

Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Phone : 712-472-2506 or 1-800-658-3976 ~ Website : www.lyonrec.coop
Office Hours : Monday thru Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Rock Rapids ■ JULY 2026

REMINDERS

Moving?

If you are moving, please notify the cooperative when you move and inform the new owner to get signed up for service.

Local teen participates in national leadership development program

Nathalee Marcias recently participated in the National Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., sponsored by Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative. She joined 34 other student delegates from Iowa for the trip in June.

For more than 6 decades, electric cooperatives have sponsored high school students for Youth Tour, a leadership development program that helps young people discover their voice, build confidence and expand their understanding of civic engagement.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is a collaborative effort supported by locally owned electric cooperatives like Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative, statewide trade associations and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

While in Washington, D.C., students met with elected officials, explored historic landmarks and even operated their own student-led snack cooperative, gaining hands-on experience in teamwork, responsibility and leadership.

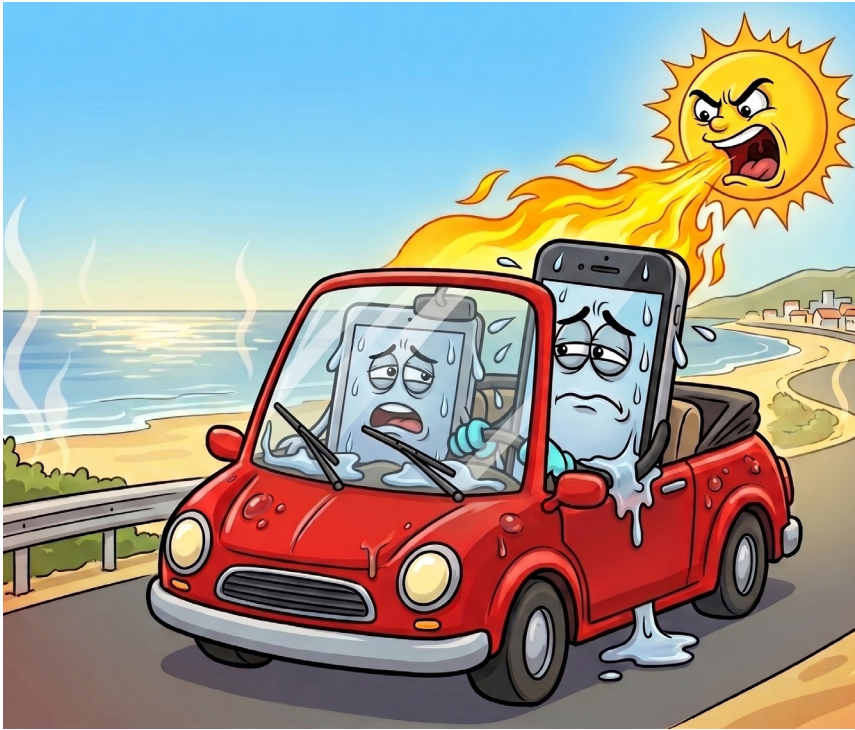


In addition to touring the nation's capital, 2,100 students from across the country gathered for National Youth Day, hosted by NRECA, where they heard from inspiring speakers and public figures. This year's program featured Mike Schlappi, a 4-time paralympic medalist and 2-time world wheelchair basketball champion, who shared a powerful message about perseverance and leadership: "Just because you can't stand up doesn't mean you can't stand out."

Since 1958, Iowa's electric cooperatives have sponsored students through Youth Tour with opportunities to meet members of their U.S. congressional delegation, participate in leadership and advocacy sessions and explore our nation's capital.

For more information about how to apply for Lyon Rural Electric's 2027 Youth Tour program, contact 712-472-2506 or visit www.iowaYouthTour.com. You can also find "Iowa Youth Tour" on Facebook or Instagram to see highlights from the 2026 trip.

DON'T LEAVE YOUR PHONE IN THE CAR



Summer heat can be tough on people. It can also be tough on batteries.

Many of the devices we use every day contain lithium-ion batteries. That includes phones, laptops, tablets, power tools, e-bikes and e-scooters. These batteries work best when they stay within a moderate temperature range. Excessive heat can shorten battery life and, in rare cases, create safety risks.

One of the worst places for a battery-powered device is a parked car. On a sunny day, temperatures inside a vehicle can climb quickly. Leaving a phone or laptop in a hot car can damage the battery and reduce its ability to hold a charge.

Watch for warning signs. If a battery becomes unusually hot, starts swelling, leaks fluid or gives off a burning smell, stop using the device immediately. Damaged lithium-ion batteries can become dangerous.

A few simple steps can help:

- ▶ Keep devices out of direct sunlight.
- ▶ Do not leave them in hot vehicles.
- ▶ Use the charger recommended by the manufacturer.
- ▶ If a battery-powered device becomes very hot while charging, unplug it and let it cool.

A little heat awareness can help your devices last longer and operate more safely.

SOMETIMES ENERGY BILLS RISE WITHOUT A RATE INCREASE

When an electric bill suddenly rises, many people assume their electric cooperative raised its rates.

Sometimes that's the case. But more often, the biggest reason is simple: You used more electricity.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, nearly 90% of U.S. households use air conditioning. During hot weather, cooling systems run longer and more often. Even if the price of electricity stays the same, using more electricity means a higher bill.

