

Connections

April 2023

For the member-owners of Federated Rural Electric



Volume 27, Issue 4

Co-op's Revolving Loan Fund assists Hi-Lo Club with connection to the Lakefield sewer system

Federated assisted the Hi-Lo Club, Lakefield, with a \$159,582 Revolving Loan Fund check. The Hi-Lo Club underwent a renovation of the restaurant under new owners James and Tresa Hussong. Besides adding an upstairs bar and remodeling the restaurant, the Hussongs changed from the onsite septic system to a sewer connection to the Lakefield city line.

Federated and the Hi-Lo Club signed the 10-year loan paperwork March 24; the Hi-Lo Club also provided matching funds with a loan from the Southwest Initiative Foundation in Hutchinson and \$100,000 from the Jackson County Revolving Loan Fund. As funds are repaid to Federated, they can be loaned to other organizations.

For more than 75 years the Hi-Lo Club has been known as a place to enjoy "Food at its Finest." "The restaurant opened in 1945 and over the years added a liquor license and catering," Tresa said. "We purchased the business in 2021 when it closed due to the pandemic and owners' health. We remodeled the upstairs with a 'Rat Pack' décor dating back to the 1950s supper club, added a bar upstairs and reopened December 31, 2022. We feature many of the same foods from the past, such as steak, fish, lobster and pastas, along with local businesses' food, such as cheesecake, butcher shop and mixed greens."




Hi-Lo Club owners Jim and Tresa Hussong accepted the \$159,582 check from Federated's Revolving Loan Fund. Pictured are Federated Directors Glenn Dicks, David A. Hansen, along with Jim and Tresa Hussong, and Director Darvin Voss.

"State licensing also required us to upgrade the site's handling of wastewater," Jim added. "We previously had a septic system that was more than 20 years old. Connecting to the City of Lakefield's sewer lines was more affordable than a new septic system. Plus, this way we no longer have ongoing maintenance or inspections. This loan package helped make it more affordable."

"Federated initially applied for the zero-interest loan and then charges


up to one-percent handling to the organizations," stated Scott Reimer, Federated's general manager. "As these organizations pay back their loans, this money goes into a revolving loan fund to assist others for economic development or community facilities." The recipient also pays for the loan's closing costs and one percent interest.

Since 1992, Federated has provided economic development totaling \$4.463 million. This contributed to keeping 1,168 jobs and securing 668 jobs. 

At A Glance



Businesses & farms: rebates for energy-efficiency

Does your business or farm have plans for energy-efficiency upgrades for lighting, cooling, adding fractional horsepower motors or VSD drive? Federated offers rebates. See our website. We can also do custom rebates for energy efficiency. Call or e-mail us info@federatedrea.coop. 



Heat pump technology makes them effective and efficient in cold climates

Cut your heating and cooling costs by going with a heat pump.

Heat pumps function as both an air conditioner and heater and use 72 percent less electricity doing it. A heat pump moves heat instead of generating it like a furnace. In the winter heat is extracted from outside air, which is transferred into your home. Even when it's really cold out, heat energy exists in the air. Since heat pumps transfer heat rather than generate it, they are one of the most efficient means of cooling and heating available.

Heat pumps are common in warmer climates, but many people think they will not work in places where temperatures drop below freezing. That used to be true, but heat pump technology has evolved to handle colder climates.

Cold-climate air-source heat pumps (ccASHPs) work in even colder climates than regular heat pumps. The key feature in a ccASHP is a variable-speed compressor. The variable-speed system holds a steadier temperature than a traditional single-speed heating or air-conditioning system.

Plus, heat pumps come in different options to fit your needs. Building a new home? Go with a ground source heat pump for 400 percent efficiency. Want to replace your decades-old central air conditioner and furnace? Install a cold climate air source heat pump. Live in an old farmhouse with no ductwork or an open cabin with no central air? Go with a ductless heat pump (pictured above.)


Some heat pumps require a backup system to provide heat when cold



Ductless air-source heat pumps have become more popular in recent years. They are great for homes without ductwork. It consists of an outside unit and an inside unit to reduce your heating and cooling bills dramatically. — Photo by Marcela Gara

outdoor air temperatures limit the heat pump capacity. Ducted systems typically use a propane/natural gas furnace as a backup. Otherwise, heat pumps may possess electric resistance heat for the few weeks of arctic winter air. Installing properly sized HVAC equipment is essential to getting the best performance and comfort. A system that is either too large or too small for its intended space will struggle to meet your comfort needs.

