



South Dakota Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

DECEMBER 2013 VOL. 65 NO. 12



TO:
Our members

FROM:
Your Electric Cooperative

OUR GIFT TO YOU

Pg-8

During the
coldest
of days...

Basin Electric
warms your home

We are 137 members and 2.8 million consumers strong.

We are owned by those we serve — our members.

We lead innovative projects designed to preserve
and protect the air we breathe.

We applaud our employees who volunteer
and serve the communities in which they live.

We are committed to you. We are Basin Electric.

Happy Holidays



**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Basin Electric is a wholesale electricity supplier to 137 rural electric systems in nine states, including these electric cooperatives: Black Hills, Bon Homme-Yankton, Butte, Cam Wal, Central, Charles Mix, Cherry-Todd, City of Elk Point, Clay Union, Codington-Clark, Dakota Energy, Douglas, East River, FEM, Grand, H-D Electric, Kingsbury, Lacreek, Lake Region, Lyon-Lincoln, Moreau-Grand, Northern, Oahe, Renville-Sibley, Rosebud, Rushmore, Sioux Valley, Southeastern, Union County, West Central, West River, and Whetstone Valley.

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South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections

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Charles Mix Electric, Lake Andes, S.D.
Cherry-Todd Electric, Mission, S.D.
Clay-Union Electric, Vermillion, S.D.
Codington-Clark Electric, Watertown, S.D.
Dakota Energy, Huron, S.D.
Douglas Electric, Armour, S.D.
East River Electric, Madison, S.D.
FEM Electric, Ipswich, S.D.
Grand Electric, Bison, S.D.
H-D Electric, Clear Lake, S.D.
Kingsbury Electric, De Smet, S.D.
Lacreek Electric, Martin, S.D.
Lake Region Electric, Webster, S.D.
Lyon-Lincoln Electric, Tyler, Minn.
Moreau-Grand Electric, Timber Lake, S.D.
Northern Electric, Bath, S.D.
Oahe Electric, Blunt, S.D.
Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, Danube, Minn.
Rosebud Electric, Gregory, S.D.
Rushmore Electric, Rapid City, S.D.
Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, S.D.
Southeastern Electric, Marion, S.D.
Traverse Electric, Wheaton, Minn.
Union County Electric, Elk Point, S.D.
West Central Electric, Murdo, S.D.
West River Electric, Wall, S.D.
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Editorial

We Need All-of-the-Above Energy Strategy



Ed Anderson
General Manager, South Dakota
Rural Electric Association

Electric cooperatives are disappointed – but not surprised – that in September the Administration officially abandoned an all-of-the-above energy strategy for a new, all-but-one approach that effectively removes coal from the nation's fuel mix in the future.

The policy, proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sets stringent limits on carbon dioxide emissions from future coal or natural gas plants. Trouble is, the new standards are impossible to meet with existing technology.

For several years cooperatives have tested carbon capture and storage (CCS) as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Unfortunately, the technology

doesn't make financial sense. It has never been used at a commercial scale at a power plant over a prolonged period to demonstrate its viability or cost. In a 2012 Congressional Budget Office report, engineers estimate it would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75 percent.

The Administration's switch to an all-but-one energy approach would limit Americans' access to a plentiful and affordable resource. I don't think we should gamble with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation's economy.

Tell the EPA we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

Already worried about making ends meet, many South Dakota co-op

consumer-members cannot afford the significant increases in electric bills that this policy would trigger.

Historically, the price of coal remains affordable and relatively stable. The U.S. Energy Information Agency reports the United States has 236 years remaining of recoverable coal reserves. Coal generates 37 percent of the nation's electricity – our biggest energy source by far.

Seems the Administration lets history repeat itself. We saw this all-but-one game in 1978 when Congress passed the ill-conceived Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act. Never heard of it? Few have, but for several years the government banned natural gas for power generation. Yes, natural gas – the fuel source being sold to the nation today as a cleaner fuel option. With gas off the table, electric co-ops were forced to choose between building coal or nuclear plants.

Back then, co-ops were in the midst of a major power plant building cycle. With few options, they invested heavily in coal-based generating plants in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Thankfully Congress repealed its mistake, but not for nine years.

Let's not repeat past mistakes. Stand with us as we fight to keep electric bills affordable. Raise your voice through the Cooperative Action Network at www.action.coop. Tell the EPA we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

S.D. FFA Member Star Finalist



Riley Schwader

Through the FFA, Riley Schwader not only helped his father grow corn and soybeans on their Howard, S.D., farm, but he became involved with taking care of farm equipment. "Working

on a farm, I became interested in understanding how that equipment works, so I am pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Michigan where I began to become more involved with research dealing with exhaust gas recirculation coolers," Schwader told *Brownfield Ag News* during the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., in October.

Schwader's research involves improving tractor engine efficiency. He put those skills to use as a design engineer for John Deere and built up his communication chops through offices he held at the Howard FFA Chapter. It resulted in him earning a Star finalist spot in Agriculture Placement. One of four finalists nationally for that Star, he didn't win, but he looks forward to his next step.

"Upon graduation I hope to gain a job as an engineer at an agricultural equipment manufacturer and possibly eventually return to the family farm," said Schwader.

Graduation from the University of Michigan is in May. Schwader plans to marry in June.

As a high school student, Schwader represented Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D., on the 2009 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Tom Steever, Brownfield Ag News for America (brownfieldagnews.com)

Twelve Health and Safety Tips for the Holidays

Give the gift of health and safety to yourself and others by following these holiday tips.

