



Cooperative Connections

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Lake Life**

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Compete**

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Summer Safety

As I'm writing this, it is the beginning of June and we were supposed to be enjoying a month of spring by now. I know the large moisture amounts here caused many problems for us and our members. With a little luck, we will dry out and get some work accomplished.

This article will be published in June, but I would like to point out that the month of May was National Electrical Safety month and thought

safety would be of some value to talk about. Not only is safety important to follow at work or at the farm, but just as important to follow at home as well.

I was just reading an article that mentioned contact with overhead power lines is the leading cause of electrical fatalities for agricultural workers. With your busy summer please refer to the chart below.



Scott Kittelson

scott.kittelson@wce.coop

AGRICULTURAL OVERHEAD POWER LINE SAFETY

OVERHEAD POWER LINE SAFETY

ESFi.org
AgSafe

1. Locate all overhead power lines.
2. Keep self and equipment 10 feet away from all overhead power lines.
3. Do not touch anything that is in contact with the power line.
4. Beware of fencing near power lines.
5. Carry ladders and other equipment horizontally.
6. Lower equipment apparatus before driving.
7. Never spray near power lines with irrigation systems.
8. Stay at least 35 feet away from fallen power lines.

Keep a few things in mind:

- Know of your surrounding overhead power lines.
- Keep at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Lower equipment when crossing underneath.
- Beware of overhead and possible underground power lines when fencing or digging.

For home, please follow a few of these safety tips:

- If unsure, have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- Major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle and not an extension cord.
- Test your AFCIs and GFCIs monthly
- Use properly rated light bulb for its intended purpose.
- Check that electrical cords are in good shape and not frayed or damaged.

Always call a qualified electrician if you ever have:

- Frequent tripping of circuit breakers or blown fuses.
- Tingling feeling when touching an electrical box or appliance.
- Discolored or warm wall outlets.
- Burning smell coming from an appliance or electrical box.
- Flickering or dimming lights.
- Any kind of sparks or arcing coming from an outlet.

Please call the South Dakota One Call (811 or 1-800-781-7474) before doing any digging.

Have a great and safe summer!

West Central Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-988)

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Design assistance by SDREA

Thank You

Thank you so much for choosing me to receive your \$1,000 scholarship. I really appreciate it. This will greatly help with expenses at DSU.

Kade Brost - Murdo

Thank you so much for awarding me with your scholarship. It is greatly appreciated.

Cylver Lurz - Philip

Thanks again for awarding me your scholarship at my awards night! I truly appreciate it!

Kadi Terca - Presho

Thank you for choosing me for your scholarship. I will be attending MTI this fall. I appreciate your generosity.

Carter Collins - Kennebec

I just wanted to write a quick thank you about how appreciative I am that I was picked to travel to Washington, D.C., for the Youth Tour. I am very grateful for the opportunity and I can't wait for the trip this summer!

Ella Hand - Hayes

Thank you for the generous donation to the American Legion. We had another successful event, thanks to good people like you!

DJ Rush - American Legion Post #173, Philip

Thank you for your donation of \$100 to the senior class post prom party. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Philip High School Senior Class

On behalf of the SCHS Post Prom Junior Class parents, we would like to thank you for your contribution of \$100; your support helps us continue in our mission of keeping our students safe in a "substance free" safe zone for after prom activities. The generous support of individuals like you makes it possible for us to continue our mission of keeping our kids safe in this great community. Thank you again for your support; we really appreciate it!

Stanley County Junior Class Parents Post Prom Committee

4-H Members Give Thanks

Thank you for sponsoring my Wildlife and Fisheries Incentive Award. It is very appreciated. **Madelyn Host - Murdo**

Thank you for the incentive award this year. I plan to continue to be involved in 4-H. **Brianna Smith - Vivian**

Thank you being a sponsor for 4H and for sponsoring the Wildlife and Fisheries Incentive Award. I truly appreciate all that you do for the community and myself. **Jacob Birkeland - Murdo**

Thank you for the 4-H award. The wildlife and fisheries project area was fun. I hopefully won't have to use the survival kit, but if I do, I will be glad I have it.

