

Central Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

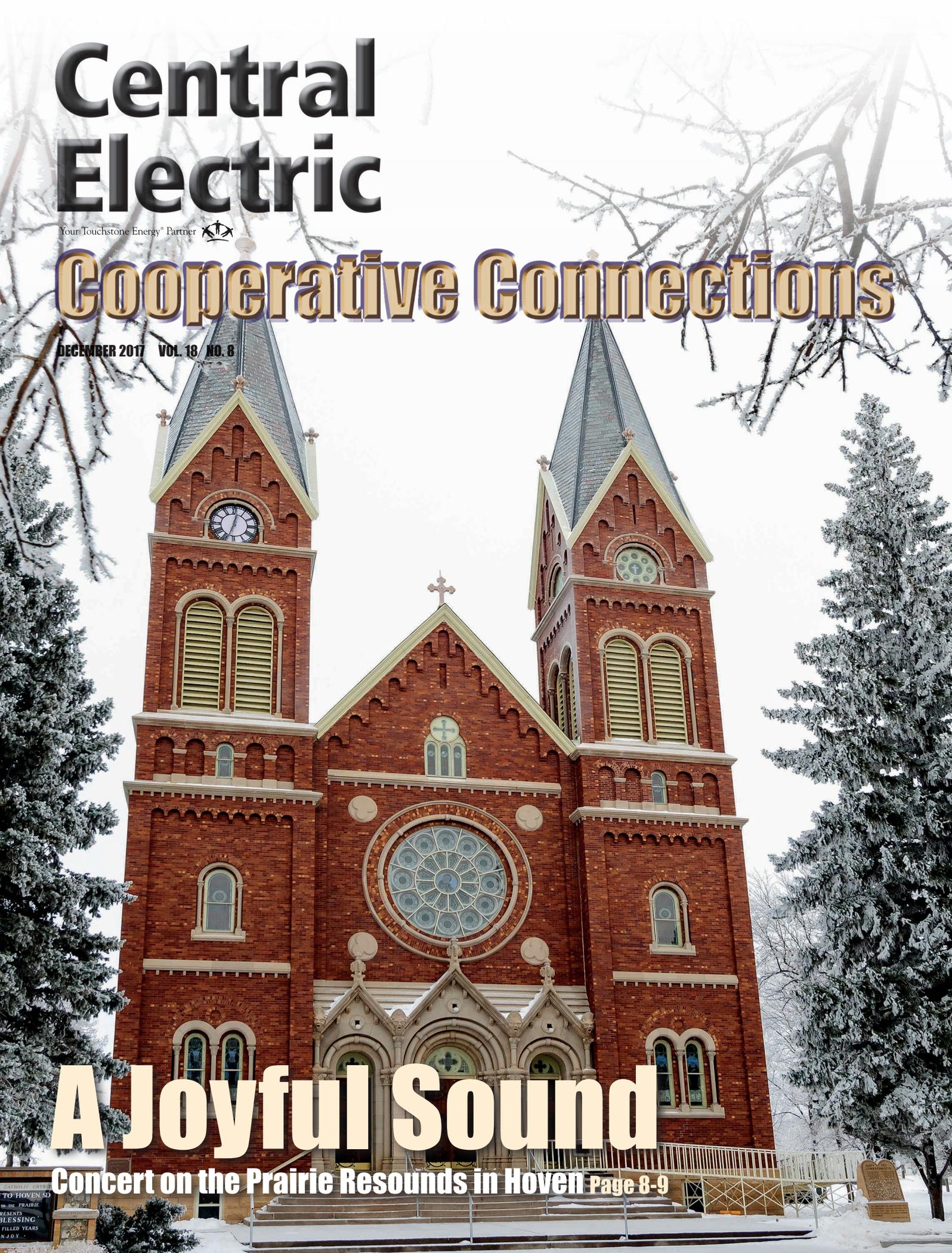
Cooperative Connections

DECEMBER 2017 VOL. 18 NO. 8

A Joyful Sound

Concert on the Prairie Resounds in Hoven Page 8-9

TO HOVEN, SD
ON THE PRAIRIE
PRESENTS
BLESSING
FILLED YEARS
N.J.O.V.



Forecasts



Ken Schlingen
General Manager

I am writing this article in late October. The weather has been good for harvest but freezing temperatures, potential flurries and strong northwest winds are in the forecast.

