

living with energy

IN IOWA



JUNE 2016

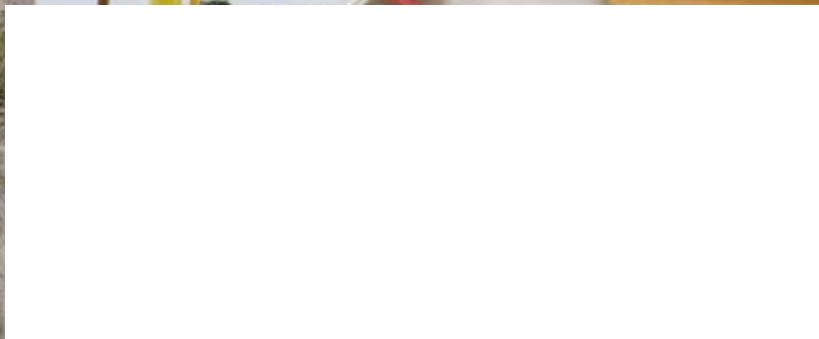
What's an
office worker
doing in the
bucket?

Win a pair of
two-way radios
with headsets!
See page 5

**Ask these
questions**
before hiring a
solar contractor

It's time to
**plan a
family
picnic**

Caulk
energy-wasting
air leaks in
your home



New Employee

SIEC welcomes new lineman!



SIEC would like to welcome Zach Fligg as our newest apprentice lineman. Zach graduated from Davis County High School and completed the Lineman Program at

Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon. He previously was employed by Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative.

Zach and fiancé Lincoln Silvers live in Bloomfield. In his free time, Zach enjoys outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing – and spending time with his friends. ⚡



Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Our mission is to serve our members and community by safely providing reliable and environmentally responsible power and other services efficiently and at a competitive price to benefit members and improve the quality of life in the areas that we serve.

Office: 22458 Highway 2, P.O. Box 70, Bloomfield, IA 52537-0070

Phone: 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027

Phone Payments: 800-927-5341

Report Outages: 800-607-2027

Call Before You Dig – Iowa One Call: 800-292-8989

Website: www.sie.coop

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

Management

Greg Proctor, COO

Jo Altheide, CFO/Key Accounts Manager

Lori McAllister, CCO/Member Services Manager

Lindsay Smith, Office Manager

Ross Hunter, Systems Analyst

Board of Directors

Darrell Downing, President Travis Harris

David Hopkins, Vice President Earl Trachsel

Joy Evans, Secretary Paul Wells

Dave Yahnke, Treasurer Ben Koellner

Fred Zeitler

What to Do in Case of Trouble

- ▶ Check for blown fuses or tripped breakers.
- ▶ Check with your neighbors. Ask if their electricity is off and whether they have reported the outage. If not, call Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., and report the problem 24 hours a day: 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027.

Service Charges

ACH (Electronic Payment).....	No Charge
Bill Collection.....	\$50
Meter Tampering.....	\$150
Overtime Service Call.....	\$150
Disconnect.....	\$50
Posting.....	\$50
Returned Check.....	\$30
Reconnect.....	\$75
Trip Charge.....	\$50

In the News

SIEC Awards three \$2,000 scholarships

Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., recently awarded three \$2,000 scholarships to area high school seniors. In order to have been considered for the academic scholarships, a student must be a high school senior; the parent/guardian(s) must be a member of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative; the student must be accepted by an accredited 2- or 4-year college, university or vocational-technical school in the fall of 2016; and the student must be a U.S. citizen.

The winners of the 2016 Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative Academic Scholarships are:

- **Sara Lawson**, who is a graduate of Davis County High School, the daughter of Lonnie and Sue Lawson of Bloomfield and planning to



attend Simpson College.

- **Dalton Probasco**, who is a graduate of Moulton Udell High School, the son of John and Brenda Probasco of Moulton and planning to attend Iowa State University.



- **Sophie Rotole**, who is a graduate of Davis County High School, the daughter of David and Jennifer Rotole of Bloomfield and planning to attend Iowa State University.



Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative would like to congratulate all of the students who applied for the 2016 Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative Scholarships. We wish you all well in your future endeavors. ⚡

How Your Co-op Works

Get to know a director of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc.



NAME: Dave Hopkins.

MY FAMILY: Wife, Becky; daughter, Dusti; son, J.T.; and four grandchildren.

OCCUPATION: Farmer and lamb buyer.

MY FIRST JOB: Sale barn employee.

ONE THING I ALWAYS HAVE IN MY REFRIGERATOR: Gallon of milk.

SOMEONE I ADMIRE: My two grandfathers.

OUTSIDE INTEREST: Golf, golf and more golf.

RECOMMENDED READING: Sherlock Holmes.

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Any golf course.

SOMETHING NOT EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT ME: I enjoy doing crossword puzzles.