Tristen Host - Murdo

Thank you, West Central Electric, for the Wildlife and Fisheries Incentive Award. I am greatly appreciateive of it and I will use the survival kit (if needed).

Thank you for supporting my 4-H career. I will continue to work hard to improve my 4-H years, along with my other 4-H'ers. **Bridger Hight - Murdo**

Thank you for the survival kit. It will come in handy anytime. It has lots of useful things. Thanks again. **Savanah Hendricks - Draper**

Thank you so much for the survival kit. It will come in handy later. **Cyrus Hendricks - Draper**

Thank you for sponsoring the wildlife and fisheries incentive award. **Emmy and Easton Newsam - Murdo**

Thank you for sponsoring my 4-H award! My award in foods and nutrition was greatly appreciated. **Grace Pekron - Milesville**

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
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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.

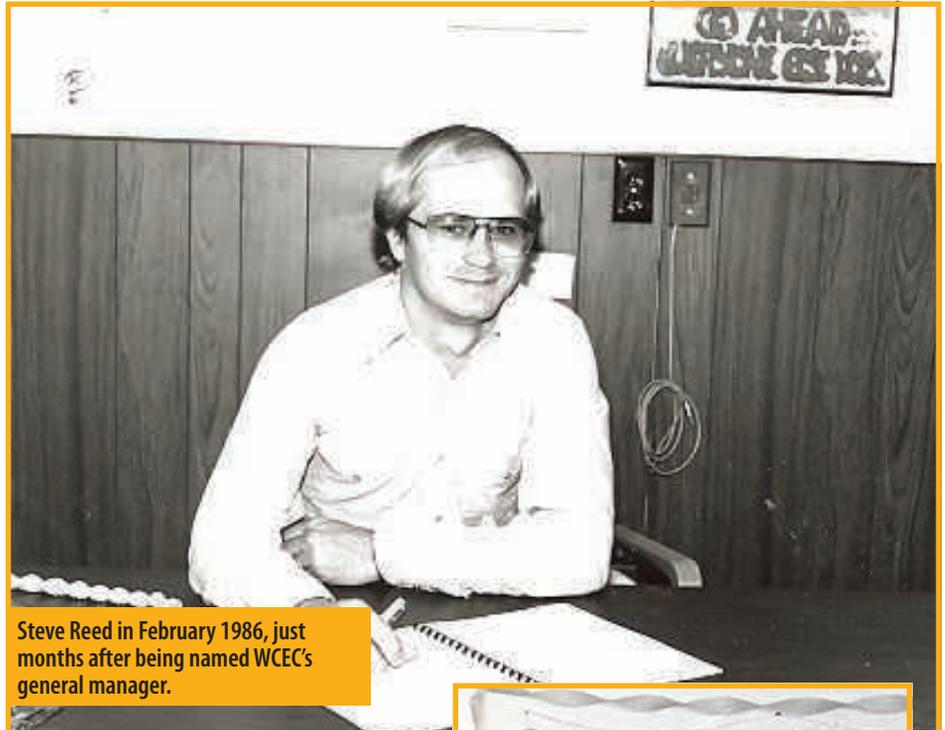
A Lasting legacy - Part II

After a Sudden Loss in 1985, Steve Reed Assumes the Mantle

Tom Griffith

Freelance Writer

When the fork in the road comes, you take it or you don't.



Steve Reed in February 1986, just months after being named WCEC's general manager.

When West Central Electric Cooperative General Manager Fritz Jost unexpectedly died while camping on Memorial Day weekend 1985, the member-owned utility experienced a momentary period of chaos.

With no succession plan in place, West Central's board of directors conducted an emergency meeting the first week of June and named Assistant Manager Steve Reed as its acting general manager. Simultaneously, the board elected to conduct a nationwide search for Jost's permanent replacement.

