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Guthrie County REC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

JUNE 2018

2017 was a year of change for our power supplier; check the latest power supply report on Page 4

What you don't know about electric cars could thrill you

We talk with
students from the first
Youth Tour – in 1958!

Visit our website at www.guthrie-rec.coop

Will solar power work
for your home?

Guthrie County REC
names 2018
scholarship winners

JUST FOR KIDS



Third-graders attend Farm Safety Days

Third-grade students from area schools learned about electrical safety and other aspects of farm safety during the Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Days May 1-2. Around 200 students from Coon Rapids-Bayard, West Central Valley, Adair-Casey, Guthrie Center and Panorama schools attended the program at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds sponsored by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Guthrie County REC lineman Keith Hise presented a program on electrical safety during the event. Other topics included animal safety, bicycle safety, ATV safety and grain safety.

For more information on farm safety, please visit our website at www.guthrie-rec.coop or go to www.progressiveag.org.



Guthrie County REC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

ABOUT ENERGY

2017 was a year of change for our power supplier, CIPCO

BY MARCEL FETT

2017 was a year of change for Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), as we said goodbye to our long-time CEO Dennis Murdock and welcomed Bill Cherrier into the fold as CIPCO's newest executive vice president and CEO. As a board, we're proud of the position CIPCO has within the industry and look forward to continually moving the needle on success for the organization. I'm privileged to serve as your representative on both the local board of directors and the CIPCO board of directors. We look forward to implementing innovative ideas that benefit Guthrie County REC members.

As our cooperative's power supplier, CIPCO has made significant investments in emission- and carbon-free resources of energy, including the development and launch of a 6.4-megawatt, utility-scale solar system, Southwest Solar Farm in Corning. Additionally, the new Heartland Divide Wind project, a 104-megawatt wind farm, will come online in late 2018. Wind, hydroelectricity, nuclear, solar and landfill gas now make up more than 60 percent of CIPCO's total energy portfolio.

An important part of Guthrie County REC's budget is the money each of CIPCO's member systems receives in the form of patronage dividends. These funds represent CIPCO's margins returned to our member-owners, and CIPCO remains committed to returning patronage to its members. In 2017, Guthrie County REC received a total allocation of \$755,910 from CIPCO's patronage distribution.

CIPCO is also committed to providing safe and reliable electricity at the lowest possible long-term

cost to its members. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, fiscal responsibility is critical to success.



While other G&Ts across the country have implemented rate increases in recent years, the rate at which Guthrie County REC purchases wholesale electricity from CIPCO has remained stable throughout the past decade. In fact, the 2017 system rate was the lowest in 9 years.

At the same time, CIPCO continues to invest in its overall generation and transmission system to ensure our electricity is reliable. CIPCO's 2017 outage rate was only 0.28 hours per member, one of the best reliability achievements on record for CIPCO.

CIPCO and Guthrie County REC are committed to ensuring members are using energy wisely and utilizing available options to reduce excess energy consumption. As a result, CIPCO and its member systems issued more than \$2.7 million in energy-efficiency rebates that saved approximately 28.6 million kilowatt-hours of energy. That includes a 731,070 kilowatt-hour savings for our members.

In my role as a CIPCO director, I'm committed to guiding the organization into the future while maintaining the strong position of the organization as it stands today. I believe board actions have positioned CIPCO well to navigate the changing energy industry over the next several years, allowing both CIPCO and our cooperative to thrive. We remain steadfast in our commitment to deliver safe and reliable electricity to you, our member-owners, and to ensure your needs are met now and in the years to come.

Marcel Fett is a director at Guthrie County REC and the co-op's representative on the CIPCO board of directors.

Guthrie County REC names 2018 scholarship winners

Guthrie County REC is proud to offer scholarships to high school students who wish to continue their education after high school. This year, three students have been selected to each receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward their educational goals.

Margaret Maas Adair-Casey/Guthrie Center



Margaret is the daughter of Kevin and Darci Maas of Adair. She will pursue an elementary education major with a minor in special education at the University of Northern Iowa. After completing her bachelor's degree, Maggie hopes to obtain her master's degree to help her fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher, like her mother. Maggie says her mother has been a big inspiration in her dream to become a teacher. Throughout high school, Maggie has worked at a dance studio that she's attended since she was three. She has enjoyed working with the kids and seeing the different aspects of the business. She has also worked on her family farm, which has shown her the value of hard work and responsibility. Maggie is excited to start the next chapter of her life.

