

DECEMBER 2023

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

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with Venture Awards
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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Brent Koops, a North West REC member-consumer, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could receive \$100!

HEARTFUL GRATITUDE FOR SERVING MEMBERS

BY ROGER SOLOMONSON



Oh, the people I have met and the places I have been during my two years as the board president of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC)! As my term ends

this month at the IAEC annual meeting, I want to share some important memories.

The highlight of serving as your statewide president was traveling around Iowa to attend 36 electric cooperative meetings and talking with over 300 directors and 35 co-op managers in their own board rooms. These folks are dedicated men and women who are passionate about serving their communities. They are committed to making sure there is safe, reliable and affordable electricity available when member-consumers flip the switch to power their lives every day.

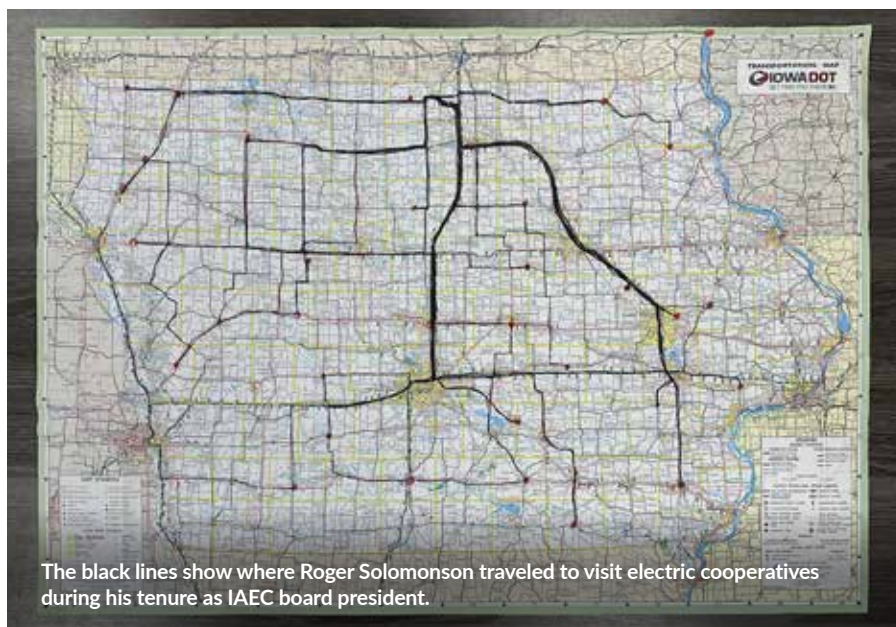
Raising our collective voice

Another high point was attending statewide legislative fly-ins to Washington, D.C., to speak with our elected officials along with industry lobbyists and experts in various fields. Watching our national government work (or sometimes not work) is always interesting.

I also often traveled to Des Moines during the Iowa legislative sessions to meet with state legislators to advocate for the members of rural electric cooperatives and to make sure electric cooperative voices were heard. As it was told to me, the rural electric movement was started by politics and may someday die in politics if we aren't active and vocal.

Iowa nice, regional connections

In September, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association held a regional meeting in Des Moines for attendees from six Midwestern states. We spent time learning from experts in several fields and receiving national updates. I also had the pleasure of meeting with other statewide board presidents to discuss mutual goals. I heard several comments about how friendly and clean Des Moines is, to which I shared we're all about "Iowa nice" and encouraged them to come back soon.



The black lines show where Roger Solomonson traveled to visit electric cooperatives during his tenure as IAEC board president.

Leadership search

One of my final duties as your statewide board president has been starting the search for IAEC's next executive vice president and general manager, as Chuck Soderberg has announced plans to retire in July 2024 after almost nine years serving in that role. This is the most important job for the statewide board, and I know they will do an excellent job selecting the right person to lead Iowa's electric cooperatives into the future.

As I leave the IAEC board in capable hands, I want to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to all I have served with in the past eight years, including fellow statewide board members, IAEC staff, Iowa electric co-op managers and directors.

It has been a pleasure to serve, and I wish you all blessings in the years ahead.

