study is an evaluation of all the electric rates your cooperative has in place.

Your cooperative has several different classes of services, each with its own specific rate. For example, irrigation services have different rates from small commercial accounts which are both different from large commercial accounts. Each

of these types of services can be provided with either three phase or single phase power. The rate study verifies that the rate being applied to each class of service is recovering the cost of providing that service. It also verifies that no one class of service is being overcharged for the service they are receiving.

We first shared information from the rate study at each of the county District Meetings in January and again in each of the last two issues of your Cooperative Connections newsletter.

The one recommendation the rate study did make involves the General Service rate which includes most farms, homes, pasture wells, etc. The study recommended increasing the facility charge to make the General Service rate as fair as possible to all members included in this class of service. Currently members who purchase above average Kwh's are paying more than their fair share of the costs for receiving electric service. You can probably tell then that those members who purchase very few Kwh's don't pay enough towards the cost of receiving electric service.

The facility charge is intended to collect revenue to pay for the cooperatives facilities. Those are the costs for poles, wires, transformers, switches, and meters and the costs for maintaining them. The cooperative bears these costs every month regardless of how much electricity is used by our members.

Your board of directors has had long discussions to determine if a change is necessary and if it is, what the change will be. At the board meeting in March, your board of directors has agreed to increase the monthly facility charge and lower the Kwh charge to members in this rate class. These changes are not intended to generate more revenue for the cooperative. They are intended to fairly apply rates across our membership.

On page 3, there are a series of examples showing our current rate compared to the new rate that will be applied to the electrical usage in May of this year. The current facility charge is at \$29.00 which will be increasing to \$49. The first 600 KWHs used are currently billed at 13.3 cents and this will be lowered to 10.7 cents. The next 600 KWh are currently billed at 11.5 cents and this will be lowered to 9 cents. All additional KWh are billed at 7.4 cents and this will not change.

The first example shows how the new rate will affect an account that did not purchase any KWh. As you can see, the cost to this account will increase by \$20. The next example shows the new rate being applied to an account that purchased 500 kwhs. The new rate will change this bill by \$7. The third example shows the new rate being applied to an account that purchased 800 kwhs. This account will see a small change of 60 cents. The fourth example shows the new rate on an account that purchased 1200 KWh. This account will be reduced by \$10.60 which is the largest reduction possible.

We realize this change will impact each of you differently. Many of you will see your electric bill decrease, but there are some accounts that will be paying more each month. The cooperative's total revenue from making this change is expected to remain unchanged. The intention is to more fairly collect for the costs associated with providing access to electric service.

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# Central Electric Cooperative Connections

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## Co-op News

# Residential/Farm Rate Changes Take Affect in May

Current Service Detail 0 Kwh Purchased				New Service Detail 0 Kwh Purchased			
Facility charge			\$29.00	Facility charge			\$49.00
Energy Charges				Energy Charges			
	0 Kwh	\$0.133	\$0.00		0 Kwh	\$0.107	\$0.00
	0 Kwh	\$0.115	\$0.00		0 Kwh	\$0.090	\$0.00
	0 Kwh	\$0.074	\$0.00		0 Kwh	\$0.074	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>Total</b>			
\$29.00				\$49.00			

Current Service Detail 500 Kwh Purchased				New Service Detail 500 Kwh Purchased			
Facility charge			\$29.00	Facility charge			\$49.00
Energy Charges				Energy Charges			
	500 Kwh	\$0.133	\$66.50		500 Kwh	\$0.107	\$53.50
	0 Kwh	\$0.115	\$0.00		0 Kwh	\$0.090	\$0.00
	0 Kwh	\$0.074	\$0.00		0 Kwh	\$0.074	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>Total</b>			
\$95.50				\$102.50			

Current Service Detail 800 Kwh Purchased				New Service Detail 800 Kwh Purchased			
Facility charge			\$29.00	Facility charge			\$49.00
Energy Charges				Energy Charges			
	600 Kwh	\$0.133	\$79.80		600 Kwh	\$0.107	\$64.20
	200 Kwh	\$0.115	\$23.00		200 Kwh	\$0.090	\$18.00
	0 Kwh	\$0.074	\$0.00		0 Kwh	\$0.074	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>Total</b>			
\$131.80				\$131.20			

Current Service Detail 1200 Kwh Purchased				New Service Detail 1200 Kwh Purchased			
Facility charge			\$29.00	Facility charge			\$49.00
Energy Charges				Energy Charges			
	600 Kwh	\$0.133	\$79.80		600 Kwh	\$0.107	\$64.20
	600 Kwh	\$0.115	\$69.00		600 Kwh	\$0.090	\$54.00
	0 Kwh	\$0.074	\$0.00		0 Kwh	\$0.074	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>Total</b>			
\$177.80				\$167.20			

# Gardening Health and Safety Tips

**Gardening can be a great way** to enjoy the outdoors, get physical activity, beautify the community and grow nutritious fruits and vegetables. If you are a beginner or expert gardener, health and safety should always be a priority.