1. Wash hands often to keep yourself from spreading germs and getting sick. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds.
2. Bundle up to stay dry and warm. Wear appropriate outdoor clothing: layers of light, warm clothing, mittens, hats, scarves and waterproof boots.
3. Manage stress. Don't overcommit yourself and prevent holiday anxiety and pressure. Get enough sleep.
4. Don't drink and drive or let others drink and drive. Whenever anyone drives drunk, they put everyone on the road in danger.
5. Be smoke-free. Avoid smoking and secondhand smoke. There is NO safe amount of tobacco or secondhand smoke.
6. Fasten seat belts while driving or riding in a motor vehicle. Always buckle your child in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat or seat belt according to his/her height, weight and age.
7. Get exams and screenings. Ask what exams you need and when to get them. Update your personal and family history.
8. Get your vaccinations, which help prevent diseases and save lives.
9. Monitor the children. Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items and other objects out of kids' reach. Dress warmly for outdoor activities. Develop and reinforce rules about acceptable and safe behaviors including electronic media.
10. Practice fire safety. Most residential fires occur during the winter months, so be careful to never leave fireplaces, space heaters, stoves or candles unattended. Have an emergency plan and practice it regularly.
11. Prepare food safely. Remember these simple steps: wash hands and surfaces often, avoid cross-contamination, cook foods to proper temperatures and refrigerate promptly.
12. Eat healthy and get moving. Eat fruits and vegetables. Limit your portion sizes and foods high in fat, salt and sugar. Be active for at least 2.5 hours a week and help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day.

Source: *cdc.gov*

Kids' Corner Safety Poster



"Look out for power lines down from snow and ice!"

**Thomas Anglin,
7 years old**

Thomas is the son of Joe and Laurie Anglin, Spearfish, S.D. They are members of Dakota Energy Cooperative, Huron, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Holiday Favorites



Snowy Trail Mix

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 cups pretzel sticks | 12 oz. white almond bark |
| 5 cups Corn Chex cereal | Red and green sprinkles |
| 3/4 cup pecans or peanuts | |

Combine pretzels, Corn Chex and nuts. Melt almond bark; slowly pour over mix. Stir. Place on waxed paper to cool. Top with red and green sprinkles. Break into bite-size clumps.

Anna VanLeeuwen, Sioux Falls

Holiday Trifle

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 chocolate cake mix | 1 (12 oz.) container Cool Whip |
| 2 (4 oz.) pkgs. cook-n-serve chocolate pudding | 5 chocolate-covered toffee candy bars, crushed |

Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Pour into well-greased 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 350°F. for 40 minutes; cool. Meanwhile, prepare pudding according to package directions; cool. Cut cake into 1/2-inch cubes. In a large, clear glass, trifle bowl, alternate cake pieces, pudding and Cool Whip. Top with crushed candy bars. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Rowena Wipf, Doland

Choco-Mallow Pizza

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

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

Cinnamon Candy Popcorn

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8 quarts popped corn | 1/2 cup light corn syrup |
| 1 cup butter | 1 (9 oz.) pkg. cinnamon red hots |

Place popped corn in roaster pan. Combine butter, syrup and red hots in a saucepan over medium heat; bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Pour over popcorn; stir to coat. Bake at 250°F. for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Place on waxed paper. Cool; break into pieces. Store in sealed container.

Connie Howard, Bath

Candy Cane Brownie Lollipops

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 pkg. (18-21 oz.) fudge brownie mix (plus ingredients to make brownies) | 10 oz. chocolate-flavored almond bark |
| 24 candy canes | Additional decorations such as red jimmies (optional) |

Line medium sheet pan with a 13-inch piece of parchment paper; lightly spray with nonstick cooking spray and set aside. Prepare brownie mix according to package directions; pour batter into pan. Bake 30 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out with moist crumbs attached. Remove from oven to cooling rack; cool 20 minutes or until still slightly warm. Meanwhile, cut straight ends of candy canes off to form 4-1/2-inch sticks using utility knife. Place candy cane tops into resealable plastic bag and crush using flat side of meat tenderizer; set aside. Using a medium scoop, scoop brownie into 24 rounded scoops, packing brownie into scoop using hands. (Entire brownie will be used.) Roll brownie scoops into smooth balls. Insert candy cane sticks into centers of balls, mounding brownie around each stick. Place almond bark into microwave-safe bowl; microwave according to package directions until smooth. Spoon melted bark evenly over each brownie ball, turning to coat completely. Allow excess bark to drip off. Dip into reserved crushed candy canes or jimmies and stand upright on a piece of parchment paper. Repeat with remaining almond bark, lollipops and crushed candy. Let stand until set. Place into miniature cupcake liners.

Cook's Tips: Although the edges of the brownies are crusty, they don't need to be discarded. Simply scoop the edges along with the center; they'll soften as they stand. If desired, lollipop sticks or stick candies can be substituted for the candy canes. Wrap lollipops in cellophane, tie with ribbon and use as table décor, place cards or take-home goodies for a special holiday touch. 24 Servings

Nutritional information per serving: (1 lollipop, excluding optional ingredient): Calories 260, Total Fat 11 g, Saturated Fat 4 g, Cholesterol 20 mg, Carbohydrate 40 g, Protein 2 g, Sodium 75 mg, Fiber 1 g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Apple-Raspberry Pie

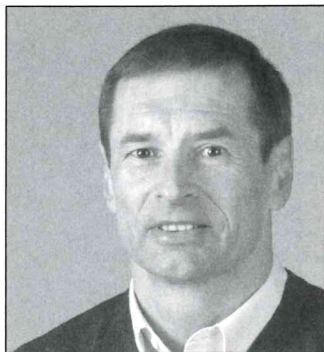
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| 1 double-crust 9-inch pie shell | 2 T. lemon juice |
| 4 to 5 medium Golden Delicious apples, peeled, cored and sliced (about 8 cups) | 3 T. quick-cooking tapioca |
| 2 cups frozen unsweetened raspberries, thawed and dried | 1 tsp. vanilla extract |
| 1 tsp. lemon zest | 1 tsp. cinnamon |
| | 1/2 cup plus 2 T. sugar, divided |
| | 1 large egg, lightly beaten |

Prepare filling by tossing together apples, raspberries, lemon zest and juice, tapioca, vanilla, cinnamon and 1/2 cup sugar. Spoon filling into unbaked pie shell. Cover filling with remaining pie crust. Cut vents in top. Lightly brush crust with beaten egg; sprinkle with 2 T. sugar. Place pie on baking sheet covered with foil. Bake at 400°F. until filling bubbles and crust is golden, about 1 hour.