Roger Solomonson is the board president for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and a director at Heartland Power Cooperative.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

WIN A HAPPYLIGHT® DUO LAMP!

Benefit from the power of sunlight with the clarity of premium task lighting with the new HappyLight® Duo. This 2-in-1 floor lamp safely brings daylight indoors by emitting a bright white light that mimics sunlight. This customizable lighting solution is perfect for readers, artists, hobbyists, crafters and anyone seeking a powerful lamp with adjustable light.

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.ieclmagazine.com no later than Dec. 31. 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 gift card from the October issue was Beverly Summers, a Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative member-consumer.



ENTER ONLINE BY DEC. 31!

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

BY TROY AMOSS



Ringling in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the CEO/general manager of

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC), for me, this is a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. I spend a lot of time thinking about ways we can better serve you.

As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford. This is an extremely timely topic as we continue to adapt to the current economic climate and the changing energy landscape. Knowing what factors impact electricity prices is important and I want to help explain some of these factors to you.

While there is no short answer, there are a few key elements that impact electricity prices and rates. Some

of these factors CVEC can manage, some of them you can impact, and other factors are beyond our control. So, let me break it down.

There are two primary parts to your monthly electric bill: a daily service availability charge and an energy consumption/kWh charge. To understand your total energy costs and what impacts your bill, let's review one piece at a time.

Daily service availability charge

The first is a fixed daily service availability charge, which covers the costs associated with providing electricity to your home. This includes equipment, materials, labor and operating costs necessary to serve each meter in CVEC's service territory, regardless of the amount of energy used.

In order to ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local system, including power lines, substations and other necessary equipment. Like many other businesses, we've experienced supply chain issues and steep cost increases for some of our basic equipment. Because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, these expenses must be distributed among our entire membership.

Energy consumption charge

The other component of your monthly bill is the kWh charge, which covers how much energy you consume. You've likely noticed the amount of

energy you use can vary from month-to-month and is typically impacted by extreme temperatures. When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling and heating equipment run longer, which increases your home energy use. Regardless, energy consumption is an area that you have some control over, and you can lower your monthly bill by actively reducing energy use. Your thermostat is a great place to start.

While the cooperative works diligently to minimize any impacts on our members' bills, the continued increase in the cost of power is one factor we cannot control. CVEC purchases electricity each month at a wholesale cost to meet the needs of our members. The cost of wholesale power delivery is the largest component of providing you with electric services, representing over 52% of the total expenditures for the cooperative.

I hope this information sheds light on some of the factors that impact electricity prices. While we can't control the weather or other rising costs, please know your cooperative is doing everything possible to keep internal costs down.

We're here to help you, too. Contact us if you have questions about your energy bill or for advice on how to save energy at home.

Troy Amoss is the CEO/general manager of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative.



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OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative will be closed the following days:

- Dec. 22 and Dec. 25: In observance of Christmas
- Jan. 1: New Year's Day

Although our office will be closed, you can call 641-932-7126 anytime with billing or account questions, to pay your bill and to report service interruptions.

CVEC AWARDS 2023 Q3 OPERATION ROUND UP® FUNDS

The Chariton Valley Electric Operation Round Up® Foundation Board is proud to announce the recipient of Operation Round Up's 2023 third quarter funds.

This program rounds up members' electric bills to the nearest whole dollar. Each bill is increased anywhere between \$0.01 and \$0.99 for the nearly 75% of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) members who continue to participate in the program. The money collected through Operation Round Up is then pooled and administered in a series of grants by the Chariton Valley Electric Operation Round Up Foundation Board.

CJ3 Foundation award

In October, the foundation board reviewed all submitted applications and awarded \$5,000 to the CJ3 Foundation. The CJ3 Foundation is a nonprofit charity organization that provides services, support and advocacy to our nation's wounded heroes. They connect veterans with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. The CJ3 Foundation provides mental

health and wellness services at no cost to the veteran at their Albia location through intensive therapy sessions. Veterans and their families can stay at Kendall Place while receiving this treatment at no cost.

The \$5,000 awarded will be used to replace the front door of Kendall Place with an ADA-approved door. This project will allow disabled veterans and other visitors with wheelchairs or walkers easy accessibility to the building.

