Hawkeye REC News

May 2008

The Power Is Yours

The bulb that keeps going, and going and going...

What does the year 1901, a 4-watt light bulb and 1 million hours have in common? An amazing story of a light bulb that has been burning for 107 years, setting a world record. The special bulb is the pride and joy of the firefighters at the Livermore, California firehouse Station No. 6. The light bulb originally illuminated light on horse-pulled carts that carried water to fires. It was left on all the time so the firefighters would not have to fumble with lighting the wicks on their kerosene lanterns.

The bulb was manufactured by the Shelby Light Company of Shelby, Ohio. The bulb has far outlived the company which closed in 1914. The famous bulb has been featured in the book "On the Road with Charles Kuralt", the Guinness World Records, Ripley's Believe It Or Not, receives annual birthday wishes from radio legend Paul Harvey and even has its own website and webcam (www.centennialbulb.org).

So what's the secret?

There are many theories, but it is suspected that the bulb has burned so long because it never gets switched on and off.

"How many fireman does it take to change a light bulb in Livermore? None, it never needs changing."

May is National Electric Safety Month

Parents, Caregivers Urged to Help Protect the Smallest Among Us

Inquisitive youngsters with little fingers are constantly exploring the world around them. Sometimes their curiosity can connect them with danger.

Each year, 2400 children - an average of seven children per day - are treated in emergency rooms for injuries caused by inserting objects into electrical outlets, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Eighty-nine percent are under the age of six, with the highest risk group being boys age two to three. Most often these accidents happen at home with everyday household items such as hairpins, keys, and paperclips. Injuries vary from minor to serious burns, and some contacts prove fatal.

Plastic outlet caps offer an inexpensive form of protection, but some toddlers and pre-school age children can manage to remove them and adults often forget to replace the caps after using an outlet, leaving it open for young fingers to explore. The new tamper-resistant outlets offer constant protection.

Tamper-resistant receptacles have built-in shutter systems that prevent single-pronged objects like hairpins from being inserted. Unlike plastic outlet caps, the new receptacles are permanent, automatic, and reliable. They install just like standard outlets and are only slightly more expensive to purchase.

The new receptacles do not replace ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and should be used in conjunction with them. GFCIs sense the leakage of current to ground and immediately shut off

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Value of Electricity

"Our vision is to provide access to safe, dependable and affordable electric services."

Tom Miller
General Manager

You should have received 2 Free Compact Fluorescent light bulbs in the mail. Please visit the REC office if you did not receive yours.

"Thank you for the light bulbs. We have used CFL's since they came out and we love them!"

–Duane Eiffler

"This month I want to personally thank you for going the extra mile and sending out those free compact fluorescent light bulbs. I have already installed the bulbs and notice a difference in the lighting intensity in my trailer. I should be saving on energy and changing bulbs less often. Thank you again for all the good work you do."

–Ron Munsterman

Energy Efficiency – "Just do it!"

Changing Your Behavior

Hopefully, most of you understand that energy efficiency is the reduction of your electricity use. It is consuming less electrical energy in order to stretch out the capacity of existing power production. Also, I hope you realize that having our federal or state legislature enact energy efficiency bills is a sure fire way to have utilities enforce your reduced consumption through regulation. It's having someone other than you change your behavior. That just doesn't seem right.

2008 Scholarships

This year we had 31 applicants for scholarships. We use unclaimed patronage capital to fund these scholarships. As a part of the application process, our essay question was "How does Hawkeye REC promote energy efficiency and what more can your cooperative and cooperative members do to promote energy efficiency?" I was totally impressed by some of the suggestions. Listed below are paraphrased responses:

- Advertise more about energy efficiency
- "Just do it" (NIKE's motto)
- Offer energy efficiency classes in school
- Continue promoting the "Wait 'Til Eight" program
- Do a better job of "timing" your consumption (improve power plant efficiency)
- Do more "little things" as they add-up over time
- Spend more time together as a family like playing board games (being together enables a more energy efficient lifestyle)
- Use more water towers for storage rather than on-demand pumping
- We all have to do our part
- Advertising campaign; put conservation on everything we use, everywhere we go, everything we see and read; having that constant reminder to conserve
- Be informed; increase your awareness
- Compare product consumption and know usage facts
- Assist members in making these energy efficient changes
- Use billboards as reminders (non-electric billboards)
- Understand the generational differences in consumption
- Reduce cell phone usage
- Use more natural lighting

The Focus on Energy Efficiency

I have two more student's comments to share with you. Both of these comments capture the essence of energy efficiency:

"No one wants to change the way they live."