Each year when we get to November, there is usually a rush of requests from members wanting to have a new service installed. This year is no different with five requests just this week. Our crews do their very best to accommodate these requests, but the final decision maker is Mother Nature. When we experience frost in the ground, our equipment for installing buried cable is very limited in what it can do without being damaged. At some point, usually at the dismay of a member, we will stop putting cable in the ground and push projects into 2018. Another reason to do your own forecast and give the cooperative as much notice as possible about your plans.

The Operation Round-Up committee will conduct business in mid-November to review applications to help fund community projects from across our service area. Almost 85 percent of Central Electric members are rounding up their monthly bill to provide funds for these projects. This past spring, \$11,500 was approved for community projects around Chamberlain, Howard, Mitchell, Kimball, Letcher and Plankinton. The beneficiaries were a volunteer fire department, our veterans, and four separate organizations that benefit our children. This would not be possible without your participation in the Operation Round-Up program. My forecast is that Operation Round-Up funds will continue to make our communities a better place to live.

Your cooperative will be retiring \$500,000 in capital credits.

If you are an active member, you will receive a credit on your December bill that reflects your share.

November is when your cooperative creates our forecast or budget. We try to anticipate what our revenues and expenses will be for an entire year. Gratefully, Scott Kroger, our Manager of Finance, is almost unbelievable at how accurate this forecast can be. Wholesale power costs are 70 percent of your cooperative's total expenses. We know the wholesale power rates are expected to remain mostly unchanged for 2018 so that is great news. Energy efficiency, new technology, declining rural population, and other factors mean your cooperative does not benefit from increasing Kwh sales. We are evaluating our cost to operate Central Electric knowing we need to be more aggressive in replacing our aging poles and wires. At the same time, we try to balance those needs with our expected Kwh sales and the electric rates that are in place. We will have our forecast ready to present to your board of directors at the November meeting.

In this month's newsletter, you will see some information that is really pertinent to you as a member of Central Electric Cooperative. First, your cooperative will be retiring \$500,000 in capital credits. Capital Credits reflect each member's ownership in and contribution of capital to the cooperative. If you are an active member, you will receive a credit on your December bill that reflects your share of this year's capital credit retirement while others will receive a check.

Finally, your local District Meetings will be held in January. As a member owner, you have a responsibility to attend this meeting, ask questions, and offer input that will help your cooperative improve the services we are providing. This year, we will have some discussions on solar energy with director elections to be held in Davison and Hanson Counties. Please consider attending your district meeting and consider encouraging your neighbors to attend. We are a stronger organization when we all participate.

Your employees and directors would like to thank all of our Veterans for their service to our country and wish each of you a Happy Thanksgiving. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you each and every day. Remember to stay safe.

Central Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS 018-963)

General Manager - Ken Schlingen

Managing Editor - Courtney J. Deinert
Assistant Editor - Patrick Soukup

President - Duane Wolbrink
Vice President - Todd VanWalleghen
Secretary - Bernetta Burghardt
Treasurer - James Headley

Central Electric Cooperative Connections is published monthly by Central Electric Cooperative PO Box 850, 25487 403rd Ave, Mitchell SD 57301. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Central Electric Cooperative Connections purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 25 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodical Postage Paid at Mitchell, SD 57301 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Central Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 850, Mitchell SD 57301 TELEPHONE (605)996-7516 or 1-800-477-2892; FAX (605)996-0869; e-mail cec@centralec.coop. Design assistance by TDG Communications, Deadwood.

Office Hours

Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

24 - Hour Service
1-605-996-7516 or
1-800-477-2892

www.centralec.coop

Mission Statement



*Provide Reliable Energy &
Services with a Commitment to
Safety and Member Satisfaction*

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider & employer.

Co-op News

District Meeting Dates

Hanson County
Thursday, January 4
St. Mary's Catholic Hall
Alexandria

Jerauld County
Tuesday, January 23
Springs Inn
Wessington Springs

Aurora County
Tuesday, January 16
Ag Building
Plankinton

Buffalo County
Thursday, January 25
Tribal Headquarters Gym
Ft. Thompson

Davison County
Thursday, January 18
Davison County 4-H Grounds
Mitchell

Miner County
Monday, January 29
4-H Building
Howard

Sanborn County
Monday, January 22
4-H Building
Forestburg

Brule County
Tuesday, January 30
Ag Building
Pukwana

Employee Years of Service

DeEte Bohr
December 1 - 20 years

Scott Kroger
December 8 - 28 years

Thank you for all you do for the cooperative and our members!