Your local heating/cooling contractor can provide recommendations based on your home, insulation and existing system. Installing properly sized HVAC equipment is essential to getting the best performance and comfort. A system that is either too large or too small for its intended space will struggle to meet your comfort needs.

Rebates from your local electric cooperative, as well as tax incentives, are available if you are thinking about upgrading your heating/cooling system this summer. Visit your cooperative's website to find rebates on the three types of heat pumps currently available. A federal tax credit exists for 30 percent of the cost for purchase up to \$2,000 (between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023). Visit energystar.gov for eligible products and credit details. Later this year the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) may offer a new point-of-sale rebate for people earning up to 150 percent of area median income for heat pumps. The rebate has a \$14,000 cap. Go to www.energystar.gov and click on tax credits. 

Electric bikes boost rider ability

Perhaps you like riding bike, but it isn't as easy as it used to be. Maybe you would like to do more offroading, but don't have the strength to get up some of the steeper hills or across rougher ground.

Electric bikes help riders by letting them use pedal power, a combination of pedal power supplemented by an electric motor or an electric motor alone. The Nakto EBike gives bike enthusiasts a variety of options with its German-designed configuration.

The Nakto electric bicycle has a 250-watt brushless, high-speed, waterproof motor. Its top speed is 25 miles per hour. The electric bike will travel up to 20-30 miles per charge and up to 30-40 miles with pedal




Respark your enjoyment of bike riding with the Nakto Ebike. An electric motor makes riding easier.

assist. Once the battery is drained, the bike can travel on pedal power alone. An LED display gives riders a continual idea of where their charge level sits.

To assist in helping you travel as efficiently as possible, the Nakto Ebike has six gears. The electric bike also has front and rear disc brakes and shock absorbent front fork to make your ride as comfortable as possible.

A headlight and taillight ensure that you can see where you are going at night and be seen easily by cars.

The Nakto Ebike is available online and is one of the more affordable electric ebikes available. Many electric bikes cost \$1,000 to \$2,000 or more. The Nakto Ebike retails for approximately \$700 online. 

Safety

Sow safety first for spring planting season

Farmers reap what they sow. We often think of this when planting corn and soybeans in the spring.

Add "electrical safety" to the phrase, "you reap what you sow!" Plant safely and you reap going home to your family at the end of each day's hard work.

As you approach the field look up at the power lines. Do you have enough clearance to drive underneath safely with no equipment touching the overhead lines or guy wires? Is this a new tractor that's taller than what you used before? Did winter ice or a tree cause this overhead line to sag lower? If in doubt, call the electric cooperative.

Once you have entered the field, look to the sides for power lines, green transformer or cabinet boxes and guy wires, as you do spring




Oh snap! Farm equipment took its toll on this pole. If you break it, you will buy it. Electric poles now start at \$2,000 by the time you add in the pole and line crew labor. Respect the pole and be safe!

tillage with the large equipment or unfold the planter. Slow down while doing the end rows.

If your equipment comes into contact

with power lines, stay in the cab and call your electric cooperative for help. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path to the ground for the electricity. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives.

If leaving the cab is necessary, as in the case of fire, the proper action is to jump — not step — with both feet together, hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Farmers may want to consider moving or burying power lines around buildings or busy pathways for better safety clearance. Work with your electrician and electric co-op. 

Federated Focus

Winners in Dunnell drawings

Federated welcomed more than 100 new member-owners when it acquired the City of Dunnell's electricity customers February 22. As part of the new member mailing, Federated offered a drawing to the new members for returning their blue application forms and signing up for Auto Pay. The two winners of the \$25 bill credits are Kathy Nelson and Joel Reed. Nancy Bliesmer won the solar/crank flashlight/radio at the March 23 Dunnell Open House.

