

Southwest Lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

June 2026

Southwest Iowa REC would like to congratulate our 2026 scholarship winners!
Sixteen \$500 scholarships were awarded to sixteen high school graduates across our service area



Josephine Millikan, Griswold
 Daughter of Shad & Anita Millikan. Plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University to major in Accounting, with a minor in Event Management.



Maggie Carlson, Clarinda
 Daughter of Todd & Nikki Carlson. Plans to attend Mercy College of Health Sciences for an Associate's Degree in Radiologic Technology, an Associate's degree in Cardiovascular Sonography & a Bachelor's Degree in Health Administration.



Lillie Curry, Shenandoah Online
 Daughter of Daniel & Kim. Plans to attend Black Hawk East for Agriculture Studies.



Alexis Clark, Clarinda
 Daughter of Craig & Kendra Clark. Plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University for Agriculture Ed.



Danielle Robinson, Lenox
 Daughter of Jeremy & Jenny Robinson. Plans to attend Iowa State University for Agronomy.



Lydia Hoffman, Diagonal
 Daughter of Robert & Pamela Hoffman. Plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University for Ag Business.



Meredith Roberts, Stanton
 Daughter of Joshua & Kimberly Roberts. Plans to attend Iowa State University for Interior Design.



Mackenzie Maeder, SWV
 Daughter of Derek & Sarah Maeder. Plans to attend the University of Iowa for Nursing.



Abby Larson, Mount Ayr
 Daughter of Will & Bonnie Larson. Plans to attend Kansas State University.



Cash Brammer, Lenox
 Son of Tracy & Julie Douglas. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College for Agriculture Business.



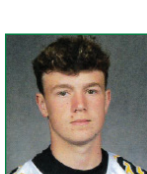
Sidney Crill, SWV
 Daughter of Brandyn Crill. Plans to attend Iowa State University for Business.



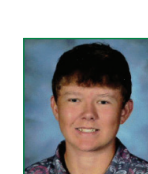
Mackenzie Knox, Mount Ayr
 Daughter of Bethany Knox & Michael Knox. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College for Elementary Education



Annika Price, Clarinda
 Daughter of David & Jen Price. Plans to attend Simpson College for Kinesiology.



Wyatt Leonard, Lenox
 Son of Shilo Belding & Chris Leonard. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College for Agriculture.



Jaxson Greene, Mount Ayr
 Son of David & Jody Greene. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College.



Mackenzie Fast, SWV
 Daughter of Kristin Fast & Dustin Fast. Plans to attend Iowa State University for Elementary Education.

2026 scholarship winners!

Southwest Iowa REC also awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to individuals attending Powerline School or pursuing an Electrical Trades degree.



Cade Cordell, Lenox
 Son of Larry & Marti Cordell. Plans to attend Iowa Central Community College for Electrical Technology.



Tanner Streit, Mount Ayr
 Son of Thad & Jamie Streit. Plans to attend DMACC for Electrical Technology.



Father's Day Message



Phil Kinser CEO

Father's Day provides a meaningful opportunity to honor the individuals who have shaped our character, our work ethic, and our understanding of responsibility. Fathers and father figures play a vital role in strengthening families and communities, and their influence is reflected in the values that guide our electric cooperative each day. As we pause to recognize their contributions, we also reaffirm our commitment to the principles they so often instill: integrity, preparedness, and care for others.

Many of us can recall lessons passed down from the men who raised us — lessons about doing what is right even when no one is watching, taking the time to complete a task correctly, and considering how our actions affect those around us. These teachings align closely with the standards we uphold as we work to provide safe, reliable service to our members. In our industry, attention to detail is not simply a best practice; it is essential to protecting lives and ensuring the continuity of the services our communities depend on.

Electricity is a powerful resource, and its safe management requires diligence from both our employees and the communities we serve. Our crews undergo extensive training, follow rigorous safety protocols, and rely on one another to maintain a culture of vigilance. Their professionalism reflects the same sense of duty that many fathers instill in their children: to protect others, to act with care, and to remain mindful of the risks around us. This commitment is evident every day, whether they are restoring power after a storm or performing routine maintenance on our system.

As we recognize Father's Day, I encourage all members to take time to review essential electrical safety practices within their homes. Discuss the importance of staying clear of substations and downed power lines. Ensure that outlets, cords, and appliances are used properly and inspected regularly. If you plan to complete outdoor projects, remember to call before you dig and maintain safe distances from overhead lines. These actions, though simple, help safeguard the well being of your family and neighbors and reflect the protective instincts that fathers demonstrate so consistently.

Our cooperative remains committed to fostering a culture of safety, both within our organization and throughout the communities we serve. This commitment reflects the values many of us learned from our fathers: to act responsibly, to look out for one another, and to contribute to a safer environment for all. We are proud to serve a community that shares these values and works together to uphold them.

On behalf of our entire team, I extend sincere appreciation to the fathers and father figures who continue to guide and inspire us. We wish you a meaningful, memorable, and safe Father's Day.



