

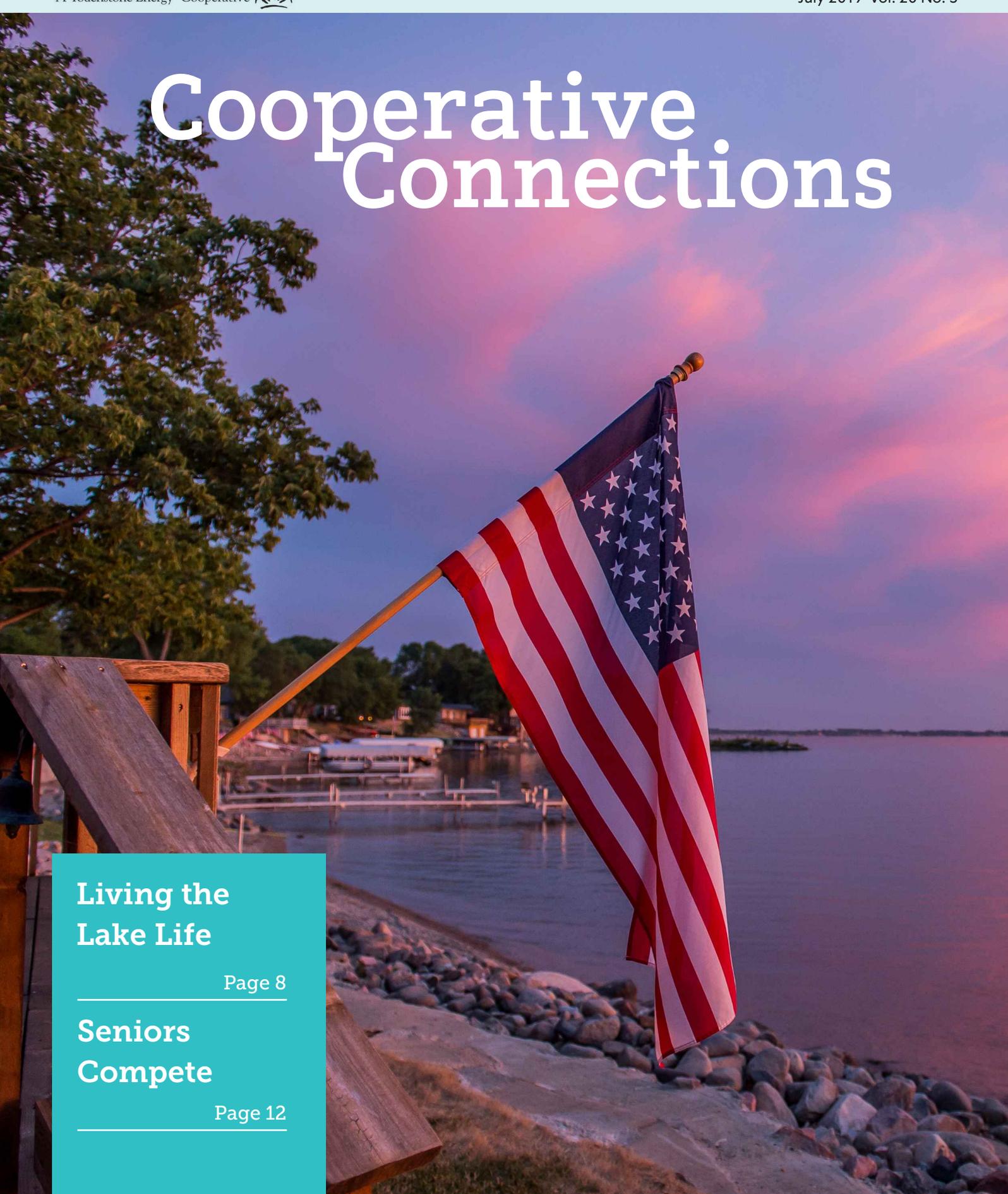
# Cooperative Connections

**Living the  
Lake Life**

Page 8

**Seniors  
Compete**

Page 12



BHEC President

# Reflections on first year



Alan Bishop - Board President

bhec@bhec.coop

**There have been a lot of changes in the past five decades for BHEC and me.**

One of the first memories that I have involving the Black Hills Electric Co-op was attending an Annual Meeting somewhere in Custer, with my parents. It wasn't at the office because they didn't have a meeting room at that time, but my mother couldn't remember where it was held. We both remembered that there was a potluck supper with only about 30 to 40 people present including the co-op staff.

