

● JUNE 2024

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

Director candidates nominated

Anatomy of a power outage

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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Alicia Moss, whose parents are North West REC member-consumers, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could receive \$100!

THE STORM HAS ARRIVED

BY KEVIN CONDON



With Iowa's 2024 Legislative Session in the rearview mirror, Iowa's electric cooperatives are looking back to note what did NOT pass the 90th General Assembly. While some pieces of legislation passed that are beneficial to rural electric cooperatives (RECs), it is fair to say that co-ops have been forced to take a defensive posture at the Statehouse for the past few years.

Notably, in 2023, lawmakers passed, and Gov. Reynolds signed into law a bill to help ensure reliable and resilient power generation sources (House File 248) and another that preserves local control over decision-making at the cooperative (House File 599). However, based on the last two legislative efforts at the Iowa Capitol, electric cooperative supporters should be aware that more concern is on the horizon.

Looming concerns

Service territory protections, integrated resource plans, government overreach into private contracts and weakening of safety protocols are among the troublesome topics that have surfaced at the Statehouse in the past few years. Perhaps of utmost concern is the barrage of out-of-state entities and national organizations that seem to be flocking to Iowa to push agendas of half-truths and scare tactics, all draped in the veil of "liberty" and "free market" principles.

One only needs to take a few minutes to research who is bankrolling these "consumer groups" to discover that a wolf is knocking at the door dressed in sheep's clothing. Outfits based in Texas, Florida, New York and California have all invested serious time and money into Iowa in an effort to weaken your cooperative's ability to provide safe and reliable power.

The only important question now is: Who will your lawmakers listen to?

A matter of trust

Without question, the storm is no longer brewing over these critical energy issues; it has arrived. And now, consumers and lawmakers will have a choice to make: trust your locally owned and governed electric cooperative or take the word of out-of-state corporations that are not locally owned or governed.

Your electric cooperative is guided by seven key principles, one being Concern for Community. The first electric cooperative to provide power in Iowa is more than 100 years old, and many others will celebrate their 90th anniversaries in the next few years. RECs aren't going anywhere. We have been here for decades, providing affordable and reliable service to our neighbors.

I realize that such a dire warning might seem like more political hysteria or hyperbole. I can assure you that it is not. The next decade of energy policy in the U.S. and Iowa will set electric co-op member-consumers on an energy course that could hurt our communities for generations to come if it's not managed with the local interests of consumers in mind.

Now is the time to become educated on energy issues that matter to your community so that you can help inform those you vote for on Election Day.

Please contact your local cooperative or visit www.iowarec.org and www.iaruralpower.org for more information on responsible energy policy.

Kevin Condon is the director of government relations for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

WIN AN ELECTRIC ICE CREAM MAKER!

When it comes to homemade ice cream, "the more, the better" is the motto of this family-friendly machine. Ideal for entertaining, it makes two quarts of your favorite frozen dessert in a single batch (in just 25 minutes). The clear plastic lid has an opening for adding mix-ins like chocolate chips and nuts.

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than June 30. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winner of the \$100 garden center gift card from the April issue was Leland Kreimeyer, a Franklin REC member-consumer.



ENTER ONLINE BY JUNE 30!

RESTORING POWER SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY

BY ERIK FREESE



Now that summer is in full swing, like many of you, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather. Summertime brings

many of my favorite activities, such as cooking out with family and friends, enjoying afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

Even with all the enjoyment that summer brings, Mother Nature can still surprise us with severe weather that may cause power outages. While we do our best to avoid power outages, they occasionally happen. For most Grundy County REC members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms, such as the derecho in August 2020 or severe winter weather

impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

So, when the power goes out, how do Grundy County REC crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We have the answers to these questions and more, and it all begins with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

