

MiNews

October 2026 Vol. 10 Issue 10
A monthly publication for members of
MiEnergy Cooperative.

A
JOURNEY
DOWN
MiRoads
WITH MEAGAN MOELLERS

Trust that spans generations

2010s: A rich past meets a new legacy

*You could
win this gift
basket*



RSVP ONLINE TODAY FOR THE FALL EVENT AT PINTER'S ON OCT. 16!



Focused on members, reliability and the future

October is National Cooperative Month, a time to celebrate what makes MiEnergy Cooperative different than other electric utilities. As a member-owned, member-governed electric cooperative, we exist to provide reliable, affordable electric service and to serve the people and communities within our service territory.

At MiEnergy, Cooperative Month also brings several annual traditions. We look forward to our membership event at Pinter's, our basket giveaway and the retirement of capital credits to eligible members.

Capital credits reflect each member's patronage, or the amount of business they do with us. When the cooperative's revenues exceed expenses, those margins are allocated back to members as capital credits. Credits are applied to a member's electric bill on a first-in/first-out and on a percentage basis as authorized by the board of directors.

For members who move away, keeping a current forwarding address on file to receive future capital credit retirements is important. Amounts left unclaimed are used to support our scholarship program. Last year, MiEnergy Cooperative awarded \$76,000 in scholarships to area high school seniors, helping invest in the future of the communities we serve.

In November, members will see information about director elections and opportunities to serve on the nominating committee. Member participation is central to the cooperative business model. Whether you have questions about your electric service, or a concern about how we have served you, please call or stop by our office to talk with someone. Our employees are here to listen, answer questions and help resolve concerns. That personal connection remains an important part of being a local electric cooperative.

October also marks the beginning of the annual budget process. We begin with our work plan and capital budget, which helps guide investments in our electric system, equipment and service reliability. After the first of the year, we finalize our operating budget, evaluating projected revenues, expenses and retail electric rates.

Wholesale power accounts for nearly 70% of our total operating expenses. We appreciate the strong performance and partnership of our wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative, in keeping rates stable. At the same time, we continue to see significant increases in the cost of materials, equipment and other items needed to maintain and improve the electric system. Many of our members are seeing similar cost pressures at home and in their businesses.

I am proud of the work MiEnergy employees do to manage expenses to minimize the impact of rising costs on our membership. We remain focused on managing costs carefully, making sound long-term investments and improving the service our members receive.

Last month, we conducted our annual membership survey by randomly selecting 400 members to share feedback on our performance, opportunities for improvement and services they would like us to consider. The results are benchmarked against other utilities and used to identify practical ways we can better serve our membership.

We also plan to start surveying members who have installed a new service. We want to hear how the process went and where we can improve. Your feedback helps our team strengthen the experience we provide, from the first service request through construction and follow-up.

October also marks the beginning of harvest season. To our agricultural members, please make safety part of every day and every task during this demanding time of year. Watch for overhead power lines, use a spotter when moving tall equipment and take the time necessary to perform your tasks to allow you to safely return home to your family.

As always, I welcome your calls, emails and personal visits. MiEnergy Cooperative is your cooperative, and your feedback helps us serve you better.

Board room highlights | Sept. 30, 2026

- CFO Hove presented the financials for August which are tracking to budget.
- Approved \$1.8 million for capital credit retirements. Eligible members will receive a credit on their bill.
- Safety and Compliance Coordinator Brad Pecinovsky provided a quarterly safety update.
- The annual meeting date was set for April 14, 2027.
- CEO Krambeer provided an update on cooperative subsidiaries.

The next board meeting is October 29 at 9 a.m. at the Cresco office.

Shine the Light winners announced

The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa are pleased to announce our 2026 Shine the Light contest winners.

