


# Central Electric

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NORA

# Cooperative Connections

DECEMBER 2015 VOL. 16 NO. 8



# SOUNDS OF THE SEASON:

Nora Store Delivers Holiday Cheer

Pg. 8

# Looking to the Future



**Ken Schlimgen**  
General Manager

We have had excellent weather, and I am sure many of you would like to see the above average temperatures stick with us well into December. The fall harvest, working cattle, and preparations for winter seem to be ahead of schedule.

The weather has helped your cooperative complete many items on our “to do” list also. The crews have installed the last stretches of underground cable, and the service department is working hard to complete

projects on-time for our customers. The warmer weather also means our energy sales are below our budget numbers, but the good outweighs the bad in this case.

Thanksgiving and the Christmas Season are right around the corner. We at your cooperative have much to be thankful for. Our employees are very dedicated to their work. This includes everyone, from the lineman who restores power to the office personnel who listens to concerns and helps members understand and manage their bill.

I am thankful for your Board of Directors and their willingness to serve. Being a board member during this dynamic time of complex issues including future power supplies and the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan is not easy. Your directors put in a lot of effort to prepare for and attend meetings, and ensure that the cooperative’s mission to “provide reliable energy and services at an affordable cost” is met. For their leadership, I cannot be thankful enough.

I am thankful for you, our members. I appreciate your patience, your opinions, and even your frustrations. Over the past 30 years, I have heard from many of you. Your opinions and comments help us to improve the services we provide.

**I am thankful for you, our members. I appreciate your patience, your opinions, and even your frustrations.**

This is also the time of year when we prepare our plans and budget for the coming year. The cooperative has seen increased costs each year associated with making improvements to the electric system. Our distribution system is approaching 75 years of age and needs constant maintenance and upgrades so we can continue to deliver reliable service to our members. Each year, your cooperative invests approximately \$3 million in system improvements.

We have been notified that there will be an increase in the cost of wholesale electric power in 2016. This, combined with the costs of maintaining our distribution system, will require an increase in electric rates for the coming year. We will not know the exact amount of the increase until the end of November when we complete the work plan and budget process.

The coming year should give us a better understanding of how the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Clean Power Plan (CPP) will impact our cooperative family. The CPP aims to lower carbon dioxide emissions from power plants to levels that will more than likely force the closure of some power plants. Cooperatives will be paying on the loans for the existing power plants as well as additional loans to construct new facilities.

What does that mean for you, our members? Unfortunately, it will mean significantly higher electricity bills. Our congressional delegation, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, the National Rural Electric Cooperative

Association, the South Dakota Rural Electric Association, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and East River Power Cooperative are all working on our behalf to mitigate how this will impact your cooperative. The Clean Power Plan is an extremely complex and far-reaching

regulation and is probably the single most complex regulation cooperatives have ever confronted.

The potential cost increase is why we’ve been so engaged on this issue. That’s the root of our concern because of how it affects our members. We’re keeping up the fight and working for legislative and legal solutions in partnership with cooperatives from around the country. Our top concern remains providing you, our members, with safe, affordable and reliable electricity for the future.

## Capital Credit Money To Be Distributed

The Central Electric Board of Directors has approved a capital credit general retirement of \$400,000. Members with active accounts with Central Electric will receive their refund as a credit on the December bill. By doing this, your member-owned cooperative will save the cost of printing and mailing checks. Inactive members will still receive a check.

Cooperative members realize the benefit of a cooperative when they receive a portion of the cooperative’s margins. That’s something customers of an investor-owned utility do not see.

Remember to keep a copy for your records. If you have questions, please contact us at 1-800-477-2892 or 1-605-996-7516.

# Central Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS 018-963)

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Mission Statement  
Providing Reliable Energy and  
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This institution is an equal  
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employer.

Co-op News

## District Meeting Dates

**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

## Christmas Open House

Mon., December 14 - Fri., December 18

Stop into the Betts  
Road Service Center  
for cookies and  
coffee. Office hours  
are Monday through  
Friday from 8:00  
a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



## Holiday Closings

Our office will be closed on the following days:  
**Thanksgiving - Thurs., November 26, 2015**  
**Christmas - Fri., December 25, 2015**  
**New Year's Day - Fri., January 1, 2016**

# Thanks Extended to Cooperative Advocates

In the past year, thousands of cooperative members in Minnesota and South Dakota joined other cooperative members across the country in telling the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about concerns over the EPA's proposed "Clean Power Plan." More than 1 million messages were sent in through Action.coop and TellePA.com because EPA's actions jeopardize rural America's supply of safe, affordable and reliable electricity.

