Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
Reliable • Affordable • Responsible

NOVEMBER 2026

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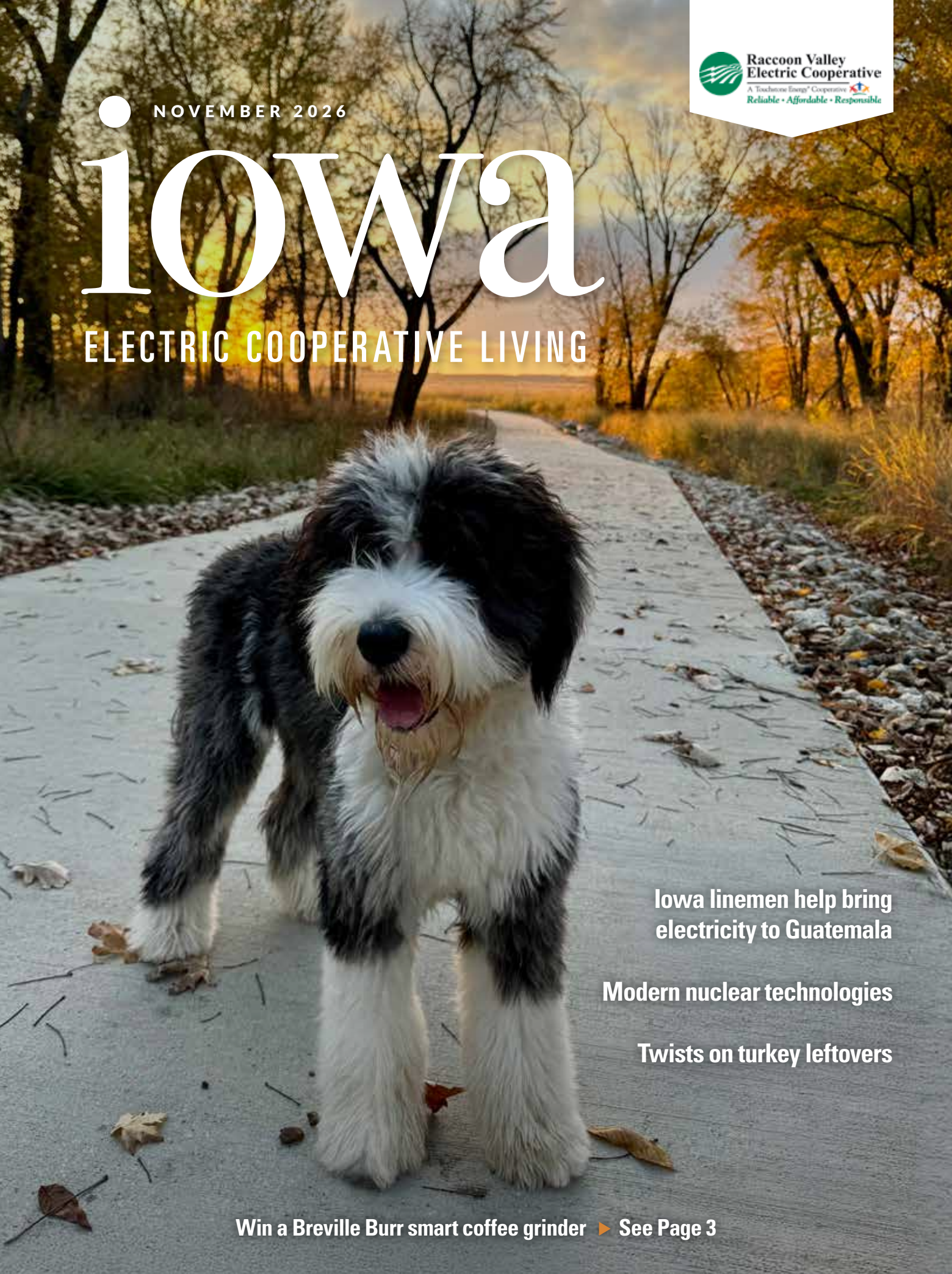
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING



Iowa linemen help bring electricity to Guatemala

Modern nuclear technologies

Twists on turkey leftovers

Win a Breville Burr smart coffee grinder ▶ See Page 3

OFFICE CLOSURES

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) will be closed Nov. 11 for Veterans Day and Nov. 26-27 for Thanksgiving.