Below are some tips to help keep you safe and healthy so that you can enjoy the beauty and bounty gardening can bring.

## Dress to protect.

Gear up to protect yourself from lawn and garden pests, harmful chemicals, sharp or motorized equipment, insects and harmful rays of too much sun.

- Wear safety goggles, sturdy shoes and long pants to prevent injury when using power tools and equipment.
- Protect your hearing when using machinery. If you have to raise your voice to talk to someone who is an arm's length away, the noise can be potentially harmful to your hearing.
- Wear gloves to lower the risk for skin irritations, cuts and certain contaminants.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET. Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants tucked in your socks. You may also want to wear high rubber boots since ticks are usually located close to the ground.
- Lower your risk for sunburn and skin cancer. Wear long sleeves, wide-brimmed hats, sun shades and sunscreen with sun protective factor (SPF) 15 or higher.

## Put safety first.

Powered and unpowered tools and equipment can cause serious injury. Limit distractions, use chemicals and equipment properly and be aware of hazards to lower your risk for injury.

- Follow instructions and warning labels on chemicals and lawn and garden equipment.
- Make sure equipment is working properly.
- Sharpen tools carefully.

- Keep harmful chemicals, tools and equipment out of children's reach.

## Know your limits in the heat.

Even being out for short periods of time in high temperatures can cause serious health problems. Monitor your activities and time in the sun to lower your risk for heat-related illness.

- If you're outside in hot weather for most of the day, you'll need to make an effort to drink more fluids.
- Avoid drinking liquids that contain alcohol or large amounts of sugar, especially in the heat.
- Take breaks often. Try to rest in shaded areas so that your body's thermostat will have a chance to recover. Stop working if you experience breathlessness or muscle soreness.
- Pay attention to signs of heat-related illness, including extremely high body temperature, headache, rapid pulse, dizziness, nausea, confusion or unconsciousness.

## Enjoy the benefits of physical activity.

Gardening is an excellent way to get physical activity. Active people are less likely than inactive people to be obese or have high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, heart disease, stroke, depression, colon cancer and premature death.

- Be active for at least 21½ hours a week. Include activities that raise your breathing and heart rates and that strengthen your muscles. Help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day.
- If you have been inactive, start out with just a few minutes of physical activity each day. Gradually build up time and intensity.
- Vary your gardening activities to keep your interest and to broaden the range of benefits.

Source: arifleet.com

**ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP**

**SAFETY**



Power strips are great – but relying on them too much can be a problem! You may need to install more outlets in your home. Call a qualified electrician for help.

*Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International*

## Kids' Corner Safety Poster



"Don't stick your finger in a plug-in."

**Kate Kramme, 9 years old**

*Kate is the daughter of Shane and Dawn Kramme, Fort Pierre, S.D. They are members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Murdo, 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.

# Comforting Casseroles



## Chicken Biscuit Bake

- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 3 cups cooked, shredded chicken
- 1-1/2 cups mixed vegetables
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 2 cups Bisquick
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1-1/2 cups chicken broth

In a 9x13-inch pan, layer butter, chicken and vegetables. Combine milk and Bisquick (a few lumps are OK). Pour over chicken/vegetables. Do not mix. Combine cream of chicken soup with chicken broth. Pour over Bisquick layer. Do not mix. Bake at 350°F. for 40 to 45 minutes until brown and bubbly. Let rest 5 minutes before serving.

**Mary Truman, Kimball**

## Potato Beef Casserole

- 3 lbs. potatoes, peeled and sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 4 T. butter
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups grated Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs

Cook potatoes with a pinch of salt in water until tender; drain. Arrange in a 6x9x2-inch casserole dish. Brown beef and onion; drain. Melt butter in a medium pan; whisk in flour to make a roux. Cook until mixture bubbles, whisking constantly until light brown in color. Gradually add milk while continuing to whisk. When mixture thickens, add salt and pepper. Stir in cheese and beef. Pour beef mixture over potatoes. Bake at 350°F. for 20 minutes until heated and bubbly. Sprinkle bread crumbs on top and bake an additional 5 minutes.

**Lois Hanson, Howard**

## Cowboy Baked Beans

- 2 (15. oz) cans pork and beans
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup shredded sharp cheese
- 2 T. molasses
- 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 4 slices bacon, fried and crumbled

Mix together all ingredients except bacon. Place in a 2-quart baking dish and top with bacon. Microwave about 10 to 12 minutes on High or bake at 325°F. for about 60 to 75 minutes.