The search for a new leader employed the resources of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, an organization that represents the interests of more than 900 electric cooperatives scattered across the U.S.

And, there was no lack of interest in the job.

Finding a leader

In addition to 40 applicants from throughout the U.S., those seeking the helm of West Central Electric included a West Central lineman, a board member and Acting GM Steve Reed. After the board had reviewed applications and interviewed four finalists, Reed was named general manager on Oct. 21, 1985. He was 27 years old.

"It was an extremely fast rise," Steve admitted. "There are so many lifers in this business. But, as my father had told me, when the fork in the road comes, you take it or you don't. At 27 years

old, I was joining my father as a co-op manager. There was great satisfaction in that."

As Steve assumed the mantle at West Central, he was determined to use the knowledge and relationships he had accumulated to be a better boss. In that effort, the first thing he did was gather his crew of office workers, linemen and engineers and ask each what they wanted from him.

Since those meetings with staff, each morning for the past 34 years Steve has arrived at his Murdo office and the first thing he's done is walk through the building and individually say hello to each employee.

"They just wanted to feel appreciated," he said with a far-off look in his eyes. "And, they are."



Steve married Debra in 1987.



Steve Reed, Bart Birkeland, Dennis Hagny and Gary Cramer hit the links.

Mentors of men

Steve credits other electric cooperative managers, including Dave Coyle, Dennis Hagny, Bert Voegle, Gary Cramer, John Wheeler, Thor Sauter, among others, with fostering an environment that allowed him to learn from their experiences and rely on their advice, particularly in his early years.

Shortly after Steve was hired as manager, our neighbors to the north also were looking for a new manager to replace Steve's father who was retiring at Moreau-Grand Electric. Bart Birkeland was promoted to manager and he and Steve developed a life-long friendship. Steve and Bart would lean on each other many times during their careers, whether it be in the board room or on the golf course. That bond remains just as strong today as when Bart retired in 2009, as they continue to meet on the golf course multiple times



Steve Reed served on the Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange board.

per year, surely to discuss old cooperative business.

"I was fortunate, in that in the state of South Dakota there are managers who took us young guys under their wings and helped us grow and mature," he said. "They did so much, it was like a mentoring program. They treated us great and taught us a great deal."

That mentoring would come in useful as Steve now spearheaded construction of West Central's new headquarters and the continuation of negotiations into the Grassrope Irrigation Project contract that involved the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the construction of a large irrigation project that would receive federal power delivered over West Central's system, talks that had been ongoing since 1982.

Outside the office, Steve married Debra in 1987 and together the couple would have two children – Kaitlin and Whitney, who would become little sisters to Ryan, Lucas and Sarah. Today, the West Central manager revels in 11 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Just months after assuming the leadership role at West Central, the cooperative's staff moved into gleaming new offices, which opened on April 21, 1986, on Murdo's Main Street.

Even though he hailed from a small cooperative in the sparsely populated middle of America, as years passed, Steve's expertise and contributions to the co-op "family"

would be recognized on the national level.

From 1990-2002, Steve was one of just 10 co-op general managers to serve on the NRECA Management Advisory Committee, representing the states of South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota. From 2002-2011, he also served on the Federated board, which insures most of the electric cooperatives in the U.S., including two years as its chairman.

The right personnel

As he looks back over 40 years of service to West Central Electric, Steve is circumspect about many of his decisions. He noted he made some early personnel decisions that, in hindsight, were misinformed and it took a few years at the helm to realize those relationships were far easier to start than they were to end.

But, beginning in 1990, with the addition of Line Superintendent Dean Nelson and Member Services Director Joe Connot, the latter of whom had attended lineman school with him in 1977, and by adding Chief Financial Officer Jeff Birkeland in 1994, Steve said he assembled a management team that would well-serve West Central for decades.

"Pulling that group together, a group who meshed well, meant we had what we needed," he said. "We had the caliber of staff, the commitment and dedication and the willingness to work together for the

continued on Page 11



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

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

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!

