

# living with energy

JANUARY 2016

IN IOWA



## Save energy (and water) in the laundry room

If you win our  
contest, we'll  
help winterize  
your home!

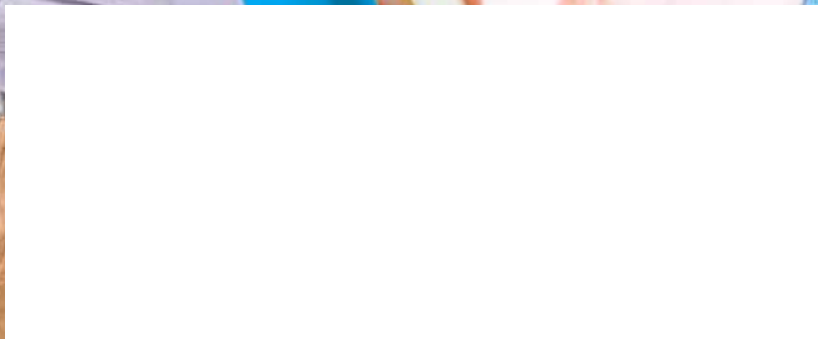
See page 5

Updating  
recessed lights  
to LEDs is  
as easy as  
1, 2, 3

How good are  
electric co-ops?

**Ask Wall  
Street**

Start the  
New Year with  
**quick-and-  
easy meals**



Check these pages every month for the latest news from



## How Your Co-op Works

# Tri-Annual Survey starts this month

You may get a phone call soon with someone asking detailed questions regarding what you think about Access Energy Cooperative. We greatly appreciate your participation in telling us how we're doing and whether there are ways we can improve on exceeding your expectations for safe, reliable and efficient service. ⚡



*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

**Facebook:** facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop

**Twitter:** twitter.com/AccessEnergyC

**E-mail:** contactus@accessenergycoop.com

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 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:** Kevin Wheeler

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**Assistant Editor:** Cherity Wibben

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Fred Hickenbottom	District 1	Vice President
Joseph Heckethorn	District 1	Secretary
Marvin Newton	District 3	Treasurer
David Hollingsworth	District 1	Director
Larry White	District 2	Director
Ronald Campbell	District 2	Director
Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	Director
Victor Pierrot	District 3	Director

## Local Perspective

# I'm looking forward to being your new general manager

BY KEVIN WHEELER

The New Year is a perfect time for new beginnings, and so it is in 2016 for my family and me. My wife Karin and I are looking forward to being part of the Access Energy Cooperative family. The past couple of months have been ones of anticipation and excitement as the time of transition approached.

With a great **deal** of expertise and success, Bob Swindell has prepared Access Energy Cooperative to move into the future, and I extend to him my best wishes as he retires and begins new endeavors. His shoes will be big ones to fill.

I come to Access Energy Cooperative with almost 30 years of experience in the electric utility industry and higher education. I began my career with Ameren as a lineman, continued my education and eventually achieved a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in adult

education. Later I initiated the lineman educational program at Linn State Technical College and made my way to

Tri-County Electric Cooperative in Lancaster, Mo. During that time I served as the manager of member services/job training and safety/billing.

I look forward to meeting the members and leaders of the communities and counties we serve. Best wishes to

all of you in 2016. ⚡



Kevin Wheeler is the new general manager of Access Energy Cooperative.

The Access Energy Cooperative Board of Directors welcomes **new** general manager Kevin Wheeler and his family to the cooperative. His first day at the cooperative was Jan 4. Welcome, Kevin!

## 2016 Scholarship Program

**1,500 in scholarships is available to high school seniors**

- Three \$500 awards, one in each of the cooperative's three districts
- Must be a high school senior receiving post-secondary education
- Parents or legal guardians must be members of the cooperative

**Here's where to obtain an application**

- At all area high school guidance counselor offices
- By **contacting** the Access Energy Cooperative headquarters office in Mt. Pleasant
- By visiting our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com), downloading the application and either faxing, mailing or bringing it to our office; you also may submit the form online.
- 2016 applications will be due in our office March 15, 2016. Winners will be chosen and announced at their senior awards ceremonies.