Stephanie Fossum, Hudson

Please send your favorite soup, bed/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 2014. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Hard Facts About Space Heaters



Jim Dulley
www.dulley.com

Dear Jim: I'm considering a small electric space heater for my living room and bedroom. What space heaters are best for these spaces and will they cut my utility bills as some ads claim? – Greg R.

Dear Greg: Small electric space heaters can reduce your utility bills, but only if you set your central heating system (heat pump or furnace) thermostat lower. They make sense if there are only one or

two people living in a house, with no need to keep vacant rooms warm.

Another common situation is when there is a room or two in a house which do not stay warm enough. Often a person gets chilly in one of those problem rooms and turns the central thermostat higher. This warms the entire house and more heat is lost through the walls, windows and ceiling. It is much more efficient to use a small space heater in these rooms.

First, it is important to understand all electric space heaters are effectively 100 percent efficient. Don't let advertising stating this fact influence your buying decision. This just means all of the electricity it consumes ends up as heat in your house. It does not mean it's cheap to operate.

Also, the maximum heat most small space heaters can safely produce is about 5,100 Btuh (Btu per hour). Houses typically use central heating systems with a capacity of 50,000 to 100,000 Btuh, so a single space heater cannot heat an entire house. Be wary of advertising stating a small electric space heater can allow your central system to run dramatically less for 50 percent or more savings.

There's not a 'best' electric space heater for every situation. The proper selection depends on the room and how you plan to use the heater. For example, are you looking for quiet heat in a bedroom at night, heat for just one person watching TV or will there be a group of people in a large room?

Choose between direct radiant and convection (air circulation) space heaters; both types have advantages. Within each group, there are many comfort features and options which may impact

your decision. If you have young children, there are also safety considerations.

Radiant Space Heaters

Radiant style heaters heat quickly. These use a red-hot ribbon, long quartz or carbon tubes to produce infrared heat radiation similar to the sun's rays. They primarily heat objects and people directly in front of them. Carbon tubes produce infrared heat which penetrates objects and skin slightly below the surface. This makes it very comfortable, effective heat.

Radiant heaters are quiet and ideal for heating a specific spot. For example, I use one across from my computer desk to keep me warm while I am writing. My body and the furniture in its path gradually reradiate the heat so the room air also heats up slightly. To heat a slightly larger area, select a model which automatically oscillates.

Convection Space Heaters

Convection heaters are designed to heat the air in the room. This is often done using a built-in fan to circulate room air over the heating elements. Oil-filled, old radiator-style heaters use natural air circulation (hot air rises) to move room air over the heat source, gently warming a room without bursts of heat.

For a living room, often the largest room in a house, consider a convection-style heater. This heats an entire room more effectively. Choose a model with a thermostat and multispeed fan to control the heat output. A ceramic convection heater is safe around young children. If the air flow gets blocked, the heating output automatically drops and there are no red hot ribbons.

For a bedroom, where quiet operation is important, use an oil-filled radiator or a convection heater with a low-speed setting. Another option is a radiant model facing the bed if you don't mind the red glow. A horizontal shaped one will heat the entire bed area.

The following companies offer electric space heaters: DeLonghi, 866-528-8323, www.delonghi.com; Holmes Products, 800-546-5637 www.holmesproducts.com, KAZ/Honeywell, 800-477-0457, www.kaz.com; Lasko, www.laskoproducts.com, 800-233-0268; and Slant Fin 516-484-2600, www.slantfin.com.

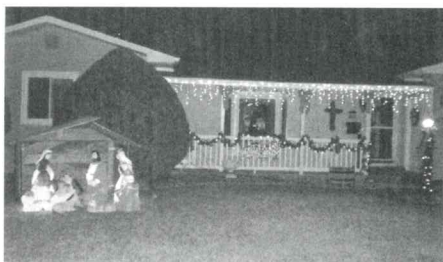
Have a question for Jim? Send inquiries to: James Dulley, *Cooperative Connections*, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

Evans, Carlson Named Holiday Lighting Winners

At the end of 2012 we asked co-op members across South Dakota and western Minnesota to send in pictures of their favorite area Christmas displays.

The submissions were separated into two categories: Best Overall and Best True Meaning of the Season.

Butte Electric Cooperative member Valerie Garr submitted the display of George and Alice Evans on 8th Avenue in Belle Fourche, S.D.



"This is a display that truly exemplifies the meaning of the season. Even at 80-plus years, George and Alice still have the desire and dedication to go out and put up their own Christmas display. They have lived in Belle Fourche for the past 20 Christmases and have set up the same nativity scene every year. It has become a tradition for families to bring their children either by walking or driving to view the display," Garr wrote.

In the "Best Overall" category, the display of Kingsbury Electric Cooperative members David and Jane Carlson of rural Lake Preston, S.D., draws passers-by to view the colorful nighttime scene.

Top 10 Holiday Lighting Tips

If you are planning on hanging up holiday lights this winter, below are some recommendations to help you save energy and money.

1. Switch to safe, long-lasting, energy-efficient LED (light emitting diode) holiday lights whenever possible.
2. Use a timer to reliably turn off lights during daylight hours and other specified times.
3. Don't overload your electric circuits, check fuses or circuit breaker panels to see what your home can handle, and stay well within the limits.
4. Adhere to manufacturer's designations and locations of use (indoor vs. outdoor).
5. Outdoor lighting should have insulated electrical cords and be plugged into a ground fault interrupter-protected receptacle only.
6. Don't run extension cords under rugs, around furniture legs, or across doorways.
7. Keep all plugs and connectors off the ground, away from puddles and sprinklers.
8. Avoid stringing more than three sets of lights together and plugging into a single outlet.
9. Make sure there's a bulb in each socket of a light string even if it is burned out.
10. Keep your natural tree well-watered to prevent bulbs from igniting dry branches and never use electrical decorations on metal trees.

See more at <http://blog.togetherwesave.com/lighting/holiday-lighting-tips-786#sthash.ljMWp1FQ.dpuf>

Rancher Relief Fund Helps Those Hit by Atlas

Gov. Dennis Daugaard is encouraging South Dakotans to assist ranchers who have experienced losses in the early October blizzard by donating to the Rancher Relief Fund.

