

DECEMBER 2022

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

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annual meeting details**

**Energy efficiency tips
for a festive holiday season**

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ON THE COVER

Special thanks to Rene Carson, a Consumers Energy member-consumer, for supplying this month's cover image. Submit high-resolution photos for consideration to editor@ieclmagazine.com. You could win \$100!

THE KEYS TO COOPERATIVE SUCCESS: PEOPLE. POWER. PURPOSE.

BY ROGER SOLOMONSON



The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) recently held its 2022 annual meeting in early December.

As the IAEC board president, it was my honor to review achievements and share accomplishments with our member cooperatives who attended from across the state. While preparing for the event, we selected an annual meeting theme that we thought best represented the keys to our success through the decades. It all boils down to these three factors: People. Power. Purpose.

People.

The people who form a local electric cooperative must be united in achieving a common goal. It then takes leaders from that group to stand up and govern the actions of the co-op as directors of the board. And only through effective management can a team of mission-driven professionals work every day to serve the co-op members with excellence. It all starts with the right people at every level.

At the statewide association, we are blessed with a dedicated and knowledgeable staff who provide valuable insight and leadership in several ways. Your local cooperative is receiving best-in-class services regarding education, safety training, advocacy, regulatory guidance, communications services, employee benefits, youth programs and more.

Power.

Our electric cooperative business model is focused on providing power that is safe, affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible. Each co-op must determine the best way to balance these four priorities to best

serve its member-consumers. On the statewide level, we will continue to advocate for the cooperative business model, which champions local ownership and governance.

And in today's world, utilizing a diverse portfolio of electric generation assets has become paramount in ensuring reliability as electric co-ops embrace an "all-of-the-above" approach to keep the lights on.

Purpose.

What sets cooperatives apart from other electric utilities is **why** we're in business. Electric cooperatives exist solely to serve their member-consumers. We are committed to powering lives and empowering communities to improve the quality of life for our members.

IAEC coordinates several programs that provide value to our local communities. Our Iowa Youth

Leadership Academy virtual sessions in October and Iowa Youth Tour trip to D.C. in June are great examples of how Iowa's electric cooperatives invest in the next generation of co-op leaders. Our statewide Shine the Light contest in June highlights our cooperative commitment to community as member-consumers and employees of Iowa electric co-ops are invited to nominate local volunteers who are making a positive difference.

As I reflect on the electric cooperative accomplishments of 2022, it all ties back to People. Power. Purpose.

Finally, I would like to personally wish you and your family a blessed Christmas holiday. May you celebrate the season in good health with family and friends.

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

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a Tovala Smart Oven!



This countertop convection oven allows you to choose between five modes: steam, bake, broil, reheat and toast. It automatically switches between cook cycles to ensure a perfectly cooked meal every time. The Tovala Smart Oven is smartphone controlled and includes a library of chef-crafted recipes and a meal subscription credit.

ENTER ONLINE BY DEC. 31!

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 pork prize from the October issue was Glen Villanueva from Access Energy Cooperative.



NEW LOCATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING

There will be a change of venue for the next Guthrie County REC Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023.

The new location is the Guthrie County Event Center at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds. Registration will open at 11 a.m., with a free meal offered beginning at 11:30 a.m. and the business meeting beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Plan to join us to participate in the democratic process of your electric cooperative. You'll hear reports on co-op operations and finances over the last year and vote for board candidates. Every guest will receive a gift, and there will be additional drawings for prizes.

More information on the annual meeting agenda and board candidates up for election can be found on Pages 5 and 12. We look forward to seeing you there!

JOIN YOUR FELLOW CO-OP MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

BY COZY NELSEN

Our staff here at the co-op doesn't let the holiday season slow us down – because now is the time of year we're gearing up for our Annual Meeting of Members.



Traditionally, Guthrie County REC has held its annual meeting the first Saturday in January, a time when things are calming down after the holiday rush. Being founded by a group of farmers, our co-op also selected to hold this event in January to avoid the busy spring, summer and fall work on the farm.

But most importantly, our annual meeting is a chance for you to exercise some of the many rights you have as a member-owner of this electric co-op. We know the food and prizes are the best parts of the meeting, but there is so much more to the event.

Topping the list of reasons to attend is the opportunity to exercise one of the

greatest benefits of being part of a co-op: voting for the upcoming year's board of directors. These volunteers are our neighbors who live here in our community. They are not far-away investors who have a financial stake in the profits that line their pockets.

Following the meal and fellowship with other members and co-op staff, you'll hear reports on the health of the cooperative – from poles and wires to transparent financial details.

