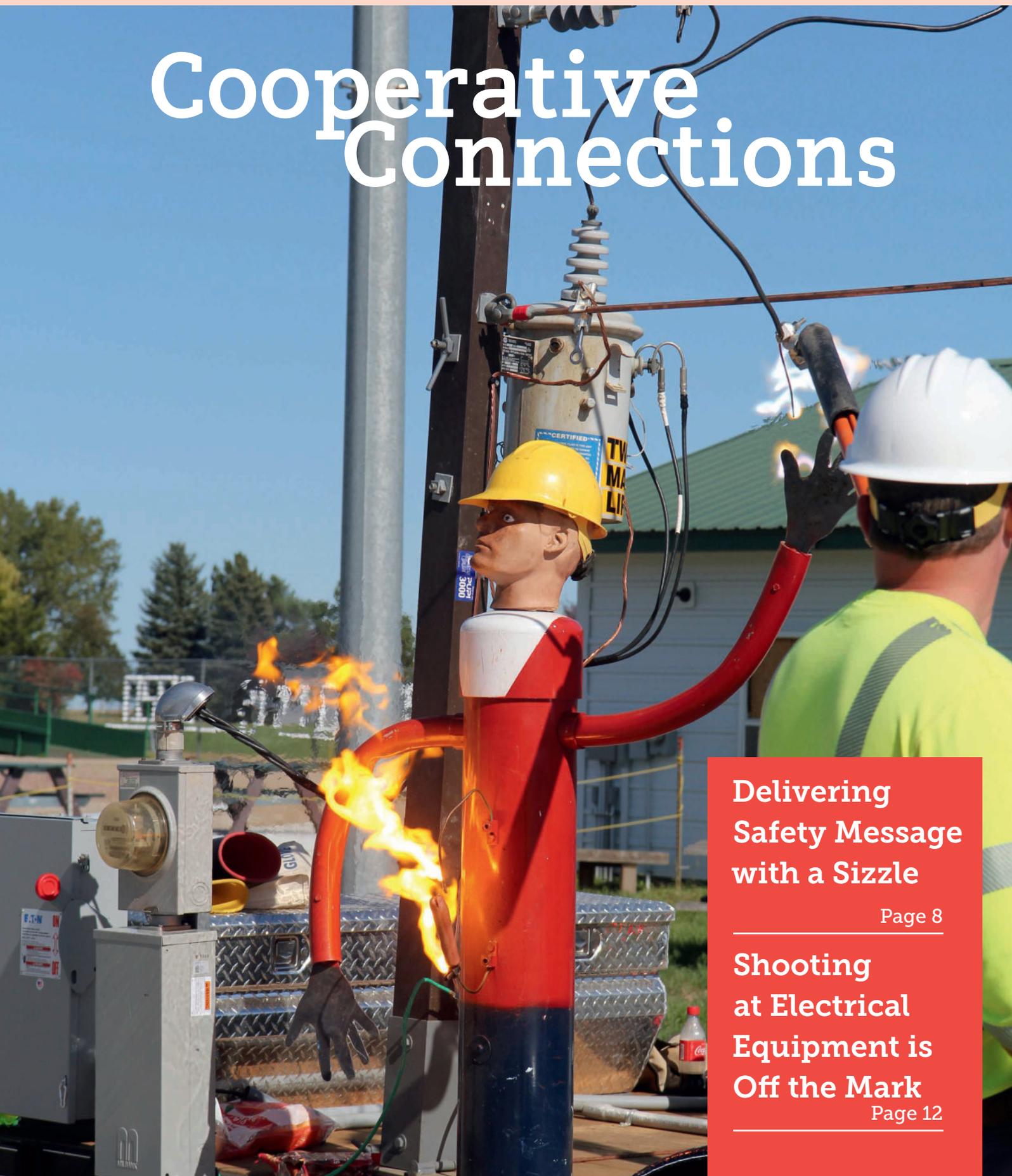


# Cooperative Connections



**Delivering  
Safety Message  
with a Sizzle**

Page 8

**Shooting  
at Electrical  
Equipment is  
Off the Mark**

Page 12

## A Halloween treat

# Your co-op's culture of safety



**Walker Witt**

CEO and General Manager  
wwitt@bhec.coop

Many people say that Halloween is one of their favorite holidays. It never did much for me when I was young, and certainly never scared me. I liked Halloween because it was deer season opener eve, and in Custer, that meant a day off from school and a day in the Hills hunting.

Halloween still doesn't scare me, but what does is the thought of getting a phone call that one of our employees or a member of the public has had an electrical contact. BHEC's mission statement is: "To Provide Great Service at the Lowest Cost Consistent with Sound Business Practices." Great service is always making public and employee safety our number one priority. Our Member Services Department, with the help of Neon Leon and Lightning Liz, presents safety demonstrations every year at the Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo and at schools around the service territory to teach young people about electrical safety. They also give demonstrations with a high voltage trailer to simulate the dangers of being careless around 7,200-volt power lines. We include safety articles in each issue of *Black Hills Electric Cooperative Connections* and are available to answer safety questions. Our employees are trained in public hazard recognition and reporting, and your co-op's line inspection program ensures that all the cooperative's lines and equipment is visually inspected on a continued and cyclic basis.

While our co-op is doing everything reasonably necessary to ensure the public's safety, we all need to be part of that effort. Always be aware of energized lines, both overhead and underground.

