



**October 2025**

## **MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST SET FOR OCTOBER 25 IN ROSHOLT**

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWECC) will host its Member Appreciation Breakfast at its headquarters in Rosholt on Saturday, Oct. 25 as a way to show its appreciation to its members. The breakfast is scheduled to take place from 8-11 a.m.

In addition to a pancake breakfast, the following will be available at the event:

- Door Prizes
- Kids Costume Contest (Judging at 9:45 a.m.)
- Halloween Treat Bag for Kids
- Kids Bike Drawing at 10 a.m.
- Bounce House
- Hotline Demonstrations
- Craft & Gift Fair featuring local vendors



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**OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH**



In October, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you—the members who make it all possible. For us, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.



As a cooperative, we see purpose in action every single day. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you—our members, our neighbors and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally controlled. That's not just a tagline; it's the very heart of our business model. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members who live right here in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

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## IOLA-SCANDINAVIA SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES \$1,000 STEAM GRANT

The Iola-Scandinavia School District has received a \$1,000 STEAM grant from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) to be used to purchase items for the renovation of the auditorium at Iola-Scandinavia High School.

The renovation project will benefit students in the school district who participate in choir,



band, and theater.

"I think the students have earned this in a way," said Shannon Huettnner, a high school support instructor in the district, and part of the team who heads up the district's musical each year. "We have grown the musical to have almost 70 students yearly participate. For a small school district, that's really great. Because we have so many kids involved with the musical, the need was there. I almost feel like we're fulfilling a need they have."

She added, "They will have a much greater theater experience when performing."

Since the auditorium originally opened in 1979, Huettnner said there have been some updates made, but it was time for a more in-depth renovation of the auditorium.

The curtains were faded and had holes in them and the lights put out a lot of heat with students underneath them, Huettnner said.

"We're not sure if the curtains were ever replaced," Huettnner said. "We can't find any paperwork on that. We're pretty sure the lights have not been replaced. The sound system has been upgraded over the years, but it still wasn't up to date."

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## 4 BEST BETS TO STAY CYBER SAFE

Protecting yourself online doesn't have to be complicated or expensive. A few simple habits can dramatically reduce your risk of falling victim to cybercrime. While you can never be "hackproof," you can become resilient in the online world.



At the heart of online safety are four essential behaviors that the National Cybersecurity Alliance call the Core 4. These simple steps will help shield your personal information, protect your online accounts and keep your devices secure.

1. **Use long, unique, and complex passwords.** Your passwords are the first line of defense between a criminal and your sensitive information. Here's how to have amazing passwords:

- **Every password must be long, unique and complex.** Nowadays, every password should be at least 16 characters long, which significantly overwhelms password-cracking programs. Use a random mix of letters, numbers and symbols.
- **Don't reuse passwords.** Every account needs a unique password. Unfortunately, making small changes, like adding numbers or switching out an S with a \$, doesn't count as a unique password.



- **Use a password manager to store and generate strong passwords.** If you're wondering how to manage so many unique, long passwords, the answer is a password manager. There are many free, secure options. Password managers are the safest way to store your passwords. If you prefer to keep a password notebook, treat it like cash.

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## CWEC RETIRES \$300,000 IN CAPITAL CREDITS

One of the benefits of being a member of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) is that members are eligible to receive capital credits. Capital credits represent your ownership in CWEC. Each October CWEC returns to its members a portion of their capital credits.

Unlike investor-owned utilities who maximize profits to pay dividends to shareholders, CWEC, which is a not-for-profit electric cooperative, provides its members with "at cost" electric service. We do not exist to earn a profit.

When each year's finances are audited and closed out, the remaining profit or margins are allocated to the members based on the amount each member paid for electricity during the year in the form of capital credits.

Capital credits are the revenues that remain at the end of the year once all expenses are paid. These revenues, or margins, are then assigned to members based on the amount of energy they consumed during the year.

These capital credits are used by the co-op to help build and maintain the CWEC electric system. When the co-op's finances permit, the CWEC Board of Directors approves a portion of the allocated capital credits to be retired and pay them back to you – the members.

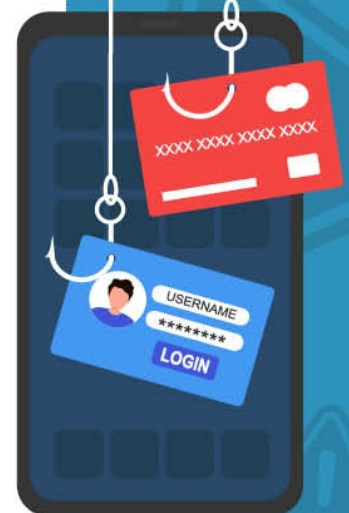


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# TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Do you know the warning signs of an energy scam? Scammers will often use **high-pressure tactics** that create a sense of urgency. They may also ask for **unusual payment methods** such as gift cards or cryptocurrency. **Dodgy communication** is typically associated with a scam, including poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. If you spot any of these warning signs, take a moment to pause and determine if it's legitimate or if it's a scam.



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