I hope to see you at the annual meeting on Jan. 7. Please note that we have a new location this year – the Guthrie County Event Center at the Guthrie County Fairgrounds in Guthrie Center. Use the opportunity to feel good knowing you had a voice in very important decisions that impact one of our most vital resources – electricity.

From all your friends at Guthrie County REC, we hope to see you in January at the annual meeting!

Cozy Nelsen is the CEO of Guthrie County REC.



Guthrie County REC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: energy.gov



GUTHRIE COUNTY REC OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Association will be held at the Guthrie County Event Center at the Fairgrounds in Guthrie Center on Jan. 7, 2023. This meeting will take action upon the following matters:

1. Receive the written reports of officers, directors and committees;
2. The election of three (3) directors of the cooperative for a term of three years each;
3. All other business which may legally come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

In connection with the election of directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated for director by the committee on nominations appointed

by the board of directors of the cooperative pursuant to the bylaws.

THREE-YEAR TERM (Three to be elected)

District 4: Michael Moore

District 5: Don Schwartz*

District 6: Steve Bireline*

We encourage you to complete the ballot if you have a candidate running in your district and return it in accordance with instructions that accompany the ballot. We encourage you to exercise your rights as a member and vote. Please contact the cooperative if you have any questions. The election results will be published on the cooperative's website and in the newsletter following the meeting.

Dated this 1st day of December 2022

Julie Kiley, Secretary

*Denotes incumbent

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023

Guthrie County Event Center,
Guthrie County Fairgrounds in
Guthrie Center

11 a.m.	Registration opens
11:30 a.m.	Free meal
12:30 p.m.	Call to order
	Invocation
	Introduction
	Business session
	Board President's remarks
	CEO's remarks
	Drawing for door prizes
	Adjourn

MEET YOUR 2023 BOARD CANDIDATES

It's almost time for Guthrie County REC's annual meeting and that means it's time to get to know the board candidates running in the 2023 co-op election.

The democratic process of rural electric cooperatives is very important and differentiates co-ops like ours from investor-owned utilities. The board of directors is made up of your friends and neighbors, people who pay their electric bill just like you. Voting in the annual election is a small but meaningful act that ensures you're represented by someone with your best interests in mind.

Only members living in the district with a seat in the election – Districts 4, 5 and 6 – will receive a mailed ballot and are eligible to vote. If you don't

know which district you're in, visit www.guthrie-rec.coop, click on About Us, then Your Board of Directors to view a district map.

DISTRICT 4

Represents West Lake Panorama in Victory Township 80-31 in Guthrie County.

Name: Michael Moore

Address: 6366
Panorama Dr.,
Panora, IA 50216

Family: Wife Rebecca "Becky"; daughter Cara and husband Brandon; son Connor and wife Ashley; grandchildren Miles, Elin, Sloan, Anson and Gentre



Education: Adair-Casey High School; studied broadcast journalism at Iowa Central Community College; studied broadcast engineering at Academy of Radio and Television. Several computer software classes.

Occupation: Semi-retired, working part time at Lake Lumber in Panora. Past employment as a reliability systems analyst, Flint Hills Resources in Menlo; co-owner of Adair Machine Shop; radio broadcast engineer for Mid-America Media in Davenport, Moline, Illinois, and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Community and Leadership Activities: Presently serving on the Guthrie County Compensation Board; served as elder and president of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

EFFICIENCY TIPS FOR A FESTIVE **HOLIDAY** SEASON

BY MIRANDA BOUTELLE

Upgrading to LED holiday lights can help you save on your electric bill.

The holidays are a magical time when we come together with our loved ones to share food, gifts and quality time. It's also the most expensive time of year for many families. Along with the expense of gifts, meals and travel comes colder weather and darker nights, leading to more electricity use and higher energy bills.

One way to reduce the financial burden of the most wonderful time of year is by implementing efficiency practices to use less energy throughout the holiday season.

Home efficiency basics

If you are hosting guests this holiday season, your household will consume more electricity than normal. A good first step is to follow home efficiency basics, including:

- ❄️ Program your thermostat to 68 degrees when you are home. Then dial it back 8-10 degrees when you leave the house or go to sleep.
- ❄️ Use cold water in your washer and only run full loads.
- ❄️ Turn off lights and the TV when not in use.
- ❄️ Shut down computers and gaming systems instead of putting them in sleep or standby mode.
- ❄️ Lower the thermostat when guests are over or cooking food, as these activities will warm up your home. Most gatherings happen in the center of the home, so save energy by turning the heat down in areas you are not using.