WHAT'S ONE THING YOU LEARNED ABOUT SIEC AFTER BECOMING A DIRECTOR THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE? That I didn't know anything about the business.

WHAT'S HARD ABOUT BEING A COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR? Balancing between fairness to members and having a healthy cooperative.

WORDS TO LIVE BY: Always keep a smile on your face. ⚡

There are many benefits to choosing an electric water heater

Most people don't think much about water heaters. They take for granted that the appliances make it possible to have hot showers, clean dinner dishes and enjoy load upon load of freshly laundered linens. The lonely water heater, tucked away in the basement or a utility closet, is out of sight and out of mind.

There are times, however, when your attention turns to this most essential of appliances, like when the water heater breaks – “Brrr. That water is cold!” – or when building or renovating a home.

At those times, you'll need to make a decision with consequences that may persist for a decade or two – and maybe longer. Your water-heating choice will have implications for energy efficiency, cost of use, the environment, safety and reliability. As a trusted energy advisor, Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., can help you make the right decision.

As a member-owner of the cooperative, you might already know about many of the advantages and benefits of electric water heaters.

- Electric water heaters are safe. There's no threat of carbon monoxide poisoning, combustion or explosion.
- Electric water heaters are environmentally friendly and capable of using electricity generated from solar, wind, hydro and other renewable sources.
- Electric water heaters are easy to install, requiring no expensive gas lines, exhaust flue or on-site fuel tanks. Compared to other fuels, the cost of electricity is stable.
- Electric water heaters are emerging as a building block of the future electric grid. These formerly

mundane units are evolving into smart appliances and energy storage units that are helping the grid become more stable and more efficient. By heating water when demand for electricity is low and storing the thermal energy for later use, electric water heaters can save you money.

Not everyone acknowledges the superiority of electric water heaters. In the coming months, you might see television commercials or other advertisements that will try to sell you on the merits of propane water heaters. A propane marketing group is behind the campaign, and there's no telling what kind of claims they'll make. The fact is that propane is a fossil fuel, and prices tend to fluctuate wildly. If you install a propane heater today,

you'll live with the consequences and risks for years to come. That's the inconvenient truth.

If you have questions about water heater options or other energy efficiency needs, give us a call at 800-607-2027. At Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, we're here to be your trusted energy source. ⚡



Win a pair of extended-range two-way radios

Remember using walkie-talkies when you were a kid? They were more toys than useful communication devices, and you'd be lucky to talk to someone across the yard.



These Midland GX-T1000VP4 Family Radio Service radios have a maximum range up to 36 miles when there are no obstructions, so you can stay connected at work or play. The radios are waterproof, include NOAA weather alert channels and have 285 privacy codes for up to 6,270 channel options that help block other conversations. The kit includes two radios with rechargeable batteries, a desktop charger, AC and DC adapters, and a pair of boom-style microphone headsets.

Retail price is about \$90, and you can find more information or order here: www.midlandusa.com.

Visit our website, and win!

To enter this month's contest to win a pair of extended-range two-way radios, just fill out the entry form at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com by June 30, 2016.

You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winner of the 16 solar-powered walkway lights in the April issue was Josh Gropper, a member of Grundy County REC.

Office Closing

SIEC's office will be closed on Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Install a programmable thermostat

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average family can save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs by simply turning the thermostat back 7-10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day. Of course, remembering to change the thermostat every time you go to bed or leave for work is a hassle, so why not install a programmable thermostat?

Prices range from around \$25 for a



basic unit to \$250 or more for one that automatically adjusts to your family's schedule. In most cases, a new thermostat will pay for itself through energy savings in less than a year – 2 years at most for the top-of-the-line units.

Premium units like the Honeywell Lyric Round Wi-Fi Thermostat (shown) and the Nest

Thermostat include features that were unthinkable just a few years ago. You can control the device from anywhere with a smart phone

via your home's Wi-Fi network, receive alerts about system problems and have the 68 degrees you set really feel like 68 degrees, because the thermostat considers both temperature and humidity to maintain your comfort. Many thermostats are designed for do-it-yourself installation. Just turn off the power to your heating and cooling system, remove the old thermostat and attach the existing system wires to the correct terminals on the new thermostat. However, if the wires aren't color-coded or the new thermostat requires additional wires, call a professional installer for help. ⚡

"Awww Mom, Just one more basket..."

Does your child know the dangers of remaining outside during an electrical storm? *Lightning is dangerous and impossible to predict.* Teach your loved ones to move indoors before tragedy strikes. Shoot for safety.

TLC

Teach what you know.
Learn what you need to.
Care enough to share it.

Safe *Learn more at:*
Electricity.org

Safety Matters

**ALWAYS
CALL
811
BEFORE YOU
DIG**

Know what's below:
One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense. Go online to call811.com for more information.

**IOWA 811
ONE CALL** SM