**Grace Loerzel, Hermosa**

## Double Cheese Spinach-Potato Pie

- 1 (4.2 oz) carton Hungry Jack Cheesy Hashbrown Potatoes
- 3/4 cup Hungry Jack Mashed Potato Flakes
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 16 oz. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 2 T. vegetable or olive oil

Refresh hashbrown potatoes according to package directions. After 12 minutes, drain and squeeze out any excess liquid from carton. Heat oven to 425°F. Coat 9-inch pie dish with cooking spray. While hashbrowns are standing, combine potato flakes, milk, eggs, Parmesan, pepper and salt in large bowl. Mix in spinach. Add oil to refreshed hashbrowns in carton and mix well. Spread 3/4 of hashbrowns firmly onto bottom and sides of prepared pie dish. Spoon spinach mixture lightly into dish. Top evenly with remaining hashbrowns, fluffing hashbrowns with fork. Bake until hashbrowns are well-browned and center is set, 30 to 35 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before slicing into wedges. Note: To thaw spinach, microwave in large bowl on High for 4 to 5 minutes. Place in colander and press firmly with spoon or spatula to drain liquid. Makes 6 servings.

To make a casserole pie, double ingredients and prepare in a 9x13-inch baking dish. Allow additional time to thaw spinach. Reserve 1/2 carton of hashbrowns for topping; press remaining 1-1/2 cartons of hashbrowns on bottom and halfway up sides of baking dish. Prepare spinach filling as directed in recipe. Bake at 400°F for 40 to 45 minutes. Makes 12 servings.

*Nutritional information per serving: 260 calories; 11 g fat (3 g saturated fat); 11 g protein; 28 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 70 mg cholesterol; 710 mg sodium.*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Blend of the Bayou Seafood Casserole

- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 1/4 cup plus 1 T. butter, divided
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 2 ribs celery, diced
- 1/2 red or yellow pepper, diced
- 1 large clove garlic
- 1 small can mushrooms, drained
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can water
- 1-1/2 cups minute rice, uncooked
- 1 (6.5 oz.) can crab meat, drained and rinsed
- 1 (6.5 oz.) can shrimp, drained and rinsed
- 2 tsp. lemon juice
- 1/4 tsp. Tabasco sauce

Heat cream cheese and 1/4 cup butter until melted. Saute onions, celery, pepper and garlic in 1 T. butter. Combine all ingredients. Pour into a 9x13-inch pan or 2-quart casserole. Bake at 350°F. for 45 minutes. Fresh shrimp or crabmeat can be added to enhance the seafood flavor. Also, you may opt to add cheese on top.

**Sharon Steckley, Geddes**

*Please send your favorite dairy, dessert and salad 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 2015. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.*

# Central Electric's Delegation 2015 NRECA Youth Tour



**Aften Pennings attends Stickney High School and will represent Aurora County.**

Each year Central Electric sponsors up to eight high school junior students (one from each county/district) to participate in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. The Rural Electric Youth Tour consists of an educational week long trip to Washington D.C. to meet students from other states, meet congressional leaders, learn about cooperatives and to tour the historic sites. South Dakota's students will team up with more than 1,400 teens from around the country.

Past participants have described this as "a once-in-a-lifetime" experience. Why does Central Electric offer this experience to our area youth? Because we realize it is more vital than ever that today's young people understand and support the rural electrification program, for they are tomorrow's leaders and consumers.

The tour is funded by all the rural electric cooperatives that sponsor students in the week long event.

Among the sites that are part of the tour are the Lincoln Memorial, Washington National Cathedral, the White House, Air and Space Museum, Washington Monument, U.S. Capitol, Ford's Theater, the Kennedy Center, Arlington National Cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the FDR Memorial, the Smithsonian, Iwo Jima Statue, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, Mount Vernon and the National Archives.

Students will also have the opportunity to ride the Metro – the city subway system – and take a boat cruise on the Potomac River.

This year Central Electric received qualifying applications from students representing six out of eight county/districts.

The week long trip will be held on June 11-18, 2015.



**Casey Zoss attends Mitchell Christian High School and will represent Sanborn County.**



**Tia Pawlowski attends Wessington Springs High School and will represent Buffalo County.**



**Hailey Bruckner attends Wessington Springs High School and will represent Jerauld County.**



**Logan Hattervig attends Howard High School and will represent Miner County.**



**Miranda Henglefeld attends Hanson High School and will represent Hanson County.**



**Nathan Powell attends Chamberlain High School and will represent Brule County.**



**Shelby Riggs attends Mitchell High School and will represent Davison County.**

# Youth Tour: 50 Years Later

By Courtney J Deinert



Judy Kopplin  
Intercounty

**Olson's photo in the 1965 South Dakota Highliner newsletter recognizing the Youth Tour participants.**

As we prepare to send Youth Tour students to Washington, D.C. this June, one woman remembers her experience from 50 years ago.