Save energy in the kitchen

The holidays bring countless opportunities to bake with loved

ones or cook a holiday feast. If you're spending extra time in the kitchen this season, there are a few simple ways to be mindful of energy use.

Use the oven light to check food. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by up to 25 degrees, according to the Department of Energy (DOE). Use a slow cooker, microwave, toaster oven or warming plate when possible. These appliances use less energy than an oven and stovetop. According to the DOE, a toaster oven can use up to half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time.

Let hot food cool to room temperature before placing it into the refrigerator. This ensures you don't increase the temperature inside your fridge and cause it to use more energy to cool down. You can also take some of the stress and expense out of holiday cooking by asking guests to bring a dish. It can be fun to have everyone contribute their holiday favorites!

Efficient holiday decorating

Make the switch to LEDs for all your holiday lighting both inside and outside the home. LED holiday lights consume 70% less energy than conventional incandescent light strands. For example, LED light strands cost \$0.27 to light a 6-foot tree for 12 hours a day for 40 days compared to \$10 for incandescent light strands.

Another convenient and energy-saving tip is to use timers so you don't have to remember to unplug your lights every evening. There are also smart holiday lights that offer a wide range of app-controlled options, including time, colors, music and modes.

Use less energy while you're away

The holidays might bring travel plans or opportunities to stay with family members. If you're going to be away from your home for a few days, you can take a few steps to save energy while you're gone.

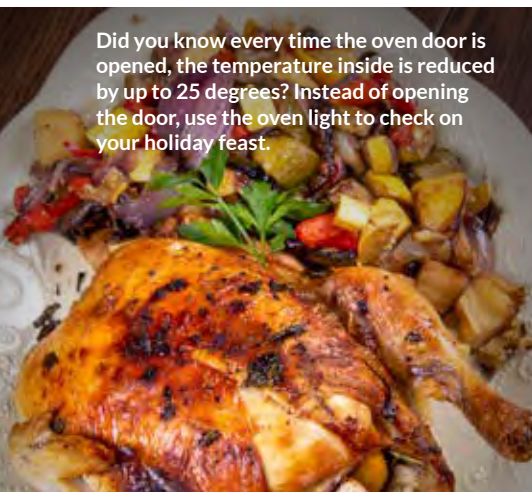
Water heating is the second-largest energy expense in your home, accounting for about 18% of your utility bill, according to the DOE. Switching your water heater to "vacation mode" will reduce wasted energy by keeping the water at a lower temperature. If your water heater does not have vacation mode on the dial, you can adjust it to the lowest setting.

Set your thermostat to around 55 degrees so you're not wasting energy to heat the home while you're away. This temperature is warm enough to keep your pipes and appliances functioning well in colder outdoor temperatures.

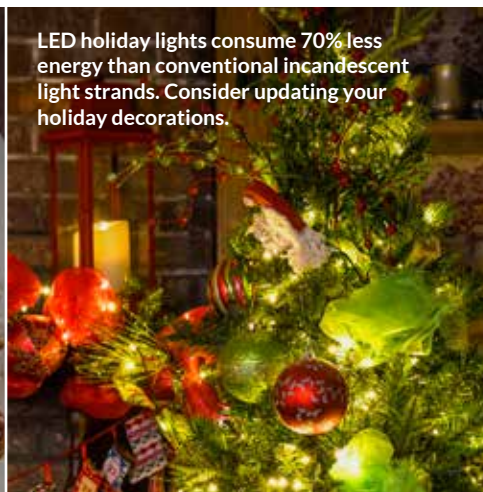
For security purposes, you may want to have lights on to make it look like you are home. Instead of leaving lights on all day, consider upgrading a lamp or fixture to a smart lightbulb. This way, you can control lights from afar and set a schedule for the light to go on and off. Another option is to repurpose your holiday light timer for one of your living room lamps.

With these tips, you can enjoy the cheer the holidays bring without the stress of wasting energy and increased electric bills. Happy Holidays!

Miranda Boutelle writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



Did you know every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by up to 25 degrees? Instead of opening the door, use the oven light to check on your holiday feast.



LED holiday lights consume 70% less energy than conventional incandescent light strands. Consider updating your holiday decorations.



