

ACEC NEWS

FEBRUARY 2024 | VOLUME 27 | ISSUE 02



**MOTOR MILL
INN IS READY TO
WELCOME YOU**

See Page 4.



**POWER STRIP
SAFETY**

**BRUNCH
RECIPES**

**CYBERSECURITY
TIP**



**A MESSAGE
FROM**
*Your
General
Manager*

Hollie McCormick
EVP/General Manager

STARTING THE NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Electric cooperatives were built in politics. Our existence was part of the Rural Electrification Act, which was passed by Congress in 1936. This was a facet of The New Deal, which allowed for the allocation of federal loans for the installation of electricity for Americans living in remote, rural areas. Years later, we still find ourselves paying close attention to the legislative efforts in the countries we serve, the State of Iowa and at the Federal level. We support legislation that allows us to provide our members with reliable, affordable and safe electricity. Likewise, we feel compelled to speak out against legislation that may hinder those ideals.

Rural electric cooperatives pride themselves on the relationships we've been able to form with our elected representatives. We remain bipartisan and remain focused on the best outcomes for the Co-op, and ultimately you, our member. Our Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC) works very hard to curate dialogue, ideas and events that allow us to showcase and explain our interests. On that note, I'm sharing an editorial from Kevin Condon, Director of Government Relations for IAEC. Enjoy a message from our guest columnist this month and get a glimpse into our legislative affairs arena! ■

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO LEGISLATORS: IF IT ISN'T BROKEN...



By Kevin Condon

As a new year begins, so will the 2024 legislative session of the Iowa General Assembly. And as always, Iowa's electric cooperatives will have a strong presence at the Iowa Statehouse to ensure lawmakers and their constituents understand clearly how policy proposals will impact rural Iowans. For more than 80 years, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives has advocated on behalf of our members so state legislators can make informed decisions. #1133-5

Protecting Electric Cooperative Members

This year, Iowa's electric co-ops are not proactively seeking significant changes to Iowa laws but are instead taking a "do no harm" message to Iowa policymakers. While there are tremendous challenges ahead in the energy industry, most of those debates occur on the national stage and will take place outside the halls of the Iowa Capitol.

Iowa lawmakers have gotten it right over the past several years as it pertains to setting the state's energy strategy. Iowa electric co-ops can provide reliable power to our member-consumers without unnecessary interference from the state government. In Iowa, we have established a positive balance between central regulatory compliance and local flexibility.

Avoiding Unnecessary Regulations

Iowa's electric cooperatives are prepared for various ideas to resurface from the last session, in addition to untangling new ideas that may be introduced in this session. Threats to Iowa's service territory laws are ongoing and real. Calls to "deregulate" Iowa's electric boundaries under the guise of "competitive and choice" will result in higher electric bills for homes and farms, while "Big Data" tech companies laugh all the way to the bank. We also expect to hear the phrase "integrated resource plans" (IRP) quite a bit this year. IRPs are simply a "wolf in sheep's clothing" effort from special interest groups to take decision-making authority away from your local utility and shutter reliable power generation assets well before their useful life is up.

While the threat of rolling blackouts is real in many regions of the country, now is not the time to irresponsibly close dispatchable power plants. The Iowa Legislature shouldn't require IRPs but instead could expand our energy strategy to incorporate even more of an "all the above" approach to include nuclear generation and energy storage technologies.

Focusing on Safety Threats

Unfortunately, we must also be concerned about threats to the safety of our electric infrastructure. Iowa electric co-ops follow the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) guidance on overhead line clearances to accommodate large agricultural and industrial equipment. There appears to be efforts to remove liability from a person who negligently damages electric infrastructure if contact is made, and they can prove the line was outside the NESC guidelines. Safety is paramount at your co-op and we are concerned about changing the law in a way that would almost encourage an equipment operator to hit a power line rather than simply call the co-op to move it.

We look forward to having respectful and productive discussions with state legislators again this year. We wish Iowa lawmakers a happy and successful new year and hope that they'll remember the old saying when it comes to energy policy: if it isn't broken, don't fix it. ■

THINKING ABOUT ADDING SOLAR? CONTACT ACEC FIRST!

SOLAR POWER

Is it right for my home?

