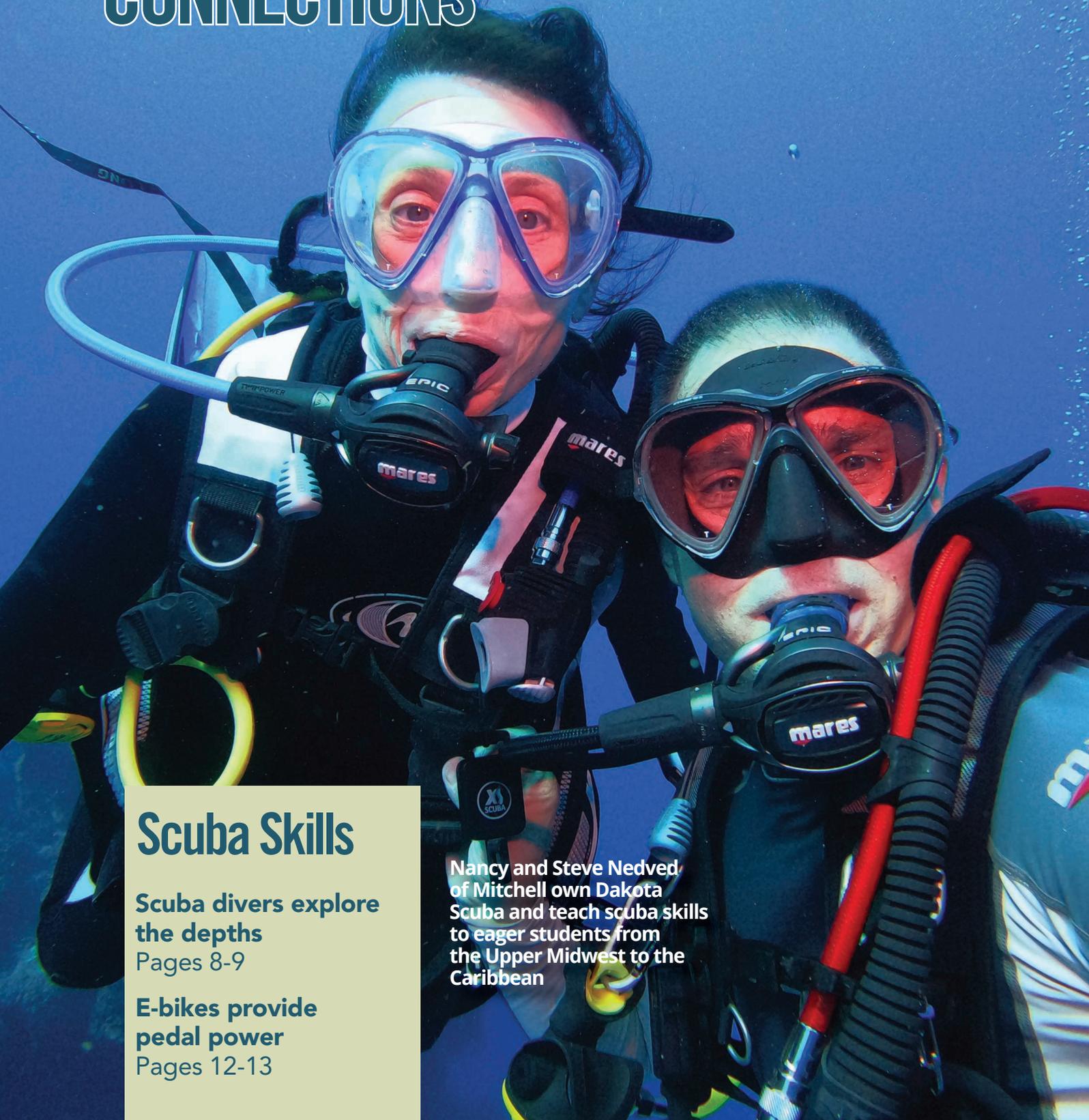


COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



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

COOPERATIVE PARTICIPATION IS KEY



Jordan Lamb
jlamb@
oaheelectric.com

Oahe Electric Cooperative prides itself on its legacy of member owners deciding the future of our cooperative we collectively own together. Through the history of our organization, member participation has driven our cooperative forward through changes in standard of living, generation, transmission and distribution delivery methods, prioritizing safety of our workforce and our members, and technological innovations.

