

# living with energy

IN IOWA



DECEMBER 2016

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR MEMBER-OWNERS OF ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

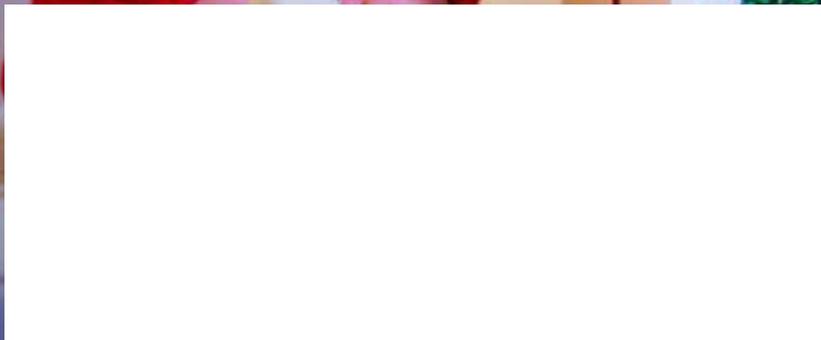
## Season's Greetings

from your electric cooperative!

Give your home a **kid-safety check** for the holidays

Cooperative **triples dollars** for scholarship program

**Changing technologies** bring fresh approaches to power pricing



## Upcoming Events

**The Access Energy Cooperative office will be closed:**

**Christmas – Dec. 23-26**

**New Year's – Jan. 2**

**For after-hours and holiday emergencies, Call 866-242-4232 or 800-452-7819**

Even when the Access Energy Cooperative office is closed, we're still available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call our office any time for emergencies, power outages, details on your account, bill payments, and information about the cooperative and upcoming events. ⚡



*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):** 800-292-8989  
**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.  
Closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays

**After Hours and Report Outages:** 319-385-1580 or 800-452-7819

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

**General Manager/CEO:** Kevin Wheeler  
**Editor:** Kimberly Davis  
**Assistant Editor:** Cheryl Wibben

### Officers and Directors:

Jerry Barker	District 2	President
Fred Hickenbottom	District 1	Vice President
David Hollingsworth	District 1	Secretary
Marvin Newton	District 3	Treasurer
Joseph Heckethorn	District 1	Director
Larry White	District 2	Director
Robert Smith	District 2	Director
Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	Director
Victor Pierrot	District 3	Director

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Local Perspective

# Create some new family memories this holiday season

BY KEVIN WHEELER

As I sit here and write my column, it seems like yesterday that I was ready to begin at Access Energy Cooperative. My first year has been very enjoyable and fulfilling. But this time of year is about spending time with family, friends and reminiscing.

I always go back to every holiday season when Grandma Rooney would prepare a meal that an army couldn't eat, but she expected us to try anyway. She was born and raised on a farm. Everything she made was from scratch – no mixes – and I'm not sure she ever used a measuring cup. The biggest treat during Thanksgiving and Christmas was the homemade egg noodles and deviled eggs.

As you may guess, there's nothing like homemade egg noodles made by Rooney. The grandkids would sneak over when she was making them the day before. The kitchen looked like a bomb went off – she had flour everywhere (including all over herself) and noodles hanging in places they shouldn't be. Once she had the noodles drying, she'd make the deviled eggs and put them in the refrigerator.

Well, can you see where this is going? She was always glad to see us when we

showed up, but we had other motives – like getting a deviled egg. We'd hug her (nobody hugs like Grandma) and tell each other how glad we were to see her. Then we'd sneak to the refrigerator and get caught every time with our hand in the refrigerator.

"Well go ahead and get one," she'd say, "and get out of here." We'd laugh and journey on to see her the next day.

Rooney's been gone for almost 20 years, but I still cherish the memories. Now, I get to see my son do the same things I did, but there's still no one who can make egg noodles like my Rooney.

This holiday season, take time and cherish the moments you have with your loved ones. Enjoy the holidays, and tell stories; you're creating new ones every year that your loved ones will tell for a long time.

