



Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Grundy County REC and others team up for kids campus donation



Concern for Community

Above | Mike Geerdes, left, CEO and Allyson Miller, executive assistant and human resources, right, Grundy County REC, present a \$9,000 donation check to Melody Hoy and Jan Onnen of Maroon and White, Inc. Coordinated donations from Grundy County REC, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and CoBank to Maroon and White, Inc. will help renovate an old school building into a new child development center in Grundy Center.

Grundy County REC, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and CoBank teamed up to donate \$9,000 to Maroon & White Inc., the non-profit organization funding the Uncky Daylo Kids Campus, a new childhood development center in Grundy Center.

The center is located inside the 33,000 square foot former Upper Elementary Building in Grundy Center. The existing two-story brick building, built in 1939, is undergoing major renovation. It will be the home for:

- A preschool, which will increase capacity by 71 percent
- A daycare, which will expand licensing from 41 to 72 children
- The Head Start office
- The YMCA before and after school

and summer camp programs which can accommodate a 50 percent increase in enrollment.

Also on site is the Megan Lyman-Hook playground which is the only ADA compliant playground in Grundy Center.

Major building changes include a commercial kitchen/laundry within a portion of the gym; additional classroom above it; two additional classrooms in the stage area; and an elevator. About 85 percent of the existing gym will be retained for recreational use and available for community use after school hours. The terrazzo floor hallways will also be maintained.

At a broader level, the project will help to preserve and celebrate an important part of Grundy Center's history, as well as encourage young families to move to or remain living in Grundy Center.

The project is both an economic and a community development project. Data shows children come from five counties, with all communities in Grundy County represented, along with communities in Black Hawk, Butler, Hardin and Tama Counties.

Maroon & White, Inc. is still fundraising to fill a gap and still has multiple rooms to name in honor of donors. Please consider donating to their Go Fund Me Page and join their Facebook page Maroon and White Inc-Grundy Center Kids Campus. ■

**Contribute to community
 and help fill the financial gap:
bit.ly/GrundyCenterKidsCampus**



Above | Jon Myer, left, information technology administrator, Corn Belt Power, and Jon Behounek, chief system operator, Corn Belt Power, discuss the installation of the cooperative's new uninterruptible power supply (UPS). The UPS device will help ensure continuity of services in the case of a power outage at Corn Belt Power's corporate headquarters.

New UPS system installed

Corn Belt Power's information technology and electrical maintenance department installed a new uninterruptible power supply (UPS) system inside the cooperative's server room in November.

The UPS is essentially a battery that will

help the cooperative run its critical systems during a power outage until the organization's generator turns on.

"We need this to catch any blips in power to prevent us from losing critical systems and processes such as email, internet, and phones," said Jon Myer, information

technology administrator, Corn Belt Power. "We want to avoid having any system interruptions in the case of an unplanned power outage."

The UPS system will give the cooperative up to 45 minutes of power at full load.

"Our existing UPS is at the end of its useful life," Myer said. "The new system will ensure seamless member service and support even in unfortunate circumstances." ■



Above | Dennis Anderson, information technology administrator, Corn Belt Power connects the new UPS system.

Corn Belt Power crews build new switching substation and transmission line

Corn Belt Power crews are in the thick of a line modification from the Humboldt to Weaver Switching Stations.

A little more than 14 miles of transmission line will be rebuilt when the job is complete. One of those miles is brand new line that extends from the old Humboldt-Sherwood line section to Humboldt-Pocahontas. The existing stretch of lines travel west from the Humboldt Switching Station to Pocahontas. When the new Humboldt to Weaver line is complete, the cooperative will retire 10 miles of old line that is considered its Humboldt to Pocahontas path. In total, 243 new poles will be used on the new stretch of line. Crews will also install fiber on the new structures.

"The procurement process has been extremely slow," said Jeremy Stattelmann,

transmission superintendent, Corn Belt Power. "The treatment of poles has been the main holdup. We are still feeling supply chain issues."

The existing line was built in 1949. Stattelmann says it's time for an upgrade.

"Ampacity ratings and having a fiber path from Humboldt towards the west is a large reason for rebuilding this line section, but the addition of ties to the new Weaver Switching Station will increase our system reliability to our members," he said. "I hear all the time how nice our new structures look compared to the old. The old line was designed to withstand a half inch of ice and 40 mile per hour winds. These new designs can withstand one inch of ice and 55 mile per hour winds."

Project completion is expected in spring of 2023. ■



Weaver to Humboldt line build

Above | Corn Belt Power transmission crews set new poles along the new stretch of line between Humboldt and Weaver Switching Stations, Nov 2. A little over 14 miles of new transmission line is set for construction.

