

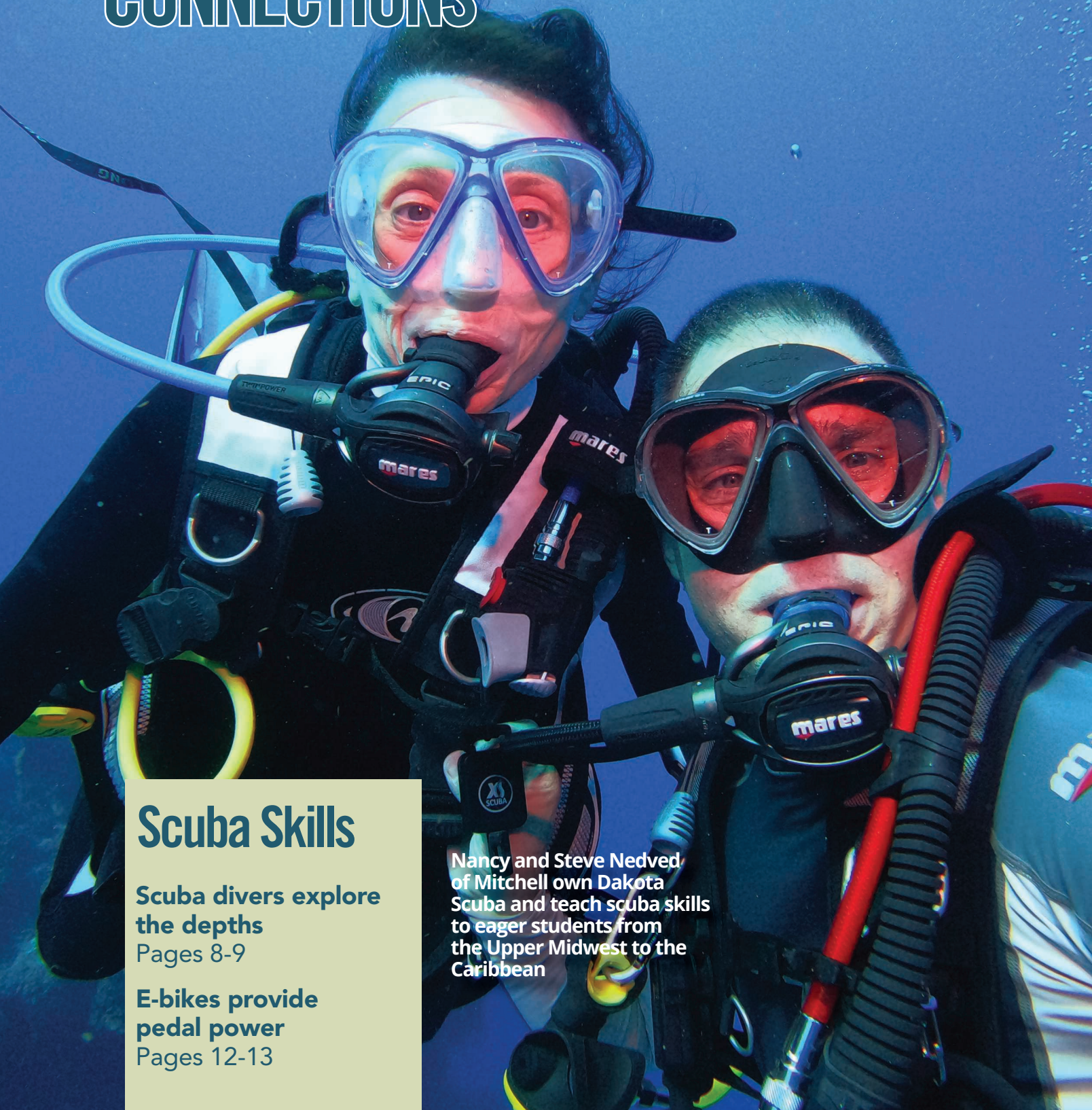
COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Scuba Skills

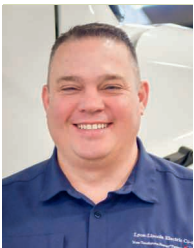
**Scuba divers explore
the depths**
Pages 8-9