EPA addressed a few concerns in its final rule. But the rule still has serious flaws. It is outside of EPA's authority. It will force electric co-ops to close power plants that consumers should be able to rely on for decades to come. Most importantly, without these plants, many co-op members will face higher energy bills.

Even though the rule is final, electric cooperatives aren't giving up. Instead, cooperatives are filing suit, asking a federal court to turn back this harmful rule. For more information about this and how to stay involved, visit [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop).



## Kids' Corner Safety Poster

**"Turn off all lights before leaving the house."**



**Kaityn Waring, 11 years old**

*Kaityn was 11 years old when she submitted this safety poster. She is the daughter of Jeremy and Ramona Waring, Colton, S.D. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, 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.

# Space Heater Safety

**Heating equipment** is the second leading cause of home fires in the United States. More than 65,000 home fires are attributed to heating equipment each year. These fires result in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in property damage.

Portable electric space heaters can be a convenient source of supplemental heat for your home in cold weather. Unfortunately, they can pose significant fire and electric shock hazards if not used properly. Fire and electrical hazards can be caused by space heaters without adequate safety features, space heaters placed near combustibles, or space heaters that are improperly plugged in.

Safety should always be a top consideration when using space heaters. Here are some tips for keeping your home safe and warm when it's cold outside:

- Make sure your space heater has the label showing that it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Before using any space heater, read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully.
- Inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use. If frayed, worn or damaged, do not use the heater.



- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep and don't let pets or children play too close to a space heater.
- Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat and should never be used to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing or thaw pipes.
- Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas and test them once a month.
- Proper placement of space heaters is critical. Heaters must be kept at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including papers, clothing and rugs.
- Locate space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways where they may pose a tripping hazard.
- Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire. Do not plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the heater.
- Place space heaters on level, flat surfaces. Never place heaters on cabinets, tables, furniture or carpet, which can overheat and start a fire.
- Always unplug and safely store the heater when it is not in use.

# Holiday Favorites



## No Bake Fruit Cake

- 1 pkg. small marshmallows
- 4 T. orange juice
- 4 dozen graham crackers, about 3/4 lb.
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/8 tsp. cloves
- 3/4 cup broken walnuts
- 1 cup light seedless raisins
- 1 cup candied fruit

Butter pan or jelly roll mold lightly. Mix orange juice and marshmallows in bowl; let stand until needed. Roll graham crackers into fine crumbs. Combine crumbs, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, walnuts, raisins and candied fruit. Add orange juice/marshmallow mixture. Press firmly into pan or mold. Chill 2 days. Keep in cool place. Need not keep in refrigerator.

**Rose Tucker, Hot Springs**

## No Bake Oreo Truffles

- 1 pkg. Doubled Stuffed Oreos
- 4 to 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- Almond bark, either chocolate or vanilla

Chop Oreos up finely in food processor or crush cookies in a plastic resealable bag with a rolling pin. Save some of the crushed Oreos for garnish. Using a spoon (or hands), mash softened cream cheese and crushed Oreos until well combined. Roll into 1-inch balls and place on parchment- or wax paper-covered cookie sheet. Place in freezer for 15 minutes. While balls are in the freezer, melt almond bark according to directions. Take Oreos out of the freezer and dip into almond bark. Place on parchment paper or wax paper. Garnish with reserved Oreo crumbs. Let almond bark set and refrigerate.

**Emily Luikens, Tea**

## Choco-Mallow Pizza

- 1 (12 oz.) pkg. real chocolate chips
- 1 lb. white almond bark, divided
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 cup Rice Krispies
- 1 cup peanuts
- 1 tsp. vegetable oil
- 1 (6 oz.) jar red maraschino cherries, drained and halved
- 3 T. green maraschino cherries, drained and quartered
- 1/3 cup coconut

Melt chocolate chips and 14 oz. almond bark in large saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly; remove from heat. Stir in marshmallows, cereal and peanuts. Pour on greased 12-inch pizza pan. Top with cherries, sprinkle with coconut. Melt remaining 2 oz. almond bark with oil over low heat, stirring until smooth. Drizzle over coconut. Refrigerate until firm. Store at room temperature. Can also be made in the microwave.

**Mary Jessen, Holabird**

## Peanut Butter and Grape Trifle

- 1 (16 oz.) container nonfat vanilla Greek yogurt
- 8 T. creamy peanut butter
- 2 T. honey
- 1 (8 oz.) container lite whipped topping, divided
- 1 (16 oz.) store-bought pound cake, sliced into 1-inch cubes
- 3 cups red seedless California grapes, plus more for garnish
- 3 cups green seedless California grapes, plus more for garnish
- 1/4 cup honey-roasted peanuts, chopped (optional garnish)

In medium bowl, stir together yogurt, peanut butter and honey until well combined. Gently fold in half of whipped topping. Set aside. In clear glass trifle dish or bowl, layer half each of pound cake cubes, peanut butter mixture, red grapes and green grapes. Repeat layers a second time and top with remaining whipped topping. Garnish with additional grapes (sliced in half) if desired and chopped peanuts, if desired. Makes 14 servings.