Basin Tour: five open seats



Tour a coal-fired power plant, lignite mine, Garrison Dam and a peaking plant August 9-11. The cost is \$275/Federated couple or \$138/Federated member. Price includes two nights hotel, charter bus, snacks and all meals. See first hand how your electricity is created. We will also take names for a waiting list in case of any cancellations. Call Andrea at Federated (507-847-3520 or 1-800-321-3520, extension 2224) with your credit card, address and phone number to reserve your seats; money is refunded if a cancellation arises.

Spring Operation Round Up



See Page 5 for the spring recipients awarded their checks April 13. The fall deadline will be September 22. The application and eligibility are found at www.federatedrea.coop. Otherwise, call or e-mail the office to request an application. ☎

Sherburn's Katie Hartke wins co-op's Youth Tour Contest & free trip to D.C.

Federated salutes the winners in its 2023 Youth Tour Contest.

Winning the grand prize was Katie Hartke, Sherburn; she won Federated's free trip to Washington, D.C. June 13-18. Hartke is the daughter of Doug and Lisa. She is a junior at Martin County West High School. She will be among 1,500 teenagers from across the country participating in Youth Tour, which is sponsored by electric cooperatives. She will tour the D.C. memorials and sites, witness Congress in session, visit with legislators and enjoy a theater performance, while learning about cooperatives.



(Front) Katie Hartke, Sherburn, won the Washington, D.C. trip. Gabriel Wolff, Jackson, earned second place. (Back) Megan Wheeler, Fairmont, was a finalist. Joseph Mohr, Jackson, was awarded third place, while Isaac Stone, Fairmont, was another finalist.

Second and third place awards of \$150 and \$100 were awarded to Gabriel Wolff and Joseph Mohr; both are seniors at Jackson County Central High School. Wolff received second place and is the son of Adam and Angela from Jackson. Mohr earned third place and is the son of Mark and Carrie, Jackson.

Each applicant completed an application and an essay on an energy-related topic. Each applicant also received a \$20 gift certificate to Amazon.com. The five finalists were called back for personal interviews March 20.

The other two finalists were Megan Wheeler, Fairmont, and Isaac Stone, Fairmont, who are both freshmen at Fairmont Area Schools. Wheeler is the daughter of Elizabeth. Stone is the son of Christy Stone and Steve Stone. ☎

Lend your GreenTouch to Kilen Woods State Park May 6 • 9 a.m.-noon



Rake, clean, pick up litter on trails, paint and more! All ages welcome at Kilen Woods State Park, Lakefield. RSVP to Federated by May 4 (info@federatedrea.coop or call 847-3520 or 1-800-321-3520, ext. 2224) so we have plenty of hot dogs and chips. ☎

Two \$1,000 Basin Scholarship winners announced

Congratulations go to the two local students receiving the 16th annual \$1,000 Federated/Basin Scholarships.

Emily Stauter, Welcome, won a \$1,000 Basin/Federated scholarship. She is a junior at Bethel University, St. Paul, majoring in social work with a minor in psychology. She was a graduate of Granada Huntley East Chain High School. Stauter is the daughter of Robert and Lynda.

Faith Freking, Heron Lake, receives the \$1,000 Federated/L&O/Basin Scholarship. Freking is a senior at Heron Lake-Okabena High School; she will attend South Dakota State University to major in nursing. Freking is the daughter of Mark and Sheila.



**Emily Stauter
Welcome**



**Faith Freking
Heron Lake**

"These scholarships come from two of our power suppliers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative based in Bismarck, North Dakota; and L&O Power Cooperative in Rock Rapids, Iowa," stated Scott Reimer, Federated's general manager. "Basin awards 136

of these scholarships to local electric co-ops. Federated is excited to award these \$1,000 scholarships to Emily and Faith."

The Basin scholarships are available to Federated members with high school seniors and college students who will be enrolled full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Federated received 17 applications. Each applicant completed a

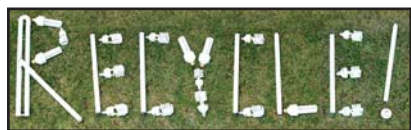
two-page application, wrote an essay, submitted grades, a reference checklist, jobs and involvement.