Our cooperative load management program saves Oahe members approximately \$210,000 per megawatt (MW) per year in demand savings. Oahe Electric Cooperative peak load for 2021 was approximately 50 MWs of load, and averages around 20-25 MWs regularly. Voluntary participation in water heater, air conditioning, irrigation and other miscellaneous load control programs collectively saves our membership millions per year. As we look to the future of this program, we intend to implement and offer additional load management programs that not only save an individual member-owner money through rebates, monthly credits and demand savings, but also saves our entire membership as a whole and helps to put downward pressure on our rates.

A new coming technology that requires a large amount of demand kW – which we try to lower through our load management program – is electric vehicle charging. Oahe Electric is in the process of offering its members a reduced energy kWh rate, a one-time rebate that members can utilize towards a Level 2 at-home charger and a monthly credit for at-home electric vehicle charging load management participation.

Load management limits peak demand of our electrical infrastructure. By shaving peaks through our load management, we are collectively as a cooperative delaying the need for new generation, larger capacity transmission and distribution and effectively utilizing our existing infrastructure more efficiently throughout the course of the year. This program helps to keep our rates low and is unique to our cooperative member-owners who continue to work together to save money as a whole.

We appreciate and encourage your existing and future participation in our load management programs, including water heaters, air conditioning, electric vehicle charging, time-of-use rates and energy efficiency practices, both at home and at work during hot summer and cold winter days. If you are planning on replacing a water heater, adding an electric vehicle to your home or have any other energy efficiency and load management questions, please call us – we would love to help you make energy efficient decisions that save you and all of our member-owners money!



Oahe Electric Member Appreciation Lunches

Thursday, May 19 ~ 11:30am-1pm
Hughes County Highway Shop, Pierre, SD

Thursday, May 26 ~ 11:30am-1pm
Phoenix Center, Onida, SD

Enjoy a free meal, drink and a dessert!

All attending members will be entered into a drawing for bill credits!

We hope to see you there!



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

OAHE ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 019-042)

Board of Directors:

James Feller – Vice President
605.962.6207
Brandon Haag – Assistant Secretary
605.215.6758
Ryan Noyes – Treasurer
605.280.3500
Ross Sperry – Secretary
605.280.7770
Kirk Yackley – President
605.258.2412

Employees:

Tyler Arbach – Journeyman Lineman
Mark Bruning – Line Foreman
Matt Eldridge – Operations Manager
Trudie Feldman – Custodian
Brady Gaer – Journeyman Lineman
Sidney Geigle – Journeyman Lineman
Duane Hjelm – Journeyman Lineman
Sam Irvine – Office Services
Megan Jaeger – Billing Clerk
Jordan Lamb – General Manager
Dan Lettau – Journeyman Lineman
Steve Long – Material/Work Order/AMR Agent
Valerie Marso – Office Manager
Tory Smith – Journeyman Lineman

OAHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 216, 102 S. Canford, Blunt, SD 57522, for its members. Families subscribe to Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to Oahe Electric Cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living. Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Blunt, SD 57522 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Oahe Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 216, Blunt, SD 57522-0216; telephone (605) 962-6243; fax (605) 962-6306; e-mail oahe@oaheelectric.com; www.oaheelectric.com

Our Mission

Oahe Electric delivers high quality, low-cost electric service to our local member-owners. As a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, we are committed to meeting the highest standards of customer satisfaction. We do business with accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community. As an electric co-op, we are part of America's most trusted network of high quality energy providers.

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 20

It's hard to believe, but "that time of the year" has come around very quickly! It's time to start planning the annual meeting!

As a member of a cooperative, it is important to attend annual meetings in order to keep abreast of the happenings occurring here. Because remember – it's your cooperative and you are a member-owner. Also, Oahe Electric is very interested in your thoughts or ideas concerning our annual meeting. If there is something that you would like to share, any ideas for changes, etc., please let us know!

So please mark your calendars for Oahe Electric Cooperative's 71st annual meeting!



On behalf of LifeScope, the employees of East River Electric Power Cooperative would like to thank you for your support and generous donation for the 58th Annual LifeScope Benefit. This year was a great success! The support and dedication of businesses like yours is truly appreciated, not only by the East River employees, but also your community. With your help, over \$44,000 will be donated to LifeScope.

We look forward to your continued support for this worthy organization. The funds we raise help local children lead normal lives. We are looking forward to next year's 59th annual benefit!

