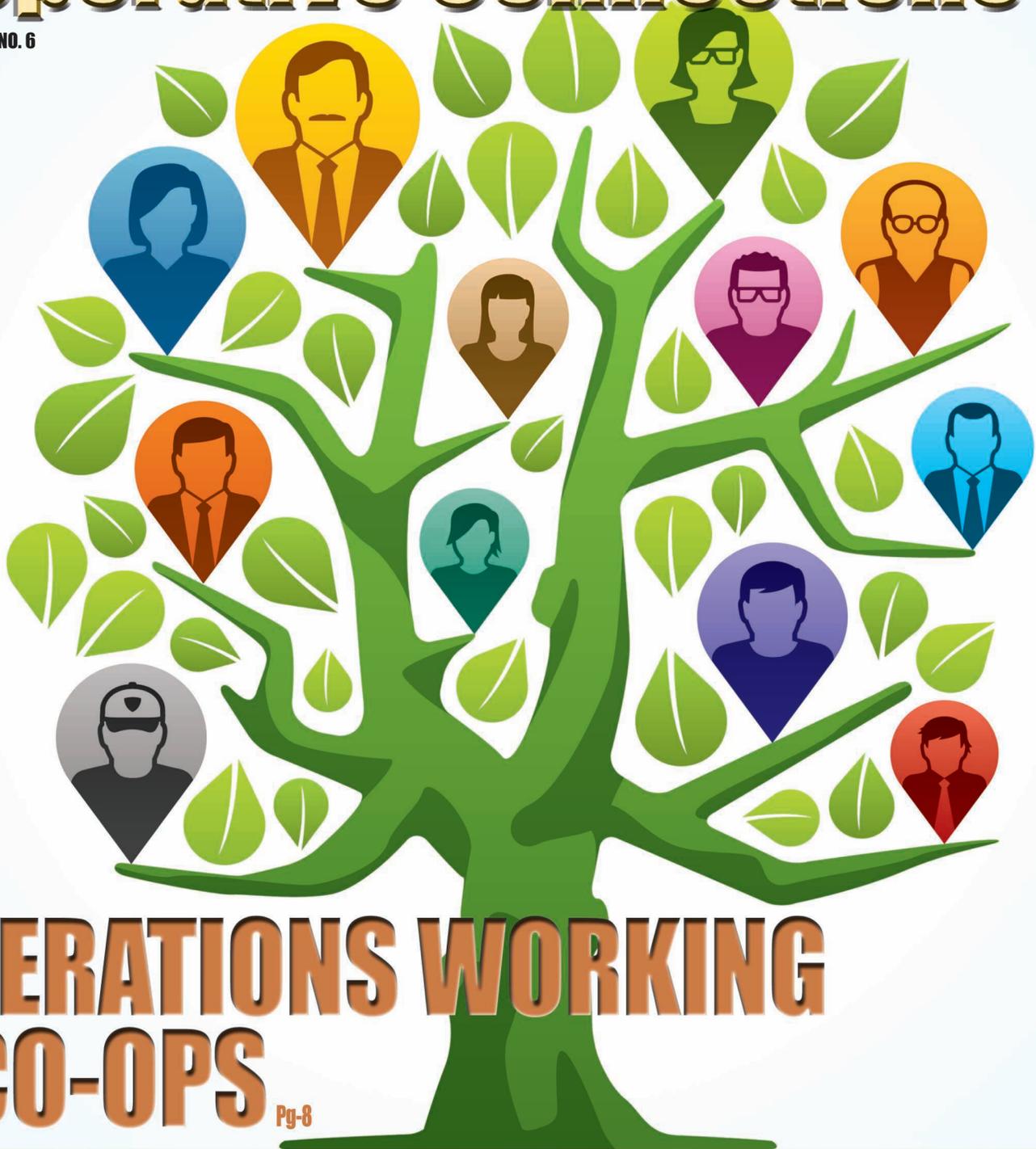


# South Dakota Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Cooperative Connections

JUNE 2014 VOL. 66 NO. 6



**GENERATIONS WORKING  
AT CO-OPS** Pg-8



## EVERY MEMBER HAS A VOICE. TOGETHER THEY WORK IN HARMONY.

Every electric co-op member has a say in what's best for the community. Power to the people, from the people. Doesn't that sound good? Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



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Black Hills Electric, Custer, S.D.  
Bon Homme Yankton Electric, Tabor, S.D.  
Butte Electric, Newell, S.D.  
Cam Wal Electric, Selby, S.D.  
Central Electric, Mitchell, S.D.  
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Traverse Electric, Wheaton, Minn.  
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West Central Electric, Murdo, S.D.  
West River Electric, Wall, S.D.  
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# EPA's Climate Regulations Impede Economic Growth



**Jo Ann Emerson**  
CEO, National Rural Electric  
Association

**Around the country**, families, communities, employers and businesses view their energy bills as costs of life and simply doing business. They turn off lights, turn down thermostats and adopt energy efficient practices, because it saves them money better put toward groceries, medications, retirement and reinvestments in the economy.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulations to curb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from power plants only stand to increase those energy bills. Even though not-for-profit electric cooperatives work each day to provide affordable, reliable electricity to the more than 42 million Americans we serve, the latest red tape out of Washington could present a serious challenge.

Let's be clear, even the most aggressive and economically damaging regulations in the U.S. would have little impact on a global scale. Electric co-ops already have reduced emissions rates from power plants by 10 percent and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions specifically over the last seven years. Any additional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions we achieve would be offset rapidly by emissions increases in China, India and other developing economies.

In fact, the European experience suggests that these regulations could undermine the administration's environmental goals.

For example, in the last decade residential electricity prices in Germany have doubled to almost 40 cents per kilowatt-hour, more than three times the U.S. average rate of 12.5 cents. This was primarily because of preferential pricing for wind and solar power, combined with public opposition to nuclear energy. To help maintain reliability, the country plans to construct 10 new coal plants in the next two years.

EPA's proposed regulations could put us in a similar situation, dramatically increasing prices and disproportionately affecting those regions of the U.S. most dependent on coal for electricity. These areas also happen to host some of the largest manufacturing centers in the country, where low-cost electricity is critical to global competitiveness.

We cannot afford regulations that threaten to increase energy prices, destroy jobs or hamstring our economic recovery.

By harnessing America's ingenuity, we can do better.

