

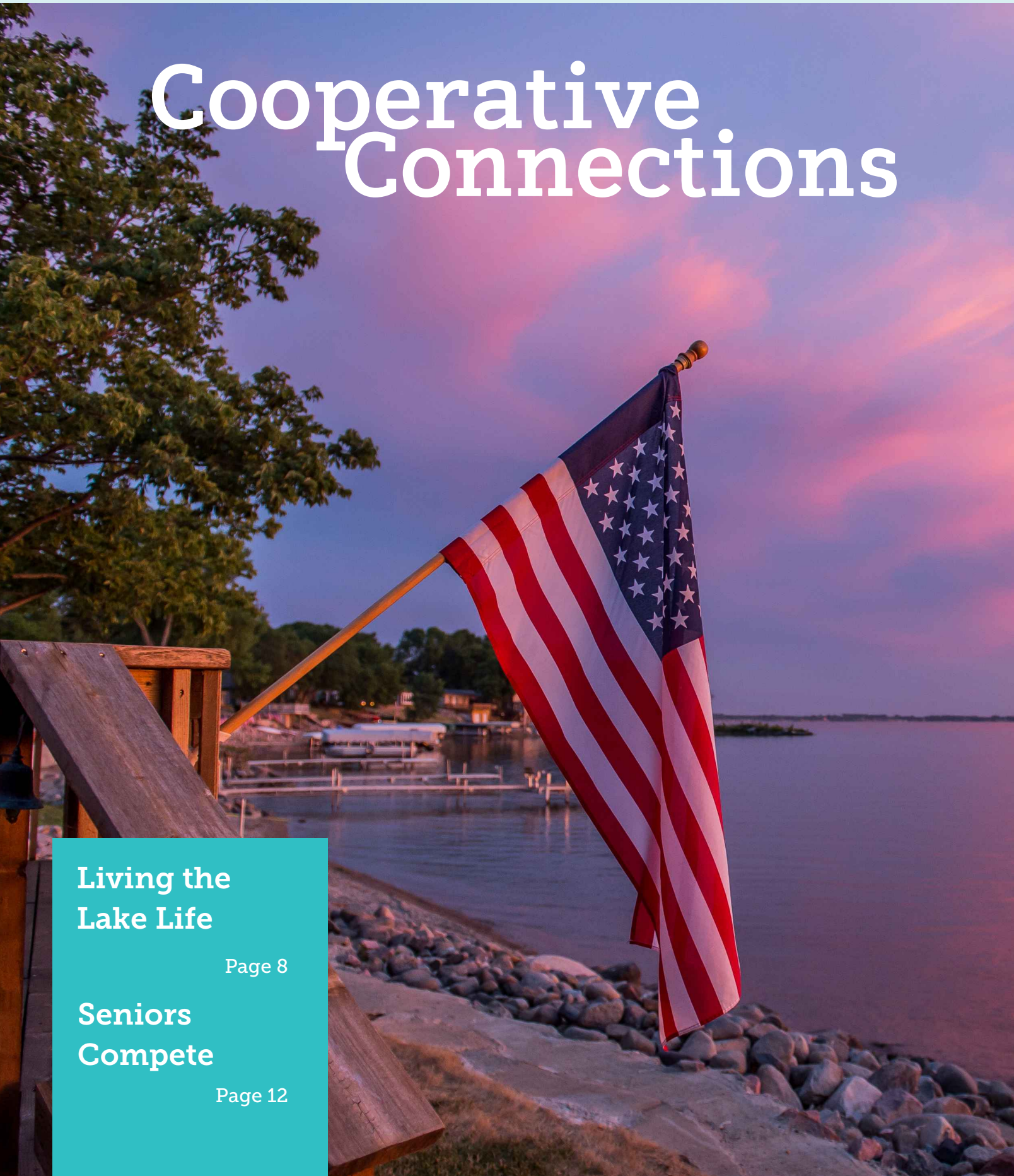
Cooperative Connections

**Living the
Lake Life**

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Compete**

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Co-ops Were Formed With Hard Work and Self-Reliance

Cooperatives Represent The American Way



Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

As I pause to think about Independence Day, I cannot help but think about how cooperatives truly epitomize the American way.

July is always ushered in with a bang as we celebrate Independence Day with fireworks, long weekends at the lake, parades, and picnics. On the Fourth of July, we celebrate our freedoms, our democracy, and our ability to pursue life, liberty, and happiness. This midsummer holiday gives Americans the chance to pause and reflect on all of the things that make our country great. As I pause to think about Independence Day, I cannot help but think about how cooperatives truly epitomize the American way. Nearly everything about cooperatives screams U-S-A, U-S-A.

Yes, it is true, the formation of the cooperative principles we use today can be traced back to the 1800s in England, but we don't want to talk about those guys in this column because – after all – it is Independence Day. However, I do want to talk about those principles which guide co-ops – like Northern Electric – as we conduct business to serve our members.

Co-ops are formed by underserved populations to provide goods and services and fill a need in communities. Electric cooperatives, for example, were formed in South Dakota in the 1930s and 1940s because other utilities did not believe it was worthwhile or profitable to build miles of infrastructure to serve rural homes and farms with electricity. Those South Dakota farmers and rural residents decided to pool their resources and build their own electrical systems because no one else was going to do it for them. It is an example of how electric cooperatives were born out of the American spirit of hard work and self-reliance.