Continued from Page 7

best interests of the cooperative. For that, I'm extremely grateful."

Nowhere was that commitment more in evidence than in times of duress, when winter and spring ice storms and violent winds downed lines, snapped off miles of poles and left hundreds of West Central Electric Cooperative members without power.

"You realize your greatest strengths as well as your limits in a storm situation," Steve said. "From your office staff to your linemen, no matter the title or the years of service, in a storm everybody works together to restore power to our customers. That's the way it was long before I arrived and I certainly hope that's the way it is long after I'm gone."

It's that sense of teamwork that has defined Steve's career, with a cadre of West Central associates willing to put their egos aside and work together to solve problems, employ new technologies and deliver safe, affordable and reliable electric energy to all they serve.

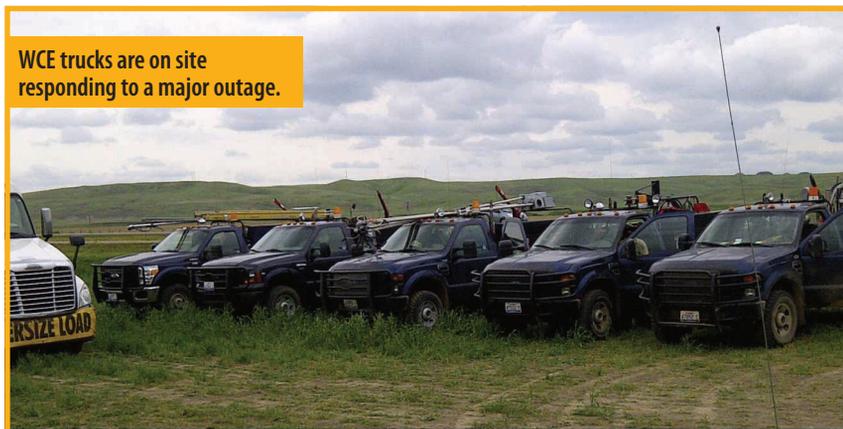
"It's not about what I've done," Steve said with sincerity as he looked



Steve Reed, left, former Operations Manager Dean Nelson, CFO Jeff Birkeland and former Member Services Manager Joe Connot comprised the co-op's leadership team for more than a decade.

back at his career. "It's about what we've done collectively."

He added that same sense of commitment can be found at West Central on a bright, sunny summer day, as it is when another cooperative, hammered by a winter storm, calls on its crews for assistance. And, it's on those days when Steve said he has never been more proud of his linemen.



WCE trucks are on site responding to a major outage.

"A few years ago, we sent our West Central crews to assist another cooperative that had been devastated by an ice storm," he recalled. "The manager of that co-op told me his crews were so happy to see West Central's blue trucks pull up. I asked him, 'Why?' He said, 'Because your guys know how to work.'"

"For a manager, those are about the sweetest words you can ever hear."

Up next: In Part III, we explore how West Central Electric has employed the latest emerging technologies over the years to decrease staff, cut costs and improve reliability.



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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