Steps to restore an outage

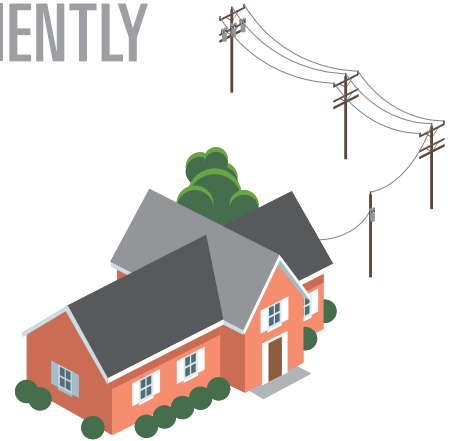
When the lights go out, and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service the greatest 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 a transformer and a home are repaired.

A proactive and coordinated approach

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. Grundy County REC keeps extra materials on hand so we can quickly get to work during an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be in the field, 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 our crew 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 numerous members. 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.

Communication matters

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself, as this helps our crew narrow down the source of the problem, and we make it easy to do. The quickest way to report an outage is to call 319-824-5251. When severe weather hits and causes large-scale outages, the staff at Grundy County REC will provide updates on the cooperative's Facebook page, as it is the quickest way to communicate with our members in a timely manner.

Take steps to prepare at home

If you have a medical condition requiring electrical equipment, please have a backup plan. 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.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

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

Erik Freese is the operations manager for Grundy County REC.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

"Our mission is to provide our members safe, reliable, electric service"



Office: Grundy County REC
303 N Park Avenue • P.O. Box 39
Grundy Center, IA 50638

Phone: 319-824-5251

Fax: 319-824-3118

Call Before You Dig (Iowa One Call):
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Website: www.grundycountyrecia.com

Facebook: facebook.com/GrundyCountyREC

Email: mgeerdes@grundycountyrecia.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Call our office 24/7: 319-824-5251

General Manager: Michael Geerdes

Officers and Directors:

District 1: Kevin Pruisner
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District 5: Matt Kopriva
District 6: Roger Brown
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SAVE THE DATE: AUG. 7 MEMBER APPRECIATION NIGHT

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, Aug. 7! Grundy County REC will host our second-annual Member Appreciation Night at the Grundy County Fairgrounds. Join us for great food, fun, activities and a chance to sign up for some great prize giveaways! More information will be coming soon.



COOPERATIVE RECEIVES "CLEAN" AUDIT

We are proud to share that Grundy County REC received a clean audit for 2023 with no adjusting entries. Staff from the cooperative's third-party auditing firm, CliftonLarsonAllen, presented the 2023 audited financials and audit report at the April board meeting.



MEET US AT THE GRUNDY COUNTY FAIR

"You scream, I scream, we all scream for ICE CREAM!"

Grundy County REC staff will be at the Grundy County Fairgrounds on Friday, July 19, conducting high-voltage powerline demonstrations and serving Hansen's Dairy ice cream at 10:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Attendees can register for a chance to win fun giveaway items. We can't wait to see you there!



OFFICE CLOSURE

Grundy County REC will be closed on Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Call 319-824-5251 to report an outage; as always, our phones are answered 24/7, year-round.



HELPING MEMBERS IN NEED

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative has always extended a helping hand to those needing it. In response to actions by the Iowa General Assembly, your rural electric cooperative has established RECare, a program of members helping members.

RECare provides funds to be distributed by local community action agencies to help pay winter heating bills and assist in the weatherization of low-income consumers' homes.

You may make a monthly pledge that will be automatically added to your electric bill – even just a dollar a month – or a one-time contribution to help others.



RECare Consumer Authorization Form

I would like to make a (check one):

- One-time contribution of \$ _____
- Monthly contribution of \$ _____
(That will be added to my bill)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip Code _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Account # (if known) _____

Return to Grundy County REC
303 N Park Avenue • P.O. Box 39
Grundy Center, IA 50638



SET YOUR HOME TO VACATION MODE

BY MIRANDA BOUTELLE

Just like you, the equipment in your home is hard at work getting through the daily grind. If you're planning a vacation to enjoy a new adventure or time away, it is also an excellent time to give your home's equipment a break, too. Doing so can reduce unnecessary energy waste and unneeded wear and tear on your heating and cooling system, appliances and more.