Cooperatives are also structured in a truly American fashion. All co-ops operate under the principle of being democratically controlled. Every member of a co-op – which is everyone who purchases goods and services from the co-op – has the opportunity to run for the cooperative's board of directors and vote for the representatives who sit on that board of directors. Northern Electric has nine board members who represent nine different districts across the co-op's service territory. Those nine directors serve staggered terms on the board so every year there is the opportunity for members to run and vote for board members from some of those districts. This year, Northern Electric is accepting petitions for directors in District 2, 5, and 9. More information on the petition process and running for the board of directors can be found on pages 10-11 in this issue. Petitions are being accepted until July 5, which is the day after Independence Day.

Democratic member control is just one of the seven principles which guide cooperatives as we serve our members. Other principles include open membership, equitable economic participation, independence and autonomy, education, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for community. These principles represent the cooperative way, but they also represent the American spirit of working together to benefit the communities we live in. It is the reason co-ops are as American as those hot dogs we'll be eating on the Fourth of July.



(USPS 396-040)

Board President: Donna Sharp

Board of Directors

Randy Kienow – Vice President
 Nolan Wipf – Secretary
 Wayne Holt – Treasurer
 Fran Esser
 Victor Fischbach
 Ron Kaaz
 Josh Larson
 Mark Sumption

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 Duns Moor -
 bduns Moor@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.

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Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held May 23, 2019, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. As the first order of business, the Board approved the April 18, 2019, minutes and April expenditures. The Board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management including details on financial, operations, member services, safety, communications and IT.

Directors viewed the East River Power Cooperative video report. East River Director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the May 3, 2019, meeting which was held via conference call. General Manager Char Hager reported on the East River MAC meeting she attended May 6, 2019, in Madison, SD. The next South Dakota Rural Electric Association board meeting will be held June 27-28, 2019, in Pierre. General Manager Char Hager reported on the 2019 NRECA Legislative Conference she attended April 28-30, in Washington, DC.

Manager's Report

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

- Update and discussion on development projects and activities taking place in the community and our service area.
- Brief update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund activities.
- Legal and Legislative report.
- Reported to the board that the donation to SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc. has been matched by East River and Basin Electric.
- Informed the board of the American Coalition for Ethanol Conference, August 14-16, 2019, in Omaha, Nebraska.
- Informed the board of the South Dakota Wind Energy Association Annual

Membership Meeting, May 30, 2019, at East River Electric, Madison, SD. Director Ron Kaaz will seek a term as director on the SD Wind Energy Association board.

- Informed the board that NEC will sponsor seven youth for the SDREA Youth Excursion to North Dakota, July 22-25.
- Informed the board that applications have been received for the 2019 Basin VIP Tour, June 25-26, the deadline for applications is May 29, 2019.
- Calendar review of upcoming meetings and events.

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 Thursday, June 20, 2019.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$6,441.50.
3. Approved Work Order Inventory #19-04 for \$41,534.02 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
4. Appointed Donna Sharp as delegate and Mark Sumption as alternate to the 2019 NCSC Annual Meeting, July 2, in New York, NY.
5. Authorized retirement of Basin Electric capital credits in the amount of \$380,851.66 based on first in, first out, methodology.
6. Approved revision to existing Electric Tariff.
7. Held Executive Session.

Questions or more details on any of these matters? Please ask your cooperative manager, staff member or director.

Financial Report	April 2019	April 2018
kWh Sales	22,246,592 kWh	24,557,915 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,108,204	\$2,240,743
Total Cost of Service	\$2,138,787	\$2,390,472
Operating Margins	(-\$30,583)	(-\$149,729)
Year To Date Margins	\$493,100	\$218,908

Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill

April 2019	1,929 kWh	\$200.07	.1037 per kWh
April 2018	2,244 kWh	\$218.65	.0974 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 79.6% of NEC's total cost of service.

Electrical Safety Tips for the 4th of July

Well, it's summer and in just a few weeks the biggest holiday of the season arrives: The Fourth of July! As we prepare for backyard BBQs and poolside fun, there are some important things to remember to make sure it's a safe holiday.

Whether you are hosting or heading over to a neighbor's or relative's house to celebrate, we have a few safety tips to share with you so that your friends and family enjoy your time together and avoid accidents

Summer Poolside Electrical Safety Tips

Spending time in and around the pool is a big part of summer and celebration during the warmest months of the year. Regardless of whether you are hosting a get-together at your home or someone else's, make sure the chances for accidents are minimal by following these simple safety steps:

- Never run electrical cords over or alongside the pool. Water and electricity don't mix!
- If you are decorating the backyard, string party lights a minimum of three feet away from the pool or any water source.
- Store and activate fireworks as far away from the pool as possible.
- Never use a flotation device to support an electrical appliance (fan, etc.).
- Never cross the pool exit or towel storage area with electrical wires.
- Always use safety caps on electrical outlets near water.
- When possible, use GFCI outlets to protect yourself and your electrical appliances outdoors.

Electrical Power Line Safety Tips

Power lines run through neighborhoods and can even pass through overgrown trees. They're often the most dangerous when you don't even notice they're there because you either see them all of the time or they are covered by tree canopies. Stay mindful and remember these safety tips when you're spending time in the backyard or outdoor neighborhoods:

- Never let kids (or adults for that matter) climb trees that are near power lines.
- Make sure your trees are trimmed and out of the way of power lines running through your yard or near your home.
- Never attempt to touch a downed power line. If there is one in your yard, call the electric company immediately. There can still be current running through the line and an active line is highly dangerous.

