

● JUNE 2026

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

**“Shine the Light” on
a community volunteer**

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ENERGY PROJECTS IN THE NEWS: WHAT TO KNOW IN CERRO GORDO AND WORTH COUNTIES

BY GARRETT THOMPSON



You may have seen recent news stories about large solar and wind projects in North Iowa, particularly in Cerro Gordo County and nearby areas.

With about a third of our membership living in that area, I thought it would be helpful to take a minute and walk through what's going on and what it means from your co-op's perspective.

There have been two separate decisions that have gotten a lot of attention:

- The Iowa Utilities Commission recently ruled in favor of a large solar project in Cerro Gordo County, allowing it to move forward.
- Around the same time, the Iowa Supreme Court issued a decision related to a wind project in Worth County that supported the county's position in that case related to stricter zoning ordinances.



At first glance, those outcomes might seem a little inconsistent. However, they highlight something important: the energy landscape and regulatory environment are constantly evolving and include input from multiple parties with different roles and perspectives.

Depending on the situation, these projects can involve:

- County-level zoning and ordinances
- State-level regulatory agencies
- Federal regulatory agencies
- Regional Transmission Organizations (such as the Southwest Power Pool)
- And, in some cases, the court systems

Each of these entities play a different role, and how they interact can vary from project to project. That's why you can see different outcomes, even when the projects may seem similar on the surface.

I also want to be clear about what this means for Franklin REC.

We are not involved in the siting or approval of these projects, and these decisions do not impact how we operate day-to-day. Our role is to deliver reliable, affordable electricity to our members, not to determine where generation projects are built.

So, while these are important developments at the state and local

level, they don't change your service or your rates today.

Staying engaged on energy policy

That said, these situations are a good reminder of why it's important for your electric cooperative to stay engaged and informed on energy policy and regulatory issues at both the state and local levels. Our goal isn't to take sides in individual projects, but to ensure that our members' voices are heard as decisions are made.

We work closely with organizations like the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, as well as state and local legislators, to share what we're seeing on the ground. Whether that's reliability needs, cost pressures or long-term system planning. That collaboration helps ensure policymakers have a clear understanding of how their decisions can impact the electric system and the communities we serve.

As things continue to evolve, we'll keep an eye on developments and share updates if and when there's a direct impact to our system or our members. In the meantime, our focus remains the same: keeping the lights on and continuing to provide the level of service you expect from your local electric cooperative.

Garrett Thompson is the general manager/CEO of Franklin REC.



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

CELEBRATING OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Franklin REC is proud to invest in the future of our communities by awarding scholarships to five students as they pursue their educational goals.

At the heart of a strong cooperative is a commitment to education. Supporting students today helps build a skilled, dedicated workforce for tomorrow – one that will continue to strengthen and sustain rural Iowa for generations to come.

Franklin REC's updated scholarship program reflects this commitment by providing opportunities to students who are driven to succeed and passionate about making a difference in rural Iowa. Whether continuing their education in a trade, technical field or college setting, these students represent the future of our local workforce and communities.

Please join us in congratulating our scholarship recipients on this well-earned achievement.

Basin Scholarship Recipients



Brenden Walker

School attending: Riverland Community College

Major: Web Developer/Game Design

Parents: Heather Walker-Kral and Christian Kral



Katelyn Witte

School attending: Iowa State University

Major: Agriculture Studies

Parents: Roger and Brandie Witte

Agriculture & Rural Development Scholarship Recipient



AnnEllen Hofmeister

School attending: Ellsworth Community College

Major: Animal Science

Parents: Marlyn Hofmeister

Leadership & Service Scholarship Recipient



Abby Schoning

School attending: North Iowa Area Community College

Major: Secondary Ag Education

Parents: David Schoning

Skilled Trades & Technical Scholarship Recipient



Hudson Hansen

School attending: Northwestern Iowa Community College

Major: Power Lineman

Parents: Nate and Ginger Hansen

We are proud to support their journey and look forward to the positive impact they will make in the years ahead.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY BOOK DRIVE

Franklin REC extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone across our service territory who contributed to our recent book drive. Your generous donations, combined with the support of our valued community partners, made it possible to build and restock 13 community book houses throughout the area.

Because of you, these book houses are filled with stories waiting to be discovered, shared and enjoyed by readers of all ages. We encourage you to stop by your local community book house, take a book, leave a book and be part of the ongoing effort to inspire a love of reading in our communities.

Thank you for helping us make a meaningful impact – one book at a time.





