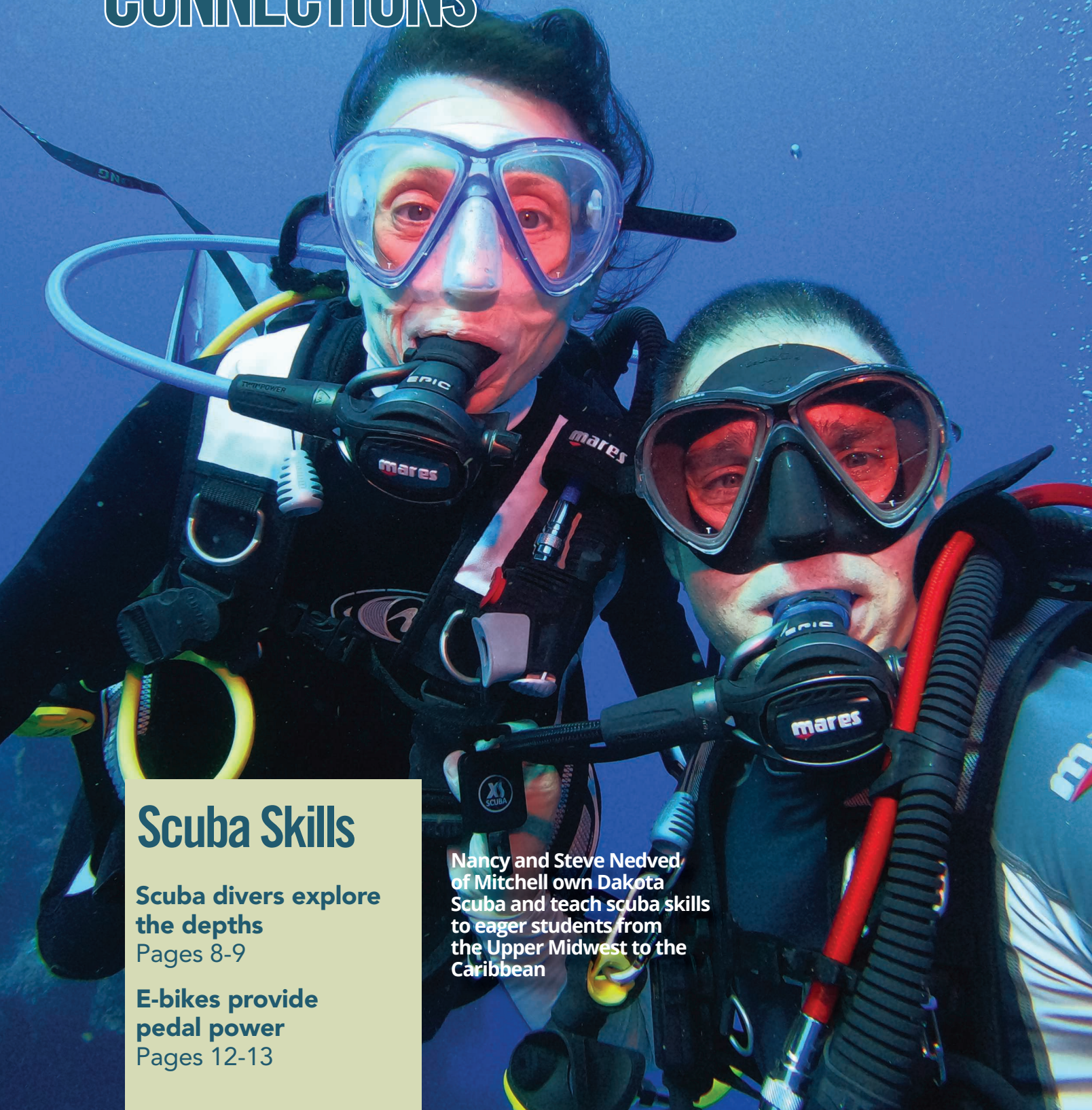


COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Scuba Skills

Scuba divers explore
the depths
Pages 8-9

E-bikes provide
pedal power
Pages 12-13

Nancy and Steve Nedved
of Mitchell own Dakota
Scuba and teach scuba skills
to eager students from
the Upper Midwest to the
Caribbean

Prepare for summer severe weather and stay safe before, during, and after the storm



Ben Dunsmoor
Editor

As summer gets into full swing the threat of severe weather will also ramp up. June is one of the more active months of the year for strong thunderstorms and severe weather. These storms can cause damage to homes, farms, and power lines. But there are plenty of ways your family can stay safe and prepared for wicked weather. Here are a few tips to keep in mind before, during, and after a storm.

BEFORE THE STORM

- It is important to talk with your family members – especially young children – about where you will take shelter if a severe storm is getting close to your area. Small windowless rooms on the lowest level of a home are the safest places to ride out a storm. Show your children where you will be taking shelter during a storm and practice taking shelter so everyone in the family knows how to respond when a severe weather warning is issued.
- Prepare a simple emergency kit with water, non-perishable food, a First-Aid kit, and flashlights and batteries. If you know a storm is in the forecast, it is also a good idea to charge all cell phones and make sure all vehicles are filled with gas.

