

USDA Assists Local Entities

City of Geddes, Yankton Sioux Tribe Receive Loans, Grants

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development has presented loan funds and grants to two local entities. Earlier this fall, funds were awarded to the City of Geddes and to the Yankton Sioux Tribe.

The City of Geddes received both a rural utilities loan of \$450,000 and a grant of \$193,000. The funds will be used to replace and upgrade the city's wastewater collection system. The original system, built in the 1900s, was deteriorating and no longer meeting the needs of the community. Darwin Iedema, Mayor for the City of Geddes, said that the project will "meet the existing needs of users as well as provide for potential future growth in the community."

The Yankton Sioux Tribe, headquartered in Marty, SD, received a rural business opportunity grant in the amount of \$225,000. The funds will be used to implement a training program that will help Native American entrepreneurs in starting or expanding a small business. According to Robert Cournoyer, Chairman of the Yankton Sioux Tribe, the training program will help tribal members become more knowledgeable about entrepreneurship, and provide small businesses with a higher success rate and opportunities for job creation.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents.



Left to right: Colleen Jaeger, City of Geddes Finance Officer; Dan Schulte, City Council Member; Darwin Iedema, Mayor; Rural Development Area Director Trace Davids, Rural Development State Director Jafar Karim; Mike Krietlow, Council Member; and Rural Development Specialist Sherrie Lewis.



Front, left to right: Robert Cournoyer, Tribal Chairman; John Stone, Tribal Vice-Chairman; Leo O'Connor, Treasurer; Jody Zephier, Council Member; Rural Development State Director Jafar Karim; Francis Hart, Tribal Secretary; and Rural Development Specialist Sherrie Lewis. Back, left to right: Basil Heth, Council Member; Dennis Rucker, Council Member; and Rural Development Area Director Trace Davids.

In Your Own Backyard

Geddes Site Featured

"If you are looking for an authentic western experience, this is the place!" says Wanda Goodman of the SD Department of Tourism. In an article written by Goodman, she calls the Geddes Historical Village an invitation for individuals and families to explore the many features of days gone by.

The article is a part of the series entitled "In Your Own Backyard", which is a project of the South Dakota Office of Tourism. The series is designed to highlight unique areas and attractions all across South Dakota.

The Geddes Historic Village features the original Papineau Trading Post, a red, white and blue schoolhouse, a scaled replica of a keelboat used by explorers Lewis and Clark, the childhood home of former South Dakota governor Peter Norbeck, the WNAX building, an original claim shanty, a pioneer cemetery, and more. All buildings have authentic displays inside. Free guided tours are also available.

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Charles Mix Electric Cooperative Connections

Co-op **News**

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Double Winners Again

Two more Touchstone Energy scholars for CME

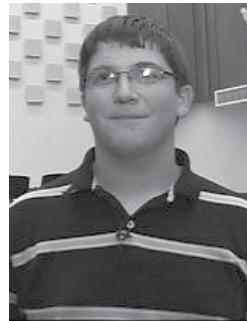
For the second time since the inception of the program, Charles Mix Electric can claim dual winners in the KSFY-TV and Touchstone Energy-sponsored "Scholar of the Week" program. Featured scholars in the month of November included John Patzlaff of Platte, and Danielle Walder of Lake Andes.

John was the featured scholar for the week of November 9-15, 2008. He is a senior at Platte-Geddes High School, where he sports a 4.0 grade-point average. He is an accomplished singer and clarinet player, having participated in all-state concerts for both band and chorus. John is a member of National Honor Society, and also enjoys drama and theater. John hopes to attend either Northern State University or South Dakota State University to pursue degrees in mathematics and music. He is the son of CME members Jeff and Martha Patzlaff of rural Platte, SD.

The second scholar for the month was Danielle Walder, an Andes Central High School senior. At press time, it was uncertain when Danielle's interview would air, but an early or mid-December date appeared likely. Danielle has spent her high school years participating in volleyball, basketball, chorus and show choir, band, and TORCH (Teens on the Road to Chemical Health). She is also a member of the National Honor Society, and a student council representative. Earlier in 2008, Danielle was a Girls'

State representative. After graduation, Danielle is planning on attending SDSU to pursue a degree in early childhood education. Danielle is the daughter of Jeff and Monica Walder of Lake Andes. Academic talent is evidently a family tradition, as Danielle's sister Jessica was a KSFY scholar in 2005.

Both Danielle and John were interviewed by KSFY's news crew, and were spotlighted on episodes of the evening and early morning news. They will each receive \$100 to reward them for their accomplishments, and will be invited to join other winners at a "Scholar of the Year" banquet to be held at the end of the school year.



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