A tree decked out in festive décor is a welcome sight for the holidays. Save by making the switch to LED holiday lights.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE & CANDY RECIPES

TWO-TONED FUDGE

- 2½ cups sugar
- ¾ cup evaporated milk
- ⅓ cup margarine
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 cups mini marshmallows
- 1 cup butterscotch chips
- 1 cup pecan halves, chopped
- ½ teaspoon maple extract
- 2 cups milk chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- pecan halves for garnish

In large saucepan, combine sugar, milk, margarine and salt. Cook, stirring constantly until mixture comes to full boil. Boil 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add marshmallows. Mix until melted and mixture is smooth. Place half the mixture in bowl and add butterscotch chips, chopped pecans and maple extract. Stir until melted and mixture is smooth. Set butterscotch mixture aside. Add chocolate chips and vanilla to remaining half of the mixture. Spread chocolate mixture into foil-lined 8- or 9-inch square pan. Put butterscotch mixture over top. Garnish with pecan halves. Chill for 2-3 hours, until firm. Cut into squares. *Yield 12-16 squares*

Bonnie Miller • Eldon • Access Energy Cooperative

PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE

- 2 cups sugar
- ⅔ cup whole milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup marshmallow creme
- 1 cup peanut butter (creamy or chunky)

In medium saucepan, combine sugar and milk. Bring to a boil until soft-ball stage or 235 degrees F on a candy thermometer. Remove from heat, then stir in vanilla. Add marshmallow creme and peanut butter, stir quickly. Pour into a 9-inch square pan lined with buttered parchment paper. Cool completely before cutting. *Yield 25 pieces, approximately*

Doris Handlos • Audubon
Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association

SOUTHERN PECAN PRALINES

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- ½ cup cream
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup pecan halves

In medium-size pan, dissolve sugars in cream and boil until 228 degrees F. Add butter and pecans. Cook until soft-ball stage, 236 degrees F. Cool, then beat until somewhat thickened but not until it loses its gloss. Drop by tablespoons on waxed paper, it will flatten out. *Yield 12 pralines*

Sue Cook • Deep River • T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative

CHRISTMAS TOFFEE

- 2 sticks butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons water
- 6 ounces milk chocolate chips

In heavy saucepan, combine butter, sugar and water. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally until mixture reaches 290 degrees F, soft-crack stage. Very quickly pour mixture into greased 15x10-inch pan. Sprinkle chocolate chips over top, stir until melted and smooth. Chill and break into pieces. *Yield about 2 pounds candy*

**Teresa Mowrer • Guthrie Center
Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association**

PECO FLAKE CANDY

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups raw peanuts
- 1 teaspoon butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 package raw chip coconut

Combine sugar, syrup and water in heavy pan. Cook, stirring constantly until sugar dissolves. Add salt and nuts. Cook, stirring occasionally to hard-crack stage, 294 degrees F. Add butter, vanilla and soda. Stir in coconut and pour onto two buttered cookie sheets. While warm, pull to desired thickness. Crack into pieces when cooled.

**Phyllis Vander Linden • Ashton
Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

KRIS KRINGLES

- 12 ounces chocolate chips (2 cups)
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- dash salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup dry roasted peanuts, chopped
- optional: peanut butter and cherry chips

Melt chocolate chips and butter in 1-quart pan. Beat in eggs until smooth and glossy. Add confectioners' sugar, salt and vanilla. Mix well, then stir in coconut and peanuts. Add peanut butter and cherry chips to taste, if desired. Spread in a 7x11-inch pan, an 8x8-inch pan or in candy molds. Chill several hours or overnight. Slice ¼-inch thick. *Yield 20-24 pieces*

**Norene Hancox • Seymour
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

NUT MALLOW GOODIES

- 1 cup chocolate chips
- ½ cup peanut butter
- 7 ounces marshmallow creme
- 1 cup salted peanuts

Combine chocolate chips and peanut butter in double boiler. Melt and stir until blended. Remove from heat and add creme and nuts, mix well. Spread on greased pan or drop by teaspoon. Chill until firm.

**Rebecca Pederson • Clear Lake
Prairie Energy Cooperative**

SPRITZ TOFFEE COOKIES

- 1¼ cups flour
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- ½ cup butter, softened
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 bag milk chocolate chips, melted
- 1 bag Heath toffee bits

Mix flour, brown sugar, butter and vanilla together. Don't chill dough as it may be too stiff to press. Using star design, press cookies onto ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees F for 7-9 minutes or until set and lightly browned, cool. When completely cooled, dip each cookie halfway into melted chocolate chips. Place on wax paper and sprinkle with toffee bits. *Yield approximately 1½ dozen cookies*

**Patsy Vander Schaaf • Sheldon
North West Rural Electric Cooperative**

WANTED:

BREAKFAST RECIPES

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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BUSINESS LEADERS HONORED WITH IOWA VENTURE AWARDS

BY KAY SNYDER

Since 1988, the Iowa Area Development Group and its electric cooperative, municipal utility and independent telecommunication company partners annually recognize growing companies with an Iowa Venture Award. The award recognizes entrepreneurs and organizations for their leadership, capital investment and employment opportunities they are creating.

