

## LaBree named business development manager

Katie LaBree, Butler County REC's new business development manager, loves being a part of the impact of economic growth. "I hope that I get to play a small part in creating opportunities for others, whether it's helping them start a business or creating jobs in rural Iowa. It's gratifying to help others and help provide solutions for many of their challenges. It's pretty amazing to walk with a business owner from idea to ribbon cutting. I can't imagine a better job!" she commented.

LaBree, who has a degree from the University of Jamestown in Jamestown, North Dakota, is from Elk River, Minnesota. She worked in economic development in North Dakota and in Iowa in Parkersburg and Hampton before coming to Butler County REC. In addition, she is the owner of Nash Creative Co., a graphic design and marketing business. She lives in Aplington with her husband, two children, and two dogs.

Of her new position, LaBree said, "I am most looking forward to working with everyone at Butler County REC and growing our business development through excellent member service." Welcome to Butler County REC, Katie!



## SHELL ROCK

SOY PROCESSING LLC

## Soy processing plant coming to Butler Logistics Park

In October, a new soybean crushing plant broke ground at the Butler Logistics Park, Shell Rock.

The plant, set to be operational in 2022, will crush 38.5 million bushels of soybeans annually, or 110,000 bushels daily, producing soybean meal, crude soybean oil, and soybean hulls.

This is very good news for area farmers as the nearest soybean crushing plant, at this time, is over an hour away and requires long waits.

Butler County REC installed temporary electric service to the property in late November.

## Recipe published

Congratulations to Linda McCarville, New Hampton, who won a \$25 bill credit from *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine when her recipe for ground pork casserole was published in the October 2020 issue! Visit page 9 of *Living with Energy in Iowa* for details on how to submit a recipe.



## Butler County REC Holiday Hours

We will be closed:  
**Thursday, Dec. 24**  
**Friday, Dec. 25**  
**Friday, Jan. 1**

Our phones are  
answered 24/7:  
**319-267-2726**



# Four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop

The holiday season is upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year.

Here are four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop.

1. Santa uses LED holiday light strands, so he's able to save on his energy bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home.
  2. Santa requires several power tools to make a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the U.S. used ENERGY STAR®-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved—equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!
  3. Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.
  4. Santa also saves energy by using power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms, and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics plugged into the power strip.
- This holiday season, let's follow Santa's lead and remember to save energy when possible.



SMART TIPS

## SPACE HEATER SAFETY



Space heaters can be a cost effective option when heating no more than one or two small areas.

Review and follow all manufacturer directions.

Place them out of high-traffic areas and on a hard, level floor surface.

Keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items.

Plug them directly into outlets. Avoid using an extension cord.

Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.

Learn more at: [Safe Electricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)



## LED holiday lighting rebate

When you purchase new LED holiday lights and decorations, you are eligible for a rebate of up to \$2 per each item (not to exceed purchase price).

Contact us for more information and a rebate form.

## Scholarships Available



- Dependents of cooperative members are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 **Basin Electric Power Cooperative** scholarship for tuition at a two-year or four-year college. Contact your electric cooperative for an application form.
- Corn Belt Power Cooperative partners with **Northwest Iowa Community College** (NCC) in Sheldon, Iowa, to offer four \$500 scholarships. Recipients must be students at NCC studying Electrical Technology, Powerline, or Powerline Technology. Contact Sheila Van Engen, 800-352-4907 ext. 246 or svanengen@nwicc.edu.
- Corn Belt Power also partners with **Iowa Lakes Community College** to offer one \$500 scholarship for students enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program. For more information, contact Alison Mason, 712-362-0491 ext. 4491 or amason@iowalakes.edu.

## Stay safe as you go over the river and through the woods this holiday season

The winter holiday season is a busy time of year. Along with putting out decorations and baking cookies, we often spend more time in our cars than usual, which can mean facing extreme weather conditions that can make safe driving difficult.

Along with risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle, and plain inconvenience, collisions may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.

If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:

- Call 9-1-1, and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved.
- Put your window down and alert others not to approach the scene.
- Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow, or other debris that could be hiding one.
- Do not exit the vehicle UNLESS the vehicle is on fire or you see smoke.
- If you MUST exit the vehicle, cross your arms across your chest, put your feet together, and make a clean jump from the vehicle. Then hop with feet together as far as you can— at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground, or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it ripples out. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you.
- If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. DO NOT touch or try to move the wire.
- If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer, which houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply.