Source: allstarelectrical.com

HERE'S WHAT
\$1 OF ELECTRICITY
WILL BUY YOU:



250 HOURS
OF BREWING COFFEE

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Don't let your goat eat your extension cords."

Paige Oppelt, 8 years old

Paige is the daughter of Paul and Laura Oppelt, Goodwin, S.D. They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative, Clear Lake, S.D.

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.

Delectable Desserts

Rhubarb Dump Cake

1 lb. rhubarb, cut into 1/4-inch slices	1 (18.25 oz.) pkg. yellow cake mix
1 cup white sugar	1 cup water
1 (3 oz.) pkg. strawberry gelatin	1/4 cup margarine, melted

Spread rhubarb evenly in bottom of a buttered 9x13-inch baking dish. Sprinkle sugar over rhubarb, followed by gelatin mix and finally the cake mix. Pour water and melted margarine over top. Do not stir. Bake at 350°F. for 45 minutes or until rhubarb is tender.

Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN

Cherry-Pineapple Dessert

1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple with juice	1 cup coconut flakes
1 (21 oz.) can cherry pie filling	1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts, if desired
1 box yellow cake mix	1 cup (2 sticks) butter

Dump pineapple with juice and spread into bottom of pan. Top with cherry pie filling. Sprinkle top evenly with dry cake mix. Add coconut and chopped nuts. Slice butter over all. Bake at 350°F. for 35 to 40 minutes. Let cool before cutting.

Arlene BaanHofman, Corsica, SD

Mexican Cheese Cake (Sopapilla)

2 (8 oz. each) cans refrigerated crescent rolls	1-3/4 cups sugar, divided
2 (8 oz. each) pkgs. cream cheese, softened	1 tsp. vanilla
	1/2 cup butter, melted
	1 T. ground cinnamon

In medium bowl, beat cream cheese and 1 cup sugar and vanilla. Unroll 1 can dough. Place in bottom of ungreased 9x13-inch (3-quart) glass baking dish. Stretch to cover bottom of dish, firmly pressing perforations to seal. Spread cream cheese mixture over dough. Unroll second can of dough. Firmly press perforations to seal. Carefully place on top of cream cheese layer. Pinch seams together. Mix remaining sugar with cinnamon; sprinkle evenly over all. Drizzle melted butter evenly over top. Bake at 350°F. for 30 to 35 minutes or until puffed and brown. Cool before cutting.

Clarice Roghair, Okaton, SD

Spiced Peanut Butter Caramel Pie

1-3/4 cups graham cracker, crumbs	1/2 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. ground ginger	2 tsp. apple pie spice
6 T. butter, melted	2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
2 (8 oz. each) pkg. Neufchâtel cheese, 1/3 less fat than cream cheese, softened	2 cups thawed frozen light whipped topping
1/2 cup peanut butter	1/4 cup caramel dessert topping
	1/2 cup chopped peanuts

Mix crumbs and ginger in medium bowl. Stir in butter until well blended. Press crumb mixture evenly into bottom and up sides of lightly greased 9-inch pie plate. Bake at 350°F. for 10 minutes. Cool completely on wire rack. Beat cream cheese, peanut butter and sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended and smooth. Beat in apple pie spice and vanilla until well mixed. Gently stir in whipped topping. Spoon into cooled crust. Drizzle with dessert topping. Using knife, gently swirl topping into pie until marbled. Sprinkle with peanuts. Refrigerate 4 hours or until set. Store leftover pie in refrigerator. Makes 12 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 401, Total Fat 25g, Sodium 380mg, Cholesterol 42mg, Carbohydrates 34g, Protein 10g, Dietary Fiber 1g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Ginger Snaps

2 cups sugar	1 tsp. salt
1-1/2 cups butter	2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 cup molasses	1 tsp. cloves
2 eggs	1/2 tsp. nutmeg
5 cups flour	3 tsp. ginger
3 tsp. soda	

Mix in order listed. Roll into small balls the size of walnuts. Roll balls in sugar. Place 2 inches apart. Bake at 375°F. for 15 minutes.

Bonnie Weber, Aberdeen, SD

Please send your favorite vegetarian, garden produce and pasta 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 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

2019 YOUTH EXCURSION

Participants

Teens from electric cooperatives across South Dakota will travel to North Dakota July 22-25 for the 2019 Youth Excursion. Students will stay at Bismarck State College and learn about energy careers, participate in team-building activities and tour the resources that generate the electricity they use every day.

Seven teens from the Northern Electric Cooperative service territory will be participating in the 2019 Youth Excursion. Their profiles are included on this page.

For more information on Youth Excursion visit:

www.northernelectric.coop/youthexcursion



Cynthia Ford

Miller High School

Cynthia will be a sophomore at Miller High School in the fall. She is the daughter of Shon & Jessie Ford. She enjoys volleyball, shopping and spending time with friends. Cynthia has one sister who will be a senior this fall. She has a dog named Booker who is a Shih Tzu and Mexican bald dog mix.



Breanna Huber

Home School

Breanna Huber is the daughter of Weylin and Kim Huber. She has an older brother and sister. Breanna lives west of Warner where she is homeschooled. She will be a junior in the fall. She enjoys trap shooting, riding horses and is an active member of 4-H.



Hailey Jo Monson

Groton High School

Hailey Jo Monson will be a junior at Groton Area High School in the fall. She has a 4.0 grade point average, is involved in many activities and loves music and art.