*Nutrition information per serving (with peanuts): 313 calories; 15 g fat (5 g saturated fat); 42% calories from fat; 8 g protein; 38 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 73 mg cholesterol; 197 mg sodium; 206 mg potassium.*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Date Pinwheels

- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 1-1/2 cups white sugar, divided
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 4 cups flour
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 lb. dates, pitted
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup nuts

Cream together butter, 1 cup sugar and brown sugar. Add sugar mixture to eggs and beat. Add flour, soda and salt. Roll out to 1/2-inch thick. For filling, boil together dates, 1/2 cup sugar, water and nuts. Cool. Spread filling onto dough. Roll up and refrigerate before slicing. Bake at 350°F. for 10 to 12 minutes or until set.

**Linda Rauscher, Aberdeen**

## Hot Fudge Sauce

- 1/2 cup cream
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 4 tsp. butter
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2.5 oz. bittersweet chocolate, cut into pieces

In a small saucepan over medium-low heat, combine cream and brown sugar, bringing to a simmer while whisking occasionally. Add butter and whisk until melted; remove from heat. Add chocolate, stirring until melted. Add vanilla and salt. Cool slightly and serve warm over your favorite ice cream. To store, transfer to an airtight container and refrigerate.

**Lynn Holzerland, Waubay**

*Please send your favorite soup and bread/breakfast 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.*

# Director Nominating Petitions Available

Any member residing in District 6, Jerauld County, currently held by Mark Reindl; District 7, Miner County, currently held by Bernetta Burghardt; District 8, Sanborn County, currently held by Todd Van Walleghen with an interest in serving on the Central Electric Cooperative Board of Directors should pick up a nominating petition for director at Central Electric's Betts Road Service Center, Mitchell, after these specific dates:

When filed, forms must bear the names of at least ten (10) Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. members from the director district in which the candidate is seeking election. Completed petitions must be filed at least twenty-five (25) days prior to any Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect directors.

## **District 6, Jerauld County**

Petition Pickup Date: Saturday, November 21, 2015  
Petition Deadline: Friday, December 11, 2015  
Election Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2015  
Meeting Location: Wessington Springs, SD

## **District 7, Miner County**

Petition Pickup Date: Monday, November 23, 2015  
Petition Deadline: Friday, December 11, 2015  
Election Date: Thursday, January 7, 2015  
Meeting Location: Howard, SD

## **District 8, Sanborn County**

Petition Pickup Date: Friday, November 27, 2015  
Petition Deadline: Thursday, December 17, 2015  
Election Date: Monday, January 11, 2015  
Meeting Location: Forestburg, SD

# Qualifications of a Director

Any Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. member in good standing is eligible to seek election to the board from the director district where he or she lives. The candidate must be willing to commit at least 25 working days per year for board meetings and affiliated cooperative organization meetings and director training as a requirement stated in the bylaws. However, certain eligibility requirements are stipulated in the cooperatives bylaws. Among them:

### Director Qualifications

1. The candidate must be a natural person receiving electric service from the cooperative or meet the qualifications for corporate representation.
2. Must have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts.
3. While a Director, and during the five (5) years immediately prior to becoming a Director, not be, nor have been, convicted of a felony; or plead, nor have pled, guilty to a felony (to include a nolo contendere plea);  
(Will be subject to a background check when elected)
4. Within six (6) years of becoming a Director, and unless excused by the Board for good cause, receive a Director Certificate or similar certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association;
5. Unless excused for good cause by the Board Members, attend at least ten (10) out of twelve (12) of the regularly scheduled monthly board meetings during any calendar year;
6. Comply with any other reasonable qualifications determined by the Board.

While a Director, a Director or Director Candidate must:

1. Be a member in good standing, and except for the Director at Large, permanently reside in the Director District from which elected; and

2. Have the Director's primary residence served by the Cooperative or: provided that the operating or chief executive of any Member which is not a natural person, or designee, shall, notwithstanding that such member does not receive service from the Cooperative at such Member's primary residence, be eligible to become a Director, from the Director District in which such Member is located, if such Member or its designee is in substantial permanent occupancy, direction of use of the premises served by the cooperative; and is a permanent and year round resident within or in close proximity to an area served by the Cooperative, but provided further that no more than one such person may serve on the Board of Directors at the same time; but provided further that no more than one such person from any one non-individual Member may serve on the Board of Directors at the same time.

