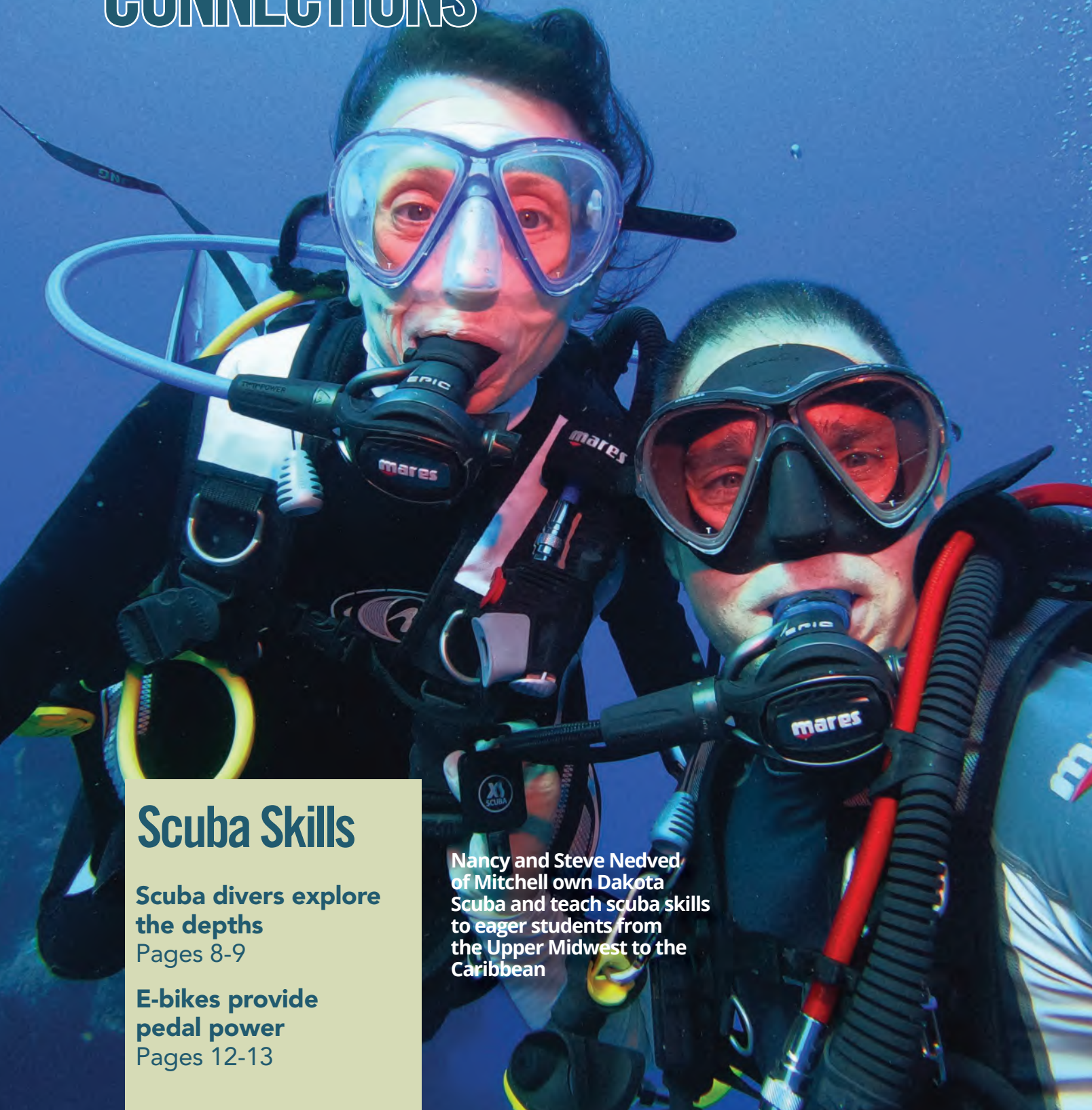


COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



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

Invitation to your Annual Meeting



Walker Witt - CEO
wwitt@bhec.coop

Gosh, the annual meeting is upon us again. Tempus fugit! It's good to be a co-op member. Your cooperative is locally owned and controlled by you, our members. Thursday, June 2nd, is your cooperative's annual meeting. For 77 years, Black Hills Electric members have met annually to visit with cooperative staff and other co-op community members, learn about programs offered by the co-op, and listen about the issues affecting Black Hill Electric. Members also learn about how they can be part of a solution to those challenges.