DURING THE STORM

- Listen to local weather reports or a weather radio and pay attention to watches and warnings that are issued by the National Weather Service. A severe weather or tornado watch means all the ingredients are present in the atmosphere to produce a storm. A warning means a severe thunderstorm or tornado has formed, has been spotted in the area, and it is time to seek shelter.

- ‘If the thunder roars, go indoors,’ is a good mantra to keep in mind during the summer. If you are out on the lake or at a baseball or soccer game, you should take shelter if you hear thunder or spot lightning. According to the National Weather Service, a shelter is a school, a home, or even a car with all the windows rolled up. You should wait 30 minutes following the storm to resume outdoor activities.

AFTER THE STORM

- If the storm knocked down trees or power lines, it is important to stay off the roads and stay away from any power lines that may be lying on the ground. Power lines can still be energized, and you should stay at least 40 feet away from the downed lines and call Northern Electric or 911 to report the damage. If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line you should stay inside the vehicle and call for help until the line has been de-energized and the scene is safe.
- Generators should be used outside in a well-ventilated area during a power outage. If a generator is wired into the main household circuit, the main breaker should be turned to the ‘off’ position to prevent back feed. Any co-op member using a generator following a storm should call Northern Electric at 605-225-0310 so the co-op is aware a generator is powering that service.

These tips will help you and your family get ready for severe weather and stay safe throughout the summer.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

NORTHERN ELECTRIC

(USPS 396-040)

Board President: Donna Sharp

Board of Directors

- Nolan Wipf - Vice President
- Ron Kaaz - Secretary
- Josh Larson - Treasurer
- Fran Esser
- Todd Hettich
- Kirk Schaunaman
- Mike Traxinger

CEO/General Manager: Char Hager
info@northernelectric.coop

Chief Financial Officer: Cathi Podoll

Operations Manager: Jerry Weber

Manager of Member Services: Russel Ulmer

Manager of Information Technology: Derek Gorecki

Communications Director: Ben Dunsmoor
bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Executive Secretary: Kay Albrecht

Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Northern Electric Cooperative, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

Subscription information: Northern Electric Cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals postage paid at Bath, SD 57427.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to Northern Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427; telephone (605) 225-0310; fax (605) 225-1684

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

www.northernelectric.coop



Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held April 22, 2022, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present except for Francis Esser. Eide Bailly, LLP partner Derrick Larson was a guest for the meeting. As the first order of business, the board held an executive session with General Manager Char Hager, CFO Cathi Podoll, and Attorney Harvey Oliver. Following the executive session the board approved the March 17, 2022, minutes, & March expenditures. The board then reviewed & accepted monthly reports by management. Directors viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative video report. East River Director Kirk Schaunaman reported on actions taken by the East River Board at its April 7, 2022, meeting. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported on the SDREA board meeting held March 24 & 25, 2022. Director Ronald Kaaz reported on the South Dakota Wind Energy Association Annual Membership Meeting held April 21, 2022, in Mitchell. Director Donna Sharp reported on the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) webinar, Cryptocurrency Mining: What it means for your cooperative, held April 21, 2022.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Char Hager's report to the board included the following items:

- Update on development projects.
- Update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund.
- Legal and Legislative report.
- Informed directors that 2022 District 2, 5 and 9 candidate petitions need to be submitted by July 15, 2022. Donna Sharp - District 5 - has reached her term limit.
- Informed directors of the 2022 Basin VIP Tour, June 28-29, Bismarck/Beulah, ND.

- Reminded directors of the 2022 NRECA Summer School for Directors, June 3-7, Charleston, SC & July 22-26, Salt Lake City, UT.

BOARD REPORT

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Friday, May 20, 2022.
 2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$1,267.35.
 3. Approved Work Order Inventory #22-03 for \$508,736.54 to be submitted to the RUS for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
 4. Approved the 2021 Audit Report presented by Derrick Larson of Eide Bailly, LLP.
 5. Approved allocating \$1,920,596.49 of NEC's 2021 margins to member patronage capital credit accounts.
 6. After repeated failed attempts by the cooperative to collect unpaid balances, the board approved a resolution to write off 13 uncollectable accounts in the amount of \$2,901.15. Any members remaining capital credit balances will be assigned against the outstanding amounts.
 7. Approved sponsorship of \$250 for Hub City Livestock Expo.
 8. Tabled Brown County Fair sponsorship.
 9. Appointed Donna Sharp delegate for CFC and Ronald Kaaz delegate for NCSC. Kirk Schaunaman alternate for CFC and NCSC.
 10. Approved bank signature and transaction authorization.
 11. Authorized management to provide a limited number of special rebates for a heat pump water heater test project.
- Contact your director with questions..