Kaitlyn Kost

Aberdeen Central High School

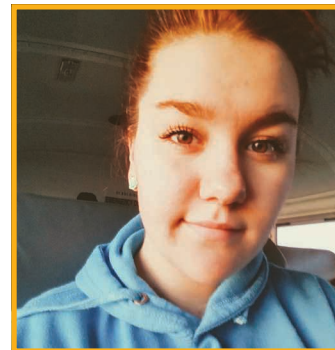
Kaitlyn Kost is the daughter of Michael and Sara Kost of Aberdeen. She has an older brother and sister. Kaitlyn will be a sophomore at Aberdeen Central High School in the fall. She enjoys working with animals, nature, hiking, travel, and is a certified scuba diver.



Danielle Nowell

Hitchcock-Tulare High School

Danielle will be a sophomore at Hitchcock-Tulare High School. She participates in student council, cross country, volleyball, basketball, track, choir, band, FFA and is a member of the Tulare United Church Praise Band and Senior Youth Group. She is the daughter of Josh and Kasey Nowell.



Irelande Podoll

Frederick High School

Irelande Podoll is from Westport and is a junior at Frederick Area High School. Irelande is looking forward to Youth Excursion and learning more about her co-op. Irelande's grandmother works at Northern Electric Cooperative.



Elizabeth Wanous

Warner High School

Elizabeth Wanous will be a junior at Warner High School this fall. She enjoys playing volleyball and basketball. Elizabeth is also on the Warner trap shooting team. She has been in 4-H for seven years and shows steers, sheep, chickens and horse.

SUMMER EFFICIENCY TIPS

Here are a few energy saving tips to help you cut costs and stay cool this summer.



OUTSIDE

- Planting shade trees can help reduce your heating and cooling bill.
- Grill outside or use the microwave. Ovens and stoves can raise your kitchen's temperature up to 10°.

WINDOWS & VENTS

- Keep the sun out. Close your window blinds and curtains during the day.
- Turn off your air conditioner and open your windows on cool evenings.

TEMPERATURE CONTROL

- Raise your thermostat. Every degree above 72° saves up to 3% of your cooling costs.
- Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster.
- A ceiling fan will allow you to raise your thermostat setting about 4°F with no reduction in comfort. Turn off ceiling fans when you leave the room. (Fans cool people, not rooms.)
- A programmable thermostat allows you to heat and cool your home more effectively.
- Installing a smart thermostat is even better. It's a small investment, but the savings and comfort are worth it.
- Keep lamps or TV sets away from your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances and causes your air conditioner to run longer.

Together we are

RE-ENERGIZING EFFICIENCY





Elm Lake in northern Brown County has seen steady growth.
Photo by Ben Dunsmoor

LIVING THE LAKE LIFE

Scenic Views, Tranquil Living Inspire Many

Brenda Kleinjan & Ben Dunsmoor

brenda.kleinjan@sdrea.coop and
bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Minnesota may be known as the Land of 10,000 Lakes, but for increasing number of South Dakotans are also making the connection to the water.

Some lakes in the Rushmore State have had developments associated with them for several decades while other lakes are relative new-comers to the year-round-home lake life.

Northern Electric Cooperative serves four major recreational lakes within Brown and Spink counties. The co-op serves nearly 1,000 lake-area homes and businesses at Elm Lake, Richmond Lake, Mina Lake, and Cottonwood Lake combined.

Elm Lake in northern Brown County has seen steady growth in popularity over the past 12 years. Elm Lake Association President Mike Jung says Elm Lake is not as busy as other lakes in the



Fishing is a popular pastime on many area lakes.
Photo by www.TravelSouthDakota.com

county and believes the quiet lifestyle is what is appealing to many people.

“I think the biggest thing up here is it’s so quiet all week long,” Jung said. “If you want to go fishing you can go a half mile down the lake and not have any jet skis near you.”

Mina Lake boasts the largest lake population within Northern Electric’s service territory. More than 400 homes and businesses are part of the small community between Aberdeen and Ipswich.

Mina Lake has been developing since the late 1930s when Julie Johnson’s grandfather built the first two cabins on the lake. Johnson currently lives at the lake and her family has been involved with developing the lake throughout her lifetime. She says the improvements in electric, water, and wastewater infrastructure has transformed the lake from a weekend destination to a full-time home for many residents.

“There are just a whole lot more people living out (at Mina Lake) all year long,” Johnson said.

Richmond Lake is also a popular place to

live, work, and play in Brown County. The 200-acre state-run Richmond Lake Recreation Area is open to campers, swimmers, and fishing enthusiasts. Nearly 300 homes and businesses are located around the Richmond Lake shoreline.

“I think the biggest thing up here is it’s so quiet all week long.”

Cottonwood Lake in Spink County serves as a Redfield-area retreat. More than 100 homes dot the shores of Cottonwood which is a busy spot for boating and fishing throughout the summer months.

Head to the south and one of the state’s largest lakes, Lake Poinsett, has been increasing in popularity over the years, with a growing number of year-round homes.

Settled into the southern part of Hamlin County and northern part of Brookings County, S.D. Highway 28 provides easy

access to the lake from Interstate 29 while U.S. Highway 81 provides a north-south corridor from Watertown to Madison and points south.

To the west, growth along Lake Oahe – the stretch of the Missouri River extending above the Oahe Dam at Pierre up into North Dakota – has also seen considerable growth.

And with that growth can be challenges.

