

# Cooperative Connections

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# We Want to Hear From You



**John Lee, CEO**

[jlee@butteelectric.com](mailto:jlee@butteelectric.com)

We live in a device-driven world. Our smartphones, tablets, laptops and an assortment of other devices help us communicate and connect. Companies spend billions pushing out a steady drumbeat of messages and information, and we are constantly bombarded with one-way communication. But is anyone listening on the other end?

At Butte Electric, we are not only listening, we are eager to hear from you. Whether you text us, respond to a survey or social media post, send an email or simply stop by and chat in person, we thrive on your feedback. Connecting with you helps us keep pace with our community's priorities and needs.

Because we are a cooperative, we have a different way of operating. Butte exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve. We hope you will consider us more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

You will notice that throughout the year, we create opportunities for you and other community members to attend co-op gatherings and events in order to hear from you. These include our annual meeting and other events like the annual block party, Butte/Lawrence County fair and our tailgate event which was held in Sturgis this year.

Our planning is led by local members just like you who understand the needs of the community and are looking out for the long-term interests of the larger community.

We are in the midst of significant changes in the energy sector, as technology and the drive for more renewables and a more balanced energy mix is impacting long-term planning. These are complex issues that we will be navigating in the coming months and years. This is why it's so important that we hear from you and other community members as we plot our course for the future.

Butte Electric works to continually learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community. But we can only improve, adapt and effectively plan for the future if we have two-way communication.

For our co-op and community to thrive now and in the future, we depend on hearing from you. I hope you will connect with us and let us know your perspective. You can always reach me directly at [jlee@butteelectric.com](mailto:jlee@butteelectric.com) or 605-456-2494 – I'm listening.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**Laundry Tip:** Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You'll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



**Butte Electric's offices will be closed Dec. 25 for Christmas and Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.**

Happy  
New Year



# Butte Electric

## Cooperative Connections

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## Electronic Gift Guide

By Abby Berry

This holiday season, give the gift of tech! If you're searching for the latest gadgets and electronics to gift but don't know where to start, we've got you covered.

Here's a list of ideas for your tech-savvy friends and family members, and with a range of prices and interests, there's sure to be something for everyone.

**Gifts for those on the go:** We all have that one friend who never stays in one place, so they'll appreciate gifts that keep them charged and entertained while on the go.

A portable charger (or power bank) can keep their smart phones and tablets juiced and the good news is this gift won't drain your wallet. You can purchase portable chargers online or at local retailers for as low as \$20. Typically, these compact devices can fully charge an iPhone three times before running out of steam.

A Bluetooth speaker is another great gift to keep those on the go entertained. Whether they're listening to their favorite tunes or watching the latest flick, Bluetooth speakers can clarify and amplify volume to satisfy any media enthusiast. Prices range depending on features, but you can purchase a quality Bluetooth speaker online or at local retailers for as low as \$30.

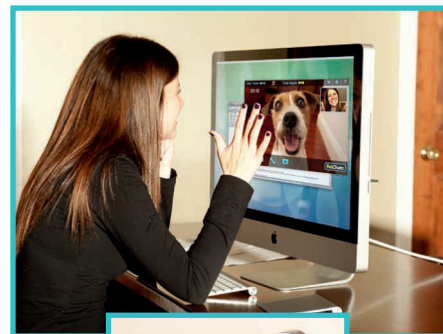
**Gifts for the chef:** Every foodie knows that temperature matters when mastering the perfect cut of meat. A Bluetooth-connected thermometer can help your chef ensure a delicious (and safe-to-eat) meal. Just download the associated app and keep an eye on the grill right from your smart phone or tablet. Prices vary from \$30 to \$200, but you can purchase these handy gadgets online or at any big box store, like Wal-Mart or Target.

A digital kitchen scale is a must for any culinary pro. No more guessing – the easy-to-read digital screen ensures the exact weight or amount required for that perfect dish. Prices vary depending on the weight the scale can handle, but you can find a 13-pound max weight scale for about \$20 on Amazon.com.

**Gifts for the pet owner:** Let's face it – pet owners would be lost without their fur babies. Luckily, pet tracking products continue to advance, so pet owners can always keep a watchful eye on their furry friends. Most trackers simply attach to your pet's collar. Prices vary depending on the tracker's capabilities, but some features include water resistance, health monitoring and exceptional battery life. You can purchase pet trackers online or at your local pet store.

Speaking of keeping an eye on pets, you can also purchase surveillance cameras for real-time monitoring – some cameras even allow you to toss treats to your furry friend while you're away. Additional features include a microphone (so you can talk to your pets), a built-in laser toy (for our feline friends) and the ability to snap a photo or take video from your smart phone. Prices vary depending on the bells and whistles, but you can purchase a pet camera for as low as \$40 on Amazon.com.

With so many electronics available today, you're sure to find the perfect gift for your tech-savvy loved ones. Happy shopping!



PetChatz

## Winter Electrical Safety Tips

In South Dakota and western Minnesota, December through March is a particularly hazardous time of year for storms and electrical power outages. Heavy snow, ice and wind can ravage power lines, both on the main power grid and at home. Add to that the increased use of home heating equipment such as space heaters and electric blankets and the potential for dangerous electrical hazards and home fires only intensifies.