Supporting our community

CVEC is grateful our members continue to donate their small change each month to impact local lives. The cooperative has a long history of supporting charitable and community service organizations, from children's programs to food banks and more.

We see the Operation Round Up program as part of our cooperative heritage and values – people coming together to help their neighbors. Through Operation Round Up, our members can come together to create change in their communities



– something they could not do individually on this scale.

As of October, the program has helped 24 organizations by providing nearly \$81,000 in grants.

If you would like your organization to be considered for a grant, please visit our website at www.cvrec.com to complete the application documents by Dec. 31, 2023.



TRICK OR TREAT

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) participated in Albia's Trick or Treat through the District event on Oct. 27.

CVEC employees, along with LED Lucy and Bolt the Bucket Truck, were on hand to pass out candy to all the little ghosts and goblins.

Beginning in 1988, the Iowa Area Development Group and its electric cooperative, municipal utility and independent telecommunication company partners have annually honored growing companies with an Iowa Venture Award. The award spotlights entrepreneurs and organizations for their leadership, capital investment and the job opportunities they create.

The following businesses were honored on Dec. 7 at a luncheon held as a part of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting. View all 293 Iowa Venture Award recipients in the Hall of Fame at www.IADG.com/HallOfFame.

IOWA VENTURE AWARDS: CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING COMPANIES

BY KAY SNYDER



M3 Fabrication

Nominated by Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative

Established in 2014 by brothers Tyler and Sam McClure, M3 Fabrication reflects the entrepreneurial heritage passed down by their father Phil, completing the trio that inspired the name "M3 Fabrication." Situated in the Bloomfield Industrial Park, their recent expansion tells a tale of growth and vision.

May 2022 marked a milestone as M3 acquired a similar fabricator, expanding its footprint with a 50,000-square-foot building on 15 acres, allowing for future development. Now spanning two campuses half a mile apart, M3 boasts upgraded processes, including two new fiber laser cutting machines and an integrated sheet storage system enhancing productivity.

As a family-owned and community-driven enterprise, M3 prides itself on

high-quality craftsmanship. Specializing in stainless steel, aluminum and mild steel fabrication, M3 ensures durable products, from individual pieces to large-scale orders. Customers value personalized service, competitive pricing and on-time delivery – hallmarks of M3's commitment to excellence.

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative provides power to the Bloomfield Industrial Park and supported M3's growth with a passthrough loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDL&G) program.



Ihle Fabrications LLC

Nominated by Midland Power Cooperative

Ihle Fabrications was started by brothers Mike and Brian Ihle on a family farm in central Iowa in 2002. They began fabricating liners to solve issues they faced with their combines. With a

growing demand for their products, Ihle Fabrications relocated to an existing 45,000-square-foot facility with additional ground between Slater and Polk City in July 2021.

An 82,000-square-foot expansion project began in August. The expansion will accommodate an increase in demand for the existing line of parts and an expanding line of wearable steel parts for agricultural machinery. Ihle Fabrication's products are sold in 38 states and internationally in Canada, Mexico and Australia.

As of June 2022, Ihle Fabrications became a Certified CNH Reman Supplier for one part. This relationship significantly expanded in mid-2023 to include an additional 140 parts. The company is committed to working alongside farmers and end-users to help solve problems of the future.

In addition to providing power to Ihle Fabrications, Midland Power Cooperative and Central Iowa Power Cooperative assisted with a pass-through loan from the USDA REDL&G program to augment the purchase of equipment to support its expanding operation.

COLD-LINK LOGISTICS NAMED “OUTSTANDING BUSINESS OF THE YEAR”

Nominated by Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative

In 2016, brothers Michael, Mark and Nick Mandich embarked on a new career trajectory – founding Cold-Link Logistics. From a humble bay freezer facility in Doral, Florida, they leaped into the logistics industry. Today, with 14 members in management and more than 200 employees across five states, Cold-Link is a full-service logistics company driven by family values and innovative cold chain solutions.