“We’ve experienced it in the past, when the reservoir gets full, the hills shift on us and can tear our cable apart. It’s torn on us three times already,” said Cam Wal Electric Manager Terry Keller. The western boundary of the co-op’s area is formed by Lake Oahe in Campbell, Walworth and Potter counties.

Keller said that some of the areas have residents year-round, while others are occupied in the spring, summer and fall.

“We have a few that come stay a couple of weeks and then go home,” Keller said.

“Even with the challenges, the real growth we have is along the reservoir,” said Keller.



Lake Poinsett provides inspiring vistas for photographer Greg Latza.
Photo and Cover by ©Greg Latza

Nominating Petitions Due By July 5, 2019

Petitions Now Available For 2019 Board of Directors Seats

The District 2 seat will be vacant because Board Treasurer Wayne Holt of Aberdeen has reached his term limit.

During Northern Electric Cooperative's 2019 Annual Meeting (Thursday, September 5, 2019, at the Aberdeen Civic Arena) members will elect Directors for Districts 2, 5, and 9.

Incumbent directors Donna Sharp, Bath (Dist. 5) and Nolan Wipf, Hitchcock (Dist. 9) are eligible to run again and are up for re-election. The District 2 seat will be vacant because Board Treasurer Wayne Holt of Aberdeen has reached his 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 5, 2019.**

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



**IT'S YOUR
CO-OP
YOU HAVE
THE POWER**

You are a member-owner of your electric cooperative. That means you have a say in what happens around here. So, use your power and learn how you can get involved.

Together we're
**RE-ENERGIZING
TOMORROW'S
LEADERS**



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

2019 Annual Meeting Scheduled for Thursday, September 5

Director Nomination and Election Process

Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws Article IV Section 5

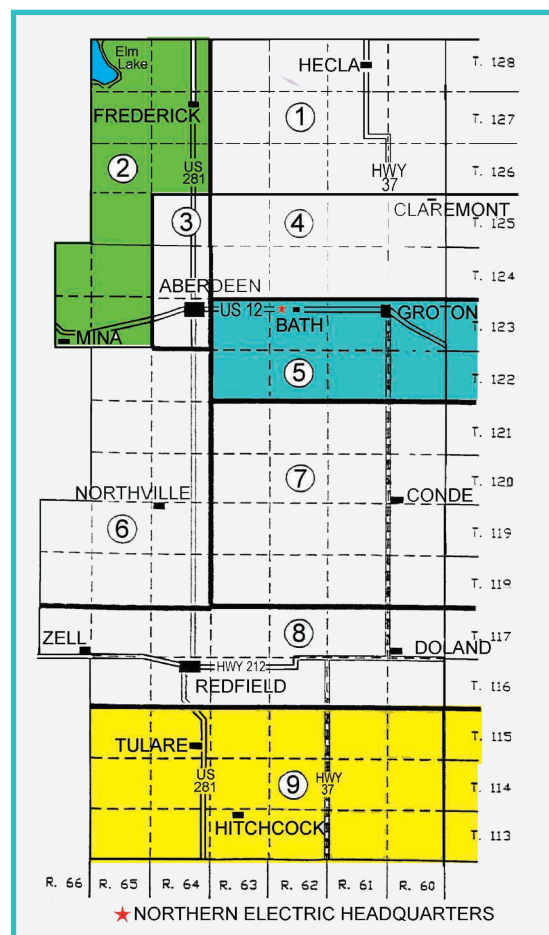
Section 5. Nomination of Directors. The nominating process shall be premised on a nine (9) District - nine (9) Director Cooperative. **Any ten (10) or more members residing in such District may file a nominating petition with the Secretary placing in nomination any qualified member from such District. 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.



Seniors Staying in Shape

Fellowship, Competition All Part of Senior Games

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

For more than 35 years, South Dakota seniors have been gathering in fellowship and competition in the South Dakota Senior Games.

The state senior games will be held in September in Watertown, while regional competitions take place throughout the state from May through August. (Minnesota's Senior Games are Aug 1-4 in St. Cloud.)

The South Dakota games got their start in 1984 when the Division of Adult Services and Aging within the South Dakota Department of Social Services established the competition. The purpose was to encourage seniors to become involved in, as well as maintain, on-going physical exercise.

By 1996, state funding for the games was withdrawn, but the games continued on. A Senior Games board of directors was formed, comprised of participants from across the state. The non-profit establishes the rules and regulations for the games and provides financing and developing local, regional games as well as the state games which features 21 different sports.

Team and partner events as well as individual competitions are part of the 21 sports offered at the South Dakota Senior Games.

Since then, hundreds of South Dakotans aged 50 and up have been lacing up their sneakers and heading to the field, court or track to compete.

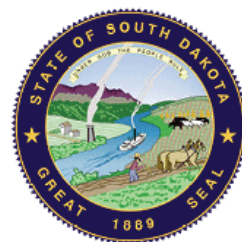
During the South Dakota Senior Games state competition, participants will compete in 21 different events within five-year age divisions (50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94, 95-99 and 100+).

Every two years, a national event is scheduled and the state games are the qualifying event for the national stage.

The 2019 National Games were set for June 14-25 in Albuquerque, N.M.