Keep your home and loved ones safe this season by following these important winter electrical safety tips:

- **Use space heaters safely.** Keep them a minimum of three feet from furniture, bedsprads, drapes or clothes and never leave them unattended when they're on. Don't use extension cords with your space heaters and always unplug the heaters when they're not in use. Keep space heaters away from wet or damp areas and never touch a heater when your body is wet.
- **Use caution with electric blankets.** Never use an electric blanket while you're sleeping. Make sure the plug and cord are in good shape; otherwise it can pose a fire hazard. Be sure to dispose of electric blankets that have worn or damaged areas.
- **Be careful with your kitchen appliances.** While crockpots and other slow-cooking devices get a lot of use in the winter, you should never leave them turned on when no one is home. Leaving them unattended is a major fire risk. And be sure to check electrical kitchen appliances for frayed or damaged cords and plugs before use.
- **Make sure your home is equipped with functioning carbon monoxide detectors.** Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless gas that kills at high concentrations and causes serious and irreversible injuries at lower levels. Deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning increase during the winter months due to the use of common fuels like natural gas, wood and coal. Installing an inexpensive carbon monoxide detector can save your family's life.
- **Are your smoke alarms in working order?** It's important to make sure that you have an adequate number of smoke alarms throughout your home and that they are functioning properly. Simply push the test button to make sure it beeps and replace the batteries if needed.
- **Don't overload circuits or wattage.** Despite the shorter, darker days of winter, don't go above the recommended wattage for your light fixtures. Don't overload wall outlets either and only plug three-prong cords into three-prong outlets. Use extension cords sparingly and only for temporary purposes.
- **Have your home's electrical panel inspected by a licensed electrician.** Because electric usage goes up significantly in winter, you may need an upgrade in order to meet this increased demand.
- **Keep outdoor outlets closed.** Check your outdoor outlets regularly to ensure that they don't have an accumulation of ice and snow on them. Keep them cleared off and closed to avoid moisture from invading the receptacle box and causing an outage.

Source: [www.mrelectricians.us/best-winter-electrical-safety-tips](http://www.mrelectricians.us/best-winter-electrical-safety-tips)

✓ STOP AT THE BANK

✓ GRAB THE GROCERIES

✓ FIND MY POLLING PLACE

✓ REMEMBER TO VOTE

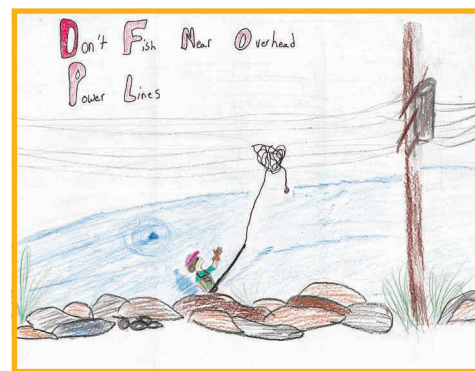


**CO-OPS VOTE**

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES  
WWW.VOTE.COOP

**ELECTION DAY  
NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

### KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Don't fish near overhead power lines"**

**Lily Gums, 14 years old**

Lily is the daughter of Dave and Kathy Gums, Clear Lake, S.D. They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative, Clear Lake.

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.

# Super Soups

## Leftover Turkey Chowder

4 slices bacon, chopped	1/4 cup flour
1/2 cup chopped onion	2 cups half-and-half
2 cups water	2 cups cubed cooked turkey
4 medium red potatoes, cut in 1/2-inch cubes (about 2 cups)	1 (8 3/4 oz.) can whole kernel corn, undrained
1 pkg. McCormick® Turkey Gravy Mix	1 tsp. McCormick® Sage, Rubbed

Cook bacon in large saucepan on medium heat until crisp. Add onion; cook and stir 3 minutes. Add water and potatoes. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 5 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Stir gravy mix and flour in medium bowl. Stir in half-and-half with wire whisk until smooth. Stir mixture into saucepan. Add turkey, corn and sage. Bring to boil on medium heat. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Makes 8 (1 cup) servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 258, Fiber 1g, Protein 16g, Cholesterol 68mg, Total Fat 14g, Sodium 427mg, Carbohydrates 17g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Crockpot Potato Soup

1 (30 oz.) bag hash browns	1/2 cup chopped onion
3 (14 oz.) cans chicken broth	1/4 tsp. pepper
1 can cream of chicken soup	1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese

Combine first 5 ingredients in crockpot. Cook on LOW 6 to 8 hours. Add cream cheese 1 hour before serving.

**Bonnie Weber, Aberdeen, SD**

## Taco Soup

1 lb. ground beef, browned and drained	1 (10.75 oz.) can tomato soup
1 can chili beans, undrained	1 soup can water
1 pkg. taco seasoning	Tomato juice

Combine all ingredients; heat through. Serve with shredded cheese, corn chips or crackers if desired.

**Velma Schmitz, Bonesteel, SD**

## Curried Pumpkin Soup

8 oz. sliced fresh or canned mushrooms	1 (15 oz.) can pumpkin
1/2 cup chopped onion	1 (12 oz.) can evaporated milk
2 T. butter	2 T. honey
2 T. flour	1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
1 tsp. curry powder	Salt and pepper
3 cups vegetable broth	

In a large saucepan, saute mushrooms and onions in butter until tender. Stir in flour and curry powder until blended. Gradually add broth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir 2 minutes or until thickened. Add pumpkin, milk, honey, nutmeg, salt and pepper. Heat through.

**White Tail Ridge Bed & Breakfast, Hermosa, SD**

## Cheddar-Ham Chowder

2 cups water	1/4 cup butter
2 cups cubed potatoes	1/4 cup flour
1/2 cup sliced carrots	2 cups milk
1/2 cup sliced celery	2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
1/4 cup chopped onion	1 (16 oz.) can corn, drained
1 tsp. salt	1-1/2 cups cubed, cooked ham
1/4 tsp. pepper	

In a large saucepan, bring first 7 ingredients to a boil; reduce heat. Cover and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes or until vegetables are just tender; remove from heat but do not drain. Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan, melt butter and blend in flour. Add milk all at once, cooking and stirring until thickened and bubbly. Add cheese, stirring until melted. Stir into undrained vegetable mixture. Return large saucepan to heat; add corn and ham. Heat through, stirring occasionally.

**Diane Fode, Rapid City, SD**

Please send your favorite brunch, seafood or appetizer/ beverage 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 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



# Start the New Year Right with Energy Savings



Pat Keegan

Collaborative Efficiency

**Here are energy-saving measures you can do right away and some for later.**

*Taking some of these easy steps now should provide some quick energy savings. To save even more, you'll need a plan that includes the "later" steps we've shared here. An energy audit can help you determine a much better plan and your electric co-op may be able to provide an audit or recommend a qualified local auditor.*

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).