Judy Olson, or Judy Kopplin at the time, attended the Youth Tour in June 1965 on behalf of Intercounty Electric. She attended Artesian High School and lived on a farm nearby.

Their farm did not have electricity at the time so her parents were not members of the cooperative. However, Intercounty decided to sponsor her trip anyway. The trip to Washington, D.C. was the first time Olson had traveled more than 50 miles from home.

Olson had the opportunity to meet officials that students now can only read about, including Senator George McGovern, Vice President Hubert Humphry, and Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson. Olson recalls that meeting them was "very special to a young farm girl." Olson also visited the gravesite of Pres. John F. Kennedy, buried less than two years earlier.

After high school, Olson attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls and then Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. She pursued nursing and worked for the US Army Nurse core during the Vietnam Crisis. She worked in nursing for 43 years until recently retiring.

Olson's career later helped her bring electricity to her parent's farm. After switching jobs, Olson had some vacation money paid out to her. Olson and her husband called Intercounty and used the money to bring power out to the farm.

Her father loved reading his daily paper in lighting other than a kerosene lamp, and her mother enjoyed the evening news and weather on the TV. Olson's brothers still enjoy the benefits of electricity on their farm to this day.

Other Youth Tour participants in 1965 included Walter Baas (Emery), Douglas Austreim (Howard), and Milton Nelson (Letcher) from Intercounty. Tri-County Electric sponsored Randy Nelson (White Lake) that year.

## INTERCOUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS

INTERCOUNTY ELECTRIC, MITCHELL, SERVING 1,200 MEMBERS IN DAVISON, HANSON, SANKRUM AND MINER COUNTIES.

### Judy says 'Thank You' for memorable tour

Dear Mr. Kelsey:

Thank you so very much for making my dreamland trip to Washington, D.C. possible. I had such a wonderful time touring the Capitol, White House, F.B.I. Building, riding up the Washington Monument, visiting Jefferson and Lincoln Memorial and my most exciting moment when I shook hands with President Johnson and Vice President Humphrey.

Each day was a long, tiring day but I feel it was well worth those tired feet and sleepy eyes. I wish more people could have the opportunity I had. It makes the national government seem more like it's a part of you instead of a faraway thing.

The Olde Colony Motor Lodge was a wonderful place to stay. We had a beautiful red carpeted room with a light color interior, giving the room a colonial setting. Since my family as yet does not have electricity, I felt like a queen having electric lights, television, piped-in radio, telephone service, and bath. It was all just so wonderful. I felt exactly like a queen.

We never had to worry about a thing. Our four chaperones were splendid people to know. Mr. and Mrs. Lee Nelson and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stork were forever going out of their way to see that we were happy and content.

I can truthfully say what President Johnson said, "Turn the switch of electricity on for farm people and they will light up." Electricity is wonderful. I wish everyone could have it. I can vouch that living without it is no fun. I hope that the other 3 per cent of United States farm people who don't have electricity soon will.

Thank you again and again for that wonderful experience you gave me, letting me see and feel that I am part of the United States Government. It makes me feel that I am important and no longer a shadow in the background. What we do does make a difference to the Federal Government. I only wish more people could feel this way.

May God bless each and every one of you for making that Washington, D.C. trip possible for me.

Please let me know when you want me to give a report on my trip. Thank you again.

Yours truly,  
Judy Kopplin  
Rural Route 2  
Artesian, S. D.

**Olson's "thank you" to Mr. Blair Kelsey, Intercounty's Director of Power Use and Public and Member Relations, following the trip. This was published in the July 1965 issue of South Dakota Highliner newsletter.**

# EMS Strong

## Emergency Responders are the Front Lines

**I**N A REGION WHERE THE POPULATION IS SPREAD OUT among small towns and some of the more remote areas of the state, chances are the emergency responders who answer your call for help are part of a volunteer crew.

In fact, a July 2014 survey prepared by the Government Research Bureau of the W.O. Farber Center for Civic Leadership at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, found that many of the agencies surveyed for an Ambulance Provider Survey reported having higher numbers of volunteer personnel than either full-time or part-time staff. (Typically, full-time personnel are found at agencies in or around the state's largest communities such as Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen.)

Nationally, the National Emergency Medical Services Week observation is observed in May each year. In 2015, it is May 17-23 with the theme

“EMS Strong.”

National Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's “front line.” For additional information, contact [emsweek@acep.org](mailto:emsweek@acep.org).

The first EMS Week was declared by President Gerald Ford in November 1974. It continued for four more years and was reinstated by the American College of Emergency Physicians in 1982. It has been an annual event since 1982 and is currently observed in May.