This debate should be about working together to develop a sustainable energy future. This debate should be about giving utilities the independence to experiment with technology and the freedom to transition to that innovative future.

That's why electric cooperatives are leading an XPRIZE initiative to help address the impact of restrictions on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from natural gas and coal-based power plants. The competition focuses on taking CO<sub>2</sub> from a liability to an asset by researching how to convert CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from a waste into useful fuels, chemicals and other products with market value.

Leadership in a sustainable energy future requires us to make ambitious changes together – without leaving consumers in the dark. Even though a power plant that closes down cannot emit CO<sub>2</sub>, it also cannot incubate a new technology, give a bright young engineer an opportunity in the energy industry or ensure that its community continues to receive reliable electricity regardless of what Mother Nature throws our way.

To keep the power on in our communities and empower our consumers, it's time to turn the lights on in Washington and recognize the real potential impact of these regulations.

*Emerson is CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*

# Summer Safety Tips for Dogs



**Hot weather** can make us all uncomfortable and it poses special risks for your dog. Keep the following safety concerns in mind as the temperature rises

and follow these tips to keep your dog cool.

## Heat Hazards

- If your dog is outside on a hot day, make sure he has a shady spot to rest in. Doghouses are not good shelter during the summer as they can trap heat. You may want to fill a child's wading pool with fresh water for your dog to cool off in.
- Never leave your dog in a closed vehicle on a hot day. In bright sunshine, your car acts like an oven, becoming much hotter inside than the outside air even. In fact, on a sunny 70 degree day, your car can heat up to more than 100 degrees within minutes.
- Always provide plenty of cool, fresh water.
- Avoid strenuous exercise on extremely hot days. Take walks in the early mornings or evenings, when the sun's heat is less intense.
- Try to avoid prolonged exposure to hot asphalt or sand, which can burn your dog's paws.
- Dogs that are brachycephalic (short-faced), such as Bulldogs, Boxers, Japanese Chins, and Pekingese, have an especially hard time in the heat because they do not pant as efficiently as longer-faced dogs. Keep your brachycephalic dog inside with air-conditioning.

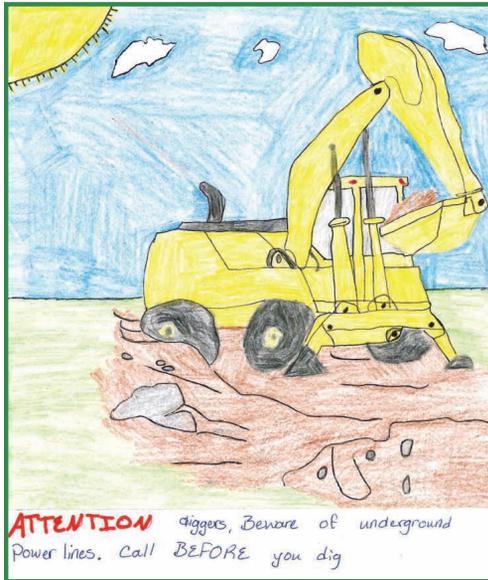
## General Health

- Make sure your dog's vaccinations are up to date, especially since dogs tend to stay outdoors longer and come into contact with other animals more during the summer months.
- Keep dogs off of lawns that have been chemically treated or fertilized for 24 hours (or according to package instructions), and away from potentially toxic plants and flowers.
- Keep your dog well-brushed and clean.
- Fleas and ticks, and the mosquitos which carry heartworm disease, are more prevalent in warmer months. Ask your veterinarian for an effective preventive to keep these parasites off your dog.

Source: akc.org and petmd.com

## Kids' Corner Safety Poster

**"Attention Diggers: Beware of underground power lines. Call BEFORE you dig."**



**Albert Wurtz III, 12 years old**  
*Albert is the son of Albert and Sarah Wurtz, Delmont, S.D. They are members of Charles Mix Electric Association, Lake Andes, 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.

**RELIABILITY... SECURITY... AFFORDABILITY...**

FROM ADEQUATE CAPACITY AND FUEL DIVERSITY

Because of federal regulations up to **85 Gigawatts** of generation capacity are projected to be **lost** by 2023, potentially jeopardizing reliability across the nation.

- Co-ops keep electricity flowing when demand surges, thanks to diverse power supply and adequate capacity.
- During the polar vortex, co-ops and many other utilities produced record amounts of electricity just to keep lights on and houses warm.
- If new regulations force more generation to be shut down, will we be able to meet the demands of tomorrow?

**We can't afford new regulations that hurt the reliability of America's power supply.**

**SPEAK UP TODAY AT ACTION.COOP**

# Ethnic Eats



## Rosettes (Scandinavian)

- 2 eggs
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup flour
- 2 T. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup milk
- Hot oil

Beat eggs slightly. If beaten too much, rosettes will blister. Add sugar, salt and vanilla. Lemon extract may be substituted. Add flour and enough milk to make a smooth batter. Gradually add the rest of the milk and stir until smooth. The batter should be the consistency of cream. Heat oil in an electric skillet set at 400°F. Dip molding iron in hot oil for about 30 seconds then drain and dip into batter, being careful not to let any of the batter cover over the top of the iron. Immerse in hot oil and fry until light brown in color, 20 to 25 seconds. Place upside down on rack or absorbent paper. Dip top in sugar while warm.

**Amy Schoenfelder, Cavour**

## Knoepfla Hot Dish (German)

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 small onion
- Salt and pepper
- 4 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 can sauerkraut
- Knoepfla:**
- 4 cups flour
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. salt
- Water

Brown ground beef and onion; drain. Add salt and pepper to taste. In a separate skillet, fry potatoes; set aside. Prepare knoepfla by mixing flour, baking powder, egg and salt; add enough warm water to make a stiff dough. Snip with a kitchen shears into 1/4-inch pieces. Drop in boiling water; boil until knoepfla floats to the top. Drain. Add to hamburger and potatoes. Add undrained sauerkraut. Simmer 30 minutes. Add water if needed.

**Rebecca Hauser, Tripp**

## Mexican Meat Loaf

- 1-1/2 lbs. ground beef
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1 cup salsa, divided
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground mustard
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/8 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 large egg
- 3 slices bread, torn into small pieces
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 (4.5 oz.) can chopped green chilies, drained.