**Dear Pat and Brad:** My neighbor claims they were able to cut their energy bills nearly in half. Is that even possible? What would I have to do to get there? It sounds like it would take a lot of time and money. – Luke

**Dear Luke:** The story you heard is not far-fetched. We've been involved with energy efficiency programs that have achieved those kinds of results. Let's talk about some energy-saving measures you can do right away and how you plan for greater savings down the road.

## Dial in savings.

**Now:** The first place to start is your home thermostat. In most homes, the largest portion of the energy bill goes toward heating and cooling. Setting back your thermostat by 7 degrees to 10 degrees for eight hours a day can save you up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling. In the winter, you could aim for 56° F at night and when no one is at home and 68° F when you're up and around. If you're used to a warmer house, it may mean throwing on a sweater or pair of slippers. It should be noted this tactic is not as effective for some homes with radiant heat systems.

**Later:** Make sure to adjust your air conditioning settings next summer. If you have a manual thermostat and don't always remember to adjust it, consider purchasing a smart thermostat or at least one that's programmable.

## Set refrigerator and freezer temps for efficiency.

**Now:** Make sure your refrigerator and freezer aren't set to a colder temperature than needed. The fridge should be at 38° F to 40° F and the freezer compartment should be 5° F. If you have a separate chest freezer, set it to 0° F. Also check your water heater setting. You should aim for a setting of 120° F.

**Later:** Old refrigerators and freezers can use a lot of electricity. If yours was made before 1993, you can save upwards of \$65 a year with a new ENERGY STAR® model. If you eliminate a second refrigerator or freezer, you can save even more, especially if they are stored in your garage.

## Maximize the heat you've got.

**Now:** Look around each room and make sure the vents and radiators aren't blocked by furniture or other objects. If the floors feel cold even when the room is warm, put down area rugs for additional warmth. Open curtains and blinds to let the sunshine in and close them at night.

**Later:** Enlist the help of an energy auditor or HVAC specialist to test for duct leakage and ensure your whole system is balanced and running efficiently.

## Make bright moves with your lights.

**Now:** The obvious first step is to make sure lights are turned off when they're not in use. You can do this manually or employ one of many automated strategies. If you're still using incandescent bulbs, you could switch the five most-used bulbs to LEDs and save about \$75 per year. LEDs last much longer and use about one-fourth as much energy. Prices on LED bulbs have decreased in the past few years and you can save more if you buy them in packs.

**Later:** Over time, plan to replace all your old incandescent bulbs and consider smart lighting options that can be programmed to turn off when a room is not in use.

## Eliminate drafts.

**Now:** Look carefully around your home for signs of air leaks. If you have a gap under an exterior door, you can block it with a towel or better yet, install some weather stripping. Make sure windows are sealed with caulk and you can also seal areas around plumbing and wiring penetrations.

**Later:** Have an energy auditor do a blower door test, which is the best to identify all air leaks.

# Fiegen Elected to SPP Leadership Spot

South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioner Kristie Fiegen was elected to serve as vice president of the Southwest Power Pool's Regional State Committee at the group's meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, in November.

Southwest Power Pool is a regional transmission organization that partners with member companies to manage the power grid, facilitate the wholesale purchase and sale of electricity and plan upgrades to transmission networks in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. Through these partnerships, SPP helps ensure the reliable supply of power, develop adequate transmission infrastructure and lower wholesale electricity prices.

The Regional State Committee is tasked with overseeing the fulfillment of the on-target, customer-driven goals of SPP as it provides bulk transmission, reliability and market services to transmission companies, utilities and end-use customers in the region. A member of each state's regulatory commission sits on this committee to provide input on matters of regional importance like recommending cost allocation policies that determine the amount electricity customers pay for the cost of building and operating transmission lines that cross several states in the SPP region.

"I am honored to be a part of the Regional State Committee," said Fiegen. "We are moving through a period of rapid change in the electrical supply industry. Given the value and cost of electricity in our daily lives, it's important for less populous states to have their voices heard as we navigate these changes. This leadership role allows me the opportunity to represent South Dakota's interests and ensure South Dakota consumers receive reliable and affordable electricity," she stated.

Fiegen is familiar with holding a leadership role on the committee having previously served as vice president and secretary.

Fiegen began serving on the PUC in August 2011 when Gov. Dennis Daugaard appointed her to fill a vacancy on the commission. She was elected to her first full, six-year term in November 2012 and re-elected in November 2018. Fiegen is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Gas and Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety, and serves on the Gas Technology Institute's Public Interest Advisory Committee.



**Kristie Fiegen**  
South Dakota  
Public Utilities  
Commissioner

## FEMA Can Assist With Furnaces, Wells and Septic Systems

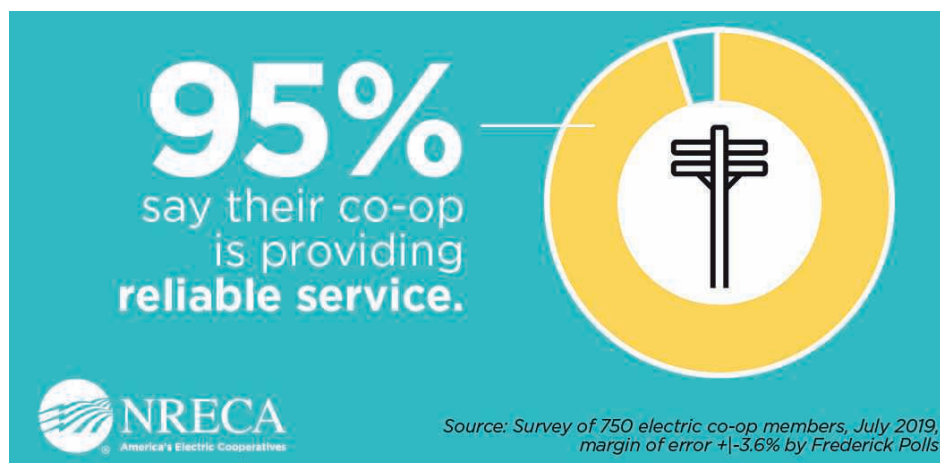
As the temperatures drop, the furnace becomes the most important appliance in the home. South Dakotans who had a furnace damaged by the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding between Sept. 9-26, should contact FEMA, even if they have already made repairs or purchased a replacement. FEMA can also help with wells and septic systems impacted by the disaster.

