



Upper left: Mark Mengershauer delivers the Manager's Report at the 2008 annual meeting. During the business portion of the meeting, Directors Wally Johnson and Doug Koupal were re-elected to three-year terms. Upper right: Julie Wright of Armour won the Grand Prize, a Terry Redlin print entitled, "Bountiful Harvest." Left: Mike Redman of Basin Electric shows an electric Segway personal scooter to CME's Russell Gall. Mike also had several other products on display, showcasing the latest in electric technology. Below, after a ham dinner catered by Platte Food Center, Mrs. Leonard Kreeger admires the golf bag she just won from Charles Mix Electric.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WAYNE BLAIR, CHARLES MIX COUNTY NEWS

**continued from page 2**

# Geddes continued

In the article, Ron Dufek, caretaker of the village and local historian calls the museum "a truly great addition to the town of Geddes."

To learn more about the Historic Village of Geddes, visit <http://www.geddesd.com/cmchrs/>. To read the entire article and others in this series, visit [www.MediaSD.com](http://www.MediaSD.com) and click on the special "In Your Own Backyard" link.

The "In Your Own Backyard" series is part of Goal 1 of the 2010 initiative to double visitor spending in South Dakota.



A display of authentic items can be found inside the trading post at the Geddes Historic Village.

# Decorate Safely for Holidays

Colorful, twinkling lights. Brightly lit plastic candy canes and snowmen on the front lawn.

Such decorations help make the holidays a magical time of year, but they must be handled with care. Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause more than \$930 million in damage, according to the United States Fire Administration, largely due to the misuse of electrical products and decorations.

Here are some tips for using electrical products safely during the holidays:

- Before decorating, read and follow the manufacturers' instructions concerning installation and maintenance of all decorative electrical products.
- Indoors and out, use lights and other electrical decorations certified by a recognized, independent testing firm such as Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL).
- Use lights certified for outdoor use only for outdoor use. The same goes for indoor lights.
- Carefully inspect each light before plugging it into a socket. Cracked, frayed, loose, or bare wires may cause a serious electric shock or start a fire.
- Do not mount or support light strings in any way that might damage the cord's insulation. Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.
- Always unplug an electrical decoration before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Do not connect more than three light string sets together. Light strings with screw-in bulbs should have no more than 50 bulbs connected together.
- Do not overload extension cords.

·Keep all extension cords and light strings clear of snow and standing water.

- Use caution when decorating near power lines.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- Do not allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations.
- Always turn off decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Plug outdoor lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable GFCIs for outdoor use can be purchased wherever electrical supplies are sold.

Sources: Electrical Safety Foundation International; United States Fire Administration



## Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

This season, decorate with LED holiday lights, which consume 90 percent less energy than traditional miniature lights, operate 30 times longer, and stay cooler (meaning increased safety when used on wreaths and trees).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# Murphy