In a large bowl, mix all ingredients except 2/3 cup salsa. Spread mixture in ungreased 8x4 or 9x5-inch loaf pan. Spread 2/3 cup salsa over top. Bake at 350°F, uncovered, for 1 hour to 75 minutes or until beef is no longer pink in the middle. Drain meat loaf. Let stand 5 minutes, remove from pan

**Stephanie Fossum, Hudson**

## Southwest Skillet Chicken and Rice

- 2 tsp. chili powder
- 2 tsp. Lawry's Seasoned Salt, divided
- 1-1/2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
- 1 T. oil
- 1 cup frozen corn
- 1 (15 oz.) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (14.5 oz.) can petite diced tomatoes, drained
- 1 cup instant white rice
- 1 cup water

Mix chili powder and seasoned salt in small bowl. Sprinkle chicken with 1 tsp. seasoning mixture. Heat oil in large nonstick skillet on medium heat. Add chicken; cook 5 minutes per side or until lightly browned. Stir in corn, beans, tomatoes, rice, water and remaining seasoning mixture. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 5 minutes or until chicken is cooked through and rice is tender. Let stand 5 minutes. Cut chicken into serving size pieces. Fluff rice mixture with fork before serving. Makes: 6 servings

*Nutritional information per serving: Calories 294; Fat 6g; Protein 32g; Carbohydrates 28g; Cholesterol 73mg; Sodium 778mg; Fiber 4g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Rice Pancakes (Czech-Rye Livanec)

- 2 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 cup flour
- 2 T. butter, melted
- 1 cup rice, cooked

Beat eggs thoroughly. Add salt and milk. Mix baking powder with flour. Combine with egg mixture. Add butter and rice; mix until smooth. Cook on hot griddle, browning on both sides.

**Betty Cihak, Lake Norden**

## Kilich (Russian Easter Bread)

- 2-1/4 to 2-3/4 cups flour, divided
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. lemon peel, grated
- 1 pkg. yeast
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 T. margarine
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup almonds, chopped
- 1/4 cup raisins
- Powdered sugar frosting
- Colored sprinkles

Mix 3/4 cup flour, salt, sugar, lemon peel and yeast in large bowl. Combine milk, water and margarine in saucepan; heat over low until warm. Add to dry ingredients and beat 2 minutes at medium speed with electric mixer. Add egg and 1/2 cup flour or enough to make a thick batter. Beat at high 2 minutes. Stir in enough extra flour to make a soft dough. Knead until smooth and elastic, 8 to 10 minutes. Place in greased bowl. Cover, let rise until double, about 1 hour. Punch down. Knead in almonds and raisins. Divide dough in half. Shape into ball and place each half in a greased 1 lb. metal coffee can. Cover, let rise until double, about 1 hour. Bake at 350°F. for 30 to 35 minutes. Remove from cans. When cool, frost with powdered sugar frosting and top with sprinkles.

**Mary Jessen, Holabird**

*Please send your favorite dessert, salad and garden produce recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2014. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.*

# Finding the Right AC Contractor



**Jim Dulley**  
www.dulley.com

**Dear Jim:** When my central air conditioner conks out, it is always on one of the hottest days. What is the best way to pick a good repair contractor? Is there any pre-season maintenance I can do myself?  
– Barb H.

**Dear Barb:** An old central air conditioner or heat pump

does typically conk out on the hottest days. This is because it is running almost nonstop to keep the house cool. Also, the efficiency and cooling output of the unit drops as it gets hotter outdoors, putting even more strain on the old compressor, especially the bearings and valves.

Finding a good contractor to repair or replace an old air conditioner is important because you expect your system to keep running for a long time after their repairs. The refrigeration system in an air conditioner is a complicated piece of equipment. You have no way to determine if things are set properly, so you have to trust that the contractor did it correctly.

When selecting a contractor, first check with your relatives and friends about who they have used and their satisfaction. Also, when a contractor gives you a list of references, you should call each one. People often are afraid to offend a “nice guy” contractor, so they do not tell them of problems. They will, however, share any negative experiences with you, which will help you make your hiring decision.

If you do not have a source for contractor names, check with the Air-Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) and the Sheet Metal and Air-Conditioning Contractors’ National Association (SMACNA). Reputable contractors will belong to one or both of these organizations, which can give you a list of members in your area.

When installing a new system, the contractor should do a thorough analysis of your house and calculate its cooling needs. This should involve more than just measuring the outside dimensions and then recommending the same size unit (one ton is 12,000 Btu/hour) of cooling as you have now. Improper sizing will result in higher utility bills and poor comfort level.

A knowledgeable contractor should ask if you currently have any heating and cooling problems, particularly with various rooms. There may have to be additional return air registers and ducts installed. This can increase the overall cost significantly, so the lowest estimate is not always the one you should select.

If your system has just broken down and you have at least three contractors to give you quotes, be wary of ones who immediately want to replace the system with a new one. They should take the time to determine the current problem and provide a quote for repair.

Take your time to evaluate the quotes and recommendations. Although your family might be uncomfortably warm for several days, don’t rush your decision. It is not as dire as having your furnace go out during winter when your water pipes may freeze if not fixed immediately.

There are several maintenance tasks you can do each spring to keep your air conditioner running efficiently, but don’t eliminate regular professional service. Heating and cooling systems are no longer simple devices. They are packed with electronic circuit boards and controls, meaning you would have no way to test them without specialized readouts and training.

Having adequate air flow through the outdoor condenser coils is imperative for good efficiency and a long life. This is where the hot refrigerant expels its heat to the outdoor air. If the air flow is impeded and reduced so the refrigerant does not cool as designed, it can throw off the entire functioning of the system.

**A knowledgeable contractor should ask if you currently have any heating and cooling problems, particularly with various rooms.**

Make sure there is a foot or two of clearance around the housing where the coils are exposed to the outdoor air. This may require trimming back a few shrubs or not stacking things like junk and garden tools against the outdoor unit.

If you notice some of the heat transfer fins on the coils are bent over and touching so air cannot flow between them, separate them with the tip of a scraper. Don’t flex them too much or they may break off. They don’t have to look uniform to be effective. Make sure all the screws on the housing are tight. This insures the air is being drawn through the coils and fins.

Change the indoor filter regularly. Switch off the electricity to the unit and remove the cover over the indoor blower unit. Clean dust off the blower and any evaporator coils you can reach with the vacuum brush attachment. Adequate indoor air flow is also important for good efficiency. Seal any leaking duct joints with aluminum or duct tape and close the bypass damper for the humidifier.