Christmas Open House

December 18 - 22

Stop into the main office along
Betts Road for cookies and coffee!

Holiday Closings

Our office will be closed on the following days:

Thanksgiving - Thurs., November 23, 2017

Christmas - Mon., December 25, 2017

New Year's Day - Mon., January 1, 2018

Holiday Electrical Safety

Make Safety the First Item on Your List

The **Electrical Safety Authority** (ESA) offers the following tips to help keep you and your family safe from electrical hazards when buying and installing holiday lighting and decorations.

Light up safely over the holidays:

- Choose the right light for the job: light strings and other decorations are rated for indoor or outdoor use. Read the package instructions and never exceed the recommended wattage.
- Replace damaged electrical products (cords, plugs, ornaments).
- Avoid plugging too many lights and decorations into an outlet. Overloaded circuits can overheat and start a fire.
- Buy holiday decorations that have the mark of an accredited certification agency on the package.
- Once the package is opened, remember to check for the appropriate approval sticker appearing on the cord for products incorporating light strings.

Extension Cords/Plugs:

- Avoid overloading circuits with plugs and extension cords – this can create overheating and result in a fire. Fuses that frequently blow and circuits that trip can indicate too many items are connected to the circuit.
- Never remove the third prong on plugs – this “grounding pin” prevents shock in the event of electrical equipment failure.
- Plug outdoor electrical decorations into Ground Fault (GFCI)-protected outlets.
- Don’t run extension cords under carpets, through doorways or in places where they can be damaged by furniture
- Keep outdoor connections above-ground and out of puddles; don’t run them across driveways and/or walkways.

Installing Decorations:

- No more than three light strings can be safely connected together in most cases – read manufactures’ instructions for directions.
- Make sure bulbs don’t touch supply cords, wires, cloth, paper or any material that’s not part of the light string.
- Use the proper clips for securing lights and decorations. Staples and nails can damage electrical cords.
- Check for overhead power lines before using a ladder to put up decorations or when you’re hanging lights or decorations on trees.
- Holiday decorations aren’t designed for year-round use and can deteriorate over time. Take them down when the holidays are over.

Remember to:

- Watch that children don’t put electrical decorations or cords in their mouths.
- Keep an eye on pets that may chew or damage electrical cords.
- Turn off holiday lights and decorations when you leave the house or go to bed.

Source: esasafe.com

Kids’ Corner Safety Poster

“Don’t do it!”



Kimberly Messmer, 8 years old

Kimberly is the daughter of Perry and Mabell Messmer, Whitewood, S.D. They are members of Butte Electric Cooperative, Newell, 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.

🕒

Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!™

How fast does fire move? Very fast. You could have less than 2 minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

7 steps to practicing your escape plan

<div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">1</div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 2px;">Draw a map of your home. Include all doors and windows.</p>	<div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">2</div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 2px;">Find two ways out of every room.</p>	<div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">3</div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 2px;">Make sure doors and windows are not blocked.</p>	<div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">4</div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 2px;">Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home.</p>
<div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">5</div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 2px;">Push the test button to sound the smoke alarm.</p>	<div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">6</div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 2px;">Practice your drill with everyone in the home.</p>	<div style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">7</div> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 2px;">Get outside to your meeting place.</p>	

For more information about escape planning, visit: www.usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org.

For more tips on planning for disasters,
go to www.bready.sd.gov.

Holiday Favorites



Can't Fail Caramels

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 4 tsp. vanilla

Combine first 6 ingredients. Cook slowly, stirring constantly to 248°F. or when small quantity dropped in cold water forms a firm ball; remove from heat. Add vanilla. Pour into a greased 8x8x2-inch pan; cool. When firm, place on board and cut into squares. Wrap each square in waxed paper.

Judy Jensen, Langford

Church Window Cookies

- 1 (12 oz.) pkg. chocolate chips
- 1 pkg. colored miniature marshmallows
- 1 stick butter
- 1 small pkg. chopped walnuts
- Coconut

Melt together chocolate chips and butter; let cool until barely warm. In a large bowl, mix together marshmallows and walnuts. Add chocolate mixture and stir. Pour half of mixture onto a piece of foil sprinkled with coconut. Shape into log by rolling in coconut. Wrap and refrigerate until set. Repeat with other half of mixture. Unwrap to slice.