"Society is the key to the success of this movement."

Now I ask you, if two seniors in high school can figure out the concept of energy efficiency, how are you going to change the way YOU live and do YOUR part? What can Hawkeye REC do to help?

Contractors

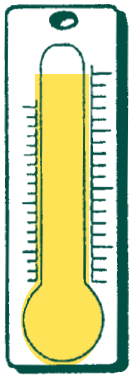
The following contractors will be working throughout Hawkeye's service territory during the next month. Please call the REC office if you have any questions.

Acculine:
Gathering GPS data and staking lines using ATV's and pickups. They will be working late nights and possibly even weekends.

Highline Construction:
Rebuilding power lines in Saratoga and Chester Townships.

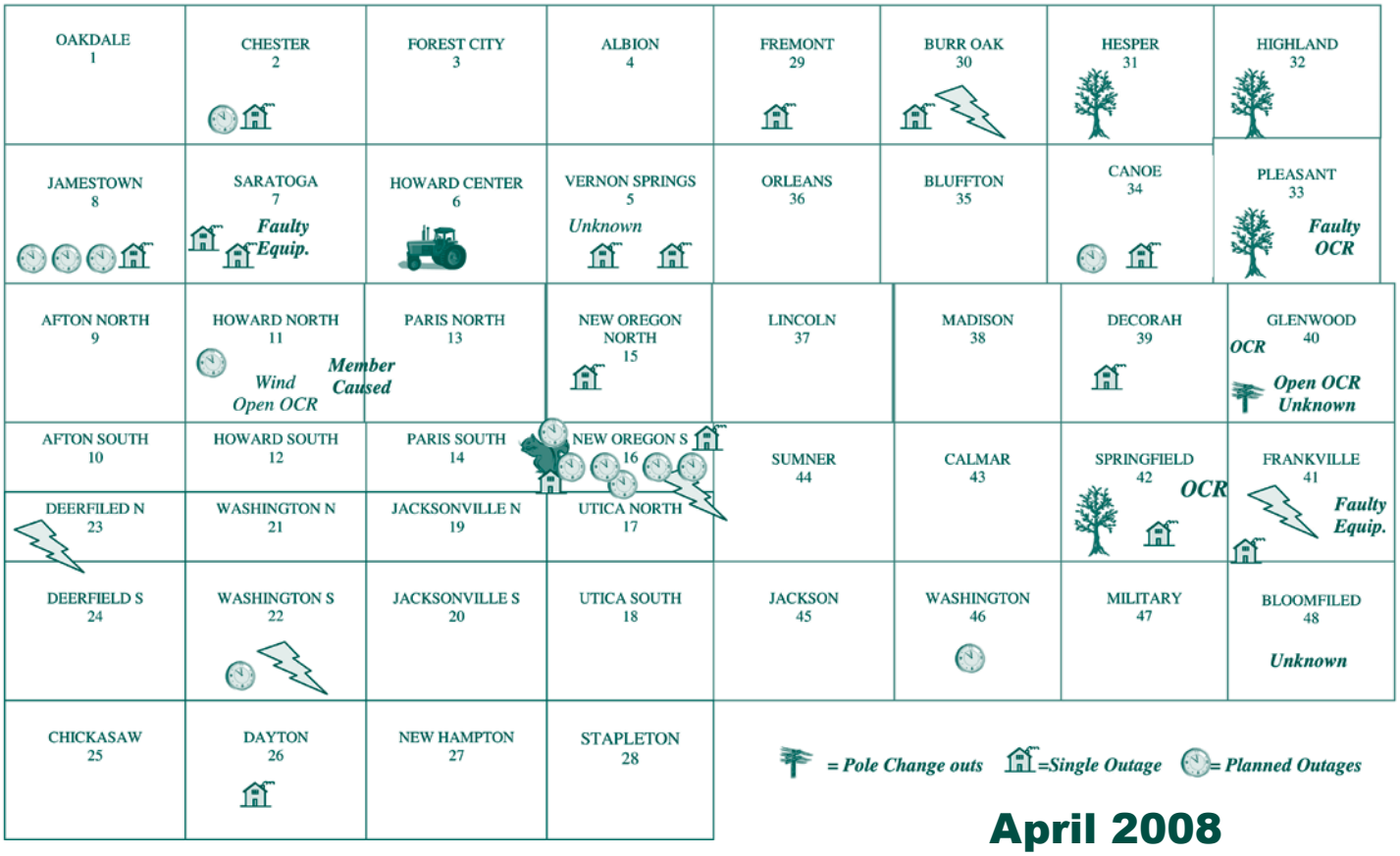
Community Tree Works:
Cutting trees throughout our service territory.