That annual meeting may have resembled a church gathering more than a business meeting. It was a place to get acquainted, share ideas and concerns, and learn the workings of a young electric utility. It became clear, even to a young boy, that this small group of dedicated, caring members felt that the giving of their time and talents to help improve the quality of life of their neighbors was important.

In the nearly 50 years since then, I have helped build our family ranch in the Hermosa area. In that time, I learned that I at least needed a working knowledge of a lot of different subjects. I needed a basic understanding of agronomy, range management, animal health and nutrition, general electrical, plumbing, mechanics, and building trades, marketing and accounting. This diversity is why I was and still am so intrigued with agriculture.

When I began my service on the BHEC Board of Directors eight years ago, I quickly became aware of how an equally diverse knowledge is needed to direct this company. Although these businesses differ, many basic skillsets stay the same. Budgeting, planning and prioritizing are needed with any successful business. Equally important is staying current with new innovations, regulations and the ever-changing work environment.

I have learned how power is generated, transmitted, regulated, governed and taxed before it gets to you, the owner. The Board must be concerned with controlling it safely, supplying it reliably and keeping it affordable. We also must protect our members' information from cyber attacks, which was unheard of a few short years ago. There is a lot more that goes into your monthly bill than our deciding on an arbitrary monthly dollar amount.

There have been a lot of changes in the past five decades for BHEC and me. We've both grown and taken on more responsibilities; our enhanced experiences have added to our areas of expertise and given us many great memories. The annual meeting has certainly evolved from those early potluck suppers to the event we now attend.

Even with all these changes, some things need to stay the same including the elements of caring for each other and helping improve everyone's quality of life. I see that as our continued focus.



Alan Bishop (left) receiving his Certified Cooperative Director certificate.

It has been my privilege to represent you and lead the Board for the past year. Thank you.

# Black Hills Electric Cooperative Connections

(ISSN No. 1531-104X)

**Board President:** Alan Bishop

## Board of Directors

Dennis Quivey – Vice President  
 Gary Kluthe – Secretary  
 Don Andersen – Asst. Secretary  
 Jim Preston – Treasurer  
 Al Perry  
 Dave Lindblom

**CEO and General Manager:** Walker Witt – [wwitt@bhec.coop](mailto:wwitt@bhec.coop)

**Manager of Operations –** Bill Brisk – [billb@bhec.coop](mailto:billb@bhec.coop)

**System Coordinator –** Jesse Sorenson – [jsorenson@bhec.coop](mailto:jsorenson@bhec.coop)

**Chief Financial Officer:** Sammi Langendorf – [slang@bhec.coop](mailto:slang@bhec.coop)

**Manager of Marketing and Member Services and Cooperative Connections Editor:** Mike Chase – [mchase@bhec.coop](mailto:mchase@bhec.coop)

BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Black Hills Electric Cooperative, 25191 Cooperative Way, P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730-0792. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Black Hills Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to their cooperative and living better with electricity. Also available at [www.bhec.coop](http://www.bhec.coop).

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found on-line at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202 690-7442) or e-mail at [program\\_intake@usda.gov](mailto:program_intake@usda.gov).

Subscription information: Black Hills 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 Black Hills Electric Cooperative, 25191 Cooperative Way, Custer, S.D. 57730-0792, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to Black Hills Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730-0792. Address all other correspondence to: Cooperative Connections, P.O. Box 792, Custer, S.D. 57730-0792 Telephone: (605)673-4461; Fax: (605) 673-3147; e-mail: [bhec@bhec.coop](mailto:bhec@bhec.coop); website: [www.bhec.coop](http://www.bhec.coop)

## Directors returned to board

Both incumbent directors were returned to Black Hills Electric Cooperative's board of directors at the 74th annual meeting of members in Rapid City.

In January, the cooperative mailed more than 5,650 postcards to members in the geographical areas with a director term expiring. Only the incumbents expressed interest in running for the board.

Dave Lindblom has served for nine years on the cooperative's board, including three years as board president. He represents the Lawrence, Meade and Pennington Counties geographical area. He and his wife, Starla, and son, Brad, ranch near Hermosa.