TIP 1 **Adjust your thermostat**

Your heating and cooling system keeps you comfortable. If you aren't there, it doesn't need to be quite so comfortable in your home. Setting the thermostat closer to the outdoor temperature can save you energy and money – though it's not recommended to turn off the heating or cooling system completely. In extreme weather, your heating and cooling system also helps protect your home from freezing pipes or damage from excessive heat.

As a rule, you can typically set your thermostat 5 to 10 degrees F closer to the outdoor temperature when you aren't home. Each home is different, and the weather varies depending on where you live. Consider the right temperature balance for your home.

Installing a smart thermostat gives you the ability to control your settings remotely from your smartphone. This allows you to adjust the temperature after you leave home and right before you return.

TIP 2 **Remember your water heater**

Most water heaters include a "vacation mode" setting. This setting drops the temperature to reduce wasted energy when you're away. A storage water heater is like an insulated tea kettle, standing by and ready for you to have hot water whenever you need it. Give that water heater a vacation, too. Changing the setting to vacation mode keeps it on at a lower setting, saving energy. Leave yourself a note with a reminder to turn it back on when you get home so you don't wind up with a disappointing shower before the first day back at work.

TIP 3 **Easy "to dos" for efficiency and security**

Closing the curtains can provide two benefits. It can keep heat from the sun at bay. It also reduces the load on your heating and cooling system, which saves energy. Plus, closing curtains has the benefit of blocking visibility into your home when you're away.

For security, some people use timers or leave on exterior lights. Make sure any lights left on are LEDs, instead of incandescent or compact fluorescent bulbs. LEDs use less energy and have less impact on your electric use when left on all night. You can also consider adding smart LEDs to your home. Smart LEDs can be controlled remotely through an app on your phone.

TIP 4 **Unplug all of your unnecessary items**

Some devices in your home continue to draw power from your electrical outlets even when turned off or on standby. Before you leave, walk through your home and unplug devices and small appliances. Make sure gaming consoles and computers are fully powered down. Unplugging any devices that have lights, clocks or use standby mode can also reduce wasted energy.

Having peace of mind that your home is powered down and secure can help you enjoy your vacation. After all, we all need an occasional break.

Miranda Boutelle writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 electric co-ops.

Closing the curtains keeps heat from the sun at bay and blocks visibility into your home.



When you aren't home, set your thermostat 5 to 10 degrees F closer to the outdoor temperature. Consider upgrading to a smart thermostat, which gives you control over the temperature from anywhere.



Having peace of mind that your house is powered down and secure can help you enjoy your vacation.



tasty turkey

RECIPES



KALE PESTO TURKEY BURGERS

- 2 pounds ground turkey
- ½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- ¾ cup prepared pesto, divided
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup kale, finely chopped
- ½ cup mozzarella cheese
- ½ cup sun-dried tomatoes, julienned
- ½ cup light mayonnaise
- hamburger buns

Mix turkey, Parmesan cheese, ½ cup pesto, salt and kale. Form into six patties and grill or fry until they reach an internal temperature of 165 degrees F. Top with mozzarella cheese and sun-dried tomatoes for the last 5 minutes of cooking. Mix mayonnaise and ¼ cup pesto. Spread on buns and add burgers.