“Not everyone needs EMT services, but when they do, it's nice to have it,” said Stephanie Horst, Director of Communications and Marketing at FEM Electric Association in Ipswich, S.D. Horst has been a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician

By Brenda  
Kleinjan



(EMT) with the Ipswich Ambulance Service just west of Aberdeen since 2010.

“There was a need in the community,” Horst said of why she decided to undergo the training and testing to become an EMT. “It’s hard to pass the test, but that service is so needed in our rural communities. There are communities in South Dakota that are in dire need for people to step up and become EMTs.”

Horst’s observation about the need for responders was noted in a state 2010 EMS Workforce Summit held in South Dakota. Observations made at the summit included that rural areas were being under served and there was a growing need for more people to start volunteering for rural and smaller town ambulance services.

“At first I was worried if I could handle it, but with the training, the emotions get set aside. You’re there to help the person you’re responding to,” said Horst.

While the Ipswich Ambulance Service has additional people working to become EMTs, it currently has five EMTs to cover calls in the community and area. EMTs are scheduled to cover 12-hour on-call shifts.

The Ipswich service is not alone in needing more EMTs. According to the USD survey, 15 agencies reported having 10 or fewer active personnel on their rosters. Thirty-two reported having 11-20 personnel while 25 had more than 21 people.

Horst estimated she will be on call 10 shifts a month, a number that has decreased as she balances demands of her full-time day job with the co-op.

“In the last few months, I haven’t been able to be on call as much as I’d like,” said Horst.

Horst said 24 hours of continuing education are needed annually to cover the state minimum requirements; however to maintain the national certification



## There are communities in South Dakota that are in dire need for people to step up and become EMTs.

patient and then transport the patient to a local hospital.

As Horst and Holien (whose husband, Ryan, also works at FEM Electric and is a volunteer firefighter) competed, the co-op background helped play a role.

“It happened to be that the scenario was an electrical contact,” Horst said. Countless hours of safety training at work came in handy.

“It brings in the whole safety thing with our job. When you’re responding to a call, being safe is a priority. At the co-op, it’s something that’s drilled into us, too,” said Horst.

Horst’s husband is also a

firefighter in Ipswich.

For firefighters, based on 2014 certification, there are 8,065 volunteer firefighters statewide and 430 paid firefighters. In 2013, volunteer fire departments account for the majority of the fire departments in the state – 326 – while career paid departments account for five and six departments are comprised of a combination of paid employees and volunteers.

Statewide, the South Dakota Office of Emergency Medical Services certifies 123 in-state ground ambulance services and five in-state air ambulance services.

To find out more about getting involved, contact your local fire department or ambulance service.

that she and others on the Ipswich crew have requires 72 hours of training annually. That training, on top of the on-call shifts, can mean a significant investment in time to serving one’s community.

But, the work can be rewarding.

“It’s a way to give back. There’s a need,” said Horst.

In 2011, Horst and fellow ambulance crew member Kelsey Holien teamed up to compete in the Trauma Wars competition at the South Dakota EMT conference.

The duo went into a room not knowing the scenario they would face and were to respond to the scene, treat the

# Scholarship Winners Selected



**Kristina Luczak of Letcher was selected as the recipient of the \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship.**

For the past 23 years, Central Electric has had the opportunity to select an area student to receive a \$1,000 academic based scholarship. The scholarship is funded by our wholesale electric power supplier, Basin Electric Power Cooperative of Bismarck, ND.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicant must be the dependent of a Central Electric member and attend a four year university or a two year technical school in the 2015-2016 school year.

The recipient is selected based upon the student's grade point average, SAT or ACT test scores, community service, and a short essay.

This year's recipient is Kristina Luczak of Letcher. Kristina is the daughter of Frank and Angie Luczak. Kristina is currently a senior at Mitchell High School and plans to attend South Dakota State University to obtain a degree in math education.

"Kristina ranks in the top 1% of young people with stellar credentials and character," states Kathy Mills, school counselor at Mitchell High School.



**Tye Harris of Plankinton was selected as a recipient of a \$1,000 Jay Headley Memorial Scholarship.**

Tye Harris was selected as one of two recipients to receive a \$1,000 Jay Headley Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is funded by the family of the late Jay Headley.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicant must be the dependent of a Central Electric member, attend a four year university or a two year technical school and pursue a degree in an agricultural related field.

Tye is a senior at Plankinton High School and is the son of Dave and Jill Harris. Tye participates in football, oral interp, school choir, band, 4-H, student council, one act play and FCCLA.

Tye plans to attend South Dakota State University this fall to pursue a degree in Agriculture Business.

"Tye is a student that does well getting things done and with good effort. He has realistic attainable goals for his future." says Sherri Bruinsma, Plankinton High School Counselor.



**Jonathon Linke of Wonsocket was selected as a recipient of a \$1,000 Jay Headley Memorial Scholarship.**

This year marks the 13th year of the Jay Headley Memorial Scholarship. Originally, one scholarship was given annually with two scholarships being awarded since 2011.