**SOUTH DAKOTA
SENIOR GAMES**



South Dakota Senior Games

Thursday, Sept. 5

7:30 a.m. – Golf and Shuffleboard

8:30 a.m. – Disc Golf and Bean Bag Toss

12:15 p.m. – Swimming

12:30 p.m. – 8-ball pool

2:30 p.m. – Bowling Mixed Doubles and Jump Rope

5 p.m. – Pickelball mixed doubles

5:30 p.m. – Table Tennis and Strength contests (Pull ups, timed plank, push ups, arm curls, timed wall sit, bench press reps)

Friday, Sept. 6

7:30 a.m. – Horseshoes

8 a.m. – Pickelball (Doubles and Singles)

8 a.m. – Cycling (5k, 10k, 20k, recumbent bikes)

9 a.m. – Bowling (Men's and women's singles)

12:15 p.m. – Track and Field

12:30 p.m. – Tennis and Badminton

2:30 p.m. – Volleyball

3 p.m. – Softball (Men's 60+)

6:30 p.m. – Banquet and Annual Awards Presentations

Saturday, Sept. 7

7 a.m. – 5k race walk and 5k power walk; 5k road race; 10k road race

7:30 a.m. – Track and Field

9 a.m. – Basketball shoot

11:30 a.m. – Picnic for athletes

1 p.m. – Three-on-Three Basketball

2 p.m. – Racquetball

2 p.m. – Mens Softball

3 p.m. – Womens Softball

Sunday, Sept. 8

8:15 a.m. – Archery

10 a.m. – Men's and Women's Softball Continues

Table tennis is one of 21 sports at the South Dakota Senior Games.

South Dakota Regional Senior Games

Sioux Falls	May 30- June 1	Nick Brady Sioux Falls Parks and Rec Phone: 978-6924
Northern Hills Senior Games, Spearfish	June 7-8	Brett Rauterkus – Spearfish Rec Center 722-1430
Madison Interlake Games	June 28-29	Bernie Schuurmans 270-3327
Aberdeen	July 11-13	Gene Morsching – Aberdeen Parks and Rec 626-7015
Black Hills Senior Games	July 24-27	Rapid City Parks and Rec – Kristi Lintz 394-4268
Brookings	July 26-27	Brookings Activities Center – Traci Saugstad 692-4492
Yankton	Aug. 3-4	Yankton Parks and Rec – Brittany Orr 668-5234
Huron	Aug. 9 – (Pickleball) Aug. 10 – Track and Field and other events.	Howard Bich – Call for information and Registration Form – 605-275-6891 or 605-491-0635 – Cell or LaRon Clock 605-353-8533
Watertown	Aug. 22-24	Watertown Parks & Rec – Andrew Magedanz

State Senior Games

Minnesota State Senior Games, St. Cloud	Aug. 1-4	Contact Info: Fritz Butkowski Phone: 320-762-2868 Web Site: Minnesota Senior Games http://mnseniorgames.com http://www.mnseniorgames.com/page/Schedule-of-Events-x-274-21-287.html
South Dakota State Games, Watertown	Sept. 5-8 (Online registration is Aug. 30. There is no on-site registration)	Howard Bich, Executive Director e-mail: sdsrgames@gmail.com or habich@sio.midco.net 605-491-0635



Today, while exploring and adventuring, you can also stay connected. Nature already provides energy that can power various on-the-go gadgets. Outdoors enthusiasts can harness power from the sun, wind and water to charge devices that make camping even better.

ELECTRICITY ON THE GO!

Maria Kavensky

NRECA

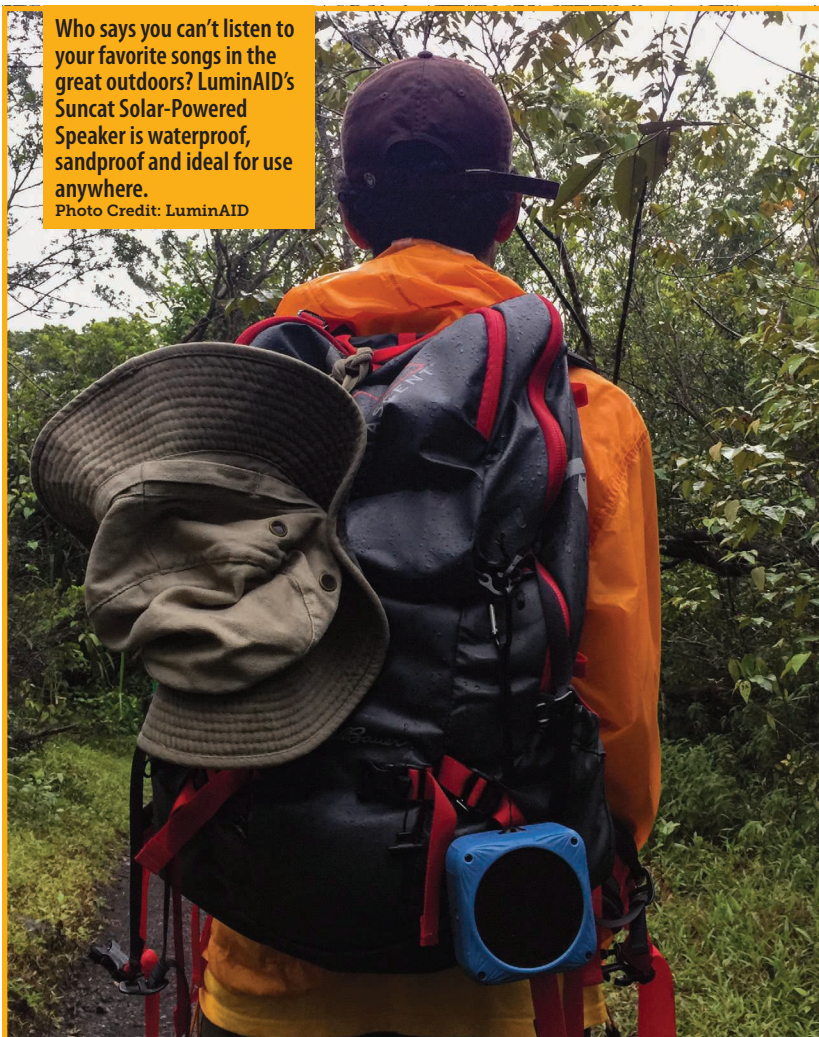
Everyone enjoys the great outdoors. The fresh air, getting in touch with nature and physical exercise are key highlights of camping. Today, while exploring and adventuring, you can also still stay connected. Although the great outdoors does not come equipped with ready-to-use electricity, nature already provides energy that can power various on-the-go gadgets. While spending time outside, you can harness power from the sun, wind and water to charge devices that can make your camping experience even better.