"I have driven across western South Dakota and seen the devastation from this storm firsthand," Gov. Daugaard said. "With the government shutdown and no farm bill in place, we need South Dakotans to help their neighbors. Many concerned individuals are wondering how they can help, and this fund will provide a way."

The Rancher Relief Fund was established by the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, Stockgrowers Association and Sheep Growers Association, in

conjunction with the Black Hills Area Community Foundation to provide support and assistance to impacted producers. By mid-November, the fund had raised \$750,000, a mere fraction of the dollars lost by producers in the storm.

"Like our ancestors, we will persevere in the face of hardship by helping one another. Our ranchers need to know that they are not facing this alone," said Gov. Daugaard.

To donate to the Rancher Relief Fund, visit www.giveblackhills.org and

search "Rancher Relief Fund." Donors can also mail checks to Rancher Relief Fund, PO Box 231, Rapid City, S.D. 57709.

Individuals experiencing disaster-related stress should contact a local community health provider or call Youth and Family Services in Rapid City at 605-342-4195 or 605-342-4870.

Information is also available at <http://dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealthservices/community/outpatientservices.asp>.



Giving Back Through Energy Savings

By Brenda
Kleinjan

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE gives back to its members. After all, the members are the ones who own the cooperative.

Guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles, electric cooperatives have several gifts their members benefit from throughout the year.

Gift of membership

Actually, this is a gift you gave yourself when you became a member of your local electric coopera-

tive. Throughout the year, if you look for it, you'll see ways that your local cooperative is giving back, investing in its local communities, investing in the youth and working to ensure that future generations have access to the reliable and affordable energy they need to power their lives.

Part of that gift of membership is voting. Co-ops are democratically controlled, with each member having one vote. As a result, control remains in the hands of all customers. Directors are elected from



the membership.

Another gift of membership is economic participation. Members of electric cooperatives own part of the cooperative.

Education is another main emphasis for cooperatives. Whether it's educating youth and the public to be safe around electricity, informing people how to use energy more efficiently or the teaching about the importance of engaging in the political process, cooperatives invest considerable time and money to benefit their members.

Each year, electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota award more than \$85,000 in scholarships to individuals seeking higher education.

One of the biggest gifts co-ops give is educating their members about using electricity wisely. So for the upcoming holidays, check out these energy savings tips from your local electric cooperative:

12 Days of Energy Savings

1. If it's time to upgrade your home's heating and cooling system, check out the benefits of a geothermal heat pump. According to the Department of Energy, a ground-source heat pump uses 25 percent to 50 percent less electricity than conventional heating or cooling systems.

2. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when shopping for new appliances. Upgrading an older, conventional washer to an ENERGY STAR model can save \$140 a year.

3. Ask the energy experts at your local electric cooperative. Some employees at many electric cooperatives have training on ways to increase your home's energy efficiency. (And, you can always check out the cooperatives' togetherwesave.com site for energy efficiency ideas.) The men and women at your cooperative are just a call away.

5. Caulk areas where air may be leaking from your home. Check along baseboards and sills, around windows and doors. And, don't forget plumbing penetrations. Openings in your home's ducting system can cause 30 percent of heat loss.

6. Energy use of electronics has grown to more than 15 percent of a household's annual energy use and some predict it will grow to nearly one-third of the average home's energy use by 2030. Unplugging chargers for cell phones and iPods when not in use can add to the savings. Better yet, use power strips. Advanced power strips – sometimes called smart strips – can allow consumers to control load

7. Cut your showers to five to seven minutes. Water heating accounts for about 12 percent of a typical home's energy use. By reducing the amount of time in the shower, you reduce the amount of hot water that needs to be heated. (Want another way to save even more? Install a low-flow shower head.)

8. Turn on the timer. Installing a timer on your bathroom ventilation fan can bring in the savings as can using timers on lights, especially holiday lighting.

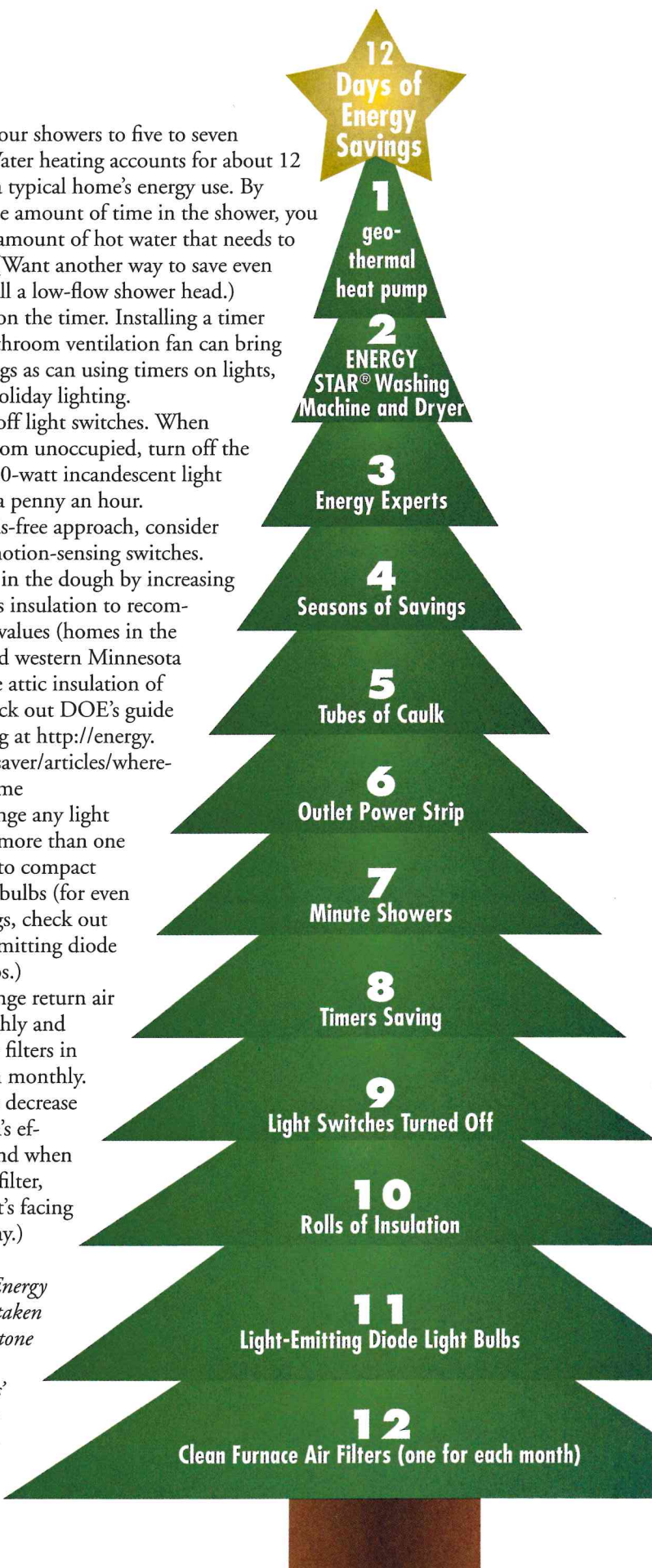
9. Turn off light switches. When leaving a room unoccupied, turn off the lights. A 100-watt incandescent light uses about a penny an hour. (For a hands-free approach, consider installing motion-sensing switches.