The company initiated expansion to Sioux City in 2021, reflecting a strategic move to offer a cold storage warehouse in the Midwest. From meticulous planning, customer engagement and infrastructure development, the 189,000-square-foot facility, poised for future expansion, became a reality in March. Key customers include Wells Blue Bunny, Purdue Premium Meats and empirical foods, among others. The Cold-Link Logistics Sioux City team has grown to more than 75 members.

Cold-Link Logistics is committed to employee welfare and customer-centric solutions. The company anchors itself in the heart of the Sioux City community, ready for a future of successful partnerships and continuous growth.

Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative provides power to the Southbridge Business Park and has supported park upgrades to accommodate Cold-Link Logistics and the needs of future tenants.



Post Equipment

Nominated by North West Rural Electric Cooperative

Established just outside Rock Valley, Post Equipment has evolved into a thriving farm equipment supply company since moving its operations from a family farm in 2008. The company has consistently expanded its offerings to align with continuous growth.

With a vast inventory of new and used feed mixers, manure spreaders, bale processors and diverse farm equipment, Post Equipment is a hub for replacement parts and specialized livestock equipment. Their comprehensive solutions also include custom augers, skid loader attachments, and equipment repair and rebuilding.

Beyond equipment, the company extends its reach with Post Metal Recycling, offering industrial and on-site scrap metal recycling services. Its Ironwood 53 company specializes in designing and producing agricultural and industrial parts, recently manufacturing the “Herd-Boss Feeders” line of original equipment manufacturer (OEM) cattle feeding equipment for further diversification.

In the last 18 months, a significant 54,000-square-foot expansion underscores their commitment to growth, accompanied by a boost in employment with 15 new hires. Owned by Mike and Ruth Post, the company’s success is propelled by an 80-member team, cementing its position as an industry leader in farm equipment and innovation.

North West Rural Electric Cooperative provides power and support for the ever-growing Post Equipment and family of companies.



HiPer Ceramics

Nominated by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative

Ann Kathryn Hoffmeister launched HiPer Ceramics in 2018. The business is a strategic addition to the Hoffmeister family’s array of businesses, including HiPer Ceramics GmbH, HiPer Medical AG and Zellwerk GmbH, owned by her husband Dr. Hans Hoffmeister. Operating since 2019 in a state-of-the-art, 16,800-square-foot facility in Spirit Lake, the company specializes in crafting high-performance ceramic material for advanced industrial components and endoprosthetic hip implants.

With Iowa’s conducive business environment and electric power reliability, HiPer Ceramics employs high automation in material manufacturing. Recently integrating a cutting-edge shuttle kiln, the company produces the high-quality, reliable product necessary to support its precision medical and industrial applications. Teaming up with German HiPer-Group partners, their focus is on cost-effective products that deliver exceptional clinical performance and safety.

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative has been an instrumental partner for HiPer Ceramics, as reliable and affordable power is imperative in the high-performance ceramic manufacturing process.



Centro Incorporated

Nominated by Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative

Centro Incorporated continued its strategic expansion by acquiring a 30,000-square-foot building in the Hampton Air Industrial Park. The facility now houses two rotational molding machines and employs 40 new associates. This expansion aims to bolster production capacity across the Midwest, catering to surging demand and accommodating future business growth. Hampton is the eleventh location in an ever-growing footprint that encompasses locations across the U.S., Northern Ireland and Brazil.

Headquartered in North Liberty, Centro specializes in custom rotational molding for various industries. This recent expansion marks a milestone in the company’s growth strategy, serving leading OEMs in the agriculture, construction, and lawn and garden sectors. With a workforce of nearly 1,200 associates and multiple domestic and international facilities, Centro’s growth trajectory demonstrates its market leadership and commitment to meet evolving customer needs.

Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative provides power to the Hampton Air Industrial Park and was instrumental in constructing the speculative building, now home to Centro Incorporated.

Kay Snyder is the director of marketing and communications for the Iowa Area Development Group.