Stepping Towards Solar

Get a FREE Solar Analysis from ACEC

Consider All of the Costs

- Cost to purchase solar equipment
- Cost of installation
- Financing charges
- Additional insurance costs
- Solar equipment maintenance cost

Consider These Before Purchasing

- ACEC Net Metering Policy
- Solar power is dependent on weather
- Do you have enough space for solar panels
- Check with your insurance provider before construction
- Pick contractors with solar experience
- Review all contracts to insure all costs are included
- Request multiple bids from contractors and compare

Before Installing and Connecting

- Complete and submit a copy of the standard interconnection agreement
- Contact ACEC to schedule a site visit to commission the installation. Ensure array is tested and operational before ACEC arrives.



Single Phase General Service Basic Service Charge

\$49.00


ACEC monthly basic service charge still applies even if no electricity is purchased.

Potential Benefits

- ✓ Monthly Bill Reduction
- ✓ Improve Home Resale Value
- ✓ Generate Your Own Power
- ✓ Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

30%

Federal Tax Credit Until 2034

 1-563-864-7611

 rwagner@acrec.coop

ElectricSense®

Allamakee-Clayton helped our member-consumers receive \$153,021 in ElectricSense incentives in 2023. That's an average of \$15.40 per consumer, leading all the Dairyland Power Cooperatives. Let us help you with your 2024 ElectricSense rebate today.

For more details, visit acrec.com/rebates or call Ryan at 888-788-1551.

PLUGGED IN: Electric Vehicle Update



JANUARY

of miles driven: **90 miles**

kWh's charged: **47 kWh**

Total cost to charge
 .13 x 47kWh = **\$6.11**



BOARD BRIEFS | January 29 Meeting

- Reviewed and approved Board Policy 407-Conflict of Interest
- Reviewed and approved Board Policy 410-Standards of Conduct
- Approved 2024-2028 Construction Work Plan
- Approved 2024 Capital Budget
- Approved Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to Shea Properties
- Approved RLF to Rainbow Quarry
- Approved a donation to 2024 Lineman Bow Shoot Fundraiser in honor of Mackay Mathis

On the cover: A winter scene of Motor Mill, courtesy of Brian Gibbs/Motor Mill Facebook page.

READY FOR RESERVATIONS

Historic Motor Mill Inn undergoes impressive upgrades

A vision that began over 20 years ago came to fruition last summer.

After several years of planning, fundraising and making upgrades, the inn at Motor Mill just outside of Elkader was renovated, with the open house held last July. It was a project that Clayton County Conservation Board Director Jenna Pollock said provides needed resources to the community and brings more people to visit the historic site.

History

The flour mill was the brainchild of John Thompson, James Crosby and J.P. Dickinson. The three men started construction of the site in 1868, with the work completed in December of 1869. The mill suffered several setbacks before closing in 1883 when a flood made the dam unusable. The property was purchased in 1903 by the Klink family, who used the site for their farm for the next 80 years.

In 1977, the Klink family succeeded in having Motor Mill listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site was updated in 2014 to include the whole townsite.

In 1983, the property was purchased by the Clayton County Conservation Board (CCCB), with help from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. They also purchased 40 acres associated with the buildings on the north side of the Turkey River and 60 acres on the south of the river. The site included the stable, an inn, an icehouse, cooperage and the 90-foot Motor Mill. The site was expanded in 1992 when the CCCB purchased another 55 acres on the north site.

Renovations

In the early 2000s, the Motor Mill Foundation began visioning what the property could look like, according to Pollock. She said the mill was the central focus for the group, with the idea to gradually renovate the entire property. By 2019, the group began discussing how they could renovate the space to have it used as it was originally intended – as an inn. Pollock said they looked at grants that had “a historical funding source and paralleled with meeting community needs.” Pollock said they applied for an Iowa’s Rural

Heritage Revitalization Grant through the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. They were awarded \$125,000 in 2021 and another \$125,000 from the Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation Grant. Finally, in January of 2023, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs awarded the site another \$325,000 through the Iowa Great Places Grant. Along with private donations, the group had the funds needed.



Clayton County Conservation Board has been the recipient of two grants from the Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation. The most recent one will assist with purchasing educational materials.

Pollock said contracts were signed to begin work in August of 2022, with demolition of some of the interior of the building in late September. Work continued through the fall and winter. They held a community open house in July of 2023. #5151-10

Providing a space for the Elkader and Clayton County communities to use was the big vision of the group.