- Ellen Campbell of Panora was nominated by Luann Waldo, a member-consumer of Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative. Ellen was selected as a 2026 Shine the Light winner for her work with Stitch and Chatter, a quilting club that meets regularly at First Christian Church in Panora. After retiring from Panora Schools in 2015, Ellen volunteered with Stitch and Chatter as a way to bring people together to help others. And the quilting club is working to stitch together a stronger community, one square at a time.
- Megan Gleeson of West Burlington was nominated by Kathy Wunderlich, a member-consumer and board director of Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative. Megan was selected as a 2026 Shine the Light winner for her efforts with the Rally for Reid Foundation, which she and her husband Bill founded after the tragic death of their son to childhood cancer in 2020. Rally for Reid aims to support other families impacted by childhood cancer while also raising funds for pediatric cancer research.
- Belinda Seay of Moravia was nominated by 3 member-consumers of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative:

Sharon Cunningham, Pat Merrick and Marnie Starr. Belinda was selected as a 2026 Shine the Light winner for her work with Monroe County Helping Hands, which operates a thrift shop and food bank in Albia. Belinda has volunteered with Helping Hands for 10 years and serves as the clothing supervisor in the thrift store. She was nominated because she cares for others with deep compassion.

During the month of June, member-consumers and employees of Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives were invited to nominate volunteers in their communities who are working to improve quality of life. This was the 6th year of the Shine the Light contest, designed to celebrate our cooperative commitment to community. 83 nominations were submitted from across the state, highlighting the work of many incredible Iowans. To learn more about winners visit: www.iowashinethelight.com/past-winners.





Co-op employees from TEC (left) and HREC (right) receiving honors as the Best Places to Work in 2015. The annual statewide award programs were based on critical components for organizational health including: leadership, culture, benefits and overall workplace flexibility.



A JOURNEY DOWN MiRoads

WITH MEAGAN MOELLERS

EXEMPLIFYING STRENGTH

We are proud about the future of MiEnergy Cooperative and remain very proud of our history. It was just a few generations ago, when we first electrified the rural areas.

This is the second article of the 4-part series in our newsletter emphasizing the tagline “trust that spans generations” to celebrate our 90th anniversary year.

This decade brought improvements, innovations and new programs that strengthened how we deliver electricity and services to positively impact the lives of our members. We celebrated 75 years of trusted service in 2011, were honored as Best Places to Work in 2015 and began a new legacy in 2017 when two cooperatives merged as one. Take a journey down MiRoads to revisit the decade that shined brightly.

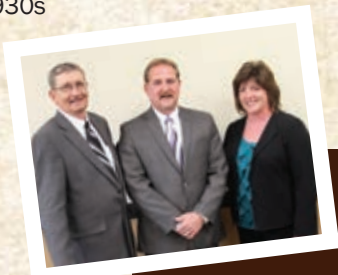
SHINING LIGHT ON THE 2010S

During this decade, Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TEC) and Hawkeye REC (HREC) preserved their histories permanently through commemorative 75th anniversary history books shared with members, local communities and libraries across their service territories. Carefully researched and written, the books connect the rich history of the early REAs to the strength of our cooperative power today. Because electricity changed so many lives, it was important to mark this milestone with something permanent to pass along to our future generations. Members and employees were interviewed who 'remembered when.' They shared firsthand memories of the 1930s and 1940s, when electric service 'turned darkness into daylight.'

A NEW LEGACY

Minnesota. Iowa. My energy. My cooperative. MiEnergy Cooperative's spelling references our historic roots as Minnesota and Iowa cooperatives. The name pronounced with a long i, demonstrates the ownership by individual members of the cooperative. **MiEnergy Cooperative is my energy cooperative.** As January 1, 2017, marked a new beginning for MiEnergy Cooperative, 2016 closed a chapter in history for HREC and TEC.

The decade also brought a new headquarters facility in Cresco, a pilot project centered on



battery storage, electric fleet vehicles and solar array initiatives.

Social media pages were developed to communicate differently with members, and a public power outage map was added to our website, along with payment options and energy use data through SmartHub.

It's the decade marked by the acquisition of Alliant Energy's Minnesota distribution assets by 12 electric cooperatives that formed the Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC).

MiEnergy announced a partnership with two local telephone cooperatives to bring fixed wireless broadband to underserved rural areas creating MiBroadband. There are plenty more accomplishments not listed here that occurred during this time period from 2010-2019. Check out the timeline on page 3 for more highlights along MiRoads.