**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



Looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday, June 1, 2022



Tim O'Leary
General Manager

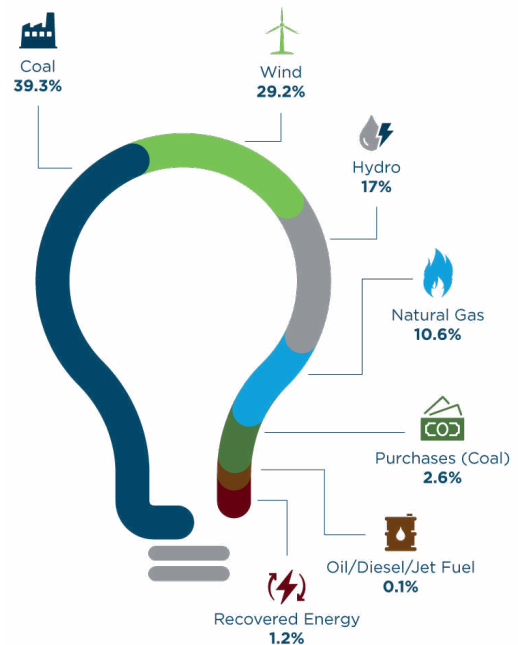
The cooperative's 83rd Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1st and it will be held at the cooperative's warehouse in Tyler. We sent the annual meeting report in last month's newsletter, and it looks like the date was correct on the cover and in the annual meeting notice, but the agenda page listed June 5th which is not even a Wednesday. You will see that we corrected the date on the agenda and put it on Page 3 in this newsletter. We apologize for any confusion and invite you to join us on Wednesday, June 1st.

The Annual Meeting is held each year to update the membership on what is going on at the cooperative and how the cooperative is doing financially. The cooperative also holds its director elections during the annual meeting. The election process is where the membership gets a chance to elect the individuals that will represent them on the cooperative's board of directors.

In April, the cooperative held its local district meetings to identify director candidates to represent them on the cooperative's board of directors. This year's director candidates are Josh Osland and Kathy Schreurs in District 1, Jim Rokeh and Pat Verly District 2, and Mike Longtin in District 3. You can find more information about all of the director candidates on pages 8 and 9 in the annual meeting report. Once the district's business meeting was completed, cooperative staff provided an update on cooperative activities for the previous year, programs offered by the cooperative and answered questions.

One question that I like to cover at the district meeting each year is on resources used to generate the electricity that our members use. Myron Green - 89700 For 2021, the following resources were used to generate electricity for the members of Lyon-Lincoln Electric: 41.9% from coal, 29.2% from

wind, 17% from hydroelectric dams, 10.6% from natural gas, 1.2% from recovered energy sources and .1% from oil/diesel/jet fuel. When it comes to renewable energy resources, 46.2% of the power purchased for our members came from renewable energy sources in 2021.



We continue to believe in an all of the above energy strategy to meet the electricity needs of our member-owners with a focus on reliability and affordability through the use of environmentally responsible electric generation resources.

**Please mark your calendar and
join us for your annual meeting on
Wednesday, June 1st.**

The annual meeting represents our largest scheduled event during the year, and it includes a catered meal from the Lincoln County Pork Producers and the Country House. It is a great opportunity to meet and visit with cooperative employees and directors and hear reports on the cooperative's financial position and other activities going on at your electric cooperative. A schedule of events is included on page 3 in this newsletter if you want to learn more about what to expect.

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS****LYON-LINCOLN
ELECTRIC**

(ISSN 1540-6989)

Board of Directors

Sandy Ludeman, Tracy – President
 Galen Grant, Russell – Vice President
 Kathleen Schreurs, Tyler – Sec./Treas.
 Merv Anderson, Porter
 Jared Dritz, Porter
 Mary Gunnink, Lake Benton
 Scott Johnson, Tyler
 Dale Fier, Taunton
 James Rokeh, Minneota

Staff and Personnel

Tim O'Leary – General Manager
 Lyle Lamote – Line Superintendent
 Kristi Jensen - Finance Manager
 Brian Jeremiason – Manager of
 Marketing & External Relations
 Rochelle Borresen – Accountant
 Lisa Hauswedell – Billing Clerk
 Jessica Gums – Executive Assistant

Staff and Personnel

Randy Keifer – Crew Chief
 Journeyman Linemen:
 Ross Birath
 Dan Tutt
 Tyler Blomme
 Tyler Sand
 Nathan Pavek
 Sam Rohde - Apprentice Lineman
 Wade Thooft – Operations Staff
 Assistant
 Alan Fischer – Warehouse
 Coordinator/Work Order Clerk

www.llec.coop

Lyon-Lincoln Electric hours from
 May 2 to September 30, 2022 are
 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM Mon. thru Fri.

