



PROVIDING POWER:
Dreier will join other
lineworkers to provide
power in Guatemala,
see more on page 5

Energy INSIDER

A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION OF MIDLAND POWER COOPERATIVE • MIDLANDPOWER.COOP • MAY & JUNE 2024

MIDLAND EV CAR SHOW HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF OFF PEAK CHARGING

Midland Power Cooperative held its first electric vehicle (EV) car show at its Boone office on May 11 to help members access accurate information about EVs and cost-saving charging habits.

The event allowed attendees to kick the tires and test drive more than 20 of the latest EV and plug-in hybrid vehicle (PHEV) models while learning about the pros and cons of owning an EV.

In addition to member-displayed

cars, several local automotive dealers were on hand to showcase their newest vehicles.

Cooperative launches DRIVE EV Car Club

The event also marked the official launch of the co-op's newly formed DRIVE Electric Vehicle Car Club.

"As a member-owned electric cooperative, we want to serve as a trusted source of information for our

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Bird soars during co-op stop

Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird stopped at the Midland Power Boone office on May 8 to learn about the cooperative and the issues facing its members and rural communities. The stop was part of her annual 99 counties tour.

After touring the office, she met with representatives from Midland Power, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, and the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives for a roundtable discussion. The issues discussed included the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent mandate that would require coal-fired power plants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90 percent by 2039. It's an unattainable goal according to many industry experts, that will likely result in higher costs for consumers and a less reliable power supply.

Bird then toured the co-op's recently completed training field to learn how linemen properly train to safely tackle the unique challenges they face during storm recovery work.



Line Supervisor Brian Killeen shows Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird how difficult it is working in their thick electrical insulated gloves.




Boone Lineman Colton Zalesak explains his pole climbing gear during a pole top rescue demonstration.



Midland Power CEO Bill McKim highlights how the cooperative's automated metering system enables them to monitor the distribution system's status in real time.

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

DISTRICT 1  Brittany Brown-Ferguson	DISTRICT 1  Randy Christensen <i>(incumbent)</i>	DISTRICT 1  Nathan Cottington	DISTRICT 2  Jim Byriel <i>(incumbent)</i>
DISTRICT 2  Steven Larson	DISTRICT 2  Ray Wilson	DISTRICT 3  Joel Skow <i>(incumbent)</i>	DISTRICT 4  Francis Buckel



ANNUAL MEETING COMING IN JUNE

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the members of Midland Power Cooperative will be Wednesday, June 27 at 7 p.m. immediately following the Jefferson member appreciation event at Clover Hall, 601 E. Lincoln Way, Jefferson.

A virtual option will also be available for viewing the meeting live online at [Facebook.com/MidlandPower](https://www.facebook.com/MidlandPower).

The official notice and ballot will be mailed in early June.



Kinne selected for D.C. Youth Tour

Greene County High School junior Kamden Kinne will represent the cooperative at this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. in June.

Kinne will join 40 other students from around Iowa – along with hundreds of students from across the country – on the week-long trip. While in the nation's capital, students will visit the area's monuments, memorials, and museums while learning more about electric cooperatives, American history, and U.S. government. They will also have an opportunity to meet with their members of Congress.

Each year, Midland Power selects one student to attend the trip. All area high school sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply. Applications for next year's Youth Tour trip will be available this winter at [MidlandPower.coop/YouthTour](https://www.MidlandPower.coop/YouthTour).

Kill-A-Watt meters available for co-op member checkout



Interested in learning how much demand each of your home's appliances create?

Midland Power members can check out an appliance usage meter for FREE at any of our offices or the Iowa Falls Service Center.

Call us at (800) 833-8876 to make arrangements with our energy services team.

Ingebritson set to retire from board after 30 years of service

After nearly three decades of service, District 4 Director Tom Ingebritson will retire from the board when his current term expires in June.

First elected in 1995, Ingebritson has been a staunch advocate for Midland Power and the cooperative's members.

Ingebritson, who grew up in Hardin County, farms three miles southeast of Hubbard with his wife, Sharon.

Known for his pragmatic, community-minded nature, he frequently donates his time to cater fundraising events around the area.

In addition to his service on the Midland Power board, Ingebritson is a past member of the Pork and Beef Producers and Hardin County Extension Council.

Thank you, Tom, for your commitment to our members. We wish you and Sharon the very best!



Tom Ingebritson (center) with past directors Charlie Gilbert (left) and Jack Runge (right).



In addition to farming, Ingebritson is well known for the catering business that he runs with his wife Sharon. The couple has catered events across the Midwest.

▶ **EV CAR SHOW**

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members about all things energy related,” said Roger Hammen, Midland Power’s manager of energy services. “We know from our research that a growing number of our members are buying EVs or are considering buying an EV soon. Establishing an EV car club will enable us to better connect with those members and help them establish smart vehicle charging habits.”