- Look up and around you. Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools, like ladders. Carry ladders and other long items horizontally.
- Be careful when working on or around your roof, doing roof repair work or cleaning gutters. Never go up on the roof in bad weather.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house.
- Never trim trees near power lines – please call your co-op.
- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- If your projects include digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, call South Dakota One Call at 811 before you dig.
- If your vehicle comes in contact with power lines through a crash, our instincts tell us to flee danger. However, it's almost always best to stay in your vehicle and wait for help. Call 9-1-1 and wait until the utility and emergency services arrive. Warn anyone approaching the vehicle of the downed lines and to stay back until the area is safe.
- If you must get out of your vehicle because of fire or another danger, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground simultaneously. Then hop with feet together —don't run or stride. Hop with feet together, so one foot won't be in a higher voltage zone than another, which could make you a conductor for electricity.
- If you come upon, or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and lines, don't leave your vehicle to approach the accident scene. Often, our inclination is to step in and help those in danger and provide aid to the injured. However, in accidents involving power poles, the best thing you can do is call for help. Wait for trained assistance to arrive, or you could become an additional victim.
- For additional safety tips please see [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org)

In the co-op world, we have a saying: "We are all in this together", and when it comes to safety, that saying is never more true, or important. You, me, and your co-op, must each do our part to keep everyone safe; because at the end of each day, the most important thing is that each of us goes home to our loved ones safe and healthy. Have a Happy Halloween and stay safe!

**Always be aware of energized lines, both overhead and underground.**

# Black Hills Electric Cooperative Connections

(ISSN No. 1531-104X)

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## Renewables make up 23% of co-op's generation

There has been a lot of publicity lately about an area investor-owned electric utility building a 40-megawatt wind farm to add to their generation mix.

But did you know that your electric cooperative began providing wind power to its members on January 2, 2002?

Black Hills Electric Cooperative members are also owners of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, our generation and transmission cooperative.

On that windy January day on the Missouri River bluffs east of Chamberlain, Basin Electric's two 1.3-megawatt wind turbines began sending 2.6 megawatts of wind generated electricity, enough to provide service to 461 homes, onto the electric grid. A megawatt is 1,000,000 watts. Each turbine cost \$2.9 million.

The project was to find out if there was enough interest from cooperative members to pay an extra \$3 per 100 kilowatt-hour block of renewable energy.

Black Hills Electric members embraced renewable power more than any other cooperative in Basin Electric's family and by 2003, the block rate had dropped to \$2.50 for 100 kilowatt-hours.

The Chamberlain project produced 5,531 megawatt-hours and avoided the burning of 4,646 tons of coal the first year.

Because of co-op members' support, Basin purchased the entire output of a 40-megawatt wind farm near Highmore, S.D. the next year.

By January of 2004, Black Hills Electric members were purchasing 400 blocks of wind power a month and the block price had dropped to \$1.50 per block.

As interest in renewables grew, Basin continued adding more wind generation in both North and South Dakota and Basin's board decided to no longer charge extra for renewable generation.

In 2009, Basin's PrairieWinds 1 near Minot, N.D. added 77 turbines to the site's existing five towers. Each generates 1.5 megawatts for a total of 123 megawatts.

In 2011, Basin built the Crow Lake wind farm between Chamberlain and White Lake, S.D. The facility, with 108 towers each generating 1.5 megawatts, is the largest cooperative-owned wind farm in the United States. The total output of the farm is 162 megawatts and cost the co-ops \$363 million.

Basin's wind projects have enough capacity to power almost 800 homes per megawatt at full production. However, the annual average production of wind is 40%, producing enough electricity to power approximately 330 homes per megawatt.

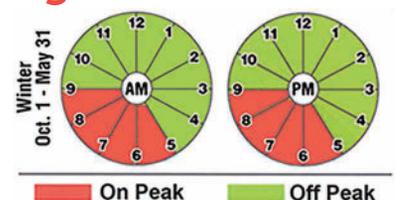
Today, Basin Electric owns or purchases 1,560.6 megawatts of wind-generated power for its members, enough electricity to power more than 500,000 homes. Wind makes up almost 23 percent of Basin Electric's total generation portfolio.

In addition to wind, Basin produces 44 megawatts from waste heat recovery from pumping stations along the Northern Border Pipeline running from Canada to Ventura, Iowa. The co-ops also gets 318.7 megawatts of generation from the dams on the Missouri River. However, hydropower is not considered renewable energy.

You, as members of Black Hills Electric Cooperative can be proud of your co-op's involvement in renewable energy.

## Demand Periods Changed October 1

BHEC's two winter on-peak demand periods began on Tuesday, October 1, this year. The on-peak periods are Monday through Friday from 5-9 a.m. and from 5-9 p.m. Using large loads, such as dryer, water heater and heat during off-peak times will save you money.



# Electrical Safety Tips to Help Protect Homes and Businesses

Every year, electrical equipment, wiring, appliances and tools cause injuries and fires at both homes and workplaces.

Paying close attention to the condition of electrical equipment and taking appropriate and prompt action to correct electrical problems can help to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.

Below are guidelines to help identify and reduce electrical hazards.

### Electrical Outlet Safety

- Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances, and ensure that electrical loads are appropriate for the circuits.
- Unplug appliances when they are not in use to conserve energy, as well as minimize the opportunities for electric shock or fire.
- Use outlets instead of relying on extension cords and power strips. Consider having additional permanent outlets installed where needed.
- Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) in wet/damp areas like kitchens, bathrooms and outdoors.