Get ready for Momentum is Building 2023

Area builders and contractors are invited to learn about energy efficiency technologies at the 2023 Momentum is Building (MIB) Conference, scheduled for Feb. 16 and 17 at the Meadows Events Center in Altoona. A major draw for electricians, plumbers and HVAC professionals is the opportunity to earn CEU credits at the conference. MIB attendees can also network with industry professionals, hear from recognized industry energy efficiency and building trades experts and gain insight on trending technologies. Registration is now open at www.MomentumIsBuilding.com.

Sponsored and organized annually by the Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency (ICEE), the Momentum is Building Conference also connects Iowa's construction industry with the local services and resources available from Iowa's electric cooperatives, serving nearly 650,000 Iowans in all 99 counties.

"Helping inform local contractors about cutting-edge energy efficiency and beneficial electrification technologies is important to Iowa's electric cooperatives," said Ryan Cornelius, vice president, corporate relations, Corn Belt Power Cooperative. "For almost thirty years, the Momentum is Building Conference has provided both electric cooperatives and contractors an opportunity to come together to provide rural Iowans with safe, efficient and cost-effective home comfort solutions."

Tolu Omotoso, director of energy solutions at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) will kick off the conference by covering the evolving relationship between utilities and their members and how to leverage member-owned smart devices in the home for grid services.

Other topics to be covered will be sessions on promoting the value of home certifications and how to prepare contractors for large, new Federal home improvement subsidies to come online as well as employee



management best practices for small businesses.

Famed wrestling coach and Iowan, Jim Miller will provide the closing keynote. As a high school wrestling coach and teacher, followed by eight years as a top assistant coach at the Division 1 level for UNI, Coach Miller came into the Wartburg College wrestling program, that had



MIB registration open

Visit www.MomentumIsBuilding.com to register for the 2023 Momentum Is Building Conference.

not won a conference championship in 14 years. By his retirement in 2013, the team had won 21 consecutive conference titles and ten NCAA team championships. Miller is a five-time "National Coach of the Year," as well as an author. Coach Miller will share the value of Going the Extra Mile for yourself and your team. If it's important to your success, 'Do It Anyway'.

MIB 2023 will be held at the Meadows Events Center beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16 running through Noon on Friday, Feb. 17. Registration for the event is available online at MomentumIsBuilding.com. Early Bird registration is available until Jan. 18. ■



Birdseye view over new building

Above | Construction on Corn Belt Power's new vehicle storage facility made progress in November. Crews installed the facility's roof and finished the concrete parking lot. When complete, the facility will house the Humboldt transmission crew.

Corn Belt Power's new building progresses

The new building that will house the Humboldt transmission crew now has a roof.

Crews finished the steel structure, added the roof and completed the concrete parking lot in November.

The 14,000 square-foot building features eight overhead doors and a truck wash bay. It will also have offices for the Humboldt transmission crew, a breakroom, locker room and shower room. Among other critical materials, the building will house the Humboldt transmission crew's 19 vehicles, trailers and line tensioners.

Also in November, Midland Power crews completed electric service to the new building. Corn Belt Power closed its main headquarters on Thursday, November 17 at 2 p.m. due to a temporary power outage.

Corn Belt Power hopes to complete the building by spring. Once complete, the Humboldt transmission crew will move across the parking lot, which will open space in the existing storage areas to bring more material inside. ■

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November Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Jen Sievert, vice president, customer and corporate relations, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, donated her \$100 prize drawing to the Estherville Community Christmas Project.

RLFs help Graettinger's housing shortage and train Iowa offenders in skilled trades

Graettinger Economic Development Council (GEDC) revolving loan fund loan closing took place Monday, Oct. 17. Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, Corn Belt Power Cooperative and Homeward Inc., partnered together on the project, each lending \$50,000 to the GEDC. The funds purchased a second Graettinger Homes for Iowa house which

the Iowa Prison Industries builds. Once the home is built and transported to the final site, developers manage foundation work, utility hookup and home completion before listing for sale.

Graettinger housing is an issue and GEDC is actively helping fill the need. The Homes for Iowa program has restrictions in place, including the Homebuyer family income limit of \$100,000 or less, for a family of any size. Visit www.homesforia.com to learn more about this program. ■



Revolving loan funds close with GEDC

Above | Stacy Cirks, development finance director, second from left, Corn Belt Power Cooperative; Jed Skogerboe, manager business and community development, second from right, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative; and Cheryl Rhead, right, Homeward Inc., present revolving loan funds to Karen Spies, left, and Lloyd Peterson, middle, Graettinger Economic Development Council, to buy a second Graettinger Homes for Iowa house. Homes for Iowa is a statewide program that exists to address Iowa's housing shortage, train Iowa Prison Industry offenders in skilled trades and reduce recidivism.

Corn Belt Power Cooperative Watts Watt

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