**When are the scholarships given?**

Scholarship **money** will be awarded to recipients at the beginning of their second semester (or trimester) – or the third quarter of post-secondary education. ⚡

# Home-schooled students can learn about electric safety

It's important for Access Energy Cooperative and all of our employees to help elementary kids learn how dangerous electricity can be if it's not respected. So, we offer safety demonstrations to all area schools on an **annual** basis. And, next April 5, we're extending this educational opportunity to our area's home-schooled students.



Our program is real hands-on learning and will 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. A highlight is dressing up a volunteer student (or teacher!) in the safety equipment that allows line workers to safely work on energized power lines.

Students will learn:

- Historical electricity facts
- Safe use of electricity
- Safety around electrical poles, downed power lines and utility substations
- Why it's important to **stay** away from power lines during outdoor activities such as kite flying or climbing trees.

Be sure to mark your calendar for April 5, 2016! ⚡

## If you win our contest, we'll help winterize your home!

Sometimes – especially when it's so cold

outside – you need to hunt down air leaks and tackle a few easy projects to make your home more energy efficient from the inside out. So, we're going to help you get started with a \$100 *Living with Energy in Iowa* Energy-Saving Gift Card. Use it to purchase energy-smart products from Lowe's, Menards or The Home Depot. It's your choice!



### Visit our website, and win!

We're going to give the card to one lucky reader this month. Enter the contest by Jan. 31, 2016, at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website: [www.livingwithenergyinowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyinowa.com).

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.

## Crossword Puzzle: Win a \$25 bill credit!

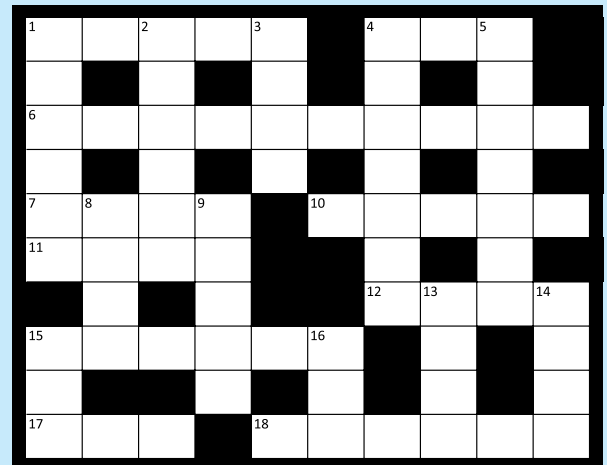
Win a \$25 bill credit by completing our crossword puzzle and sending your answers by Jan. 14, 2016, to: Access Energy Cooperative, Attn: Crossword Puzzle, P.O. Box 440, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641. Most of the answers are bold and highlighted somewhere on pages 4, 5, 12 and 13 of this issue. If more than one person answers all of the questions correctly, we'll hold a drawing to determine the winner. The December winner was Kellie Engel of Burlington.

### ACROSS

1. Heartland Co-op received this for their leadership
4. Access Energy Cooperative is going to have this kind of general manager in January
6. This can be done to our cooperative to obtain an application for a scholarship
7. It's important to do this to power lines
10. This is awarded for the scholarship upon receipt of verification of the second semester of school
11. Done alone
12. Short for system
15. What a chef does to cheese
17. Large body of water
18. What we did to presents at Christmas

### DOWN

1. Part of the name of your cooperative
2. We offer safety demonstrations to area schools on this basis
3. Bob Swindell has prepared our cooperative for the future with a great one of these of expertise and success
4. Students can win a trip to this capital
5. These from the photo contest will appear in the Access Energy calendar
8. Sophomores and juniors can win one of these of Washington, D.C.
9. A free trip can be won to this Washington, D.C., tour
13. Access Energy sends two students on the Youth Tour each of these



14. Students send in an application to win this
15. Form of energy used to operate vehicles
16. Form of renewable energy



Check these pages every month for the latest news from



### Extend a Helping Hand!

## Help others by contributing to RECare

You may make a one-time contribution to the RECare program, or you may 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 its guidelines.



#### RECare CONSUMER AUTHORIZATION FORM

Yes, I want to contribute to RECare.

\_\_\_ I will make a one-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

\_\_\_ I will contribute \$ \_\_\_ per month for \_\_\_ months to RECare. I understand this amount automatically will be added to my monthly electric bill.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Account No. (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please mail to:

Access Energy Cooperative  
1800 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 440  
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641

### In the Community

## Annual photo contest is now underway

Access Energy Cooperative is once again holding the annual photo contest for our 2017 calendar. We're looking for more of those fantastic photos of rural settings in southeastern Iowa we've received in previous contests. We'll choose 12 photos as **winners** to be placed in the large photo areas above the calendar pages, as well as to receive \$50. The photo for the August calendar page will be chosen from entries of our annual meeting.

