

# POWER LINE

May 2026



## Redwood Electric Cooperative

60 Pine Street • Clements, Minnesota 56224

## 2026 Basin \$1,250 Scholarship Recipients

Addison and Andrew will each receive a \$1,250 scholarship to help with their future education. Redwood Electric Cooperative is proud to support local members and give back to the communities we serve.



**Addison GuiShu Kainz**, daughter of Jason and Jennifer Kainz of Tracy, will attend Minnesota State University, Mankato this fall, where she plans to major in Biology and minor in Dance. She intends to pursue dental school following graduate studies to become an orthodontist.

Addison has been actively involved in numerous extracurricular activities throughout high school, including Knowledge Bowl, Student Council, National Honor Society, BPA, Band, Choir, and Spanish Club.

She has earned multiple academic honors, including A Honor Roll, the Good Citizen Award, Daughters of the American Revolution recognition, and Outstanding Academic Achiever. In addition, Addison is committed to community service, volunteering with her church, 4-H, and various school and local events.



**Andrew Morin**, son of Justin and Tara Morin of Wabasso, will attend Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where he plans to major in History and pursue pre-law studies. After completing his education, he intends to become a constitutional lawyer.

Throughout high school, Andrew has excelled both academically and athletically. He was selected by his high school for the Excel Award and also the Triple A Award, and earned All-Conference honors in track for three years and cross country for two years. He was also a member of Honor Band.

Andrew is active in his school, community, and church. He is a member of National Honor Society and participates in Speech, Yearbook, Band, Choir, and serves as a song leader at his church, as well as helping with the Fall Festival.

# SMART HOMES, SMART SAVINGS:

## Easy tech upgrades to lower energy bills

Want to lower your energy bills without giving up comfort? A few smart home devices can help you use energy more efficiently.

From smart thermostats to lighting controlled with your phone, smart homes include a range of connected devices that can automate tasks, provide real-time data and even save you money. While some devices are all about efficiency, others are simply convenient or add a high-tech touch to your home.

Smart home technology includes connected devices that automate tasks and provide energy-use data. You don't need a fully connected system to see benefits. Many affordable, stand-alone options can help you cut waste and manage costs without sacrificing comfort.

- **Smart thermostats:** These devices can reduce heating and cooling use when used consistently. With an estimated energy bill savings of 10%, this smart device could pay for itself in just a year or two. (Actual savings depend on prior heating and cooling habits and how it's used after installation.) Check with your utility for available rebates and programs. *[Editor's note: Share local program details here.]*
- **Smart plugs:** Plug in a device to track energy use and turn it on or off remotely. They are a low-cost way to identify energy drains. You may decide cooling a case of soda in that old garage refrigerator isn't worth it after all.
- **Energy monitors:** These devices provide real-time feedback on electricity use (kind of like a fitness tracker for your home). Depending on the changes you make after reviewing their data, you could save 10-20% on your energy bill.
- **Smart lighting:** Use schedules, dimming and motion settings to reduce lighting waste. Smart LED bulbs also let you control lights remotely, which can help if lights are often left on.

Note that some smart devices rely on electricity and Wi-Fi, so features may not work during a power outage. It might be worth considering a backup generator or battery storage system for peace of mind. *[Editor's note: This statement is optional.]*

Whether you start with one device or several, smart tech can help reduce energy waste, save money and make daily routines easier. Get more energy efficiency tips at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## 6 Tips for Year-Round ENERGY SAVINGS



1

**Use your ceiling fan** counterclockwise in the summer for a down breeze, and clockwise in the winter for an updraft to force warm air down into your room.

2

**Turn off lights** and unplug chargers and electronics when not in use.

3

**Regularly change or clean your furnace and indoor AC filters** as recommended, and keep the area around your outdoor AC unit clear of obstructions.

4

**Close or lower window coverings** to keep out heat or cold.

5

**Insulate your home** and weatherproof windows and doors.

6

**Use a programmable or smart thermostat.** Adjust the temperature a few degrees for overall savings.

Get more tips on creating a resilient and efficient home:

 Safe Electricity.org®



## St. Anne's Catholic School Receives \$1,000 Operation Round Up Grant to Support Robotics Program



St. Anne's Catholic Elementary School is proud to announce that it has been awarded a \$1,000 Operation Round Up grant to support the students' interest in robotics. These funds will help cover the cost of materials and registration fees for four student groups learning about robotics in the LEGO® FIRST Association. Participation in LEGO® FIRST encourages critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, all while fostering creativity and innovation.

The grant will make it possible for more students to participate in and explore robotics in a meaningful way and expand access to this valuable learning experience.

Operation Round Up is proud to invest in local educational opportunities that prepare students for the future.

### Operation Round-Up is about Giving Back to Our Communities

Redwood Electric's Operation Round Up Trust Board proudly awarded nearly \$18,000 this past year to support local non-profit organizations and graduating seniors pursuing higher education! These non-profit grants help strengthen the communities we serve by supporting non-profits *that make* a direct impact in and around our service territory—directly benefiting our members and their families.

In addition, scholarships were awarded to member dependents continuing their education at colleges and trade schools, helping invest in the future of our communities.

**Small Change with a BIG Impact** is the best way to describe Operation Round-Up

Through Redwood Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up program, members simply "round up" their electric bill to the next dollar—contributing as little as a penny and never more than 99 cents each month. On average, members contribute less than **\$6 per year**, yet together, those small contributions make a powerful difference.

This program continues the neighbor-helping-neighbor spirit that electric cooperatives were built on more than 90 years ago.

Redwood Electric's Board of Directors ensures fair representation by selecting members from each of the seven districts to serve on the Trust Board. This group meets twice a year to review applications and award funds—grant funding is done in the fall and student scholarships in the spring.





## MEMBER ALERT

# PHONE SCAM WARNING



Scammers are calling from a number that appears to be from the **Lindstrom, MN** area and providing a different callback number.



They may claim your account is past due and demand immediate payment to avoid disconnection.

### PLEASE REMEMBER:



We do NOT require immediate payment over the phone to prevent disconnection.



We only accept payments through our secure, approved payment options.



We do NOT disconnect service after normal business hours.



If you receive a suspicious call, text, or email claiming to be from Redwood Electric, do not provide personal or payment information.



Instead, hang up and contact our office directly so we can assist you and report the incident.



**REC**  
Redwood Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Office Hours & Contact Information

Monday-Friday 7:00 AM-3:30 PM  
Phone: 888-251-5100 or 507-692-2214

Email address:

office@redwoodelectric.com

Web: www.redwoodelectric.com

SmartHub: redwoodelectric.smarthub.coop

Pay By Phone: 844-905-2209

### OUTAGES

(888) 251-5100

24 HOURS A DAY

### \*CALL BEFORE YOU DIG\*

Gopher State One

Call (800) 252-1166 or 811

## 2026 Annual Meeting

**Thank you** to everyone who made it to our annual meeting this past month! We truly value our members and appreciate the time you took to join us. We enjoyed visiting with everyone and spending the afternoon together, sharing updates and connecting as a community.

Thank you!

*Redwood Electric Staff, Managers,  
and Board of Directors*



## General Manager

Jim Haler

## Board of Directors

Dan Tauer-President

Emily Evans-Vice President

Jill Weber VanDerWal-Secretary-Treasurer

Dean Fultz

Michael Baune

Dick Nelson

George W. Turbes

The Board meets the fourth Thursday of each month at Redwood Electric Cooperative's building at 60 Pine St. Clements, MN 56224

### STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Redwood Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Visit our website