New floors were just one of the many projects done at the Inn.

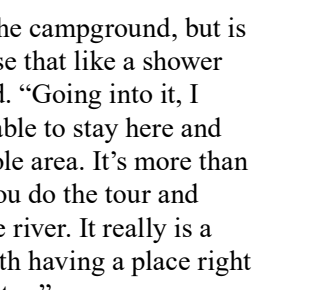
“A real simple goal was to have it open to the public. We wanted it to be usable and a resource that the community needs. We see it as being an overnight place to stay that compliments the campground, but is an amenity for those that like a shower and toilet,” she said. “Going into it, I want people to be able to stay here and experience the whole area. It’s more than just a day here if you do the tour and hike and paddle the river. It really is a destination trip, with having a place right here for people to stay.”

The Inn now features a full kitchen, a dining room/meeting area, living room, 1 ½ bathrooms and three bedrooms – one on the main floor that is handicap accessible. Up to 12 guests can be accommodated. It can be rented out for an overnight stay or for the day. Pollock said she sees this as a positive addition for the overall Northeast Iowa community.

“A lot of people have very strong ties, family ties to Motor Mill and the community. There’s a lot of family nostalgia, of growing up here, with families that lived on the property that have opened their arms to this. It feels like they’re coming home,” she said. “It’s been neat that when we had the open house and the bridge lighting that some of the folks came back and walked through for the first time and they teared up.”

More to Come

The work at the Motor Mill site and the Inn isn’t completed. Pollock said they’re still developing the main floor of the Inn to make it a welcome center.



Entryway to the Motor Mill Inn.



The Motor Mill Inn recently completed its extensive renovations. It is now available for rental for the day or overnight.

The Motor Mill Historic Site sits on over 100 acres on the Turkey River.

They have historic farm photos and photos of the families who lived there. She said the next step is to expand that, putting together photo albums and capturing the history of the Mill more. The master plan includes having the Mill open during the week, with more interpretive panels and making it more museum-esque.

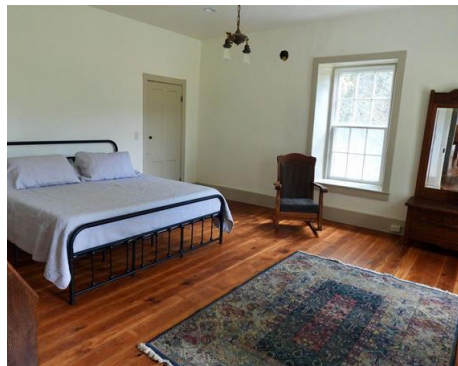
Recently, the Motor Mill Foundation received a grant for \$30,000 from the Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation for Phase 2 of the Living History Project. This will allow the foundation to purchase more educational materials and displays for the mill.

Clayton County Conservation and the Motor Mill Historic Site also received the 2023 Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area Golden Silos award for Outstanding Preservation in Agriculture Award this fall.

Pollock said they also need to finish the stable reconstruction. While they leveled the floor and secured support beams and the interior structure in 2021, the next step is to restore the roof. When it's fully restored, the venue will

be accessible for events like family reunions, music venues or parties.

The Inn is available to reserve now. For more information, visit motormill.org, call 563-245-1516 or email cccb@claytoncountyia.gov. ■



The entire Inn is available for rental.



There are three bedrooms available, sleeping 12 people.



MOTOR MILL 5K

MARCH 16

Kick off the season at Motor Mill with the annual Motor Motor 5K and 10K trail runs, held this year on Saturday, March 16. Both races start at 9 a.m. Cost of the 5K race is \$20 before March 10 and \$30 after. Cost for the 10K race is \$30 prior to March 10 and \$40 after. Each participant receives a goodie bag, commemorative item and a wooden finishers "medal." Prizes will be given to the first male and first female overall, as well as age group winners.

All proceeds will go toward the Pony Hollow Trail extension project.

To register, go to www.claytoncountyconservation.org. For more information, call 563-245-1516. ■



WAIT!
**DON'T PLUG
THAT IN**



DON'T PLUG THESE 15 THINGS INTO A POWER STRIP

It is fine to plug in some things into a power strip, such as computers, lamps, phones and other light-load electronics.