Jonathon Linke has been selected as the second recipient of a \$1,000 Jay Headley Memorial Scholarship. Jay is the son of Paula and Henry Smith.

Jonathon is currently a senior at Woonsocket High School. He is an member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Quiz Bowl team, Boys State Delegation and St. Wilfrids Youth Group. He participates in 4-H, Shooting Sports, Choir, FFA, Farmers Union and has been selected as a Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week.

Jonathon plans to attend SDSU to pursue a degree in Animal Science and Agronomy.

"Jonathon is a disciplined and dedicated young man," says Myron Sonne. "He seeks out ways to improve his farming projects and his community."

# New Employees Cody Riggs and Lindsey Wilson



Cody Riggs began working with the Central Electric Mitchell Linecrew as an apprentice lineman in February. Riggs previously worked at Central Electric in 2012 as a summer employee, and Central Electric is happy to welcome him back full time.

Cody is originally from Ethan, attended Ethan high school, and pursued Power line Maintenance at Mitchell

Technical Institute. Prior to joining Central, Cody worked for Highline Construction in Paynesville, Minnesota and is currently working toward his journeyman certificate.

Cody enjoys hunting, archery, and fishing. He also works on the family farm.

Lindsey Wilson joined Central Electric in early March as a Customer Service Representative. Lindsey will be the friendly voice on the other line when members call in to inquire about billing, transferring services, and account information.

Lindsey is originally from Mitchell and earned her degree in Business Administration and Marketing at Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls, SD. She and her husband, Kyle, currently live near Mitchell with their two daughters, Hadleigh and Lauren. Lindsey previously worked in customer service at American Family Insurance as a License Agency Specialist.

Lindsey's hobbies include camping, 4-wheeling, attending concerts, and her primary hobby—being a mother.



## Be Safe This Planting Season

Be aware of overhead power lines and electric facilities located in ditches and right of way areas.



# Learning, Growing in 1,000 Hours

By  
Brenda Kleinjan

**E**XPERIENCE IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE BEST teacher and for line workers embarking on their careers, getting that valuable experience will often involve a stint as a temporary 1,000-hour employee.

The 1,000-hour employee helps cooperatives bridge the construction season gap. And, at the same time, newly-minted line workers gain valuable on-the-job experience, building upon their line school training with real-world experience.

“We hire them to assist us. We like to hire them because they help us bridge that construction season gap so we can continue with our normal day-to-day activities that goes on 365-days a year,” said Brian Bultje, Operations Manager at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D.

“Typically our busy time is the first week of April to the first of December. Those are our busiest and

most demanding times,” said Bultje, noting that having additional help is beneficial.

At Central, the 1,000-hour workers are considered utility workers. They assist with the ground work and working in non-energized situations

“They’re here to learn – and help,” said Bultje. During their time at the co-op, they learn to run equipment.

“Later on in their training they may go up in the bucket to work on de-energized lines,” said Bultje. “They are honing their craft and learning the basics on the job.”

Bultje said during the course of their 1,000 hours, the temporary utility workers will help with a bit of everything at the co-op; they’ll go on out-ages with the crews, do elbowing for underground installations, install transformers and perform line





**Left:** 1,000 hour employee Nick Kramer, right assists a Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative crew with framing a pole for a pole change out south of Watertown in May 2013. **Opposite Page:** Kramer works on attaching a crossarm as part of the ground work he did during his 1,000 hour experience at Codington-Clark.

maintenance.

“They do everything from setting a pole to burying underground and pulling underground,” said Bultje. “We ask them to do just about anything and everything our guys are doing once we get comfortable with them – except energized work.”

And the temporary workers observe how crews operate and how energized work is done.

“These hours go towards their apprenticeship hours worked,” said Bultje. A line worker needs 8,000 hours of work as an apprentice along with taking and passing a series of tests over a four-year period to become a journey line worker.

An added benefit to the temporary 1,000-hour gig is that it provides a trial-run for both the worker and the co-op.

“If we have openings, they are one of the first ones we take a look at. If they’re good at their job and fit in with the crew they’ll have the first shot at it,” said Bultje.

“It’s a good way to get in the door. If you’re good at one cooperative and down the road you apply someplace else, the co-ops do talk,” said Bultje.

Central and other cooperatives often hire past 1,000-hour workers when full-time positions become available. And, with a number of retirements among the line crew ranks in the future, more posi-

tions will be becoming available.

“There are going to be a lot of retirees in the next five to seven years,” said Bultje. “The thousand hours gives you valuable experience and exposure to the co-op world.”

This spring several electric cooperatives in South Dakota were looking to fill more than two-dozen 1,000-hour positions.

