

# South Dakota Electric

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

July 2019 Vol. 71 No. 7

## Cooperative Connections

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Tough  
training.  
Safe &  
reliable  
power.



Linemen play a critical role in our mission to provide reliable, affordable electricity. Tough training and a focus on safety is behind everything they do. Simulated field operations and emergency-response training are ways Basin Electric invests in their safety and in providing reliable power to you.



**BASIN ELECTRIC  
POWER COOPERATIVE**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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# South Dakota Electric Cooperative Connections

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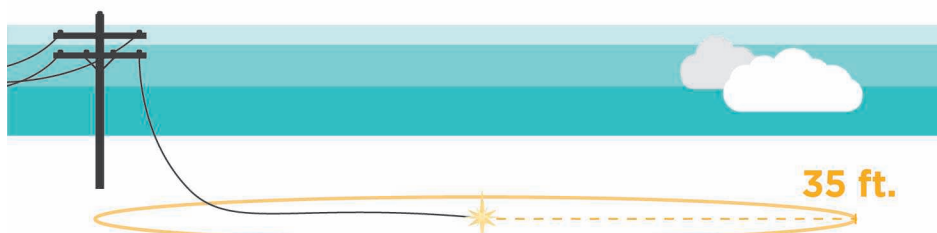
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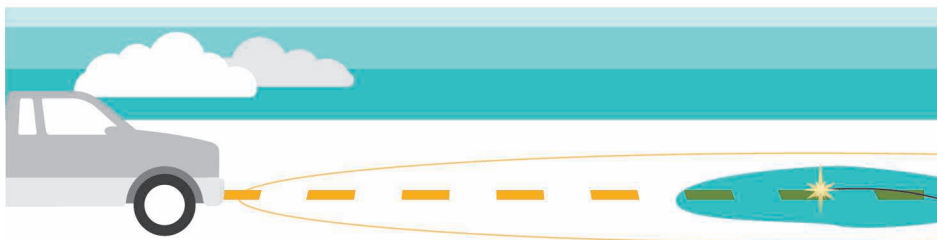
**Brenda Kleinjan**, Editor  
**Dawn Trapp**, Communications Specialist  
**Jocelyn Romey**, Staff Communications Professional

# Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away – so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org



# 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 Quasiquicentennial 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



# WHAT TO DO: IF YOUR CAR CRASHES INTO A UTILITY POLE

**Accidents happen.** Would you know what to do if your car crashed into an electric utility pole? Knowing what to do could be the difference between life and death.

**Always consider power lines and other electrical equipment to be live and dangerous!**

## IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS **NO** FIRE:

Your safest option is to stay inside your vehicle until help arrives. The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel to reach the ground. You are safe inside the vehicle, but if you get out, you could be electrocuted.

**Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.**

## IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE **IS A FIRE**:

Only attempt to leave your vehicle if it is on fire.

### **To exit safely:**

- Jump out of the vehicle, making sure NO part of your body or clothing touches the ground and vehicle at the same time.
- Land with both feet together and in small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 ft. away from the vehicle.
- The ground could be energized. Shuffling away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shock.

**Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.**



# SAFETY TIPS THAT CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

Anne Prince

NRECA

Electric cooperatives' top priority is always to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy to their members. Your well-being and that of the larger communities we serve are of paramount concern.

Summer not only means summer storms and potentially severe weather, it also heralds celebrations and other social gatherings are often associated with this time of year.

While we naturally focus on the sunny aspects this season brings, we also sometimes hear about preventable tragedies involving young people and car accidents. This brings me to the topic at hand: safety.

Does your teen or loved one know what to do in the event of a collision with a utility pole resulting in a downed power line? Do your loved ones know what to do if they come upon an accident with a downed power line? This month, I'd like to share a few safety tips that I hope you never have to use. But if you do, they could save their life.

## Life-saving tips

If a car collides with a utility pole, the vehicle may be charged with electricity. Anyone exiting the car could come in contact with thousands of volts of electricity from the downed line. In essence, when you step out of the car, you become part of the electricity's path to the ground and could be electrocuted. It's critical to stay in the vehicle and tell others to do the same until a emergency crews have told you it's safe to exit the car. If the vehicle is on fire or you must exit for other safety reasons, jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothing touch the vehicle and ground at the same time. Land with your feet together and shuffle away (in small steps with your feet still together) to avoid electric shock. Keep moving away until you are at least 40 feet from the vehicle.