The annual meeting provides the opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of an electric cooperative by participating in the business of YOUR co-op.

Although there are hundreds of reasons to attend this year's meeting, I have come up with "The top five reasons to attend this year's annual meeting"!

- #5. A riveting speech from your Board President.
- #4. Registration gifts - and they are not cup holders or insulated cups.
- #3. A spellbinding (or mind-numbing) report from your CEO.
- #2. A great opportunity to win valuable prizes and cash!
- #1. Great food and fellowship, and a relatively short business meeting!

I look forward to seeing you in June.

77th Annual Meeting Order of Events:

5:00 p.m. - Registration

Registration prizes will be:

25' extension cord

OR

75th edition frying pan

OR

\$15 bill credit voucher

*****one prize per membership*****

6:00 p.m. - Dinner

Everyone will gather in the theatre directly following dinner for our business meeting.

(2) \$500 Scholarship drawings for a junior or senior that is a dependent of a BHEC member.

Door prizes will be distributed to lucky winners!

Pre-register by Thursday, May 26th for a chance to win \$100!

Ways to pre-register:

- Send email to bhec@bhec.coop
 - Call 800-742-0085 or 605-673-4461

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

BLACK HILLS ELECTRIC

(ISSN No. 1531-104X)

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Don Andersen - Secretary
Dave Lindblom - Asst. Secretary
Gary Kluthe - Treasurer
Thad Wasson
Alan Bishop

CEO & General Manager: Walker Witt
wwitt@bhec.coop

Manager of Operations: Bill Brisk
billb@bhec.coop

Chief Financial Officer: Sammi Langendorf
slang@bhec.coop

System Coordinator: Jesse Sorenson
jsorenson@bhec.coop

IT Specialist: Jeff Barnes
jbarnes@bhec.coop

Director of Communications & Member Services: Michelle Fischer
michellef@bhec.coop

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

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SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



William J. Kuhl, IV., son of Charity & William Kuhl, is this year's Black Hills Electric/Basin \$1,000 scholarship winner.

William achieved honor roll status all semesters and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is ranked 2nd in his class and has a 3.957 GPA.

William was also selected to serve as a Page in the House of Representatives. He's volunteered in several youth and community service events.

William's passion for understanding how things work encouraged him to pursue a career as an engineer. He has been accepted into South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and will begin

engineering classes in August. William has already completed 12 hours of dual-credit courses, which will ensure his success in college.

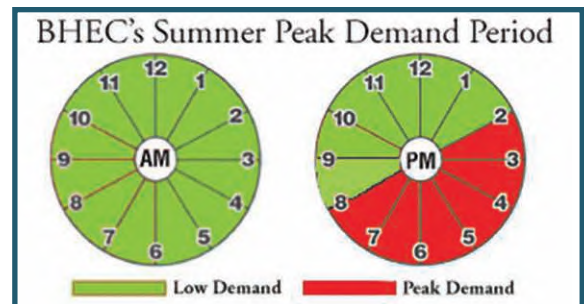
Congratulations, William!

Summer Demand Times Begin June 1

Black Hills Electric Cooperative's summer demand hours begin on Wednesday, June 1. Members on the demand rate will want to manage their electric use from 2-8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Managing your demand during those times can save you money.

From June 1 through September 30, co-op members use the majority of their electric energy from mid-afternoon to early evening, during the heat of the day. Because of this, the cost of energy the co-op buys to meet the load is higher. Using large loads during off-peak times saves you and your cooperative money on energy costs.