10. Roll in the dough by increasing your home's insulation to recommended R-values (homes in the Dakotas and western Minnesota should have attic insulation of R-49.) Check out DOE's guide to insulating at <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/where-insulate-home>

11. Change any light bulbs used more than one hour a day to compact fluorescent bulbs (for even more savings, check out new light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs.)

12. Change return air filters monthly and check other filters in your system monthly. Dirty filters decrease your system's efficiency. (And when replacing a filter, make sure it's facing the right way.)

Source: Energy savings tips taken from Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives' 101 Ways to Save Energy



Unwrap savings for the entire year with these tips from your local electric cooperative.

Strong Foundation Bright Future

By BEPC Staff

**We
always
find a
way and
do great
things.**

IN HIS REMARKS TO THE MEMBERSHIP, ROY IRELAND, president of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, N.D., said the theme of this year's annual meeting is very timely. "We're a cooperative. Our story began out of a need for power to serve our farms," he said. "You were a mighty force that couldn't be ignored. You prevailed and turned the lights on for rural America."

The theme of this year's annual meeting is "Strong Foundation, Bright Future."

Now, 52 years later, Ireland said the Basin Electric family has many challenges – be tremendous oil growth, increased cyber security threats, environmental uncertainty or dealing with solar and other distributed generation. "These are really stepping stones toward another list of firsts and innovations

for Basin Electric, he said. "We WILL figure it out and do what it takes – just like the folks that brought electricity to rural America when no one else would. We always find a way and do great things. It's who we are. We should be proud."

Adding infrastructure

Adding infrastructure – such as transmission lines and power plants – to meet a growing need for electricity throughout Basin Electric's service territory is a major challenge.

Mike Risan, senior vice president of transmission, and Matt Greek, senior vice president of generation, updated the membership on activities designed to maintain the reliability of the cooperative's transmission system and generating facilities.





As member cooperative demand is projected to grow, Risan said transmission analysis of those projections is required to ensure generation can be reliably delivered to the load. "Some of the most immediate needs are in the Bakken region," he said.

Greek shared updates on the Lonesome Creek Station and Pioneer Generation Station.

The first unit of the Pioneer Station, 15 miles northwest of Williston, was placed in operation in September, with two more units scheduled for the early 2014. Each unit is a 45-megawatt capacity, natural-gas fired unit.

The first unit at the Lonesome Creek Station, 12 miles west of Watford City, N.D., is scheduled to be operational by the end of this month with an additional two units scheduled to be complete in late 2014. All the generating units mentioned are the same.

Ted Case

Ted Case, executive director of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Salem, Ore., talked about his new book, "Power Plays: The Story of Electric Co-ops and the President."

In the face of an uncertain federal and environmental climate, Case was invited to Basin Electric's annual meeting to speak about his book. "I think it's really fitting that I come here to the Upper Midwest and Basin Electric Power Cooperative territory because I have long thought this region, and the Upper Midwest, has carried the electric program politically for many, many years and you need to be commended for the work that you've done."

Regarding his book, Case said he became interested in the topic after realizing the significance of past relationships between electric co-ops and U.S. presidents.

"What has happened? We had this great

relationship with the presidents and something has changed," Case said.

"The President of the United States has enormous power and enormous sway over our programs. We are not on the radar – and we need to be again. We need to get back to those things that we're doing, that you're doing so well here," Case said. "I'm going to write a sequel to this book someday. It'll be many, many years down the road. We'll have a few more presidents, we'll have more stories. You've got an important role in this. I think you've got the most important role. You need to provide the ending."

Legislative report

U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., addressed the crowd during a live video feed. Additionally, Sens. John Hoeven, R-N.D., Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., and Rep. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., addressed the crowd through video messages. The videos will be posted on Basin Electric's website.

Director Elections

Two new directors were elected to three-year terms at the annual meeting:

- Marshall Collins, representing District 5 – Tri-State G&T, Denver, Colo. He was elected following the retirement of Wayne L. Child, who had been a Basin Electric director since 1985.

- Mike McQuiston, representing District 7 – Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative, Rapid City, S.D. He was elected following the retirement of Roy Ireland, who had been a Basin Electric director since 1996.

A third director, Wayne Peltier, representing District 9 – was re-elected to another three-year term. He's been a director since 2008.

Basin Electric Signs Wind Contracts

Basin Electric signed two power purchase agreements associated with the development of two new wind projects in North Dakota on Nov. 6. The combined capacity is 278 megawatts (MW).

The developer is Infinity Wind Power, Santa Barbara, Calif. Infinity Wind Power will be developing the Sunflower Wind Project and the Antelope Hills Wind Project. The Sunflower Wind Project is a 106 MW project to be located in Morton County near Hebron, N.D. The Antelope Hills Wind Project is a 172 MW project to be located in Mercer County near Golden Valley, N.D.