I want to thank everyone who has stopped by the office or met me somewhere, welcoming me to the area. It's been a true pleasure to work for the members, board and employees at Access Energy Cooperative, and I look forward to many more years to come. ⚡

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



**Unless Congress acts this month, federal income tax credits for residential energy efficiency projects will end Dec. 31, 2016. These tax credits are available for purchases made in 2016, as well as purchases made during 2015.**

For 2016 installations on your existing home (principal residence), the tax credit is 10 percent of cost up to \$500 or a specific amount from \$50-\$300. Some of the items covered include air-source heat pumps, central air-conditioning, insulation and windows, doors and skylights. The tax credit of 30 percent of cost with no upper limit continues through Dec. 31, 2019, and applies to both existing homes and new construction (principal and second homes) on geothermal heat pumps, small (residential) wind turbines and solar energy systems.

For more information on current federal tax credits, visit these websites: Energy Star® ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)) and the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency ([www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org)).

## Financial Matters

# Idle service invoices will be mailed in January

Notices for idle services (services that have been 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 wish 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 next month.

The annual fee for an idle service is currently \$107, which covers the cost of the cooperative's investment in the fa-



cilities. 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. ⚡

## Editor's Choice Contest

**Win an air fryer, and eat healthier without giving up the taste of your favorite foods!**



The Philips Airfryer is quite a special countertop appliance. Using its unique Rapid Air Technology, the Model HD9220 circulates superheated air around a metal mesh cooking basket, requiring little or no oil as it fries, bakes, roasts and grills. And, of course, you'll save energy, compared to using your oven or cooktop.

An integrated timer lets you preset cooking times up to 30 minutes, and the temperature control allows you to choose the best cooking temperature for your recipe – up to 350 degrees. Other features include a cool-wall exterior, nonslip feet, a recipe book and app, and a 1-year warranty.

Suggested retail is about \$250, and optional cooking accessories are available. Go to [www.usa.philips.com](http://www.usa.philips.com) for more information and a list of retailers or the Philips Online Store at [www.philips-store.com](http://www.philips-store.com) to buy one. ⚡

**To enter this month's contest, please go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) and complete the entry form by Dec. 31, 2016.**

**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.**

## Student Leaders

# Access Energy Cooperative triples dollars for scholarship program!

## \$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.

## Here's where to obtain an application

- Go to any area high school guidance counselor's office.
- Contact the headquarters office of Access Energy Cooperative in Mt. Pleasant at 866-242-4232.
- Visit the cooperative's website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com) and 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 March 15, 2017. 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. ⚡

## Youth Tour

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

What do 1,600 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 with one thought in mind: 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 in June, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send students 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 the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

**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. You'll also find applications at your guidance counselor's office or by calling the co-op's office at 866-242-4232.

Applications are due at our office by Feb. 27, 2017. Personal interviews to choose our two student representatives will be held at our office March 7, 2017. You must be able to participate in an interview. 🌱

## Doing it Yourself

## Insulate your electric water heater tank

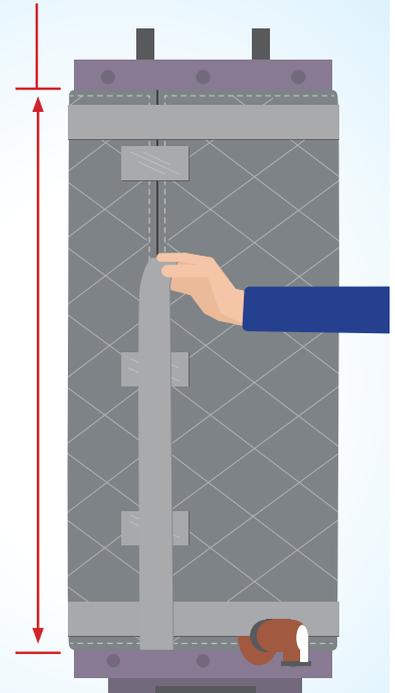
### MATERIALS:

- Water Heater Blanket
- Scissors
- Duct Tape

### STEPS:

1. Turn off the electric water heater at the breaker panel.
2. Measure the height of the water heater and cut the blanket to fit if necessary.
3. Leave the top of the water heater open.
4. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and temporarily tape it in place. Position the blanket so that the ends do not come together over the access panels on the side of the tank.
5. Mark the areas, then cut holes where controls are located. For electric water heaters, there will be two panels on the side of the tank. Mark the area where the pressure relief valve and pipe are located. This will be a pipe that protrudes from the side of the water heater.
6. Adhere the blanket. Be careful to line up the cut out areas and then tape it permanently in place.
7. Turn the water heater back on.