Holiday

DINNER
RECIPES



PECAN PIE

- 3 eggs
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{3}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter, melted
- 1 cup white corn syrup
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- 1 pie crust (9-inch), unbaked

Beat eggs, then add brown sugar, salt, butter and corn syrup. Mix, then add pecans. Pour into pie crust. Bake at 375 degrees F for 20 minutes then at 350 degrees F for 20 more minutes or until set. You can use a pie crust cover for the last 20 minutes to prevent burnt edges. Serves 8-10

Stephanie Messner • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

PUMPKIN SCRUMPTIOUS

- $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon vanilla ice cream
- 2 cups cooked pumpkin
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1 graham cracker pie crust

Softened ice cream. Mix in all ingredients and pour into a prepared graham cracker pie crust. Freeze until firm.

Bethany Van Wyhe • Lester
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

SALMON PARTY SPREAD

- 1 can (16 ounces) salmon
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons onion, grated
- 1 teaspoon horseradish
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon liquid smoke
- crackers

Drain salmon, remove skin and bones, then flake. Combine salmon with remaining ingredients, except crackers, and mix thoroughly. Chill several hours. Serve with your favorite crackers.

Barb Haman • Marengo
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

CHEESY POTATOES

- 6 medium potatoes
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups sour cream
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 2 tablespoons onion bits
- Velveeta cheese, sliced

Peel potatoes and slice into 1-inch pieces. Boil about 10 minutes until tender, drain. Add sour cream, cottage cheese and onion bits to potatoes. Mix well and pour into greased casserole dish. Cover and bake at 375 degrees F for 35 minutes. Uncover and add Velveeta cheese slices in a single layer over potatoes. Bake 10 more minutes until cheese melts. Serves 10-12

Diane White • Waverly
Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative

ROASTED TURKEY

- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 15-pound turkey, or larger
- 1 onion, cut in quarters
- 2 stalks celery, chopped in large pieces
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 6 pieces bacon
- ½ cup butter, room temperature
- 2 cups chicken or vegetable stock

The day before roasting, remove giblets and save for roasting with the turkey, if desired. Combine pepper, salt, mustard, olive oil and Worcestershire sauce into a paste. Rub the thawed turkey inside and out with the paste, cover and refrigerate. On the day of roasting, place onion, celery and parsley inside the turkey. Work butter between the crevices of the legs and wings (the butter will be thick). Lay uncooked bacon across the breast and over the legs. Place the turkey in a roaster and add stock. If using giblets, lay them in the bottom of the roaster next to the turkey. Loosely cover the turkey with tin foil. Bake at 300 degrees F for 30 minutes per pound, or according to package instructions. Baste once or twice while baking. Remove foil for the last hour.

**Brenda Zylstra • Larchwood
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative**

HOLIDAY PUMPKIN PECAN PIE

- 4 eggs, divided
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup packed brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon flour, divided
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- ¾ teaspoon salt, divided
- ¾ cup pumpkin
- ¾ cup milk
- 1 deep-dish pie shell (9-inch), unbaked
- ½ cup dark corn syrup
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons molasses
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ cup pecans, chopped
- 1 cup pecan halves

In a mixing bowl, beat two eggs, sugar, ¼ cup packed brown sugar, 1 teaspoon flour, pie spice and ¼ teaspoon salt until smooth. Mix in pumpkin. Gradually beat in milk. Pour into pastry shell. Bake at 425 degrees F for 10 minutes. Reduce the temperature to 350 degrees F and bake 15 minutes longer. For pecan topping, beat two eggs until foamy. Add corn syrup, 2 tablespoons brown sugar, molasses, 1 tablespoon flour, vanilla and ½ teaspoon salt. Pour over filling. Sprinkle with chopped pecans. Cover with pecan halves. Continue baking at 350 degrees F for 30-35 minutes or until set. Cool. Store in the refrigerator. *Serves 8*

**Marilyn O'Brien • Geneva
Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative**

SCALLOPED CARROTS

- 1 2-inch chunk Velveeta cheese
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 3 tablespoons butter
- onion to taste, diced
- ¾ bag croutons
- 2 cans (14.5-ounces each) sliced carrots, drained

Cut up Velveeta and mix with soup, butter and onion. Heat in microwave until cheese is melted. Slightly smash croutons in the bag. Stir croutons and carrots into cheese mixture. Bake at 350 degrees F for 45 minutes or until bubbly. *Serves 8-10*