AMR Meters Goal - 7,085 meters!



6,908 so far...

Map of Outages



April 2008

Have you experienced an outage lately?

How would you recognize a pipeline leak?

Although pipeline leaks are rare, knowing how to recognize and respond to a possible leak is a key component in pipeline safety. Trust your senses. You may recognize a pipeline leak by:

- Sight: Liquid pools, discolored or abnormally dry soil, continuous bubbling in wet or flooded areas, an oily sheen on water surfaces, and vaporous fogs or blowing dirt around a pipeline area can all be indicative of a pipeline leak. Dead or discolored plants in an otherwise healthy area of vegetation or frozen ground in warm weather are other possible signs.
- Sound: Volume can range from a quiet hissing to a loud roar depending on the size of the leak.
- Smell: An unusual smell, petroleum odor, or gaseous odor will sometimes accompany a pipeline leak. Natural gas is odorless and remains so during transit to the distribution facilities where odorants are added to the gas to impart a distinct odor.

–Source: Iowa OneCall

Use your Senses!

Sealed Bids

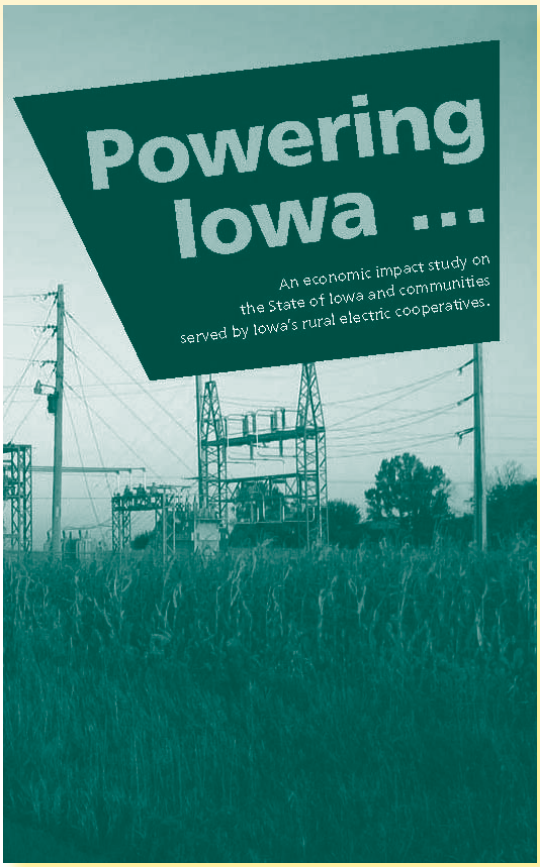
The following sealed bids from last months' newsletter were opened on May 13 and the winning amounts are as follows:

POLARIS BIG BOSS 6X6	$2760
CUSHMAN TRACKSTER	$1120
3 OIL DRUMS	$80 EACH
TIN BUILDING	$480
CHAIN SAW STIHL 024AV	$60
CHAIN SAW STIHL 026	$150
CHAIN SAW HUSQVARNA	$212
GENERATOR HOMELITE LRE	$150
GENERATOR EX-CELL	$352
GENERATOR VANGUARD-DYNA	$565

Electric Safety Month...

(continued from cover)

power, preventing electrocution. Devices with both components are available and should be used in any areas where moisture is an issue, such as bathrooms, kitchens, and basements. A qualified electrician should be consulted if you have any questions.



Iowa's electric cooperatives add $1.1 billion to local economies

Iowa's electric cooperatives make an impressive economic impact in each of Iowa's 99 counties – a statistic that not many private sector organizations can even boast. According to a recent economic impact study titled, "Powering Iowa," electric cooperatives generated about $1.1 billion of output into Iowa's economy. This is up 23 percent from 2003, and represents the growth that occurred in Iowa's Gross Domestic Product, just from the electric cooperatives.