Cover the whole tank except temperature and pressure (T&P) valve and drain.



**Safety Note:** Don't set the thermostat above 130°F on the electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket – the wiring may overheat.

## In the Community

## Access Energy Cooperative donates water heater



Member services representative Alan Raymer (right) delivered a water heater donated by Access Energy Cooperative to the 2016 Henry County Habitat For Humanity project.

## Help students learn about being safe around electricity



It's important to Access Energy Cooperative and all of our employees to help kids learn how dangerous electricity can be if it's not respected. We offer a hands-on learning session to help students understand why it's important to take precautions around electricity. Presenters and kids have a lot of fun interacting and exchanging questions and answers.

The safety demonstration is available to kids of all ages in schools located in counties served by Access Energy Cooperative. Visit our website for a service territory map at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com).

### What will students learn?

- Historical electricity facts
- Safety precautions around electricity
- Using electricity safely
- Safety around electrical poles,

downed power lines, utility substations and other cooperative equipment

- The importance of staying away from power lines during outdoor activities such as kite-flying or climbing trees

### Why is the safety demonstration so much fun?

A highlight of the presentation is dressing up a volunteer student (or teacher!) in the safety equipment that allows line workers to safely work on energized power lines. Each student also will receive a special gift from Access Energy Cooperative.

### Here's how to schedule a session

Call the Access Energy Cooperative marketing department for details at 319-385-1577 – or send an e-mail to [mktg@accessenergycoop.com](mailto:mktg@accessenergycoop.com).

## Annual Photo Contest is now underway

For the 2016-17 Photo Contest for our 2018 Calendar, we're looking for more fantastic photos of rural settings in southeast Iowa like we've received in previous contests. We'll be choosing 13 photos as winners to be placed in the large photo areas above the calendar pages; winners also receive \$50. ⚡



### Please submit entries by March 31, 2017, to:

Photo Contest  
c/o Access Energy Cooperative  
P.O. Box 440  
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

### Contest Rules

- Full-color photos are encouraged.
- Entries must be in a horizontal layout.
- Original photos only may be submitted. Photocopies and digital pictures printed from a computer printer will not be accepted.
- Size Requirements
  - *Printed entries:* Minimum size for originals is 6" x 4", maximum size 14" x 8".
  - *Digital entries:* Please submit as original files. Minimum size is 3,300 x 2,550 pixels.
- Submit entries on a CD/flash drive to our office, or e-mail files to Kim Davis at [contact\\_us@accessenergycoop.com](mailto:contact_us@accessenergycoop.com).
- Entrants may enter more than one photo.
- Entries must include the following information on the back of photo, in the e-mail content or on the CD:
  - Entrant's name, address and phone number.
  - Title of the photograph.
  - County in which the photo was taken.
- All entries will become the property of Access Energy Cooperative and may be used for any purpose it deems valid. (We can return your photos upon request after the contest.)
- Entrants authorize Access Energy Cooperative to announce and publish their name, address and photograph in any forthcoming publicity without further remuneration, other than the prizes awarded in this contest.
- By submitting an entry in the contest, you agree to grant Access Energy Cooperative permission and all rights to use the photo entry indefinitely for marketing purposes, which include but are not limited to a calendar or other printed materials promoting Access Energy Cooperative.
- All entrants must have sufficient permission from any recognizable persons appearing in submitted photographs to be able to grant to Access Energy Cooperative.
- Access Energy Cooperative reserves the right to display entrants' photographic submissions online or in printed materials.



## DECEMBER ENERGY SAVER

Remember to close your fireplace damper (unless a fire is burning). Keeping the damper open is like leaving a window wide open during the winter, allowing warm air to escape through the chimney. ⚡

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