The following companies were honored at a luncheon during the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting on Dec. 1. View all 287 honorees in the Iowa Venture Award Hall of Fame at www.IADG.com/HallOfFame.



CNI Ag Independent Retailers

Nominated by Midland Power Cooperative

The newest occupant of the Southview Industrial Park in Iowa Falls is CNI Ag Independent Retailers (CNI), which purchased the 24,000-square-foot speculative building for their new facility. CNI is a national distributor of crop protection products, including seed, seed treatments and micronutrients, serving its 400 independent retailers across 1,200 locations in 44 states. The Iowa Falls distribution center is the first in Iowa and will allow for continued growth in the Midwest. This location will also house a bulk packaging facility, office and meeting space.

The speculative building was built as a partnership between Iowa Falls Area Development Corporation, Midland Power, Corn Belt Power and the City of Iowa Falls. It was built to market the city to prospective businesses like CNI.



KWF, LLC

Nominated by Nishnabotna Valley Rural Electric Cooperative

Kirchhoff Welding and Fabrication LLC (KWF) was started by Kyle Kirchhoff as a part-time business making small products for local businesses in his garage in Griswold. Since then, KWF has experienced steady growth and now employs 14 people. It has a five-building footprint housing a CNC plasma cutter, vertical band saw, press brake and state-of-the-art paint booth. KWF manufactures various equipment, including augers and conveyors, a spray boom for a helicopter, and a cement mixer truck body. With products sold nationally and internationally, their customer base has grown to include Purina and Tyson Foods pet food programs. Nishnabotna Valley REC continues to actively support KWF's growth.

Hen Haven

Nominated by Southwest Iowa REC

Hen Haven's layer facilities began operation in the 1990s, supplying shell eggs to the breaker industry. Seeing the future need for cage-free eggs, the owners remodeled nine layer barns and added new processing machinery to sell eggs to the cage-free breaker market.

Freebird Holdco LLC purchased the site in 2021 and renamed the company Hen Haven. At the end of November 2021, the site suffered a fire, causing a catastrophic loss of one layer house, the processing plant and the biosecurity facilities. Just as the company started to rebuild in February 2022, highly pathogenic avian influenza hit, and the site was depopulated. During that time, the determined Hen Haven team worked tirelessly to shorten the cleanup period, repopulate the barns and resume operation. The recent challenges demonstrate the Hen Haven team's dedication to delivering top products and services to their customers and partners.

SHELL ROCK SOY PROCESSING NAMED “OUTSTANDING BUSINESS OF THE YEAR”

Nominated by Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative

Mid-Iowa Growth purchased nearly 100 acres in the Butler Logistic Park near Shell Rock to be the site of a startup soybean processing facility. The Shell Rock Soy Processing (SRSP) complex is now ramping up to full operation. The facility expects to crush 38.5 million soybean bushels annually, producing 847,000 tons of soybean meal for livestock markets and more than 400 million pounds of soybean oil. SRSP expects to purchase 150 truckloads of soybeans per day. The company will employ 50 to 60 people when fully operational.

Many partners, including Butler County REC and Corn Belt Power Cooperative, supported the development of the Butler Logistics Park, SRSP and other businesses within the complex. Butler County REC also constructed a new substation to meet their needs.



Godbersen Metal Works

Nominated by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative

Godbersen Metal Works (GMetal) was founded in 2019 by Kent and Jill Godbersen. It is built on a family heritage of quality manufacturing, which began in 1965. The company is a metal fabricator specializing in assembly, bending, laser cutting, machining, powder coat painting, warehousing and welding. They work with multiple metals, including aluminum, stainless steel and steel.

GMetal acquired a vacant manufacturing facility in Spencer and immediately made facility improvements and energy efficiency upgrades. They have built a customer base that supports 23 jobs and has the capacity to double as they source additional workers.

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative and Corn Belt Power supported GMetal with several technical and financial programs, including a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Economic Development Loan.



Marker 126

Nominated by Prairie Energy Cooperative

Marker 126 is a new travel center that recently opened at mile marker 126 on Highway 20 near Fort Dodge. Owners Kevin and Sheila Stumpf had a vision for a travel destination that provides a high-end experience for all types of travelers. Marker 126 is a family operation, including their daughter and son.