Donna Holland, Sioux Falls

Krazy Corn

- 1 bag hullless puff corn
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup corn syrup
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda

Place puff corn in a large roaster pan. Bring to a boil butter, brown sugar, corn syrup and salt. Boil on low 5 minutes without stirring; remove from heat. Stir in vanilla and baking soda. Pour over puff corn. Bake at 250°F. for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Spread out onto wax paper to cool.

Alana Neville, Milesville

Cowboy Christmas Biscuits

- 4 cups Bisquick
- 1 cup cultured sour cream
- 1 cup 7-Up
- 1/2 cup butter

Gently stir together the first 3 ingredients just enough to moisten. Melt butter in bottom of a 9x13-inch pan. Pat dough out in pan. Before baking, cut into 12 to 15 biscuit squares. Bake at 425°F. for 15 to 20 minutes. Serve warm.

Jane Ham, Rapid City

Chocolate Fudge

- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. semi-sweet baking chocolate
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 3 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 T. McCormick® Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1/2 cup toasted chopped walnuts

Line an 8-inch square pan with foil, allowing foil to extend over sides of pan. Spray with no stick cooking spray. Melt chocolate as directed on package. Beat cream cheese in large bowl with electric mixer until smooth. Gradually beat in sugar on low speed until well blended. Add melted chocolate and vanilla; mix well. Stir in chopped nuts. Spread evenly in prepared pan. Refrigerate at least 1 hour or until firm. Use foil to lift out of pan onto cutting board. Cut into 25 squares or triangles. Store in refrigerator.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 155, Total Fat 7g, Sodium 29mg, Cholesterol 10mg, Carbohydrates 21g, Dietary Fiber 1g, Protein 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Mystery Bars

- 40 soda crackers
- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 cups milk chocolate chips

Line a 15-in. x 10-in. x 1-in. baking pan with foil and coat with cooking spray. Place crackers in rows on foil. In a saucepan, melt butter; add brown sugar and bring to a boil. Boil for 3 minutes. Pour over crackers and spread until completely covered. Bake at 350°F. for 5 minutes or until crackers float and bubble. Spread chocolate chips over hot bars. Let set for a minute. Spread the chocolate evenly. Cut while still warm.

Verna Nelson, Wakonda

Indoor S'mores

- 2/3 cup light corn syrup
- 2 T. butter
- 1 (12 oz.) pkg. real milk chocolate chips
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 (10 oz.) pkg. Golden Grahams cereal (about 8 cups)
- 3 cups miniature marshmallows

Butter a 9x13-inch baking pan. In a 3-quart saucepan, heat corn syrup, butter and chocolate chips just to boiling, stirring constantly; remove from heat. Stir in vanilla. Pour over cereal in large mixing bowl; toss quickly until completely coated with chocolate. Fold in marshmallows, 1 cup at a time. Press mixture evenly in pan with back of buttered spoon. Let stand until firm, at least 1 hour. Cut into 1-1/2 inch squares – makes approximately 48 squares.

Carlene Barber, Pierre

Please send your favorite soup, brunch and seafood recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Director Nominating Petitions Available

Any member residing in District 4, Davison County, currently held by Darwin “Butch” Morrison; District 5, Hanson County, currently held by Mark Hofer; with an interest in serving on the Central Electric Cooperative Board of Directors should pick up and return a nominating petition for director at Central Electric’s Betts Road Service Center, Mitchell, within the dates provided.

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

District 4, Davison County

Petition Pickup Date: Monday, December 4, 2017
Petition Deadline: Friday, December 22, 2017
Election Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018
Meeting Location: Mitchell, SD

District 5, Hanson County

Petition Pickup Date: Monday, November 20, 2017
Petition Deadline: Friday, December 8, 2017
Election Date: Thursday, January 4, 2018
Meeting Location: Alexandria, SD

Qualifications of a Director

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

Director Qualifications

1. The candidate must be a natural person receiving electric service from the cooperative or meet the qualifications for corporate representation.
2. Must have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts.
3. While a Director, and during the five (5) years immediately prior to becoming a Director, not be, nor have been, convicted of a felony; or plead, nor have pled, guilty to a felony (to include a nolo contendere plea);
(Will be subject to a background check when elected)
4. Within six (6) years of becoming a Director, and unless excused by the Board for good cause, receive a Director Certificate or similar certification from

the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association;

5. Unless excused for good cause by the Board Members, attend at least ten (10) out of twelve (12) of the regularly scheduled monthly board meetings during any calendar year;
6. Comply with any other reasonable qualifications determined by the Board.