Andrew M. Serri, Basin Electric CEO and general manager, said this new wind generation will increase the renewable portion of Basin Electric's generating portfolio, which includes waste heat, to more than 1,000 MW. "This is a result of a request for proposal we issued last June. We received very favorable offers from these developers," he said. "These projects will fit nicely into our existing generation portfolio." The projects are planned to be operational by the end of 2015.

"Infinity Wind Power is pleased to provide this low-cost energy resource to Basin Electric. The communities in and around these projects have been incredibly supportive over the years and we are excited to bring them the economic benefits that come with wind power construction and operation," said Matt Riley, Infinity Wind Power's CEO. "Harnessing North Dakota's wind to provide power to Basin Electric's diverse membership base has been our objective for several years, so we're thrilled that these projects are moving forward."

Co-ops Take on EPA Rules

A Look at Electric Co-op Talking Points: New EPA Rules on Power Plant CO₂ Emissions

ON SEPT. 20, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Agency (EPA) issued new proposed rules limiting the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of new coal- and natural gas-based power plants.

The proposed rule sets stringent limits on CO₂ emissions from coal plants in particular, essentially requiring they use carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology or eliminating coal as a potential fuel source for future plants.

Since CCS is not commercially viable, the Administration has abandoned its “all-of-the above” energy strategy and embraced an “all-but-one” approach that effectively prevents construction of new coal-based generation.

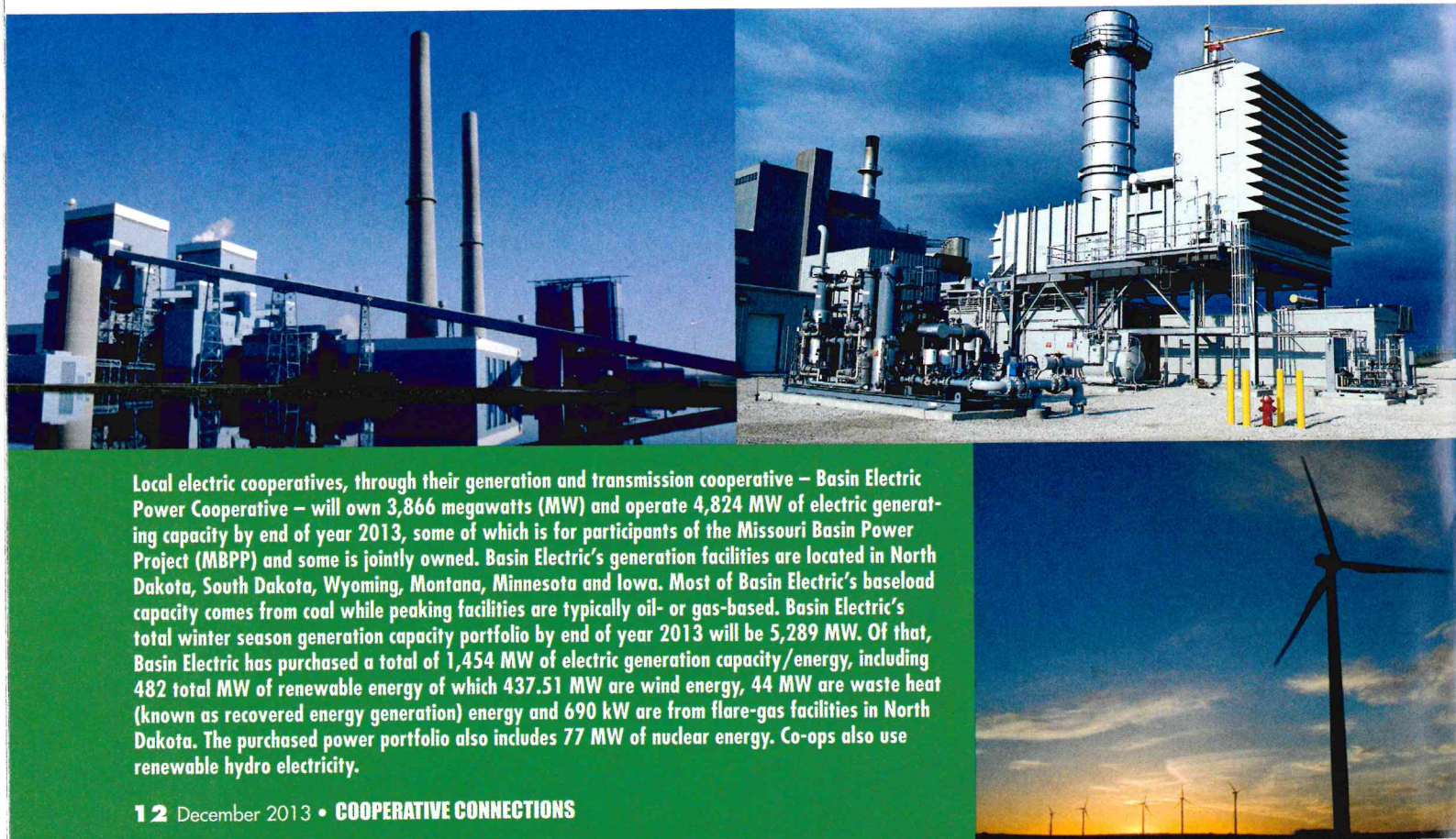
Electric cooperatives strongly oppose this shift and believe the proposed rule should be withdrawn. Co-ops support use of a diverse fuel mix including renewables, natural gas, nuclear and coal to generate electricity and support use of demand response and energy efficiency to use that energy wisely and keep costs affordable. Co-ops also continue to deploy new technologies and are researching even more cutting edge technologies to meet the energy needs of the future.