One example is a portable light powered by the sun, like BioLite's portable solar light. The device includes a built-in solar panel that can be placed on a backpack during the day. In about seven hours of charging in the sun, you can reach 50 hours of burn time from the small device. Just think, after a full day of exploring, you can relax in your tent and enjoy a new book. This product is just one of many by BioLite, which sells various products meant for off-grid households and recreational use of fuel-independent charging.

LuminAID offers a similar product, the PackLite Firefly USB, which is an inflatable lantern with five lighting modes. The device is compact, waterproof and portable in size for easy charging on the go. The Packlite Firefly USB needs about 10 hours of sunlight to fully charge.

If you want a smaller solar-powered gadget for lighting, try products like Davis Instruments LightCap. This

Who says you can't listen to your favorite songs in the great outdoors? LuminAID's Suncat Solar-Powered Speaker is waterproof, sandproof and ideal for use anywhere.
Photo Credit: LuminAID



cap fits any 2-inch water bottle, like those sold by Nalgene or Camelback, and it's extremely convenient since you don't need to worry about the gadget as long as you keep it on your water bottle. At night, the water bottle lights up from the cap shining through. A few different versions are available on Amazon for about \$30 or less.

To power all your USB-based devices, such as cell phones, speakers, camp lights or GoPros, you can walk around with a USB solar backpack. There are several varieties of backpacks available from different manufacturers, ranging in price from \$50 to more than \$200, and normally taking about four to six hours to fully charge.

For longer camping trips, there are portable showers that can be heated by the sun. The reservoir bag holds five gallons of water, which can be used for multiple showers, and warms up through a heat-locking material when left in the sun. These are convenient for camping but could also come in handy for emergencies

While spending time outside, you can harness power from the sun, wind and water to charge devices that can make your camping experience even better.

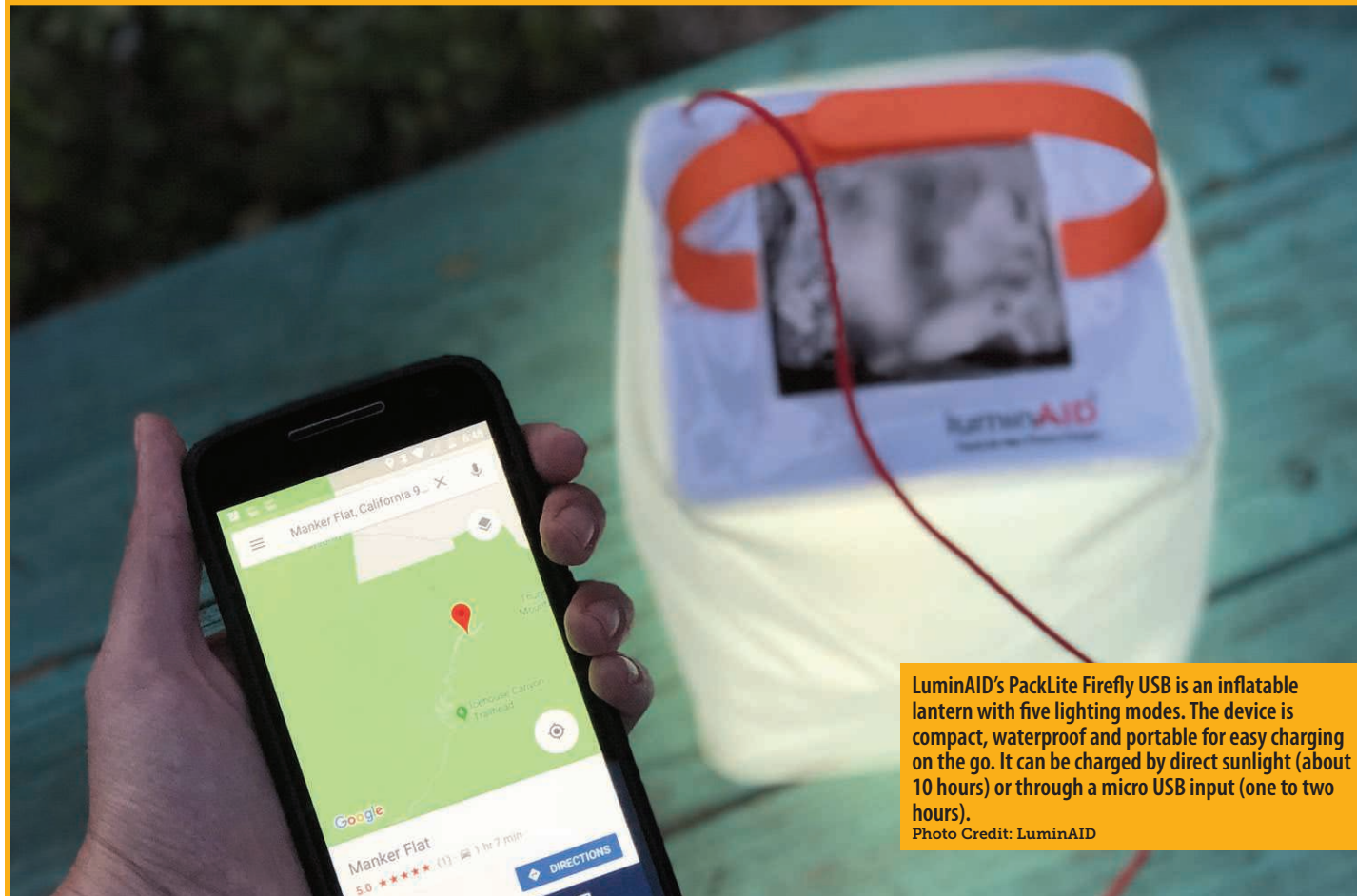
when hot water isn't accessible. Solar-powered portable showers are available from different manufacturers. Visit Amazon.com or check local retail stores like Walmart and Cabela's to review your options.

