



## O'Neill Awarded \$1,000 Basin Scholarship



Congratulations to Kaitlyn O'Neill, a senior at South Central Calhoun High School for being chosen as Calhoun County Electric Cooperative's \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship recipient.

O'Neill plans to attend Iowa State University to major in Accounting. She hopes to obtain her CPA license while in college. Kaitlyn is looking forward to a career utilizing the accounting knowledge and skill she will receive at Iowa State.

Kaitlyn has been very active in various school activities and community organizations. She is the daughter of Ryan and Amber O'Neill of rural Rockwell City. Congratulations, Kaitlyn!

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is a consumer-owned, regional generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative providing wholesale power to member rural electric systems in nine states. Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association is a Class C member of Basin.



## Backyard safety

### Stay safe this summer: Backyard electrical safety

As the weather warms, and you spend more time outdoors it's essential to prioritize electrical safety. Hidden hazards can pose serious risks. Here are some critical safety tips to keep your loved ones safe in your backyard.

#### Stay away from power lines

Overhead power lines can be closer than they appear. Teach children never to climb trees near power lines; and never to fly kites, drones, remote-controlled toys or balloons in areas where lines are present. If you see a downed power line, stay at least 50 feet away and report it to your local utility company immediately.

#### Trampoline safety

If you're considering an above-ground trampoline, remember to look up for power lines. Children jumping high into the air could come dangerously close to overhead electric lines, which pose a serious risk of shock or electrocution.

#### Water safety

Water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Keep these tips in mind to prevent electrical hazards and create a safe space for swimming, soaking and outdoor fun.

- Ensure pool lights, filters and outdoor outlets have ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection and inspect them regularly. GFCIs are designed to quickly shut off electrical power if they detect even a small change in electrical current.
- If you notice flickering lights or feel a tingling sensation in the water, exit immediately and contact a professional. Faulty wiring can cause electric shock drowning.

- Avoid using plug-in devices, like radios, speakers or chargers, near water.
- Know what to do in case of an electrical emergency. If someone is shocked, do not enter the water. Turn off the power source, call 911 and use a non-conductive tool, like a fiberglass pool pole, to assist.
- If it starts to rain, unplug electrical equipment, such as string lights, radios, speakers or power tools. Teach children not to touch electrical appliances with wet hands.

#### Outdoor sports

Sports and play areas are a haven for children, but they can also contain hidden electrical hazards. Here's how to protect your loved ones:

- Ensure swings and other tall play structures are far from overhead power lines.
- If you have outdoor lighting for night games, ensure the fixtures are weatherproof and properly installed.
- If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them never to touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call your electric utility to safely take care of it.
- Install a weather app on your phone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of the storm, so if you hear thunder, seek shelter inside.

**From poolside play to backyard sports, it's important to be aware of electrical hazards and how to avoid them.**

# Sign up for automatic payments to receive a \$10 bill credit and the chance to win a \$50 bill credit!

Take away the worry of making on time payments before summer is here! Now through May 31, 2025 everyone who signs up for automatic payments and paperless statements will receive a one-time \$10 bill credit. You will ALSO be entered to win a one-time \$50 bill credit that will be awarded to one lucky member who signs up!

Once you sign up your monthly electric bill will be automatically deducted from your checking account. To sign up, simply complete the withdrawal form by visiting [calhounrec.coop/auto-bill-pay-paperless](http://calhounrec.coop/auto-bill-pay-paperless) or scanning the QR code.

The monthly payment is deducted from your bank account on the 20th day of each month (or the following business day after a weekend or holiday). So, if you want to enjoy your summer without having to worry about your bill being paid on time, complete the form today!

If you have any questions about automatic payments or paperless statements, please call our office at (712) 297-7112. Bill credits for those who sign up before May 31, 2025, will be applied onto your June 2025 CCECA statement.

SCAN ME



## Calhoun County Electric Cooperative linemen worked to repair storm damage

As winter delivered one final blow in mid-March, CCECA crews worked long hours in some extreme conditions to have power restored to all member-owners in a timely manner.

After the storm passed and power was restored, the line crew continued to make additional repairs, including the replacement of broken or damaged poles caused by the storm (pictured below).

Thank you to our member-owners for your patience and kind words towards the line crew and office employees for their hard work and dedication during winter storms.

We encourage members to follow our Facebook page "Calhoun County Electric Cooperative Association" as we try our best to provide updates during storms and outages.

Pictured L to R: Reid Galloway, Chad Krukow, Ben Wiederin, and Jared Kuhlert  
Not Pictured: Bret McAlister and Doug LeMonds







## Spencer Selected for Youth Tour

Lillie Spencer, a sophomore at South Central Calhoun High School, has been selected to represent Calhoun County Electric Cooperative as the 2025 Youth Tour delegate to Washington D.C. Lillie will also receive a \$250 pre-paid debit card from CCECA to use while on the trip.