If you come upon a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines, keep your distance. A downed power line can energize the ground up to 40 feet away. While your natural

instinct may be to rush to the car to help, instead pause. Do not approach the car or scene of the accident. Tell others to stay away. While you may be concerned about injuries to those involved, the best action you can take is to alert emergency officials, who will in turn coordinate with the power provider. For the same reasons described above, never drive over a downed power line or through water that is touching a downed power line.

If you have a downed power line on your property as a result of a falling tree, storm or other circumstance, do not go near the power line. Assume that the downed line is energized and dangerous. Never try to move the power line even if you think it's not energized or if you are using a non-conductive material. We recognize that you may be anxious to clear your property of tree limbs or other debris near the downed line, but please wait until after an electric co-op crew or emergency officials have confirmed that it is safe to do so.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable.



We know first-hand how dangerous electricity is because South Dakota's electric cooperatives work with it all day, every day. To me, safety is more than a catch phrase. I view it as my duty and responsibility to keep co-op employees safe and to help keep our communities safe.

Contact your local electric co-op for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like to request a safety demonstration at your school or community event. It is no accident that safety is our top priority.

*Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs 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.*

# 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.

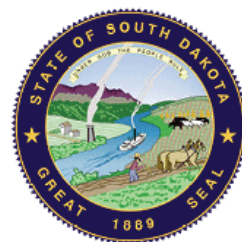
During the South Dakota Senior Games state competition, participants will compete in 21 different events within five-year age divisions (50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94, 95-99 and 100+).

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

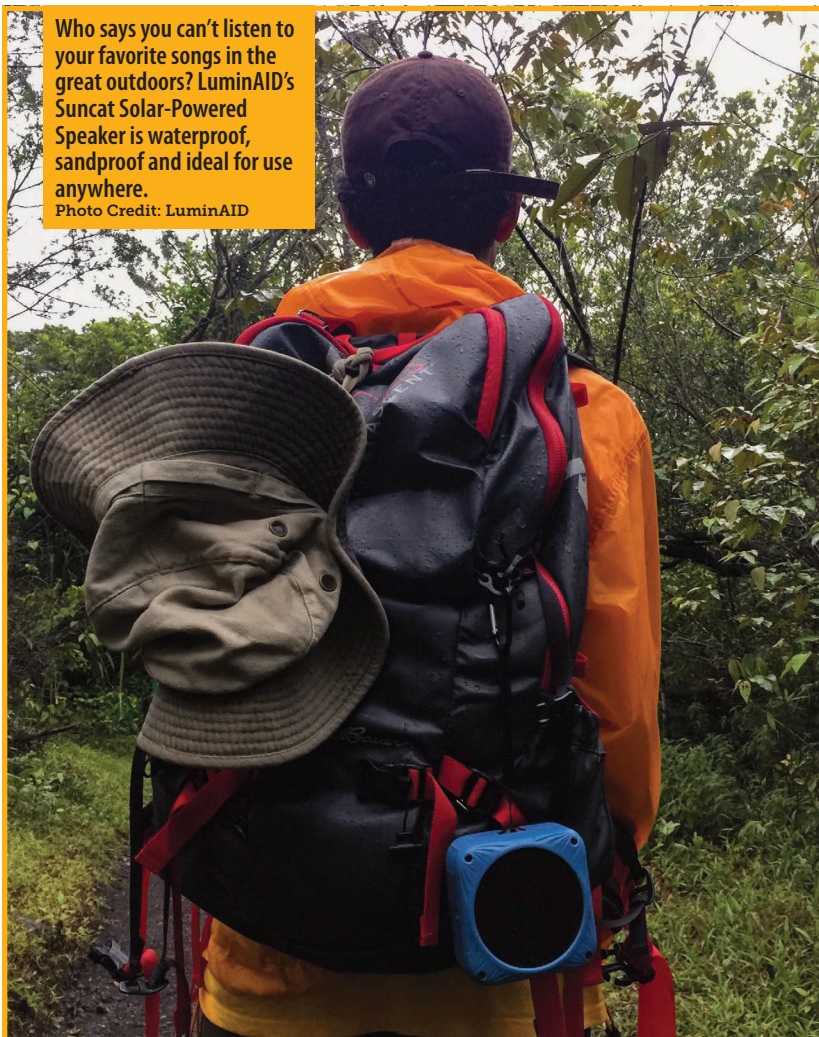
Everyone enjoys the great outdoors. The fresh air, getting in touch with nature and physical exercise are key highlights of camping. Today, while exploring and adventuring, you can also still stay connected. Although the great outdoors does not come equipped with ready-to-use electricity, nature already 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.**