Jacquilyn Hearn • Batavia
Access Energy Cooperative

HOT TURKEY SALAD

- 2 cups turkey, cooked and cubed
- 2 tablespoons minced onion
- 1 cup celery, finely diced
- ½ green pepper, finely diced
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1½ cups cheddar cheese, grated (or preferred cheese)

Mix ingredients together and bake at 350 degrees F for 20 minutes. Serves 4-6

Amy Martens • Wellman
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

TYE'S TURKEY MARINADE

- ¾ cup orange juice
- ¾ cup soy sauce
- ¼ cup honey
- ½ cup onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 2 teaspoons ginger
- 4 pounds turkey (tenderloin or other cut)

Combine all ingredients except for turkey. Place turkey into marinade and let stand for 1 hour. Grill turkey until done and serve. Serves 4-6

Alicia Pacha • Brighton
Access Energy Cooperative

TURKEY STIR FRY

- 1 cup brown rice
- 1½ tablespoons olive oil
- 1 package coleslaw mix
- 2 carrots, grated
- 2 stalks celery, cut up
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 8-ounce can water chestnuts
- 3 cups turkey, cooked and shredded
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce

Cook rice until tender, set aside. Heat oil in saucepan and add coleslaw, carrots, celery and onion. Cook until just tender. Add water chestnuts, turkey and soy sauce. Heat for about 3 minutes then serve over a bed of rice.

Mary Gropper • Chelsea
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

TURKEY NOODLE VEGGIE CASSEROLE

- 8 ounces noodles
- ¼ cup celery, chopped
- ¼ cup onion, chopped
- ½ cup peas
- ½ cup carrots, cut
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- ½ soup can of milk
- 2 cups turkey, cooked and cut
- 1 cup Velveeta cheese, cubed

Cook noodles, celery, onion, peas and carrots in chicken broth. Do not drain. Add all other ingredients. Place in greased baking dish and bake at 350 degrees F for 40 minutes.

**Steph Messner • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative**

OVERNIGHT TURKEY CASSEROLE

- 2 cups macaroni, uncooked
- 3 cups leftover turkey
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 2 cans broth
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 cup mild cheese, diced
- ½ cup green pepper, chopped
- ½ cup celery, chopped
- 1 small can water chestnuts
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 4-ounce can mushrooms

Mix in order above. Put in greased 9x13-inch pan. Refrigerate overnight then bake uncovered at 350 degrees F for 1 hour. Freezes well. *Serves 15*

**Ardine Dillingham • Hartley
Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

PIZZA ROLLUPS

- 1 pound ground turkey, browned
- 2 cups mozzarella
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 loaf frozen bread dough, thawed
- 4 cups Italian tomato sauce

Mix turkey, cheese, salt, pepper and herbs. Roll out dough into 14x24-inch rectangle. Spoon mixture over dough. Roll up lengthwise and cut into 24 pieces. Place on greased cookie sheet, about 1 inch apart. Let sit for about 10 minutes then bake at 400 degrees F for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Serve with warmed Italian tomato sauce.

**Bethany Van Wyhe • Lester
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative**

GRILLED TURKEY BURGERS

- 20 ounces ground turkey
- ¼ cup non-fat Greek yogurt
- 2 tablespoons mushrooms, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and finely minced
- 1 green onion, finely chopped
- ½ teaspoon seasoned salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons parsley or cilantro, finely chopped
- hamburger buns
- Optional toppings: pepper jack cheese, lettuce, tomato, avocado, red onion, ranch dressing

Mix the first eight ingredients together until thoroughly blended. Divide into four equal balls, roughly ½ pound each, then form into patties ¾-inch thick and 4-5 inches in diameter. Preheat grill to 400 degrees F (medium high). It should be at this heat at least 5 minutes prior to grilling to preheat the grates. Grill the burgers until the bottom cooks through and juices start to pool on top of the patties, about 5 minutes. Flip and cook until the patties reach an internal temperature of 165 degrees F, about 3-5 minutes. If desired, top with a slice of pepper jack cheese at the last minute or two of grilling. Remove and rest on a raised rack and toast buns on the grill. Assemble the burgers with additional optional items: lettuce, tomato, avocado, red onion and ranch dressing. *Serves 4*

**Jackie Netherton • Ida Grove
North West Rural Electric Cooperative**

WANTED:

FAMILY DINNER FAVORITES

THE REWARD:
**\$25 FOR EVERY
ONE WE PUBLISH!**

Deadline is June 30.
Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name and the recipe category on all submissions. **Also provide the number of servings per recipe.**



EMAIL: recipes@ieclmagazine.com
(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your email message.)