FROM YOUR BOARDROOM

During the April meeting, Franklin REC directors considered the following:

- Approved work orders and special equipment capitalization of \$42,839.54
- Accepted the 2025 Audit Report

SIGN UP FOR AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS AND RECEIVE A ONE-TIME \$10 BILL CREDIT!

Have your monthly electric bill automatically deducted from your checking account in one easy step. Simply complete the automatic withdrawal form in this month's bill and return it with your payment.

The monthly payment is deducted from your bank account on the 25th of each month (or following business day after a weekend or holiday). Contact us if you have any questions, or if you never want to worry about your bill being paid on time, complete the form today.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: MADISON ALERT



Congratulations to Franklin REC's Madison Alert on being named a Corn Belt Power Cooperative's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' Volunteer of the Month.

In recognition of this honor, Madison has chosen to donate her earnings to the Hampton Christian Daycare.

Madison has generously volunteered her time as a board member of the Franklin County Tourism group and as a coach for peewee T-ball through Hampton Youth Baseball. Her commitment to both community service and youth development reflects the cooperative spirit we value at Franklin REC.

Franklin REC is proud to recognize Madison for her dedication and the positive impact she continues to make in our community.

NICHOLAS NELSON SERVICE ANNIVERSARY



Franklin REC is excited to recognize Lineman Nicholas Nelson on his two-year anniversary with our cooperative! Over the past two years, Nicholas has become a valued part of our team, consistently showing dedication and pride in his work. His efforts play an important role in maintaining safe, reliable service for our members. We appreciate all he does and look forward to many more years ahead – congratulations, Nicholas!

WELCOMING PHILIP FRENCH TO THE TEAM



Help us welcome the newest member of Franklin REC's line crew, Philip French!

Philip joined the team in May with several years of experience working on contractor line crews, bringing valuable knowledge, skill and a fresh perspective to the cooperative. His background in the field makes him a strong addition to our line crew as we continue serving our members.

Congrats, Madison, Nicholas and Philip!

SHINE THE LIGHT CONTEST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Nominate a community volunteer by June 30!

Have questions about how the Shine the Light contest works? You're not alone! We've put together a list of frequently asked questions to help you better understand who can be nominated, who can submit and what makes a nomination eligible. Whether you're a first-time participant or thinking about re-nominating someone from a past year, this will guide you through the process. You can also learn more on Pages 6-7 of this issue.

Q: Can I nominate an organization? No. The purpose of the contest is to highlight individuals who are making a positive impact in their communities through volunteer work. Organizations are not eligible for nomination.

Q: Can I nominate someone I previously nominated if they didn't win? Yes! If your nominee wasn't selected as a winner in a previous year, you're welcome to nominate them again. We encourage you to continue sharing the stories of those making a difference.

Q: Can my significant other and I both submit separate nominations? No. Only one nomination is allowed per membership.

Q: Who is eligible to be nominated? Anyone who is 18 or older and actively volunteers their time to make a difference in their Iowa community is eligible. Nominees do not need to be a member of a cooperative.

Q: Who can submit a nomination? Anyone 18 or older who is a member-consumer of an Iowa electric cooperative can submit a nomination. Your cooperative membership makes you eligible to recognize a deserving individual.

Q: When is the nomination period? Nominations are accepted from June 1-30.

Q: How are winners selected? A panel of judges will review all eligible nominations and select three winners based on the nominee's volunteer impact, dedication and service to their community.

Q: How do I submit a nomination? Visit www.IowaShineTheLight.com between June 1-30 and complete the online nomination form. Be sure to share a compelling story about your nominee's volunteer efforts and community impact.

VISIT US AT THE FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIR

Franklin REC will be dishing up ice cream at the Ice Cream Parlor in Pleasant Hill on Thursday and Friday morning of the county fair. Be sure to stop by, redeem your ice cream voucher with the co-op and say hello to our employees!

Please note, Franklin REC office hours will be limited July 16 and 17. For all outage or service needs, please call our office at 641-456-2557. Crews will remain on standby, and phones will be answered 24/7 to ensure reliable service for our members.



OFFICE CLOSURE NOTICE

In observance of Independence Day, Franklin REC will be closed Friday, July 3.

We will resume normal business hours on Monday, July 6.

As always, our crews remain on call and ready to respond to any outages or emergencies.

If you need to report an outage, please call 641-456-2557.

We wish you a safe and happy Fourth of July!



Visit our website at www.franklinrec.coop



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THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

We do more than keep the lights on.
We're here to keep our community strong because every member matters.

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For generations, we've powered the growth of our community. And today our cooperative is stronger than ever.

Keeping you connected to what matters most.