FINANCIAL REPORT

	March-22	March-21
kWh Sales	29,698,068 kWh	26,311,984 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,575,622	\$2,322,929
Total Cost of Service	\$2,675,725	\$2,457,084
Operating Margins.....	(\$100,104)	(\$134,155)
Year to Date Margins	\$339,721	\$91,218

RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE MONTHLY USAGE AND BILL

MARCH-2022.....	2,653 kWh.....	\$243.33.....	0.0917 per kWh
MARCH-2021.....	2,041 kWh.....	\$208.07.....	0.1019 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation account for 81.2% of NEC's total cost of service.

June is National Safety Month

While your local electric cooperative often focuses on electric safety and provides information to keep you and your family free from harm, there are many other dangers lurking out there.

In recognition of National Safety Month, we're sharing the National Safety Council's list of the top causes of preventable injuries and death away from the workplace.

POISONING. In 2011, accidental poisonings overtook car crashes for the first time as the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for all age groups combined. Poisoning deaths are often caused by exposure to gases, chemicals and other toxic substances, but prescription drug overdose is by far the leading cause.

VEHICLE CRASHES. Crashes are the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death overall. Impaired driving, distracted driving, speeding and inexperience can cause a life to be cut short in the blink of an eye.

FALLS. Falling is the third-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death over all age groups, but it's the No. 1 cause of death for those aged 65 and older.

CHOKING AND SUFFOCATION. Choking on food or other objects is a primary cause of harm and death. Suffocation and choking rank higher among the elderly and infants.

DROWNING. It's the No. 1 cause of death for children from ages 1 to 4, mostly due to children falling into pools or being left alone and unsupervised in bathtubs.

FIRES AND BURNS. Fires often start at night, when families are asleep and most vulnerable. A working and well-maintained smoke alarm will cut in half the chances of dying in a fire.

NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS. Weather-related disasters claim hundreds of lives per year. You should learn all you can about emergency preparedness and always have an emergency kit on hand in your home.

BOWLING FOR CHARITY IN MITCHELL



More than 80 cooperative employees showed up in Mitchell for the 7th Annual Line Patrol Charity Bowling Tournament sponsored by Central Electric. The Lacreek Electric Headhunters shown above (Tiff Pettit, Terri Gregg, Cody Allen, Ryan Pettit) took top honors. The event was organized to raise money for a fund used to help electric co-op employees and their families in times of need. Find out more about this event and South Dakota's electric cooperatives by visiting Cooperative Connections Plus. Simply scan the QR code at right.



Call 811 before you dig

Maddy Pannell

Maddy Pannell, age 10, reminds electric cooperative members to call 811 before digging into the ground when planting trees or pursuing other outdoor projects. Maddy is the daughter of Southeastern Electric members Scott and Kim Pannell of Sioux Falls.

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.

DELICIOUS DAIRY

SWEDISH CREME

Ingredients:

- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 cup, plus 2 tsps. sugar, divided
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1 tsp. almond extract
- 1 tsp. clear imitation vanilla extract
- 2 cups (16 oz.) sour cream
- 1 cup fresh or frozen red raspberries

METHOD

In a saucepan, combine cream and 1 cup sugar. Cook and stir constantly over low heat until candy thermometer reads 160 degrees, or steam rises from pan. (Do not boil). Stir in gelatin until dissolved; add extracts. Cool 10 minutes. Whisk in sour cream. Pour into eight dessert glasses or small bowls. Chill at least 1 hour. Before serving, combine raspberries and remaining sugar; spoon over each serving.

**Joanne Singrey-Johnson,
Watertown**

TUNA EGG SALAD

Ingredients:

- 3 6 oz. cans tuna packed in water
- 3 eggs hard boiled, peeled and chopped
- 2 small dill pickles diced
- 1 large celery rib diced
- 1/4 cup red onion minced
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice or red wine vinegar
- 2 tsp. garlic powder, optional
- 1/4 tsp. salt, or to taste
- Ground black pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt, 2% fat
- 2 tbsp. mayo

METHOD

Drain cans with tuna well. Transfer to a large bowl and separate into flakes with a fork. Add chopped and peeled hard boiled eggs, pickles, celery, red onion, lemon juice, garlic powder (if using), salt, pepper, yogurt and mayo. Stir well with a fork and refrigerate. Serve cold in a sandwich or over salad greens. Make Ahead: Tuna egg salad tastes best cold. For best results, refrigerate 30 minutes before eating.

ifoodreal.com

EASY SHERBET

Ingredients:

- 1 pkg. orange or lime jello
- 1 cup boiling water
- 3 cups milk
- Pinch of salt
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1-1/4 cup sugar

METHOD

Dissolve jello in boiling water. Add remaining ingredients. Freeze until 1/2 inch thick at edge of tray. Empty into mixing bowl and beat thoroughly. Return to freezer. This works well if put in a loaf pan.

Joy Hagen, Webster

EXTRA GRILLED CHEESE

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp. butter, softened
- 2 tsp. Parmesan cheese, grated
- Dash of garlic powder
- 4 slices bread
- 2 slices sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 slices Swiss cheese

METHOD

In a small bowl, combine butter, parmesan cheese, and garlic powder. Spread an even layer on one side of each slice of bread. Place 1 slice of cheddar cheese and 1 slice of Swiss between two bread slices, with the buttered side facing out. Cook in hot skillet for about 2 minutes, until the crust is golden. Flip sandwich and grill until crust is golden and the cheese is melted. Slice and serve. May add grilled onions if you choose. Just saute in the pan before cooking the sandwiches and add to the sandwiches between the cheese slices.