**Dave Lindblom**

Lindblom has been a member of the Battle Creek (formerly Hermosa) Volunteer Fire Department since 1991 and currently serves as Captain.

Jim Preston has been a director from Custer and Oglala Lakota Counties since 2008 and currently serves as board treasurer.



**Jim Preston**

Preston was the finance officer for Rapid City for 14 years, spent 30 years in the military and is a 45-year active member of the American Legion, serving twice as Battle Creek Post 303 commander.

He and his wife of 44 years, Dee, live near Hermosa and have three adult children and eight grandchildren.

## Dry Fork Power Plant Tour Offered

Black Hills Electric Cooperative is offering its members the opportunity to take a tour of a power plant.

The one-day tour will leave from Rapid City on Thursday, September 5, and will tour the Dry Fork Power Station and adjacent coal mine near Gillette, Wyo.

The cost of the trip is \$10 per person and includes the bus ride, tours and lunch. The bus will leave at 6 a.m. and return around 4 p.m.

If you would like to join this tour of your newest coal generation plant, please use the registration form below.

## Dry Fork Power Plant Tour

September 5, 2019

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include \$10 per person

**The registration fee is only refunded if the tour is canceled or full.**

The tour includes round-trip transportation from Rapid City, lunch and tours

**Deadline to register is Friday, July 12, 2019**

Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Send completed form and check to: Black Hills Electric, Box 792, Custer, SD 57730

**Tour registrants may join Co-op Owners for Political Action for and additional \$25**

# 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.

# Keeping Pets (and Energy Bills!) Comfortable



Pat Keegan

Collaborative Efficiency

**We're taking a look at three common energy efficiency questions from pet owners.**

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on house pets and energy, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips)

We love our pets, and we love saving energy! This month, we're taking a look at three common energy efficiency questions from pet owners.

**Q:** We've thought about installing a pet door. Will this impact my energy bill?

**A:** Pet doors are convenient for pet owners and pets, but they can impact energy bills. A pet door that is poorly made or improperly installed will create unwanted drafts that increase energy bills and reduce the overall comfort level of your home. The wrong type of door may also be pushed open during high winds.

Consider installing a pet door that is certified by the Alliance to Save Energy (ASE) or has a double or triple flap. These types of pet doors can reduce energy loss and make life easier for you and your furry friends. The best solution may be a high-quality electronic door that is activated by a chip on your pet's collar.

It's difficult to undo a pet door installation, so before taking the leap, we suggest doing your homework. There may be other strategies that will give you and your pet some of the convenient benefits without the downsides.

**Q:** To save energy, we keep our home cool during winter nights and warm during summer days. How much "hot and cold" can our pup and tabby handle?

**A:** Cats and dogs can handle the cold better than humans. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which regulates facilities that house cats and dogs, requires these facilities to maintain temperatures above 50 F. Some exceptions are allowed for breeds accustomed to the cold or if some form of insulation for the animals is provided. Your pet's tolerance really depends on their breed and the thickness of their coat.

A report by the Purdue Center for Animal Science says that Siberian huskies can tolerate temperatures below freezing, but some short-haired dogs require temperatures of 59 F or higher. Older animals may require warmer temperatures than younger ones.

During summer, cats and dogs handle the heat in different ways. Cats clearly enjoy warmer temperatures than dogs, and they do a good job of reducing their activity level as temperatures climb. But both cats and dogs can get overheated. The USDA says that room temperatures in facilities housing dogs or cats should not exceed 85 F for more than 4 hours at a time.

**Q:** Is it okay if my cat or my dog sleeps in the garage overnight?

**A:** USDA rules suggest this should be fine if your garage temperature stays between 50° F and 85° F. Pets might be able to handle a lower temperature if they have a warm, insulated bed.

I do not recommend heating or cooling your garage for your pet. This could lead to extremely high energy bills, which makes sense because an uninsulated but heated garage could easily cost more to heat than a home. A better solution is a heated pet house, which you can purchase from multiple retailers. If you're willing to spend a little more, you can even find climate-controlled pet houses that include heating and cooling options.

You can also purchase heated beds for cats and dogs. Some beds use as little as 4 watts of electricity, so they won't drain your energy bill.

We hope these tips will be helpful as you work at saving energy while caring for your favorite furry friend!