While a Director, a Director or Director candidate must not be:

1. A close relative of any existing Director, other than an existing Director who will cease being a Director within (1) one year;
2. An existing, or a close relative of an existing, non-Director Cooperative officer, employee, agent, or representative;
3. Employed by, materially affiliated with, or share a material financial interest with any other Director; or
4. Engaged in, nor employed by, materially affiliated with, or have material financial interest in, any individual or entity: Directly and substantially competing with the cooperative; or selling goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or to a substantial number of members.

# Bylaws - Director Election

## **SECTION 4.05 Director Nominations**

A. Nominating Petitions. An individual desiring to be a nominee for a Director position for which an incumbent Director's Director term is expiring must take out a nominating petition no more than forty-five (45) days prior to any Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors. Said member shall return the completed Nominating Petition to the Cooperative at least twenty-five (25) days prior to the Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors.

The completed nominating petition shall contain the name of the Nominating Petition Nominee; the Director position for which the Nominating Petition Nominee will run; and the printed names, addresses, and telephone numbers, and original signatures, of at least ten (10) Members residing in the Director District in which said nominee is seeking a directorship, or if for the Director-at-Large, ten (10) members residing in the Cooperative Service Area. After verifying that a Nominating Petition complies with this Bylaw, the Cooperative shall post the Nominating Petition nominees at the Cooperative's principal office.

B. Notice of Director Nomination. At least ten (10) days nor more than twenty-five (25) days prior to any Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors, the Cooperative shall notify Members of the Director positions for which Members are scheduled to vote; and names and corresponding Director positions of all Nominating Petition Nominees;

**SECTION 4.06. Director Elections.** Members located or residing in each Director District shall elect Directors, except for the Director-at-Large, which shall be elected by the Members of the Cooperative Service Area, as follows:

A. For District Director positions at the District Meeting for which the incumbent Director's Director term is expiring.

B. For the Director-at-Large position at the Annual Meeting by all Members located or residing in the Cooperative Service Area.

C. From the Nominating Petition Nominees.

D. At the Director District meeting by Members residing in said Director District by Member's written ballot, except for the Director-at-Large who shall be elected at the annual meeting by Members located or residing in the in the Cooperative Service Area by Member written ballot.

F. By a plurality of the votes cast by a quorum of Members in person who are entitled to vote for the Director position. In case of a tie Director vote, the Director elected shall be determined by a drawing by lot. A quorum at any Member meetings, to include a Director District meeting and/or an Annual Meeting, shall consist of the minimum number of Members required by South Dakota law at the time of such meeting. If a quorum is not present within one (1) hour after the appointed time, no meeting shall be held. If an election of Directors is not held, a special Member meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors shall be held within a reasonable time.

G. Tellers shall be appointed to collect and count the ballots.

H. If only one nominating petition has been turned in for a Director position for which the incumbent Director's Director term is expiring, no election shall be held in that District and the Nominating Petition nominee shall be deemed elected as the Director from said District.

I. Names of Nominating Petition nominees shall be printed on ballots in an order determined by drawing prior to the printing of ballots.

**Section 4.07. Director Terms.** A Director's term is three (3) years ("Director term"). A Director elected at the Annual District Meeting or at the Annual Member meeting will be seated following the adjournment of the recessed portion of the first regular monthly board meeting following the Annual Member Meeting and will terminate with the adjournment of the recessed portion of the first regular monthly board meeting following the Annual Member Meeting. The Cooperative shall stagger Director terms by dividing the total of authorized Directors elected from the Director Districts into three (3) groups of three (3) Directors each. Members thereafter will annually elect one (1) Director group. Decreasing the number of Directors or length of Director terms may not shorten an incumbent Director's Director term. Despite the expiration of a Director term, the Director continues to serve until a new Director is elected, or until the number of Directors is decreased. Unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the Director term of a Director filling a vacant Director's position is the remaining unexpired Director Term of the vacant Director's position.

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Touchstone Energy  
Cooperatives

# Nora Store

## *Holiday Harmonies Ring on Iowa Border*

By  
Mike Kjose

**E**ACH DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS CAROLS FLOW OUT OF a carefully restored pipe organ at the Nora Store in rural Union County in southeastern South Dakota.

For the past 25 years, Michael (Mike) Pedersen has opened the doors to his Nora Store to anyone that wanted to experience what Christmas really represents.

It all began when Pedersen was given an old and disassembled pipe organ many years ago.

“When I got it back to the store and had all the pieces laid out on the floor, I thought ‘now what do I do with it?’” Pedersen recalled.

So Pedersen called some friends that he knew in the organ business and were also really good at putting things together.

“They came over, looked at it and said looks like it’s all here, we should be able to put it together and it ought to work,” Pedersen continued.