Marker 126 opened in September with an impressive slate of ever-expanding amenities. In addition to gas, diesel and offerings of a convenience store, Marker 126 houses Table 126, offering nutritious meals made from locally sourced fresh ingredients, the Brew 126 coffee shop and a creamery serving ice cream.

Sheila designed the building, and it includes indoor and outdoor seating, a fireplace area, and a loft for meetings or groups. Coming soon are electric vehicle charging stations, a dog park and a play area for kids. A trucker campground, including a shower house, is also being planned.

Prairie Energy has worked with the Stumpfs throughout the planning and building phase. Prairie Energy, Midland Power and Corn Belt Power supported this facility through their Revolving Loan Funds.



SFM Fairfield

Nominated by Access Energy Cooperative

Sun & Fun Motorsports (SFM) Fairfield opened their new showroom and parts center in the Fairfield Business & Industrial Park in August. SFM Fairfield offers ATVs, side-by-sides and motorcycles from a growing stable of brands, including Can-Am, CFMOTO, SSR and Benelli. They also offer parts and services for these brands and more.

SFM was formed in 2013 by Scott Goedken and is headquartered in Iowa City. After adding two additional dealerships in Iowa City, SFM searched for a location to better serve southeast Iowa and the surrounding border states. Fairfield was selected because of the available speculative building, location and local support.

Access Energy Cooperative and Northeast Power supported the development of the industrial park, the construction of the speculative building and the location of SFM to the park.

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

MEET YOUR 2023 BOARD CANDIDATES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Guthrie Center. Served as an elder in other congregations in the past. Involved in musical productions both at AC-GC and Panorama schools. Coached and served on the board of Stuart Soccer Club.

Why are you seeking election to the board of directors? Electricity is such a vital part of our lives, not only at home but in the workplace. My past work experience has given me insight on the importance of safe, clean, reliable and affordable electricity. Now being semi-retired, I can devote time and energy to serve Guthrie County REC. I would be honored to represent you and to serve on the Guthrie County REC board working with other board members in making decisions in the best interest of the co-op community. I would appreciate your vote.

Is there anything else you would like Guthrie County REC members to know about you before they vote? Becky and I have lived at Lake

Panorama since 2007. Prior to Lake Panorama we lived in Adair, co-owning the Adair Machine Shop where a large portion of our customers were from rural Guthrie County. We have been married for 49 years. Our favorite times are when our family is present. We also enjoy attending our grandchildren's activities. All my work experience has some connection to electronics, computers or electricity. I continue to have a great interest in computers. I have been licensed with the Federal Communications Commission in radio broadcast engineering. Again, I would be honored to represent you on the board. I would appreciate your vote.

DISTRICT 5

Represents Dallas, west one-half of Spring Valley, north two-thirds of Lincoln, and sections 4-9 and 16-21 of Washington Townships in Dallas County, Dodge, Richland, east two-thirds of Highland, north two-thirds of Cass Township in Guthrie County, Greenbrier and Washington Townships in Greene County.

Name: Don Schwartz

Address: 1944 130th St., Bayard, IA 50029

Family: Wife Carolyn; three sons, two daughters, six granddaughters and seven grandsons

Education: Bayard Community High School

Occupation: Works full time on family farm.

Community and Leadership Activities: Served on the Guthrie County REC board of directors since 2005; earned Credentialed Cooperative Director (2010) certificate; member of the United Methodist Church, Bayard Lions Club, Guthrie County Cattlemen's Association, and Farm Bureau; a Highland Township Trustee and REC member since 1985.

Why are you seeking re-election to the Guthrie County REC board of directors? Because electricity is such a

vital necessity to Iowa's rural economy, we must continue to educate ourselves as we make decisions that will allow us to lead our member-owned cooperative in providing electricity at an affordable, safe, and reliable rate. I would like to continue to serve as a director for those reasons.

DISTRICT 6

Represents Baker, Thompson, Stuart, east one-sixth of Bear Grove, south one tier of Valley, south one tier of Jackson excluding southeast corner with sections 1-2, east one-half of Grant, south six tiers of Beaver, and sections 7-10, 15-22, 25-27, and 34-36 of Penn Townships in Guthrie County.