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 free 1-800-927-6276; fax (507) 247-5508.

Jessica Gums, Editor

2022 Annual Meeting Agenda

Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Wednesday, June 1st, 2022

Lyon-Lincoln Electric Headquarters Building

Tyler, Minnesota

5:00 – 7:00 PM Registration**5:30 – 7:30 PM** Dinner

Served by: Lincoln County Pork Producers and Country House

7:15 – 8:15 PM CALL TO ORDER, Sandy Ludeman, President

National Anthem

Report of Quorum

Reading of Notice of Annual Meeting.....Kathy Schreurs, Secretary

Approval of Minutes of 2020 & 2021 Meeting.....Kathy Schreurs, Secretary

Election of Directors.....Mike Cable, Attorney

Introduction of Nominees

Appointment of Tellers and Balloting

Financial Report.....Kristi Jensen, Finance Manager

President and Manager's Report.....Sandy Ludeman and Tim O'Leary

Operation RoundUp®.....Tim O'Leary, General Manager

Introduction of Operation RoundUp® & Basin Scholarship Winners

Balloting Results

Director Elections

Adjournment

Prize Drawings- Must be present to win

Bring the Family:
There's Something
for Everyone!
Adult & Kid's
Drawings and a
Bounce House



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 tps. 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.



WIN MONEY

Find Your Name & Member Number and Win \$

The tradition of listing member names and numbers in the newsletter continues in the Cooperative Connections. If you find your name and member number, call the office and let us know and you will receive an energy credit. The amount of the credit is \$20.00.

In last month's Cooperative Connections, Kyle Carey and Kyle Kulla spotted their names and will receive an energy credit. Once again there are two new names and numbers hidden in this issue. Good Luck!

ENERGY SAVING TIP

Use a programmable thermostat to adjust your home's temperature based on your schedule. It can automatically keep your home cooler while you are there and warmer when you are away.

MEMORIAL DAY

Lyon-Lincoln Electric will be closed Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.

BOARD NEWS

March Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, March 28, 2022. Directors present were James Rokeh, Jared Dritz, Mary Gunnink, Galen Grant, Scott Johnson, Merv Anderson, Sandy Ludeman, and Dale Fier. Kathy Schreurs attended the meeting via the Microsoft Teams app. Also present at the meeting were General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, Finance Manager, Kristi Jensen, and Attorney, Michael W. Cable.

The Board and others in attendance stood and gave the Pledge of Allegiance before the meeting was called to order.

President Ludeman called the meeting to order and routine business was conducted including approval of the February 28, 2022 meeting minutes, a review of the check schedule, applications for memberships, and shares to be cancelled.

Kristi Jensen, Finance Manager, gave the Financial and Statistical Report for the period ending January 31, 2022. The Board was also presented information on Patronage Cash Retirements from National Information Solutions Cooperative and National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. Also presented to the board was information concerning the right off of bad debt.

Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent, reviewed with the Board the February Outage Report and indicated that there were no outages affecting ten or more members for the month of February, 2022. Mr. Lamote also indicated that there was a Safety Meeting held concerning the topic of Load Securement & OCR Installation/Removal & MAD Requiring Rubber Gloves & Sleeves. This Safety Meeting was conducted by Carl Henning from STAR Energy Services. Following the Safety Meeting Carl Henning then visited with the linemen on the subject of OCR Installation/ Removal & MAD. Mr. Lamote then indicated to the Board that the linemen had finished installing single phase meters and 99.9% were able to be read by remote reading and that the linemen were still cutting trees and performing line patrol.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, gave his monthly report. Mr. Jeremiason updated the Board on future EV options. Mr. Jeremiason also reviewed a rebate update with the Board and it was indicated that through the first quarter of 2022 there was \$1,600.00 paid for two Ground Source Heat Pumps, \$2,400.00 paid for three Air Source Heat Pumps, and \$600.00 paid for two Mini Splits. There were five LED Retrofits totaling \$1,141.20 in rebates which resulted in 3,804 watts saved.