In the fall of 1989, the group started working on the organ as a long winter project and as time went by, things started looking real promising. Then, one evening while they were working, Pedersen got an idea and told those helping him, “We need to hurry this along!”





With surprise, the others said, “What’s the hurry?”

Michael responded with, “I want to share this with the community and sing Christmas carols this Christmas.”

That December, 26 years ago, was the first time Pedersen shared his antique organ and the first song played was “Jesus Loves Me.”

As he gazes upon the pipe organ, Pedersen says he has no idea why he was blessed with this beautiful instrument or the ability to play it. But, what he does know is that he wants to “share those blessings with everyone that is willing to sing and celebrate Christmas.”

When you come in the door, you are made to feel very welcome. “Come in, Come in, Come in,” Pedersen will greet visitors, adding “There’s no one to impress here, just pick up one of the music books and sing along.”

He continues to instruct visitors, “If you don’t know the person you’re sitting with, you will before the night is over!”

Pedersen rang in the 25th anniversary in 2014 by opening with that first song that started it all off: ‘Jesus Loves Me’.

He also loves a little crowd participation and had different bells and horns on several chairs.

The people gathered join in ringing sleigh bells to accompany songs such as “Jingle Bells,” one can almost envision the one-horse open sleigh pulling up to the front of the store.

The crowds overflow the store’s main room, leaving many to stand on the building’s front porch or the roofed overhang that is large enough to park two vehicles (or vintage sleighs).

Youngsters take delight in getting to sit close to Pedersen, with their eyes all wide-open, lit up and sparkling as they watch him play.

A large potbelly stove adds warmth to the festive gathering and the walls and ledges of the store are adorned with holiday treasures, keepsakes and Christmas decorations.

The experience combines to create a feeling of what rural holiday gatherings must have been like years ago when families, neighbors and friends would gather together during this season to celebrate the spirit of Christmas, to support each other though their communities and in their homes. Each year, this little community of five grows by 50 or 60 – and maybe more – for a couple weekends in December, to celebrate and sing praise to the true spirit and story behind Christmas.

## Nora Store Holiday Gatherings

Nov. 27-29, Dec. 4-6, 11-13, Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Also there is an afternoon event from 1:30 to 4 p.m. on Sundays (Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and Dec. 13)



**Top:** In 2014, guest musician Shawn Cable brought his accordion to accompany Mike Pedersen on the pipe organ. **Center photo:** A local violinist also provided accompaniment at a 2014 session. **Below:** The store’s front room fills to capacity quickly. **Opposite Page:** Young and old gather for old-time Christmas fun at the Nora Store. **Cover Photo:** The Nora Store sits at the corner of two paved roads at the intersection of 307th Street and 475th Avenue in Union County, South Dakota, not far from the Iowa border.



# Cooperative Savings For You

Save money this holiday season by using your Co-op Connections Card! Simply show your Co-op Connections Card at the following participating businesses and save!

If you don't have a card and would like one, or if you are a business owner and would like to participate in the program, contact us at 605-996-7516 or visit [www.centralec.coop](http://www.centralec.coop).

**AAA South Dakota  
Mitchell Branch**  
1600 N Main, Mitchell  
Save \$15 on a NEW Membership by waiving the entrance fee. FREE atlas with insurance quote.