There are several ways to register:

- Go online to [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or [DisasterAssistance.gov/es](https://www.DisasterAssistance.gov/es) (for Spanish).
- Call the disaster assistance helpline at 800-621-FEMA (3362) or 800-462-7585 (TTY). Lines are open daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Help is available in most languages.
- At a Disaster Recovery Center. Visit [www.fema.gov/DRC](https://www.fema.gov/DRC) or call the helpline for a listing of open locations.

FEMA may pay up to the actual cost of the receipt or estimate for furnaces, wells and septic systems. If you have repaired or replaced the furnace, FEMA may provide assistance when valid estimates or receipts are submitted. If you have additional questions, contact the disaster assistance helpline number above or visit a disaster recovery center.

Individuals in Brookings, Charles Mix, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Moody and Yankton counties and the Flandreau and Yankton Indian Reservations are eligible to register for assistance.





Electric cooperatives are offering more than \$100,000 in scholarships for area students.

## COLLEGE AHEAD?

### Electric Cooperatives Offer Scholarships to Fuel College, Technical School Aspirations

**Brenda Kleinjan**

[editor@sdrea.coop](mailto:editor@sdrea.coop)

For more than 30 years, South Dakota's electric cooperatives have been helping fund the continuing education dreams of students planning to attend four-year colleges or technical schools.

Over the decades, the scholarships have funded students on their way to careers in education, medicine, government, energy and everything in between.

Through the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship Program, each cooperative that is a Basin Electric member cooperative awards a \$1,000 scholarship to the dependent of a co-op member. Additional scholarships through the program are available to the dependents of co-op employees

Several cooperatives offer scholarships to individuals to become electric line workers or electricians. These scholarships, in addition to those awarded by the South Dakota Rural Electric Line Superintendents Association, amount to more than \$10,000.





## Future Engineer?

### Nationwide Scholarship Available

Since its inception three years ago, the Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation Scholarship Committee has awarded almost \$10,000 in scholarships to individuals pursuing a career in engineering.

This annual opportunity would not be possible without the foresight and generous contributions of the IEEE: Rural Electric Power Committee (REPC). Together, we hope to support future engineers with an interest and passion for defining and solving the electric utility challenges of the future, specifically in the rural parts of America.

### Dates & Deadlines:

- Applications will be accepted starting on Dec. 14, 2019.
- The deadline for application submission is 11:59 p.m. EST on May 15, 2020.
- Winners are selected by a scholarship committee and announced after the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association summer board meeting in Mid-July, 2020.
- Awards are distributed in August/September, 2020.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a US Citizen
- Applicant must be enrolled in an ABET, four-year program of electrical engineering or electrical engineering technology, and have at least a 'B' average in major subjects.
- Applicant must be enrolled as a full-time student.
- Applicant must have already received academic credits equal to at least one year of college.

### Essay Requirement Information

- To be considered for the Engineers of the Future Scholarship, you must submit an essay using the following requirements as your guide:
  - Essays need to be between 1,000 and 1,500 words.
  - Essays must describe, in detail, plans to pursue a career as an electrical engineer, with an emphasis in electric power, in an electrical utility serving a rural area.
  - Essays must demonstrate knowledge of the unique challenges facing the electric industry in Rural America and describe how you might address these issues as an engineer.

But, the majority of scholarship money available from the region's electric cooperatives are not tied to a specific program of study.

A study released this summer by WalletHub.com found that South Dakota has the highest rate of student loan debt of any state in the country while Minnesota finished sixth on the list.

The study, performed by consumer finance website WalletHub.com, had researchers analyze 12 different measures of indebtedness, including average student debt, number of students with debt, and unemployment rate.

South Dakota had the highest proportion of students with debt, and was fourth highest when it

came to percentage of student loan borrowers over age 50.

Some of the scholarships offered by electric cooperatives require that students be in high school, while other scholarships are designed for students that may be returning to school.

Additionally,

students selected to represent their local electric cooperative on the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., are eligible for a \$10,000 Glenn English Foundation Scholarship. Students can apply for the undergraduate scholarship once they have completed one semester of college or technical school.

Deadlines for local scholarships vary, so check with your local electric cooperative for details.

**South Dakota led the nation in student loan debt, according to a national study.**

Of the scholarships being offered by electric cooperatives, more than \$10,000 is dedicated to students seeking energy-related careers.





# Help us Find These People

The following members were unable to receive their capital credit checks.