# S.D. Entities Create Partnership to Hire Cyber Intelligence Analyst

A South Dakota state government agency, a South Dakota university and a South Dakota city police department are joining together in a new partnership to fight the ever-increasing problem of cybercrime.

The state Department of Public Safety and the Sioux Falls Police Department will provide funding for a new cyber intelligence analyst working at the state Fusion Center in Sioux Falls. The analyst will also partner with cybersecurity efforts now being undertaken at Dakota State University in Madison.



Officials said the new staff member will focus on both incident response and incident prevention, using open-source cyber intelligence to help citizens, businesses, and law enforcement entities address cybercrime. At the Fusion Center, the analyst also will work with alongside federal agencies. This day-to-day contact will provide South Dakota with important insight and be a useful tool in the effort to help support and protect critical infrastructure.

“Businesses of all sizes, in cities and towns large or small, are targets of cybercriminals,” said Craig Price, Cabinet Secretary of the Department of

Public Safety. “This position will be a great asset to keep South Dakota citizens and businesses safer from the threat of cybercrime.”

Cybersecurity Ventures, a leading researcher in the global cyber economy, estimates that cybercrime will cost the world \$6 trillion annually, up from \$3 trillion in 2015. Police Chief Matt Burns of the Sioux Falls Police Department said this new analyst will give his department another resource to fight cybercrime.

“As one department, we can deal with many, but not all, of the cyber threats we see each year,” he said. “To have a dedicated person canvassing the Dark Web and the internet will be of great benefit to small and large businesses, as well as private citizens.”

The analyst also will be a welcome partner to the cybercrime security efforts being undertaken at Dakota State University.

“Methods used by cyber criminals are always changing, so the connection with the law enforcement technology and cyber research at Dakota State University will be an invaluable resource for the analyst to remain current with cyberattack techniques,” said Trevor Jones, the director of Digital Forensics Services at Dakota State’s DigForCE Lab.

Officials hope to have the position filled by July 1, 2019.

## S.D. Century Farm & Ranch Recognition Deadline is Aug. 9

The South Dakota Farm Bureau (SDFB) and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture will again recognize and honor longstanding South Dakota families at the South Dakota State Fair.

South Dakota families having ownership of their farm or ranch for 100, 125 or 150 years have the opportunity to be honored on Thursday, Aug. 29, during the 2019 South Dakota State Fair in Huron.

To qualify as a South Dakota Century Farm or Ranch, a family must have retained continuous ownership of at least 80 acres of original farmland for 100 years or more. If the family ownership of land has reached 125 or 150 years, they may apply to be recognized as a Quasiquintennial or a Sesquicentennial Farm or Ranch, respectively. Documentation of the original date of purchase must be included with the application.

Application forms are available online at [www.sdfbf.org](http://www.sdfbf.org) by clicking “Century Farms” or by calling the SDFB at 605-353-8052. The application deadline is Friday, Aug. 9, 2019.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota’s economy, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture’s mission is to promote, protect and preserve South Dakota agriculture for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at [sdda.sd.gov](http://sdda.sd.gov) or find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.





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

## No rate increase in 2019

# Annual meeting highlights

More than 330 people attended Black Hills Electric Cooperative's 74th annual meeting at the Ramkota Convention Center in Rapid City.

Board President Alan Bishop told the crowd that since the last annual meeting, the board did not have to adjust rates or finance any storm or fire repairs.

"What we did do was long range planning and working to strengthen our co-op financially and improve our reliability," he said. "At the March board meeting your board approved a loan of \$14.8 million to finance the 2018-21 work plan. This is a big decision for the co-op, but is necessary to continue to provide safe and reliable electricity."

CEO Walker Witt said that it has been two and one-half years since the co-op has had a rate increase "...I can't tell you when our next rate increase will be, I can tell you that due to the efforts of your employees and the sound governance, fiscal guidance and policy of your board, it will not be 2019," he said.

Witt talked about two substation projects—Dry Creek, which was completed this year to improve reliability to more than 4,000 members, and Pringle, which will be completed later this year, to replace the co-op's oldest substation.