### Electrical Cord Safety

- Inspect electrical cords to ensure that they are not frayed, cracked or damaged.
- Do not place electrical cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across doorways where they pose a potential tripping hazard or could be easily damaged.

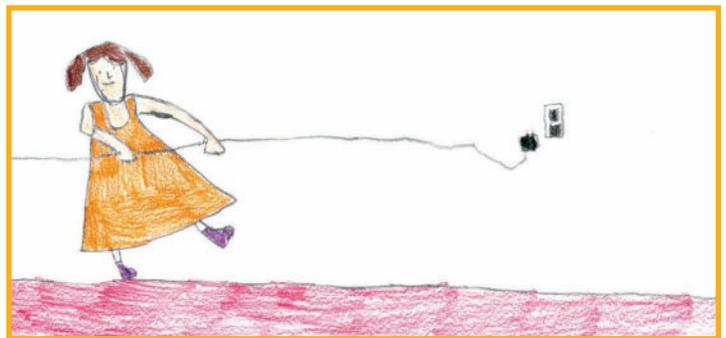
### Certification and Awareness

- Ensure that all electrical products and equipment are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and read the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- Allow only trained and qualified electrical workers to perform work on electrical equipment.
- Be aware of signs of electrical problems such as flickering lights and/or buzzing, sizzling or humming sounds from electrical systems.

Source: [acadiainsurance.com](http://acadiainsurance.com)



## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Never jerk cords out of the outlets; grip the plug only."**

**Traci Tschetter, 8 years old**

Traci is the daughter of Ryan and Elaine Tschetter, Revillo, S.D. They are members of Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Milbank, 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.

# Slow Cooker Sensations

## Slow Cooker Egg Casserole

1 (32 oz.) bag frozen hash browns	1-1/2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
1 lb. ham, cooked and cubed	12 eggs
1 onion, finely chopped	1 cup milk
1 green pepper, chopped	1/2 tsp. salt
1 T. olive oil	1/2 tsp. pepper

Spray inside of slow cooker with cooking spray. In a small frying pan, saute onion and green pepper in oil until tender. Cool 10 minutes. Place 1/3 frozen hash browns in slow cooker. Add 1/3 ham, onion and green pepper mixture and cheese. Repeat layers, ending with cheese. In large bowl, beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper until well blended. Pour over hash browns. Cook, covered, on LOW for 10 to 12 hours or overnight until casserole is set and eggs are thoroughly cooked. Serves 12.

Mary Jessen, Holabird, SD

## Cream Cheese Chicken Taquitos

2 boneless chicken breasts	8 oz. cream cheese
1 tsp. chili powder	1/3 cup water
1 tsp. garlic powder	1/2 cup shredded cheese
1 tsp. cumin	12 6-inch flour tortillas

Combine chicken, chili powder, garlic powder, cumin, cream cheese and water in slow cooker. Cover and cook on LOW for 8 hours or 4 hours on HIGH. Place 1/4 cup chicken mixture into each tortilla. Top with 1 to 2 T. shredded cheese. Roll tightly and place in a single layer on greased baking sheet. Bake at 400°F. for 10 minutes or until tortillas are slightly browned and cheese is melted.

Cortney Reedy, Tea, SD

## Pork Sausage and Rice

2 boxes Uncle Ben's Wild Rice	1 (8 oz.) can of mushrooms
1 lb. seasoned pork sausage	1 (10.5-oz.) can cream of mushroom soup

Prepare Uncle Ben's rice as directed. Brown pork sausage. Combine all ingredients in slow cooker. Cook on LOW for 3 to 4 hours.

Robert Bernhardt, Aberdeen, SD

## Slow Cookers Tamale Pie

2 lbs. lean ground beef	1 (4 oz.) can chopped green chiles
1 pkg. McCormick® Slow Cookers Chili Seasoning	1/2 cup water
2 (14.5 oz. each) cans stewed tomatoes, cut-up	<b>Topping:</b>
1 (14.5 oz.) can kidney or pinto beans, drained and rinsed	1 (8.5 oz.) box corn muffin mix
	1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Cook ground beef in large skillet on medium-high heat until no longer pink; drain. Place in slow cooker. Add Seasoning Mix, tomatoes, beans, chiles and water; mix well. Cover. Cook 8 hours on LOW or 4 hours on HIGH. For the Cornbread Topping, if using low setting, increase to HIGH. Prepare corn muffin batter as directed on package. Drop batter by spoonfuls on top of simmering chili. Cover. Cook 30 minutes longer or until toothpick inserted into center of cornbread topping comes out clean. Sprinkle with cheese. Makes 10 servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 362, Total Fat 14g, Cholesterol 89mg, Sodium 9340mg, Protein 26g, Carbohydrates 33g, Dietary Fiber 4g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Mississippi Pot Roast

1 3 to 4 lb. chuck roast	1/4 cup butter
1 pkg. ranch dressing mix	4 to 5 pepperoncini peppers with some juice
1 pkg. au jus gravy mix	

Place roast in slow cooker. Sprinkle dressing mix and au jus mix on top. Place peppers on top of the mixes; add butter. Cook on LOW 8 hours. *Note: Do not add any water or broth to this. It will make enough liquid as it cooks.*

Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN

Please send your favorite holiday, soup or brunch 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 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

# Six Efficient Holiday Gifts to Give (or Keep!)



Pat Keegan

Collaborative Efficiency

**Don't forget to put on your favorite sweater and pair of fuzzy slippers so you can lower the thermostat a couple of degrees.**

**Dear Pat and Brad:** With the holidays approaching, I'm starting to think about unique gifts for my family and friends that won't use too much energy. Can you share any ideas? – Monica

**Dear Monica:** It's always a great idea to give energy efficient gifts! Here are a few ideas based on a range of prices. You might even want to keep one or two of these for yourself!