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Follow us on Facebook!

Directors
David Onken, President ..... Glidden
Mark Ludwig ..... Breda
Karen Werner ..... Schaller
Steve Schable ..... Carroll
Adam Handlos ..... Glidden
Dave Schroeder ..... Coon Rapids
Carol Raasch ..... Odebolt

Keaton Hildreth, CEO

RVEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

INVESTING IN OUR ELECTRIC SYSTEM WHILE PROTECTING OUR MEMBERS

BY KEATON HILDRETH

One of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative's (RVEC) most important responsibilities is to provide our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity – today and for generations to come.

It is easy to take electricity for granted. We flip a switch, turn on the furnace, run a grain dryer or open a refrigerator, and we expect the power to be there. Behind that simple action lies a complex electrical system that requires constant planning, maintenance and investment.

As your cooperative, we have a responsibility to plan for the future while protecting the members we serve today. That means investing wisely in generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure to ensure our electric system remains reliable as electricity use continues to evolve.

Planning for a reliable future

Investments in generation help ensure enough power is available when demand is high and provide the reserves needed when unexpected events occur. Transmission is equally important because it moves electricity where it is needed, strengthens the regional grid and gives us more options during extreme weather or equipment outages.

At the same time, we recognize that every investment carries a cost – and those costs matter to our members. Families, farmers and businesses are watching their budgets, and we take that responsibility seriously. Investments must be necessary, carefully planned and fairly allocated.

We also recognize that economic development can create valuable opportunities for our communities. As new businesses and large energy users consider our region, RVEC

welcomes growth that brings jobs, investments and new opportunities. However, existing members should not be expected to pay for facilities built solely to serve a new large customer.

Making sure costs are fairly allocated

Our approach is straightforward: a new large energy user should pay the costs it creates. If serving a new customer requires a dedicated substation, a transmission upgrade, a feeder extension or other significant facilities, those costs should not be shifted to residential, farm, commercial or other members who did not create the need.

Some investments, however, benefit the entire electric system. Transmission improvements that strengthen reliability, reduce congestion or provide access to additional power resources can benefit all members. We will continue to evaluate these investments carefully and allocate costs fairly based on the benefits they provide.

Ultimately, this is about trust. You trust RVEC to keep the lights on, plan for the future, evaluate costs carefully and make decisions in our members' best interests.

By investing prudently, supporting responsible growth and fairly allocating costs, we can protect our members today while building a stronger electric system for tomorrow.

Keaton Hildreth is the CEO of Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative.

THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING WITH US DURING MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENTS

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative's (RVEC) 2026 Member Appreciation Events brought our member-owners, families, employees and directors together for two evenings of food, fun and fellowship. We were thrilled to see so many familiar faces, meet members who joined us for the first time and spend time together in the communities we proudly serve.

This year's events were held on Sept. 2 in Sac City and on Sept. 16 in Glidden, giving us two opportunities to connect with our members and to share one of the most important messages with our members: thank you.

A great evening with our members

Approximately 117 members attended the events, which drew nearly 250 members and guests combined.

Members enjoyed burgers and hot dogs grilled by the Sac City and Glidden Fire Departments, along with a smoothie from Stay Grounded Caffe. Guests could watch safety demonstrations, visit with RVEC employees and directors, learn more about our commitment to our communities, energy efficiency and Youth Tour. Plus, guests could catch up with neighbors and friends.

And, of course, there were giveaways. Congratulations to all our prize winners. We've contacted the bill credit winners, and their credits have appeared on their electric bills.

Why we celebrate

Our Member Appreciation Events are about more than food, prizes and an evening of fun. They give us the chance to step away from the everyday routine of providing electric service and spend time with the people at the heart of RVEC – our member-owners.

As cooperatives, we are different because the people we serve are also the cooperative's owners. That relationship is at the heart of our work.