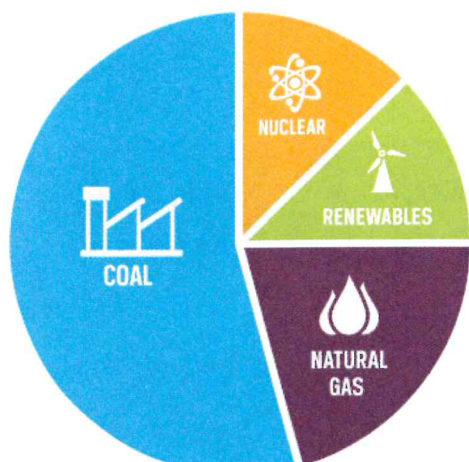
Abandoning the All-of-the-Above Strategy

The Administration has repeatedly indicated it is in favor of an “all of the above” energy strategy since

From NRECA

Local electric cooperatives, through their generation and transmission cooperative – Basin Electric Power Cooperative – will own 3,866 megawatts (MW) and operate 4,824 MW of electric generating capacity by end of year 2013, some of which is for participants of the Missouri Basin Power Project (MBPP) and some is jointly owned. Basin Electric’s generation facilities are located in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Minnesota and Iowa. Most of Basin Electric’s baseload capacity comes from coal while peaking facilities are typically oil- or gas-based. Basin Electric’s total winter season generation capacity portfolio by end of year 2013 will be 5,289 MW. Of that, Basin Electric has purchased a total of 1,454 MW of electric generation capacity/energy, including 482 total MW of renewable energy of which 437.51 MW are wind energy, 44 MW are waste heat (known as recovered energy generation) energy and 690 kW are from flare-gas facilities in North Dakota. The purchased power portfolio also includes 77 MW of nuclear energy. Co-ops also use renewable hydro electricity.





*NRECA member co-op fuel mix as distributed

America needs an

ALL OF THE ABOVE STRATEGY

to keep electric bills affordable

2009. A cursory search for “all-of-the-above” at www.whitehouse.gov pulls up dozens of articles, speeches, fact sheets, etc.

As recently as June 25, 2013, President Obama reiterated his support for an all-of-the-above energy strategy (<http://1.usa.gov/1dbLY8P>).

In that same speech, he directed the EPA to enforce limits on CO₂ emissions from coal plants.

CCS Technology Not Commercially Viable, Estimated to be Prohibitively Expensive

Electric utilities and others have been researching technologies to reduce or capture CO₂ emissions from coal-based power plants for years and have experimented with CCS technology specifically in the lab and at low-level pilot projects. However, the technology has never been used at a commercial scale at a power plant, over a prolonged period to demonstrate its viability or cost. According to a 2012 Congressional Budget Office report, engineers have estimated that CCS technology would increase the cost of producing electricity from coal-based plants by 75 percent.

Already worried about making ends meet, many Americans cannot afford to pay for the significant increases in their electric bills. Consumers remain laser-focused on the economy, as we ever-so-slowly recover from the Great Recession. The latest Gallup polls show concern for the economy and unemployment hovering near 40 percent. (<http://bit.ly/1aI6onP>)

Coal: A Plentiful, Domestic Energy Source

The Administration’s switch to an all-but-one energy approach would limit Americans access to a plentiful and affordable resource, mortgaging future generations and unnecessarily constraining the American economy.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA), the United States has 236 years remaining of recoverable coal reserves (<http://1.usa.gov/13XA0Iv>). Coal is also the most used energy source in the United States, accounting for 37 percent of all electricity generated in 2012, according to EIA.

Historically prices for coal have remained affordable and relatively stable. On the other hand, natural gas prices have shown incredible volatility over time (like many other commodities). Since the year 2000, according to EIA, the monthly average of natural gas prices has varied from a low of \$1.89 per million BTU to a high of \$10.79 per million BTU. And that is only the average “wellhead” price ... not the final price to households or power plants using that fuel.

History Repeats:

1970’s Mandate: No Natural Gas...

2013 Mandate: No Coal?

We’ve seen this all-but-one game before in our country’s recent history. Concerned about natural gas supplies, Congress passed the ill-conceived Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978, which prohibited burning natural gas to generate electricity. To meet growing demand for baseload power, utilities effectively were forced to choose either coal or nuclear plants. The cost of constructing nuclear plants in the late 1970s was skyrocketing and with the Three Mile Island plant accident construction of nuclear plants came to a standstill, leaving coal as the only baseload resource.

For co-ops, the timing was especially challenging. The measure was implemented just as G&Ts were in the middle of a major power plant building cycle while Congress was prohibiting one choice of resource to meet growing demand for electricity. As a result, co-ops invested heavily in coal-based generating plants in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

It took nine years, but Congress finally repealed its mistake in 1987. There is no reason to repeat the mistakes of the past, but that appears exactly what we are about to do.

Make Your Voice Heard

Raise your voice through the Cooperative Action Network at www.action.coop. Tell the EPA we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

Have Yourself a Merry Local Christmas

By Brenda Kleinjan

SANTA MAY DO HIS SHOPPING AT THE EXOTIC NORTH Pole, but clever Minnesotans and South Dakotans can find plenty of locally made or regionally unique items much closer to home.

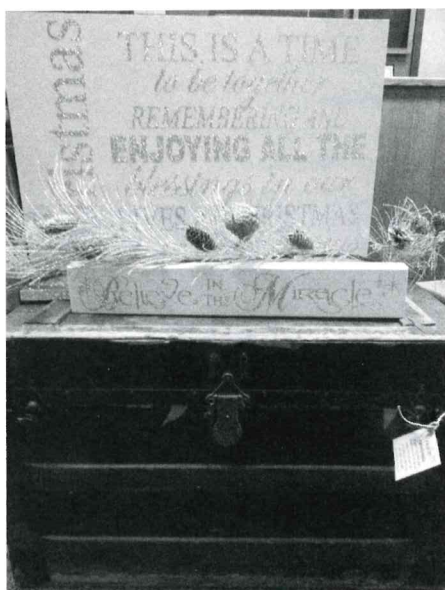
According to the National Retailers Federation, one in four jobs is supported by the retail industry, so shopping locally makes sense.

In Ivanhoe, Minn., The Gift offers a variety of home decor, facelift furniture, gifts, apparel and

custom signs.

