

# Southwest Lines

A monthly publication for members of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative

Corning | Mount Ayr | Stanton

June 2024

**Southwest Iowa REC would like to congratulate our 2024 scholarship winners!  
\$500 scholarships were awarded to seventeen high school graduates**



**Dillon James Starlin, Creston**  
Son of Cody Starlin and Amy Starlin. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College for Associate of Science then transfer on for a biochemistry major.



**Reece Kinsella, Creston**  
Daughter of Marilyn & Jason Kinsella. Plans to attend South Dakota State University to major in Agriculture Business.



**Dakota Reynolds, Griswold**  
Daughter of Denny & Sue Reynolds. Plans to attend the University of Iowa for Human Physiology.



**William Bolinger, Creston**  
Son of Wade & Angela Bolinger. Plans to attend Iowa State University for mechanical engineering.



**Hailey Rydberg, Red Oak**  
Daughter of David & Amy Rydberg. Plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University to major in elementary education.



**Karly Millikan, Griswold**  
Daughter of Shad & Anita. Plans to attend Iowa Western Community College for pre-nursing and general studies.



**Birk Wills, Mount Ayr**  
Son of Craig & Brenda Willis. Plans to attend Iowa State College of Agriculture majoring in agriculture studies.



**Ella Peterson, Stanton**  
Daughter of Bob & Kimberly Peterson. Plans to attend Iowa State University



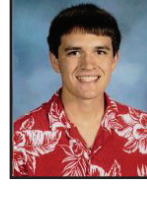
**Dayna Robinson, Lenox**  
Daughter of Jeremy Robinson and Jenny Robinson. Plans to attend Iowa State University majoring in business.



**Colton Dredge, Mount Ayr**  
Son of Clint & Allison Dredge. Plans to attend DMACC for HVACs.



**Alli Baker, Stanton**  
Daughter of Brenda & Carl Baker. Plans to attend Southwest Community College to earn an Associate of Art.



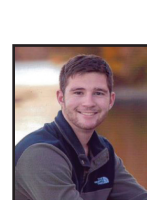
**Ethan James, Southwest Valley**  
Son of Todd James and Katie James. Plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University to major in Agriculture Business with a minor in Banking and Finance.



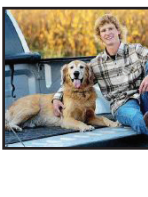
**Carter Mueller, Mount Ayr**  
Son of Frank & Cathy Mueller. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College to earn an Associate of Science in Welding.



**Linsey Keiser, Griswold**  
Daughter of Trevor & Krisi Keiser. Plans to attend Iowa Western Community College or Creighton University.



**Owen Paul, Southwest Valley**  
Son of Travis & Julia Paul. Plans to attend South Dakota State University to major in Animal Ecology.



**Brayden Maeder, Southwest Valley**  
Son of Derek & Sarah Maeder. Plans to attend Southwestern Community College to major in building trade and construction.



**Carly Green, Southwest Valley**  
Daughter of Jason & Tonya Green. Plans to attend South Dakota State University to major in Agronomy.

*★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Congratulations!  
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# Annual Meeting Information & Election Process



**Phil Kinser CEO**

The 21st Annual Meeting of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative will be held at the Lenox Community Center on September 5, 2024. A major item of business at this meeting will be the election of four (4) directors to a term of three (3) years. The following information on the director election process and qualifications comes from the Bylaws of the Cooperative.

There shall be two (2) numbered Geographic Regions for the Cooperative, each of which shall be divided into four (4) Districts, and election of directors shall be by such districts, with one (1) director representing each District. In addition, two (2) at-large directors will be elected, one (1) from each Region. Directors shall reside in and receive service from the Cooperative at a location within the district (or Region in the case of at-large directors) they are elected to represent. The geographic area of each Region shall initially be as set forth in the Plan of Consolidation of Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative, and revised as necessary by the Board of Directors. The district boundaries shall be described hereafter in these Bylaws of the Cooperative and shown on a map of the cooperative service area, with such description and map maintained at all offices of the Cooperative and kept available to members.

Any member of the Cooperative shall be eligible to become a director if said member has a legal capacity to enter into a binding contract and said member's election as a director would not violate any other provision of the Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative.

**Additional Director Qualifications.** In addition to the foregoing, No Member shall be eligible to become or remain a Director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who:

- (1) within five (5) years preceding a director candidate's nomination was or during service on the Board of Directors is finally adjudged to be guilty of a felony;
- (2) within five (5) years preceding a director candidate's nomination was an employee of the Cooperative or the spouse of an employee of the Cooperative;
- (3) is or becomes, or at any time during the five (5) years preceding a director candidate's nomination shall have been, employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative;
- (4) is a grandparent, parent, co-habitant, child, or grandchild of an employee of the Cooperative;
- (5) is a person that is a grandparent, parent, co-habitant, child, or grandchild of an incumbent director whose district seat is not up for re-election at that time;

(6) is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business;

(7) is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another director;

(8) is engaged in conduct that is a violation of law or violation of a Cooperative policy or policies, or whenever a director has materially failed to satisfy his/her duties as a director, including the duty to regularly attend meetings of the Board of Directors; or

(9) is employed by, materially affiliated with, or has a financial interest in, any individual or entity possessing a conflict of interest with the Cooperative or a Cooperative subsidiary.