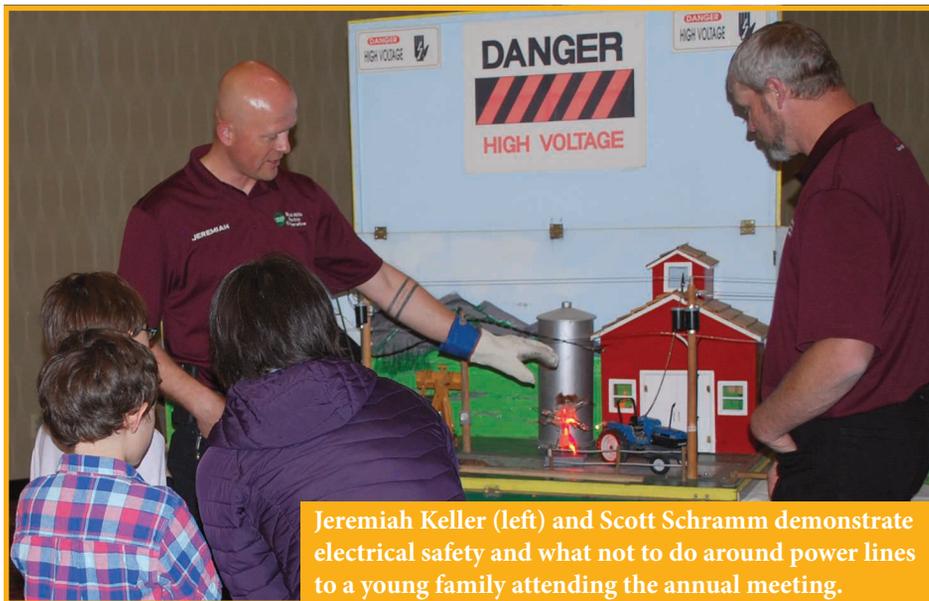
He also talked about the late-May snow storm and the damage it did to the cooperative's equipment and lines. "At the peak of the storm, we had over 2,000 members without power," Witt said. "We ended up with only 13 broken poles, but we had hundreds of line breaks as a result of trees outside or our rights-of-way crashing through our lines."

Despite the storm, reliability continues to increase. "In 2018, the percent of time that the average member was on was 99.9998%," he said.

Public Utilities Commissioner Chris Nelson was the guest speaker. Both incumbent directors were returned to the board.



Registration was brisk at the 74th annual meeting in May.



Jeremiah Keller (left) and Scott Schramm demonstrate electrical safety and what not to do around power lines to a young family attending the annual meeting.



BHEC's scholarship winners were (left to right) Joel Broberg, Joshua Simpson and Taleigh Adrian.

It's lights out

# Late spring snow storm hits area

A late spring snow storm caused hundreds of outages and kept Black Hills Electric crews busy for three days.

The storm, that hit the co-op's service territory late on May 20, brought lots of wet, heavy snow to the area. As much as two feet in areas.

"We are fortunate that we did not have strong winds with the storm," said Bill Brisk, BHEC's operations manager.

Snow build-up on the power lines was as thick as four inches and strong winds would have caused more poles to break.

"A half of an inch of ice on a 7,200-volt line adds three and one-half pounds per linear foot to the line," said Mike Chase, manager of marketing and member services at the co-op. "If there is 300 feet between poles, that would add 1,050 additional pounds to the weight the poles are supporting."

Chase said that four inches of ice on the lines could add more than 8,000 pounds to the weight the poles are supporting. "If the wind is blowing, that additional weight swinging in the wind can snap poles like toothpicks," he said.

Two days of wet snow also had an impact on trees in the Hills, causing them to snap under the additional weight as well. In areas around Johnson Siding, Nemo and Dumont, trees are down everywhere.

"Most of our outages were caused by trees going through the power lines," said Brisk. "Additional outages after the storm were caused by trees and power lines unloading the snow and ice as temperatures warmed up."

For a few minutes during the morning on the second day of the storm, more than 5,400 members were without power, however, the ability to reroute power from other substations got most of those people back on within a few minutes. About 2,200 members were without power for an extended period of time.



Crews fought downed trees and deep snow during the entire storm, often hiking with equipment to clear trees and get wires back up.



Crews lift a broken pole from the roof of a member's garage.



Despite the weight of the trees, only 13 poles were broken.

Nine additional linemen from Kainz Powerlines, Custer, and eight linemen from West River Electric Association, Rapid City, were called to help.

The majority of members were back on by Thursday night and everyone had power by late Friday morning.

Four days after the storm, the area received from one to more than five inches of rain. This added to the muddy mess the crews were dealing with due to melting snow and made permanent repair of storm damage more difficult.