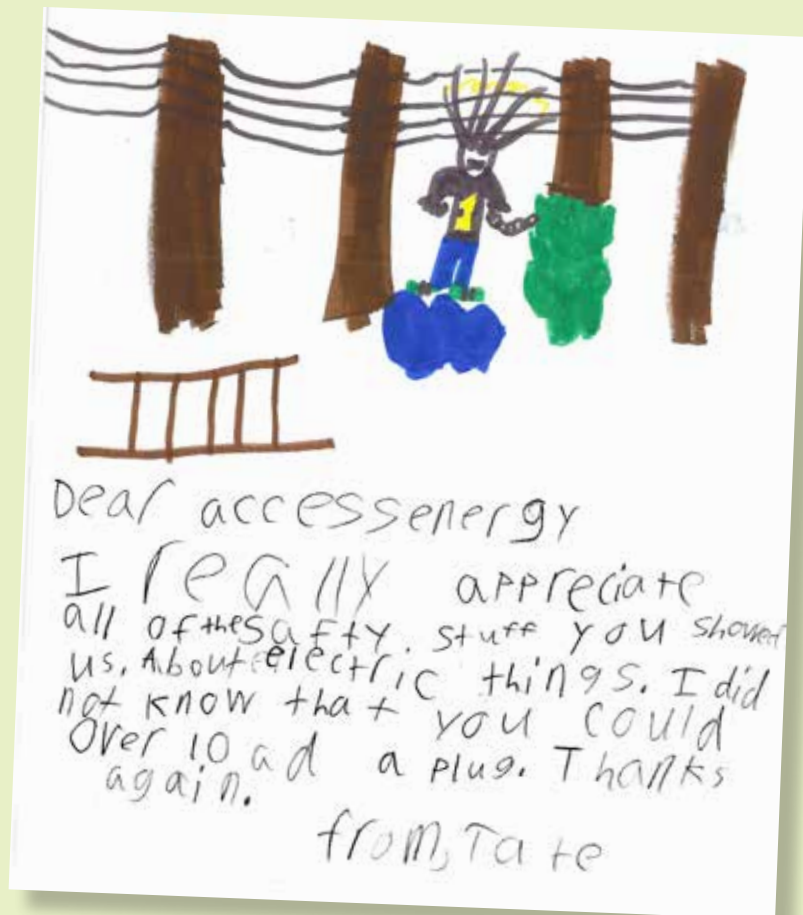
We would be happy to return your photos upon request, but we'll retain full permission to use them in any



format for the cooperative.

Entry deadline is March 31, 2016. For complete information and contest rules, please visit our website at [www.accessenergycoop.com](http://www.accessenergycoop.com).

### Note of Thanks



# Heartland Co-op receives prestigious Iowa Venture Award

Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), on behalf of Iowa's electric cooperatives, honored Heartland Co-op of Fairfield – along with seven other distinguished Iowa companies – with Iowa Venture Awards at a luncheon held last month in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives in West Des Moines. Access Energy Cooperative nominated Heartland Co-op for the **award**.

Heartland Co-op began in the early 1900s and now operates in 71 locations, providing products and services to its farmer-members and patrons. The co-op began operation of a new shuttle train loading facility in October that includes a 10,000-foot rail loop siding off the BNSF southwest main line, expanding the co-op's markets to California, Texas and Mexico. The facility employs eight people, is capable of storing 4.4 million bushels of corn and soybeans in its eight steel bins and two concrete



towers and is expected to handle more than 27 million bushels per year.

“IADG, on behalf of our sponsors, is proud to recognize Heartland Co-op and these other outstanding companies,” said Rand Fisher, IADG

president. “Their demonstrated innovation, vision, courage, social responsibility and contribution have made had an impressive impact on their communities, regions and the state of Iowa.”

## Youth Tour

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

What do 1,500 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 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 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 out 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.

Personal interviews to choose our two student representatives will be held at our office Feb. 26, 2016. You must be able to participate in an interview on this date to qualify for the **trip**.