**1. Smart power strip. Price: \$15 to \$100:** Smart power strips are the perfect gift for your tech-savvy family members and friends because they'll likely need the extra outlets for their many devices. Smart power strips give more control than traditional ones. By plugging the main hardware item, such as a computer or monitor, into the master outlet, you can easily control the rest of the devices. When that main device is turned off, everything else plugged into the strip also powers off. Some smart power strips can also be operated through a remote control or smartphone app and some include programmable timers.

**2. Solar backpack. Price: \$30 to \$325:** Walking or biking to the office, the field or a mountain lake? It may sound crazy, but you can actually make the most of the sun's energy with a solar backpack. These handy devices collect and store enough electricity to power a phone, tablet or even a laptop. The solar panels stitched onto the back of the packs are flexible and waterproof. Best of all, they have all the features and functionality of their traditional non-solar cousins.

**3. Smart thermostat. Price: \$30 to \$600:** A smart thermostat can adjust the temperature by learning your energy use habits over time, which saves you money and keeps you more comfortable. It can also be controlled through a smartphone app. Just make sure you're going to use all of its functionality before taking the leap.

**4. Energy efficient tablets. Price: \$40 to \$4,000:** You may already have at least one tablet in your home, but have you considered how energy efficient it is? Try this: Instead of using your TV to binge that new show, consider an ENERGY STAR®-rated tablet and you can use seven times less power! Simply look for the ENERGY STAR label when you're shopping for new tablets.

**5. Electric scooter. Price: \$80 to \$3,000:** The \$49 foldable, foot-powered scooter that exploded onto the scene a decade ago has grown up in a big way. In some larger cities, electric scooters are now available to rent at various locations, found and paid for via app. Or you can buy one to use for your daily commute or as a fun way to simply scoot around the neighborhood. Higher-quality versions will have longer range, larger tires and better suspension – along with a higher cost, of course. The catch is that they're still largely confined to paved surfaces.

**6. E-bike. Price: \$250 to \$9,000:** Electric bikes, or e-bikes, are regular bicycles with an electric motor that can be engaged as needed. E-bikes are becoming increasingly popular with people who face challenging terrain, bike to work and don't want to work up a sweat or perhaps find regular cycling too physically challenging. Studies also show that e-biking can bring many of the same physical benefits as non-assisted pedaling. They even come in foldable versions. One downside is they are heavier than regular bicycles.

Looking for an efficient gift that costs practically nothing? Enjoy a good book and a cozy evening at home, which requires no energy use at all. Don't forget to put on your favorite sweater and pair of fuzzy slippers so you can lower the thermostat a couple of degrees. Now that's an energy efficient evening worth repeating!

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).

## Scholarship Prizes Available

### Resource Conservation Speech Contest Announced

Contestants in the 2020 State Finals of the Resource Conservation Speech contest are eligible to win a total of \$2,300 in college scholarships.

All South Dakota students in grades 9-12 are eligible to compete for \$2,300 in higher education scholarships, which are provided by the East River and Rushmore Electric power cooperatives and the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. Scholarships are awarded to the top three finalists: first place is \$1,100; second place is \$750; and third place is \$450.

The 2020 contest theme is "What Does a Tree Do for Me?" Contests are coordinated by local conservation districts. Local winners advance to area contests held in seven locations. The top area speakers compete at the state finals in Pierre on Saturday, April 25, 2020.

The contest is sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA), in cooperation with Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of South Dakota, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts.

An entry form and complete list of rules can be found online at:

<https://sdda.sd.gov/conservation-forestry/educational-programs/resource-conservation-speech-contest/PDF/2020%20Speech-Brochure.pdf>

For more information on the Resource Conservation Speech Contest, contact your local conservation district or call Bailey Gullikson, natural resource specialist for SDDA, at 605-773-7570.



East River's Chris Studer, right, speaks with former S.D. Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson and Linda Daugaard at the Connected Home Research Project launch.

## Connected Home Research Project Launches

A Connected Home Research Project launched on Oct. 2 as part of Dakota State University's (DSU) MadLabs facility grand opening. The Connected Home project is a partnership between East River Electric Power Cooperative, DSU and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and is exploring technologies that will be included in the next generation rural home. It is also working to find solutions that will allow electric cooperatives to play an integral role in helping consumers optimize their energy use.

East River Electric is a wholesale power supply cooperative headquartered in Madison, S.D., which serves 24 distribution cooperatives and one municipal electric system across eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. NRECA is a national association of more than 900 electric cooperatives and is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

"From wi-fi thermostats to smart appliances, our network of electric cooperatives is seeing increased adoption of smart home technologies among consumers," said East River Chief Member and Public Relations Officer Chris Studer. "While current technologies can help manage electricity usage and benefit consumers, we noticed a gap between the capabilities of those technologies and the needs of our utility network to connect to those technologies. We hope to close that gap through this project."

Researchers will investigate current products on the market and determine how utilities could potentially utilize existing technologies to control appliances and connected technologies within a home. They will also research the potential to build utility-specific technologies, both hardware and software, that could be used in homes to optimize energy usage and control power costs. A final phase of the project could include field testing of potential products in end consumer homes to determine the viability of any hardware and software that is developed.