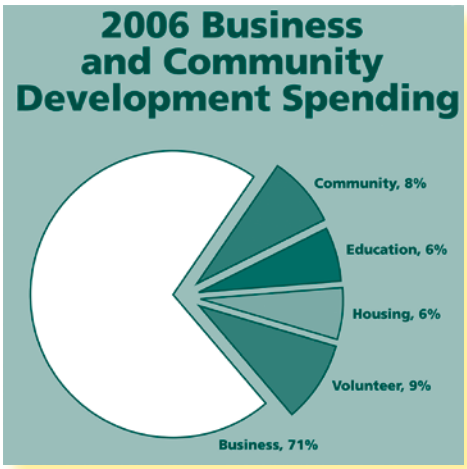
The findings are the outcome of a study of the economic impact Iowa's electric cooperatives have on community and business development programs, charitable donations, community investments and volunteer activities.

Contributing to the growth and development of the communities we serve is a part of the cooperatives' core business structure. Cooperatives have strength in numbers and work together to grow and develop the regions we serve.

Iowa's electric cooperatives invested money back into their communities, contributing over $17 million statewide to support business and community development programs. In addition electric cooperatives:

- Managed a $679 million business that directly affected the jobs of 6,900 and generated $176 million in local income
- Leveraged $6.8 million in grants and loans into a $220 million impact on local business investment
- Provided financial and technical support for 44 wind turbines in their local areas with a capacity to generate 38 megawatts of power. Regionally, Iowa's electric cooperatives provided some economic support for 350 megawatts of power
- Invested $11.7 million in energy efficiency programs and services and saved member-consumers more than $18 million.

The survey was conducted by the IAEC in partnership with Strategic Economics Group, based in Des Moines. Strategic Economics Group was founded in 2001 by Harvey Siegelman and Daniel Otto. Siegelman served as Iowa's state economist for 20 years and Otto is a professor of economics at Iowa State University.

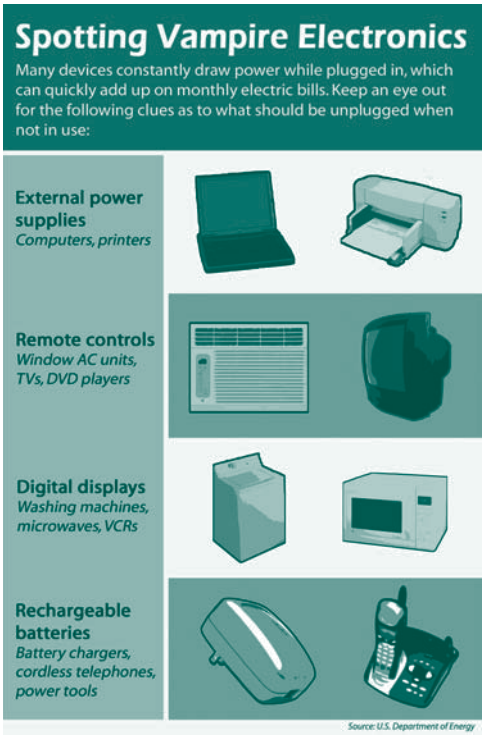


"Cooperatives have strength in numbers and work together to grow and develop the regions we serve."

The COOPERATIVE Difference!

Hunting down vampire electronics

Most homes these days never quite shut down for the night. Although lamps may be off, dark rooms are typically spotted with tiny red and green lights of appliances and the glow of digital clocks.



All of those little lights, clocks, and seemingly "sleeping" appliances, however, are using more electricity than most would think. Sometimes called vampire electronics, these devices suck up 5 percent of all energy used in the United States and cost consumers more than $3 billion every year.

For the average homeowner, vampire electronics can add 20 percent to monthly electric bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. To trim this excess energy use, you need to know where these vampires reside and keep them in check.

Take a closer look at appliances around your home. Those that use remote controls such as TVs, DVD players, ceiling fans, and stereos are suspect. Any digital displays, such as microwave and coffee machine clocks, are working against your electric bill. And many of those chargers around the house–those that keep cell phones, power tools, and MP3 players ready–constantly draw power when plugged in.

Unplugging these vampires effectively drives a stake into their energy-consuming hearts. Power strips provide another way to thwart them. Simply plug appliances into a power strip, and switch it off when those appliances aren't being used.