These scholarship applications were judged by retired education personnel: Rick Stenson, Sherburn; and Tamara Erickson, Jackson. ☺

Federated members fund \$28,420 for local organizations

Organization	Amount	Purpose
JCC H.S. Media Center, Jackson	\$100	New chess, checkers & other board games
MCW Middle School, Trimont	\$310	5 th & 6 th graders personal supplies (deodorant/pads)
Rhythm of the River, Jackson	\$370	Solar lighting at tents & porta potties for safety, plus first aid kit
MCW Elementary, Sherburn	\$500	Art supplies for K-2 nd grade, like construction paper, glue, folders
MCW 11 th & 12 th graders, Sherburn	\$500	Virtual tour of Auschwitz via zoom (ties into English & History)
Twin Valley Council for Boy Scouts of America	\$500	Toward two new handwashing stations at Camp Cedar Point, which is near Fairmont
MCW Preschool, Sherburn	\$500	Toward art supplies: construction paper, glue & paint brushes
Jackson Center for the Arts	\$500	Buy laptop for Art Center/Farmers' Market
Des Moines Valley Health & Human Svcs.	\$540	36 baby gates for families in need in Jackson County
Heritage Acres, Fairmont	\$600	Toward blacksmith for threshing day and Harvest Festival
Minnesota West Scholarship, Jackson	\$700	For Jackson or Martin County line worker or electrician student
HL-O Elementary Library, Heron Lake	\$750	Purchase new nonfiction book sets
Martin Co. Substance Abuse Prevention	\$900	MCW Empower group will buy 9-Square game for school events
Jackson County Library System	\$950	For Zoo Man summer reading at three county libraries
SWWC Foundation for Innovation in Education, Marshall	\$1,000	Registration fees for students in Knowledge Bowl & spelling bee
MCW summer softball/baseball	\$1,000	Toward new bats and balls
City of Lakefield park	\$1,000	Toward playground equipment for those with disabilities
Delafield Diggers 4-H Club	\$1,000	Canned hams for the Jackson County foodshelf Easter basket
South Central EMS-CPR Heart Guard	\$1,000	New infant & adult CPR manikins for training
Red Rock Center for the Arts, Fairmont	\$1,500	For Summer Art & Music week camp for 1 st -6 th grade students
Des Moines Valley Health & Human Svcs.	\$1,500	Diapers for Jackson County Baby Bundle program
JCC Middle School Ballfields, Lakefield	\$1,700	Buy four trees, stakes & fertilizer and plant with volunteer labor
Rebuilding Together Minnesota	\$2,000	Help 3-4 low-income homes with repairs in Jackson County
Prairie Ecology Bus Center, Lakefield	\$2,000	Toward raised garden beds for wheelchair access & elderly
Salvation Army	\$2,000	Emergency-energy assistance for in-need Federated members
Sherburn Fire Department	\$2,500	Toward a new radio for a firefighter
Jackson County Ag Society	<u>\$2,500</u>	Buy 12 plastic picnic tables for fair & events at fairgrounds ☺
Total	\$28,420	

Recycle fluorescent bulbs as part of your spring cleaning



State law requires the recycling of fluorescents and compact fluorescent bulbs due to

the mercury. Check out these recycling options this spring.

Brown County

The dates are set for May 3-4. A fee applies for recycling bulbs. Recycling occurs at:

- Springfield Market, 101 W. Central St., Springfield, May 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Brown County Fairgrounds in New Ulm, May 4 from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Sleepy Eye Hardware, 1200 Main St. E., Sleepy Eye, accepts fluorescent bulbs for recycling year-round and will dispose for a fee. Call 507-794-3611 or stop by the store for pricing. The store also recycles high-pressure-sodium, mercury-vapor and metal-halide lamps for a fee.

- River View Sanitation will sponsor an *Electronics & Appliance Recycling Day*, which will include fluorescent bulb recycling, May 17, from noon to 6 p.m. at the new location — Sleepy Eye Hockey Arena parking lot. Fluorescent lamps 8' and under: \$1, ballast — PCB: \$7.50/lb. and PCB capacitors: \$7.50/lb. Most household appliances, including water heaters, refrigerators and freezers, computer CPUs, phones, keyboards, etc. and car batteries are free. Battery backups, printers, DVD/VCRs, copiers/scanners and stereos: \$10. Computer monitors and TVs: \$25. RV appliances: \$75.

Jackson County

Residents of Jackson County can recycle their fluorescent bulbs at the Lakefield Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility (605 S Hwy 86), which is typically open June through October. A fee applies for bulb and ballast recycling.