While a Director, a Director or Director Candidate must:

1. Be a member in good standing, and except for the Director at Large, permanently reside in the Director District from which elected; and
2. Have the Director’s primary residence served by the Cooperative or: provided that the operating or chief executive of any Member which is not a natural person, or designee, shall, notwithstanding that such member does not receive service from the Cooperative at such Member’s primary residence, be eligible to become a Director, from the Director District in which such Member is located, if such Member or its designee is in substantial permanent occupancy, direction of use of the premises served by the cooperative; and is a permanent and year round resident within or in close proximity to an area served by the

Cooperative, but provided further that no more than one (1) such person may serve on the Board of Directors at the same time; but provided further that no more than one (1) such person from any one (1) non-individual Member may serve on the Board of Directors at the same time.

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

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

Bylaws - Director Election

SECTION 4.05 Director Nominations

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

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

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

SECTION 4.06. Director Elections.

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

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

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

C. From the Nominating Petition Nominees.

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

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

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

H. If only one (1) nominating petition has been turned in for a Director position for which the incumbent Director's Director term is expiring, no election shall be held in that District and the Nominating Petition nominee shall be deemed elected as the Director from said District.

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

Section 4.07. Director Terms.

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



Sing a New Song

Christmas on the Prairie Brings Melodies to December Event

FOR ONE AFTERNOON EACH DECEMBER, THE POPULATION of Hoven, S.D., (population 408) swells as upwards of 1,000 people gather for the Christmas on the Prairie Concert.

Attendees listen to the soaring high notes and the trembling low tones that reverberate throughout the 96-year-old building as the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra joins with choirs and soloists for a memorable musical journey.

The concert has been held since 2003 at Hoven's St. Anthony of Padua Church, which is also known as the Cathedral on the Prairie.

According to a South Dakota Department of Tourism press release about the landmark, Saint

Anthony's 'Cathedral of the Prairie,' located in Hoven, S.D., was completed in 1921 at a cost of \$250,000. The value of the church was estimated at \$20 million in 2011. The church, believed to be patterned after churches typically found in Bavaria, boasts an intricate and ornate design that rivals any church for miles.

The nave seats more than 1,000 people, and the church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places under the original parish name of St. Bernard's.

One can see the church's spires from miles away in north central South Dakota. (The town of Hoven lies on the border of Potter and Walworth

Brenda Kleinjan



counties, northeast of Gettysburg and southeast of Selby.)

The 2017 concert will be the 14th annual pre-Christmas concert and will be held at 3 p.m. on Dec. 3. This year's offering is titled 'Hope is Born Emmanuel' with narration based on Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

The performance will feature the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra conducted by Thomas Fortner and two choirs: the Regional All-Faiths Festival Choir directed by Michael Coyne and Northern State University's Chamber Singers directed by Dr. Timothy Woods.

Musical performances will include professional soloist Juan Ahumada along with guest soloist Lilly Karrer. The entire program will be narrated by Darrel Fickbohm.

Ahumada is a tenor originally from Sioux City who will be singing with the Metropolitan Opera in January. Karrer, from Saint Louis, Mo., has ties to the area as her grandparents live in Hoven.

Proceeds from the concert help with the maintenance of the church building, said choral coordinator Mary Lou Keller.

"It's a constant thing. There is one section that needs to be repaired. It's a big job to keep it up," Keller said, noting that about 250 families are affiliated with the church.

Keller noted that the church was restored in the 1980s with 20,000 volunteer hours spent washing and restenciling the church.

"Without the volunteers, it would have cost us millions," she said.

That volunteer spirit helps keep the Christmas concert going.

"There are a lot of volunteers in Hoven," Keller noted. From the members of the choir, to the community members serving the post concert gala at the Legion Hall, many in the community get involved.

The concert has been held annually since 2003, with the exception of 2008 when a geothermal heating and cooling system was

being installed.

"We skipped 2008 because of the installation. It was a blessing, because there was a blizzard that year," Keller said, noting that favorable weather has graced the concert in the other years.

The 60-member All-Faiths Choir began rehearsing for their role in the concert in October. While not all members are able to attend every practice, they all come together for the concert.

"The choir represents 17 communities and they all love to sing. It's good camaraderie. The music is good for the body and the soul," Keller said.

Rehearsals are led by Coyne, a former Hoven High School band and vocal teacher. The choir will perform three selections with the NSU Chamber Singers.