Kristina Manecke, Midland

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.



Whitney Rauscher practices with a hula hoop prior to the Miss Amazing South Dakota event in Sioux Falls in April. **Photo Courtesy:** Fred Rauscher



Whitney Rauscher wears her Miss Amazing South Dakota crown and sash.

MISS AMAZING

Whitney Rauscher was crowned Miss Amazing South Dakota in April

Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

The 2022 Miss Amazing National Summit in Nashville, Tennessee, is still more than two months away, but Whitney Rauscher of Aberdeen is so excited for the event she is ready to start packing.

“She wanted to get the suitcase out already,” Whitney Rauscher’s mother Linda said.

Whitney was crowned Miss Amazing South Dakota in April and will represent South Dakota during

the national event at the end of July. Whitney is the daughter of former Northern Electric Cooperative lineman Fred Rauscher who retired in 2015.

Miss Amazing is an event for girls with disabilities to help them build self-esteem. This is the fifth year Rauscher, who has Down syndrome, has participated in the event. It is the first time she has been crowned the queen.

“She walked into some place and they said, ‘hi Whitney,’ and she said you have to call me ‘queen’ now,” Linda Rauscher said with a chuckle.

The girls who participate in Miss Amazing dress up for the event and have their make up done similar to any other pageant or contest. Rauscher also had to perform her talent, or passion, during the South Dakota Miss Amazing event in April. She hula hooped for the judges who also interview all the participants before they crowned Rauscher as queen for 2022.

“She enjoys it (Miss Amazing) because there are quite a few girls in it every year and she gets to see them every year,” Linda Rauscher said.

Whitney is 25-years-old and works part-time at Kesslers. She also participates in several other activities throughout the year including track, swimming, basketball, and bowling with the Hub City Express Special Olympics team. Rauscher will now have to add more commitments to her calendar as the newly-crowned Miss Amazing South Dakota.

“She is supposed to make monthly appearances in town,” Linda Rauscher explained.

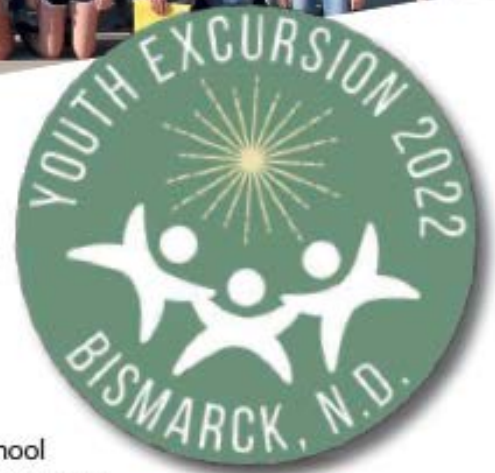
But the event Whitney is looking forward to the most is her big appearance on the national stage in Nashville in July.

“She is ready to start packing,” Linda said.

2022 YOUTH EXCURSION



July 25-28



APPLY ONLINE AT:
northernelectric.coop/youthexcursion

2022 YOUTH EXCURSION

The 2022 Youth Excursion is a FREE four-day experience for high school students of Northern Electric members. Students will learn about the energy industry, cooperatives, and tour the power plants that supply their electricity.

TRIP DETAILS:

Students will stay at Bismarck State College in North Dakota. A commercial bus will pick up students at Northern Electric on July 25 and drop them off at the co-op office in Bath on July 28. Students will also participate in fun evening activities like visiting a Bismarck-area waterpark and cruising down the Missouri River on the Lewis and Clark Riverboat.

YOUTH EXCURSION APPLICATION

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 1

Please mail applications to:

Northern Electric Cooperative
Attention: Kay Albrecht
PO Box 457
Bath, SD 57427

or apply online at:
northernelectric.coop/youthexcursion

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

School: _____

Year in School (2022-2023): _____

T-Shirt Size: _____

Gender: _____

DEEP DIVES

Dozens of scuba divers from South Dakota and Minnesota pursue their hobby not only in local lakes and rivers but also in the Caribbean. *Photos by Steve Nedved*

Divers explore underwater habitats from the lakes of the Upper Midwest to the Caribbean

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

It's a sunny springtime Saturday morning and outdoors enthusiasts all across the state are buzzing with excitement to kick off another weekend adventure.

They're saddling up their horses, slinging their fishing gear into their boats, cranking their ATVs and lacing up their hiking boots.

In a small shop just south of Mitchell, there's a different kind of energy and amped-up anticipation filling the air. Steve Nedved is busy rigging up scuba tanks and inspecting air regulators for about 20 fledgling divers eager to learn a new skill and experience new thrills.

Nedved is owner of Dakota Scuba and he's finding that more and more adventurers are becoming interested in exploring the aquatic world through a fisheye view, whether that's in the chilly waters of the Missouri River or the crystal-clear surf of the Caribbean.