Registration in the car club is free at [MidlandPower.coop/DRIVE](https://www.midlandpower.coop/DRIVE), and members don’t have to currently own an EV to register.

With the U.S. Department of Energy estimating that more than 80 percent of EV charging is done at home, Midland Power is working to prepare for the possible widespread adoption of EVs on their largely residential distribution system. In 2021, the co-op formed an employee EV task force to design programs and policies to help ensure continued system reliability and affordability for all members.

“Over the past few years, EV batteries have really improved and grown in capacity,” said Caleb McKim, Midland Power energy service specialist. “The downside of those bigger batteries is that they draw a lot more power when they charge. That puts a heavier load on existing infrastructure. Depending on the time of day a member chooses to



More than 20 electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles were on display at Midland Power Cooperative's first EV car show.

charge, it can also increase the demand and energy costs we pay our wholesale power providers.”

While a typical member household has a peak demand ranging from 7-15 kilowatts (kW), many of today’s EVs can draw that much power by themselves.

In fact, EV trucks like the Ford F-150 Lightning, the Chevy Silverado EV, or the GMC Hummer EV can all accept a level 2 charge of up to 19.2 kW. That additional load often requires upgrading a home’s transformer, especially in areas where multiple homes share the same transformer.

For the cooperative, it also means additional system demand as members often plug in at the very times

when the system is already peaking, such as in the evening during the warm summer months as people return home or during the morning hours in the winter when the heating load is highest.

To help mitigate those costs, the co-op recommends members utilize their vehicle’s or smart charger’s scheduling feature and only charge during the day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or at night from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. During those times, wholesale power is less expensive, and demand on the electric grid is lower.

Lightning joins Midland fleet

The cooperative also debuted its new all-electric Ford F150 Lightning at the show. The truck is joining the

Midland fleet on a trial basis as the co-op evaluates its performance in a variety of utility work environments and harsh weather conditions.

The Lightning is also available for members wishing to schedule a test drive and learn about the realities of EV ownership firsthand outside the often intimidating environment of a car dealership. Members can schedule a test drive by calling their local energy service advisor at (800) 833-8876 or emailing rebates@midlandpower.coop.

For more information on electric vehicles, the co-op’s DRIVE EV car club, and tips on what to consider when shopping for an EV, visit [MidlandPower.coop/EV](https://www.midlandpower.coop/EV).



Earth Day Celebration helps members use energy wisely, reduce power bills



Among the highlights of this year's Earth Day Celebration was a special member panel discussion on the realities - both good and bad - of owning and driving an electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle.

In addition to being good for your pocketbook, saving energy is also environmentally beneficial. That was the message of Midland Power's second annual Earth Day Celebration held on April 19.

The morning featured a panel discussion on what it's really like owning and driving an electric vehicle, as well as presentations on the benefits of heat pump technologies like air or ground-source

heat pumps and heat pump water heaters, understanding available tax credits for energy efficiency improvement projects, and a look at what the true payback is on residential solar photovoltaic (PV)

systems. For members unable to attend in person or watch the event live, a recording of the event in its entirety can be found at MidlandPower.coop/EarthDay.

Linemen help students explore linework careers

Boone Foreman Scott Benz and Apprentice Lineman Cole Snyder recently spent a morning teaching middle school students about career opportunities in linework during the 1st annual Central Iowa Middle School Expo.

The linemen also demonstrated the importance of working safely around power lines to the 7th grade students from the Boone, Nevada, and Colo-Nesco school districts, along with students from Trinity Lutheran School and Sacred Heart School.

Held on the Central Iowa Expo grounds in Boone, the event showcased career opportunities in the trades with local companies highlighting positions in their respective industries.



Boone Foreman Scott Benz teaches students about the dangers of large farm equipment coming into contact with energized power lines.



Manager of Energy Services Roger Hammen (right) joins students in watching the high voltage safety demonstration.



Students from Nevada Middle School take turns learning how difficult even simple tasks are while wearing insulated lineman gloves.



Iowa Falls lineman to bring electricity to rural Guatemalan village

In June, Midland Power Lineman Tanner Dreier will join 13 other lineworkers from Iowa and Minnesota electric cooperatives, and embark on a 2,800-mile journey to improve the quality of life for a rural Guatemalan community for generations. The trip is part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Program, which has

been coordinating electric co-op volunteers to electrify villages and communities in impoverished countries around the world since 1962.

Dreier, who is a member of the Iowa Falls line crew, will join linemen from six others from Iowa cooperatives, including Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, East-Central Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative, Eastern Iowa Light & Power Cooperative, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, North West Rural Electric Cooperative, and Prairie Energy Cooperative. They will work with seven linemen from Minnesota electric co-ops stringing power lines and wiring homes for electricity in the remote community of La Hortiga.

“Here in Iowa, we sometimes take having access to electricity for granted. For the residents of La Hortiga, our work will be life-

changing,” said Dreier. “I’m told the working conditions down there will be challenging, but I felt like this is a rare opportunity to really help improve the quality of life for the village residents.”