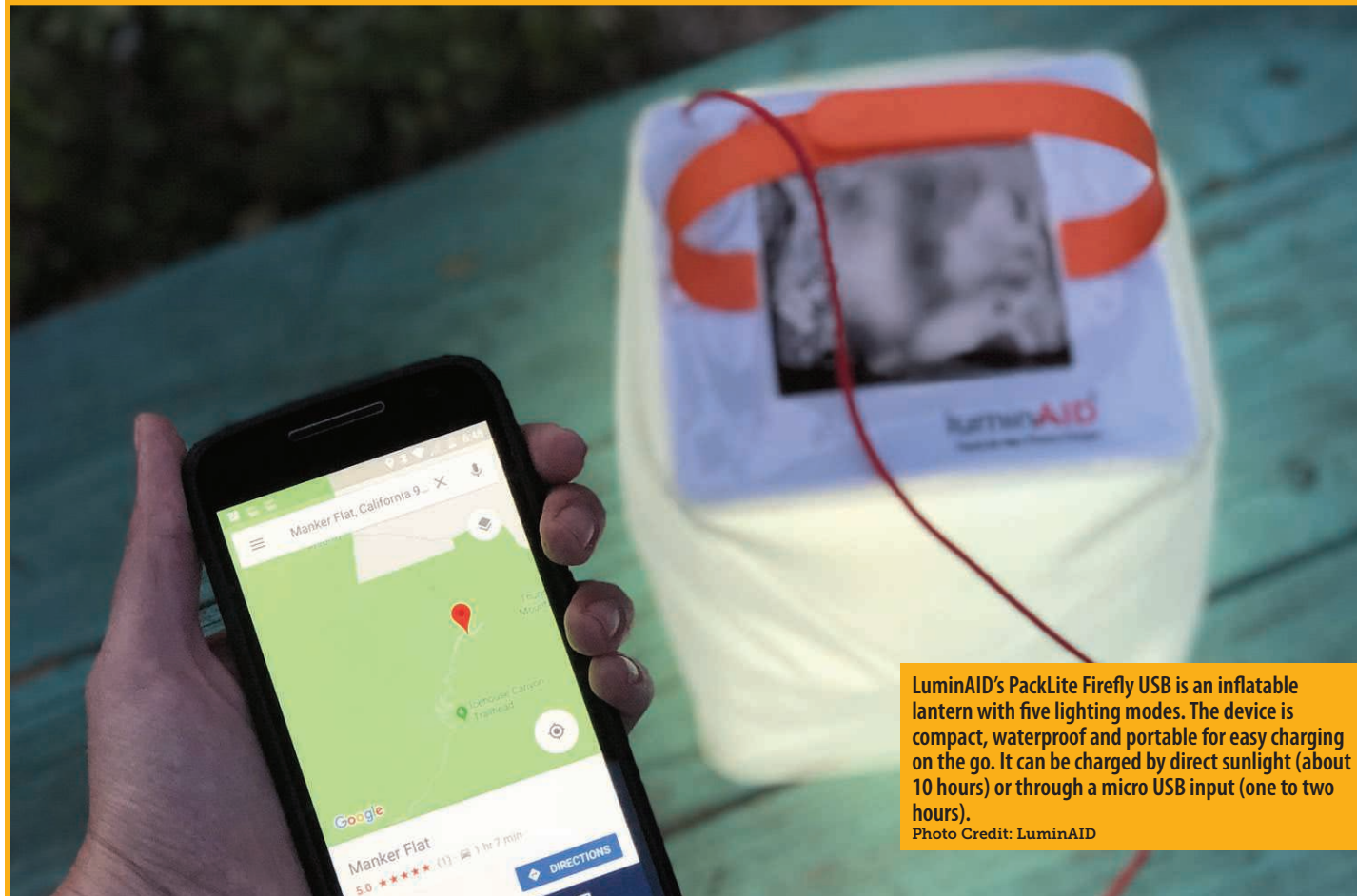
when hot water isn't accessible. Solar-powered portable showers are available from different manufacturers. Visit [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or check local retail stores like Walmart and Cabela's to review your options.

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 27-29

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

## June 27-30

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

## June 28-29

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

## June 28-30

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

## June 29

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

## June 29-30

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

## July 2-4

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

## July 2-7

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

## July 5-7

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

## 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



**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 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 17-20

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

## July 18-21

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

## July 19-20

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

## July 19-20

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

## July 19-21

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

## July 19-21

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

## July 20-11

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

## July 20-21

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

## July 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 3-4

Senior Games, Yankton,  
SD, Contact Brittany Orr at  
605-668-5234

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.