**Keep your family safe while on the road this holiday season!**



## Need a recipe?

**Looking for a new recipe for the holidays?** Visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at [livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://livingwithenergyiniowa.com) and click on Recipe Archive at the top and search by main ingredient and/or category.



**Have a recipe everyone loves?** *Living with Energy in Iowa* is always looking for recipes for the magazine. If yours is chosen, you will earn a \$25 power bill credit! Take a look at Page 9 in any issue of the magazine to learn how to submit your recipe either by email or by mailing to the magazine's headquarters.

# Nominating Committee seeks candidates for board of directors

Butler County REC's board of directors have appointed the following members to serve on a nominating committee and select members to run for three director positions that will expire on March 27, 2021:

- **Raymond Dietz, Ionia, 319-269-5161**
- **Derek Harken, Aplington, 319-240-3125**
- **Dale Mennenga, Clarksville, 319-278-4318**

This committee will meet at the cooperative office in Allison at **11 a.m., Jan. 7, 2021**, to nominate members for the office of director. The election will take place at the cooperative's annual meeting on Saturday, March 27, 2021.

Your co-op's board of directors consists of nine members serving three-year terms. Every year three of the positions come up for election. Each director must reside in the area he or she is elected to represent.

**This year, the board is seeking nominations for the following areas: the western half of Bremer County, the southwest quarter of Butler County, and the northeast quarter of Butler County.** The members listed below are currently serving as your board representatives. Their terms will expire and at this time are the only names on the ballot:

- **Duane Rieckenberg, Ionia**
- **Share Brandt, Allison**
- **Troy Feldman, Greene**

If you are interested in running for a position or want to recommend someone residing in any of these areas, please contact a member on the nominating committee before Jan. 7, 2021. Please call our office if you need help to reach a member of the nominating committee.

## Nomination details

The list of nominations will then be posted at the Butler County REC office in Allison. For 10 days after posting this list, additional nominations of members residing in the general area of vacancy may be made by written petition. Forms will be provided at the request of any member and must be signed by no less than 20 members of the cooperative. Any member so nominated must give prior consent to such nomination. The following excerpt from the Butler County REC articles of incorporation and bylaws further explains this process:

Not less than sixty (60) days prior to the regular annual meeting of members, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee of not less than three members of the Association who are not directors of the Association. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of nominees, residing in the general area of the vacancy, with at least one member nominated for each vacancy to be filled at the next annual meeting. The written list of nominations of the Nominating Committee shall be posted at the office of the Association not less than thirty days prior to mailing the notice of the annual meeting of members. For ten days after posting of the list of nominations by the committee, additional nominations of members residing in the general area of the vacancy may be made by written petition on forms provided on request of any member, and signed by not less than 20 members of the Association. Any member nominated shall give prior consent to such nomination whether by committee or petition. The notice of the annual meeting of members shall list the names of all nominees for the office of director.

In the event any member who is nominated either by the committee or petition withdraws consent, dies, or for any other reason is unable or declines to serve as a director, prior to the annual meeting but after the deadlines set forth above for posting and mailing of notices, and as a result thereof there remains only one nominee from the general area of any vacancy, then the committee on nominations shall be vested with full authority to nominate an additional member of the Association residing in the general area of the vacancy, so that two nominees from that area exist. If sufficient time exists prior to the annual meeting, the members of the Association shall be notified by mail of the new nomination. If sufficient time does not exist, prior to the election of directors at the annual meeting, a general announcement shall be made concerning the withdrawal, death, etc. of the person originally nominated, and the person subsequently nominated by the Nominating Committee.

## Celebrate holidays with safety in mind

It's tough to think about the get-togethers you might have to miss during the holidays as you and your family stay safe and socially distant.

But health experts say you don't have to spend the happiest time of the year alone.

Limit the guest list to family and friends you trust are taking every precaution to prevent themselves from being exposed to the coronavirus. Also:

- Keep the gathering small.
- Insist that everyone wear a mask except while eating.
- Spread out the seating so people not living together sit

six feet apart.

- Place hand sanitizer around the house.
- Increase ventilation by cracking open windows and doors.
- Disinfect surfaces in the kitchen and bathrooms. Leave sanitizing wipes in bathrooms and ask each guest to wipe surfaces after use.
- Encourage hand-washing.
- Ask guests to take extra precautions for two weeks before the event.
- Keep guests out of the kitchen



to limit who handles food and touches surfaces where you're preparing dinner.

- Serve each guest yourself, wearing a mask. Don't set up a buffet or self-service food or drink stations.

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