TRUST THAT SPANS generations

Trust of the cooperative business model. Power lines **spanning** to link members together through electricity. And **generations** of employees offering quality service and satisfaction to the membership for 90 years.

It's that every day mentality by employees from sun up to sun down, rain or shine. We take care of our members by safely providing reliable, affordable and sustainable services. It's made MiRoads the best place to live since 1936. The 2010s taught us to take our rich history and combine it to live out our new legacy with all of you. After all, that's the co-op way of doing things.

Photo taken April 9, 2016, the day the merger vote was approved by members of Hawkeye REC and Tri-County Electric Cooperative. L-R: Dean Fisher, Hawkeye board president; Brian Krambeer, shared president/CEO; and Jenny Scharmer, Tri-County board chair.

What a historic year in 2016. We'd like to thank the membership for your support of the merger, creating MiEnergy. MiEnergy will balance the rich tradition of both cooperatives and focus on our statement of purpose. That rich past is imperative as we move through the present and into the future.
– Jenny Scharmer, former Tri-County board chair

I worked at STAR Energy Services from 2003–2019, contracting work for both Hawkeye and Tri-County. When the opportunity came to jump on board, I did as quickly as possible. I had worked with dozens of other cooperatives, and even before the merger, Hawkeye and Tri-County were two of the cooperatives I enjoyed working with the most. Thank you to the membership for making MiEnergy happen.
– Kent Whitcomb, vice president of member services



October is National Co-op Month Local voices shape local solutions

When you hear the word cooperative, what comes to mind? As your local electric co-op, we hope you think of MiEnergy Cooperative.

Regardless of the services offered, all cooperatives have one thing in common: they're led by the people they serve—and that simple idea makes a meaningful difference.

Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, like Ocean Spray and Land O'Lakes, help farmers bring their products to market. Retail cooperatives, like REI and ACE Hardware, are owned by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while housing cooperatives give residents a voice in managing their communities. And utility cooperatives—like MiEnergy—provide reliable electricity to the communities they serve.

Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Their goal isn't simply to earn a profit—it's to provide value, meet unique local needs and strengthen the communities they call home.

That's exactly what makes MiEnergy different.

Our story began in 1936 when neighbors came together to bring electricity to an area when other utilities wouldn't. While a lot has changed since then, our purpose has remained steady. We're still here to provide power and make decisions with our communities' best interests in mind.

Being locally owned means we have the flexibility to focus on what matters most to the communities we serve. That's why no two electric cooperatives are exactly alike. Every community has different needs, and every cooperative reflects those priorities.

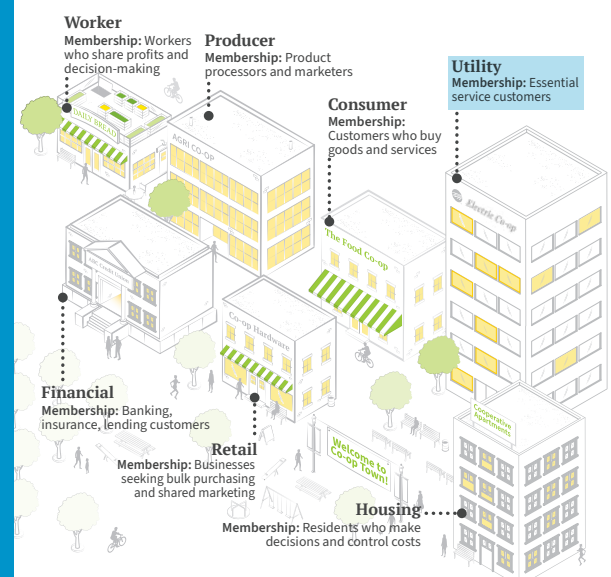
For some co-ops, that means expanding programs that

KINDS OF CO-OPS

Cooperatives come in many forms—from electric utilities and credit unions to farm supply stores and housing co-ops—but all cooperatives are built with a common purpose: to meet the needs of the members they serve.

Co-ops strengthen local communities, keep decisions close to home and invest in long-term success.