But, Keller noted, all the components of the concert don't come together until just before the performance.

"The symphony orchestra comes the day of the concert and we all practice at 1 p.m. The doors open at 2:30 p.m. and concert is at 3 p.m.," Keller said.

"It always goes off well, but there is an extra adrenalin rush that gives it that success," she said.

"It's been a blessing that we've done it. It's evolved as an event," Keller said.

"The festival chorus becomes a family. There's something about the ethos of music that draws people. This is what I call good music. We're honored and pleased that we're able to do it," said Keller.

She does have one plea for that first Sunday in Advent, though:

"We pray for good weather!"

For more information, visit the event's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/158024474696708/> or go online to www.hovensd.com.



Christmas at the Cathedral

Enjoy great architecture and music with the 21st annual Christmas at the Cathedral Dec. 14 to 17 at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Sioux Falls.

Proceeds from the event will go toward the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House and the ongoing care and maintenance of one of South Dakota's most significant civic and sacred landmarks – the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Performance Dates:

Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017

7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 15, 2017

7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017

1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017

2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

About the St. Joseph Cathedral

Construction on the cathedral began in the summer of 1915. The primary architect's death in 1917 along with the start of the first World War slowed construction somewhat.

The cathedral was completed and dedicated on May 7, 1919.

Source: <http://www.stjosephcathedral.net/about-us/history-of-the-cathedral/>

Dec. 3 Christmas on the Prairie Ticket Information

General \$35 ~ Patron \$125

Premium Pews \$1,650 (seats 12) ~ Regular Pews \$1,100 (seats 12)

(Includes Gala Reception for Patron and Pew ticket holders)

Call 605-948-2451 for Visa or Mastercard orders

Or mail checks to St. Anthony's Church,, PO Box 98, Hoven, SD 57450

Your Benefit as Member-Owner: Capital Credits to be Retired

The Central Electric Board of Directors has approved a capital credit general retirement of \$500,000 for 2017.

Members with active accounts with Central Electric will receive their refund as a credit on the December bill. By doing this, your member-owned cooperative will save the cost of printing and mailing checks. Inactive members will receive a check.

Cooperative members are “owners” of the cooperative. As a non-profit cooperative, any margins are allocated back to members each year. Funds are retained by the cooperative to maintain cash flow and good financial standing. Then, the Board of Directors approves capital credit retirements when financially possible. That’s something customers of an investor-owned utility do not see.

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



RECIPES NEEDED FOR *THE* Country Cookin' Cookbook

Your recipe could be featured in the 34th volume of East River Electric's Country Cookin' cookbook! Help us create another great cookbook by submitting your favorite recipes as well as recipes for the cookbook's "Light Side" section.

**Submit recipes via email to kstone@eastriver.coop,
fax to 605-256-8057, or contact your local cooperative for
more information. Submission deadline is
Monday, January 29, 2018.**

Statement of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

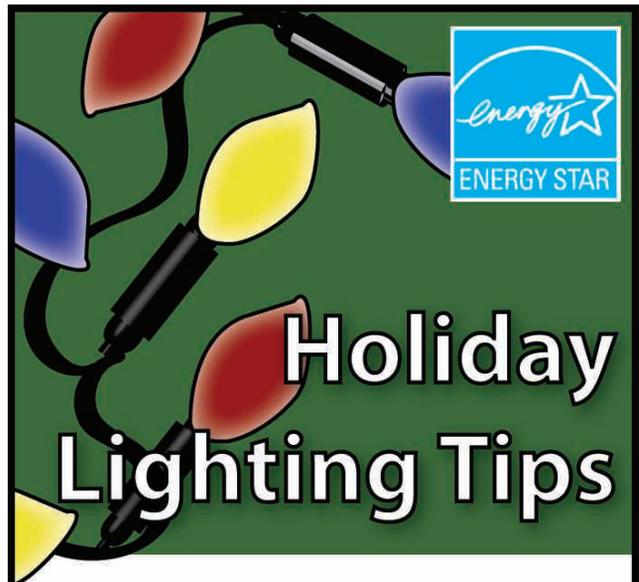
To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

Central Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Holiday Lighting Tips

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

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

Source: *ENERGY STAR*

**Savings estimate from Pacific Gas & Electric based on their testing and residential rates*

All Aboard!

Santa's Coming to Town

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN!