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

## 2014 Arbor Day Essay Winners Selected

**Garrett Mitzel of Tyndall**, Brandon Bosworth of Plankinton and Danika Gordon of Whitewood are the winning essayists selected from the 1,399 entries in the 2014 Arbor Day Essay Contest.

Sponsored by South Dakota's conservation districts, McDonald's Restaurants of South Dakota and South Dakota Department of Agriculture, the contest provides fifth and sixth grade students the opportunity to write about the importance of Arbor Day and tree planting in South Dakota.

For their efforts, the students win awards and cash prizes in addition to learning more about trees.

As first place winner, Mitzel received a plaque, \$100 in cash and a McDonald's lined jacket. His school, Bon Homme Middle School, will receive \$150 for the purchase of supplies or equipment. Bosworth, the second place winner, received a plaque and \$75 while Gordon receives a plaque and \$50 for her third place essay.

Mitzel, Bosworth and Gordon will read their essays and receive their prizes during special Arbor Day celebrations in their hometown areas. All students who entered the contest will receive a McDonald's dessert certificate and a packet of tree seeds.

### First Place Essay

#### The Life of My Tree

by Garrett Mitzel

Bon Homme County Conservation District

*Thump, thump. I started off as a seed in the ground packed in the dirt. I grew into a little sapling. They put me into a bag and handed me to a little kid on Arbor Day so he could go home and plant me.*

*The little kid took me home and put me in a huge flower pot. He set me in his yard and watered me almost every three or four days. I started growing. It was like I was a weed at first. Months went by. There has been rain and more rain. Three or four years have passed. There have been birthdays celebrated under me and about a hundred picnics under my arms.*

*The years flew by like birds in the sky. Families have come and gone. By now there have been dozens of nests in my limbs. Families of squirrels climb around me every day. I see the people that come and go. I have lost branches and regrown them. Animals have used me for shelter and food. They've been born in and died in me.*

*I am old and frail, strong yet weak. People have climbed me and they have put nails in me. I am old and broken, but I am strong. I don't know how many more years I will be here, but I will be in their hearts forever.*

## Scholar of the Year Banquet Held May 3

**Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives** in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota honored some of the area's most impressive high school seniors May 3, during the annual Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year banquet and recognition on the campus of Mitchell Technical Institute.

The event honored the 34 high school students who were chosen each week throughout the school year as the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week which recognizes students for academic achievement, co-curricular involvement and community service. The students are featured in weekly segments which air on KSFY Television and each student receives a \$100 scholarship for being chosen as the Scholar of the Week.

Shelby VanDriel, a senior at Scotland High School, was selected during the banquet as the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year. She lives in the Bon Homme Yankton Electric service territory. VanDriel, who plans to attend South Dakota State University in the fall received a \$1,000 scholarship. Cooper Eliason, a senior at Howard High School, in Central Electric's service territory and Noah Klamm, a senior at Brandon Valley High School, in Sioux Valley Energy's service territory, were both chosen to receive \$500 scholarships. The names were drawn from among the attendees.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota have sponsored the Scholar of the Week program since 2002. In that time Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have awarded more than \$67,000 in scholarships as part of the Scholar of the Week program.



Touchstone Energy® Scholars for 2013-14 were, front row: Tanna Waltman, Parkston; Danika Pollreisz, Ethan; Heaven Zevenbergen, Elk Point-Jefferson; Mikayla Bonnet, Langford Area; Alli Steckelberg, Chamberlain; and Shelby VanDriel, Scotland. Second Row: Nichole Dvorak, Andes Central; Lisa Smith, Kimball; Kaitlin Van Ruler, Edgerton, Minn.; Taylor Homann, Pipestone, Minn.; Kayla Breske, Waubay; Tory Makela, Ipswich; and Tyson Mitzel, Aberdeen Roncalli. Third row: Garret Reed, Estelline; Mathew Preszler, Menno; Noah Brown, Baltic; Allison Deal, Sunshine Bible Academy; Noah Klamm, Brandon Valley; Michael Saffel, Irene-Wakonda; Back row: Tyler Panek, Tea Area; Lydia Blume, Redfield; Craig Reiter, Florence; Cooper Eliason, Howard; David Weidler, Howard; and Derrick Podoll, Frederick Area.

# All in the Family

## *Co-op Tie Links Generations*

**T**AKE A LOOK AROUND YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOU will likely find an example – or two or 10 – of children following the career path of their parents or grandparents.

The concept fuels many family farms and small businesses. Even doctors and lawyers' offices have been known to exemplify the trend.

And, in many ways, electric cooperatives are no different. From the board room to the line truck to the front office, the next generation can often take inspiration for their career from the generation that went before.

At Cam Wal Electric Cooperative in Selby, S.D., generations of Rossows have been sitting at the board table guiding the electric cooperative they and their neighbors own.

When Dwight Rossow first joined the board of directors in 1996, his name was a familiar one at the cooperative. Dwight's grandfather, Ernest G. Rossow, was a director for the cooperative from 1951 to 1975, guiding the cooperative through its early days. Dwight's father, Dennis, then served from 1975 to 1987.

Dwight Rossow has served not only at the local level, but also represented the cooperative on the statewide South Dakota Rural Electric Association board of directors for

a dozen years, retiring in 2014. He also spent two terms representing cooperatives throughout Minnesota,

By **Brenda Kleinjan**



North Dakota and South Dakota on the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Cooperation board, a cooperative dedicated to serving cooperatives' financing needs.

And, the fourth generation of Rossows has also joined the co-op fold. Dwight's son, Joshua, is an environmental coordinator at Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, N.D.

In western Minnesota, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association in Danube has seen the Nestande family serve on its board of directors for 63 of the co-op's 75 years.

Renville-Sibley board president Phil Nestande has served on the board since 1997. He also represents area cooperatives on the Minnesota Rural Electric Association board of directors. Phil followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, Elvin, who served from 1951 to 1968 and his father, John, who served from 1968 to 1997.

When Michelle Prins started as a billing clerk at H-D Electric Cooperative in Clear Lake, S.D., she may have been a new employee, but her co-op roots ran deep. Prins' father, Doyle Thompson, had served as a director for the co-op from 1995 to 2010. He had taken over the board seat from his father-in-law, Lloyd Kruse, who had served from 1976 to 1995. And Kruse had taken over the seat from Royal Thompson – Doyle's dad – who served from 1967 to 1976.