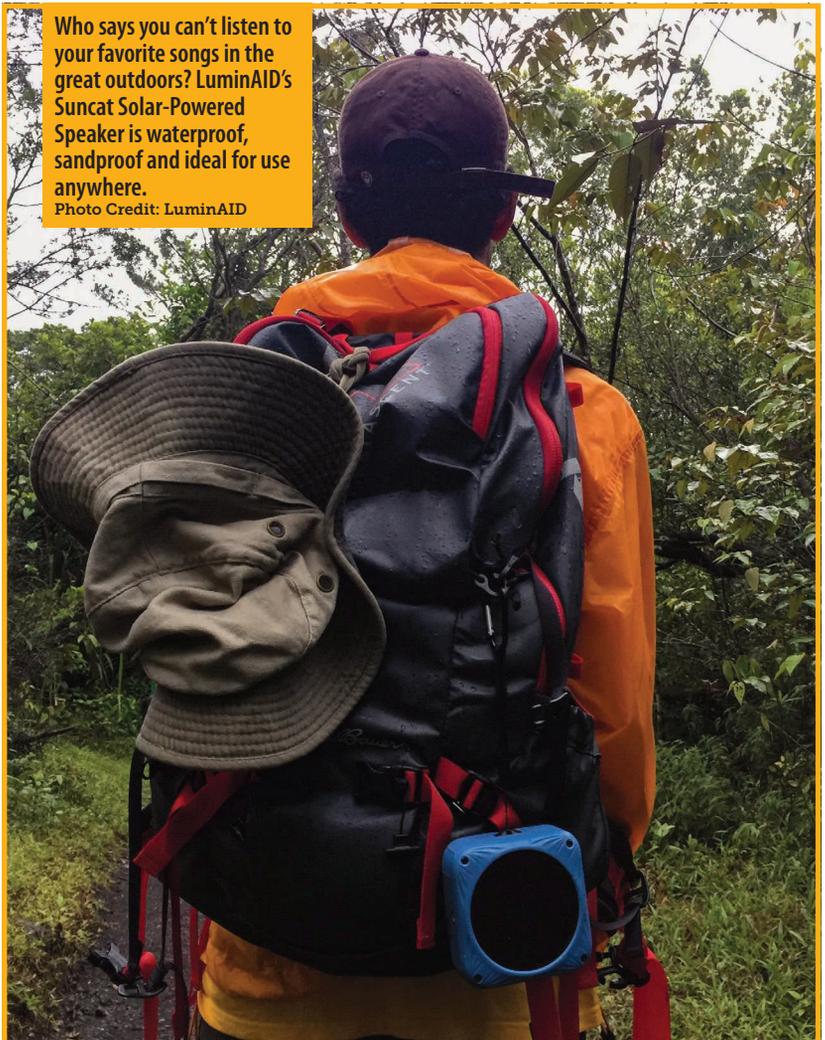
NRECA

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.

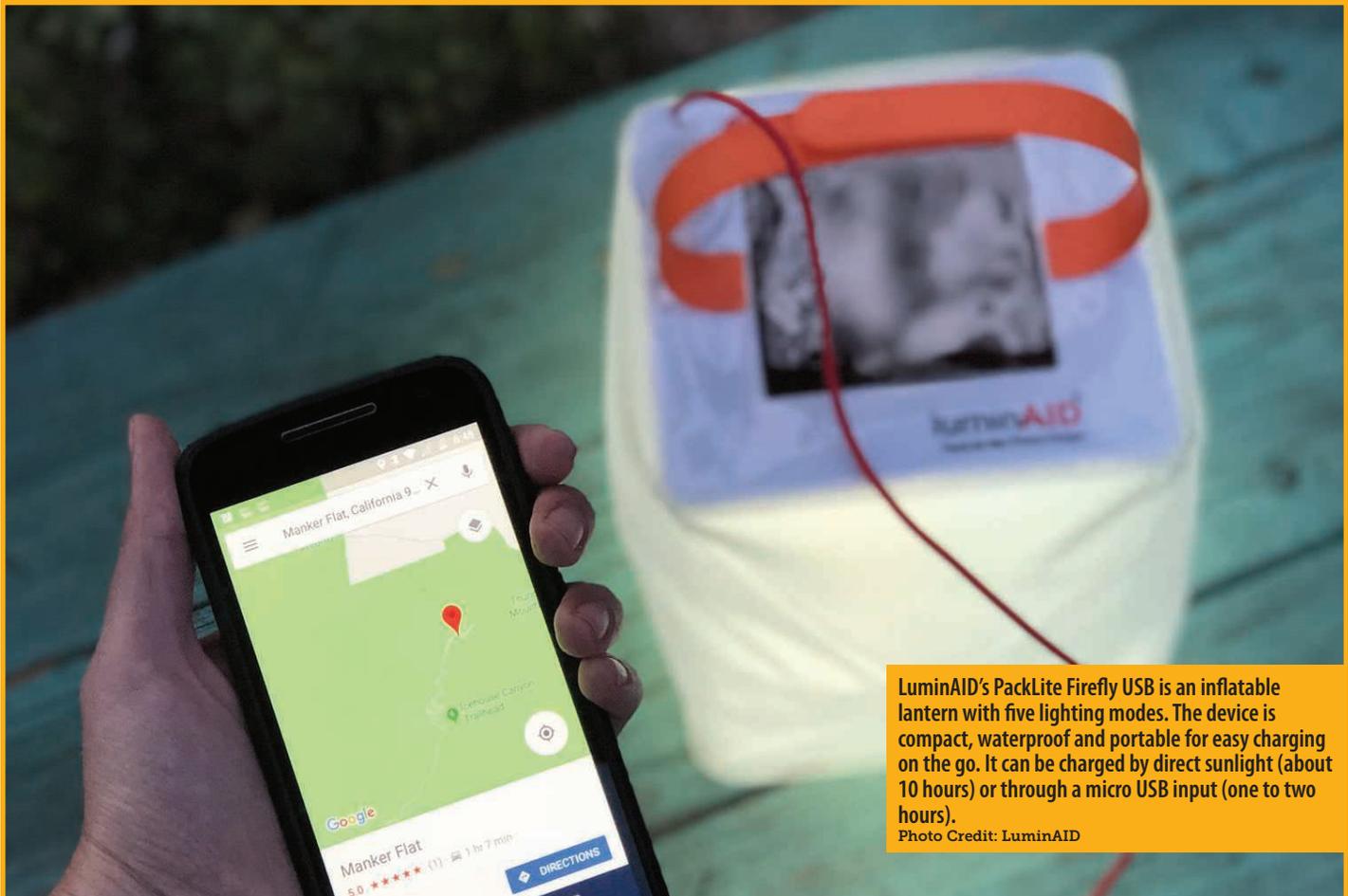
when hot water isn't accessible. Solar-powered portable showers are available from different manufacturers. Visit Amazon.com or check local retail stores like Walmart and Cabela's to review your options.