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 tsps. 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.

People • Power • Purpose

South Dakota Rural Electric YOUTH EXCURSION

JULY 25-28, 2022

The Youth Excursion Tour will be held **July 25-28, 2022**, and is headquartered in Bismarck, N.D.

All area high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Black Hills Electric Cooperative are eligible to apply.

Teens attending this event will:

- Have the opportunity to sightsee and to meet new friends from other participating cooperatives.
- Learn about “The Story Behind the Switch” and see where South Dakota’s electricity is generated.
- Tour the Great Plains Synfuel Plant, Freedom Coal Mine and Antelope Valley Station Power Plant.
- Spend their evenings swimming, shopping and cruising on the Lewis and Clark Riverboat.

Black Hills Electric Cooperative will provide transportation, lodging, meals, entertainment and sightseeing events. Students are required to supply their own personal/shopping money.

For More Information Contact:
Michelle Fischer - michellef@bhec.coop

Application Deadline: June 10, 2022

Official Notice of BHEC's 77th Annual Meeting

The 77th Annual Meeting of the Members of Black Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the Mueller Center, 801 South Sixth Street, City of Hot Springs, County of Fall River, State of South Dakota.

Registration will open at 5 p.m. MDT, and the meal will be served at 6:00 p.m. MDT on Thursday, June 2nd, 2022. The business meeting will start immediately after the meal on said day to take action on the following matters:

1. Action on the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes.
2. Reports from Board Officers and General Manager.
3. Declaration of appointment of two directors according to the Bylaws.

Pertaining to the declaration and election of directors, the following persons have been nominated by the Nominating Committee:

For the geographical area of Custer & Oglala Counties:

James Preston
14039 SD Hwy 40
Hermosa, SD 57744

For the geographical area of Lawrence, Meade & Pennington Counties:

Dave Lindblom
14170 Wrangler Rd.
Rapid City, SD 57702

Dated this 22nd day of March, 2022:
Donald Andersen, Secretary

Ways to pre-register:

- Send an e-mail to bhec@bhec.coop
- Call 800-742-0085 or 605-673-4461

Please provide the name on your account and number of guests attending.

If you need to cancel, please let us know ASAP.

Pre-registering for your annual meeting helps the co-op keep costs low by purchasing only the meals that we need.

Pre-registration deadline is **Thursday, May 26**. In addition to saving the co-op money, you might win **\$100** for registering early.

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

SCUBA DIVING



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.

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,

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.”



MAIN STREET ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

June 24, 25, & 26 - 2022 Centennial Park
Hot Springs - South Dakota

Michelle Fischer
michellef@bhcc.coop

Are you looking for something to do June 24-26? Look no further! Whether you're looking for unique foods, homemade items, or just being entertained, the Main Street Arts & Crafts Festival in Hot Springs has you covered.

I sat down with several of the committee members to get an overview of what the festival offers to the community and spectators. The committee consists of volunteers who start

planning for the event about six months prior to the festival. Each of them brings value to the committee and has many years of experience.

This festival typically brings in around 6-8 thousand visitors over the three days. It's an excellent opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase their handmade products and artwork. The crafts you can expect to find range anywhere from hand-carved sculptures to potted succulents. There is a wide variety of artwork that will be showcased. You will also find tasty jams & jellies along with other food items.

Speaking of food, did I mention that they will have around 5-8 different food trucks you can choose from? Better yet, try them all!

There is live entertainment during the day and headline bands Friday and Saturday night. Eliza Blue & Kim and the Classics will be performing on Friday & Saturday night. Children will also have an opportunity to build a birdhouse courtesy of The Hot Springs Elk Lodge #1751. The committee and staff have been known to hold a sidewalk chalk contest for children with a chance to win a cash prize.



All proceeds go into improvements on the Main Street Centennial Park. The festival funded bringing water and electricity to the park years ago, and continues to make improvements where needed. The proceeds also cover the cost of a security guard for the weekend so vendors & booths can feel safe and secure.