"As use of smart home technology continues to increase among consumers, we're hoping to use this research project to identify technologies that will help us in our transition to a new energy management future or to develop our own utility-specific technologies that can be replicated at cooperatives around the country to help consumers optimize energy usage and save them money," said Studer.

The project's research space resembles a smart home kitchen with additional appliances including a washer, dryer and water heater. "Many of the products included in the space were sourced from local companies. We are grateful to Rosebud Cabinets, KolorWorks, Karl's Appliance and Montgomery's for assisting in the construction and design of the space," said Studer.



Dakota Energy lineman Brandon Moore draws an arc on the high voltage demonstration as DEC's Greg Palmer explains the dangers of getting close to electrical equipment.

# CO-OPS DELIVER SAFETY MESSAGE

## High Voltage Trailer Brings Safety Messages to Local Communities

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

The hum of electric current arcing can be heard split seconds before the eye registers the glowing arc on the wire and the flames shooting from the ends of a grapefruit attached to a human-like model of the rural electric cooperatives' high voltage demonstration trailer.

As the hum subsides and the gasps of Miller High School students dwindle, Dakota Energy Cooperative's Greg Palmer continues his explanation of electricity's need to find a path to ground.

"This will show you what would happen to your body



Moore shows the scorched insides of a grapefruit that had been used on the high voltage demonstration trailer.

Photos by Brenda Kleinjan/SDREA

**“This will show you what would happen to your body internally if you were to come in contact with 7,200 watts of electricity.”**

internally if you were to come in contact with 7,200 volts of electricity,” said Palmer, who works out of the Huron, S.D.-based cooperative’s Miller office. Palmer, along with lineman Brandon Moore were part of the Miller High School FFA Chapter’s Ag Safety Day in early October.

The duo used a newly constructed demonstration trailer used by South Dakota’s electric cooperatives to deliver safety messages to student groups, community groups, fire departments and others across the state. The co-ops have been using one trailer for more than two decades and this fall added the second trailer to the safety fleet.

Moore continues the demonstration, draws an arc on the example power lines.

“Electricity travels at the speed of light – you can’t just let go,” explains Palmer. “You can’t see it, you can’t smell it. The only time you see it is when something bad is about to happen.”

Moore removes the grapefruit from the demonstration trailer and cuts it in half.

With this grapefruit, it looks normal from the outside, you can see where the electricity went in and out. But when you cut it open, you see what it does to the inside of the body – it chars everything,” Palmer explains.

“You’ve heard the same story before: don’t climb on the green boxes, don’t fly kites near power lines. But especially this time of year, be aware of where power lines and underground boxes are located,” Palmer said.



Employees at Moreau-Grand Electric helped construct the state’s second High Voltage Demonstration trailer used by South Dakota electric cooperatives.

Photo by Roger Lawien/Moreau-Grand

“This morning we changed a pole because someone ran into it with a (silage) chopper and broke it off,” Palmer said.

Palmer went on to explain that if an accident like that happens and the power line comes in contact with the equipment or tractor, the best plan is to stay in the tractor or piece of equipment until the line can be de-energized.

For information about bringing this safety demonstration or other safety demonstrations to your school, community group or fire department, contact your local electric cooperative.



Miller High School students examine the insides of a hotdog held by Dakota Energy’s Greg Palmer. The hotdog is used as an example of what an electrical contact can do to human muscle. On the Cover: Flames shoot out the ends of an energized hotdog as Brandon Moore guides an electrical current into the demonstration unit to show the impact an electric contact has on the human body.

# BHEA's humble beginnings

The following is from *The Custer Weekly*, May 18, 1960:

When Fred Root sent out invitations for a January 17, 1940, meeting in Hill City on the Rural Electrification Act, little did he realize the scope of the movement that would get underway that night.

Although the temperature was 31 degrees below zero with wind and snow, most of the Hills towns were represented.

Those early organizers of this movement were William Frink, Ed Miller, Charles Sprague, John Benton, James L. Harvey, Floyd Frye, Howard Brown, Sam Kirk, Henry Barnes, George Barnes, Mike Viemet, Charles Pringle, L. D. Pitts,

Mrs. Laura Lofton, Tom LaFollette, A.F. Ross, Lawrence Ventling, H. H. Hawkins, Hal Jones, Charles Hason, Ray Clapper, W. H. Green, Nils Leden, William Rosay, Steve Kyte, William P. Childs, Hal D. Wheaton, Douglas Tatum, Howard Rice, Ernest Sterns, Bud Moon,

Al Hansen, Archie Wing, Mrs. Wing, Sr., Carson Teaney, Vera Gould, George Thompson, Dr. E. B. Hulz, A. J. Birdsell, Josephine Johnson, William Robinson, Fred Root, Ernest Raga, John Raga, Mrs. George Gillette, Harvey L. Jones, Charles Welty, Roe Bailey and Henry Kautzsch.

To these persons who met on that cold January night in 1940, the people of the Black Hills will be ever thankful, for out of this meeting a movement was started that spread throughout the entire state.

At this first meeting, a temporary board of directors was elected consisting of Fred Root of Keystone, H. L. Barnes of Pringle, John Benton of Mystic, Charles Welty of Custer and Steve Kyte of Hill City. Root was elected chairman.