These events give our employees and directors the opportunity to meet with members face-to-face, hear what is happening in your communities and simply enjoy time together. Most importantly, they allow us to show our appreciation for the trust you place in RVEC.

Whether you stopped by for a meal, brought the kids, entered a prize drawing or stayed a while to visit with our team, we are grateful you took the time to celebrate with us.

Thank you, RVEC members

Our Member Appreciation Events succeed thanks to everyone who helped make them special. Thank you to our members for attending, bringing family and friends, and spending the evening with us. A special thank you to our employees, directors and community partners who helped make these events possible. We are grateful to everyone who helped make these evenings so enjoyable!

We are proud to be more than your electric provider. We are your cooperative, and you are why RVEC is here.

Thank you for being a member-owner and for allowing us to serve you!

TRAINING FOR THE UNEXPECTED: KEEPING OUR CREWS SAFE

When our line crews head out to work, safety is always part of the job. At Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC), we know that working around electricity and climbing poles comes with serious risks, which is why our crews regularly train for the unexpected.

As part of RVEC's ongoing commitment to safety, our linemen recently completed their annual pole-top rescue training. The hands-on exercise prepares our crews to respond quickly if a fellow lineworker becomes injured or unable to safely descend from a pole.

The training is more than a requirement, it is an opportunity to practice the skills, communication and teamwork that could make a critical difference in an emergency. Each lineman must demonstrate the ability to safely climb, reach an incapacitated worker and lower them to the ground.

While our crews hope they never need to use these skills in a real emergency, preparation is essential. Emergencies don't come with a warning, and having practiced together helps ensure our employees are ready to respond when every second counts.

RVEC appreciates the dedication our lineworkers bring to their jobs every day, not only in keeping the lights on for our members, but also in looking out for one another.

Safety is a team effort. Through ongoing training, teamwork and a commitment to doing the job safely, our crews help ensure that everyone goes home safely at the end of the day.

At RVEC, providing reliable electric service is important. Making sure our employees return home safely to their families is just as important.

YOUR COOPERATIVE, YOUR VOICE: 2026 BOARD ELECTIONS

One of the things that makes Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) different is that the members we serve own and govern the cooperative. Our board of directors consists of local member-owners who provide leadership and oversight for your cooperative.

As part of RVEC's annual director election process, the Nominating Committee sought candidates for the District 4 and District 7 director positions. David Onken and Karen Werner, the incumbent directors for those districts, were the only nominees for their respective positions. No additional candidates were nominated.

Because only one candidate was duly nominated for each director position, David Onken in District 4 and Karen Werner in District 7 were elected by acclamation under RVEC's bylaws. No election ballots were issued, and no member vote was required.

Both David and Karen will continue serving three-year terms on the RVEC board of directors.

Continuing leadership

The board held its reorganization meeting on Sept. 16, and its officer positions remain unchanged for the coming year:

President: David Onken

Vice President: Steve Schable

Secretary/Treasurer: Mark Ludwig

Assistant Secretary/ Treasurer: Karen Werner

David Onken

Karen Werner

Grateful for our directors

We appreciate David and Karen for their continued willingness to serve RVEC and its member-owners. We are grateful for the time, leadership and commitment our directors devote to the cooperative and the communities we serve.

At RVEC, being a cooperative means more than delivering electricity. It means members have a voice, local leaders have a responsibility to serve and together we help shape our cooperative's future.

THANKFUL FOR OUR MEMBERS

Thanksgiving is a time to pause, reflect and give thanks for the people, experiences and blessings that shape our lives. At Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC), we are especially grateful for our member-owners.

As the harvest season ends and we enter the holiday season, we are reminded of what sets a cooperative apart. We are here because of you. RVEC is owned by the members we serve, and every day our employees work to deliver the reliable, affordable and responsible electric service you count on.

We are grateful for the trust you place in us to power your homes, farms and businesses. We are thankful for the opportunity to be part of the communities we serve and for the many ways our members support and participate in their cooperative.

