

We Have a Winner!

Rysavy received \$1,000 scholarship

John Rysavy is a young man with big plans for the future. The Army National Guard, a 4-year college degree, ROTC training, and a dream job with the FBI or CIA are what he has his sights set on. As the winner of this year's Basin Electric scholarship, he will receive \$1,000 to help him along on the path to his dreams.



John is a senior at Wagner Community School, and is the son of Randy and Julie Rysavy of rural Wagner. In addition to being the top student in his class with a 4.0 GPA, he rounds out a rigorous academic schedule with a full slate of activities ranging from sports to band/chorus, FFA, and more. He is an Eagle Scout, a member of the National Honor Society, and a Boys State attendee. He has been recognized by both the governor and the President for academic excellence. Outside of school, he regularly donates his time to many church and community projects and activities.

John recently joined the South Dakota National Guard as the first stepping stone to his future career. He will actually defer college for one semester while he completes his basic and advanced training. He then plans on

attending the University of South Dakota to pursue a degree in criminal justice and forensic science, along with a minor in psychology. While a student, he plans to also enroll in the ROTC program, in the hopes of becoming a commissioned officer. These are all steps John knows are necessary to one day work for the FBI or CIA. John adds that returning to school at some point for a higher degree may also be in his future.

John's character reference wrote that his "achievements attest to his resolve and organization far above that of his peers. At the same time, it would be difficult to find a more modest young man." After reviewing his application, it is obvious that John is a focused individual who has the determination, the ability, and the leadership skills to make these lofty ambitions a reality.

Naasz in New Orleans

Rebecca Naasz recently returned from New Orleans, LA, where she represented South Dakota at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) annual meeting. Miss Naasz was one of CME's Youth Tour winners in 2008, was elected to the national Youth Leadership Council, and is currently a senior at Platte-Geddes Community School.

Rebecca, along with one Leadership Council student representative from each of the remaining forty-nine states, participated in the meeting's elaborate opening ceremonies. She carried the SD state flag in a "Parade of States" a grand march representing all states where electric cooperatives are present.

During the week-long event, Rebecca spent much time working in the meeting's information booth, answering questions and dispensing helpful advice to meeting attendees. She, along with the other students, also spent time logging all of the postcards that co-op members like you have been sending to our elected officials.

In reward for Rebecca's exceptional leadership skills, she has been invited by NRECA to return in two years as a Youth Leader. In 2011, she will have the opportunity to chaperone and advise that year's crop of student representatives at the national meeting in Orlando, Florida. This is an honor that only five of the fifty students receive. We are confident that Rebecca will continue to be an outstanding ambassador for Charles Mix Electric and for rural electric cooperatives in South Dakota.



Rebecca prepares to carry the SD state flag through the "Parade of States" to open the National Meeting.

Out With the Old; In With the New

Who knew screwing in a light bulb could have such an effect.

Environmentally and financially, the benefits of replacing an incandescent bulb for a Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) are extreme. Want to do your part in being better stewards of the earth? By replacing 17 incandescent bulbs with CFLs, enough carbon dioxide (CO₂) is reduced to equal removing one car off the road for a year. And, due to the extended life of a CFL versus an incandescent, for every CFL used, there are eight fewer incandescent light bulbs that wind up in landfills.

All of us have a responsibility to protect the environment for future generations. Promoting how energy efficiency and preservation of the environment go hand in hand is an important part of what Charles Mix Electric does.

Additional money in the pocketbook is something everyone wants during these economically unstable times. It takes only 15 days for an incandescent bulb to waste more money than what was paid for the bulb in the first place and the energy that a CFL saves over its lifetime is equal to almost 46 gallons of oil. With the average lifespan of a CFL up to ten times than that of an incandescent, the additional expense for a CFL will pay for itself in no time. In fact,

at www.stopenergyleaks.com, a light bulb calculator will compute how much money can be saved by swapping the incandescent for the CFL. For example, Replacing ten incandescent bulbs with CFLs will save \$44 a year and nearly \$400 over the lifetime of the bulb. That's real money.

Over the last few years, great strides have been made in improving the quality of CFLs. The newer bulbs have better color, cost less, are smaller in size and are more reliable. In addition, bulbs to suit various applications are available including outdoors, bug lights, ceiling lights, 3 way lights and dimmers. To maintain consistent light levels when converting to CFLs, multiply the fluorescent wattage by three or four to find an equivalent incandescent wattage. For example, a 15W CFL is the equivalent to a 45 to 60W incandescent.

To maximize the life and utility of a CFL, target fixtures that are on for longer periods of time, preferably three hours or more. Fixtures that are difficult to get to are also good options for CFLs, but avoid installing fluorescents where lights are turned on and off frequently such as a pantry, garage or walk-in closet. One strong piece of advice is to purchase only ENERGY STAR® qualified light bulbs for optimum efficiency and two year residential warranty.

At Charles Mix Electric, we want our members to understand many ways to save money on their energy bills. Installing CFLs is one of the easiest ways to do that.

HOW TO CHOOSE

THE RIGHT BULB FOR YOUR FIXTURE

	HARP SHADE	CLAMP SHADE	PENDANT FIXTURE	CEILING FIXTURE	CEILING FAN	WALL SCONCE	RECESSED CAN	TRACK LIGHTING	OUTDOOR COVERED	OUTDOOR EXPOSED
FOR THIS FIXTURE										
CHOOSE THIS BULB	 		 	 	 	 			 	

NOTE: If your fixture is connected to a dimmer or three-way switch, do not place an ENERGY STAR qualified light bulb in the fixture unless it is labeled as appropriate for dimmer or three-way switches.

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER WITH ENERGY STAR