MAIL: Recipes
Iowa Electric Cooperative Living • 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48,
Des Moines, IA 50322-2992

ANATOMY OF A POWER OUTAGE

BY SCOTT FLOOD

Imagine that a stray bolt of lightning connects a menacing cloud with a power pole about a mile east of your home. Your lights flicker briefly before going out. Things become eerily quiet as all your home's devices equipped with motors and fans stop providing their constant symphony of background noise.

Locating the issue

You're experiencing a power outage, so you reach for your phone and call your electric co-op. Good move. Sometimes, member-consumers don't call because they assume their neighbors will. However, the more

members who do make the call, the more quickly the co-op will be able to pinpoint the outage location.

Back at the office, the co-op's grid system operator noticed the sudden pause at the moment 300 million volts of lightning danced around a transformer, and they're able to triangulate the location of the outage. The system estimates just over 500 members are in the dark as a line crew tosses their dinner aside and steers their trucks in that direction.

Thirty minutes later, the lineworkers slowly drive along a stretch of road,

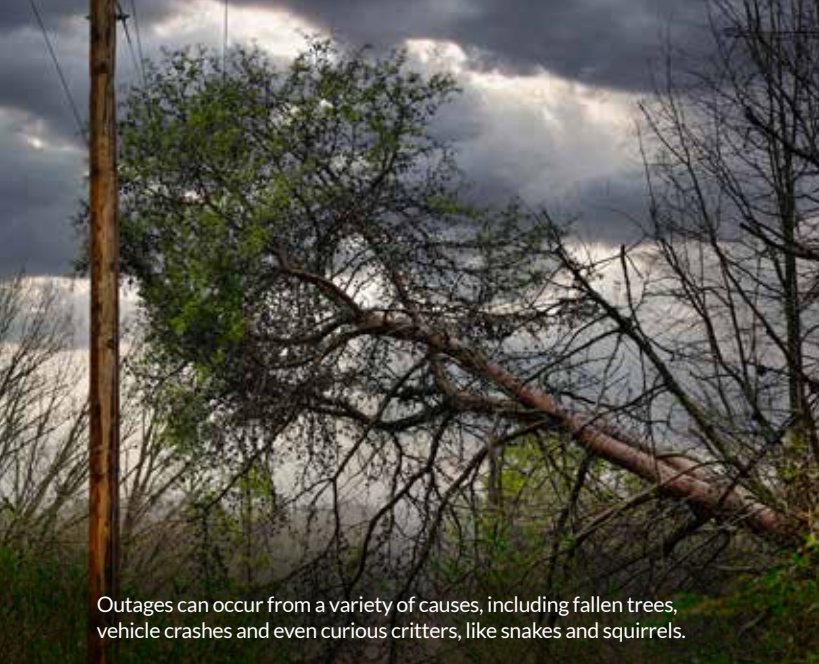
keeping one eye on traffic while inspecting every pole, wire and transformer. In another 8 minutes, they stop and step out for a closer look. The mystery is solved with one glance at the burn mark across the surface of the transformer. Ready to move closer to the line.

Deliberate work ensures safety

If you watch the lineworkers, you might mistakenly assume they're not very motivated. After all, you're dealing with a power outage, you want it to end as soon as possible, and it looks like they're simply



Photo Source: Midland Power Cooperative



Outages can occur from a variety of causes, including fallen trees, vehicle crashes and even curious critters, like snakes and squirrels.



Photo Source: Corn Belt Power Cooperative

taking their sweet time while you're missing the ballgame. But there's a good reason the lineworkers aren't rushing or running around.