While the scuba diving season in

the Upper Midwest is relatively short, Nedved stays busy most months out of the year teaching scuba lessons in the Mitchell area and tending to vacationing clients from his Villa Dakota retreat in Cozumel.

It turns out that he and his student-clients can board a plane in Sioux Falls at 7 a.m., make a quick stop in Dallas-Ft. Worth, and be ready to hit the water in Cozumel just after lunch.

"It works out pretty well, and people love to take a fall and winter vacation and explore Cozumel, which is one of the best spots for diving because the visibility can be more than 100 feet and there's so much marine life to see," Nedved said.

The master diver's interest in scuba was sparked back when he was a firefighter and paramedic in Mitchell. After responding to too many emergency situations involving bodies of water, he and his colleagues decided they needed to be trained in diving as part of meeting their professional responsibilities and serving the public.

He received his certification in short order and later decided to venture down to Cozumel to earn his teaching certification through the Professional Association of Dive Instructors so that he could be qualified to train his colleagues back in Mitchell.

He and his wife Nancy, who together own the Nedved Media radio network, fell in love with the tropical paradise and after a dozen diving trips decided it made sense to purchase a home right on the water. Before he knew it, he found many others were beating the same path to Mexico to enjoy the sun, sand and scuba adventures.

"I didn't really start it with the intention of going public, I just didn't realize at the time how much interest there was," he said. "People around here in Mitchell started asking me to train them for recreational certification and then they'd dive here or they'd go to Florida or Cozumel on vacation with their families. We started renting out our place in Cozumel to accommodate people during the times we couldn't be there ourselves."

He also noticed an increasing interest in spearfishing in places like the Oahe



Downstream Recreational Area and Pactola Lake in the Black Hills, so he decided to open the shop to serve as a local and regional outfitter.

Nedved, who has logged more than 1,000 dives since he started in 2006, uses the Mitchell Recreation Center for local training and has played a role in certifying individuals from age 10 to 70.

“It’s not that physically laborious or difficult. Of course, you have to be in condition as with any kind of outdoor sport, but it’s not inherently dangerous in any way if you follow the guidelines,” he said.

Allen Hiller of Pierre is one of Nedved’s recent proteges. Though he had done some snorkeling and diving at sites like Sully Flats, Cow Creek and below the Oahe Dam, Hiller decided he wanted to kick his scuba game up a few notches. So he enlisted Nedved’s services and spent eight days at Villa Dakota last March earning his open water diving certificate.

At the age of 53, Hiller is a veteran of Desert Storm and Desert Shield, a former diesel and aircraft mechanic,



SCUBA DIVING

Steve Nedved is shown at left with his catch after a day of spearfishing at Sully Flats. Above, Nedved (at right) works with student Allen Hiller on open water certification.

and spent nearly 20 years working for the Union Pacific Railroad in North Platte, NE. He describes himself as an avid hunter and fisherman who is always up for an adventure. Since his visit to the Caribbean, Hiller says he wants to expand his knowledge and experience under water.

“I really caught the diving bug being down there in a beautiful part of the world with the sun and the sand and the clear water where it seems like you can see forever. I want to continue on and get my PADI certification, my night diving certification, and become a master diver,” Hiller said. “I also want to do a lot of spearfishing and learn how to get better at it. Steve was really great to work with.”

Nedved said that once his students become accustomed to the awkward act of breathing through a mouthpiece, they begin to relax and enjoy the experience of discovering a new environment with different lights, colors and sounds.

“People like to hunt for fish and explore underwater quarries and see what’s on the bottom of the river bed,” he said. “When I take them out for the first

SCUBA RULES

Here are four requirements for scuba diving in South Dakota:

- Divers are required to use a red and white Diver Down flag when diving
- Dive flags must be at least 8"x10"
- Divers must stay within 75 feet of their dive flag
- Boaters and vessel operators are required to stay at least 75 feet from dive flags

time, we can’t really speak when we’re underwater, but when we come up they start chatting away with excitement about the things they saw. It’s really addictive. You rarely see just one person in a family that’s a diver. Usually, after one person does it, the others have to follow. It’s a good sport for a lot of people.”

Petitions are now available for 2022 board of directors seats

Nominating Petitions Due By July 15

During Northern Electric Cooperative's 2022 Annual Meeting (Tuesday, September 13, 2022) members will elect Directors for Districts 2, 5, and 9.

Incumbent directors Todd Hettich (Dist. 2) and Nolan Wipf, Hitchcock (Dist. 9) are eligible to run again and are up for re-election. The District 5 seat will be vacant because board president Donna Sharp of Bath has reached her term limit.

Northern Electric Cooperative uses a petition process to nominate directors. The procedure requires all candidates to circulate a petition. Candidates must be cooperative members and reside in the district they wish to represent. Each petition must be signed by at least ten (10) cooperative member-consumers residing in that candidate's specific district.

For a joint membership, either the husband or wife may sign a petition but NOT both.