For purposes of this Section, financially interested shall not include beneficial ownership of less than 5% of the bonds or the combined voting power of all issued and outstanding voting securities of a publicly held corporation whose stock is traded on a major stock exchange or quoted on NASDAQ.

In regard to the restrictive provisions of this Section that are based upon close relative relationships, no incumbent director shall lose eligibility to remain a director or to be re-elected a director if, during a director's incumbency, a director becomes a first kindred relative of another incumbent director or of a Cooperative employee because of a marriage or an adoption to which the director was not a party.

The following directors' terms expire at the Annual Meeting in September:

**Jason Smith** (Region 1, District 1) – Union County: Sections 19-36 of Douglas Township, Highland Township, Union Township, Platt Township, and Grant Township. Ringgold County: Sections 1-4, 9-12, 13-16, 21-24, 25-28, 33-36 of Lincoln Township, Jefferson Township, Washington Township, Liberty Township and Sections 25-36 of Tingley Township.

**Dale Walkup** (Region 1, District 3) – Taylor County: Eastern  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Section 13, Eastern  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 24, Eastern  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 25, Southern  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 35, Section 36 except the North  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Grove Township, Sections 13-36 of Platte Township, Sections 1,2, Eastern  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 3, Eastern  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 12, Eastern  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 13, Eastern  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 24, Sections 25, 32-36 of Marshall Township, Grant Township, Clayton Township, and Gay Township. Ringgold County: Sections 5-8, 17-20, 29-32 of Lincoln Township, Grant Township, Benton Township, Rice Township, Poe Township, Clinton Township, Middle Fork Township, and Lotts Creek Township.

**Deena Moore** (Region 2, District 5) – North Border: Assigned area of service. South Border: Assigned Area of service. West Border: U.S. Highway #148. East Border: Assigned area of service except areas specifically designated in District #3.

**Dana Morgan** (Region 2, District 7) – North Border: Assigned area of service. South Border: U.S. Highway #34. West Border: Assigned area of service. East Border: U.S. Highway #148.

Candidates for election to the Board of Directors shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee, which Committee shall be elected by the Board of Directors, not less than sixty (60) nor more than one-hundred twenty (120) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected. The Nominating Committee shall consist of no less than three (3) nor more than ten (10) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the Committee to the geographical areas served by the Cooperative. Said Nominating Committee members so elected shall nominate candidates for election to the Board of Directors and a list of the nominations so made shall be posted at the offices of the Cooperative no less than 45 days prior to the date of the meeting.

Any twenty (20) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which directors are to be elected, and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations by the Committee is posted; such nominations so made by such members to be subject to the same service location requirements as nominations by the Nominating Committee heretofore prescribed.

The election of the directors shall be by ballot, and each voting member shall be entitled to cast one ballot for each director to be elected from the member's Region. To the extent the same is specifically authorized by the Board of Directors, members may vote by mail-in ballot. The election of directors shall be subject to ratification by a majority of all members present at the Annual Meeting of members, and directors elected shall qualify and take office immediately following the Annual Meeting of Members.

If you are interested in being considered as a candidate for one of these director positions, and meet the requirements stated above, please contact Phil Kinser at 888-220-4869. Your name will be given to the Nominating Committee and they will contact you to discuss the matter further.

## Electric Tariff Updates

Southwest Iowa REC recently updated its Electric Tariff and filed the applicable revisions with the Iowa Utilities Board to become effective June 1, 2024. Two items we would like to highlight are updates to the Idle Service policy and various Fees as shown below. Idle services are no longer given a 12-month grace period before idle service fees apply. Idle service fees will now commence immediately upon disconnection of the service and will be billed monthly. A complete copy of our Electric Tariff can be accessed on our website at [www.swiarec.coop](http://www.swiarec.coop).

### Idle Service

An idle service charge will be applicable where Member-consumer, after having taken service at the given premises, thereafter, discontinues service for an indefinite or extended period. In either event, Cooperative will, after due notice to Member-consumer or owner, require Member-consumer or owner to pay an idle service charge to retain Cooperative's facilities in readiness so that the said service may be available upon re-occupancy of the given premises.

### Charges

Member-consumer or owner may retain Cooperative's facilities in readiness for service by making a monthly idle service payment. The payment will be applied to Cooperative's facilities carrying cost per month for the months that service is not taken. So long as the idle service charge is paid by Member-consumer or owner, Cooperative's facilities will remain in place. However, any time Member-consumer or owner refuses to pay the idle service charge, Member-consumer or owner will be notified that the facilities may be removed from the given premises by Cooperative whenever Cooperative determines it is economical to do so.