Heat waves can have a bigger effect than you might realize. A few extra days of very hot weather may cause an air conditioner to run for hours longer each day. Refrigerators, freezers and dehumidifiers may also work harder during extreme heat.

If your bill seems unusually high, compare your electricity use with the same month last year. Most utility bills show the number of kilowatt-hours used. That number can tell you whether the increase came from higher use, higher rates or a combination of both.

You can also look for simple causes if you notice an unexpected jump in your energy use. A clogged air filter, a thermostat set a few degrees lower than usual or windows receiving direct afternoon sun can all increase cooling costs.

The next time your electric bill arrives, don't just look at the amount due. Check how much electricity you used. The answer to a higher bill is often hiding in that number.

SMART THERMOSTATS: WORTH IT?

Smart thermostats promise to help homeowners save energy while keeping their homes comfortable. But are they worth the investment?

The short answer: They're worth it.

Unlike traditional thermostats, smart models connect to home wi-fi and can be controlled through a smartphone app. Many also "learn" a household's schedule and automatically adjust temperatures when people are asleep or away.

When a smart thermostat lowers or raises the temperature for several hours a day, it can reduce heating and cooling costs. Because smart thermostats automate these adjustments, they can help households maintain energy-saving settings without anyone having to remember to change them manually.

Some models also compile energy reports that show how often the system runs and offer suggestions for reducing energy use.

However, smart thermostats may not be necessary for every home. If you live in an older home, you might need an electrician to install additional wiring to support yours. And smart units are pricier than basic programmable units. Plus, you need a stable internet connection for a smart model to operate consistently well.

If you already have a programmable thermostat, a smart unit might not save you much additional money. And if you work at home all day and need to keep the heat or a/c at a comfortable setting, you won't want a thermostat that automatically makes your home colder on winter days or warmer during summertime working hours.

Still, for homeowners who frequently forget to adjust the temperature or want the convenience of remote control, a smart thermostat can be a useful tool for improving comfort and managing energy use.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During these warm summer months, a smart thermostat can help keep your home comfortable while reducing cooling costs. Smart thermostats learn your routine and automatically raise the temperature when you're away and cool things down before you return, avoiding unnecessary energy use. You can also adjust settings remotely from your phone, so you're never cooling an empty house. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher while you're away or asleep can lead to significant savings. Many smart thermostats provide reports and tips, helping you fine-tune your energy use and stay cool while keeping your electric bill in check.



Operating Statistics

	MAY	
	2025	2026
KWH Purchased	10,091,665	10,605,574
KWH Sold	9,896,868	10,425,323
Percentage of Line Loss (Year to Date)	3.33%	3.29%
Total Demand	19,663 KW	20,181 KW
Average Farm Consumption	2,644 KWH	2,782 KWH
Average Farm Bill	\$331.30	\$388.35
Income Per Mile	\$1,113.98	\$1,446.44
Expenses Per Mile	\$1,191.74	\$1,354.13
Miles Energized	983	872
Cost of Wholesale (For the Month)	6.32¢	8.17¢

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Scammers are increasingly using "smishing" — fake text messages designed to look like they're from legitimate businesses, including your electric utility. These texts may claim your bill is overdue, your service will be disconnected or you're owed a refund. They often include a link that directs you to a fake payment site or asks for personal information. Never click suspicious links or respond to unexpected texts, even if the message appears urgent. Instead, log in to your utility account through the official website or mobile app to verify any claims. We will never ask for sensitive information like passwords or banking details through text messages.



SURGE PROTECTORS DON'T LAST FOREVER

If you have your expensive electronic devices plugged into surge protectors, good for you!

But if you bought surge protectors, plugged everything into them and forgot all about them, you could be overlooking a potential problem: Old surge protectors wear out and need replacing every now and then.

Surge protectors do not last forever. The components that absorb electrical surges can wear out over time. After enough surges, a device may continue working as a power strip while providing little or no surge protection.

Check your surge protector occasionally. Many models have an indicator light that shows whether surge protection is still active. If the light is off, consult the manufacturer's instructions. It may be time for a replacement.

Inspect the device's cord and outlets. Replace the unit if you see scorch marks, cracks, frayed wires or other damage. A power strip that feels unusually warm should also be replaced.

Experts often recommend replacing surge protectors every few years, especially in areas that experience frequent storms and power fluctuations.

A quick inspection takes only a minute. A stereo system or piece of home theater equipment that gets fried during a power surge ruins that investment forever.

WHEN FANS SAVE MONEY—AND WHEN THEY DON'T

Ceiling fans can make a room feel cooler. But they do not actually lower the temperature in that space.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, fans create a wind-chill effect that helps people feel cooler. The room itself does not become cooler. In fact, DOE says, ceiling fans may allow homeowners to raise the thermostat setting by about 4 degrees in the summer without reducing comfort.

That means a fan saves energy only when people are there to enjoy the breeze. Running a ceiling fan in an empty room does not improve comfort and uses electricity unnecessarily.

Also, did you know that you need to change the direction that your fan blades spin every spring and fall?

During summer, ceiling fans should rotate counterclockwise. That pushes air downward and creates the cooling effect people feel. Running them in the wrong direction for the season won't keep you comfortable.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



Nondiscrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA containing all the information requested in the form. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; by fax (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or by Email: program.intake@usda.gov