However, appliances that require a lot of power should not be plugged into a power strip. Do not use a power strip with the following appliances:

IN THE KITCHEN

- × Refrigerators
- × Microwave ovens
- × Toasters
- × Coffee makers
- × Blenders
- × Slow cookers
- × Rice cookers

IN THE BATHROOM


- × Hair dryers
- × Curling irons
- × Other hairstyling tools

IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM

- × Washing machines
- × Dryers

ANYWHERE

- × Sump pumps
- × Space heaters
- × Portable air conditioners

 *Do not overload power strips by plugging in appliances that consume more watts than the cord can handle. This can cause the power strip to overheat or start a fire.*

 Learn more at:
Electricity.org[®]



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING

Do you know a
current high
school senior
planning
to pursue a
career in the
electrical field?



Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative offers colleges scholarships to high school seniors interested in continuing their education.

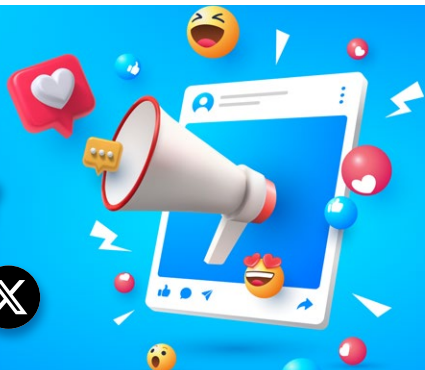
Applicants must be entering a course of study related to work within the electrical field, with preference given to those whose education will qualify them for work as electricians, electric line workers, electrical engineers, etc. **#6470X**

Applicants' parents or legal guardians are not required to be ACEC members but must reside within the boundaries of the Cooperative's service territory.

Details are available on the Cooperative's website at www.acrec.com/hauschild-memorial-scholarship-fund or by calling 888-788-1551.

**Application deadline is
February 29, 2024.**

**Do you follow us
on our social
media platforms?**



MEMBER RECIPES

Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to Jennifer Achenbach, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162 or email jachenbach@acrec.coop.

You'll receive a \$5 bill credit if your recipe is printed. Please note – recipes must be received by the 25th day of the month before the intended publication.

March – **MARCH MADNESS APPETIZERS**;

April – **AIR FRYER RECIPES**; May – **PICNIC DISHES**



AIR FRYER SPINACH, PEPPER AND FETA EGG BITES

- 5 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 Tbsp. milk
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ⅛ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- ½ c. chopped fresh spinach
- ½ c. chopped orange bell pepper
- ¼ c. crumbled feta cheese, plus more for garnish
- 1 Tbsp. sliced green onion, plus more for garnish

Directions

Coat 4 (6 oz.) ramekins with cooking spray. Stir together eggs, milk, salt, and black pepper in a bowl. In another bowl, stir together spinach, bell pepper, feta, and green onion; spoon into prepared ramekins. Evenly pour egg mixture over filling in ramekins. Preheat air fryer to 340°F. Arrange ramekins in air fryer basket. Cook for about 6 minutes. Gently stir partially cooked egg bites. Cook until eggs are set, 12 to 14 minutes more. Let egg bites stand about 3 minutes before serving. Garnish with additional feta and green onion.

■ allrecipes.com

BAKED FRENCH TOAST

- 1 loaf French bread (thickly sliced)
- 2 Tbsp. corn syrup
- ½ c. butter
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 5 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 ½ c. milk
- 4 tsp. salt

Directions

Combine syrup, butter and brown sugar. Simmer until syrupy. Pour into a greased 9x13-inch pan. Slice French bread into thick slices. Place onto syrup in pan. Mix eggs, vanilla, milk and salt. Pour over bread, cover and refrigerate overnight. Uncover and bake at 350° for 45 minutes. When ready to serve, flip over onto a plate or cutting board so caramel will be on top.

■ *Jeanne Kruckenberg, Postville*

EASY BREAKFAST TORTILLA PIZZA

- ½ Tbsp. butter, softened
- 1 (10-in.) tortilla
- 3 large eggs
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- ½ c. total assorted toppings, such as cheese, hot sauce, cooked meat or veggies

Directions

Preheat oven to 350°. Rub butter along the bottom and sides of an 8 or 9-inch cake pan. Press tortilla down into the buttered pan and against the sides. Crack each egg next to each other on the tortilla. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and add desired toppings evenly on top. Bake in the preheated oven until egg whites are set and tortilla has become lightly browned and toasted along the edges and bottom, 13 to 15 minutes.