# 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 <a href="http://mnseniorgames.com">http://mnseniorgames.com</a> <a href="http://www.mnseniorgames.com/page/Schedule-of-Events-x-274-21-287.html">http://www.mnseniorgames.com/page/Schedule-of-Events-x-274-21-287.html</a>
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: <a href="mailto:sdsrgames@gmail.com">sdsrgames@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:habich@sio.midco.net">habich@sio.midco.net</a> 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

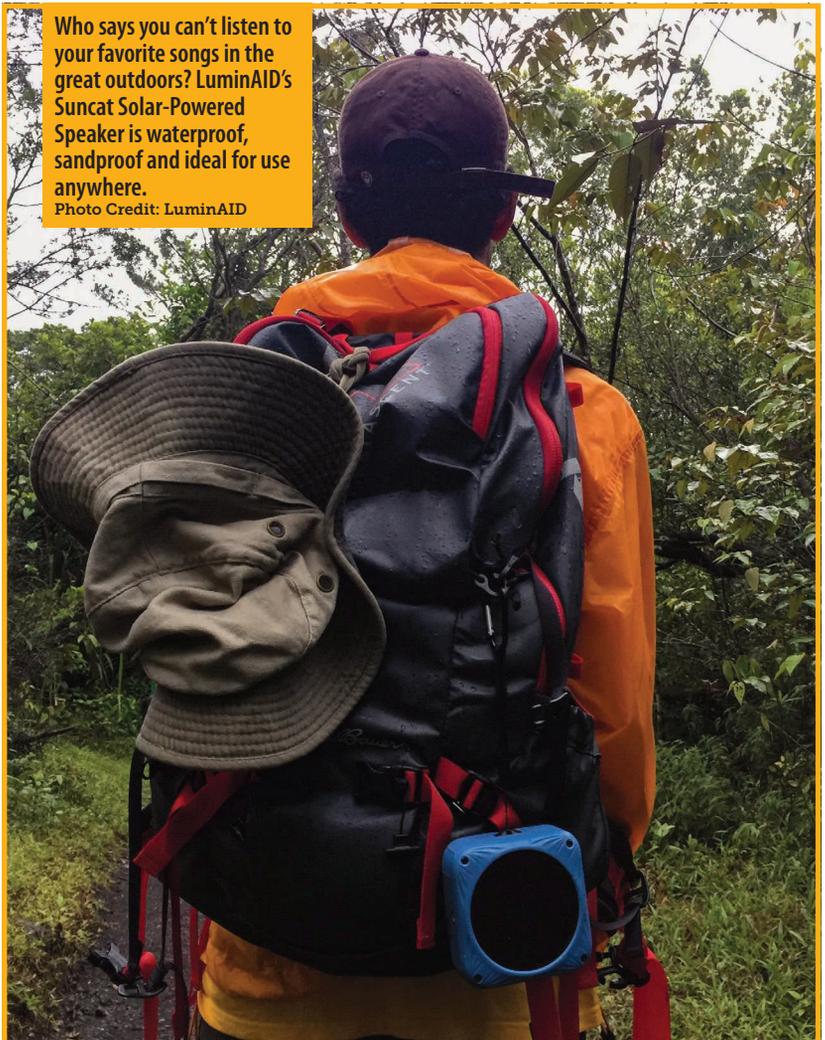
NRECA

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.**

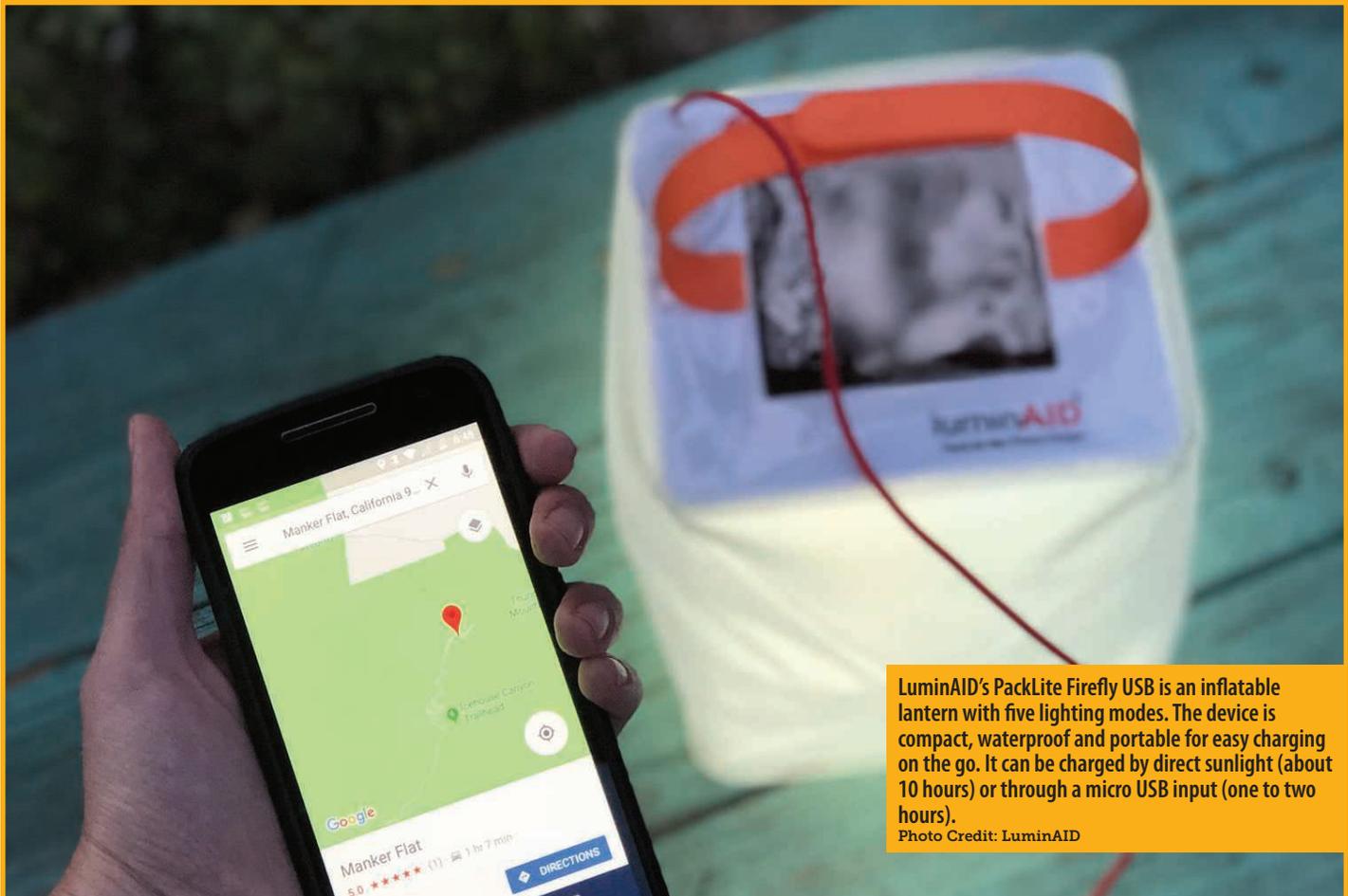
when hot water isn't accessible. Solar-powered portable showers are available from different manufacturers. Visit [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or check local retail stores like Walmart and Cabela's to review your options.

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](http://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 2-August 11

Red Cloud Indian Art Show,  
Pine Ridge, SD, 605-867-8257

## 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 4

4th of July Celebration,  
5k/10k 6 a.m., parade 10  
a.m., picnic 11:30 a.m., duck  
race 1 p.m., Various locations,  
Hot Springs, SD,  
605-745-4140

## July 4

Old Time Country 4th of July,  
All day, various locations,  
including fireworks at  
Pageant Hill at dusk, Custer,  
SD, 605-673-2244

## 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](http://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

Rochford Day, 7 a.m. to 3  
p.m., Rochford Fire Hall and  
other locations, Rochford, SD

## 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 13-14

Summer Arts Festival,  
Brookings, SD, 605-692-2787,  
[www.bsaf.com](http://www.bsaf.com)

## July 14

Silver City Social, 8 a.m. to  
3 p.m., Historic School House,  
Silver City, SD,  
[www.silvercityvfd.com](http://www.silvercityvfd.com)

## July 17-20

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

## July 18-20

Gold Discovery Days, Various  
times and locations, including  
a carnival and parade, Custer,  
SD, 605-673-2244

## 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

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

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.