Sincerely,

East River Employees Committee

Erica Fitzhugh, Jamie Denne, Anne Hall, Dan Rinehart, Jeff May, Melissa Daughtrey, Michael Olson, Matthew Tesch

Congratulations to Graduating Seniors

Oahe Electric would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to our graduating seniors. This is a wonderful time in your life. It is great that you have all earned your diplomas after years of such hard work and long hours of study. You will now start the next phase of your lives and we wish you all the very best for the future!

Statement of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: 1.) mail - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; 2.) fax: (202) 690-7442; or 3.) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Valerie Marso
vmarso@
oaheelectric.com

Many businesses use the word “member” to describe their customers. Places like Sam’s Club or Costco, and even American Express like to refer to their customers as members. You

pay a fee to buy their goods and services but that is really all you get for the “membership.” No right to vote, unable to run for the board of directors or participate in any meaningful way in the organization.

But with cooperatives, membership means something more than just the right to buy electricity.

It gives you rights and a voice as an owner! You can actively participate in our governance through voting or running for our board of directors. Your attendance at annual meetings and informational meetings provide an opportunity for you to ask questions and express concerns.

Back in the early days, we never would have existed or survived without the participation of all our members. While technology and system reliability has improved, we still need you to be involved and it

is imperative that you feel like you belong to your co-op!

It is vitally important that we stay close to our members to ensure we are continuing to respond to your needs. We periodically send out surveys asking for your opinion and ideas, and we use this to make decisions based on those responses paired with what is feasible. Please take time to complete these surveys. We are asking because we value your input!

Another cooperative member difference is receiving a capital credit allocation! What does this mean? At the end of the year, when all the bills were paid, whatever was left over goes back to all the members on the same percentage that they contributed to the margins. Meaning, if your bill is always smaller than your neighbors,

your allocation will be smaller as well. Check out your April bill sent in May to see your portion of the cooperative’s 2021 margins.

Margaret Mead, the cultural anthropologist, once said, “Never doubt the ability of a small group of people to change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has.” Oahe Electric is connected to a world full of people who believe in the cooperative principles and values and we need you to be connected to us by more than just the electric lines. So please, get involved and continue to be involved. Come to our annual meeting on **Aug. 20**, and join us for our member appreciation dinners **May 19** in Pierre and **May 26** in Onida. Together we can maintain a strong cooperative.

OAHE’S ANNUAL AUDIT COMPLETED

Your cooperative’s financial statements are audited every year by an outside firm, Eide Bailly. In their independent auditing report, they found Oahe Electric and the results of its operations and its cash flows to be free of any material misstatement and to be in compliance with the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States as well as with the generally accepted accounting principles.

That’s a lot of words that basically say your electric cooperative received a clean audit again this year! For the third year, the audit was done completely remote. Thank goodness for advancements in technology (specifically Document Vault and web portals) that make this process simple and efficient!

Understanding Your Oahe Electric Energy Bill

Use this guide to better understand the information found on your monthly electric bill.

Did OEC receive my last payment?
This section shows total activity since your last bill, ending with your balance forward, if any. If any of this information does not match your records, call the Oahe Electric office.

Operation Round Up®
For those who participate, this is your contribution into the Operation Round Up fund. Each month, your bill is rounded up to the nearest dollar, so the maximum contribution would be less than \$11.88 annually.

Questions?
Call Oahe Electric at the number indicated or stop by the office.

Our service location, meter and submeter information
We don't use physical addresses but use our own mapping system. This location identifies where your meters are located. The main meter accumulates the usage of your lights, electric water heater, stove and such. The submeter (located on page two of your bill) tracks the usage of heating and air conditioning in order to be billed at the special rate.

000012812

OAHE ELECTRIC
The Traditional Energy Cooperative

PO Box 216
Blunt SD 57522-0216

805.962.8243
805.962.6305 - Fax
oahe@oaheelectric.com
www.oaheelectric.com

Account Number: [REDACTED]

Statement Date 05/07/2020 Due Date 05/22/2020

Billing Summary	
Balance From Last Billing	2014.05
Payment Received (04/28/2020)	2014.00 CR
Balance Forward	0.00
Current Charges	1688.99
Round-Up Contribution	0.01
Amount Due	1689.00

Page 1 of 3

Information and messages issues pertaining to you and your cooperative will be found in this area.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Messages

Statement reflects payments received through 5/7/20. Delinquent & subject to penalties if not paid by 5/22/20. Access SmartHub on our website @ www.oaheelectric.com to manage your account, bill notifications, payments and more.

