

# living with energy

IN IOWA



DECEMBER 2018

Access Energy Cooperative Scholarship and Youth Tour Information on Pages 12-13

## Season's Greetings from Access Energy Cooperative!

Visit our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)

Festival of Lights  
in Mt. Pleasant

"Charging" forward  
with electric vehicles

Iowa businesses  
honored for leadership

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Mt. Pleasant Festival of Lights in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, at McMillan Park. See Page 13 for details.**

**Dec. 24-25 Christmas – office closed**

**Jan. 1 New Year's Day – office closed**

**Jan. 15 Welcome Back Reception for Legislators – State Capitol**

Even though our office is closed, you can call us at 866-242-4232, 24 hours a day, seven days a week – or use our SmartHub App – for answers to billing and account questions, paying your bill and service interruptions.

*Have a safe and happy holiday season!*



*Access Energy Cooperative is dedicated to exceeding members' expectations for safe, reliable and efficient service, while being a good citizen in our communities.*

**Office:** Access Energy Cooperative  
1800 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 440  
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641

**Phone:** 319-385-1577 or 866-242-4232

**Fax:** 319-385-6873

**Call Before You Dig (Iowa One Call):** 8-1-1

**Website:** [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop](https://facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/AccessEnergyC](https://twitter.com/AccessEnergyC)

**E-mail:** [contactus@accessenergycoop.com](mailto:contactus@accessenergycoop.com)

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Friday, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
Call our office 24/7: 319-385-1577.

Payments can be placed in dropbox under flag pole.  
Visa and MasterCard accepted.

**General Manager/CEO:** Kevin Wheeler

**Editor:** Kimberly Davis

**Assistant Editor:** Cherity Wibben

**Officers and Directors:**

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Marvin Larson	District 1	Director
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Larry White	District 2	Director
Robert Chesnut III	District 3	Director
Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	Director

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

# Look out for scams

BY KEVIN WHEELER

Unfortunately, in today's world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

Understand the threats posed and your best course of action:

- If someone calls your home or cell phone demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang up the phone and contact the local authorities. Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank account number or loading a pre-paid credit or debit card (such as a Green Dot card). Access Energy Cooperative will never call and ask you to give personal financial information over the phone. If you have any doubts about your utility bill, contact our member payment center either in person or over the phone at (319) 385-1577 or (866) 242-4232.
  - If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of Access Energy Cooperative who needs to collect money or inspect parts of your property, call us to verify they are, in fact, an employee. If they are not, call local authorities for assistance, and do not let the individual into your home.
- There are other types of scams

consumers should watch out for:

- Government agencies like the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. You will always receive this type of information in the mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang up immediately.



- If you receive an email from an unknown sender; an email riddled with spelling errors and typos; or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click

any links provided within the email. Do not respond to the email. Delete the email or send it to your spam or junk mail folder.

- If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang up. This caller's intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer.

Access Energy Cooperative wants to make sure you avoid all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. If you have any questions or would like more information about how you can protect yourself from scammers, call us at (866) 242-4232 or visit our website [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com). ⚡

Kevin Wheeler is the general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative.

*"Access Energy Cooperative will never call and ask you to give personal financial information over the phone."*



**MOVE OVER**  
SLOW DOWN



**PLEASE –  
MOVE OVER  
AND SLOW DOWN  
FOR OUR  
LINEMEN!**



This holiday season, all of us at Access Energy Cooperative are looking forward to spending time with our families. We need your help! If you see us working on the side of the road – move over to the other lane and slow down. The last thing we need to worry about is being hit by a vehicle passing by. I am Kevin Wheeler, general manager/CEO of your electric cooperative. Thank you for keeping our co-op family safe. Happy holidays!



TIP #6

## Keep track of your holiday energy usage with SmartHub!

Did you know we have an app that lets you track how much extra energy you use on your Access Energy Cooperative account during the holidays?

You can select a date range to monitor your electrical usage. You can even set a use threshold, and SmartHub will send you a notification if you have reached that limit.

Log in to SmartHub on the internet or using the app, and take control of your electric bill!



iOS



Android



### EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

## Win a wireless pro weather station!

With winter weather here, stay alert to changing conditions!



The pro weather station features a high-precision, 5-in-1 wireless weather sensor that accurately measures current and incoming weather. You can activate storm alerts and receive email and text alerts to notify you when conditions may require your attention!