When the skies are cloudy or there's a lot of tree coverage, there are additional energy sources to be found in nature. Although less common, another way to charge your

USB devices is by using a small turbine by Waterlily that harnesses either wind or hydro energy. By letting the turbine run in the wind or in a fast-moving stream, you can charge any of your devices. Even when there isn't a strong gust or a fast stream, the turbine comes with a hand crank that generates power as well. Visit www.waterlilyturbine.com for more information.

Just five years ago, many of these gadgets were still prototypes, and now most of them are easily accessible to buy online. Thanks to these advances, we can enjoy the outdoors and stay connected while keeping a clean footprint.

Maria Kanevsky is a program manager for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.



LuminAID's PackLite Firefly USB is an inflatable lantern with five lighting modes. The device is compact, waterproof and portable for easy charging on the go. It can be charged by direct sunlight (about 10 hours) or through a micro USB input (one to two hours).

Photo Credit: LuminAID

June 22

South Dakota Cattlemen's Foundation Prime Time Gala, Fundraiser for Feeding SD, Convention Center and Denny Sanford Premier Center, Sioux Falls, SD, www.sdcattlemensfoundation.com, Facebook: South Dakota Cattlemen's Foundation

June 27-29

74th Annual Crystal Springs Rodeo, Performances every night at 8 p.m., Clear Lake, SD, 605-874-2996, crystalspringsrodeo.com

June 27-30

Camaro Rally, Sturgis, SD, 605-720-0800

June 28-29

Senior Games, Madison, SD, Contact Bernie Schuurmans at 605-270-3327

June 28-30

Annual Main Street Arts & Crafts Festival, Hot Springs, SD, 605-440-2738

June 29

Farm Fun Day at the Zoo, Watertown, SD, 605-882-6269

June 29-30

Archeology Awareness Days, Mitchell, SD, 605-996-5473

July 2-4

Sitting Bull Stampede Rodeo, Mobridge, SD, 605-845-2387

July 2-7

100th Annual Black Hills Roundup, Belle Fourche, SD, 605-723-2010

July 5-7

Badlands Astronomy Festival, Interior, SD, 605-433-5243



June 21-23: Scavenger's Journey, A treasure trove event with antiques, rummages and more stretching from Mt. Vernon to Kadoka, SD, Contact Elaine Titze at 605-999-7287, www.scavengersjourney.com

Photo courtesy: Scavenger's Journey Committee

July 5-7

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Annual Wacipi, Agency Village, SD, 605-698-8284

July 5-7, 12-14, 19-21

Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant, De Smet, SD, 800-776-3594

July 6

Rivercity Rumble #4 Demolition Derby, 1 p.m., Chamberlain, SD, 605-220-9391

July 6-7

Prairie Village Railroad Days, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

July 9-14

3 Wheeler Rally, Deadwood, SD, 605-717-7174

July 11-13

Annual Hot Harley Nights, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-334-2721

July 11-13

Senior Games, Aberdeen, SD, Contact Gene Morsching at 605-626-7015

July 13

Cruiser Car Show & Street Fair, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

July 13

Fifth Annual AutoValue Car Show, Hav-A-Rest Campground, Redfield, SD, 605-450-0332

July 13-14

Summer Arts Festival, Brookings, SD, 605-692-2787,

July 17-20

Black Hills Corvette Classic, Spearfish, SD, 605-759-4530

July 18-21

Corn Palace Stampede Rodeo, Mitchell, SD, 605-770-4919

July 19-20

Storybook Land Festival, Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-7015

July 19-20

Gumbo Ridge Bronc Ride and Ranch Rodeo, Murdo, SD, 605-669-3031

July 19-21

Stampede Rodeo, Burke, SD, 605-830-0304

July 19-21

Annual Festival in the Park, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

July 20-11

Hills Alive, Rapid City, SD, 605-342-6822

July 20-21

JazzFest, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-335-6101

July 27

16th Annual Make-a-Wish Poker Run, Starting at Biegler Motor Sports and ending at Harley Davidson, Aberdeen, SD, 605-225-7262 or 605-228-0604

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.