Colorful lights, hot chocolate, candy canes, Christmas music, Santa Claus and the wonderful feeling that tradition brings is part of the season. And many have made visiting the North Pole part of their Christmas tradition.

In the Black Hills, the 1880 Train in Hill City, S.D., has turned into the Holiday Express. This is a holiday train that takes families on a one-hour tour to visit the North Pole. Travelers will ride on the historical train route and hear a special Christmas story unique to the experience. They will also

receive hot chocolate and treats as well as a small gift for each child and a visit from Santa.

Holli Edwards, business development manager for the 1880 Train, said travelers are given the opportunity to relax in a heated car onboard the train while viewing the scenic hills and listening to a unique holiday story. She further described how holiday makers are afforded a view of the North Pole before Santa boards the train on the way back to the station in Hill City. At this time, Santa hands out goodies to the kids and poses for pictures.

When asked what makes the Holiday Express

Jocelyn Romey





special and unique, Edwards said, “It’s seeing the memories that are being created. Most of the people we see come year after year...creating memories generation after generation. They create a tradition during the holiday season.”

Edwards said about 9,500 people will ride on the Holiday Express this year – each trip accommodating 350 people. In all, 27 separate holiday trips will be made. Since this Christmas experience is popular for many families and tourists, she recommends travelers reserve tickets in advance in order to ensure a seat on the train.

After the last trip on Dec. 23, the 1880 Train closes until May 7, 2018, when it will re-open for its regular, 20-mile round trip route from Hill City to Keystone. This train follows a portion of the historical route created in the late 1880s to service mines and mills located throughout the hills. The 1880 Train operates two steam and one diesel engine throughout the season. It is owned by the Black Hills Central Railroad, created by stockholders interested in continuing steam railroading.

Along with the Holiday Express celebrating

Christmas, other special events are celebrated throughout the year on the 1880 Train. These special trips are made on holidays such as Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and July 4th.

Other special trips include Rails and Ales, Wine Express, Old West Shootouts, Oktoberfest Express and more.

Ticket reservations and information regarding the 1880 Train and its special event trips can be found through the main website – <https://www.1880train.com/>.

Above: 1880 Train staff prepare the “Santa Express” for an evening run. **Left:** The No. 7 engine sports a festive wreath during the holidays. **Below:** Santa makes a visit to passengers aboard the train.

Opposite Page: Santa and his elves pose for a photo with the train conductor.

High Energy Bills? Could be a common culprit.



Patrick Soukup
Manager of Member Services & Marketing

Every winter, we receive a handful of inquiries about higher than normal energy bills. In the majority of cases, a high energy bill is the result of one cause—high energy use. To avoid being surprised by a high energy bill this winter, be aware of these common culprits.

Space heaters – Radiant space heaters can consume lots of electricity without us realizing it! These heaters are normally 1,500 watts. If running a single 1,500-watt

heater for 24 hours a day, it can cost \$125 for a month! You can see the basic formula to figure costs in the diagram below (wattage/1,000 x Hours used x Cost per kWh).

Space Heater Example			
Step 1	1,500 watts/1000	=	1.5 kW
Step 2	1.5 kW x 24 hrs	=	36 kWh
Step 3	36 kWh x .10 cents	=	\$3.60 per day
	\$3.60 x 4.5% sales tax	=	\$4.14 per day
	\$4.14 x 30 days	=	\$124.20 per month

Electric Tank Heater for Livestock – If you have any type of electric tank heater for livestock, you may want to pay close attention to these as well. Heaters in water tanks come in various wattages. Most come in 500 watts with the larger ones ranging up to 1,500 watts. If these heaters run nonstop, it would cost approximately \$40 – 125 a month.

Block heaters on equipment – Plugging in equipment overnight for chores the next morning can also impact your electric bill. Use a timer to begin warming the equipment several hours before morning chores rather than leaving the equipment plugged in all night.

Hot tubs - Hot tubs can also cause high bills! The colder it gets outside, the more electricity it takes to keep the water warm. Be sure that your cover is well insulated and tightly sealed. Place a weighted object on top if needed. It sounds simple, but



Switching to LED bulbs would have saved Clark Griswold over \$400 a month to run his Christmas lights. Don't underestimate the impact of Christmas lights on your energy bill.

hot tubs have been estimated to cost anywhere from \$75 to \$150 in the coldest months of the year.

Christmas lights – Did you know it would have cost Clark Griswold about \$15 a day, or \$450 a month, to run his Christmas lights? While you might not be planning a Griswold Christmas, don't underestimate the cost savings of using LED lights. If Clark would have used LED bulbs, he could have run his lights for only 30 cents a day, or about \$9 a month.