### Rebuilding

If Member-consumer or owner applies for service restoration at the location after facilities have been removed, Member-consumer must pay, in advance, an amount equal to the removal cost, plus the estimated replacement cost of the necessary facilities. This will not apply, however, if ownership of the premises has changed.

### Disconnection Fee

Member-consumer shall pay a disconnection fee of \$150.00 anytime Cooperative disconnects electric service.

### Reconnection Fee

Member-consumer shall pay a reconnection fee to have electric service reconnected following any service disconnection unless an exception listed elsewhere within the tariff applies. Member-consumer shall pay a reconnection fee of \$150.00 if the trip is completed on regular time. The charge shall be \$300.00 if any part of the trip is completed on overtime.

### Idle Service Fee

The monthly idle service charge will be calculated at 50% of the monthly Availability Charge as is normally assessed to the account being idled.

### Posting Fee

Member-consumer shall pay a posting fee of \$150 if Cooperative travels to Member-consumer's premises to post for nonpayment.

### Trip Charge

Member-consumer shall pay a trip charge based on the actual costs incurred by Cooperative anytime Cooperative representatives travel to Member-consumer's premises other than normal Cooperative facility maintenance.

## EMPLOYEE UPDATES

### Brady Williams achieves First-Class Lineworker Classification



Congratulations to Brady Williams, Lineman in Stanton, for earning First-Class Journeyman Lineworker certification. Upon being hired at Southwest Iowa REC, every new Apprentice Lineworker is required to successfully finish a comprehensive four-module online apprenticeship program to attain their First-Class Lineworker classification. This program typically spans a duration of 3 to 4 years and necessitates passing 40 assessment tests. Remarkably, lineworkers manage to juggle these educational commitments alongside their regular duties and addressing storm-related challenges. We take immense pride in the dedication and hard work demonstrated by our lineworkers in pursuit of their professional objectives.

## Vegetation Spraying

Green Valley Spray Team will begin spraying vegetation under our power lines in Decatur County and Ringgold County. Spraying will begin in the following areas:

Decatur County Townships: Morgan & Hamilton

Ringgold County Townships: Washington, Liberty, Clinton, Middle Fork, Benton, Rice, Poe





## Smashed Cheeseburger Tacos

### Ingredients

For the Burger Tacos

- 1 pound ground beef
- 6 taco size flour tortillas
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- seasoning of choice

### Optional Big Mac Sauce

- 1/2 cup mayo
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1 tbsp mustard
- 2 tbsp pickle relish

### Toppings

- shredded lettuce
- tomato
- pickles

### Instructions

1. In a small bowl, mix together the mayo, ketchup, mustard, and relish to make the sauce. Totally optional as you can also buy burger sauce or simply use your favorite condiments.
2. Preheat a Blackstone griddle, cast iron skillet, or even regular pan to medium-high heat.
3. Separate the raw ground beef into six equal parts and smash the beef down onto your tortillas to create an even thin layer covering the entire surface of the tortillas. Sprinkle the beef with your seasoning of choice.
4. Lightly grease your pan or griddle with oil. The amount of oil needed will depend on the pan you are using as well as the fat content of your beef. We used about 2 tbsp on our Blackstone griddle.
5. Place the tortillas down onto your cooking surface with the BEEF SIDE DOWN and cook for approximately 2 minutes.
6. Flip and immediately top the beef with shredded cheese. Continue cooking for 1-3 minutes or until the tortillas are crisp and the beef is cooked to your liking. The tortillas can burn easily if your griddle is too hot! Keep a close eye on them as they may be done after only a minute.
7. Remove from the heat and add your desired toppings. Fold and eat like a taco while you savor every scrumptious bite.

**Here's a fun idea: Try this same concept with ground sausage to make breakfast tacos. Simply top with scrambled eggs and salsa!**



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## Happy 4th of July!

Our office will be closed for July 4th



### Safety Tip

Only use a gas or charcoal grill outdoors. Grills are designed to be used outside where there is plenty of ventilation. Using one in a closed or partially enclosed space can cause carbon monoxide (CO) to build up and cause CO poisoning. Grill in the great outdoors.



Safe Electricity.org



Find us on Facebook

**Corning**  
1801 Grove Ave., Corning, IA 50841

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

**Stanton**  
415 Broad Ave., Stanton, IA 51573

**Phone Number: (888) 220-4869**

Southwest Iowa REC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### Board of Directors

Marilyn Werner, President  
Mark Herzberg, Vice President  
Kay Fast-Deyoe, Secretary  
Jason Smith, Treasurer

Phil Kinser, CEO

Alan Spencer Deena Moore  
Dana Morgan Terry Barnes  
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