If you know the current address or phone number of anyone

Abel, Bill	Biberdorf, Lowell and Barbara	Calvert, Marilyn	Cornett, Earl	Eddy, Sheila	Gleason, Randy and Marcie
Abernthy, Taggart C	Bicek, Tony and Tina	Canyon Gateway Motel %Lloyd Enterprises Inc	Colstello, Tom	Elshire, Glen A	Goethals, George
Ager, Silvie	Bidwell, Sue	Canyon Gateway Motel %Wayne Kirschmann	Cowan, Tim and Marlena	Ely, Jim	Goetsch, Marty and Julie
Albright, Greg	Bilharz, Greg and Kim	Canyon Inn %Bruno Inc	Cramer, Russ and Mary	Erskin, Dan	Goodale, Rory and Marty
Alcorn, Jim	Bischoff, Gary and Mrs	Carlson, Dan and Karen	Crist, Lester and Helen	Esquibel, Todd	Goodvin, Gary
All American Inn, Ridgepoint	Blanford, Misti	Carr, Michelle	Cudmore, Debbie	Euwer, Archie	Graham, Jan
Amundson, Brian	Boe, Dale	Carroll, Alan	Current, Michael	Falde, Randy	Gregory, Autumn
Allard, Bruce	Bond, Jack J	Carter, Michael	Davies Development	Fandrick, Dave	Green, Jody
Anderson, Patsy	Boortz, Ron and Janet	Chafee, Duane	Davis, Kurt L	Fanning, Regan	Griffith, Jackie
Anderson, Wanda	Bosch, Brian	Chandler, Jim and Helen	Davis, Robert E	Farmer, James	Grignon, Charles M
Arnold, M.f. and Florence	Bossert, Don	Chapel, Mitchell and Deatta	Deen, Justus and Lisa	Fees, Randy	Grisel, Hilton and Myra
Aspen, Lucille	Bottge, Merald and Neola	Charter, Chet	Deer, Travis	Fenenga, Jim and Kay	Gruwell, Jerry and Marie
Atchison, Susan	Bouzek, Doyle J	Chase, Gary and Gayle	Degroat, Robert	Fideler, Loren and Linda	Guilmette, Phil and Elizabeth
Attaway, Michael	Brakeman, Maurice	Chitwood, Terryl and Debra	Delameter, Jay	First Baptist Church/Sturgis	Haivala, Bret and Haivala Hall, Rus
Auen, Hugo and Jeanette	Brandenburg, Don and Dorothy	Christensen, Bryce	Delarosa, Guadalupe	First Presbyterian Church/Spearfish	Hall, Summer
Austin, Loretta	Braun, James and Viola	Christensen, Layne	Deleo, Carol	Five Star Rentals	Hallock, Joyce
Aye, Willis	Brence, Melinda	Christensen, Steven	Delilla, Ed and Helen	Forthman, Dennis	Hammill, Bob and Terry
Babb, Greg and Shelly	Broderick, Michelle	Christenson, Deborah	Denevan, Dion and Susan	Forthman, Karen and Dennis	Hannah-Spencer, Mellissa
Bachman, Cecil	Brodeur, Bob	Clauser, Marilyn	Denherder, Paul	Foster, Lisa and Jay	Hanzlik, Sam
Backes, Charlotte	Brooks, Gerri	Clemetson, Darci and Dana	Dennis, John and Sabrina	Frame, Jim and Thelma	Hardy, Lynn and Kya
Baker, George W	Brown, Karen	Coleman, Stephanie	Dexter, Roger	Frankfurt, Marva	Harford, Mike and Cynthia
Baker, Stan	Bulthaup, Kathy	Colgrove, Steven	Diefenderfer, David and Kami	Frasier, Paul and Julie	Harper, Renee
Baird, Tim	Burdick, Tom	Colling, Larry and Jane	Dominiack, Terry K	Fritz, Chris A	Harris, Bertha
Barnes, Billy	Burk, Willie and Marjorie	Collins, Gary	Donadio, John and Janet	Forelich, Jerrold	Harris, Dennis
Barnette, Ken	Burton, Rick and Patti	Collins, Lee R	Donath, Harro D	Fundaun, Parnell	Harris, Henry
Bartels, Robert	Bushnell, Dawn	Coneley, Esther J	Downing, Tim	G and C Construction	Harrison, Porter D
Bauman, Karon	Buss, Brent	Conrad, Christopher W	Dress Barn/Maurices	Gallaher, James and Linda	Hart, Richard
Bechtold, James	Busse, Richard	Corbin, Deloris	D'spain, Bob and Tamara	Geddes, Todd	Hartje, John and Lynn
Bendickson, Lisa	Butler, Fred		Duling Optical	Gibson, Pete and Alicia	Harwood, Charity
Bentz, Bill	Caddey, Eric		Dunbar, K.m.	Gifford, Don	Heckert, Mark
Bercier, Monte	Calhoon, Tom		Durbin, Danny	Gillaspie, Stacie and Jim	Hedrich, Gil
Bertsch, Steve and Karen	Callahan, Daniel E		Eaton, Melvin		
Bettelyoun, Junior			Eckard, Lewie and Lela		