A second meeting was held in Hill City on January 20 and Fred Root was chosen as coordinator, George Lampert was project attorney, and Walter Walking as engineer. At this meeting the association was given

(Continued on page 11)

# 1950 Board of Directors



**Black Hills Electric Cooperative's board of directors in May of 1950 were (back, left to right): Ray Allan, George Frink, Walt Phillips, Bert Bradeen. Front: Oscar Johnson, Royce Davison (board president), and Monty McDermand.**

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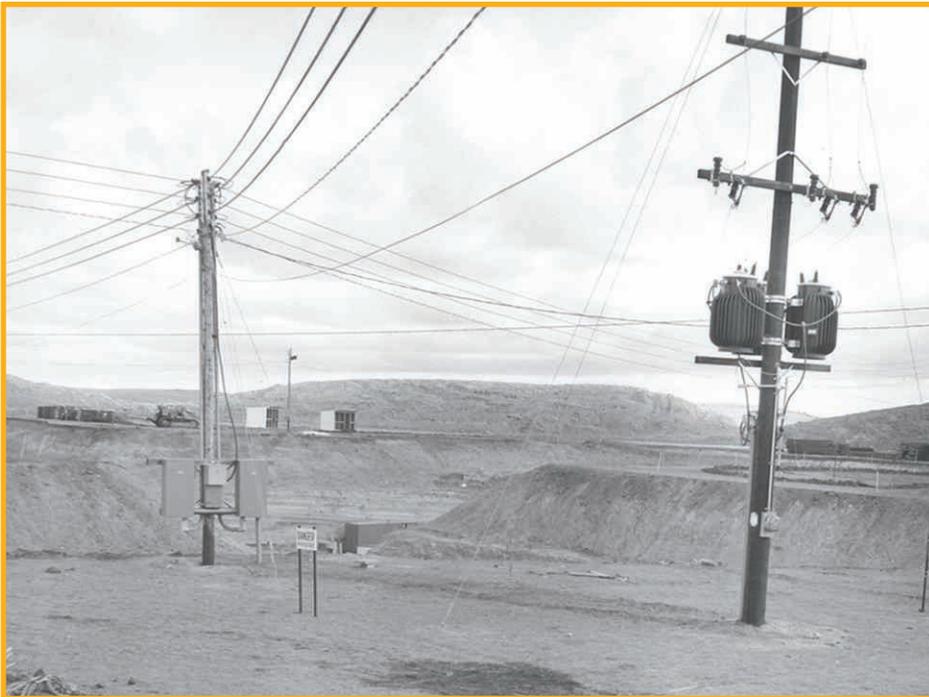
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# Titan I Missile Site



The Titan I missile site south of Hermosa, built in the early 1960s, was a large load for the cooperative. The site had three silos. The Titan I was the first two-stage intercontinental ballistic missile and was engineered with both an immense payload and the ability to fly a long distance. Ellsworth Airmen controlled nine missiles divided up between three missile complexes built in South Dakota. One complex was located near Wicksville, one south and east of Hermosa and one east of Sturgis. The water well drilled for the site is used today by Southern Hills Water to serve customers in the Hermosa area.



BHEC provided three-phase service to the Hermosa Titan construction site. The Titan I Missile program was incredibly expensive and inefficient. Each Titan I launch complex cost \$64 million to build and only operated from 1962 to 1965, when they were made obsolete by the Titan II. At the peak of construction, some 2,500 workers were at the three launch complexes. The South Dakota sites were deactivated in March of 1965.

## Humble Beginnings

(Continued from page 10)

the name of Black Hills Electric Association, Inc. Survey leaders for the various committees were named and the membership drive was begun.

In February, the board of directors was increased to 11 members with Frank Hoffman of Silver City as president and Charles Welty as secretary. A set of by-laws was adopted and William Rosay of Hill City replaced Root as coordinator.

Meeting after meeting was held in Hill City at the Legion Hall, at the Hill City Cafe, and at the fire hall. Spring came and went and again, it was winter and the people of the rural Black Hills were still in the dark.

Welty resigned as secretary and Henry Barnes was elected by the board of directors. Wintah Elliot became the treasurer and H. H. Hawkins became coordinator. Meetings were held throughout the territory, reaching from Rochford to Oelrichs. Maps were prepared and memberships tabulated. REA field men reviewed the project and assured the directors that as a project, it was “in the bag!”

Negotiations for power were started regarding wholesale rates and agreements, and once more, spring rolled around without any definite results.

Early in 1941, it became apparent that an office must be established. The Custer Chamber of Commerce made an offer to furnish the association with an office, carry the rent, light and telephone bills until such time as the association could reimburse the Chamber.

In June of 1941, the office was established on Custer Avenue in the building now owned by *The Custer Weekly*. Office furniture and a pickup truck were purchased for company use.

Charles Clinton, a Hill City rancher, became president and H. H. Hawkins was promoted to superintendent. The association signed a loan contract with the federal government in the amount of \$72,000.

(Continued next month)

# Don't Shoot!

## Vandals and Errant Shots Wreak Havoc with Equipment

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

**"You get really cold weather and the line tightens up and that's when you'll see those weak spots break."**

With fall comes an increase of outdoor hunting activities.

One thing not on any responsible hunter's bag list is electrical equipment.

The irresponsible actions of those firing the shots can have costly – and untimely – consequences for electric cooperative members.

Shots fired at electric equipment can cause immediate, noticeable damage, often times causing for emergency, after-hours dispatch of crews to locate and repair the problem disrupting power to members.

Other times, the damage weakens a line or piece of equipment. Time, weather or storms can cause the weakened area to fail, likely at an inconvenient time for members.