For more information visit [www.acurite.com](http://www.acurite.com) and search for 01536P.

### Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest for the wireless weather station by visiting the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) no later than Dec. 31, 2018.

IN THE COMMUNITY

# Help others this holiday season by contributing to RECare

RECare is a program where members help other members in need. You may make a one-time contribution to the RECare program or enclose an amount each month with your monthly electric bill. Just one dollar a month will help others. This program is administered by the Iowa Community Action Program, and recipients must meet their guidelines. ⚡



To have an amount deducted from your monthly bill, send the form below to:

**RECare**  
 c/o Access Energy Cooperative  
 P.O. Box 440  
 Mount Pleasant, IA 52641

## Member Authorization Form

I would like to make a (check one):

One-time contribution of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly contribution of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (That will be added to my bill)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Account # (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

YOUTH TOUR

# Access Energy Cooperative is looking for the next generation of leaders



What do 1,800 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The answer is the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, of course! Youth Tour was established to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperatives.

It all takes place June 14-20, 2019, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C., for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and enjoy a full week of sightseeing.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected

officials and discuss issues that are important back home.

Access Energy Cooperative sends two students each year. If you're a high school sophomore or junior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience a once-in-a-lifetime trip, check our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com) to download or submit an application. Applications also can be found at your guidance counselor's office or by calling our office at 866-242-4232.

Applications are due in our office Feb. 25, 2019. Personal interviews to choose our two student representatives will be held at our office on March 5, 2019. You must be able to participate in an interview on that date to participate. ⚡

PHOTO CONTEST

# Win \$50 in the Access Energy Cooperative photo contest

Every photographer with an entry selected as one of the 13 photos to be featured in the calendar will win \$50. Submit all entries by March 31, 2019, to:

**PHOTO CONTEST**  
 C/O ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE  
 PO BOX 440  
 MT. PLEASANT IA 52641

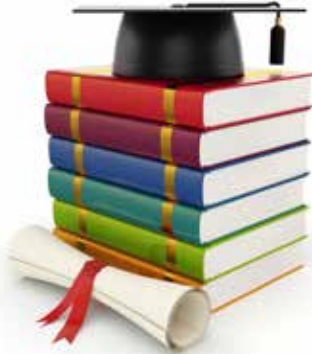
Visit [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com) for complete rules.



## Access Energy Cooperative scholarship details announced

**\$9,000 in scholarships is available to high school seniors**

- Six \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded – two in each of the cooperative's three districts.
- All winners must be high school seniors receiving post-secondary (college or technical school) education.
- Parents or legal guardians must be members of the cooperative.



- Visit the co-op's website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com), download the application and fax, mail or bring it to our office. You also may submit the form online. Applications are due in our office by March 15, 2019. Winners will be announced at their senior awards ceremonies.

### When are the scholarships given?

\$500 of the scholarship money will be awarded to recipients

at the completion of their first semester of post-secondary school education, with proof of enrollment for the second semester. The remaining \$1,000 will be awarded after completion of the third semester, with proof of enrollment for the fourth semester. ⚡

### Here's where to obtain an application

- Go to any area high school guidance counselor's office.
- Contact the Access Energy Cooperative headquarters office in Mt. Pleasant at 866-242-4232.

## Idle service invoices will be mailed in January

Notices for idle services (services in place but not used



for 12 months or longer) are being sent this month.

If you receive a notice, please review it and determine whether or not you wish to retain the service. If you no longer want to retain the service, please complete and return the notice to our office. For any idle service that we haven't received a form to remove, we'll send an invoice for the annual idle service fee the following month.

The annual fee for an idle service is currently \$107, which covers the cost of the cooperative's investment in the facilities. This fee cannot be divided into monthly installments. If you receive an idle service letter and are no longer the owner of the property, please call our office at 866-242-4232. ⚡

## Mount Pleasant Festival of Lights

Access Energy Cooperative is a proud sponsor of the Festival of Lights in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, displayed on the Old Threshers grounds in McMillan Park.

Visit [www.oldthreshers.com](http://www.oldthreshers.com) for admission fees and hours.

Bring your family to enjoy the holiday light festival. Access Energy Cooperative wishes a happy holiday season for all and to all a happy new year! ⚡



Photo: Mt. Pleasant Festival of Lights

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they're not in use.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