■ allrecipes.com

CYBER SECURITY Tip of the MONTH

Cybercriminals like to go phishing, but you don't have to take the bait. Phishing is when criminals use fake emails, social media posts or direct messages with the goal of luring you to click on a bad link or download a malicious attachment. If you click on a phishing link or file, you can hand over your personal information to the cybercriminals. A phishing scheme can also install malware onto your device. The signs can be subtle but once you recognize a phishing attempt you can avoid falling for it. Before clicking on any links or downloading attachments, take a few seconds (like literally four seconds) and ensure the email looks legit. One thing to look for is little misspellings like pavpal.com or anazom.com. ■

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

Congratulations to **Keith and Patrice Schulte of Waukon** for finding their service number in a past newsletter. The Cooperative awarded them a \$5.00 bill credit.

ACEC has hidden three Service Location numbers within this newsletter. The numbers are from different regions of our service area – **one is worth \$7.50 and two are worth \$5.00**. The service location number must be yours to claim the credit, and you need to notify us when you find it.



CONTACT ACEC

HEADQUARTERS

229 Highway 51 • PO Box 715
Postville, IA 52162

PHONE NUMBERS

LOCAL 563-864-7611

TOLL-FREE 888-788-1551

PAYMENT LINE 24/7 833-284-5051

UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING
811

SKYWAYS INTERNET SOLUTIONS
800-864-1611

WEBSITE

acrec.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

OUTAGES

888-788-1551 or 563-864-7611

IOWA STATE ONE CALL

811

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   **STAY CONNECTED**

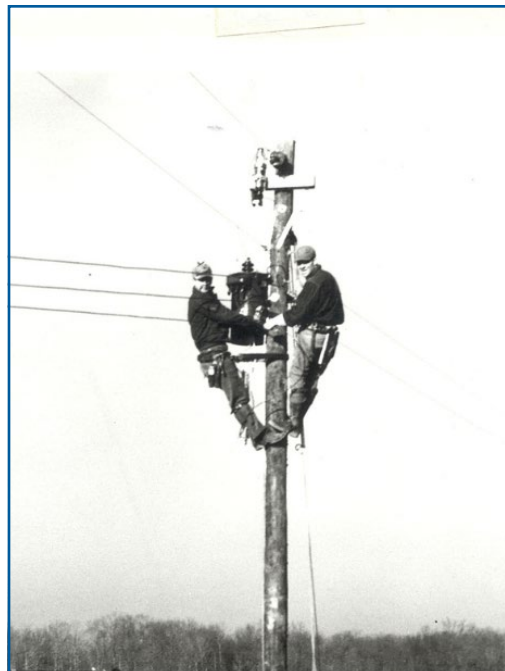


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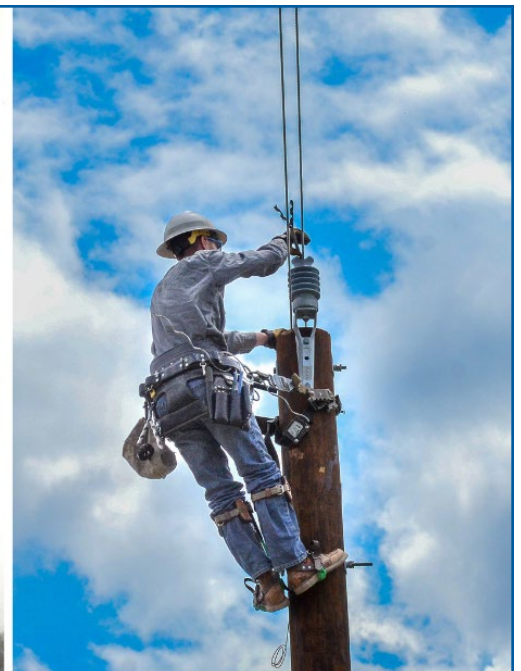
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The Cooperative Difference



There for you then.



Still here for you now.

Things change. But our commitment to you, the members we're proud to serve, is constant.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 