"It never comes at a convenient time," said Dale Schwagel, line superintendent at Traverse Electric Cooperative in Wheaton, Minn., of when the damage occurs...and when past damage usually surfaces.

"You get really cold weather and the line tightens up and that's when you'll see



Fall decor at some South Dakota electric cooperatives carry an important safety reminder about not shooting at or near power lines.



Bullet holes caused by vandals riddle a co-op transformer.



Routers are being installed at Traverse Electric Cooperative in Wheaton, Minn., as part of a system-wide meter upgrade.

When vandals target power lines and electrical apparatus, system reliability is at stake.



A newly installed router at Traverse Electric Cooperative in Wheaton, Minn., was destroyed by a vandal's bullet, causing more than \$1,600 in damage.

those weak spots break," said Schwagel.

The co-op has been relatively vandal-free for the last several years.

However, this summer the co-op encountered damage to newly installed routers which are part of a system-wide meter upgrade.

Schwagel estimates the cost of the damage will total more than \$2,500 once labor is tacked on to replacing the \$1,600 piece of equipment.

"Shooting this piece of equipment is a cost to the co-op and the members. Ultimately that's where the costs go," said Schwagel.

If you see damage to co-op equipment, report it to the co-ops so repairs can be made.



Pierre Junior Shooters took the top spot on the podium at the Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match while the Marshall County 4-H Sharp Shooters took the third tier.

## South Dakota Youth Are

# NATIONAL TOP GUNS

**Daisy®**

<https://www.daisy.com/daisy-nationals/>

Each year the Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match features youth teams from across the nation competing in this five-meter, four-position National Championship match, and this year the Pierre Junior Shooters from Pierre, S.D., edged the team out of Walton County, Ga., to take home the Gold Medal and traveling trophy. The event wrapped Saturday night, July 6, with a festive medal ceremony that named not only the Team National Championship, but also Championships in Individual, Alternate and Champion Divisions.

Sixty-four teams converged on Rogers, Ark., for the 54th year of the “Daisy Nationals.” Teams consist of five shooters and two alternates ages 8 to 15, who have completed the Daisy Curriculum and other training provided by organizations such as the 4H Shooting Sports, Royal Rangers, the American Legion and other community and youth-based clubs. Teams must also place first, second or third in their state’s NRA-sanctioned contest to get an invite.

“The Daisy Nationals is a celebration of youth competitive shooting,” said Daisy Public Relations Director Lawrence Taylor. “Competitive BB gun shooting is your gateway to the shooting sports. We’ve had youth compete in the Daisy Nationals who went on to compete – and win – in Olympic shooting events.”

Youth competitors shoot 10 shots from each of four positions – standing, kneeling, sitting and prone – at the target placed at 5 meters. They shoot Daisy Model 499B Champion BB guns, billed as the world’s most-accurate BB gun. Each year multiple shooters place all 10 shots in the bullseye.

There’s also a safety aspect to this match. On the first day, every competitor takes a 50-question written test that covers gun safety, match rules and shooting knowledge. The results of the test make up 20 percent of each competitor’s final score and that can be the difference between the Gold and Silver medals.

- Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match Top 5 Teams**
- Pierre Junior Shooters**  
Pierre, S.D.
- Walton County 4H**  
Walton County, Ga.
- Marshall County 4H Sharp Shooters**  
Marshall County, S.D.
- Humboldt Sharpshooters**  
Humboldt, S.D.
- Permian Basin Young Guns**  
Midland, Texas

An award is given to the team that scores highest on the test, and this year for the first time, three teams from South Dakota tied to win this award: the Humboldt Sharpshooters, Marshall County and the Pierre Junior Shooters.

Eric Bird from Wyandotte County, Kan., shot a 488 with 21 bullseyes to win the Individual National Championship, and he had a perfect score on the written test. Right on Bird's heels was Anthony Stacy from Walton County, Ga., who shot a 485 with 21 bullseyes. The tightest race in the Individual Division was between Stacy and bronze medal winner Irene VanDyke of Carvelius, Ore., who also scored 485 but had two less bullseyes.

In the Team Division, winning the Silver Medal was Walton County 4H out of Georgia. Walton County scored 2,382 with 87 bullseyes – two more than the Pierre Junior Shooters, who won the event with 2,385. The Marshall County 4H Sharp Shooters took the Bronze Medal with a score of 2,363 with 70 bullseyes. Rounding out the top five was the Humboldt Sharpshooters from Hartford, S.D., followed by the Permian Basin Young Guns from

**An award is given to the team that scores highest on the test, and this year for the first time, three teams from South Dakota tied to win this award: the Humboldt Sharpshooters, Marshall County and the Pierre Junior Shooters.**

Midland, Texas.

“Competitive shooting teaches mental focus, patience, coordination and the bigger lessons of practicing to improve a skill,” Taylor said. “That’s very easy to see in shooting because your shot groupings

are big when you first start, but as you practice those groups shrink and get tighter – it’s the perfect illustration of how you improve through practice.

“We’ve also seen how this program improves the lives of those with attention disorders or issues. Competitive shooting requires disciplined breathing and muscle memory and tack-sharp focus. Coaches have repeatedly told us how kids who were struggling with school or other issues have improved in those areas after getting into competitive shooting.”

The Daisy Nationals match rules state that a youth who shoots on a team this year must sit out and let another youth have the opportunity to shoot on the team. But, these former team members are not left out – they can attend and compete in the Champions Match.

The Pierre Junior Shooters have captured national titles in 2004, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, as well as 2017, to go along with the 2019 crown. South Dakota has also had strong national finishes in the 1980s and ’90s – as well as top 10 finishes in other years of competition.