Those power lines carry high-voltage electricity. It's safe when all elements of the system are in good working order, but it's potentially deadly when that's not the case. Lineworkers approach what they do deliberately, efficiently – and, most of all, safely. Every action they take is carefully planned so they can spot potential hazards. When performing tasks, they follow standard procedures and safety requirements to ensure the repair is effective and sound. Working that way may take a little extra time, but it means they'll make it home safely at the end of the day (or night).

Power is restored

Less than an hour after finding the cause of the outage, the lineworkers load their tools and gear back onto the trucks. This time, the problem was easy to spot, the repair was fairly straightforward, and the weather cooperated.

Driving back to the co-op, the lineworkers watch the passing homes and smile because the warm glow coming from the windows means the power's back on again. A couple of members in their yard wave as the trucks pass by. They may not know why the electricity went off and what was involved in

bringing it back, but thanks to the lineworkers, life is back to normal.

Preparing for the unknown

Lightning streaks across the world's skies roughly 8 million times every day, and power poles, lines and other infrastructure provide attractive targets for helping lightning connect with the ground. But outages can occur from a variety of causes, including fallen trees, vehicle crashes and even curious critters, like snakes and squirrels.

And no two outages are exactly alike. The next one could be in severe weather or a remote segment far off the main road. It could involve a fallen tree that needs to be cut with chainsaws or a broken utility pole that needs to be replaced. The situation doesn't matter because lineworkers will always get to the location and fix the problem as quickly as safety allows.

This is why your electric co-op invests in the right technologies and equipment designed to protect the power grid and prevent outages from plunging your home into darkness. And it's also why the lineworkers, who put themselves at risk to return your life to normal, are some of our favorite people.

Scott Flood writes for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 900 electric co-ops.

SAFETY TIPS

If a power outage occurs:

- Call your local electric cooperative to report your outage – even if you think a neighbor has already called it in. The more calls received, the easier it is to identify the issue and determine the extent of the outage.
- Stay away from downed power lines and poles. Always assume all power lines are energized and dangerous unless told otherwise by an authority.
- Turn off the stove, oven and other appliances (except refrigerators and freezers with food) to prevent heavy startup loads that could cause secondary blackouts when power is restored.
- Unplug sensitive electronic equipment, such as computers, TVs and other home entertainment equipment, to avoid damage to them when power is restored.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to prevent food from spoiling.
- Leave a light turned on so you'll know when the power is restored.
- Use flashlights during outages instead of candles to avoid fire risks.



**Nominate a local volunteer
and they could win
\$3,000 for their charity!**

Contest entries accepted during June at
IowaShineTheLight.com

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Happy Father's Day from Grundy County REC! We hope all the fathers and special father figures have a wonderful day.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



Follow Grundy County REC on Facebook to stay up to date on industry information, cooperative news and programs, events, outages and more!

NIELSEN PROMOTED TO LINE FOREMAN



We are excited to announce that Karl Nielsen has been promoted to Grundy County REC line foreman, effective June 3. We look forward to seeing Nielsen's continued success in this new position, and we know he will do great things for the cooperative and its members.

"I really enjoy working with my fellow linemen here at Grundy County REC," he shares. "Being able to help guide and train them to be successful in their roles is something I enjoy and look forward to continuing in this position."

SKAKENBERG CELEBRATES FOUR YEARS AT CO-OP



Congratulations to Derek Snakenberg on celebrating four years at Grundy County REC. We appreciate all you do for the cooperative and its members!

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES NOMINATED

At the nominating committee meeting on May 30, director candidates for the upcoming 2024 director elections were nominated. The nominating committee report will be posted at the cooperative on Monday, June 3, for a 10-day period. This is also the period where nominations by petition are accepted.



Please contact Allyson Miller at amiller@grundycountyrecia.org or 319-824-5251 with questions.