Service Details

Location	Meter	95882274	Disc: 05/07/20	MMAIN
Meter Reading Details				
Current Reading:	04/30/2020	89177		10.00
Previous Reading:	03/31/2020	89298		-4.00
Total Usage		2879		10.48
Billed Usage		873		127.48

Period	Daily kWh	Cost/kWh	kWh	Daily Cost
This Year	95	\$0.0031	2879	\$7.90
Last Year	131	\$0.1795	3832	\$10.43

Detail of Charges

400M MV Security Light (Qty: 1)	10.00
Water Heater Credit	-4.00
South Dakota Tax	10.48
kWh Charge	127.48
Meter 1 of 15	143.96

What do I owe and when is it due?
The total amount due upon receipt of this bill is shown. If this amount is not paid, your account is subject to disconnect.

Amount Due **\$1,689.00**

Account Number: [REDACTED]

Statement Date 05/07/2020 Due Date 05/22/2020

DO NOT PAY - Amount is automatically deducted from bank account

Usage graph Explore and compare your usage for the past year.

Additional messages This section shows additional messages regarding your bill, such as whether it is being paid via ACH or if you have a credit and do not need to remit a payment.

Oahe Electric 81
PO Box 216
Blunt SD 57522-0216

More Information... Other important information is noted on the reverse side of the bill.

Security Light
If you have a security light, this area indicates the size (175 watts or 400 watts) and whether it is metered or unmetered. Metered means that all kilowatts used are billed to the member.

Water Heater Credit
This is a flat monthly \$4 credit for participating in the load management program with your electric water heater.

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" x 10"
- 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.”

Restoring Power Safely and Efficiently



Matt Eldridge
meldridge@
oaheelectric.com

We do our best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: power outages occasionally happen.

For most Oahe Electric members, outages are rare and last a very short time. But when major storms impact

our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

So, when the power goes out, how do Oahe Electric crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We've got answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with

repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. Oahe Electric keeps a supply of extra material on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see Oahe Electric crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. We love trees too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power

for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself, and we make it easy to do. The quickest way to report an outage is calling our office number at 1-800-640-6243.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Oahe Electric, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

This month's question is:

When are director petitions due?

Please submit your answer via email to oahe@oaheelectric.com with the subject line of "Question of the Month." A surprise gift will be sent to the winner!

WINNER OF QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The Question of the Month winner for the April 2022 publication was Donald Pelletier. He correctly answered the question "Who is responsible for locating private lines?"

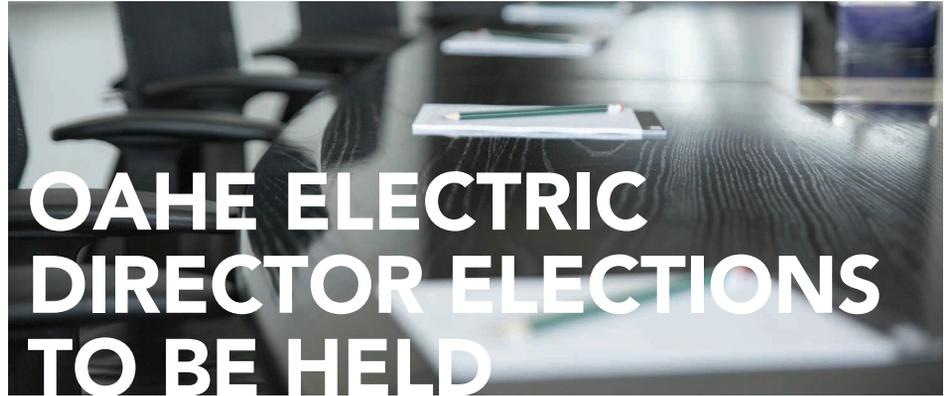
The answer was: The property owner is responsible for hiring an electrician or locating service to locate their private, secondary lines.

Congratulations and we hope you enjoyed your prizes!

LIKE US!

You can now keep in touch with your cooperative on Facebook! We will share with you the latest news, events, power outage updates, energy efficiency tips, money-saving rebates, load management information, legislative alerts, safety tips and much more!

We hope you "like" Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. on Facebook!



The annual meeting of the members of Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held on **Aug. 20, 2022.**

During the annual meeting, the members present will be electing one board member to fill a three-year position. Any individual who satisfies the qualifications and complies with the nominating procedures set forth below, should be prepared to serve a minimum of 24 to 36 days per year attending meetings on behalf of the cooperative.