In addition, unplug any battery-operated electronic device once charged. You wouldn't walk away from a flowing water hose, and you certainly don't want to keep feeding those vampires.

–Scott Gates, NRECA

Commitment to Community

Do you have a burned-out CFL bulb?

Your cooperative is an authorized drop-off site for burned-out CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs). There is a recycling bucket that will be sent to the recycling center where the mercury that each CFL contains can be safely collected and reused. Please bring any broken CFLs in a sealed plastic bag.

It is important to contact your local legislators to encourage providing public recycling locations for CFLs in Iowa. Some of our neighboring states already provide this type of service.

NOTE: We do not accept fluorescent tube bulbs.

Recipes...

Gourmet sandwich recipes

Send or e-mail your favorite recipe.
If we print your recipe in our newsletter you'll receive $5 off your next electric bill.
E-mail to: mmoellers@hawkeyerec.com

June – Cooking for a crowd

July – Homemade pizza recipes

All recipes can be found on our website.

Chicken Cheese Sandwiches

3 c. cooked chicken
¼ c. lemon juice
½ c. mayo
¼ c. celery (diced)
Chopped onion
1 t. salt
¼ lb. Velveeta cheese (cubed)

Mix together and put in crock pot. Serve on buns when cheese melts.

Donna Rue – Ridgeway

Hot Turkey Sandwich

10-12 lbs. turkey (cooked and cut up)
2 lbs. Jimmy Dean Sausage
2 lbs. seasoned bread crumbs
1 box (8 servings) Uncle Ben's wild rice with seasoning (prepared)
4 sticks celery (chopped)
1 med. onion (chopped)
6 cans chicken broth or cream-of-chicken (or can mix soups)

Cook sausage, onion and celery in skillet, then mix all ingredients together. Add more broth of water if you think it's too dry. Serve on buns. Mixture can be frozen. Chicken can also be used.

Janice Dougherty – Waukon

Crescent Chicken

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
3 T. melted margarine
2 c. cooked, cubed chicken
¼ t. salt
1/8 t. pepper
2 T. milk
1 whole onion, finely chopped, sautéed in margarine
1 egg, beaten
¾ c. bread crumbs
8 oz. refrigerated crescent rolls

In a medium bowl, blend cream cheese and 2 T. margarine until smooth. Add cooked onion, chicken, salt, pepper and milk. Mix well. Separate crescent dough and spread blended egg (with a brush) on one side of the dough. Pour chicken mixture on the dough and close. With a brush, spread egg over crescent roll and cover with bread crumbs. Place on greased cookie sheet and bake for 20-25 minutes at 350° or until golden brown.
Filling is good in a grilled sandwich.

Geraldine Otto – Lime Springs

Santa Fe Pork Tenderloin Sandwich

1 small pork tenderloin, about ¾ pound
¼ c. fine cornflake crumbs
1 t. paprika
1 t. chili powder
½ t. ground cumin
½ t. onion powder
¼ t. salt
1 T. vegetable oil
4 large sandwich buns

1. Cut tenderloin on the diagonal into 1/2-inch-thick pieces. Put each piece between two pieces of waxed paper or plastic wrap and gently, with heel of hand, press tenderloin pieces to 1/8-inch thickness.
2. In shallow bowl blend well cornflake crumbs, paprika, chili powder, cumin, onion powder and salt.
3. Heat oil in large nonstick skillet over high heat. Coat each tenderloin piece on with cornflake crumb mixture. Brown well on each side.
4. Serve on sandwich buns with sliced tomato, lettuce and sliced avocado.

Serves 4.

DATES TO REMEMBER

BILLING CYCLE DATES

May 25	**Member reads meter and records on payment voucher. Please mail your bill today to make sure it arrives to Hawkeye by the 1st of June.**
May 28	**Automated payments from checking accounts and credit/debit cards are processed.**
June 1	**Bills become delinquent.**
June 12	**Hawkeye REC prints bills based on May meter reading.**
June 13	**Bills are mailed to members from NISC in St. Louis.**

OTHER EVENTS

May 23	**Hawkeye REC Board Meeting**

The value of $5

The price you pay to go 'out for lunch' would provide electricity for the average home for 1 day.

Lunch:
$5.00

Electricity for 1 Day:
$5.00

The value of Electricity

Hawkeye REC
The Power Is Yours

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Hawkeye REC
The Power Is Yours

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