"My whole family has been on co-op boards since I've been around," said Prins with a chuckle, noting that she had attended annual meetings from the time she was a little girl hanging out in the kids' activity room.

At FEM Electric Association in Ipswich, S.D., Stephanie Horst, who is

in charge of the cooperative's member services and communications arenas, can say her grandpa helped build the co-op she now works at. Literally.

"My grandfather was FEM's line superintendent. He actually started on the construction crew that was building the FEM lines in 1948. He was on the wire stringing crew. Also my great-aunt (my grandpa's sister-in-law) was FEM's bookkeeper," said Horst.

The family ties don't end there.

Horst's mother-in-law, Valette, is the co-op's receptionist and Valette's father, Leroy Perman, was a director at Cam Wal Electric Cooperative in Selby, S.D., from 1964 to 1981.

FEM general manager Scott Moore has seen his son, Brandon, go on to become a lineman at neighboring cooperative Dakota Energy Cooperative of Huron, S.D., working out of the Miller, S.D., office.

David Piehl, a journeyman substation technician for East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, S.D., has seen two of his sons go on to careers with electric cooperatives. Ben is a journeyman lineman at Butte Electric Cooperative in Newell, S.D., while Chris is an apprentice lineman at Northern Electric Cooperative in Bath, S.D.

The family ties that reach out from Northern Electric don't stop there. The co-op's chief financial officer, Char Hager, and her brother, West Central Electric Cooperative manager Steve Reed, have both followed in the career path of their dad, Kenneth, who worked at three separate cooperatives during his career: Ree Electric (now part of Dakota Energy), Spink Electric (now part of Northern Electric) and Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative in Timber Lake, S.D.

Northern Electric Cooperative manager Jim Moore and his brother, Elwood, who manages an electric cooperative in Nebraska, have both found careers following their father's lead.

## Why Work at an Electric Cooperative?

**Electric cooperatives provide** their staff with competitive salaries and excellent benefits. With approximately 63,000 employees nationwide, Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives offer great career opportunities among a variety of professional, technical, and business positions.

### Where are the Jobs?

Careers with Touchstone Energy cooperatives are everywhere – in a small town, large city or the sprawling suburbs in the Northwest, South or anywhere in between. Best of all, once you are part of our cooperative community, you can count on receiving the same great benefits and opportunities wherever you go.

### Spark Your New Career

Have an entrepreneurial spirit?  
Interested in growth opportunities?  
Mission-focused?

At Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, we have opportunities in many diverse roles, ranging from information technology, communications, marketing and member services, engineering and operations and community and economic development to name a few. Plus, you can feel good about what you do. Electric co-op staff receive satisfaction knowing their work makes a difference in their community, directly improving people's lives.

### Make the Connection

Some of the best, brightest, most creative and dedicated people have chosen to serve their communities and develop their careers through electric cooperatives. Now is a great time to join the Touchstone Energy team. Together, America's electric co-ops are working to bring home innovated electrical solutions to the communities we serve. Find out more at <http://www.touchstoneenergy.com/content/careers-co-ops>

# Gadgets that Will Make You Giddy

*Here Are Cool Tools to Make Your Road Trip More Enjoyable*

**D**ESTINATION KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, THERE'S AN inherent feeling of freedom driving off into the big blue yonder. No long-term parking fees, airport security checks or missed connecting flights. It's all about you and your destination.

All too often, though, there's a bump in the road, whether it's your safety, comfort or lack of organization. This year, plan wisely, keep your cool and conquer the open road. These gadgets just might be a key element to a triumphant road trip.

## Safety First

You throw caution to the wind when traveling by vehicle. At any given moment, you can get a flat or need a jumpstart. But the 600 PEAK Amp Jump- Starter with Inflator offers peace of mind.

The 600 PEAK Amp Jump- Starter with Inflator lets you jumpstart your own car and pump your tires, relieving you of the burden of finding a person or place to get assistance. This product has an alarm and light that will warn you if you hook up the jumper cables incorrectly, which could blow up your battery if done the wrong way. It also comes with a digital LED display that shows your tires' PSI, a built-in AC charger, a 12-volt outlet, and a 1-amp USB port.

You can purchase a jump starter with inflator with more juice, but expect to pay more. This particular model costs around \$60 and is available at most major car service centers.

Hopefully you'll never have to use the ResQMe® escape tool, but if an inexpensive purchase could save your life, it seems crazy not to have one. Imagine being trapped inside your vehicle because of an electronic malfunction or following a car accident. ResQMe® has a sharp steel blade that cuts through

seatbelts and a spring-loaded spike that shatters car windows, making it possible to exit your vehicle.

The ResQMe® escape tool is light enough to attach to your keychain and small enough not to get in the way. In addition, it comes in a variety of

bright colors – blue, yellow, orange, green, pink and red – making it easier to locate in a stressful situation. It also comes in black. The ResQMe® escape tool costs \$10 to \$15. To learn more and to order, visit [resqme.com](http://resqme.com).

## The Art of Organization

Staying organized when traveling may not be your strong suit, but there are handy products that can help you get there. For example, GRID-IT!® uses a system of rubberized elastic bands and zippered pockets that hold your personal items firmly in place. From gadgets and gizmos to hygiene products and tools, GRID-IT!® organizers keep important items secure, making it easier to locate belongings when they're needed.

GRID-IT!® organizers range from very small to very large and come in a variety of colors such as black, gray, blue, and red. Prices range from \$9.99 to \$49.99. For more information and to order, visit [cocooninnovations.com](http://cocooninnovations.com).

When road tripping, there always seems to be more luggage than your car can handle. Most roof racks on the market are expensive, bulky and difficult to use. That's not the case with the HandiRack rooftop storage system.

To use, place the un-inflated HandiRack on your vehicle's rooftop, pass the strap through the open doors and clamp the strap to the heavy duty buckle on the other side. Next, close the doors, inflate the rack with the double-action HandiPump (included



By  
Amy Higgins

**This  
year, plan  
wisely,  
keep your  
cool and  
conquer  
the open  
road.**

with the rack), and strap on your luggage. When you're done, release the buckle, deflate the rack, fold, and pack it away in the drawstring travel bag.