**Karen Heiden • Dows
Prairie Energy Cooperative**

MOIST EASY DRESSING

- 1 small onion, chopped
- 4 ribs celery, chopped
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2 eggs
- 1 can (10.5 ounces) cream of mushroom soup
- 10 pieces dry bread, torn
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- Lawry's seasoning salt, to taste
- poultry seasoning, to taste
- turkey neck and gizzard, optional

Sauté onion and celery in butter until tender. Mix with eggs, soup and bread pieces. Season to taste with salt, pepper, seasoning salt and poultry seasoning. If desired, boil turkey neck and gizzard. Remove meat from the bone, chop and add to mixture. Use stock or warm water to moisten mixture as needed. Place mixture in 9x13-inch pan and bake at 350 degrees F for 45 minutes. *Serves 12-15*

**Karen Crossland • Fairfield
Access Energy Cooperative**

WANTED:

EGG DISHES

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

Deadline is Dec. 31

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

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Photo Source:
Northwest Iowa
Power Cooperative

A large crane truck is positioned in a dark, plowed field under a dramatic, cloudy sky at sunset. The crane's long arm is extended upwards, reaching towards a power line tower. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun, creating a mix of orange, yellow, and blue tones. The ground is dark and textured, suggesting a recently plowed field. In the distance, a few utility poles and power lines are visible against the horizon.

A STORM IS BREWING: ELECTRIC RELIABILITY IS IN JEOPARDY

BY CHUCK SODERBERG AND
CONGRESSMAN RANDY FEENSTRA

Editor's Note: The following column was published in *The Washington Times* as an op-ed in October to educate Congressional leaders about reliability concerns within the electric industry. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives has a strong legacy of working with Iowa's elected officials and policymakers to raise awareness about issues affecting the safety, affordability and reliability of power for the cooperative member-consumers we serve.

Supply chain delays. Disorderly retirements of dispatchable electric generation. Complex regulations on power plant emissions. Regional warnings about a lack of generation capacity to cover electric demand. Permitting delays for needed electric transmission infrastructure.

Individually, any one of these issues is enough to seriously impact reliability of electric service.

But all these scenarios are playing out simultaneously across the nation and a perfect storm may be on the horizon.

Electric reliability across America is in serious jeopardy, and frankly, it's unacceptable.

The facts about reliability

Dispatchable sources of electric generation like coal and nuclear are being retired far too early. And their generation capacity is being replaced by intermittent sources of generation like wind and solar. The downside: These intermittent sources only work when the wind blows and the sun shines.

Battery storage is not yet feasible for longer durations on a utility-scale level. For all practical purposes, electricity must be generated as it is being consumed. This becomes a problem when the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining and energy consumption is high.

Demand for electricity continues to grow as our society becomes increasingly reliant on electricity.



Co-ops prioritize affordable, reliable energy

Locally owned electric cooperatives work hard to provide reliable and affordable electricity for the member-consumers they serve. Co-ops are mission-driven to power lives and empower communities and they make long-term decisions to ensure power is available when it's needed.

That's why we believe in a power generation strategy that prioritizes energy diversity. The same adage used for sound financial investing also applies to power generation: don't put all your eggs in one basket. Iowa's electric cooperatives use dispatchable sources of power like coal and natural gas because they can control the output and ramp up generation when needed to match sudden increases in electric demand. But our ability to provide reliable electricity is in jeopardy.

In May, the Environmental Protection Agency released its proposed rule to limit greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing fossil-fuel-fired electric generating units. The proposal is part of the current administration's misguided regulatory agenda to create a carbon-free power sector by 2035 and net zero

emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050. We believe this proposal will further strain America's electric grid and undermine decades of work to reliably keep the lights on across the nation.

Assessment reinforces concerns

But that's not the only threat we face. The 2023 North American Electric Reliability Corporation summer reliability assessment is just the latest in a series of alarming reminders about the new electric reliability challenges facing the nation. Nine states experienced power interruptions last December as the demand for electricity exceeded available supply.