Other electronics are not accepted at the HHW. An E-Waste Collection for residents and businesses will be held in September at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. Due to the volatility of the market, e-waste collection fees will be established closer to the collection date. You can find more information about the HHW Facility and E-Waste Collection advertised in the *Livewire*; on the Land Management website: www.co.jackson.mn.us/land; or you may call the Land Management Office at 507-662-6682, extension 4.

Martin County

Recycle fluorescent bulbs Thursday, May 4, at the Tractor Supply (1215 N State St., Fairmont) parking lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The other date is Thursday, October 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fairmont's Tractor Supply lot. Bulbs are accepted from the homes and businesses in the county. A fee applies for recycling bulbs. Call the Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce at 507-235-5547. ☎

Safe digging takes 5 steps

Working on an outdoor project requiring digging more than 12" deep? Careless digging poses a threat to people and underground infrastructure, like power lines. Always call 8-1-1 or Gopher State One Call first. Remember these five easy steps for safe digging.



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

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



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers 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 location.



Call 8-1-1 or
Gopher State
One Call at
1-800-252-1166

Let's roll! Spice up meal time with your favorite tortilla recipes!

How do you roll up your tortillas for a meal? Enchiladas, burritos, quesadillas, breakfast, desserts or even as a lasagna or hotdish? Share your tortilla recipes with us. Mail your favorite tortilla recipes to Editor, Federated Rural Electric, PO Box 69, Jackson MN 56143-0069 or e-mail to christoffer@federatedrea.coop by April 26. Add your name and phone number. Thanks for sharing with us! 📧

Hot April showers powered by a water heater from your local electric cooperative

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Craving Raisins

by Connie Richison, Winnebago

½ c. rice, uncooked

3 c. water

pinch of salt

Add rice to the boiling water and salt. Cook over low heat and stir until there is no water left. Drain. Return to low heat and add the remaining ingredients.

1 can sweetened condensed milk

¼ c. butter

1 tsp. vanilla

Cook and stir until thick. This pudding is good served hot or cold. 📧

Heavenly Bars

by Lola Schultze, Ceylon

2 c. raisins ½ c. brown sugar

1 T. flour (mix with brown sugar)

1½ c. water

Put in a kettle and cook over medium heat until thick, stirring periodically. Once thickened, add 1 tsp. vanilla.

Crust: 1 c. flour

1 c. brown sugar

2 c. quick oatmeal

1 tsp. soda

¾ c. butter, melted

Mix crumbly dough; divide into two parts. Pat half in bottom of greased 9x13" cake pan. Spread the raisin filling and top with the remaining crumbs. Bake in 350° oven about 30 minutes. 📧

Raisin Fork Cookies

by Barbara Sellner, Sleepy Eye

1 c. brown sugar & 1 c. white sugar

1 c. shortening

3 eggs

4 c. flour

1 tsp. baking soda in ½ c. warm water

1 c. oatmeal

1½ c. raisins

1½ c. coconut

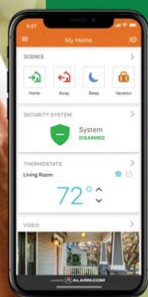
Mix in order given. Roll into balls and press with a fork. Bake at 350° until done. 📧

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The Board of Directors generally meets the last business day of the month at 8 a.m. at the Jackson office. Regular board meetings are open to the membership. Members interested in discussing business items should contact the general manager or president three days before the meeting.

Expand your home's Wi-Fi by building seamless zones



Graphic from tp-link.com

Ever find yourself searching for a strong Wi-Fi signal at home?

Whole home Wi-Fi system is flexible and scalable. Joining two or more Wi-Fi access points together creates and shares a seamless Wi-Fi network. This helps eliminate dead zones and provides uninterrupted Wi-Fi through your home or business. Whether it is a TP-Link Deco, Google Nest or Eero, the system allows you to have complete control of your home network and all the devices attached to it. Use its App on your smart phone or tablet; you'll have the ability to set up parental controls, run speed tests, change passwords and more. Whole home Wi-Fi systems are available both online and in stores.

If you have questions or need recommendations, give us a call, as we would be happy to assist (847-1001 or 800-847-8001).