Southwest Iowa REC Secures \$1,000,000 USDA REDL Loan for Local Economic Development

Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the approval of a \$1,000,000 loan through the Rural Economic Development Loan (REDL) Program from the United States Department of Agriculture via USDA Rural Development.

The cooperative will provide the funding as a pass-through loan to Edge Ag Solutions, LLC, supporting business expansion. The project is expected to help create jobs, expand business opportunities, and contribute to continued economic growth in southwest Iowa.

The USDA REDL program enables rural electric cooperatives to support local development projects by providing financing for businesses, community facilities, and infrastructure improvements that strengthen rural economies.

"Supporting economic development in our communities is an important part of our cooperative mission," said Phil Kinser, CEO with Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative. "This partnership with USDA Rural Development allows us to invest in projects that bring jobs and opportunity to our region."

By partnering with local businesses and organizations, Southwest Iowa REC continues to help build a stronger economic future for the communities it serves.

EMPLOYEE UPDATES



Kylee Fleharty

Congratulations to Mount Ayr Customer Service Representative, Kylee Fleharty for receiving her 5-year service award

Solar – Wind – All CO-Generation News

If you're considering the purchase and installation of solar, wind or any other type of co-generation, you need to contact your utility.

As of January 1, 2013, it is required by law that you contact your electricity utility prior to installing an alternate energy generator including: solar, wind turbine, waste management, resource recovery, refuse-derived fuel, agricultural crops or residue or wood-burning facility that will be connected to an electric line – to produce electricity.

The owner must provide written notification to their electric utility at least 30 days before construction or installation of the technology.

Our lineman could be seriously injured or even killed while working on the electric lines without knowing about the members' new technology.

Safety is our #1 Priority!
And .. after all – It IS the law

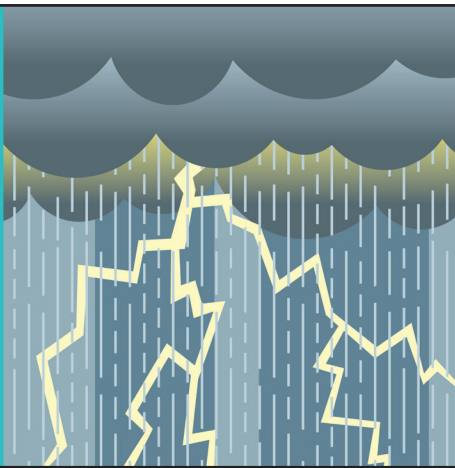
**SAFETY
FIRST,
SAFETY
ALWAYS**

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Seek shelter indoors or in a hard-topped vehicle. If you can't get to shelter:

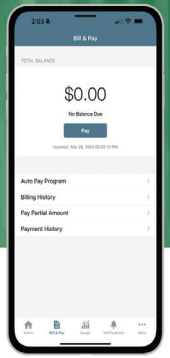
- avoid open fields and hilltops.
- stay away from tall, isolated trees and objects.
- spread out (if you're in a group).

#StormSafety



AUTO PAY

You can experience the convenience of securely automating your monthly bill.



Visit swiarec.coop/smarthub for more information.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During these warm summer months, a smart thermostat can help keep your home comfortable while reducing cooling costs. Smart thermostats learn your routine and automatically raise the temperature when you're away and cool things down before you return, avoiding unnecessary energy use. You can also adjust settings remotely from your phone, so you're never cooling an empty house. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher while you're away or asleep can lead to significant savings. Many smart thermostats provide reports and tips, helping you fine-tune your energy use and stay cool while keeping your electric bill in check.



MOVE OVER SLOW DOWN



Please make room for roadside crews

By Abby Berry

When the power goes out, so do Southwest Iowa REC's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work. We deeply care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that.

If you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask that you slow down when approaching roadside crews. If you approach a crew while traveling on a four-lane road, and safety and traffic conditions allow, we ask that you move over into the far lane.

Iowa's Move Over Law, which was established in 2002, requires motorists to change lanes to give space for vehicles stopped along the side of the road. Anyone who violates the law could face a fine of up to \$10,000.

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask that you follow the same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe.

There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways.



Berry Cheesecake Salad

Enjoy!



Ingredients

- 1 block (8 ounces) cream cheese softened
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 container (8 ounces) Cool Whip thawed
- 2 1/2 cups sliced strawberries
- 1 1/2 cups blueberries
- 1 1/2 cups raspberries
- 1/2 cup blackberries

Directions

1. In a large bowl, using an electric hand-mixer, beat the cream cheese and granulated sugar together until combined. Fold in the Cool Whip.
2. Pour the sliced strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries into the cream cheese mixture. Gently fold in fruit to combine everything. Serve immediately. Enjoy!



Like us on Facebook

**Our offices will be closed
Friday, July 3rd in observance of
Independence Day.**

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**

2248 Avenue of Industries; Box 367; Corning, IA 50841

OR **RECare – SW Iowa REC**

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



SOUTHWEST IOWA
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Find us on
Facebook

Corning

2248 Avenue of Industries., Corning, IA 50841

Mount Ayr

1502 W. South St., Mount Ayr, IA 50854

Phone Number: (888) 220-4869

Southwest Iowa REC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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