October is National Co-op Month.



help members save energy and money. Others may focus on supporting economic development, investing in new technology or creating new opportunities for local students.

You'll also find the co-op difference in the little things. It's the lineworkers restoring power after a storm. The team members answering your questions when you call. The board members—your neighbors—who help guide decisions for the future.

We're your neighbor and local energy partner, and we're committed to serving this community for generations to come.

Whether it's MiEnergy, your local credit union or ACE Hardware, cooperatives prove that when people work together, everyone benefits.

Your membership is what makes our mission possible—and it's what keeps us focused on serving the people and communities that matter most.

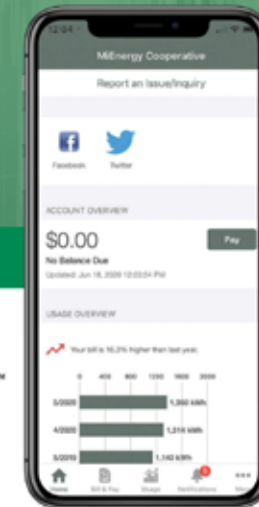


AUTOMATIC PAYMENTS

Visit www.MiEnergy.coop/smarthub for more information!

Experience the convenience of securely automating your monthly bill.

- Have your bill paid on time without having to think about it.
- Save time and money by automating your bill payments to avoid late fees and service interruptions.



The convenient and eco-friendly approach to manage your bill

and our founding cooperatives first began. Eighty years later, we are again adapting to a change in the industry and embracing technology to efficiently meet our members' needs and remain as a trusted energy

Tips for sealing ductwork for savings

If you live in a home with a forced air furnace, the biggest energy waster may be out of sight. Improve your home's efficiency and comfort by repairing and sealing ductwork.

Around 20% to 30% of the air you pay to heat or cool is lost through leaks, holes or poorly installed ductwork in the average home, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This results in wasted energy and uncomfortable homes, regardless of the thermostat setting.

Properly sealing ducts can reduce wasted energy by delivering conditioned air where you want it inside the home. If you have a room that is cold in winter and hot in summer, the culprit might be a leaky or disconnected duct.

You can seal ducts yourself or hire a professional. For a do-it-yourself approach, start with a visual inspection to determine your duct type. Most homes have flexible or metal ducts.

Ducts should be insulated when they run through unconditioned spaces, such as crawl spaces, attics and garages. If your metal ducts are insulated, you must remove the insulation to properly seal them, then reinsulate.

Flexible ducts typically have an inner and outer layer with insulation in between. The inner layer is made of bendable plastic reinforced with wire, like a stretched-out Slinky covered in plastic. The outer layer holds the insulation in place. The inner liner in flexible ducts can become brittle over time, cracking easily and causing leaks. If your inner liner is in bad shape, replace the flexible duct.

Check for any obvious disconnections, gaps, extra bends or sagging ducts. Improve airflow by using short, straight, taut runs. Avoid sags and excess turns.

Metal ductwork should be fastened together at each joint using sheet metal screws. Make sure your ducts are properly supported to keep the joints from separating over time.

For flexible ducts, use Panduit straps. These are heavy-duty nylon zip ties that offer long-term durability and a tensioning tool specifically designed to tighten them.

When it comes to sealing ducts, use products designed for the job. Seal every joint and seam using duct-sealing mastic—a thick paste that can be applied with a paintbrush or gloved hand. When it dries, mastic creates a flexible, airtight seal, eliminating duct leakage. Use mesh tape to



bridge larger gaps before applying mastic. Remove register covers inside the home to seal the joints and seams there. You also want a good seal where the duct meets drywall or flooring.

In easier-to-reach areas, you can opt to use UL-listed foil-backed tape designed for ductwork.

Do not use duct tape. Fluctuations in temperature cause the adhesive to fail.

Duct sealing is messy, so make sure to protect yourself and your home. Use drop cloths to protect flooring. Metal tape and the edges of metal ducts are sharp, so put on coated work or garden gloves underneath nitrile or latex disposable gloves. To protect

your arms, wear a long-sleeve shirt tucked into your gloves or a long sock with the toes cut out.