Grateful for the people who make a difference

Thanksgiving is more than a single day on the calendar. It reminds us to appreciate the people who make a difference year-round. Our members are at the heart of everything we do, and we don't take that responsibility lightly.

We are also incredibly thankful for the dedicated employees who make up our RVEC family. From the line crews working safely to keep the lights on to the employees who answer your calls, maintain our system and support our members behind the scenes, each person plays an important role in serving you. We are proud of their daily commitment to our members and our cooperative.

With gratitude this Thanksgiving

As you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, we hope your holiday is filled with good food, laughter, meaningful moments and time spent with those who matter most.

From all of us at RVEC, thank you for being part of our cooperative family. We look forward to continuing to serve you and providing the exceptional service you expect and deserve, not just during the holiday season, but every day.

If you have any questions, concerns or need assistance, we're here to help. Contact us at info@rvec.coop, 800-253-6211 or 712-659-3649.

Happy Thanksgiving from your co-op family!

UNDERSTANDING OUTAGES: CAUSES, CHALLENGES AND RESTORATION

At Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC), we know how disruptive a power outage can be. Whether it's a busy workday, a family evening at home, or the middle of planting or harvest, losing power is never convenient. That's why our crews work quickly and safely to restore service whenever an outage occurs.

While we do everything we can to keep the system reliable, some outages are beyond our control. Understanding the most common causes can help explain what's happening and why restoration can sometimes take time.

Common causes of outages

Storms
Iowa weather can be unpredictable. High winds, ice and severe storms are leading causes of outages. While lightning doesn't always directly cause outages, it can strike trees or equipment, causing damage that interrupts service.

Trees and vegetation
Branches, limbs and even entire trees can come into contact with power lines, especially during storms. That's why RVEC invests heavily in vegetation management to keep lines clear and reduce the risk of outages.

Animals
Believe it or not, small animals, especially squirrels, are a common cause of outages. Birds and other wildlife can also interfere with equipment. We take steps to minimize these risks by installing protective devices, but nature can still pose challenges.

Accidents
Vehicle accidents involving utility poles or equipment can cause outages. This is especially important during planting and harvest seasons, when large equipment is being moved. We encourage everyone to stay alert and aware of their surroundings.

Public damage
Digging without locating underground utilities can cause serious damage and outages. Remember, it's the law to call 811 before you dig so they can mark underground lines. This simple step helps protect you and prevents unnecessary service interruptions.

Equipment issues
Even with routine inspections and maintenance, equipment can still fail. When it does, our crews respond as quickly as possible to identify the issue and restore power.

Our commitment to you

When outages occur, we prioritize safety during restoration. Our crews work in all conditions – day or night – to restore power as quickly as possible. In some cases, we must restore power in stages, starting with main lines before reaching individual homes and businesses.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during outages. If you have any questions or need to report an outage, please contact RVEC. Providing accurate location information helps us respond more efficiently.

At RVEC, we're committed to maintaining a strong, reliable system and keeping you informed every step of the way.

A CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

This Veterans Day, Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC) pauses to honor the men and women who have served our country and to express our gratitude for the sacrifices they and their families have made.

We are especially proud to recognize two members of the RVEC family who have answered the call to serve:

Joel Henely
United States Marine Corps

Kevin Greving
United States Air Force

While their military service is an important part of their stories, their commitment to serving others endures today. As members of the RVEC team, Joel and Kevin bring the same dedication, teamwork and sense of responsibility to their work that shaped them during their years of military service.

Their service reminds us that the values learned through military experience – looking out for others, working together, taking responsibility and being there when help is needed – are also important to a cooperative.

At RVEC, service is at the heart of what we do. Our employees work together every day to provide reliable electric service and support the members and communities who count on us. We are grateful to have employees like Joel and Kevin who have demonstrated that commitment both in uniform and as part of our cooperative family.

Joel Henely

Kevin Greving

To Joel, Kevin and all veterans: thank you for your service, your sacrifice and your continued commitment to others.

This Veterans Day, and every day, we are grateful for those who have served our country and for the lasting impact of their service.

From all of us at RVEC, thank you.

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IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LIVING

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