Lillie will join other students from across Iowa in visiting our nation's capital June 15-21, 2025. While on the trip, students will learn about the electric cooperative industry and business model and advocate for rural communities.

Lillie is the daughter of Nick and Brigitte Spencer from rural Rockwell City. Congratulations, Lillie!



2025 September CALENDAR						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

*Mark your Calendar*  
**Annual Meeting  
September 3, 2025**



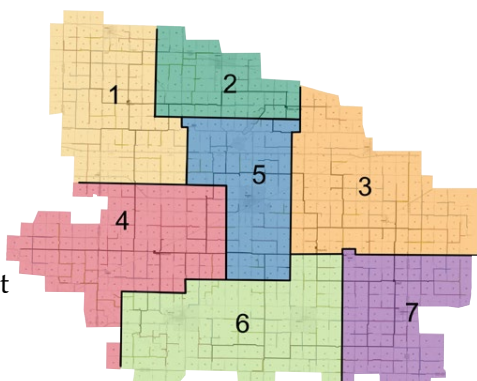
HAPPY  
**Mothers Day!**

MAY 11, 2025

## Two Positions on CCECA Board Up for Election

Two positions on Calhoun County Electric Cooperative's seven-member Board of Directors will be up for election at the September 3, 2025 annual meeting. This year the three-year terms of Darcy Maulsby (District 4) and Joe Parker (District 6) will expire. Both directors are eligible to run for another 3-year term.

If you are a member of District 4 or 6 and are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, contact CEO, Keaton Hildreth, at 712-297-7112.



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

*Source: energy.gov*



## Pole Testing Reminder

The pole testing treatment and replacement program is happening now.



This spring Star Energy Services will be testing around 1,800 poles for the Cooperative.

Don't be alarmed if someone starts digging around CCECA's poles.

Star Energy Services is testing poles in the following four townships: Butler, Williams, Sherman, and Garfield. Since 2003, 27,124 poles have been inspected and 419 have been replaced.



### SUMMER OFFICE HOURS ALERT

Our summer office hours will begin **Monday, June 2, 2025.**

**Monday - Thursday**  
7:30 AM to 4:30 PM

**Friday**  
7:30 AM to 11:00 AM

## May Member Challenge

- Where is the Basin scholarship winner planning to attend college?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Sign up for automatic payments to receive a \$\_\_\_\_\_ bill credit and the chance to win a \$\_\_\_\_\_ bill credit.
- There are \_\_\_\_\_ positions up for election on the CCECA Board of Directors.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Find the answers within the stories, features, and content of this newsletter and you could win a prize. Send your answer to [memberchallenge@calhounrec.coop](mailto:memberchallenge@calhounrec.coop), clip and mail to: Calhoun County Electric Cooperative, PO Box 312, Rockwell City, IA 50579 or submit on our website: [www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop). You may mail your entry along with your electric bill payment, but remember there is a deadline! Entries for this issue **must be received by June 1st**. Three names will be drawn from all correct entries. Members will receive a **\$10 credit** on their account. Members who answer the questions correctly and participate at least three times throughout the year will be eligible for a \$100 bill credit, through a random drawing, at the end of the year.

*Congratulations to the February member challenge winners:  
Terry Ewing, Ron Haden, and Mike & Laurie Barrett*

## Reach Us

### REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
(Monday-Friday)

### SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-Th  
7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. F  
(Memorial Day-Labor Day)

### CONTACT US 24/7:

**General Phone:**  
(712) 297-7112

### Toll Free:

(800) 821-4879

### Visit us online:

[www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop)

### Email:

[info@calhounrec.coop](mailto:info@calhounrec.coop)

### DIRECTORS:

Jim Miller, President – Fonda

Steve Boedecker,  
Vice President – Rockwell City

Jason McKenney,  
Secretary – Somers

Duane Beschoner,  
Treasurer – Lohrville

Darcy Maulsby – Lake City

Joe Parker – Lohrville

Steve Pelz – Manson

Keaton Hildreth, CEO



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

**CALL 811**

**IOWAONECALL.COM**

### EASY WAYS TO PAY BILL:

**Online:** Access through  
[www.calhounrec.coop](http://www.calhounrec.coop) and pay  
online 24/7.

**Mobile App:** Download our app

**Auto Bill Pay (ACH):** Deduct  
from your bank account. Find  
the form on our website or stop  
by the office

**Phone:** Call the office and  
make a payment over the  
phone with a card or checking  
account.

**Outside Drop Box/  
Front Counter:**

Rockwell City, IA

**U.S. Postal Mail**

This institution is an equal  
opportunity provider and employer.