After air sealing, have an HVAC professional test the airflow during your next annual maintenance visit.

If you don't feel comfortable getting your hands dirty, hire a professional. Most companies that install ductwork or heating and cooling systems can also seal ducts.

Sealing your ductwork gives you peace of mind that your home is not wasting energy or introducing unhealthy air into your living space.

Miranda Boutelle writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



RECare is a consumer contribution fund in which members like you assist other members who need help paying electric bills. Consider a one-time contribution or enroll to provide monthly contributions. Call MiEnergy at 800-432-2285 for a donation form. Donation forms are also online at www.MiEnergy.coop/RECare.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDS

Minnesota members can call the office at 800-432-2285. Iowa members can call Northeast Iowa Community Action offices in Chickasaw, Howard and Winneshiek counties.

Your share of the co-op's success on your bill

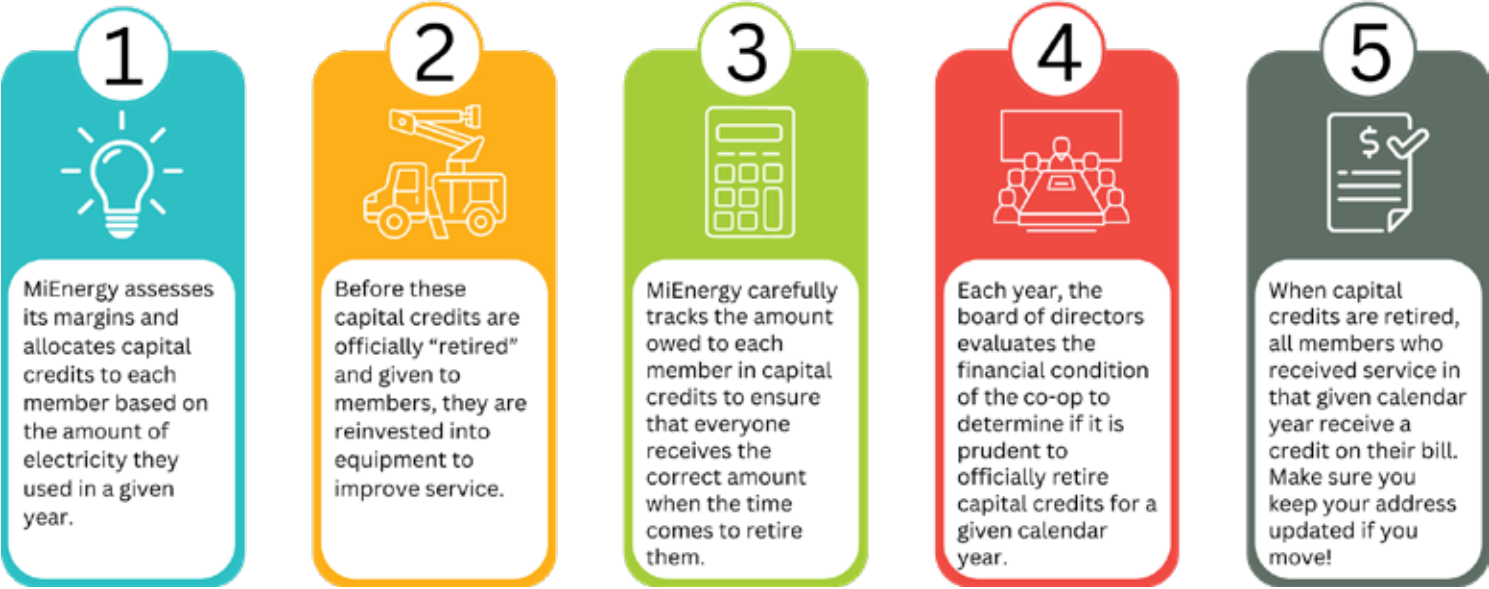
Capital credits are your share of the cooperative's "profits." Per MiEnergy's bylaws, the board of directors determines the amount of retirement each year based on the financial condition of the cooperative.