The linemen will leave for Guatemala on June 5 and return home on June 21. The remote community is about an hour from San Marcos, situated in the mountains at about 10,000 feet of elevation. The team will build out about three miles of distribution line that will be connected to the local municipal power company, which will take over the service of the lines once completed. After framing pre-set poles and building out conductor, they will install wires and circuits in approximately 15 homes.

The linemen will also provide each household with a water filtration kit to help them access clean water.

This project was made possible by NRECA International, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, whose mission is to increase individual and community access to electricity in all parts of the world.

NRECA started the International Program to bring prosperity to those less fortunate around the world. Since that time, the organization has powered the lives of more than 160 million people in 48 countries on the continents of Africa, South America, Central America, and Asia. Teams assist with all stages of planning and executing electrification projects, promoting electric cooperative development and empowering communities around the world.

Members can follow the trip via Facebook by joining the “2024 Powering a Brighter Future in Guatemala” group or via the Midland Power Facebook page.



Pole testing helps ensure reliability

Each year, Midland Power has a portion of our service area’s power poles and electrical cabinets inspected. The aim? To identify potentially problematic issues before they cause an unplanned outage.

Beginning in May, Star Energy Services will conduct inspections on Midland’s behalf on line sections in Hardin, Hamilton, Boone, Greene, and Kossuth counties. The inspections won’t result in any service interruptions.



SUMMER HOURS

We will be switching to our extended summer hours from **Tuesday, May 30 - Tuesday, September 5.**
Monday-Thursday • 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday • 7 - 11 a.m.

Our offices will close at 11 a.m. on Fridays, but crews will maintain regular hours. Members can always call in for services or to pay their bill at **(800) 833-8876** or pay online with **Smart Hub!**

Offices will be closed **May 27** in observance of **Memorial Day** and **July 4** in observance of **Independence Day!**

Pole donation highlights cooperatives commitment

Midland Power recently donated and installed two utility poles with LED security lights to help keep residents and visitors of Stratford's Athens Woods Estates retirement center safe.

After a driver missed one of their winding driveway's curves due to poor lighting and blowing snow, the residents reached out to Midland for help.

As a non-profit, Athens Woods also secured assistance from the Stratford Mutual Telephone Company, which handled the electrical wiring.

To view a brief video of the installation, visit MidlandPower.coop/AthensWoods.



Digging deep: Linemen Wyatt Tharp and Colton Zalesak set two donated poles with attached LED security lights at the retirement center to help keep residents and visitors safe.



Lineman Wyatt Tharp sets a pole at Athens Woods in Stratford.



A non-profit, Athens Woods in Stratford prides itself on providing lower-cost retirement living.

Nominate a local volunteer and they could win \$3,000 for their charity!

Contest entries accepted at IowaShineTheLight.com during the month of June



Don't wait for your old water heater to spring a leak!

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85-gallon: \$650

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Visit MidlandPower.coop/CommunitySolar for more info!

NEW 2024 PRICING!

\$550/subscription

Buy 10 and get the 11th free!

Member-owners show appreciation for linemen

More than 100 members sent thank you notes to our linemen in April in recognition of Lineman Appreciation Month. The submissions were shared with the linemen at their May safety meeting.

On behalf of our hardworking

crews, we thank our members who took the time to express their gratitude!

Haven't sent a note yet? It's not too late. Members can still submit their comments at **MidlandPower.coop/ThankALineman**.



Borkowski joins team as apprentice in Boone

Midland Power recently welcomed Apprentice Lineman Layne Borkowski to the team.

A native of Audubon, Iowa, and a graduate of Audubon High School, Layne previously worked for Highline Construction, a regional

power line construction company. While not on the clock, Layne enjoys playing golf, spending time with friends, and cruising around in a side-by-side.

Layne will be stationed in Boone.

Cooperative shines in student artwork



Roland-Story High School sophomore Kaylee Koppes that perfectly captures the cooperative spirit in this piece of art she recently submitted as part of her Youth Tour application.

Artwork courtesy of Kaylee Koppes



POWERED BY PURPOSE

2024 MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
to attend one of these
four FREE celebrations!

Join your friends and family for a delicious meal and desserts, along with an evening of fun events, live music, and more!

JUNE 18 - HUMBOLDT

Midland Power Office
1210 13th St. N., Humboldt

JUNE 20 - IOWA FALLS

Midland Power Service Center
730 S. River St., Iowa Falls

JUNE 25 - BOONE

CASE IH Building
1827 217th Rd., Boone

JUNE 27 - JEFFERSON

Clover Hall
601 E. Lincoln Way, Jefferson

All events from 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Join us immediately after the Jefferson event for our Annual Meeting

Midland Power Cooperative Offices

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
• 2005 S. Story Street, Boone, Iowa
• 1210 13th Street North, Humboldt, Iowa
• 1001 E. Lincoln Way, Jefferson, Iowa

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