A typical homeowner will put up lights at 1,000 watts and run them for 4 hours a day: 1,000 watts = 1 kW x 4 hours x 10 cents = 40 cents per day. That averages an extra \$12 on your electric bill for the month. My recommendation is to use LED bulbs and an outlet timer to make sure lights are turned off later in the evening.

Cold weather – The biggest culprit is plain and simple—cold weather. Your best defense involves buying some caulk and sealing any drafts. If you have heating equipment connected to the sub meter (which earns you the cheaper rate for kWhs), running that heating equipment will likely be more efficient than a space heater.

As your cooperative, we try to assist any member with their usage concerns. If you have additional questions, please call our office at 605-996-7516. Look for other energy saving tips at www.TouchstoneEnergy.com.



Lincoln Feistner

**Thank you for supporting your
service department and
for a successful year!**

Serving All Your Heating & Cooling Needs



Donn Koster



Wade Brozik



Aaron Punt

**Ductless Heating & Cooling Systems
Geothermal Heat Pump Systems
Duct Work Design & Installation
Small Commercial Systems**

Appliance Sales & Service



Ryan Bigge

**Featuring GE & Speed Queen
Appliances
Backed by Local Service**

Electrical Wiring Services



Dwight Keegel



Cody Poppin



Rodney Weber



Kevin Johnson



Daren Hoffer

**Residential Wiring - Agricultural Buildings
Grain Handling Systems - Lighting
Trenching Equipment - Electric Heating Systems**

Regional Dateline

November 24-December 23
1880 Train Holiday Express
Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

November 25
Holiday Celebration and
Winter Market, Rapid City, SD
605-716-7979

December 1
HOT 93.1 Ugly Sweater
Skate Party, Main Street
Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

December 1-2
Festival of Trees, Lead, SD
605-584-2067

December 1-2, 7-9, 14-16
Strawbale Winery Twilight
Flights, Renner, SD
605-543-5071

December 2
Christmas Stroll and
Holidazzle Parade
Spearfish, SD, 605-717-9294

December 2
Christmas Parade, Custer, SD
605-673-2244

December 2-3
Living Christmas Tree
Aberdeen, SD, 605-229-6349

December 3
Christmas on the Prairie
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic
Church, Hoven, SD
605-948-2451

December 11
Holiday Jam with the Hegg
Brothers, Pierre, SD
605-224-8699, holidayjam.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAD COPPERS, S.D. TOURISM

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

Events of Special Note

November 21-December 25
Christmas at the Capitol
Pierre, SD, 605-773-3178

December 15
Jazz Sessions: A Green Dolphin
Jazzy Christmas Concert
Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

December 9
Frontier Christmas
Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

December 9
Black Hills Cowboy Christmas
Lead, SD, 605-584-2067

December 15
HOT 93.1 Lights on the Ice Teen
Night, Main Street
Rapid City, SD 605-716-7979

December 15-17
Sioux Empire Wacipi
Sioux Falls, SD
310-922-1886

December 15-March 31
South Dakota Snowmobile
Trails Season, Lead, SD
605-584-3896

December 23
Skates and a Movie, Main
Street, Rapid City, SD
605-716-7979

December 31
HOT 93.1 Downtown
Countdown, Main Street
Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

December 31
Make-A-Wish New Year's Eve
Dance, Ramkota Hotel and
Convention Center
Aberdeen, SD, 605-370-4588

January 1
Portland Cello Project Concert
Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

January 19-20
ISOC Deadwood SnoCross
Showdown, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

January 26-February 4
Annual Black Hills Stock Show
and Rodeo, Rapid City, SD
605-355-3861

February 6-10
Winter Farm Show
Watertown, SD, 605-886-5814

February 9-10
Mardi Gras Weekend, Main
Street, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

February 15-17
Sno Jam Comedy Festival
Sioux Falls, SD
siouxfallssnojamcomedyfest@
gmail.com

February 16-18
2018 National Pheasant Fest
and Quail Classic
Sioux Falls, SD, 651-209-4933

February 24
Annual Outhouse Races and
Chili Cook-off Contest
Nemo, SD, 605-578-2708

March 3-6
Summit League Basketball
Championship, Sioux Falls, SD
605-367-7288

March 16-17, 23-24
60th Annual Schmeckfest
Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237