Capital credits at not-for-profit companies are similar to dividends paid by for-profit companies. The difference is the cooperative's "shareholders" are the people it serves and the dividends (capital credits) are paid only to those members.

Of the 800+ electric cooperatives across the nation, MiEnergy ranks in the top 10% in the amount of capital credits it pays back to members. The board recently approved retiring \$1.85 million in capital credits. If you purchased electricity from the co-op during 2004-2025, your credit is listed as a "Capital Credit Refund" on this month's statement. The 2002-2003 credits are a retirement from Dairyland Power Cooperative that we are passing on to members.

HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

Unlike investor-owned utilities, MiEnergy Cooperative is a not-for-profit organization that returns its profits, or "margins," back to its members. As a member, you are a part-owner of the co-op and entitled to receive money back through capital credit retirements. Here is how they work:





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Members only **FALL EVENT**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16
12 P.M. - 6 P.M.**

**PINTER'S GARDENS
& PUMPKINS**
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Decorah, Iowa

Hours of entertainment
with FREE access to
Pinter's Pumpkin Patch
activities!
Rain or shine.



Wagon rides
Jumping pillow
Corn maze
Big slides
Pedal go karts
Junior pedal go karts
Black light mini golf
Low-ropes course
Hook and ring
Sand tire hill & tire maze
Life-size chess
Skee-ball
Roller bowler
Carpetball
Corn box
Tetherball
Pumpkin bowling
Ball zone
Grain cart rides
Connect 4 golf
No right turn mazes
Photo ops
And more!



FIND THE RSVP ONLINE FORM BY
SCANNING THIS QR CODE



**RSVP online at www.MiEnergy.coop or
call 800-432-2285 by 4 p.m. Oct. 15!**

**Have your MiEnergy account number
handy. It is required for reserving tickets.**

****Residents in the city limits of Caledonia, Eitzen, Harmony, Lanesboro, Lawler, Mabel, Peterson, Rushford,
Spring Grove and St. Charles are served by their local municipal utility and are not eligible for this event.****

Didn't RSVP in time? Complete this info and bring it to the event for first-come, first-served tickets.
Your MiEnergy account number is required.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ # Tickets: _____ Ages 3 and under
Account #: _____ Ages 4+



GIFT BASKETS 2026

I ♥ Mi-Coop gift basket drawing

To show our appreciation for our members, MiEnergy is pleased to announce a gift basket drawing in honor of National Cooperative Month in October. MiEnergy will draw names to give away 50 gift baskets filled with local items to members who enter the contest. This year's basket includes: a microwave potato or popcorn bag, loose-leaf tea tin, hand-poured soy candle, custom decal, set of pumpkin plushies, lefse chips, commemorative 250th anniversary American flag keychain, fire starter and room spray. A representative from MiEnergy will deliver the baskets to each winning residence.



How to enter:

Register now by visiting www.MiEnergy.coop/giftbaskets, scanning the QR code or calling 800-432-2285. Members must provide their name, phone number, account number and service address to enter.

The contest closes on October 21. Winning members will be notified by phone on October 22. Baskets will be delivered October 26-30.

One entry per membership. Employees and directors are not eligible to enter the contest.



microwave potato or
popcorn bag
Anita Bue
Lanesboro, MN



loose-leaf tea
Grandma Sunshine's
Healing Garden
La Crescent, MN



soy candle
CountryView Crafts
& Gifts
Peterson, MN



custom decal
Rosie's Renditions
Riceville, IA



pumpkin plushies
BWilhelm Creations
Decorah, IA



lefse chips
Tiger Trail Lefse Chip Co.
Peterson, MN



American flag keychain
Bill Boards
Cresco, IA



fire starter & room spray
Sunshine & Spice Farms
Cresco, IA

MiRecipes

Family Favorites

Submit your family's favorite recipe for consideration to be printed in the January 2027 newsletter. Deadline is December 15. Send to Meagan at PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136 or email: mmoellers@MiEnergy.coop. MiRecipes will be printed quarterly in this publication. If we publish your recipe, you will receive a \$5 credit on your next electric bill. Limit one recipe published per member annually.