Lake Region Electric Association in Webster, S.D., was among them.

“We’ve been on an extensive retirement mode up here, so that 1,000-hour employee is important in our process,” said LREA Manager Tim McIntyre.

“We’ve had some of our thousand-hour employees turn into full-time employees. You can kind of read what these guys are all about in that summer time frame,” noted McIntyre.

Like Bultje, McIntyre said the 1,000-hour position allows the co-op – and the worker – to size one another up.

“If they turn out to be exceptional employees, when we have an opening we keep that in mind,” McIntyre said.

“It’s a good training process for them; it’s how they learn,” said McIntyre. “And we can tell if they’re worth their salt.”

## The thousand hours gives you valuable experience and exposure to the co-op world.

# Trimming Future Problems

Everyone enjoys the beauty trees add to our region. But we also enjoy the comfort of knowing electric power will be available when it is needed. At Central Electric Cooperative, we are committed to providing reliable electric power. There are some things we can't stop—high winds, ice storms or thunderstorms, but we do what we can to prevent other outage culprits.

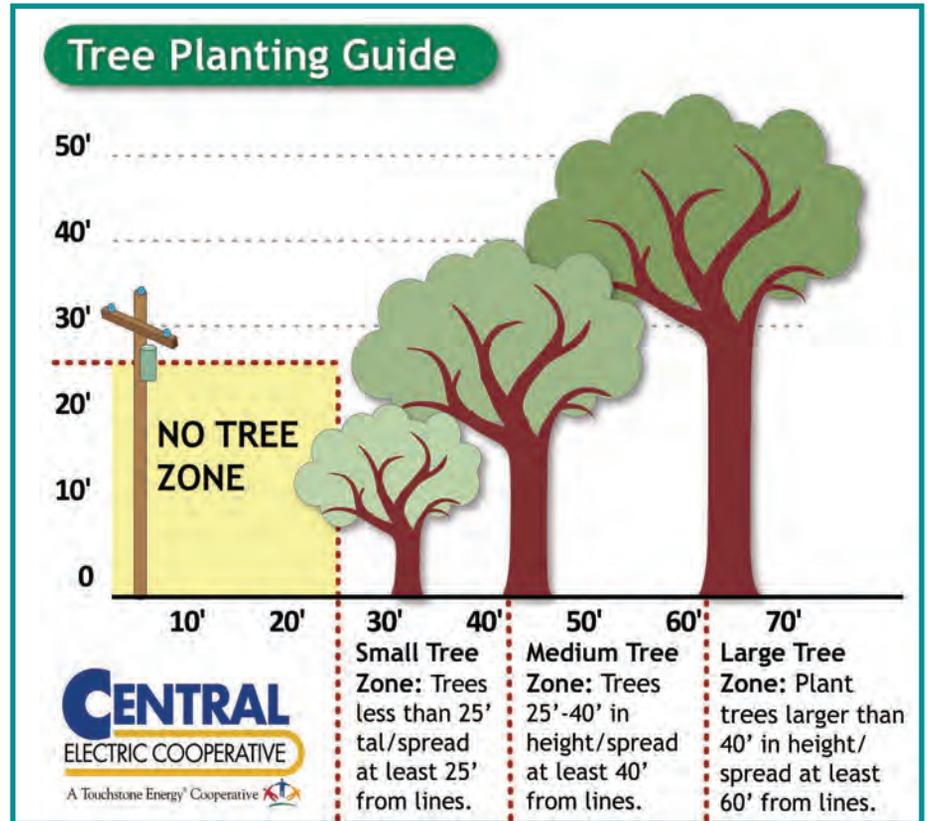
As you can probably guess, weather related events cause the majority of power outages for your cooperative, but trees growing too close to power lines and distribution equipment leads to approximately 15 percent of power interruptions.

To “cut back” on potential tree-related problems, Central Electric Cooperative includes a tree trimming contractor in our annual budget and work plan. Our line crews look for foliage growing under lines, overhanging branches, leaning or other types of “danger” trees that could pull down a power line if they fall. It's a job that's never done—by the time crews finish trimming activities along our 4,428 miles of distribution lines, vegetation has started to grow back at the starting point.

In working to keep a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of power flowing to your home or business, we need your help. Let us know if you notice trees or branches that might pose a risk to our power lines. Please grant your permission to remove problem trees or at least to trim trees back so they will not create a problem for several years. Even more important, before planting trees in your yard, think about how tall they may

grow and how wide their branches may spread. As a rule of thumb, 25 feet of ground-to-sky clearance should be available on each side of our utility poles to give power lines plenty of space. Choose tree varieties with care and plant with power lines in mind.

Thanks for your help as we work together to keep electricity reliable. To report trees you think may pose a problem, call 1-800-477-2892 or 605-996-7516. To find out more about proper tree planting, visit [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).