General Manager Timothy O'Leary then gave his manager's report; some of the items reviewed were as follows: The Board reviewed the power bill and sales to members and compared those figures to budgeted amounts and looked at line loss for the system. Mr. O'Leary reported on the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. MAC Meeting, the retirement announcement of East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.'s General Manager, Tom Boyko, future EV charging stations, REED Fund opportunities, and Operation RoundUp and Basin Scholarships. Mr. O'Leary then reviewed with the board his upcoming meetings, events, and notices.

The Board reviewed the February Cyber Security Program Report dated March 3, 2022. The directors reported on training sessions and meetings attended, which included MREA and NRECA Annual Meetings and reviewed and discussed upcoming meetings and educational workshops to be held.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:55 o'clock A.M. at which time they watched the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. Monthly Video Report which included the Basin Summary. At 12:27 o'clock P.M. the Board reconvened the meeting.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Policy Committee that was held on February 28, 2022 which included the review of Policies 503-504.

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made and carried to adjourn.

Before you jump in: Consider potential electrical hazards

If you own a pool or hot tub, you know there are several steps required to keep it clean and well maintained. One aspect of owning a hot tub or pool that is often not top of mind for homeowners is the electrical system, which can pose a significant or even deadly hazard. Since pool and hot tub areas mean wet skin and wet surfaces, the chance of electrocution increases when electricity is present.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) points out that electricity around pools, hot tubs and spas can be found in underwater lights, electric pool equipment (e.g., pumps, filters, vacuum), extension and power cords, electrical outlets or switches, electrical devices such as TVs and overhead power lines.

What to look for

To keep swimmers and hot tubbers as safe as possible, be sure to have the electrical system inspected, repaired and upgraded to local and National Electrical Code by a licensed contractor. Also, do not set up a pool (temporary or permanent) where power lines are overhead or within 25 feet of water.

Swimmers may feel a tingling sensation, experience muscle cramps or may not be able to move. You may see panic behavior by others or a motionless swimmer in the water. You might also see underwater lights that are not working properly. You might also hear complaints of tingling or other odd sensations. Daniel & Rebecca Polfiet - 818100

If you think you are being shocked while in the water, move away from the source of the shock and get out of the water. If possible, exit without using a metal ladder; touching metal may increase the risk of shock.

If you think someone in the water is experiencing an electrical shock, immediately turn off all power. If the power is not turned off, rescuers can also be shocked or electrocuted. After the power is disconnected, call 9-1-1, or have someone else make the call.

For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

BEFORE JUMPING IN

KNOW THESE 6 POOL SAFETY TIPS

Keep these electrical safety tips in mind before and during swimming season. These safety tips also apply to hot tubs.



1. Keep anything that is plugged in at least 5 feet from the pool. The farther, the better.
2. Have a licensed contractor inspect the pool/hot tub wiring to ensure it meets code requirements.
3. Know where electrical switches and circuit breakers are and how to operate them.
4. Keep pool skimmers and other far-reaching tools more than 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
5. Make sure all outdoor outlets are GFCI protected. Test them once a month.
6. Do not touch electrical devices when you are wet or in contact with wet surfaces.

Teach these tips to kids and teens, especially when it comes to using a cell phone that is plugged into an outlet.

 SafeElectricity.org

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,



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.”

We NEED You!

Help us return retired capital credits to our members

The “capital credit” refund that our members receive simply for being a member of, and purchasing power from, a rural electric cooperative is a yearly occurrence. Capital Credits are issued to our current Lyon-Lincoln Electric members as a credit on their electric bill. Although, for our former members that are now inactive, a check was placed in the mail.

In Total, Lyon-Lincoln Electric has retired \$17.4 Million in Capital Credits to our members through 2021

But what happens if the check gets lost, goes uncashed, or is returned to us by the post office?

Lyon-Lincoln Electric goes on the search for our “lost” members by publishing a list of checks from the previous year that remains undeliverable or uncashed for one reason or another.