**Advantage Auto Glass**  
1421 E 3rd, Mitchell  
10% off windshield replacement. \$10 off windshield repairs.

**County Fair Food & Fuel**  
1012 W Havens, Mitchell  
5 cents off per gallon of fuel

**Dakota Sunset**  
1524 W Havens, Mitchell  
5 cents off per gallon of fuel

**Double D Body Shop**  
103 S 4th Ave, Woonsocket  
\$5 off windshield chip repair.

**Ken's Service**  
PO Box 156, Gann Valley  
10% off tire repair services.

**M & H**  
201 W Havens, Mitchell  
5 cents off per gallon of gas.

**Mega Wash**  
800 East Kay Ave, Mitchell  
1911 N Main, Mitchell  
\$1 off automatic car wash.

**Northside Sinclair**  
1905 N Main, Mitchell  
5 cents off per gallon of fuel.

**Westside Sinclair**  
1527 W Havens, Mitchell  
5 cents off per gallon of fuel

**Village Bowl**  
1500 N Duff, Mitchell  
Bowl 2 games get the 3rd game free.

**AmericInn Lodge & Suites**  
PO Box 36, Chamberlain  
10% off rack rate - not valid with any other offer.

**AmericInn Lodge & Suites**  
1421 S Burr St, Mitchell  
10% off rack rate - not valid with any other offer.

**Mitchell Econolodge Motel**  
1313 S Ohlman St, Mitchell  
10% discount.

**Mitchell KOA**  
41255 SD Hwy 38, Mitchell  
10% discount May 1-Oct 25

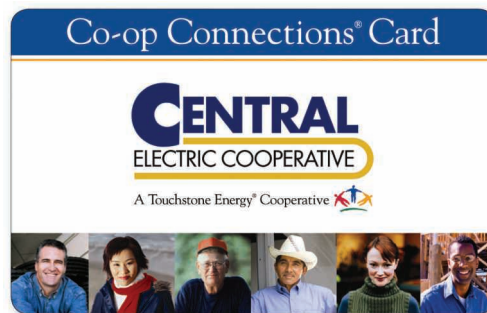
**Brig Steakhouse & Lodge**  
2700 N Main St, Mitchell  
4% off

**Daylight Donuts and Bake Shoppe**  
900 N Main, Mitchell  
Donut & Reg. Coffee for \$1

**Domino's Pizza**  
425 N Sanborn, Mitchell  
\$3 off any large pizza at regular price - carry out only.

**Rob's Short Stop**  
215 N Burr St, Mitchell  
Large nachos with chili and 16 oz fountain pop for \$2.75

**Avera Home Medical Equip**  
1307 N Main, Mitchell  
10% off cash items only.



**Hard Drive Central**  
318 N Main St, Mitchell  
10% off regular price of any one item or service.

**The Little Red Hen**  
314 N Main St, Mitchell  
\$5 off any 22 oz Yankee Candle at regular price.

**Merchandise Outlet**  
301 N Main, Mitchell  
10% off on boots, some exclusions apply. Not good with other discounts.

**Mueller Lumber Company**  
400 N Ohlman St, Mitchell  
10% off regular priced hardware store & lumber merchandise. 5% off in stock regular priced power tools cash and carry.

**Oak by Amish, Etc**  
120 S Main, Chamberlain  
40% discount on any "displayed" framed artwork including Tim Cox, Terry Redlin, John Green, Jon Crane & many others.

**Sun Gold Trophies**  
714 E Kay, Mitchell  
15% off storewide, some exclusions apply.

**Williams Musical and Office Equipment**  
2851 SD Hwy 37, Mitchell  
10% off regular prices.

**Aero Dyna Kleen Services**  
PO Box 916, Mitchell  
\$20 off on furnace & duct or 10% off on carpet cleaning.

**Gene's Photography**  
1010 S Miller, Mitchell  
1/2 price on session fees.

**Hair Expressions Salon**  
102 S Main St, Chamberlain  
Free parafin hand treatment with pedicure. Buy 300 minutes tanning and get 100 minutes free.

**New Leaf Body Spa**  
1111 S Miller, Mitchell  
\$5 off treatment of one hour or more.

**Photography Unlimited**  
519 N Main, Mitchell  
1/2 price on session fees.

**R M Associates**  
PO Box 357, Mitchell  
Farm or personal income tax \$125 for apmts. made by December 1st. All short form income tax returns 1040A and 1040EZ \$15.

# Scholar of The Week - Hannah Noonan

Hannah Noonan, a senior at Howard High School, was named Touchstone Energy Scholar for the week of October 25-31, 2015.

Noonan is an above average student and has a 4.02 grade point average to prove it. Her class schedule includes a range of courses including advanced chemistry, government, calculus, and computer graphic design.

Noonan states, "It definitely takes time management for sure." She also credits hard work: "Work hard and take the most you can get out of school."

Noonan says one of her favorite subjects in school is math. She says, "There always has to be a way to figure something out."

Her math teacher, Alan Wiese, says, "[Hannah] is one of those students who works hard and tried hard in everything she does and she also has a lot of integrity I guess. She is a student you can trust to do her best."



**General Manager Ken Schlinggen visited Howard High School to present Hannah with a \$100 scholarship from Central Electric.**




Noonan also excels outside of the classroom. She serves as president for both the Howard FFA and Student Council. She is also involved in cross country and track, winning the 2015 state title for arguably one of the most difficult races—300 meter hurdles. She also is a member of National Honor Society and takes stats for wrestling.

Following graduation, Noonan plans to attend South Dakota State University and major in Agriculture.

The Scholar of the Week scholarship was created by KSFY and Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to recognize outstanding students across the state who set an example of hard work and high academic standards. Area school principals and faculty nominate students for this award, based on excellence in the classroom, service in the community and extracurricular participation. The KSFY staff makes weekly selections throughout the school year.

## HOLIDAY LIGHTING COMPARISON

Holiday lighting options have come a long way over the last few decades. The chart below shows three types of lighting options, including wattage and operating cost comparisons.