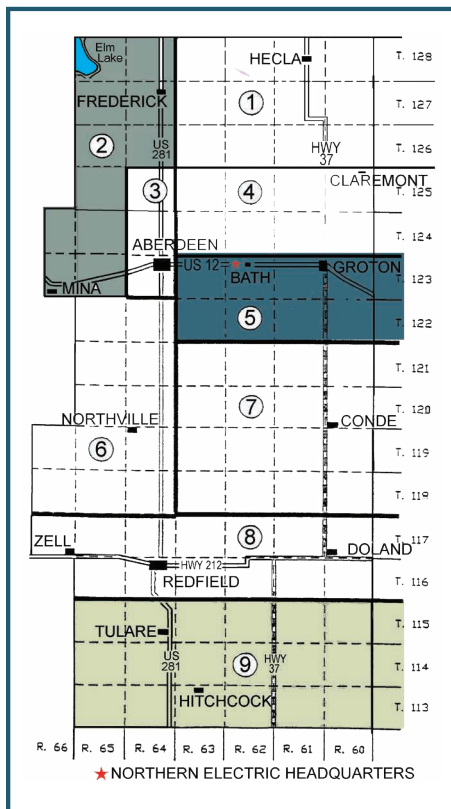
Petitions are available at the Northern Electric offices in Bath and Redfield. Director petitions must be submitted at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting to have names placed on the official ballot and the Notice of the Meeting. No petitions filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting shall be considered valid.

Petitions must be filed at a Northern Electric Cooperative office by close of business (4:30 p.m.) Friday, July 15, 2022.

Nominations are not permitted from the floor during the meeting.

Members may only sign ONE nominating petition for a director candidate from their district of record.

For a complete copy of the Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws contact Northern Electric at 605-225-0310 or stop by one of the offices in Bath or Redfield. The bylaws are also available online at www.northernelectric.coop/cooperative-bylaws



RE-ENERGIZING CO-OP MEMBERSHIP

YOUR VOICE. YOUR POWER. YOUR CO-OP.

The best part about being a member of your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative is just that ... it's YOUR cooperative. That means:

- One member = One vote
- You have a say
- Your co-op answers to you
- Invested in community
- Capital credits (get money back!)



Learn more about the power of membership at YourCoopPower.com



DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws
Article IV Section 3

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

1. Is an employee of Northern Electric Cooperative.
2. Is not a member and bona fide resident of the service area served by the Cooperative located within the particular District up for election;
3. Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative;
4. Has been previously removed as a Director of the Cooperative in accordance with the procedures provided for removal in these Bylaws;
5. Has failed to attend at least 2/3 of all regular board meetings during any consecutive twelve (12) month period.
6. Has been employed by the Cooperative in the past five years.
7. Has pled guilty or has been convicted of:
 - A felony,
 - Any crime involving dishonesty, or
 - Any crime involving moral turpitude

DIRECTOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCESS

2022 Annual Meeting Scheduled For Tuesday, September 13

NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BYLAWS ARTICLE IV SECTION 5

Section 5. Nomination of Directors. The nominating process shall be premised on a nine (9) District - nine (9) Director Cooperative. Any ten (10) or more members residing in such District may file a nominating petition with the Secretary placing in nomination any qualified member from such District. Each signatory shall place the date of signing and his address on said petition. No member may sign a petition to nominate more than one candidate, and to do so shall invalidate the member's signature on the petition signed on the latest date.

This procedure shall be followed in each Director District in which the Director terms shall expire. Upon receipt of such petition and having found the same to be in order, the Secretary shall post such nomination in the principal office of the Cooperative. Candidates so nominated shall be identified in the Notice of the Meeting and shall also be named on the official ballot.

No petition filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting shall be considered valid.

The order in which the nominees

shall appear on the printed ballot shall be determined by lot under the supervision of the Secretary. If any nominee should refuse to become a candidate or is not qualified, in accordance with the requirements of the Bylaws, the Secretary of the Cooperative is authorized and directed to remove the name or names from the list of posted nominees and/or from the ballot.

The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the Notice of the Meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board Members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated. No nominations shall be permitted from the floor. Each member of the Cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from their specific District from which a director is to be elected. Voting may occur two hours before or during the official meeting in accordance with the procedure established by the board of directors. The candidate from each District receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as a Board member.



Desmond Dean of Dakota Sports in Aberdeen says e-bikes are all the rage among outdoors enthusiasts. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

Electric bicycles give riders the little extra push they need - or not

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Sometimes when you find yourself struggling to move ahead, all you need is a little boost to get where you need to go.

That's the idea behind the invention of the electric bicycle. For those who enjoy mountain biking, pedaling for fitness or just commuting back and forth to work in the open air, the electric bike is becoming the cycle of choice.

Desmond Dean is manager of Dakota Outdoors in Aberdeen and he reports that sales are brisk with his line of Trek e-bikes. The first misconception he typically has to address with his growing list of curious customers is that an e-bike isn't a motorcycle.

"It's a bicycle. There's no throttle and you're in complete control the whole time. The battery and small motor are just there to give you some assistance when and if you need it," he explained.