BUTTERSCOTCH TOFFEE COOKIES

BARB EASTVOLD, SPRING VALLEY

2 large eggs (room temperature)
½ c. oil
1 box Butter Pecan Cake Mix (dry)
1 pkg. butterscotch chips
1 pkg. milk chocolate toffee bits

Beat the eggs and oil together. Gradually add the dry cake mix. Fold in the butterscotch chips and toffee bits. Drop by teaspoon onto a parchment lined cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes. Cool for 2 minutes before removing them from the cookie sheet.

GROUND CHERRY PIE

ROSE GOETSCH, CRESCO

Crust:
1 c. flour
¼ c. powdered sugar
¼ t. salt
¼ c. butter

Heat oven to 350°. Melt butter in a 9x9" pan. Add remaining ingredients, pat smooth and bake for 12 minutes.

2 c. ground cherries (fresh or frozen)
¾ c. sugar
2 T. flour
¼ t. salt
1 t. lemon peel (optional)
½ c. sour cream
1 egg
½ t. vanilla

Mix dry ingredients, add remaining. Spread over hot crust. Bake for 40 minutes. Center should be unset. Cool completely before cutting. Makes 9 servings. This pie was originally for red rhubarb; increase sugar to 1 c. and use orange peel.

ONION RINGS

MRS. LEROY HOOVER, ALTA VISTA

1 large onion
2/3 c. milk
½ c. flour
¾ t. baking powder
¼ t. salt

Cut onion in ¼" slices. Mix batter together and dip onion rings in batter. Deep fry in hot oil at 375° for approximately 2 minutes.

A lesson every college student should learn

College students recently headed back to campuses nationwide, whether into residence halls, apartments or fraternities. Remind them it is important that they learn about electrical safety.

According to Campus Firewatch, one of the most common causes of student residence fires is overloaded extension cords and power outlets.

The limited number of electrical outlets in student rooms tempt many to use multiple extension cords and power strips, which can cause cords to overheat, creating shock and fire hazards. Student residences crammed with books, papers and bedding can allow the smallest spark to quickly become a blaze.

Steps to reduce the risk of electrical fires in student housing include:

- Purchase and use only electrical appliances and power cords which have been tested by UL and other nationally recognized testing labs.
- Do not overload extension cords, power strips or outlets.
- Never use extension cords on a continuous basis; they serve as temporary solutions only.
- Use power strips that will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.
- Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any surface, or run cords across traffic paths, under rugs or furniture.
- Use light bulbs with the correct wattage for the lamp; if no indication is on the fixture, do not use a bulb with more than 60 watts. Keep halogen lamps away from curtains, loose bedding, or other fabrics.
- Keep all electrical appliances and cords safely away from bedding, curtains and other flammable material.

Older wiring in student housing and apartments may not be able to handle the increased electrical demand of today's college student. If use of an appliance frequently causes power to trip off, or if its power cord or the outlet feels hot, disconnect the appliance immediately and report the condition to the landlord or campus housing staff.

A fire escape plan is essential. Apartment and dorm residents should know evacuation procedures and emergency exit locations in the event of a fire.

Emphasize to students that smoke detectors should never be disabled, and fire alarms should never be ignored or taken casually as a drill. If a fire alarm sounds, residents should calmly and quickly follow the practiced procedures and immediately exit the building. Apartment and dorm doors should be closed behind to prevent fire spread.

out & about in your COMMUNITY



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY - RUSHFORD

Employees walked the ditches of Highway 16 near the Rushford office to pick up litter as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program on September 10. L to R: Travis Link, Kent Whitcomb, Christian Anderson, Grady Hengel, Malachi Bunke, Dani Gorder, Wendy Jacobson, Audra Skalet, Charlie Mueller and Andy Prinsen.

CAREER DAY - CALEDONIA

MiEnergy participated in a career event organized by the Bluff Country Collaborative hosted by Caledonia Schools. Over 650 students in grades 9 through 12 attended from Caledonia, Houston, La Crescent-Hokah, Mabel-Canton, Rushford-Peterson and Spring Grove schools. Pictured are Heather Larson and Chris Horn.