TYPE OF LAMP	WATTAGE PER LAMP	WATTAGE PER 50 LAMPS	SEASONAL OPERATING COST*
C9 INCANDESCENT 	7	350	\$13.33
MINI INCANDESCENT 	.425	21.25	\$0.81
LED 	.069	3.45	\$0.13

*\*Using 40 days of operation, 8 hours per day, \$.119 per kWh (DOE average)  
In addition, the LED will last as much as 40 times longer than the incandescent lamps.*



Source: energy.gov

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# PREVENTION:

## It's the gift that keeps on giving

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, approximately **47,000 fires** occur during the **winter holiday season**. Keep your home and loved ones safe by preventing the most common causes of **holiday fires** with these tips from ESFI:

### CO AND SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES.

Install CO and smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area.

Be sure to test the alarms once a month, and change the batteries yearly.



*Happy Holidays*  
from ESFI

#### PREVENTION IS...

keeping decorations, or any other **flammable items** at least **3 ft** away from open flame and heat sources.



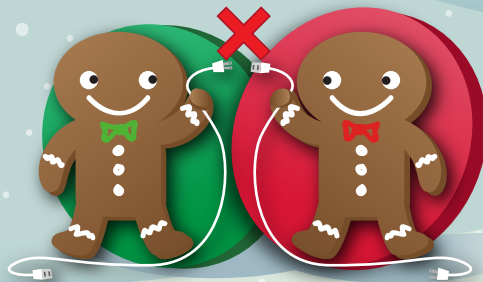
#### PREVENTION IS...

inspecting all decorations to ensure they do not have any **frayed or pinched wires** and discarding any **worn decorations**.



#### PREVENTION IS...

ensuring multiple **extension cords** are **never strung together** or run under rugs, carpets or furniture. And making sure those used **outdoors** are labeled "for outdoor use."



#### PREVENTION IS...

never leaving cooking equipment **unattended** and **turning off burners** if you have to leave the room.



#### PREVENTION IS...

never leaving a **space heater** unattended and **turning it off** when you're leaving a room or going to sleep, and not letting **pets or children** play too close to a space heater.



#### PREVENTION IS...

watering Christmas Trees daily and **discarding trees** when they are dry and begin **dropping needles**.



# 12 Tips for Holiday Home Safety



**Patrick Soukup**  
 Manager of Member Services &  
 Marketing

The holidays invite all sorts of fun activity, from lighting candles to hanging fresh greens and stringing lights. Here's how to keep your house and family safe from fire and injury.

**1. Merry and Bright:** Carefully inspect holiday light strings each year and discard any with frayed cords, cracked lamp holders, or loose connections. When replacing bulbs, unplug the light string and be sure to match voltage and wattage to the original bulb.

**2. Lights Out:** Always turn off holiday lights when you leave the house unattended or when going to bed.

**3. Fresh is Best:** Try to purchase a freshly cut tree, as they are more resistant to ignition. Keep your Christmas tree watered and away from open candles.

**4. Timing is Everything:** Use an outdoor timer certified by CSA International to switch lights on and off. Lights should be turned on after 7 p.m. to avoid the electricity rush hour.

**5. Check for the Certification Mark:** When purchasing light strings, extension cords, spotlights, electrical decorations, gas appliances, or carbon monoxide alarms, look for the certification mark of an accredited certification organization like CSA International, UL, or ELT to ensure that the products comply with applicable standards for safety and performance.

**6. One and Done:** Never connect more than one extension cord together; instead use a single cord long enough to reach the outlet without stretching, but not so long that it can get easily tangled.

**7. The Great Outdoors:** When hanging outdoor lights, keep electrical connectors off the ground and away from metal rain gutters. Use insulated tape or plastic clips instead of metal nails or tacks to hold them in place.

**8. Climbing Up:** Using a ladder when you put up lights? Choose the correct ladder for the job and double check for a certification mark to ensure your portable ladder complies with applicable standards.

**9. Keep the Gas Behind Glass:** Do not use your gas fireplace if the glass panel is removed, cracked, or broken, and only allow a qualified service person to replace fireplace parts.

**10. Sound the Alarm:** Test your smoke alarms monthly to make sure they work, and be sure to install smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms on every level of your home – especially near sleeping areas.

**11. Filter – Friendly Furnace:** To prevent CO hazards in your home, have a qualified heating contractor perform a yearly maintenance check of your furnace and venting systems. Clean or replace your furnace filter frequently during the heating seasons.