UPDATED WATER HEATER PRICING

Effective July 1, pricing for 50-, 85- and 105-gallon water heaters will increase to \$400. New construction and gas replacements will increase to \$150. Please contact Brady Codner at bcodner@grundycountyrecia.org or 319-824-5251.



NOMINATE A COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER BY JUNE 30

Your nominee could win \$3,000 for their local charity

Iowa's electric cooperatives are excited to announce the return of a statewide contest, which celebrates our cooperative commitment to community. Called **Shine the Light**, the contest will accept nominations in June and award three winners with a \$3,000 check to their local charity or community organization.

"Now in our fourth year, we're excited to once again provide this cooperative effort to shine the light on local volunteers," says Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. "So many people throughout the areas served by Iowa's electric cooperatives deserve to be recognized for making a positive impact."

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the Shine the Light contest will accept contest entries online during the month of June. In addition to receiving a \$3,000 donation for their charity or nonprofit of choice, the winners will also be featured in the September issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine.

How to nominate

Member-consumers, employees and retirees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers. If you receive electricity from an electric cooperative in Iowa, you're a co-op member-consumer and invited to nominate someone who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians.



Step 1:

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com from June 1-30 to make a nomination and to review the contest rules. You can also learn about past winners of the contest.

Step 2:

As a nominator, provide your contact information and answer the following question in 500 words or less.

How has your nominee made a difference in the community, and how might their local charity use the \$3,000 donation?

EPA RULES THREATEN RELIABILITY

On April 25, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its long-anticipated final rules aimed at existing coal and new natural gas power plants.

The four new rules to regulate power plants represent “the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation’s energy future,” says Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). NRECA represents nearly 900 local electric cooperatives throughout the U.S., including those in Iowa. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation’s landscape.

Matheson adds, “The path outlined by the EPA is unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable. It undermines electric reliability and poses grave consequences for an already stressed electric grid. The American economy can’t succeed without reliable electricity. Smart energy policy recognizes that fundamental truth and works to help keep the lights on. This barrage of new EPA rules ignores our nation’s ongoing electric reliability challenges and is the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation’s energy future.”

Specifically, NRECA believes the final rule is problematic for the following key reasons:

1 Disregards the law and Supreme Court decisions.

The rule violates the Clean Air Act because the EPA asserts vast new authority of major economic and political significance without a clear statement from Congress. It disregards the “major questions doctrine” and is inconsistent with the text, structure and context of Clean Air Act Section 111.

2 Requires the use of inadequately demonstrated technology.

While carbon capture and storage (CCS) is a promising technology, it is not yet widespread nor commercially available and thus has not been “adequately demonstrated” as is required. No units in the country are currently achieving the EPA’s required 90% capture rate consistently and while operating at baseload levels.

3 Mandates unrealistic and unachievable timelines.

There needs to be more infrastructure in place, especially massive pipeline networks, to support CCS and hydrogen, even assuming the technologies work as the EPA envisions.

The necessary infrastructure cannot reasonably be expected to be in place in time to meet the EPA’s requirements.

4 Jeopardizes reliability and affordability.

The final rule will reduce key generating resources, magnifying today’s reliability challenges with grave consequences for an already stressed electric grid. All of this will occur while the demand for electricity skyrockets as we electrify more of the American economy.

The EPA finalized its rule against a backdrop of daunting threats to reliability, as electricity demand surges at the same time supply is decreasing.

The Energy Information Administration projects that power demand will reach record highs in 2024 and 2025, increasing by 2.5% and 3.2%, respectively. Grid planners forecast electricity demand to grow by 38 gigawatts through 2028, the equivalent of adding another California to the grid.

Meanwhile, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation has warned that more than 110 gigawatts of always-available generation, enough to power about 35 million homes, will retire by 2033. Over the next five years, all or parts of 19 states are at high risk of rolling blackouts during normal peak conditions.

“

This barrage of new EPA rules ignores our nation’s ongoing electric reliability challenges and is the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation’s energy future.”