The following list on the next page is of members that were issued Capital Credit checks that were uncashed or returned as “undeliverable”. If you know where they are or know someone who may know where they are, please call our office at 1-800-927-6276 or 1-507-247-5505.

It’s also the right time to remind our members that when receiving a capital credit check in the mail, please make an effort to cash it as soon as possible, even if it’s a small amount.

We know that life takes people

down many different paths, but as members come and go, it’s always a good idea to provide us with a valid address. For members of Lyon-Lincoln Electric that are planning on moving from the area, it’s very recommendable to inform us of your forwarding address, so future refund checks can be delivered to you.

For those dealing with the loss of a family member who was on “REA” at any time, remember to check with Lyon-Lincoln Electric for a possible lump-sum settlement for their estate.

Lyon-Lincoln Electric is ranked
#22 out of 708
Co-Ops Nationwide for
Capital Credit Retirement



PHONE NUMBER UPDATE

In order to best serve our members, Lyon-Lincoln Electric requires accurate telephone contact information. Please help us ensure that we have the correct number for your account. In times of high after hours call volume, such as during an electrical outage, we use your phone number to automatically route your call. We also use the number on your account to contact you in advance of planned outages.

In many cases cell phones have replaced landlines, and the information we have on file may no longer be accurate. Please fill out the "Change of Address/Phone Number" portion on your next payment stub and send it in with your payment or call the office so that we can be sure that we have current and accurate contact information.

With all of these ways to get information to you, we hope you won't be left in the dark the next time we have a planned outage.

MARCH OUTAGE REPORT

(10 or More Consumers)

3/7/22- 74 consumers were off 45 minutes in the Townships of Clifton and Stanley. The cause was a semi-truck that hit a 3-phase pole.

3/29/22- 16 consumers were off 1 hour 45 minutes in the Townships of Amiret and Sodus. The cause was a car that hit a guy wire and opened an OCR.

Name	Last Known Address	City, State
Apala, Paul	15202 Craig Circle	Bennington, NE
Bakke, Randall	709 Marguerite Ave.	Marshall, MN
Bethune, Michael	1528 US Highway 59	Garvin, MN
Bottelberghe, Donald	711 Nuese Lane	Marshall, MN
Burmeister, Shirley	405 2nd St NW Apt. 403	Pipestone, MN
Buseth, Kenneth	500 E. Lincoln Street, Apt. 105	Hendricks, MN
Cech, Joseph A.	137 Saint Olaf Ave. N.	Canby, MN
Citterman, Jason	410 W. Henderson Street #12	Hendricks, MN
Constant, Rebecca	22950 Weston Ave.	Underwood, IA
Corbit, Tim	624 93rd Street	Roberts, WI
Cordova, Rebecca	224 E. Morgan Street	Tracy, MN
Dahl, Lloyd	218 W. Benton Street	Lake Benton, MN
Depew, Tim	1010 E. Sunrisre Place Apt. 318	Sioux Falls, SD
Dunteman, Loren	4709 E. 6th Street Apt. 331	Sioux Falls, SD
Guerra, Ysidro	PO Box 33	Lynd, MN
Haack, Nichole	4746 Lane 58	Aurora, MN
Haack, Karlee	207 Ring Ave.	Canby, MN
Halbersma, Justin	1800 Williamsburg Rd Apt. 22B	Durham, NC
Hewitt, Carol J.	239 Knox Street SW	Cedar Rapids, IA
Johnson, Berneta	1739 US Highway 12	Ethel, WA
Johnson, Michael	PO Box 46518	Eden Prairie, MN
Johnson, Vivian	1450 220th Ave.	Balaton, MN
Klumper, Cory T.	2619 Norwood Ave.	Slayton, MN
Koehnke, Jaclyn	5259 Cosumnes Mine Road	Somerset, CA
Lang, Travis	PO Box 353	Rockville, MN
Langager, Candace	3945 N. Marden Lane	Prescott Valley, AZ
Larson, Patrick J.	PO Box 38	Milroy, MN
Maeyaert-Hansen, Jan L.	5536 Holiday Road	Minnetonka, MN
Marten, Daniel	9 1/2 N. Maple Apt. 5	Watertown, SD
Martinez, Sirrina	3217 190th Street	Tracy, MN
Maxwell, Donna	460 W. 1st Street	Cottonwood, MN
Mccoy, Irene	21838 473rd Ave.	Brookings, SD
Merritt, Alan	10027 Ibis Street NW	Coon Rapids, MN
Peterson, Kristie	421 Pine Street W.	Stillwater, MN
Portinga, Michael	121 F. Street	Marshall, MN
Regnier, Jake	2511 200th Street	Canby, MN
Reisner, Camy	15 Buckingham Place	Powell, WY
Rekkedahl, Maryann	220 S. Prairie Ave. Apt. 8	Porter, MN
Rogge, Betty	PO Box 28	Ivanhoe, MN
Skime, Thomas	1111 9th Ave. SW	Austin, MN
Snobl, Daniel E.	27535 County Road 83	Battle Lake, MN
St. Aubin, Louis	700 N. Monroe St. Apt. 212	Minneota, MN
Stanton, June	PO Box 351	Russell, MN
Steffes, Robert L.	19970 Ramlo Shores	Hendricks, MN
Stenzel, Jeff	7404 Pine Tree Road	Lakeville, MN
Swenson, Jim	2113 US Highway 59	Marshall, MN
Towne, Betty	1277 290th Ave.	Garvin, MN
Whitesock, Patricia	1435 160th Ave.	Lake Benton, MN
Willaby, Nancy	100 2nd Street S.	Butterfield, MN
Wright, Jeremy	1015 Jackson Street S.	Shakopee, MN