Samuel Webster Panorama



Samuel is the son of Eric and Ammy Webster of Panorama. He will attend the University of Northern Iowa to pursue a finance major, with a minor in Spanish. Samuel has always been interested in politics. After completing his bachelor's degree, Samuel hopes to go to law school and then begin a career in politics. His dream is to work at the White House someday. Throughout high school, Samuel has taken difficult college courses while maintaining his grades and being active in extra-curricular activities. He's been on the cross country, track and soccer teams, and he's participated in band, speech, National Honor Society and Student Council. He has also worked as a detasseler and soccer referee to earn money for college.

Maggie Vogl Adair-Casey/Guthrie Center



Maggie is the daughter of Gary Vogl and Jennifer Betterton. She will pursue an animal science major, with a genetics minor, at Iowa State University. After completing her bachelor's in animal science, Maggie hopes to get her master's degree in animal science with a second bachelor's degree in genetics, specializing in beef. Maggie's goal is to attend Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine to obtain her DVM. Working on her family cattle farm led to Maggie's interest in large animal medicine. She hopes to work in a vet clinic and establish her own practice for A.I. and embryo transplant work. Throughout high school, Maggie has been active in National Honor Society, Leo Club, FFA, 4-H, soccer, basketball and volleyball. ⚡

Co-op's administrative professionals celebrate special day

GCREC employees give 100 percent each and every day to benefit our member-owners. These staff members celebrated Administrative Professionals Day with lunch on April 25 (from left): Rebecca Schwartz, Lori Hix, Dea Kress, Marlene Chalfant and Cozy Nelsen, CEO.



EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a wireless smoke alarm kit, and install a home fire safety network in just minutes

Endorsed by the American Red Cross, this Kidde



Home Protection Kit includes two Kidde Model P4010DCS-W photoelectric smoke alarms that interconnect wirelessly – so they'll both go off to warn your family in the event of a fire. You can add more alarms to the wireless system, such as an ionization smoke detector, for the most complete fire detection system – and even monitor the system from your smart phone.

To enter the contest for this \$80 Home Protection Kit, visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com no later than June 30, 2018. ⚡

CO-OP VIP

Member wins magazine's monthly contest



Betty Minick of Panorama recently won a 7-in-1 programmable electric cooker worth \$140 in the March *Living with Energy in Iowa* Editor's Choice Contest! You'll find the contest details every month on Page 5 of this magazine, and there's no obligation to enter.

Congratulations, Betty!

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Happy Father's Day!

Guthrie County REC's newest father is Jordan Terwilliger! Jordan and his wife, Jamie, welcomed their son, Blaine Jordan, on April 30.



Jordan talked a little bit on his new role as a father.

What's been your favorite thing about fatherhood so far?

I haven't been a father for very long, but so far I really enjoy it. I like holding him, of course, and it's fun to interact with him and watch him interact with others. I'm excited to see what the future holds.

What's something you're looking forward to doing with your son as he grows up?

Making memories, hunting, fishing and spending time with our family.

What activities are you looking forward to sharing with your son?

I'm very excited to be able to take him hunting and fishing with me. Both are things I have loved to do with my dad, and I'm excited to be able to pass that along to my son! ⚡

Legislative conference in D.C. was a success



GCREC board member Marcel Fett (seated next to lamp) listens to Congressman David Young (right) discuss issues impacting electric cooperatives.

This spring, more than 50 Iowa electric cooperative representatives flew to Washington, D.C., to participate in the 2018 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference. Together with more than 2,000 fellow cooperative representatives from across the nation, Iowa managers, directors and employees spent 3 days sharing the electric cooperative story in the nation's capital.

Advocates heard speeches from high-ranking policymakers, including USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and four U.S. senators. They were also able to participate in breakout sessions in which NRECA staff gave policy briefings and tips on how to effectively advocate on Capitol Hill.

In addition to NRECA-sponsored

activities, advocates were able to lobby all six members of the Iowa congressional delegation, House Agriculture Committee staff, DOE Director of Public Affairs Bob Haus, and USDA Undersecretary Bill Northey. Issues discussed included rightsizing pension premiums, Farm Bill reauthorization, protecting Iowa's power supply, and improving rural infrastructure and broadband access.

The group was well received in every meeting, underscoring the continuing success of Iowa electric cooperatives' advocacy efforts. Not only were advocates successful in sharing the cooperative point of view on important federal issues, but they also were effective at maintaining and building relationships with Washington policymakers. ⚡

OFFICE CLOSING

The Guthrie County REC office will be closed Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. We wish all our members a safe and happy holiday!



Margaret Maas
Adair-Casey/Guthrie Center



Samuel Webster
Panorama



Maggie Vogl
Adair-Casey/Guthrie Center

Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to the 2018 recipients of the Guthrie County REC scholarship!



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