Heemstra Lumber and Equip %Wayne Heemstra	Cherlyne Knuteson, Chris Knutson, Lance and Trudy	Meverden, Jay Sr Miller, Ralph and Bonnie Miller, Tara	Quintus, James and Roxane Quittschreiber, Bruce and Cindy	Shouldis, Cami Shultz, Gene and Patsy Sigle, Dave	Tomac, Lloyd and Lorraine Tripson, Liz Trytten, Craig and Vicki	
Heinbaugh, Ron Herrmann, Bonnie Hesse, Carol Hewitt, David and Candace	Kruse, Colleen Koepp, Carl and Patricia Koerber, Meri Krueger, Ken E Krumm, Lonnie Kruse, Stanley Kubo, Tim	Miller, Victor and Viola Moelter, Tammy Moore, Cecil Morrison, Lisa and Robert Morton, Stuart Mudlin, Sam and Susan Mueller, Ronald	Raga, Linda Rand, Rick Reder, Margaret Reed, Mary Reed, Rick and Theresa Reetz, Barb Reeves, Everett and Melissa	Simmons, Michelle Simmons, Richard and Ky Simons, John L and Patricia Sluce Restaurant %David Gonzalez Smith, David Smith, Ron Smith, Richad and Marilyn	Tuel, Roy and Vernita M Turbiville, Rose Ann Tyler, Connie Udager, Barb Ulmer, Kelly Ulvestad, Larry and Linda Umenthum, Rebecca	
Hill, David Hirsch, William Hoffman, Bill and Loree Hoffman, Gregory and Pamela Hoffman, Ron and Fae Holiday Inn Northern Hills Holt, Susan Holso, Jim Holter, Bob Holy Nativity Monastery Holzwarth, Bruce Hooker, Elizabeth Hopkins, Ann Houck, David Hough, Susan Hubbard, Glen Hullinger Oil %Richard Hullinger Hulm, Andy Hunter, M.I. and James Ihle, Patty Inman, Randy Inter Mountain Contract Iverson, Lon Jacobs, James and Kelly Jacobs, Roger and Michelle Jarvis, Cindy Jensen, Scott Johnson, Bill Johnson, Donn Johnson, Jerry and Robbin Johnson, Linda J Johnson, Steve Johnson, Will and Wynonna Kaiser, Greg Keene, Florence I Kelly Inn Sign Keune, Fred Kiefer, Don and Mike Kindsfater, Dave and Nadine Kindsfater, Lydia King, Victoria Kinney, Bob Kirchgesler, Diane Kjos, Pete Kluck, Kenneth and	Laborde, Jim Laisy, Norman Lambert, Alan and Linda Lambert, Jeff and Roxanne Langer, Susan Lassle, Bob Lavoy, John and Denise Lawrence, Cindy Lee, Brett Lee, Lynn Leetch, Vicky Lenkersdorfer, Jay Lenzner, Gretchen Leonhardt, Floyd Lewis, John and Norma Lindstad, Mae Logan, John and Gina Lyons, Jim Magic Car Magnuson, Jessie Mailloux, Jerry Manke, Mike and Barb Martin, James R and Eleanor Marsolek, Kelly Marzolf, Rita Matkins, Dennis and Jan Mauch, Harry Mcclary, Earl and Sally McClellan, Louise Mccolley, Michael Mconville, Bryan and Jill Mconville, Leo and Kelly Mcgrath, Matthew and Janice Mckeown, Patrick and Debra Mckiney, Jane Mcknight, Elsie Mclaughlin, Hazel Mclaughlin, Todd Mcmurphy, Anita Mcnulty, Barry and Lisa Mcperson, Harvey and Marlene Medley, George and Joyce Merchen, Loren and Julie Merritt, Carroll	Nelson, Carolyn Nissen, Abner Nissen Feed and Seed Nobel Sysco Food Service Nohava, Lloyd Norman, Bill and Sandy North Sturgis Auto/Truck Northpark Racquet Club %Robert S Nyvold, Elmer and Patricia Ochsner, Russell O'connor, Eugene O'dell, Doyle Odle, Chris Odle, Trinee Ohnemus, Mary O'laughlin, Linda Ollila, Melvin Olson, Ad and Joann Olson, Donna Olson, Terrance Otto, David Oyler, Randy and Effie Parden, William G Parent, Robert L Pauley, Katherine Pawlowski, Clayton Peck, Ray Perron, William F Peterson, Helen Peterson, Jim and Tammy Peterson, Paul E Peterson, Ron and Debbie Peterson, Richard W Petik, Bob Piccolo's Pizza %Steve L Pickett, Donald and Teresa Pine Mountain Homes %Bob Bates Pool, Merle K and Patricia Presuhn, Scott and Lana Price, John Proudfoot, Charles Puetz, Gary and Renee Quall, Mick and Jean	Reiman, Allen Reimnitz, Gerhard and Elizabeth Reinholdt, Derek Rhine, Karen Richards, Vallin Richardson, Rick and Jean Riebe, Valarie Rock, Orville and Ella Rogers, Dan and Virginia Rogers, Greg and Brenda Rogers, Pauline and Scott Rose, Jerry Ross, Lloyd and Frances Roth, Dan and Joy Roush, Robert Royer, Charles Runge, Bill Rushmore Transport Inc Russo, Michael and Ruth A Ryan, Richard and Yvonne Sartorius, Randy Sayler, William Shcaefers, Robert Scheele, Carl J Schell, Larry Schrez, Chris Schild, Paul and Phyllis Schoepf, Loy Schulz, Chuck and Linda Schultz, Kim Schulz, Virgil and Deborah Schumacher, Bryan Schumacher, John Schunneman, John T and Doris Seaman, David Selzler, Alan Severson, Dori Sewright, Betsy Shaff, Wallace Shamion, Edward and Yvonne Shevling, lone and Gene	Reeves, Everett and Melissa Reichert, Raymond Reiman, Allen Reimnitz, Gerhard and Elizabeth Reinholdt, Derek Rhine, Karen Richards, Vallin Richardson, Rick and Jean Riebe, Valarie Rock, Orville and Ella Rogers, Dan and Virginia Rogers, Greg and Brenda Rogers, Pauline and Scott Rose, Jerry Ross, Lloyd and Frances Roth, Dan and Joy Roush, Robert Royer, Charles Runge, Bill Rushmore Transport Inc Russo, Michael and Ruth A Ryan, Richard and Yvonne Sartorius, Randy Sayler, William Shcaefers, Robert Scheele, Carl J Schell, Larry Schrez, Chris Schild, Paul and Phyllis Schoepf, Loy Schulz, Chuck and Linda Schultz, Kim Schulz, Virgil and Deborah Schumacher, Bryan Schumacher, John Schunneman, John T and Doris Seaman, David Selzler, Alan Severson, Dori Sewright, Betsy Shaff, Wallace Shamion, Edward and Yvonne Shevling, lone and Gene	Springer, Patricia and Mark D Standing Soldier, Sharon Stark, Betty Stauss, Gus Steele, Tom and Pam Steffens, Brent Strangerhorse, Cinnamon Stroschein, Arnold Stroschein, Lyndia Strong, Dennis Sturgis Corner Pantry Summers, Danae Sundburg, Jerry and Elizabeth Super 8 %Davies Development Swallow, Lisa J Swanhorst, David and Betty Swanhorst, Eldon and Karen Swanson, Robert E Swarts, Jerry D Swatman, Milton and Margaret Taggart, Steve and Lauri Talley, Allen R Tan Of The Tropics Tarrant, Karen and Clay Tennis, Ron and Belinda Terkildsen, Lavern and Dianne Thomas, Mary K Thompson, Ww and Sons Thoresen, Daniel and Geneva Thurston, Mark and Victoria	Vinasdale, Stephen and Jennifer Vodopich, Kevin and Ramona Vollmer, Ken Voyles, F.J. and Alyce Voyles, R.s. and Joyce Wade, Mrs Roy Wagner, Linda Wagner, Mike and Jeanne Wall, Betty Wall, Tony Walters, Emery and Jackie Ward, Marian Wardell, Kristi and Ardie Washburn, Lisa Webb, Jim R Jr Welch, Keith Wendland, Dane and Renada Western Gas Resources Westland, Crystal Whalen, Donna Whartman, Duane Whitewood Iron %Rudy and Linda Henning Wicks, Zane Wiemals, John A Wilhm, Jim Williams, Charles and Kathryn Yeager, Avis Young, Mrs Dale Young, Glen Young, Lisa Young, Tracy Young, Steve and Billie J Youngquist, Rex Zebroski, Amy Zibell, Charles and Margaret

# Technical Schools, Colleges Ready the Workforce

Variety of programs offered for in-demand careers

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

Each year, more than 10,000 people head to area technical schools and technical colleges to develop the skills employers in the region are seeking.