"They're getting so popular because you can get a wide range of exercise. If you're having trouble with the wind or going up a hill, or if you just want to increase your distance, you can get the extra push you need. You can get some assistance or no assistance."

A battery usually takes about 5-6 hours to fully charge and there are models built for navigating off-road trails, touring, cruising or just moving around town from one point to the next. Prices can range from a few hundred dollars for a youth model to several thousand bucks for adult versions. Some bikes can top out at nearly 30 mph in the highest gear settings and some sweat equity.

Dean highly encourages his customers to take his e-bikes out for a spin around Aldrich Park across from the store because once the shopper puts the Trek through its paces and gets accustomed to the experience, "the bikes tend to sell themselves."

Mary Duvall, a state senator from

Pierre representing District 24, is a life-long fitness buff and has done a lot of pedal pumping over the years. So when her husband Rob suggested they purchase a pair of e-bikes, she was admittedly skeptical. What would be the point of pedaling if you're not going for the burn?

"I looked at it like it would be cheating and we wouldn't get a quality workout," she said. "But I quickly learned I was wrong. I can work as hard as I want and get whatever workout I feel like, or take it as easy as I want, depending on the day."

The Duvalls invested in his-and-her Aventons with thick sturdy frames and wide tires for handling uneven surfaces like the Black Hills, the Badlands and the undulating terrain around Pierre. They also chipped in for safety helmets equipped with an intercom system so they can keep in constant audio contact.

The couple covered 80 miles in a single day on the Mickelson Trail, stopped overnight in Hill City to recharge their batteries and their weary quadriceps, then rode another 56



Shown at left, Mary and Rob Duvall of Pierre have enjoyed their investment in e-bicycles and can go for long distances to see new sights. *Photos provided by Mary Duvall*

miles the following day. They ended up encountering another couple who had hauled their e-bikes from Texas to tour the Mickelson Trail. Another couple they met from Minnesota were using their e-bikes to complete the entire trail from Edgemont to Deadwood.

“We ride them at least once a month and they’ve opened up lots of options that we couldn’t tackle with regular bikes,” Duvall said. “It’s a fun way for us to get outside and enjoy some exercise and fresh air.”

its own pedal-assist system. By the end of 2023, worldwide e-bike sales are expected to reach 40 million units, or more if gas prices continue to escalate.

Surveys consistently indicate most e-bike buyers make the purchase with the goal of replacing trips they’d otherwise take in their cars. But Ron Block of Webster bought his for another reason: he needed to keep up with his wife Nancy, a school teacher who also

happens to be a competitive marathon runner.

“She was leaving me behind, so I figured I needed some assistance to make it a little easier on me,” Ron said. “I rode a lot when I was a kid, but now I’m middle-aged and the bike gives me the ability to set the power to however much help I need.”

The Blocks enjoy biking together each week as part of a local cycling club, though occasionally they like to venture farther afield. Last summer, they biked among the giant redwoods in northern California and Oregon and also pedaled the Katy Trail in Missouri. This year they plan to take a trip to The Netherlands and rent bikes to see the sights.

Ron said he would encourage those who may be interested in purchasing an e-bike to find a nearby dealer, or find a friend who already has one and ask to take it for a test ride.

“That’s what I did before I bought one and I’ve been very satisfied,” he said. “I’ve talked to a lot of people who have them and they’re very happy they made the investment.”

Ron Block of Webster pedals his e-bike along a floating bridge on the Mesabi Trail in northern Minnesota. *Photo provided by Ron Block*



Approximate number of e-bikes

40 million

expected to be sold worldwide in 2023

Of course, the idea of attaching a small battery-powered motor to a bicycle frame isn’t new. The first patent for an e-bike was issued in 1895. There was a global surge in sales of 35 percent between 1993 and 2004 after Yamaha invented, manufactured and marketed



AWARD WINNING

Northern Electric Cooperative Connections Receives Spotlight on Excellence Award

Northern Electric Cooperative recently received recognition in the national 2022 Spotlight on Excellence Awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators (CREC) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Northern Electric received a Silver Award in the 'Best External News Publication' category for the 'Cooperative Connections' magazine which is mailed to members every month.

“Communicating with members is crucial to the success of a cooperative,” Northern Electric CEO/General Manager Char Hager said. “We are honored that ‘Cooperative Connections’ was selected as one of the top member news publications in the electric cooperative industry.”

Spotlight on Excellence award winners were recognized in Seattle during the first week of May during the CONNECT conference, which is a national conference for communications and marketing professionals.

The annual Spotlight on



Excellence Awards program recognizes the best communication and marketing efforts by electric cooperatives and related organizations. Entrants competed with electric cooperatives of similar size in 18 different categories. More than 600 entries were submitted for the 2022 Spotlight on Excellence contest. Faculty members from the University of Missouri – Columbia and University of South Carolina, as well as noted professionals in the fields of marketing, web design, digital communications, and newspapers judged the event.

Northern Electric 'Cooperative Connections' is mailed out to nearly 5,000 cooperative members every month to provide reliable, helpful information on electric cooperative matters and better rural living. 'Cooperative Connections' received the Gold Award in the same category back in 2018.