CONSERVATION DAY - FORESTVILLE

MiEnergy's Jamie Breeser and Darrin Peterson spent the day at Forestville State Park on September 24 as part of the Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Conservation Day for sixth graders. Approximately 120 students from Fillmore Central, Kingsland and Rushford-Peterson attended. Jamie and Darrin presented on electric safety, tools lineworkers use to stay safe and provided a demonstration with how the co-op uses drones.



FARM SAFETY DAY - CRESCO

MiEnergy gave electric safety demonstrations to fifth grade students from Howard-Winn, Notre Dame and Riceville schools. ISU Extension and Outreach Howard County hosted the event at the Howard County Fairgrounds as part of the annual Farm Safety Day. Tom Hart and Clint Lickteig from MiEnergy provided the kids information about the dangers of electricity. The youth rotated through different farm safety educational stations throughout the day.



mienergy[™]
COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

OFFICE INFORMATION

Open Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday by appointment.
IOWA 24049 Highway 9, PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136
MINNESOTA 31110 Cooperative Way, PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PHONE NUMBERS

LOCAL 563-547-3801 (Cresco); 507-864-7783 (Rushford)
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UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING 811

ONLINE

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1 Kim Nelson and Dennis Ptacek, secretary
DISTRICT 2 Dean Nierling, chair and Ron Stevens
DISTRICT 3 Don Petersen, treasurer and Skip Wieser
DISTRICT 4 Kyle Holthaus and Carl Reicks
DISTRICT 5 Beth Olson and Jenny Scharmer, vice chair

MANAGEMENT STAFF

BRIAN KRAMBEER president/chief executive officer
SHELLY HOVE chief financial officer
JILL HUFFMAN broadband chief operating officer
STEVE OIAN vice president of electric operations
VASSIL VUTOV vice president of information technology
MIKE WALTON vice president of engineering and planning
KENT WHITCOMB vice president of member services

MINEWS STAFF

MEAGAN MOELLERS communications specialist, editor
ANNIE HOILAND communications specialist
BRENDA TESCH marketing and communications manager

2026 OFFICES CLOSED

NOV 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday
DEC 15 Employee Development Day
DEC 24-25 Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
DEC 31 New Year's Eve, close at 11 a.m.
JAN 1 New Year's Day

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't let phantom energy haunt you this October. Many electronics use electricity when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Interruptible heat test 7 a.m. Nov. 18

If you participate in MiEnergy's interruptible heating (also known as dual fuel or energy management), your system will be tested on Wednesday, November 18 beginning at 7 a.m.

At that time, the electricity powering your electric heating system will be interrupted and cause your backup heating system to operate. All power will be restored by 12 p.m.

This annual test is conducted to ensure that your backup heating system starts automatically and adequately keeps your home at a comfortable temperature during control periods this winter. The test also ensures the control equipment is functioning properly.

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Co-ops advocate for rural members

MiEnergy's Mike Walton, vice president of engineering and system planning, was one of four advocates representing Iowa's electric cooperatives in Washington, D.C., to discuss rural Iowa priorities with our elected officials.

Organized by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, the group met with Iowa's congressional delegation and key staff to discuss federal policies impacting rural electric cooperatives and the communities we serve.

The group met directly with Sen. Chuck Grassley, Sen. Joni Ernst and Rep. Zach Nunn, as well as staff from Iowa's three other congressional offices. Discussions focused on several key priorities for electric cooperatives, including FEMA reform to improve disaster response and recovery efforts, permitting reform to help streamline critical infrastructure projects, and increasing Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Electric Loan Program funding to \$12 billion in FY2027 to support continued investment in the rural electric grid.

The co-op group also highlighted the success of the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) Program, sharing examples of how the program has supported economic growth, expanded opportunities and improved quality of life in rural Iowa communities.

These meetings provided an important opportunity to strengthen relationships with federal policymakers and ensure the voice of electric cooperatives remains part of the conversation as Congress considers policies that affect rural infrastructure, economic development and the future of rural America.



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