The HandiRack can hold up to 175 pounds, is completely portable and fits most cars. Starting around \$85, it is a perfect space solution for traveling. For more information, visit [handi-world.com](http://handi-world.com).

### Comfort is Critical

Long road trips can do a number on your back. Tempur-Pedic™ has the solution: the LumbarCushion – Travel. Designed specifically for those who intend to sit for a long period of time, the LumbarCushion's ergonomic design helps support the back, making your trip more pleasurable. The Lumbar-Cushion costs \$59. For more information and to order, call 888-811-5053 or visit [tempurpedic.com](http://tempurpedic.com).

It can take 100 miles or more before you find a rest area, and many times it's a filthyfrightening experience when you arrive, making that swath of trees 10 miles back a pretty good alternative after all. Charmin has a solution to this predicament: SitOrSquat. This brilliant app locates restrooms in the area and provides reviews about them from other users. In addition, Sit OrSquat users can narrow their search to locate restrooms that are handicap accessible or have a baby changing table. The free SitOrSquat app can be downloaded on Apple devices including iPhone, iPad, and iTouch (iOS versions 4.0 and above), and Android.

After a long day on the road, there are few things that sound as divine as a good night's sleep. The last thing you want is traffic noise or your partner's snoring keeping you awake. That's where Sleep-



Phones® come in. Hidden within a SleepPhones® headband are small, removable speakers that rest comfortably by your ears. The speakers don't stick in your ears, so even side sleepers can indulge. Just plug your SleepPhones® into your CD player, iPod, or MP3 player, slip on the soft headband and turn on sounds that soothe you, such as ocean waves, meditation tracks, or white noise.

SleepPhones® headbands are lightweight, washable and come in three colors: black, lavender and gray. Original SleepPhones® cost \$39.95; SleepPhones® Wireless headphones cost \$99.95. For more information and to buy, visit [sleepphones.com](http://sleepphones.com).

### Hit the Road

How you prepare for your road trip can be the difference between smashing success or epic failure. This year, be the king – or queen – of your road trip. It's impossible to predict the future, but there's a lot of merchandise in the market that can assist you with possible pending predicaments.

*Amy Higgins is a Centennial, Colorado, based writer with Colorado Country Life magazine.*

## Keeping Up with Kids on the Go

**Even if your child** is a great traveler, it's almost certain you'll hear the infamous "Are we there yet?" at least once or twice. While there is no absolute cure for the are-we-there-yets, there are products out there geared toward keeping your young ones occupied on a road trip.

### Busy Kiddos

My Busy Bag® has several options to keep the attention of young ones. My Busy Bags® are chockfull of fun games and activities. For example, the My Busy Bag® Girls "Activity Bag" is aimed toward 3- to 6-year-old girls and includes a little activity book with stickers, a tail twirler, Wikki Sticks, a magnetic drawing board, a wind-up animal, princess crayons and more.

There are ready-to-go My Busy Bag® options for babies up to 9-year-old children, girls and boys. Or, make your own My Busy Bag® befitting your child's personal interests. Ready-to-go My Busy Bags® prices range from \$24.95 to \$54.95. For more information and to order, visit [www.mybusybag.com](http://www.mybusybag.com).

### Me Vs. You

Me Vs. You makes a great traveling companion for families who like to play together. The Klutz Company assembled a variety of word searches, jumbles, puzzles and more in these hand-held pad-and-pencil sets that will keep kids engaged during the ride.



Me Vs. You is intended for children ages 8 and older and sells for \$10.99. For more information and to order, call 866-695-5889 or visit [klutz.com](http://klutz.com). Travel Picture Bingo

Fans of Bingo can play wherever they'd like with Imaginetics Travel Picture Bingo games. Each Travel Picture Bingo game has a colorful playing board and sturdy magnetic pieces, which means, pieces won't fall to the floor.

Travel Picture Bingo is intended for children ages 5 and older and sells for \$5.99. Each set comes with two boards. For more information and to order, call 720-612-7797 or visit [travelkiddy.com](http://travelkiddy.com).

### Kids Travel Organizer

Kids require a slew of necessities on a long road trip. The One Step Ahead® Kids Travel Organizer keeps those things in order. Sturdy and steady, the Kids Travel Organizer has nine compartments to hold books, toys, snacks, drinks and more.

The Kids Travel Organizer costs \$14.95. Visit [onestepahead.com](http://onestepahead.com) to find out more and to order.

### Kidz Gear Safe Headphones

Kiddos can listen to their favorite music and audiobooks without damaging their eardrums. The volume control in Kidz Gear Safe Headphones doesn't exceed 90 decibels, a level that researchers have determined safe.

Kidz Gear Safe Headphones come in gray, blue, orange, purple, green, pink and white, making them as cool looking as they are great sounding. Kidz Gear Safe Headphones cost \$19.99. For more information and to order, call 800-828-4514 or visit [familysafemedia.com](http://familysafemedia.com).



# Leaders Take Co-op Issues to D.C.

**E**ACH MAY, ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LEADERS FROM across the country converge on Washington, D.C., to rally support for legislative issues important to cooperatives and the 42 million people they serve. 2014 was no exception.

More than 2,500 co-op leaders from 47 states – including 60 from South Dakota and western Minnesota – headed to the Nation’s Capitol for updates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association on legislation and trends vital to cooperatives and to meet with their respective state’s congressional delegations.

By Brenda Kleinjan

Among topics covered at NRECA 2014 Legislative Conference in early May were the following:

## **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Electric co-ops rely on reimbursements by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)’s Public Assistance Program to restore service after severe floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and ice storms.

Decisions made in FEMA’s Region VII in 2013 could threaten the reimbursement of eligible expenses for electric co-ops for damage from disasters.

Cooperative leaders asked their delegation to





**Left:** Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative General Manager Vic Simmons outlines South Dakota electric cooperatives' stance on issues with Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D. **Below left:** East River Electric Power Cooperative General Manger Tom Boyko speaks with Sen. John Thune about the Endangered Species Act. **Below:** Don Heeren, president of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association and Southeastern Electric Association boards of directors speaks with Rep. Kristi Noem about the important role large capacity water heaters play for South Dakota electric cooperatives. **Opposite Page:** With the U.S. Capitol as a backdrop, a portion of the South Dakota electric cooperative leaders attending the NRECA Legislative Conference pose for a photo.



ensure there is sufficient oversight of FEMA, so that FEMA policies are consistently applied and in line with established practices.