The committee has recruited local sports teams and youth organizations to help vendors unload merchandise and set up booths.

We hope to see you there!



Current members of the committee:

- Gerald Collogan - Chair
- Frank Mason - Co-Chair
- Greg Foust - Secretary/Treasurer
- Ron Engelbrecht - Vendor Registrations
- Mike Linderman - Entertainment
- Pat DeSmet - Sound Engineer
- Vern Hagedorn - Photographer
- Bobby & Trish Ladner - Promotions & Advertising

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FESTIVAL, VISIT
WWW.MAINSTREETARTSANDCRAFTS.COM**

**YOU MAY ALSO SEND AN EMAIL TO MAINSTREETACF@GMAIL.COM WITH ANY
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS.**



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

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

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.”

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*



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



FUN AND FISHING ON PACTOLA LAKE

Pactola Lake near Rapid City holds different interests for different outdoor enthusiasts. *Photos by SD Tourism*

Pactola Lake has something for everyone, from anglers to history buffs

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Pactola Lake is a unique body of water nestled in the heart of the Black Hills that has come to mean many different things to many different people.

For outdoors adventurers, the 1.1 square mile lake offers a wide range of activities including boating, camping, canoeing, fishing, swimming, paddle boarding, beach combing, hiking and even scuba diving for those interested in capturing an up-close glimpse of the aquatic life that teems throughout the underwater habitat. Fly fishing is a popular pastime for anglers in the shallow waters of Rapid Creek.

Tourism promoters have dubbed

Pactola Lake as South Dakota's version of Atlantis because the lake bed was once the site of a small town that was submerged after Pactola Dam was constructed and the area was flooded in the mid-1950s.

However, explorers today will find very little left of the old town's structures as most were moved or auctioned off when plans for the dam were made public. The Bureau of Land Reclamation clear cut and cleaned off what would eventually become the lake bottom. One of the few buildings still standing in the deep water is the old Civilian Conservation Corps camp dynamite bunker. Scuba divers have reported finding construction equipment and portions of the train tracks in the depths.

Conservationists and biologists study the Pactola Reservoir Complex area for its abundant wildlife habitat and diverse landscapes, while civil engineers operate the reservoir as a means of flood control and as a source of water for the Rapid City metropolitan area - including Ellsworth Air Force Base - located about 15 miles to the east. Farmers also rely on the embankment dam to irrigate their crops.

For historians, Pactola Lake holds a special curiosity as a former hunting ground for Native American tribes and a site where miners went to seek their fortunes and pursue their quests for gold in violation of the Treaty of Fort Laramie. The small settlement that emerged was named for Gen. George Crook, a U.S. Cavalry leader in charge of keeping the ambitious miners away and upholding the terms of the treaty,



Paddlers catch some exercise while enjoying the serene surroundings of Pactola Lake.

although the hills were eventually opened up to prospecting activity in February of 1876. The village was later named Pactola after the legendary “golden sands” that were said to be found along the ancient Pactolus River located in modern-day Turkey.

History buffs also delve down into Pactola’s intriguing past as a thriving boom town in the 1870s where claims were being filed at a breakneck pace and more than 300 miners flooded the place decades before the waters did.

One of the first post office facilities in the Black Hills was established there, two stage lines served the town’s residents and the Black Hills and Western Railroad laid down train tracks to set up a main transportation line. The Sherman House hotel was the center of social activity and a popular gathering place for locals and travelers alike.

During the summer months, children would make the trip from nearby towns to take part in the Presbyterian and Methodist church camps.

To fishermen, in particular, Pactola Lake is prime spot for landing lunker rainbow trout, brown trout, crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill and Kokanee salmon. Below the surface, spearfishing scuba divers stalk bigmouth buffalo.