Catchy descriptions accompany Facebook posts of new offerings in the store in this western Minnesota town. Custom-made signs can be made to mark weddings, births and even family locations.

Mitchell, S.D.'s, Little Red Hen store has found a new home on Main Street after its start in a Victorian home near the United States Post Office building west of downtown.



Above: Custom signs make unique gifts at The Gift in Ivanhoe, Minn.

Right: Each piece of facelift furniture created at The Gift is given a name. Here, the pairing of a refurbished chair and side table have been named Gary and Deana. Sitting together, they're referred to as "Gary and Deana on a date."





The store owners note, "We offer customers the very best in country-politan treasures, warmth and comfort wrapped up into urban sophistication. It has always been our goal to carry USA-made products and finally these days it is the cool thing to do! We have been doing that all along, some of our products even carry the "Made in the USA at The Little Red Hen" label!"

Redfield, S.D.'s Spink County Mercantile features antiques and collectibles from multiple dealers and consignors all in a 3,200-square foot beautifully restored historic building.

If locally produced art is on your list, well-known regional artists Jon Crane, Josh Spies and Terry Redlin may come to mind. Crane has galleries in Hill City, S.D., and Rapid City, S.D., while the work of Spies and Redlin can be found in Watertown, S.D..

Pottery can also make a unique gift. Corn Palace mural designer Cheri Ramsdell's Dakota Bones Pottery featuring horse-hair pottery can be found in Mitchell, S.D. while Dave Hubner's Dakota Stoneware Pottery can be purchased right from his home studio in Bushnell, S.D.

A full-sized sculpture from Lemmon, S.D., sculptor John Lopez might be out of range for most budgets, a book of his work titled "In Fields of



S.D.-based Wild Dutchman Sunflower Seeds gives a hearty snack for those craving sunflower seeds.

Lakota Foods offers a variety of popcorns from Lower Brule, S.D., while Tanka Bars in Kyle, S.D., ship their buffalo and cranberry Tanka Bars and Tanka Bites worldwide.

Wineries and vineyards across the state offer uniquely flavored wines and the state's only distillery, Bickering Brothers based in Pierre, S.D., offers three types of spirits.

Made famous in Laura Ingalls Wilder books, the Loftus Store on DeSmet, S.D.'s Calumet Street offers a variety of items.

From bookstores to art to fudge and other items, Wall Drug in Wall, S.D., offers a bit of everything for those looking for something a bit off the beaten path.

Regional and local museums also make for unique gift shopping. Gift shops often feature regional artists or products. Memberships to museums offer much-needed support to these local institutions and a straight donation to honor your recipient.

For the book lover on your list, check at local bookstores or with the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, S.D., for books from the South Dakota State Historical Press.

Iron," would fit nicely under the tree.

If food is on your list, try any number of foods or wines made in the region.

Whetstone Valley Preserves and Waldner Specialty Meats offers tastes of home from their store on Main Street in Milbank, S.D.

Cheese assortments from Dimock Dairy Cheese in Dimock, S.D., pair well from specialty meats at the Delmont, S.D.'s, Blue Bird Locker

Mound City,

**Clever
Minneso-
tans and
South
Dakotans
can find
plenty of
locally
made or
regionally
unique
items
much
closer to
home.**

Regional Dateline

November 29-30

Midwest Supercross Racing
Brookings, SD, 605-692-7539
petersonracingpromotions.com

November 29-December 31

Annual Train Show and
Christmas Celebration
South Dakota State
Railroad Museum
Hill City, SD, 605-574-9000

November 30-December 1

WJ Ranch Cowboy Christmas
Yankton, SD, 605-661-8356
www.schiferlswjranch.com

November 30

Greater Madison Chamber
Show and Sell, Madison, SD
605-256-2454
www.chamberofmadisonsd.com

November 30

Bull Expo/Cowboy Christmas
Craft & Trade Show
Platte, SD, 605-337-2275
www.platatesd.org

December 1

W.H. Over Christmas Festival
Vermillion, SD, 605-677-5228

December 1-March 15

East River snowmobile
trails season, Pierre, SD
605-773-3391
www.gfp.sd.gov

December 5

18th Annual Festival of
Lights Parade
Brookings, SD, 605-692-6125
www.brookingschamber.org



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAD COPPES/SD 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 26-December 28

Christmas at the Capitol
Pierre, SD, 605-773-4010

December 7-8

Living Christmas Tree
Aberdeen, SD, 605-380-1816

December 5

Christmas on the Prairie
Miller, SD, 605-853-3098

December 7

Parade of Lights & Santa Land
Mobridge, SD, 605-845-2387

December 7

Holiday Gift & Craft Fair &
Festival of Trees
Custer, SD, 605-673-5134
www.custersd.com

December 7-8

10th Annual Fezziwig Festival
Hill City, SD, 605-574-3898

December 8

Christmas on the Prairie
Hoven, SD, 605-948-2451
www.hovensd.com

December 13-14

Xtreme Corn Palace Cheer &
Dance Challenge
Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430

December 14

Frontier Christmas
Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474
www.gfp.sd.gov

December 14

Holidazzle Light Parade
Spearfish, SD, 605-642-5421
www.visitspearfish.com

December 15-March 31

Black Hills snowmobile
trails season, Lead, SD
605-584-3896
www.gfp.sd.gov

December 17

Holiday Jam with the
Hegg Brothers, Mitchell, SD
605-996-9137
www.mitchellact.org

December 19

Kenny Rogers Christmas and
Hits Tour, Mitchell, SD
800-289-7469

December 19

Holiday Jam with the Hegg
Brothers, Brookings, SD
605-692-7539
www.swiftelcenter.com

December 19-22

Christmas at the Cathedral
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-988-3788

December 20

Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin
Brothers Christmas Show
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1187
deadwoodmountaingrand.com

December 21

Holiday Jam with the Hegg
Brothers, Sioux Falls, SD
605-367-6000

December 27-28

4th Annual Mike Miller Classic
Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430

January 11-12, 2014

Winter Big Boy Toy Show
Aberdeen, SD, 605-229-3632