Name: Steve Bireline

Address: 3326 Frontier Road, Adair, IA 50002

Family: Wife Tammy; daughters Amanda and Stef; sons Chris and Alex; nine grandchildren

Education: Adair-Casey Community High School and Iowa Western Community College

Occupation: Farmer, owner of Westline Fencing and MCS Ag Drainage

Community and Leadership Activities: Guthrie County REC director since 1997 and current board president; representative on the Central Iowa Power Cooperative board of directors; earned Credentialed Cooperative Director (2008) certificate; president of the Adair Community Fire board; retired Adair Fire Department volunteer; held many offices as a member of St. John's Lutheran Church; and REC member since 1980.

Why are you seeking reelection to the Guthrie County REC board of directors? I have learned many things about the co-op, and I still have many more things to learn. It is very important for me to keep the cooperative in a solid financial situation. It is the members' co-op, and I will work hard to protect it.



We will be
Closed
for the
Holidays
Dec. 23 & 26
and
Jan. 2, 2023

Guthrie County REC
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

'TIS THE SEASON – TO CELEBRATE SAFELY!

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.

12 Days of Holiday Safety Tips

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

2 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.

3 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 and should not be left in the home or garage.

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

5 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. Extension cords are a common cause of home fires.

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

7 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 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. And remember to test your own to make sure they're working.

9 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, like a blanket or curtains.

10 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 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 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. All upgrades should be completed by a qualified electrician.

SMART APPLIANCES FOR THE SMART CHEF

BY KATHERINE LOVING

Whether you're a master chef or a culinary novice, smart appliances add convenience to any kitchen. They can guide you step-by-step or even perform the cooking themselves.

Smart appliances typically rely only on Wi-Fi paired with a custom smartphone application, while others can work with common smart home systems like Google Home or Amazon Alexa. You can set smart devices to begin a programmed routine to turn on lights, adjust the thermostat and many other tasks.

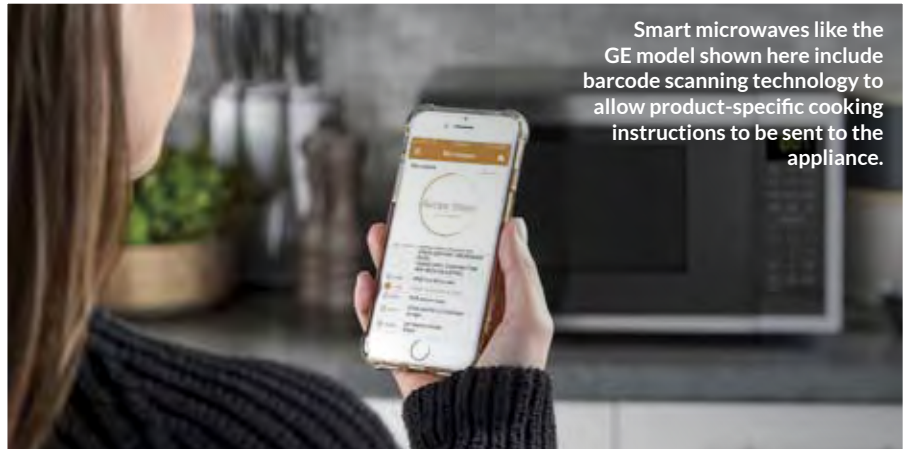
Cooktops and ranges

Induction cooktops are an innovation in themselves. Induction cooking works by using a magnetic field to deliver energy directly to induction-specific cookware. They are 32% more energy efficient than gas cooktops and about 75% more efficient than electric cooktops.

Like other smart cooktops, smart induction models recognize when a pan is placed on an element and automatically turn off when a pan is removed from the cooktop. Brands like Samsung and Bosch offer additional smart functions like synchronizing the cooktop with a brand-matched smart ventilation hood. The smart hood activates when cooking begins and adapts to cooking intensity on the fly.

Smart ranges can also include this function and often feature a barcode scanning system that allows you to scan store-bought foods, prompting the oven to start based on the instructions. Smart ranges can be controlled remotely to preheat, change and monitor temperatures through the companion app or an integrated home system. A few brands offer a Wi-Fi-connected cooking thermometer to allow remote monitoring.

For novice chefs, many smart ovens and cooktops have guided step-



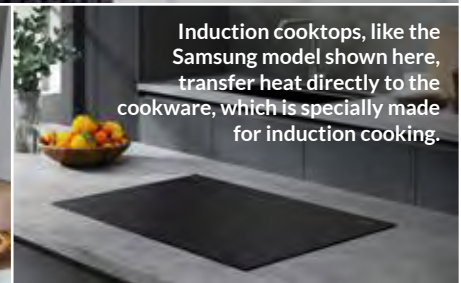
Smart microwaves like the GE model shown here include barcode scanning technology to allow product-specific cooking instructions to be sent to the appliance.

