

Banquet Honors Touchstone Energy Scholars

Thirty-six top high school seniors were recognized during the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Scholar of the Year Banquet on May 6 at Dakota State University in Madison, SD. Each of the invited students had been selected as a "Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week" during the 2005-2006 school year. Earlier this year, Jessica Walder, a senior at Andes Central High School, was chosen for this award. Jessica was unable to attend the banquet, however, due to a previously scheduled commitment. Jessica is the daughter of Jeff and Monica Walder of Lake Andes, SD.



Jessica Walder of Andes Central School was honored at the yearly Touchstone Energy Scholarship banquet.

Dakota State University President Douglas Knowlton was the keynote speaker. During the event, the name of one of the scholars was drawn at random as the "Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year" and received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Electric cooperatives in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota are the

sponsors of this program to recognize outstanding students for academic and community achievements. The scholars of the week were nominated for this honor by principals and faculty from throughout the KSFY-TV viewing area. A television news reporter interviewed each weekly scholar; and the interviews were broadcast during KSFY's Thursday evening news and Friday morning show. In addition, honorees received \$100 from their local Touchstone Energy

cooperative.

The Scholar of the Week recognition is another example of Charles Mix Electric's long-standing involvement with local schools, education, and the community. The banquet is a fitting climax to the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' weekly salute to well-rounded, motivated seniors who exhibit scholastic excellence and the Touchstone Energy values of integrity, innovation, accountability and commitment to community."

Gall Wins Scholarship

Charles Mix Electric is proud to announce that another "Basin Electric Scholarship" has been awarded to an area student. Miss Erica Gall of Pickstown, SD has earned a \$1,000 scholarship in the special division of the contest reserved for children of cooperative employees. Erica is the daughter of Russell and Jackie Gall. Russell is the Member Services Advisor at CME.

Erica is a senior at Andes Central High School, where she is ranked second in her class. She is a class officer, a Student Council representative, and a member of National Honor Society, as well as a four-sport letter winner. She is an accomplished musician and singer, using her talents to benefit not only her school but her community and church as well. The results of her many community service projects are visible throughout Lake Andes

Erica will be using her scholarship to attend Dakota State University in Madison, SD. She plans on majoring in computer science/accounting, and will also be a member of the DSU volleyball team. She aspires to pass the CPA exam one day, and become a certified public accountant in a South Dakota firm.



Thank You!



Dear Charles Mix Electric - Thank you for selecting me for the Basin Electric scholarship. The money will help defer the cost of going to school next year. I love it at Black Hills State University. The people and the area are wonderful. This scholarship will help me gain my degree in wellness management and pre-physical therapy. I greatly appreciate this scholarship.

Samantha Mushitz, Geddes, SD

Meth Labs Pose Danger in Rural Areas

Local law enforcement officers and the Methamphetamine Awareness and Prevention Project of South Dakota have issued a vital warning to farmers, rural residents, and to any groups or individuals who assist with roadside clean-up.

The manufacture of methamphetamine, an illegal and highly addictive drug, produces some extremely toxic and explosive waste and by-products. These are often discarded along rural roadways, and pose a severe danger to humans and animals.

Methamphetamine is produced by cooking combinations of several dangerous chemicals. To avoid law enforcement, individuals often set up their meth labs in rural areas. Old barns, deserted buildings, and even vehicles parked along gravel roads provide prime locations for cooking meth.

Because of the dangerous nature of both the lab and the individuals engaged in unlawful activity, all residents are encouraged to be aware of this danger and use caution.

Meth labs commonly have a very strong odor that some people describe as the smell of cat urine, ammonia, garlic, or auto parts cleaner. They often create a large amount of trash including empty anti-freeze and drain cleaner containers, empty blister packs from cold remedies, camping fuel cans, parts of camera batteries, stained coffee filters and jars.

Some propane tanks, similar to those

fitting gas grills, are commonly used to transport anhydrous ammonia. If used for this purpose, the copper fittings normally turn bright blue. Beware, tanks used in this manner can explode.

Consider garbage comprised of these materials as extremely dangerous. Inform law enforcement officials about any such garbage you encounter.

The by-products of a meth lab can contaminate the soil, drinking water, and air. Many are also highly explosive. Individuals who come in contact with meth lab waste may experience health problems including respiratory illness, skin and eye irritation, headaches, nausea, and dizziness.

Those who suspect they have found meth waste or a meth manufacturing site should not touch any of the suspicious and dangerous materials. Leave the premises immediately, noting the exact location, and contact local law enforcement as soon as possible.

To learn more about local meth prevention efforts, contact your local police department or MAPP-SD at 822 E. 41st St, Suite 235, Sioux Falls, SD, 57105. You may reach them at (605) 331-5724 or visit their web site at www.mapps.org.



Many meth manufacturers will cook their product in rural areas, to avoid detection by law enforcement. If you come across material like this, you may have stumbled across an abandoned meth lab. Don't touch anything. Note the location of the area, and contact law enforcement authorities. View more photos at www.mapps.org.

**Meth -
it's closer
than you
think.**

Summer's Coming

Charles Mix Electric will be
CLOSED Monday, May 29th
in observance of Memorial Day.

Please call 1-800-208-8587 for outages
or emergencies.

Hours for the Charles Mix Electric shop

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

beginning May 30th, 2006.

Office staff will be available
7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.