### Greenhouse Gas Standards

In June, EPA will propose regulations to limit greenhouse gas emissions from existing sources.

This regulation could threaten system reliability and affordability for electric co-op consumer members. It needs time for careful and thorough consideration.

Cooperative leaders asked their Senators and Representatives to support an adequate comment period of at least 120 days.

Senators and Representatives were also told that more than 500,000 people sent messages to the EPA through their electric cooperatives on rules at new power plants.

### Preserve Access to Large Electric Water Heaters

Co-ops use large water heaters to help save consumers money and manage peak loads through demand response programs.

The Department of Energy's stringent 2010 efficiency standard will eliminate the type of water heaters co-ops use starting next year.

The House passed H.R. 2126 to allow continued manufacture of these water heaters. Cooperatives urged their senators to push Leaders Sens. Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to bring the Shaheen-Portman Energy Efficiency Bill or the Hoeven-Pryor Water Heater bill to the floor, noting that the Senate must act to preserve co-op demand response programs that save consumers money.

### Improvements to the Endangered Species Act

Currently, more than 1,450 species in the United States are

designated threatened or endangered under the ESA.

Further, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is on a path to increase the number of listed species by more than 20 percent in the next five years.

NRECA supports the House ESA reform package of four targeted bills to update, improve and modernize the Endangered Species Act for the 21st century.

Members of Congress were urged to co-sponsor and support H.R. 4315, H.R. 4316, H.R. 4317, and H.R. 4318 to update the ESA. Additionally, Senators were encouraged to get involved with ESA Reform.

### NRECA's International Rural Electrification Programs/ Electrify Africa Act

For 50 years, NRECA International has provided people in over 42 developing countries with access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

More remains to be done, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where 68 percent of the population or 589 million people live without the benefits of electric power.

Members of Congress were asked to support HR 2548 when it comes to the House floor and Senators were asked to co-sponsor the Senate bill.

The House passed the bill the week that cooperative's were on the Hill.

### Power Marketing Administrations

South Dakota electric cooperatives also spoke with their delegation about the important relationship cooperatives have with federal Power Marketing Administrations. In the Dakotas and western Minnesota, that partnership is with Western Area Power Administration.

# Travel: South Dakota's No. 2 Industry

By Brenda Kleinjan

From Department of Tourism Releases

**Below:** Nicollet Tower near Sisseton, S.D., provides visitors with a far-reaching view of northeastern South Dakota along with parts of southeastern North Dakota and western Minnesota. **Above Right:** The National Park Service's Minuteman Missile National Historic Site is scheduled for completion this fall near Kadoka, S.D. **Opposite Page:** Visitors to the De Smet, S.D., area can find several venues inspired by children's author Laura Ingalls Wilder.

SCORES OF SOUTH DAKOTA TOURISM DESTINATIONS take travelers right through electric co-op country, including a new National Historic Site under construction.

Construction for one of Western South Dakota's most popular attractions, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site (NHS) is well under way and on-target for completion late this year. The facility will feature an area of approximately 7,500 square feet of quality displays and exhibits that the National Park Service is known for. The Minuteman Missile NHS is sure to be a can't miss attraction, and only gain in popularity with families and couples looking for more than just a stop-and-see.

"We are the only unit of the National Park Service dedicated to telling the story of the Cold War, and South Dakota's 44th Missile Wing's role in deterring, and preventing, the Cold War from becoming World War III by being ready to retaliate if ordered by the President of the U.S." said Duane Bubac, Superintendent of Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. Visitation at Minuteman peaks during the summertime, and Ranger-guided tours are conducted daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

National Park Service attractions aren't the only destinations attracting visitors. From lofty views at the Nicollet Tower in northeastern South Dakota to grassy prairie surroundings for a visit to a children's



author's homestead, tourists bring an influx of revenue to the state.

The total economic impact of South Dakota's visitor industry increased in 2013 by 2.8 percent from 2012, translating to an overall economic impact of nearly \$2 billion, according to a report by IHS Global Insight.

In addition, a 2012 study conducted by Longwoods International showed that, for every dollar spent on marketing by the state Department of Tourism, South Dakota receives \$5 in tax revenues.

"South Dakota's visitor industry continues to show its strength, despite facing numerous challenges," Gov. Dennis Daugaard said. "In 2013, South Dakota faced a spring blizzard and ice storm, federal sequestration, an early fall blizzard and the federal government shutdown. And yet, the visitor industry persevered with another record-setting year."





## 2013 Economic Impact Statistics about South Dakota's No. 2 Industry:

**2.8 percent** – The increase in the economic impact of tourism on South Dakota's economy last year.

**\$1.98 billion** – Tourism's direct impact on South Dakota's economy in 2013.

**1:5** – The ratio between dollars spent on tourism marketing and tax revenue received. For every dollar Tourism spends marketing the state as a vacation destination, South Dakota receives \$5 in tax revenue.

**19.41 percent** – The amount of state and local tax revenue generated by tourism-related activity in 2013. This totaled \$295 million.

**27,958** – The number of jobs directly generated by the tourism industry in 2013. That's 1-out-of-11 South Dakota jobs that depend on travel and tourism.

**\$892** – The amount of additional taxes each household in the state would pay if South Dakota's tourism industry did not exist.

**8.6 percent** – Percentage of visitor spending that came from international visitors.

## 2013 Year-Over-Year Comparisons:

- Taxable sales were up 4.5 percent
- Inquiries to the SD Dept. of Tourism were up 8.4 percent
- Unique visitors to the consumer website, [www.TravelSD.com](http://www.TravelSD.com), were up 3 percent.

## First Aid Kit Necessities for the Car

A fall, burn or illness can occur at any given time or place. Always keep a first aid kit in your vehicle to make sure you have all the bases covered. The American Red Cross recommends a family of four have the following items in a first aid kit:

- Two absorbent compress dressings, 5-by-9 inches
- 25 adhesive bandages, assorted sizes
- One adhesive cloth tape, 10-yards long, 1-inch wide
- Five antibiotic ointment packets
- Five antiseptic wipe packets
- Two packets of aspirin (81 milligrams each)
- One blanket
- One breathing barrier with one-way valve
- One instant cold compress
- Two pair of non-latex gloves, large
- Two hydrocortisone ointment packets
- Scissors
- One roller bandage, 3 inches wide
- One roller bandage, 4 inches wide
- Five sterile gauze pads, 3-by-3 inches
- Five sterile gauze pads, 4-by-4 inches
- Oral thermometer, non-mercury/nonglass
- Two triangular bandages
- Tweezers
- First aid instruction booklet

It's a good idea to include hand sanitizer, insect repellent and cotton swabs as well. Your first aid kit should be readily accessible; don't pack it under your luggage. Be sure to check your first aid kit on a regular basis and replace outdated contents as needed.