Photo credit: GE



The June Oven includes an in-oven camera that allows progress to be tracked from its app, which provides progress monitoring and notifications to your phone when cooking is complete.

Photo credit: June



Induction cooktops, like the Samsung model shown here, transfer heat directly to the cookware, which is specially made for induction cooking.

Photo credit: Samsung

by-step recipes within the app to help control the cook time and temperature.

Countertop ovens

Manufacturers are adding smart functionality to their countertop cooking options as well. The June Oven includes an in-oven camera that allows progress to be tracked from an app. The app also provides progress monitoring with push notifications to your phone.

Tovala offers a smaller countertop oven for ready-to-cook meals. These ovens use barcode scanning technology for both Tovala meals and those from the grocery store. The app also uses push notifications to track progress.

Like Tovala, the Breville smart oven offers guided recipes and an app that directs cooking temperature and function, such as air fry or bake, as the recipe advances. The Breville smart oven uses an onboard chip to monitor and stabilize temperature from all sides for more efficient cooking.

Microwaves and other gadgets

Other common kitchen appliances and small devices are getting smart, too. Microwaves from manufacturers like LG, Whirlpool, GE, Sharp and Toshiba include the barcode scanning function to allow product-specific cooking instructions to be sent to the appliance.

Smart kitchen scales, air fryers and pasta makers are also available to connect to your phone for guided measuring and cooking. Try a smart meat thermometer if you're looking for a smart kitchen gadget that won't break the bank. These handy little devices work with an app to specify optimal cook time and temperature, and notify the chef when the meat is ready.

As appliances and kitchen gadgets get smarter, home chefs will have more options for convenience and functionality. Bon appétit!

Katherine Loving writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

KITCHEN TOOLS TELL THE STORY OF RURAL IOWA

BY DARCY DOUGHERTY MAULSBY

Like many of you, I've been spending more time in the kitchen lately, cooking holiday meals and treats. As I was washing some dishes the other night, a wooden-handled cookie spatula caught my eye.

The stainless-steel blade is printed with the John Deere logo and "Merry Christmas 1966, Snyder Implement Co., Lake City, Iowa." I inherited it from my grandma Katherine Dougherty, and it's one of my go-to gadgets for serving cake and brownies.

I remember tagging along many times in the early 1980s with my dad to Snyder Implement when it was located on the east edge of town. I loved checking out the farm toys just around the corner from the parts counter. I also remember begging Dad for some money so I could work the candy machine near the shop where the mechanics worked.

Cooking up rural nostalgia

As I look around my kitchen today, I think about how many gadgets record a history of rural Iowa over the last 100 years. I love my blue, glazed-ceramic salt-and-pepper shakers in the shape of 3-inch-tall grain elevators printed with the words "Farmers Coop Grain Co., Yetter, Iowa."

Then there's the white, magnetic clip with the iconic double-circle logo from Farmers Co-op Grain Co. The phone numbers for the Yetter elevator and Lake City office on the clip reflect the seven-digit phone system with Lake City's 464 prefix, which came into use around the early 1960s.

The seven-digit phone system must not have been in use when Arndt's Café & Tavern at Yetter had personalized, blue plastic salt-and-pepper shakers. Back then, you had to call 24-95 (an Auburn number) to reach the café, which was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Arndt.

Speaking of Auburn, I have a metal flour sifter from the Auburn Hardware Co. ("Where you always get a square



deal") and one from Zehms Grocery in Knierim. "When it's sifted down, you'll find it pays to trade with Zehms Grocery," proclaims the yellow, black and red sifter, which noted that Zehms paid cash for poultry, cream and eggs.

Then there are my vintage hot pads from Farmers Cooperative Creamery, phone 243, in Corning ("Butter Your Income with Us," and "Try Your Co-op First"), and the C-D Farm Service Company in Spencer, which offered petroleum, L.P. gas, fertilizers, feed, seed, chemicals, twine, motor oils, grease and animal health products. I wonder how many of these companies are still in business. Not many, I suspect.

While businesses don't give away as many kitchen gadgets as they used to, I still love them when I get them, from an instant-read thermometer from the Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association to a plastic cutting board from Latham Hi-Tech Seeds.

These modern items continue to tell a story about the evolution of rural Iowa. They also reflect how some things never change, like the need for handy tools and the pleasure of eating home-cooked meals. Mmmm, I could go for some cake. Where's that John Deere spatula?

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



Guthrie County REC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives.

December 2022

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