South Dakota's four technical schools – Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls and Western Dakota Technical Institute in Rapid City – have been serving students in the region for the last century, with three of the schools starting in 1968 and the fourth starting in 1969. Neighboring states have similar offerings at schools within easy driving distance of South Dakota.

This fall, Lake Area's campus at Watertown, S.D., was at capacity with 2,228 students. The school notes that students have a 99 percent placement rate after graduation.

Nearly 1,200 students attend Mitchell Tech which notes that 99 percent of its graduates find employment or continue their education. The school also notes that 82 percent of its grads stay in the Rushmore State.

For Southeast Tech's 2017-2018 graduates, the school said that 95 percent are employed or continuing their education, with 95 percent of those employed were employed in a field related to their Southeast Tech program.

Western Dakota Tech is the only technical college serving the western half of the state. It notes that 96 percent of its most recent graduates are working, continuing their education or enlisting in the military.



Among the programs offered at Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D., is South Dakota's only power line program for training future line workers.

## National Leaders

Technical colleges across the region have been recognized for excellence in their field.

The \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, awarded every two years, is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. With a singular focus on student success, the Prize highlights institutions with outstanding achievements in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and high-levels of access and success for students of color and low-income students.

In November, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named the nation's top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges.

Eleven schools based in Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota made the list:



# Minnesota West Community & Technical College

Technical education needs in southwestern Minnesota have been served by the campuses of Minnesota West Community and Technical College for more than 75 years.

The college has five campuses: Canby, Granite Falls, Jackson, Pipestone and Worthington in addition to centers in Luverne and Marshall.

The college offers a wide array of ever-changing programs and services, including career and transfer preparation, industry and customized training, community education, athletics, performing arts, student organizations, clubs, and personal enrichment. The school provides students opportunities to earn an associate degree, diploma or certificate in more than 60 disciplines, plus convenient campus locations throughout southwest Minnesota as well as online learning opportunities.

The school boasts of its small class sizes, personalized attention and focused, hands-on learning. Its technical programs provide students with the practical skills to begin successful careers in a variety of industries immediately upon graduation. Liberal arts programs at Minnesota West are a great starting point for careers or further study in numerous fields. Credits earned in our associate of arts and associate of science programs are designed for seamless transfer to other Minnesota State institutions.



Lake Area Tech in Watertown was nationally recognized as a top community college.

## ■ MINNESOTA

- Alexandria Technical and Community College
- Minnesota State Community and Technical College
- Northland Community and Technical College
- Ridgewater College
- Saint Paul College

## ■ NEBRASKA

- Central Community College
- Northeast Community College

## ■ NORTH DAKOTA

- Bismarck State College
- North Dakota State College of Science

## ■ SOUTH DAKOTA

- Mitchell Technical Institute
- Southeast Technical Institute

Based on strong and improving student outcomes – including in learning, completion rates, employment rates and earnings, and equity – 15 percent of community colleges nationwide have been invited to apply for the Aspen Prize. Data show that over the last two years, student retention, graduation rates, and degree completion have improved at the top tier of 150 Aspen Prize-eligible colleges.

The 150 community colleges named in November 2019 as eligible to compete for the 2021 Prize were selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide using publicly available data on student outcomes. Located in 39 states in urban, rural, and suburban areas,

serving as few as 500 students and as many as 75,000 students, these colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector.

The top 10 finalists for the 2021 Aspen Prize will be named in May 2020. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data, including employment and earnings data. A distinguished jury will make award decisions in

**Lake Area Technical School in Watertown, S.D., was the 2017 Aspen Prize winner, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges.**

spring 2021.

Lake Area Technical School in Watertown, South Dakota, was the 2017 Aspen Prize winner. In the 2017-2018 school year, Minnesota West was one of 150 top community colleges nationwide competing for the Aspen Prize while MTI was a 2019 Top 10 finalist.





When the South Dakota Legislature convenes in January, it will transform several ideas into legislative bills, some of which will become state law.

# WHERE DOES A BILL COME FROM

## Legislative Research Council

<http://sdlegislature.gov>

When state legislators are in Pierre every year for the annual legislative session, the majority of their time is spent discussing ideas for changes in state law. Ideas vary from changing only a word or two of a current law, an entire section of law, getting rid of a current state law, or creating a new law.

All of the ideas, regardless of their size or scope, must be presented to the Legislature in the form of bills. Bills are simply the ideas recorded on paper in a prescribed format.

Only legislators and legislative committees may present or introduce bills to the Legislature. However, ideas for bills come from a multitude of sources. First, legislators have their own ideas for bills stemming from their expertise in certain fields, experiences they have had, or observations they have made. Special interest groups are another source of ideas. Members of these groups often ask legislators to sponsor bills promoting their interests.

Many ideas for bills come from government agencies. Each year several bills are introduced at the request of the Governor or on behalf of a department in state government. Those who work closely with state law are often able to

recommend ways to improve it.

Finally, ideas for bills come from those individuals represented by the legislators, the constituents who live in their districts. The next step is to put an idea into the form of a bill. Anyone can draft a bill, but the rules of the Legislature require that all bills be in the proper form and style.

A legislator wishing to introduce a bill generally brings the idea or a draft of the proposed bill to the Legislative Research Council, where staff members will either draft the bill or make final preparations on the bill drafted by others.

The legislator who begins to move the bill through the legislative process is known as the prime sponsor. The prime sponsor may introduce the bill independently or seek other legislators to act as co-sponsors of the bill. Senate bills have senators as prime sponsors, and House bills have house members as prime sponsors. However, members of either house may co-sponsor any bill.

Bills may not be introduced until the first day of a legislative session. However, those elected to serve in the upcoming Legislature may pre-file bills with the Legislative Research Council, up to 30 days in advance of the first legislative day. Interim committees may pre-file legislation under the names of individual legislators who served on the committee.