Hay Land Available

Northern Electric is accepting bids for a parcel of Brome grass that is available as hay land for a 3-year cutting contract. The parcel is approximately 30 acres and is adjacent to the Northern Electric Bath headquarters facility.

Written bids must be submitted by June 15, 2022.

For more information, and to submit bids, contact Jerry Weber at **605-225-0310**. Bids can be mailed to:

**Northern Electric
PO Box 457
Bath, SD 57427**

or be dropped off at the Bath or Redfield Northern Electric locations.

Northern Electric Cooperative reserves the right to accept or reject any bid.



VIP TOUR

June 28-29 | Bismarck, ND | Beulah, ND



2022 NORTHERN ELECTRIC VIP TOUR

Northern Electric Cooperative is taking members to North Dakota for a behind-the-scenes tour of the electric-generation resources that power your lives. The tour will take place on June 28-29, 2022.

TRIP DETAILS:

Tour the Basin Electric Power Cooperative facilities, mines, and generating units which produce the electricity you receive from Northern Electric. A commercial bus will be used for transportation.

COST: FREE

The trip is funded by Northern Electric Cooperative. Funding for the trip covers each participant's transportation, lodging (double occupancy), and meals. Members are required to supply their own personal/shopping money.

TOUR RULES:

- All Northern Electric members, **even those who have gone on the tour in the past**, are eligible to attend. Preference will be given to members who have never gone before.
- Registrants must be current members of Northern Electric.
- Attendees may bring an accompanying partner of their choice on the trip.
- In the event an attendee cannot go on the trip, Northern Electric staff will select another participant.

TOUR APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 27

Please mail applications to:

Northern Electric Cooperative
Attention: Kay Albrecht
PO Box 457
Bath, SD 57427

OR APPLY ONLINE AT:

northernelectric.coop/viptour



JUNE 3-5
Lake Andes Fish Days
Citywide, Lake Andes, SD

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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

MAY 28
Deadwood Live: Hank Williams Jr.
Outlaw Square, Deadwood, SD,
www.deadwoodlive.com

MAY 28
Memorial Weekend in Mitchell
Main Street, Mitchell, SD,
605-292-4444

MAY 28-29
Black Hills Renaissance Faire
Manuel Brothers Park, Lead,
SD, www.blackhillsrenfest.com

MAY 29-30
Back When They Bucked
Days of '76 Arena, Deadwood,
SD, 605-718-0810

MAY 30
Prairie Points Quilt Guild Show
204 Hodge St., Buffalo, SD,
605-641-5591

JUNE 2-4
Annual Black Hills Quilt Show & Sale
The Monument, Rapid City, SD,
bhquilters.org/events

JUNE 2-5
Wheel Jam
South Dakota State
Fairgrounds, Huron, SD,
www.wheeljam.com

JUNE 3-5
Fort Sisseton Historical Festival
11907 434th Ave., Lake City, SD,
605-448-5474

JUNE 3-5
Lake Andes Fish Days
Citywide, Lake Andes, SD,
605-487-7694

JUNE 5
One Vine, Many Branches All Catholic Mass
NSU Barnett Center, Aberdeen,
SD, 605-216-2081

JUNE 11
The Big Mick
George S. Mickelson Trail,
Deadwood, SD,
mickelsontrailaffiliates.com

JUNE 16-18
Czech Days
Lidice Street, Tabor, SD,
605-463-2478

JUNE 16-19
South Dakota Shakespeare Festival
Prentis Park, Vermillion, SD,
605-622-0423

JUNE 17-18
Oahe Days Arts & Music Festival
Steamboat Park, Pierre, SD,
oaadays.com

JUNE 18
SD Cattlemen's Foundation Prime Time Gala
Sioux Falls Convention Center &
Denny Sanford Premier Center,
Sioux Falls, SD, www.sdcattlemensfoundation.com

JUNE 18-19
Aberdeen Arts in the Park
Melgaard Park, Aberdeen, SD,
605-226-1557

JUNE 18-19
Brookings Kite Festival
Fishback Soccer Complex,
Brookings, SD, 605-695-9071

JUNE 22-25
Crystal Springs Rodeo
17803 479th Ave., Clear Lake,
SD, crystalspringsrodeo.com

JUNE 24-26
Black Hills Bluegrass Festival
Rush No More RV Resort &
Campground, Sturgis, SD,
blackhillsbluegrass.com

JULY 3
Richmond Lake Fireworks
Richmond Lake at Edwards
Preserve Point, Aberdeen, SD,
www.facebook.com/RichmondLakeLife/

JULY 9
AutoValue Car Show
Hav-A-Rest Campground,
Redfield, SD, 605-450-0332

JULY 23
19th Annual Make-A-Wish Poker Run
C&S Motorsports, Aberdeen,
SD, 605-225-7262 or
605-228-0604

JULY 23
Richmond Lake Association Pontoon Poker Run
Anchor's Away Resort,
Aberdeen, SD, www.facebook.com/RichmondLakeLife/

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.