## Prepare an Emergency Car Kit

It could be a dire situation if your vehicle breaks down or severe weather leaves you stranded. By taking a little time to prepare an emergency car kit, you can keep your family safe until help arrives. The American Red Cross suggests you pack your emergency car kit with the following items:

- Battery powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Blanket
- Booster cables
- Fire extinguisher, 5-pound, A-B-C type
- First aid kit and manual
- Bottled water and non-perishable, high-energy foods such as granola bars, raisins and peanut butter
- Maps
- Shovel
- Flares
- Tire repair kit and pump
- Matches and survival candle that can burn for several hours

There are several other factors to consider when preparing your emergency car kit. For example, if you're stuck for a long period of time, you will need to go to the bathroom. Go above and beyond and create the mother of all emergency car kits with the following suggestions from Allstate insurance:

- Toilet paper
- Hand sanitizer
- Toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss
- Plastic tablecloth
- Trash bags
- Baby wipes
- Bar of soap in a zip-top bag
- Disinfecting wipes
- Feminine protection
- Box of tissues
- Zip-top bags in various sizes
- Water
- LED flashlights and/or headlamps
- Rain ponchos
- Emergency radio
- Duct tape
- Tarp
- Multi-purpose knife
- Sunblock
- Whistle
- Pepper spray

Furthermore, it's a good idea to have plenty of items on hand to keep you occupied in the event you're stranded for a long period of time. Create a special box or bag full of entertainment items such as books, card games and a pencil and notebook. You'll be ready for any emergency.

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 ABERDEEN, SD

## Regional Dateline

**June 1, 15, 29**  
 Wissota Races, Watertown, SD,  
 605-881-1781

**June 6**  
 Northern Bull Riding Tour  
 Madison, SD, 800-693-3644  
[www.prairievillage.org](http://www.prairievillage.org)

**June 6**  
 Redlin Art Center  
 17th Anniversary Celebration  
 Watertown, SD, 605-882-3877

**June 6-7**  
 The Original SD BBQ  
 Championships  
 Huron, SD, 605-353-7340  
[www.sdbbqchampionships.com](http://www.sdbbqchampionships.com)

**June 6-8**  
 Fish Days, Lake Andes, SD  
 605-487-7611  
[www.cme.coop/~fishdays](http://www.cme.coop/~fishdays)

**June 6-8**  
 Fort Sisseton Historic Festival  
 Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474  
[www.sdgifp.info/fortsisseton](http://www.sdgifp.info/fortsisseton)

**June 7**  
 Poker Run & Harley Davidson  
 Giveaway, Watertown, SD  
 800-658-4717

**June 7-8**  
 Crazy Horse Volksmarch  
 Crazy Horse, SD  
 605-673-4681  
[www.crazyhorsememorial.org](http://www.crazyhorsememorial.org)

**June 7-8**  
 Siouxland Renaissance  
 Festival, Sioux Falls, SD  
 866-489-9241  
[www.Siouxlandrenfest.com](http://www.Siouxlandrenfest.com)



PHOTO COURTESY OF S.D. 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

**June 6-8**  
 Wheel Jam  
 SD State Fairgrounds  
 Huron, SD, 605-353-7340  
[www.wheeljam.com](http://www.wheeljam.com)

**June 26-29**  
 Camaro Rally, Sturgis, SD  
 406-891-1372

**June 13-14**  
 Wild Bill Hickok Days  
 Deadwood, SD, 800-999-1876

**June 13-15**  
 Crazy Horse Stampede Rodeo  
 & Gift from Mother Earth  
 Celebration, Crazy Horse, SD  
 605-673-4681  
[www.crazyhorsememorial.org](http://www.crazyhorsememorial.org)

**June 14**  
 Black Hills Mud Run  
 Sturgis, SD, 605-209-4105  
[www.BlackHillsMudRun.com](http://www.BlackHillsMudRun.com)

**June 14-15**  
 Old Settlers Days  
 DeSmet, SD, 605-854-3773  
[www.desmetsd.com](http://www.desmetsd.com)

**June 19-21**  
 Czech Days  
 Tabor, SD, 605-463-2478  
[www.taborczechdays.com](http://www.taborczechdays.com)

**June 20**  
 Dalesburg Midsummer Festival  
 Vermillion, SD, 605-253-2575  
[www.dalesburglutheran.org](http://www.dalesburglutheran.org)

**June 20-22**  
 Oahe Days Music and Arts  
 Festival, Pierre, SD  
 605-945-3900

**June 20-21**  
 Rodeo Days, Estelline, SD  
 605-690-2241

**June 20-21**  
 Prairie Hills Art Show  
 Wessington Springs, SD  
 605-539-1963

**June 21-22**  
 Arts in the Park  
 Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-1557  
[aberdeenareaartscouncil.com](http://aberdeenareaartscouncil.com)

**June 21-22**  
 Brookings Kite & Bike Festival  
 Brookings, SD, 605-688-4313

**June 22**  
 Prairie Village Variety Show  
 Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

**June 23-25**  
 St. Francis Indian Day Pow  
 Wow Saint Francis, SD  
 605-891-9992

**June 24-29**  
 Down Home Family Music  
 Festival, Rapid City, SD  
 605-399-2582  
[www.hartranchresort.com](http://www.hartranchresort.com)

**June 26-28**  
 National Red Power Round Up  
 SD State Fairgrounds  
 Huron, SD, 605-353-7340  
[redpowerroundup2014.com](http://redpowerroundup2014.com)

**June 26-28**  
 Crystal Springs Ranch Rodeo  
 Clear Lake, SD, 605-874-2996  
[crystalspringsrodeo.com](http://crystalspringsrodeo.com)

**June 27**  
 Dustin Lynch in Concert  
 Deadwood, SD, 877-907-4726