It's imperative that policymakers work to prioritize reliability in every energy policy discussion. Federal policies must recognize the compromised reliability reality facing the nation before it's too late.

The families, farms and businesses served by electric cooperatives deserve affordable AND reliable electricity to power their lives.

Chuck Soderberg is the executive vice president and general manager of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, and Congressman Randy Feenstra represents Iowa's 4th congressional district.





BE PREPARED FOR WINTER STORMS

When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay safe and warm. A winter storm's severity can vary, but it is likely we will be affected by extreme winter weather at some point this year. Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) cares about your safety, and we want you to be prepared.

Heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines, leaving members without power, and this can be dangerous in extremely low temperatures. During a power outage, our crews will continue to work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power, but there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

Stay warm

Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a fireplace or

wood-burning stove during a power outage. These are great options to keep you and your loved ones warm, but exercise caution when using these heat sources, and never leave them unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated. Always read the manufacturer's directions before using.

Stay fed

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends having a several-day supply of food that does not need to be cooked. Crackers, cereal, canned goods and bread are good options to have on hand. Five gallons of water per person should

also be available in the event of an extended power outage.

Stay safe

When an outage occurs, it usually means power lines are down. It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible and report the situation to our office by calling 641-932-7126.

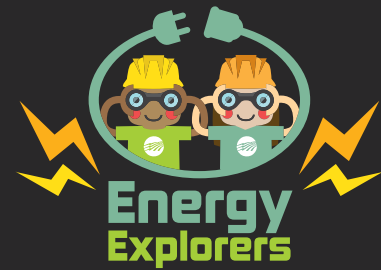
Winter weather can be unpredictable and dangerous, and planning ahead can often be the difference between life and death.

CVEC is ready for what Mother Nature has in store, and we want you to be ready, too.

HOLIDAY EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH

The holidays are a fun, festive time of year! We typically use more electricity during the holiday season.

Read the holiday efficiency tips below, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



W	G	W	P	D	K	S	S	J	J	W	S	U	M	M
V	Y	F	K	F	N	E	Z	Z	H	T	T	F	C	B
T	J	L	P	C	W	V	E	B	H	V	P	V	W	J
P	I	G	I	L	Z	V	L	G	W	K	K	Z	G	R
I	U	M	D	M	W	W	I	H	C	N	J	N	K	O
G	F	X	E	R	A	L	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	G
J	K	H	W	R	D	F	P	X	G	V	L	F	B	O
C	A	T	H	E	R	M	O	S	T	A	T	I	D	E
F	E	V	L	Y	C	H	U	O	Y	O	T	R	T	O
U	I	O	K	C	S	N	X	G	Q	V	J	E	C	T
J	C	A	J	G	L	X	M	Y	A	W	A	P	Q	V
N	O	D	R	I	A	S	U	E	D	K	S	L	B	D
P	C	H	G	S	Q	X	P	X	H	C	U	A	V	A
Q	V	H	E	A	L	X	O	S	D	U	E	C	V	G
O	T	R	N	F	Z	H	Q	G	V	V	S	E	H	V

- Decorate your tree with energy-saving **LED lights**.
- Control home heating costs with a smart or programmable **thermostat**.
- Save energy by using a **timer** to turn off holiday lights when you're sleeping.
- If you have a **fireplace**, ask an adult to close the damper when a fire is not burning.
- Open blinds and curtains during the day to let **sunlight** in to warm your home.
- Lower the thermostat when you invite **friends** and **family** over.
(The extra people in your home creates additional warmth.)

'TIS THE SEASON FOR SAFETY

12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

This isn't just the time of year that we eat more than usual, it's also the time when we have the most household accidents and fires. To help make sure your holidays don't go from merry to scary, remember these tips.

1 Candles Out




Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to sleep. And, keep decorations at least three feet away from heat sources – especially those with an open flame, like fireplaces and candles.

2 NO CHRISTMAS TREE



If you have a natural Christmas tree, water it to keep it fresh and safe. Real trees can dry up and turn into kindling in no time at all. Get rid of the tree after Christmas. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard.