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

Saturdays, May 4-Oct. 26

Capital City Farmers' Market, 9 a.m. to noon, Free parking lot on the corner of Sioux Ave and Coteau Street, Pierre, SD, 605-222-1290

www.capcitymarket.com

Thursdays, June 6-Aug. 22

Tales on the River, Moose Club, 7 p.m., Free program, Speaker schedule at www.shortgrassarts.org, Will not be held July 4, Fort Pierre, SD

June 21-July 12

River City Friday Nights "Bridging Families and Communities Together!" Weekly Fridays 6 to 10 p.m., Live music, vendors, kids activities, beer garden, Free Admission, Main Street, Chamberlain, SD, Contact Mollie at 605-682-9051

June 28

Naja Shrine Circus, Rodeo Grounds, 6 p.m. MTN, Wall, SD, Contact Joel at 605-209-2556

June 28-29

"Fishing for a Cure" Ladies Only Fishing Tournament, Rules Meeting Friday at 6 p.m., Tournament Saturday at 8 a.m., American Creek Marina, Chamberlain, SD, Contact Kelli at 605-730-1967

June 29-30

Sioux Nation Challenge Indian Relay Race, 2 p.m., Stanley County Fairgrounds, Fort Pierre, SD

July 6

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



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 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

Tuesdays, July 16-Aug. 13

Farmers' Market, 5 to 7:30 p.m., Deadwood Street, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-222-1290, www.capcitymarket.com

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

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 23-27

Days of '76 Rodeo and Parades, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

July 24-27

Senior Games, Rapid City, SD, Contact Kristi Lintz at 605-394-4268

July 26-27

Senior Games, Brookings, SD, Contact Traci Saugstad at 605-692-4492

August 16-19

Trader Days and Backyard BBQ Competition, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-295-4831 or 605-280-2737

August 17

American Island Days, American Creek Campground, Chamberlain, SD, Contact Donna at 605-680-1202

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.