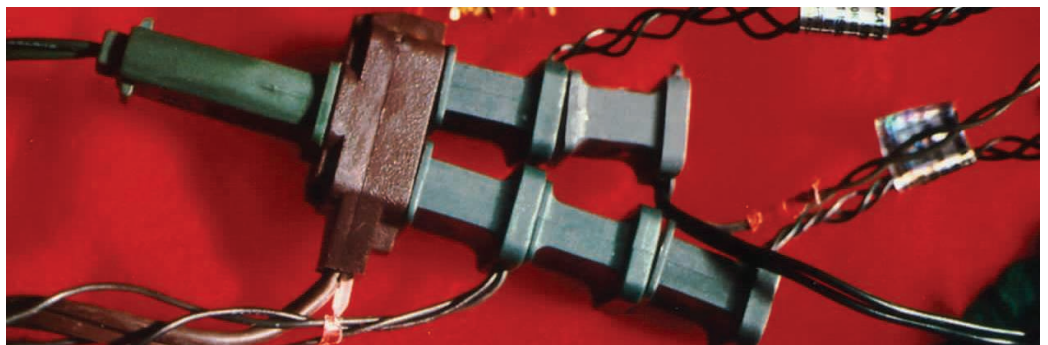
**12. Clean the Clutter:** Do not store combustible materials such as gasoline, propane, paper, chemical, paint, rags, and cleaning products near your gas furnace. Gasoline or propane cylinders should be stored outside the home.

**Holiday Lighting Tips**

**Decorating for the holidays? Consider using ENERGY STAR qualified decorative light strings (DLS). These lights:**

- Consume 75% less energy than conventional incandescent light strands.
- Last up to 10 times longer!
- Are cool to the touch, reducing risk of fire.
- A traditional light string with 300 lights costs about \$4.50\* in energy costs over the holiday season. In contrast, an ENERGY STAR certified light-emitting diode (LED) equivalent costs only \$0.43\* to operate!

Source: ENERGY STAR  
 \*Savings estimate from Pacific Gas & Electric based on their testing and residential rates



Avoid "piggybacking" power cords on top of each other which can lead to a fire; Utilize multiple outlets

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BY SPENDING  
A FEW  
MINUTES, I'M  
SAVING A LOT.

Yeah, a few minutes. That's all the time it takes me to change my home's air filter every month and save \$82 a year. Not bad for a few minutes of work, huh? What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

## Regional Dateline

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

**November 21**  
Annual Buffalo Auction  
Buffalo Corrals on Wildlife  
Loop Road, Custer, SD  
605-255-4515

**November 20-21**  
Holiday Arts Christmas Craft  
Show, Masonic Temple  
Mitchell, SD, Contact Nancy  
VanOverschelde at  
605-248-2526 or email  
nanvan@santel.net



PHOTO BY CHAD COPPES, SD DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

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

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

**December 5**  
Christmas Parade and Holiday  
Gift & Craft Fair, Custer, SD  
605-673-2244

**November 21-22**  
37th Annual Winterfest  
Civic Arena, Aberdeen, SD  
605-626-7081

**November 27**  
Shawn Cable and Erik Apland  
Concert, Redlin Art Center  
Watertown, SD, 605-882-3877

**November 27**  
Uptown Holiday Lighted  
Parade, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.  
Watertown, SD, 605-886-3040

**November 27-28 and  
December 12, 19, 20 and 23**  
1880 Train Holiday Express  
Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

**November 28**  
Greater Madison Area Show  
and Sell, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Madison, SD, 605-256-2454

**November 28**  
Holiday Celebration and  
Winter Market, 1 to 6 p.m.  
Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

**November 28**  
Williams and Ree  
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1188

**November 28-29**  
Holidazed and Confused  
Comedy Show, Mobridge, SD  
605-845-2500

**December 3**  
Christmas with the Celts  
8 to 9:30 p.m., Deadwood, SD  
605-559-1187

**December 4-5, 10-12, 17-19**  
Strawbale Winery Twilight  
Flights 2015, 5 to 10 p.m.  
Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

**December 5**  
Breakfast with Santa, 8 a.m. to  
1 p.m., Sioux Falls, SD  
605-367-7003

**December 5-6**  
Living Christmas Tree  
7 to 9 p.m., Aberdeen, SD  
605-229-6349

**December 6**  
Phillips, Craig & Dean in  
Concert, 7 to 9 p.m.  
Watertown, SD, 605-753-0282

**December 7**  
Motley Crue Final Tour  
7 to 11:45 p.m.  
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

**December 11-12**  
Sharpshooter Classic  
6:30 to 9 p.m., Winner, SD  
605-842-1533

**December 12**  
Breakfast with Santa  
8 to 10 a.m., Watertown, SD  
605-882-6269

**December 15**  
The Oak Ridge Boys: Christmas  
Night Out, 8 to 9:30 p.m.  
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1187

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

**January 7-9**  
15th Annual Ice Fishing  
Tournament, Mobridge, SD  
605-845-2500

**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

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

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