The rules require executive agencies to pre-file any legislation they wish to have considered. A bill in proper form consists of three main parts: the title, the enacting clause, and the body.

- The title gives the reader a brief summary of the subject of the bill. The SD Constitution dictates that bills embrace only one subject, and that subject must be expressed in the title.
- The enacting clause, “BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,” is also required by the SD Constitution and indicates that everything listed below it is to become the law of the state.
- The body is the remainder of the bill, the part that will actually become law, if passed. It is divided into sections to make it easier to read and to reference.

In addition to the three main parts, a bill also includes a list of sponsors and a number. The name of the prime sponsor always appears first on the bill and then the co-sponsors are alphabetically listed. If a committee is sponsoring a bill, then only the name of the committee is listed. A number is assigned to the bill upon introduction and is used to identify the bill as it works its way through the process.

During session, legislators spend a majority of their time discussing bills, but bills are not the only proposals that come before the Legislature. Legislators may introduce commemorations and resolutions. Commemorations express legislative recognition and listed below are four types of resolutions that may be introduced:

- A simple resolution is unique in that it pertains to and is acted on by only one house. It is used primarily to express an opinion, gratitude, or condolences, or to make a request of the other house.
- A concurrent resolution expresses an opinion of the Legislature, but it has no force of law. Often it is used to persuade Congress to act in a certain way or to make a request of the Governor or a government agency.
- A joint resolution is, by law, used to propose changes to the SD Constitution and submit them to the voters at the next election. It is also used to ratify or propose amendments to the United States Constitution. Unlike the previous two types of resolutions, a joint resolution only contains matters of legislation.
- A resolution of disapproval allows the Legislature to disapprove of any reorganization of the executive branch done by the Governor during the preceding year. It is the newest type of resolution and used less frequently than the others.

# How An Idea Becomes Law in South Dakota

## Idea

- A bill is simply an idea that someone would like to see become law.
- It could be anything from the penalty for committing a crime to the amount of money that can be spent on a state program.
- The idea can come from anyone, but only a State Representative or State Senator can take the idea and guide it to final passage through the State Legislature.

## Drafting

- The drafting of the idea into a bill is done by the Legislative Research Council, the permanent, non-partisan staff of the Legislature.
- A bill may be filed by any member of the House or Senate, and generally more than one legislator will sponsor a bill. The legislator whose name appears first on the bill is the “prime sponsor.”

## Introduction

- A bill is given to the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate and is assigned a number. If the bill is sponsored by a Senator, it is a Senate Bill. If the bill is sponsored by a Representative, it is a House Bill.
- The bill is given a First Reading in the “House of Origin.” The “House of Origin” is the chamber that sponsored the bill.
- At a First Reading the bill’s number and title are read aloud.
- The Senate President Pro Tempore or Speaker of the House then assigns the bill to a committee.

## Committee

- A committee’s responsibility is to examine a bill carefully, take testimony for and against the bill, and decide what to do with the bill.
- The committee has the following options:
  - Send the bill to the floor with a “Do Pass” recommendation,
  - Amend
  - “Table” the bill, which kills the bill, unless the full body orders the committee to send the bill to the floor (“Smoke-Out”), or
  - Defer the bill to the day after the last Legislative Day, which also kills the bill.

## Debate

- If a bill reaches the floor, it is debated and voted on by the body.
- If it passes, the bill is sent to the other body, where it goes through the same introduction and committee processes.

## Law

- If a bill passes both the House and Senate, it is sent to the Governor.
- If signed by the Governor, the bill becomes law.
- If vetoed by the Governor, the Legislature has an opportunity to decide whether to override or uphold the veto.
- If the Legislature succeeds in overriding the veto, the bill becomes law.

<http://sdlegislature.gov/docs/studentpage/idealaw.pdf>

## October 19-January 5

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

## November 22-January 5

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

## November 26-December 26

Christmas at the Capitol, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3178

## December 7-24

Christmas Shoppers Village, Includes many area artisans, Open every day during business hours, High Plains Western Heritage Center, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-9378

## December 15-March 31

South Dakota snowmobile trails season, Lead, SD, 605-584-3896

## December 19-21

Strawbale Winery Twilight Flights, Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

## December 21-24, 27-28

1880 Train Holiday Express, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

## December 22

"Campfire Concerto" High Plains Live! Featuring: Paul Larsen, Kenny Putnam, Boyd Bristo & Chet Murray, 2 p.m., Tickets: \$30, All Seats Reserved, High Plains Western Heritage Center, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-9378

## December 31

Make-A-Wish New Year's Eve Benefit and Dance, Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center, Doors Open at 7 p.m., Aberdeen, SD, 605-370-4588

## January 24-25: Pro Snocross Races, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876



Photo courtesy: travelsouthdakota.com

## January 10

Taste of Sturgis, Sturgis City Auditorium, Sturgis, SD, 605-347-3233

## January 12

Yoga on the Ice, Main Street Square, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

## January 14-15

Paw Patrol Live! Race to the Rescue, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Barnett Arena, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

## January 16-17

Media One Funski, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-339-0000

## January 17

Justin Moore & Tracy Lawrence, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Barnett Arena, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

## January 18

Lakota Games on Ice, Prehistoric Indian Village, Mitchell SD, 605-996-5473

## January 18

Heroes Skate Day, Main Street Square, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

## January 31-February 2

12th Annual Winterfest of Wheels, Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-231-3100

## January 31-February 2

Winterfest, Lead, SD, 605-584-1100

## January 31-February 9

Annual Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo, Rapid City, SD, 605-355-3861

## February 1

Lake Hendricks Fishing Derby, Hendricks, MN, 507-828-2113

## February 1

Living History Fair, Brookings Renegades, Lake Area Technical Institute, Watertown, SD, 605-693-4589, dhuebner@itctel.com

## February 10-16

Frost Fest, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6125

## February 14

Snow Ball, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6700

## February 21

KORN and Breaking Benjamin, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

## February 21-22

Mardi Gras Weekend, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

## February 26

The Harlem Globetrotters, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Barnett Arena, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

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.