Petitions are available at the headquarters in Blunt.

Should there be any questions concerning the bylaw procedures or if you would like to request a petition, feel free to call or stop in at the office. Petitions are due by **July 7, 2022.**

Bylaws Governing Election of Directors

SECTION 3 - QUALIFICATIONS:

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who: (A) is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative; or (B) is in any way employed or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electrical or plumbing fixtures or supplies to members of the Cooperative; or (C) is an employee of the Cooperative.

Upon establishment of the fact that a director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the Board of Directors, by official motion shall remove such director from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatever the validity of any action taken at any meetings of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4 - NOMINATIONS:

Any fifteen (15) or more members acting together may make nominations by petition not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the principal office of the Cooperative. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting or separately but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting at statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by petition. There shall be no nominations from the floor unless no petition has been filed for a vacancy. In that event only, nominations shall be taken from the floor for that vacancy, and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nomination has been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate.



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."

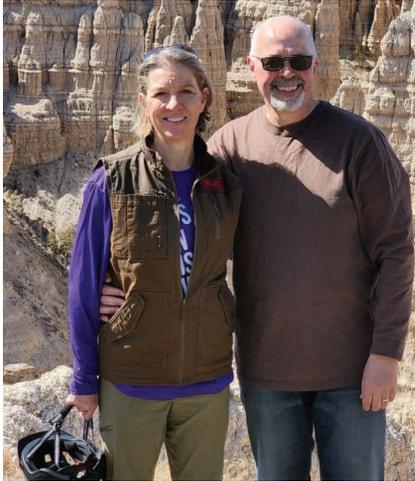
Mary Duvall, a state senator from

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.

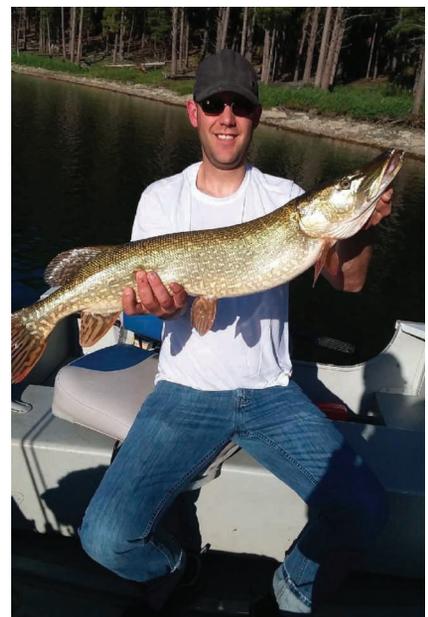
David also enjoys the thrill of fishing for trout and pike as he’s done for the past 10 years. He’s not too proud to admit that Jade often brings home the biggest catch.

“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
Memorial Weekend in Mitchell
 Main Street, Mitchell, SD,
 605-292-4444

MAY 28-29
Black Hills Renaissance Faire
 Manuel Brothers Park, Lead, SD,
www.blackhillsrenfest.com

MAY 29-30
Back When They Bucked
 Days of '76 Arena, Deadwood, SD,
 605-718-0810

MAY 30
Prairie Points Quilt Guild Show
 204 Hodge St., Buffalo, SD,
 605-641-5591

JUNE 2-4
Annual Black Hills Quilt Show & Sale
 The Monument, Rapid City, SD,
bhquilters.org/events

JUNE 2-5
Wheel Jam
 South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD,
www.wheeljam.com

JUNE 3-5
Fort Sisseton Historical Festival
 11907 434th Ave., Lake City, SD,
 605-448-5474

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

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

JUNE 11
The Big Mick
 George S. Mickelson Trail, Deadwood, SD,
mickelsontrailaffiliates.com

JUNE 16-18
Czech Days
 Lidice Street, Tabor, SD,
 605-463-2478

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

JUNE 16-19
South Dakota Shakespeare Festival
 Prentis Park, Vermillion, SD,
 605-622-0423

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

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

JUNE 18-19
Aberdeen Arts in the Park
 Melgaard Park, Aberdeen, SD,
 605-226-1557

JUNE 18-19
Brookings Kite Festival
 Fishback Soccer Complex, Brookings, SD,
 605-695-9071

JUNE 22-25
Crystal Springs Rodeo
 17803 479th Ave., Clear Lake, SD,
crystalspringsrodeo.com

JUNE 24-26
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.com

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

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

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

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