NRECA CEO Jim Matheson



The rule is unlawful. It violates the law, exceeds EPA’s authority, and disregards Supreme Court rulings.

The technology isn’t ready. The rule mandates the widespread adoption of technology that is promising, but not ready for prime time.

The timelines are unrealistic. The rule gives neither existing coal units nor new gas units enough time to reach compliance.

NRECA CEO Jim Matheson

FROM 6-ON-6 GIRLS' BASKETBALL TO THE "CAITLIN CLARK EFFECT"

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

There's a saying that everything in life can teach you a lesson; you just have to be willing to observe and learn.

I was thinking about this after Iowa Hawkeye legend Caitlin Clark became the No. 1 overall pick in the WNBA draft and joined the Indiana Fever.

Imagine the Iowa Hawkeye women's basketball star playing a game where the rules allowed her just two dribbles before she had to pass or shoot. Oh yeah – it would be illegal for her to cross the half-court line, too.

For most of the 20th century, this was girls' basketball in Iowa. The game was 6-on-6, with three girls on one side of the court playing defense and three on the other side playing offense.

Uniquely Iowa style of play

While the rules might seem archaic now, 6-on-6 was wildly popular for generations. Especially in rural Iowa, it was fully supported and encouraged at a time when competitive team sports for women were relatively unheard of (and often discouraged).

Iowa's rich tradition of high school girls' basketball dates back to the 1890s and early 1900s. In many small schools, girls' 6-on-6 basketball proved more popular with fans than boys' basketball. At its zenith, the sport involved more than 70% of the girls in Iowa, by some estimates.

That's why some newspaper clippings and a trophy at Doug and Karen Lawton's farm south of Jefferson caught my eye. The items are displayed in Karen's "she shed," a former tire shop on the family's Century Farm. When I was working on a story about the shed, I asked Karen about this unique décor.

Another leader for girls' basketball

Those items honor Luella (Gardeman) Boddicker, Doug's maternal grandmother. She was a star player on the 1927 Newhall girls' high school basketball team. As a sophomore, Luella was the team's leading scorer, hitting the basket that propelled Newhall High School to a 38-37 win over Sioux Center in the final game of the state tournament in Centerville.

This was the second tournament sponsored by the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU), which was organized in response to the Iowa High School Athletic Association's decision that organized basketball was unhealthy for girls.

"Luella rode horseback in the mid-1920s to speak out against that decision and save girls' basketball," Karen says.

Luella's specialty was the one-handed jump shot – 15 years before its introduction into boys' basketball, according to March 6, 1994, article "Memory Still Vivid After 67 Years" in the Cedar Rapids Gazette. This former farm girl and country school student (who moved to Newhall her sophomore year) mastered the one-handed jumper after Coach William Franklin told her if she didn't, "we'll never get anywhere."

After her senior season, Luella sold butter, eggs and cream to buy her only letter sweater. She couldn't afford one before that.

"In those days, you worked for what you got," she told the Gazette.

A lasting hoops legacy

Luella became a farm wife and mother of three daughters, including Doug's mother, Dorothy (Dot), who was also a standout basketball player. Luella's accomplishments left a lasting legacy not only for her family, but the future of girls' high school basketball. She was inducted into the IGHSAU Hall of Fame in 1972.

Decades after Luella's achievements, Iowa remained one of the last two states (along with Oklahoma) to play 6-on-6 high school basketball. In 1993, the IGHSAU voted unanimously to end 6-on-6, as more girls wanted to play 5-on-5 in high school and college.

Clark herself has learned – and honored – the history of girls' 6-on-6 basketball in Iowa. Referencing the unprecedented interest in women's collegiate and professional basketball, "that doesn't come if it's not for the people who came before us," she told the media. You nailed it, Caitlin.

Darcy Dougherty Maulsby lives near her family's Century Farm northwest of Lake City. Visit her at www.darcymaulsby.com.



Luella
(Gardeman)
Boddicker



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