David Hollister, a CAD specialist at Rushmore Electric in Rapid City, enjoys taking his family out to the lake during the weekends and holidays when the weather cooperates. He and his wife, Jade, like to enjoy the scenery with son Bryce along the hiking trails and they occasionally launch a kayak to explore Jenny Gulch, a shallow, no-wake, area.

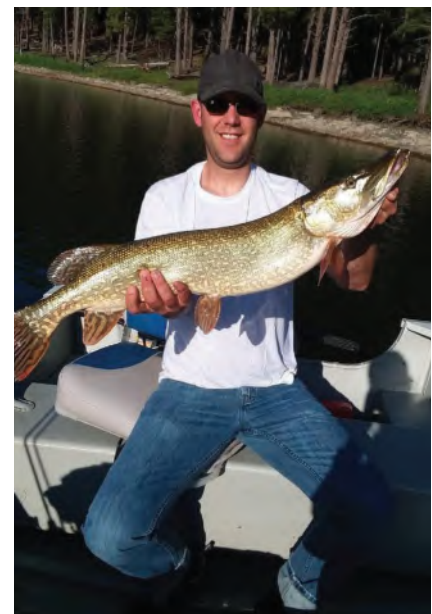
David also enjoys the thrill of fishing for trout and pike as he’s done for the past 10 years. He’s not too proud to admit that Jade often brings home the biggest catch.

“The natural beauty is a huge draw. Everywhere you look it’s gorgeous and the fishing is great. They get big and fight hard,” he said, noting that his personal record for trout is 32 inches. “It can be a challenge because the depth can change pretty drastically from the shoreline to 100 feet. It takes a little time and effort to learn the lake.”

The Pactola Reservoir Complex is open year-round and costs \$6 per vehicle per day. The U.S. Forest Service operates the Pactola Visitor Center, which is located at the south end of the dam. The center provides interpretive exhibits, travel information and a scenic view of the water. There’s also a marina located at Custer Gulch on the south

shore. The privately owned facility has a capacity of 200 vessels and has fishing boats, canoes and paddle boards for rent to the public.

For more information on the area, visit the U.S. Forest Service’s website at www.fs.usda.gov/. Boat ramp data can be found on the Bureau of Reclamation website for Pactola and Deerfield Reservoirs at www.usbr.gov/gp/boat/.



David Hollister enjoys angling for lunker pike at Pactola Lake.



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 28-29
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 3-5
Lake Andes Fish Days
 Citywide, Lake Andes, SD,
 605-487-7694

JUNE 4
Deadwood All In Motocross Races
 Days of '76 Event Complex,
 Deadwood, SD, 605-717-7642

JUNE 4
Sportsman's Bash: Banquet, Silent Auction & Raffle
 Weston County Event Center,
 Newcastle, WY, 605-749-2205

JUNE 10-11
Deadwood PBR
 Days of '76 Event Complex,
 Deadwood, SD, 605-717-7642

JUNE 10-11
Rapid City Right To Life Rummage Sale
 Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Rapid City, SD,
 605-390-1768

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-](http://deadwood.com/event/wild-bill-days/)
[days/](http://deadwood.com/event/wild-bill-days/)

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-](http://605magazine.com/605-summer-classic/)
[summer-classic/](http://605magazine.com/605-summer-classic/)

JUNE 18-19
Fine Arts in the Hills
 Main Street, Hill City, SD,
www.hillcityarts.org

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
Black Hills Bluegrass Festival
 Rush No More RV Resort &
 Campground, Sturgis, SD,
blackhillsbluegrass.com

JUNE 24-26
Main Street Arts & Crafts Festival
 Centennial Park, Hot Springs,
 SD, [mainstreetartsandcrafts.](http://mainstreetartsandcrafts.com)
[com](http://mainstreetartsandcrafts.com)

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

JUNE 30-JULY 4
Annual Black Hills Roundup
 300 Roundup St., Belle Fourche,
 SD, blackhillsroundup.com

JULY 1-2
Monster Truck Show
 Days of '76 Event Complex,
 Deadwood, SD, 605-717-7642

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