## S.D. 4-H Shooting Sports Teams Finish Strong

South Dakota 4-H members received national recognition during the 2019 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships held in Grand Island, Neb. June 23-28, 2019.

Of the 659 youth from across the United States who competed, 36 were South Dakota 4-H members who qualified during the 2019 4-H Spring Shoot in Pierre and the 2018 4-H Fall Shoot in Mitchell.

The South Dakota teams who received national recognition include:

Hunting Skills placed third overall, third in Wildlife ID, second in General Skills and third in Decision Making. The team had top ten finishes throughout the competition including Kaylee Bosma of Lincoln County who placed ninth in General Skills, Hunter Laverack of Bennett County who placed fifth in Decision Making and Dylan Singrey of Brookings County who placed second in General Skills and sixth overall. The hunting skills team was coached by SDSU Extension Youth Safety Field Specialist John Keimig.

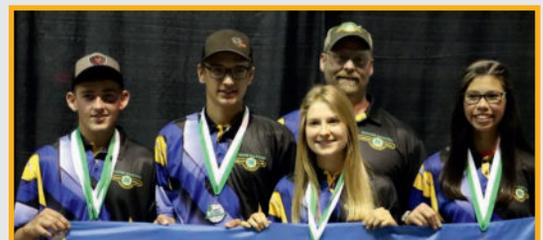
Air Rifle placed third overall, second in 3 Position, second in Standing, and fourth in Silhouettes. Throughout the competition, members of the team were recognized with top ten finishes in different phases. Justin Merriman of Hughes County was recognized as first in 3 Position, fourth in standing and eighth overall, Jessica Hays of Hughes County placed in each phase and seventh overall and Alexandra Smith of Hughes County placed seventh in Standing, 10th in Silhouettes and 10th overall. The air rifle team was coached by Sean Kruger, a 4-H Volunteer in Hughes County.

For more information on 4-H shooting sports, contact John Keimig, SDSU Extension Youth Safety Field Specialist by email or call 605.688.4167.



Third-place Hunting Skills team consisted of, from left, Cloe Swanson of Minnehaha County, Kaylee Bosma of Lincoln County, John Keimig with SDSU Extension, Dylan Singrey of Brookings County, Hunter Laverack of Bennett County.

Photo Courtesy of Dawn Foiles



Third-place Air Rifle members were Justin Merriman of Hughes County, Eli Dissing of Minnehaha County, Alexandra Smith of Hughes County, Sean Kruger of Hughes County and volunteer Jessica Hays of Hughes County.

Photo Courtesy of Dawn Foiles

## October 18

Hermosa American Legion Auxiliary Octoberfest and Bingo, Meal 4:30 to 6:45 p.m., bingo at 7 p.m., American Legion Hall, Hermosa, SD, 605-255-5977

## October 19

4th Annual Fall Festival, East Pierre Landscape and Garden Center, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pierre, SD, 605-224-8832

## October 19-January 5

Pheasant Hunting Season, Statewide, Pierre, SD, 605-223-7660

## October 25

Main Street Trick or Treat, 4 p.m., Main Street merchants, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2368

## October 25

Boys & Girls Club Annual Halloween Carnival, 5 p.m., 297 Walnut Drive, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2010

## October 25-26

Halloween Night Hike, 5:30 to 8 p.m., Peter Norbeck Outdoor Education Center, Custer State Park, SD, 605-255-4515

## October 25-27

Autumn Festival, An Arts and Crafts Affair, Sioux Falls, SD, 402-331-2889

## October 25-27

ZooBoo, Great Plains Zoo, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7003

## October 26

ZOO BOO, Bramble Park Zoo, Watertown, 605-882-6269

## October 26

Scare in the Square, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979



Photo courtesy: Harvest Halloween

## October 31

Merchants' Trick or Treat, 4 to 6 p.m., Downtown, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

## October 31-November 2

Ringneck Festival and Bird Dog Challenge, Huron, SD, 605-352-0000

## November 1-2

Hunters' Soup Supper in the Friendliest Ghost Town in the Black Hills, 5 p.m., Rochford Community Hall, Rochford, SD

## November 2

Fairburn Community Bazaar, 5 p.m., Community Center, Fairburn, SD, 605-255-4807

## November 1-2

First Chance Bonanza, PRCA Rodeo, Brookings, SD, www.suttonrodeo.com

## November 2

Fall Fling Craft/Vendor Fair, Dakota Christian School, Corsica, SD, 605-243-2211

## November 9

Area Merchants and Crafters Annual Holiday Extravaganza, Sisseton, SD, 605-698-7425

## November 9

Hairball, Mitchell, SD, 605-995-8430

## November 10

Black Hills Symphony League's Annual Homes for the Holidays Tour, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., various locations, Rapid City, SD, www.LeagueHomeTour.org

## November 15

Hermosa American Legion Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner, Meal 4:30 to 6:45 p.m., bingo at 7 p.m., American Legion Hall, Hermosa, SD, 605-255-5977

## November 15-December 18

Black Hills Christmas Tree Permit Season, Custer, SD, 605-673-9200

## November 16

Christmas Craft Fair, Legion Hal on Main Street, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Free admission, Tripp, SD, Contact Becki Hauser at 605-480-3009

## November 22-23

Holiday Arts Christmas Craft Show, Masonic Hall, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

## November 22-January 5

Winter Wonderland, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-275-6060

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.