



Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

# Southwest lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

December 2022



## Happy Holidays

From our co-op family to yours, wishing you a joyous holiday season and a happy and peaceful New Year!

*The Employees and Directors of Southwest Iowa REC would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued patronage and may you and your loved ones have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!*

### Employees

Cacey Quick  
Jesse Hitt  
Dustin Smith  
Marilyn Rubel  
Phil Kinser  
Scott Geer  
Suzy Olson  
Justin Murphy  
Connor Giles

Luke Brockshus  
David Head  
Les Helvie  
Nathan Weeda  
Cody Stackhouse  
Shayne Larson  
Tanner Rinehart  
Kylee Fleharty  
Brycen Wallace

Eric Hensley  
Denise Hallquist  
Lucas Dalton  
Paul Vanderholm  
Sarah Newton  
Steven Grace  
Tim Pfeiffer  
Zach Schafer  
Brady Williams

### Directors

Terry Barnes  
Kay Fast  
Mark Herzberg

Alan Spencer  
Deena Moore  
Dana Morgan  
Ken Peppmeier

Jason Smith  
Dale Walkup  
Marilyn Werner

Southwest Iowa REC offices will be **CLOSED** on **Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>** and **Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>** for Christmas and **Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>** for New Year's. **Have a safe and happy holiday!**



**Look forward to more information on Southwest Iowa REC's scholarship opportunities in next month's newsletter.**

**Can't wait until then? Updated information is located on our website!**

## CEO's COMMENTS:

# Small Change Can Change Lives

The holiday season is finally here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all. That's because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

But giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right here in our community and why it's so important to spread the good as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local area. I'm also reminded of how wonderful our community is and what a big impact we can have when we work together.

When you are a member of Southwest Iowa REC, you help us spread the good throughout the year. Through our Operation Round Up program, your donations help local families, individuals, and community projects in need by providing financial assistance. Our Operation Round Up program is an "opt-out" program. All members are initially signed up unless they request not to participate. I'm proud that over 4,037 of our accounts have chosen to be part of this worthwhile program.

When you "round up" your monthly bill from Southwest Iowa REC and donate to this fund, you're making a big difference in someone's life or in your community's viability. You are showing just how much you care about others and our quality of life.

Southwest Iowa REC also participates in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors.

The cooperative principle "concern for community" is part of Southwest Iowa REC's DNA. It defines who we are as an organization. When we first brought electricity to the areas we serve over 80 years ago, the quality of life improved. But other things also need to be addressed and through the years, this co-op has been at the forefront of bringing improvements to the quality of life in this community. It's why we

created Operation Round Up.

To date, with your help, we've given over \$290,000 back to local families, individuals, and organizations through this program.

And across the country, more than 350 electric co-ops have an Operation Round Up program, and together, we've raised millions for local communities. This shows that small donations from electric co-ops like ours, over time, can collectively make a big impact.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in our communities and we hope you will think of Southwest Iowa REC as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good.

I hope all our members have a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright! To learn more about Operation Round Up, visit [www.swiarec.coop](http://www.swiarec.coop).



**Phil Kinser**



## Employee Updates

### Congratulations Brycen!

Southwest Iowa REC's Brycen Wallace, (Corning) has successfully completed a comprehensive lineworker certification program. The Lineworker Certification Program is the time-tested benchmark of apprentice and lineworker training programs and is administered through the Northwest Lineman College. The Lineworker Certification Program is a distance-learning training program



offered to electric utility and construction companies for the certification of their lineworker employees. This program is most commonly used as the curriculum component of apprenticeship leading to journeyman certification. The remainder of their training leading to journeyman status will come from on-the-job training.

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### Stanton School Visit

On November 3rd, Williams visited Stanton School for Open House Day. They demonstrated a glimpse of that a little bit of the day discussed the importance

# RECare – Customer Contribution Fund

Southwest Iowa REC’s **RECare** program makes it easy to help Cooperative neighbors in need this winter. With rising heating fuel prices this season, more and more Iowans are seeking assistance with energy, heating and weatherization costs. While some federal and state dollars exist to help those in need, there are still shortfalls.

Consider a monthly contribution to Southwest Iowa REC’s RECare program. Your contribution – whether it is \$1 or \$10 a month – when combined with those of other generous members, can go a long way in helping those who can’t afford winter’s heating bills. To help, fill out the form:

## Consumer Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of “members helping members” and contribute to RECare.

I will make a 1-time contribution to RECare. My check is enclosed.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail to: RECare – SW Iowa REC

1801 Grove Avenue; Box 367; Corning, IA 50841

OR RECare – SW Iowa REC

1502 W South Street; Box 391; Mt Ayr IA 50854

OR RECare – SW Iowa REC

415 Broad Avenue; Box 460; Stanton, IA 51573



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Apprentice linemen Luke Brockshus and Brady Anton Community Elementary for a STEM Career rated hot sticking with a mock live wire. This shows lineworker does on a day-to-day basis. They also importance of safety around any electrical source.



# CRIME STOPPERS

**800-452-1111**

**STOP COPPER THEFT!**

## Biscuits & Gravy Crockpot Breakfast Casserole

Perfect for busy weekend or holiday mornings!

- 1 lbs. ground breakfast sausage
- 8 eggs
- 1½ cups shredded cheddar cheese
- non-stick cooking spray (or vegetable oil)
- 1 pkg. refrigerated canned biscuit dough
- ¼ cup salted butter
- ¼ cup all purpose flour
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 ½ tsp ground black pepper



### Prepare the Sausage, Egg, & Biscuits Casserole:

1. Brown sausage in frying pan, drain well, and set aside.
2. Coat inside of slow cooker generously with nonstick cooking spray (or wipe down with vegetable oil).
3. In a mixing bowl, whisk eggs lightly then add cooked sausage and shredded cheese; stir to combine.
4. Pour egg mixture into prepared slow cooker and season generously with salt and pepper.
5. Using kitchen scissors (or a paring knife), cut refrigerated biscuit dough into bite-size pieces and arrange pieces evenly on top of egg mixture in slow cooker.
6. Cover with lid and cook on high for 2 hours (or on low for 4 hours) or until egg mixture is set and biscuit pieces are cooked through.



### Prepare the Gravy:

1. Melt butter in saucepan, then add flour and whisk over low-medium heat until slightly golden brown.
2. Slowly stir in milk, salt, and pepper, and stir frequently over medium-high heat until it comes to a boil.
3. Reduce heat to low-medium and simmer until thickened to desired gravy consistency.

### Serve the Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast Casserole:

1. Use a serving spoon or spatula to scoop a generous-sized individual serving of casserole onto a plate (or into a bowl).
2. Ladle gravy over the casserole on the plate and...

Enjoy!



## 2023 Charges – Member Pricing at SWIREC Served Locations Only

### LABOR – Regular Working Hours

\$ 67.00/hour \* 1 hour minimum

### LABOR – After Regular Working Hours (Member Emergencies Only)

\$ 100.50/hour \* 2 hour minimum per employee – 2 employees required

### TRUCKS/EQUIPMENT

Trip Charge	\$30.00 per mileage vehicle required per job per day
Portable Trencher	\$ .75/foot
Trencher	\$ 2.00/foot (\$250 minimum)
Backhoe	\$60/hour (\$250 minimum)
Basket/Digger	\$80/hour
Boring Machine	\$60/hour (\$250 minimum)

- 1 hour minimum on all truck charges
- Labor will be charged in addition to the truck and equipment charges

\*Call for non-member pricing quotes.

## 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



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2022 Energy Efficiency & Beneficial Electrification Program Delivery Costs = \$.0028/kwh



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### Board of Directors

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