

● SEPTEMBER 2024

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING



**Harrison County REC
members experience the
Energy Trail Tour**

**Meet this year's
Shine the Light winners**

Harvest safety tips

Co-op employees recognized for service anniversaries ► See Page 4



GROWING THE CO-OP FAMILY

Congratulations to Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative Journeyman Drake Johnsen and his wife Reghan on the birth of their daughter Briar Lane on July 17. Briar is pictured with her proud older brother Brox. Congratulations to the Johnsen family!

DID YOU READ OUR NEWSLETTER CAREFULLY?

We have selected two lucky winners for a \$25 bill credit! Spot your account number in our newsletter and call us! (Example: Account 4321 is written four three two one.) Members must contact Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative by Sept. 30 to be eligible to claim this credit. Questions? Contact Tara Ganzhorn at 712-647-2727.



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- Brenda Lundergard, *secretary*
- Kent Kersten, *treasurer*
- Curtis Lee, Randy Koenig, Randy Mitchell, Bruce Pauley, Larry Ramsey

HARRISON COUNTY REC CELEBRATES MEMBERS AT THE 2024 POWER PICNIC

Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) was excited to celebrate our membership at our annual Power Picnic at cooperative headquarters on Aug. 12. Members enjoyed a picnic supper with Staley's famous fried chicken, met with employees and board members, and won amazing prizes. Harrison County REC also celebrated its employee service awards and recognized the following employees for their years of service:

Joe Farley 25 years

Robert Wakehouse 25 years

Shanell Dickman 15 years

Tom Ellison 15 years

Jacolby Ehlert 10 years

Tara Ganzhorn 10 years

Ryan Fouts 5 years

Randy Koenig 5 years

Brenda Lundergard 5 years

Kristi Travis 5 years

In addition to celebrating service awards, Harrison County REC congratulated Gaylene Woodward, office assistant, who retired in April, and Tom Ellison, mechanic, who will retire on Sept. 3. Account number two zero one seven zero zero nine one two.



We thank everyone who attended and enjoyed the evening. We look forward to seeing you in 2025!

HARRISON COUNTY REC AND OTHER CO-OP MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN ENERGY TRAIL TOUR

This summer marked the 35th annual Energy Trail Tour season. More than 120 electric cooperative member-consumers from western and north central Iowa participated in three motorcoach excursions in June and July to learn about electric generation and meet the people responsible for delivering electric power to their homes, farms and businesses. The tours, which departed from Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative (NIPCO) in Le Mars, led passengers through the Dakotas to learn about and see firsthand where their energy comes from and have some fun along the journey.

Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), through NIPCO, receives power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). The three motorcoach tours included 14 electric cooperative members who participated in tours of electric generation facilities and subsidiaries operated by Basin Electric and WAPA.

In addition to the educational portion of the tour, members enjoyed good food, great fellowship and a few surprise stops along the way.

Highlights of the tours included:

Oahe Power Plant and Dam

The first electric-generation stop on the three-day journey brought tour guests to Pierre, South Dakota, to understand the process of hydroelectric generation and the innovation of the rolled-earth dam that created Lake Oahe, the fourth largest reservoir in the U.S. Water generated from the Missouri River Dam system served as the original power source for homes and farms in the region until electric demand surpassed generation capacity in the 1970s, leading to the need to source other generation resources.

Antelope Valley Station

The tour included an overview of the



model room and a guided walking tour of the coal-fueled power plant owned and operated by Basin Electric. The walking tour included stops at the turbine deck, control room, boiler and observation deck on the 17th floor. Participants learned the electric generation process from coal resources and the investments made by Basin Electric in environmental control technologies to reduce emissions at their facilities.

The Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine

Tour guests learned how lignite coal is produced at a surface mine and how the land is returned to its original state. A guided drive-through tour took members through active mining areas where they witnessed giant earthmoving equipment in action. The Freedom Mine delivers approximately 16 million tons of coal and reclaims about 600 acres of mined land annually.

The trip also offered insight into operations at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant and how coal can be refined into synthetic natural gas and various other products, including anhydrous ammonia, carbon dioxide and diesel exhaust fluid. Basin Electric owns and operates the Great Plains Synfuels Plant through its for-profit subsidiary, Dakota Gasification Company.

Energy Trail Tour participants also learned about wind generation

and renewable energy resources in America's energy mix. The tour provided a "mobile classroom" on the process of wind generation and how it contributes to an all-of-the-above generation mix that provides reliable and affordable energy to cooperative members. Account number three one two two zero one nine one zero.

Over three educational and fun-filled days, members gained a deeper understanding of the cooperative difference, the history of rural electric cooperatives, the seven cooperative principles that guide all cooperatives, and the Touchstone Energy® brand's four foundations of service: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and Commitment to Community. Memories and friendships were made while gaining a deeper and more insightful appreciation for how reliable power is generated and delivered to the light switch.

Harrison County REC's 2024 tour members included: Jim and Nancy Dahlgren, Jim and JoAnn Gray, Galen and Kathy Mikels, Brian and Tammy Zehner, Jill Conry and Gail Witt, Madelyn and Cash Brunow, and Gene and Patty Hoff.

If you would like to participate in this experience next year, watch this magazine for the opportunity to enter the drawing.

SAFE FIELDS. POWERFUL YIELDS.

IT'S MORE THAN A FIELD. IT'S A LIFE!

If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, **contact 9-1-1 immediately** and remain inside the equipment until the power line is de-energized.

In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.

If you make contact with a powerline, **always assume it is energized**. Downed lines can energize the ground around it up to 35 feet away.

Use a spotter and deploy flags to **maintain safe distances** from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.

Maintain a **10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.

Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes, augers and even bulk materials can also conduct electricity.

If contact is made with a pole, powerline or any electrical infrastructure, call 9-1-1 or call us directly at 712-546-3573. We will work to ensure your utility and first responders are alerted to your situation.



For more information, visit our website by scanning QR code, or visit: www.nipco.coop/safefields-powerfuleields



HARRISON COUNTY
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Owned by those we serve
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IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

The magazine
for members of
Iowa's electric
cooperatives.

September 2024

Visit our website at www.hrec.coop

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Around here, there's more to trust than making sure your lights come on when you flip the switch. We also must have information you can trust, whether it's about local renewable energy options or ways to lower your bill. For more, visit TouchstoneEnergy.com.

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