## Does Your Old Fridge Give You the Chills?

Ask about Energy Star appliance rebates from Central Electric Cooperative or go to [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop).

# Sign Up For Bus Tour 2015



Are you a Central Electric Cooperative member looking for a great three day break from it all? Want to know where your electricity really comes from? Heard about Ken Schlingens's games, prizes and movies while on a bus to North Dakota? Well it's not too late to participate in the 2015 Basin Electric Tour.

This is a great opportunity to tour the Oahe Dam, Basin Electric and a working coal mine at Beulah, ND. It is open to members of Central Electric Cooperative for a small fee. For just \$25 per person you will receive round trip transportation, two night stay in Bismarck ND and meals.

Members who have never participated in Central Electric's

**For just \$25 per person you will receive round trip transportation, two night stay in Bismarck ND and meals.**

application form to complete and return with your \$25 per person fee.

bus tour will be given first priority to participate in 2015. Registrations for first time participants will be accepted until June 1st or until the bus is filled. After June 1st, seats will be filled with members who previously participated in the bus tour. They will be selected based on how many years have passed since their participation.

Each member is limited to two seats on the bus tour and all participants must be at least 18 years of age.

If you are interested in participating in the tour please give Ken a call at 605-996-7516 or 1-800-477-2892. You will be given an

## Regional Dateline

### April 23-25

Black Hills Fiber Arts Fair  
Rapid City, SD, 605-791-0711  
[www.blackhillsfiberartsfair.org](http://www.blackhillsfiberartsfair.org)

### April 23-26

Shrine Circus, Sioux Falls, SD  
605-336-1117

### April 25

RiverRat Marathon and  
Bike Ride, Yankton, SD  
[www.riverratmarathon.com](http://www.riverratmarathon.com)

### April 27-29

Shrine Circus, Mitchell, SD  
605-336-1117



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAY BAER

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

### May 2

Festival of Tables & Luncheon  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Senior  
Community Center  
Wessington Springs, SD  
Contact Linda Burg at  
605-539-1373

### May 25

Annual Quilt Show  
Buffalo, SD, 605-373-3314

### May 1

Special Olympics Spring  
Games Watertown, SD  
605-237-3933

### May 2

S.D. Coin & Stamp Club Show  
Watertown, SD, 605-886-4609

### May 2

Spring Market and Boats  
Jets and Pets, Rapid City, SD  
605-716-7979

### May 1-3

Shrine Circus, Rapid City, SD  
605-342-3402

### May 6-10

Black Hills Film Festival  
Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454  
[www.blackhillsfilmfestival.org](http://www.blackhillsfilmfestival.org)

### May 9-10, 16-17, 24-25

NE Area Pari Mutual  
Horse Racing  
Aberdeen, SD, 605-715-9580

### May 10

Mother's Day Concert  
Heath and Rebecca (Salmen)  
Huberg, 3 p.m., 1905 Opera  
House, Wessington Springs, SD  
Call 605-539-1169 for ticket  
information

### May 20-23

Shakespeare Garden  
Planting Festival  
Wessington Springs, SD  
605-539-1529

### May 22

Williams & Ree Comedy  
Show, Watertown, SD  
1-800-658-4717

### May 23-24

Wessington Springs SDRA  
Foothills Rodeo, 4-H Rodeo  
Grounds, 6 p.m., Saturday and  
2 p.m. Sunday, Contact Larry  
Powell, Rodeo Club president,  
at 605-539-9611

### May 23-24

Black Hills Music Festival  
Spearfish, SD, 605-645-1880  
[www.bhmusicfest.com](http://www.bhmusicfest.com)

### May 30

Game, Fish and Parks  
Family Outdoor Recreation  
Day, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Jerauld County Trap Club  
Wessington Springs, SD  
Contact Lynn Geuke at  
605-942-7698

### May 31

Buffalo Ridge Chorale Spring  
Concert with guest musicians  
"Friends of Jazz"  
Christ Lutheran Church  
Hendricks, MN, 605-479-3438

### May 31

Shrine Circus, Milbank, SD  
605-225-4841

### June 1

Shrine Circus, Watertown, SD  
605-225-4841

### June 3-4

Shrine Circus, Pierre, SD  
605-225-4841

### June 5

Shrine Circus, Mobridge, SD  
605-225-4841

### June 5-6

The Original SD BBQ  
Championships  
Huron, SD, 605-353-7340  
[www.sdbbqchampionships.com](http://www.sdbbqchampionships.com)

### June 5-7

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD  
605-353-7340  
[www.wheeljam.com](http://www.wheeljam.com)

### September 25-26

Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show  
Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD  
Contact Nancy VanOverschelde  
at 605-248-2526 or email  
[nanvan@santel.net](mailto:nanvan@santel.net)