3 TREE TOPPERS




The best decorations are safe decorations, so when you are decorating, make sure not to run cords under rugs or furniture, out of windows, or across walkways and sidewalks.

4 LIGHTS OFF



Always turn off your decorations when you leave your home and when you're sleeping. Most deadly fires happen while people are asleep.

5 TWINKLE TWINKLE




Be mindful of how you are using electrical outlets. If you're using extension cords or adapters that add receptacles, consider having a qualified electrician add more outlets to your home.

6 KEEP IT DRY



Only use electronics in dry areas. As tempting as it is, you just can't decorate your aquarium with icicle lights!

7 SAY GOODNIGHT TO ELECTRONICS



Remember that phones and tablets should stay on your nightstand. We all love falling asleep to the muffled crooning of Bing Crosby and Michael Bublé, but overheated electronics under pillows and blankets are dangerous.

8 AN ALARMING GIFT




Need a perfect gift idea? How about a smoke alarm? Every home needs a working smoke alarm in each bedroom, outside sleeping areas, and on every level, including the basement.

9 CAUTIOUS HEATING




If you're using a space heater, switch it off before leaving the room. It only takes seconds for a fire to start if a space heater tips over or comes in contact with something combustible.

10 MERRY & BRIGHT



Inspect your decorations and discard any that are damaged or worn out. Talk to your aunt about that life-sized Elvis-dressed-as-Santa statue. It's falling apart, it's creepy, and it's got to go.

11 NOT SO MERRY BATTERIES



Keep batteries stored safely in their packaging and out of reach of anything that might try to eat them, like small children and pets. Eating a battery can be deadly.

12 OUT ON AN ARC



The best gift for your family is to upgrade to Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupter breakers or outlets. It is estimated that half of the electrical fires that occur every year could be prevented by AFCIs.

GIVING GIFTS THAT DON'T COST A CENT

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

'Tis the season for giving back and spreading cheer and goodwill to others. You'd never know it, though, if you walked into my local convenience store around here recently.

I heard the clerk chatting with a customer about fall cleanup day, which an area high school was sponsoring that morning. During the two-hour event, students were excused from classes. They and their teachers helped local residents and businesses with yard work and other small projects.

"Yeah, about 75% of the kids who came in here this morning were upset they had to help," the clerk said, shaking his head.

It was sobering to hear this, especially since I had recently worked with six students and their teacher at Central School Preservation, the museum in Lake City. Like many nonprofits, Central School depends on volunteers. The student crew dusted, vacuumed, swept the stairs, polished woodwork, removed trash, hung banners and more. Truly, many hands make light work.

The morning passed quickly, and we got a lot of work done. The kids seemed to be in good spirits, especially since we had time for a break (complete with homemade chocolate chip cookies I baked) and a tour of the museum.

This experience reminded me of my high school days. One afternoon, our FFA instructor told us we were going to plant and water flowers in the big containers near the town square in Lake City. The job was fast and easy, since we had a group of students to help.

While I learned a little about floriculture, this experience planted a seed of understanding that took root years later. I learned that volunteering can be enjoyable, especially when you're working with people who share a common goal. I also learned it's important to give back to the



No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden for someone else. Thank you to the South Central Calhoun High School students who gave the gift of time recently to volunteer at Central School, the museum in Lake City. Dwight Morenz (center) and his fellow board members at Central School Preservation appreciated this gift!

community where you live, and kids can be part of the solution.

I hope this seed was planted with the students who volunteered at Central School. As Winston Churchill observed, we make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.

In this season of giving, I'd like to give you this poem (author unknown) that I clipped years ago and keep on my refrigerator. May it inspire you to share these eight priceless gifts throughout the year.

8 GIFTS THAT DON'T COST A CENT

The Gift of a Favor: Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

The Gift of Listening: But you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

The Gift of Affection: Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these

small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

The Gift of Laughter: Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

The Gift of a Written Note: It can be a simple "thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime and may even change a life.

The Gift of Solitude: There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

The Gift of a Compliment: A simple and sincere, "You look great in red," "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition: The easiest way to feel good is to make others feel good.

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Visit our website at www.cvrec.com

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