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

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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."

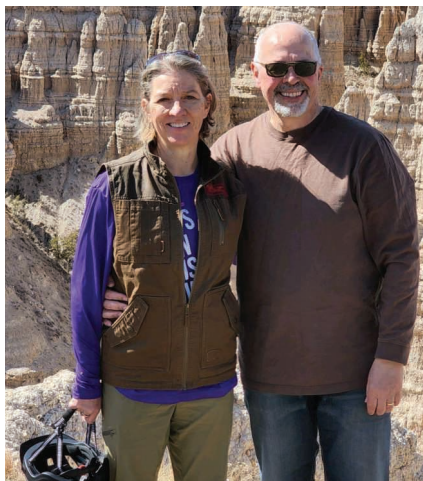
Mary Duvall, a state senator from

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.”

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

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*





PREPARE YOUR HOME TO BEAT THE HEAT THIS SUMMER

Summer months can bring some of the highest energy costs of the year with the high demand for air conditioning. Keeping your home comfortable can be expensive, but it can also be dangerous. If your air conditioner runs too often, it can stress your home's electric system and create a risk for shock or fire.

To help your home be more energy efficient, Safe Electricity has the following tips for energy efficiency this summer:

- Update your insulation. This will keep cool air in your home and hot air out. You can add more insulation on

top of existing insulation in your attic. Research the type of insulation you should use.

- Ventilate the attic. When the outside temperature is in the 90s, your attic can easily reach 140 degrees Fahrenheit. Adequately sized vents or an attic fan can help keep hot air from building up.
- Get the air conditioner ready. Shut off power to the unit before cleaning it. On the inside, wash or vacuum cleanable filters, and replace disposable ones.
- Outside, clear leaves and other debris away from the condensing unit. Hose off any accumulated dirt. It is a good idea to call a professional to inspect your unit early in the summer.
- Use a smart or programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature while you're away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.
- Install awnings over windows exposed to direct sunlight.
- Consider installing ceiling fans. On moderately warm days, a ceiling fan may be enough to keep you comfortable. On warmer days, you can decrease your air conditioner use by using a fan.

Even in summer, you don't have to sacrifice comfort to stay within your budget. Here are a few easily achieved cost saving tips:

- Turn off the air conditioner and open windows and doors and let outside air cool your house on moderate days.
- Avoid unnecessary trips in and out of the house. Heat and humidity come in each time you open the door.
- Keep the sun out of your house. Close blinds, shades or draperies during the hottest part of the day. Consider planting fast-growing trees and shrubs near your home, but away from power lines, to provide shade.
- Set heat-producing devices away from the air conditioner thermostat. Heat from the lamp could cause the thermostat to read higher temperature and keep the air conditioner running more than necessary.
- If you are shopping for a new air conditioning unit, look for one with the blue Energy Star label. An Energy Star air conditioner will save money in the long run by using less electricity. Your electric utility or state may have incentives for purchasing a more efficient model.

YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON

	Feb-2021	Feb-2022
Total Revenue	\$1,978,572	\$2,169,284
Cost of Power	\$1,132,896	\$968,315
Operating Expenses	\$802,040	\$825,076
Operating Margins	\$43,636	\$375,893
KWH's Purchased	20,104,126	22,178,535
Services in Place	4,130	4,130
Miles of Line	1670	1,671
Revenue per Mile	\$1,185	\$1,298



DON'T TOUCH THE **GREEN BOX!**



Because it's NOT just a green box. It's a pad-mounted transformer, and electricity flows through it from underground power lines.



PLAY SAFE

Never play on or around a transformer.



PLANT SAFE

Landscape at least 4 feet from sides and 10 from the door.

*That's why
you need to:*



DIG SAFE

Never dig around a transformer before calling 8-1-1.



STAY SAFE

If you see a green box that is damaged or open, call your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative to report it.



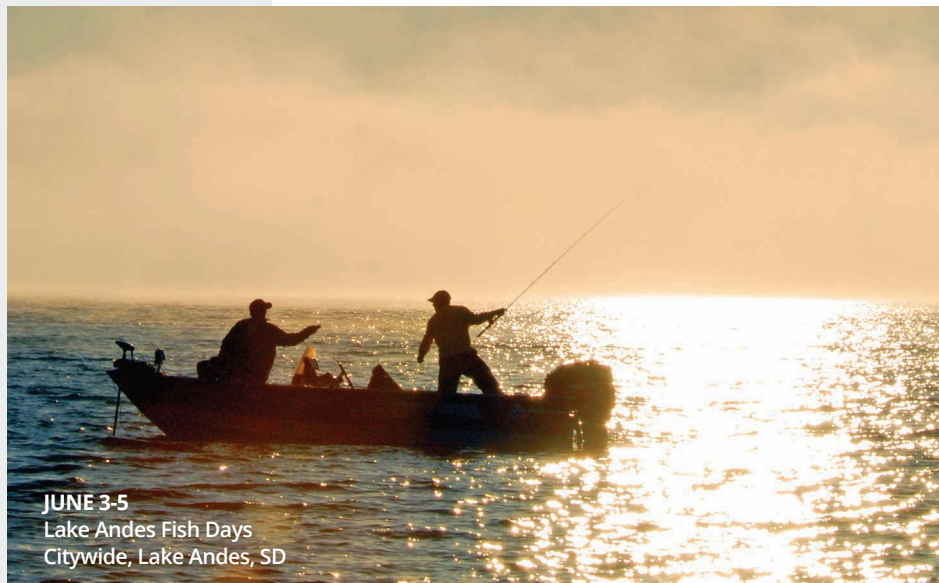
RE-ENERGIZING SAFETY

For more safety tips, contact your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative today.

YOURCOOPPOWER.COM



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives



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 10-12
Annual Custer Off-Road Rally
Various Locations, Custer, SD,
custersd.com/Off-Road-Rally

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 16-18
Wild Bill Days
Main Street, Deadwood, SD,
deadwood.com/event/wild-bill-days/

JUNE 19, 20, 23-26
Marshall Area Stage Company 20th Anniversary: Cinderella
Marshall High School, Marshall, MN,
mascmn.org

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

JUNE 18
605 Summer Classic Beer & Music Festival
Cherapa Place, Sioux Falls, SD,
605magazine.com/605-summer-classic/

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
Main Street Arts & Crafts Festival
Centennial Park, Hot Springs, SD,
mainstreetartsandcrafts.com

JUNE 24-26
Quarry Days
Citywide, Dell Rapids, SD,
605-428-4167

JUNE 26
Prairie Village Variety Show
Prairie Village, Madison, SD,
605-256-3644

JULY 6
St. Mary's CCW Tracy Area Gardens & Quilts Tour
Tracy, MN, www.facebook.com/TarcyAreaGardenTour

AUGUST 6-7
Pioneer Power Threshing Show & Flea Market
For show information call 507-530-6470 or 507-828-9666
For flea market info call 507-768-3522

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