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July 2026 NEWS

***Eau Claire Energy
Cooperative***

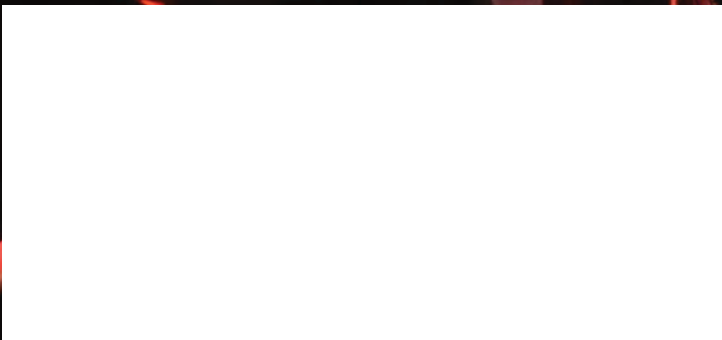
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

FOREFRONT OF FUSION

**HOW TO HELP
DURING PEAK DEMAND**

READER RECIPE CONTEST

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
TRINITY EQUESTRIAN CENTER**





Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



LOBBY REMODEL COMING IN AUGUST

By Monica Obrycki, President and CEO

At ECEC, safety has always been a top priority. Whether it's protecting our employees in the field, maintaining a reliable electric system, or safeguarding member information, we are continually looking for ways to improve. One of the key goals identified in our most recent strategic plan is taking our safety culture from good to great. That commitment extends beyond hard hats and power lines.

In August, we will begin a remodel of our cooperative lobby designed to improve the security and functionality of our office for both members and employees. The updated layout will help strengthen physical security within the building, provide additional protection for sensitive files and records, and reduce the risk of unauthorized access to computers and internal systems. In today's world, physical security and cybersecurity go hand in hand, and these improvements are another step in protecting the cooperative and our members' information.

In addition to enhanced security, the remodel will create a more welcoming and efficient space for members visiting our office. We are excited to share a rendering of the updated lobby and look forward to the finished project.

To complete the remodel safely, our lobby will be closed

August 3–7. During that week, members will not be able to make payments inside the lobby. However, all other cooperative operations will continue as normal, including phone service and field operations.

Members will still have several convenient options available to make payments during the closure:



Use **SmartHub** online or through the mobile app (https://www.ecec.com/my_account/smarthub)



Mail payments to the cooperative office (PO Box 368, Fall Creek, WI 54742)



Pay through our **automated phone payment system** (855-938-3485 or 715-832-1603)



Use our secure **24/7 drop box** (8214 US Hwy 12, Fall Creek, WI 54742)

If members need assistance with matters other than payments, appointments can be arranged by contacting our office at 715-832-1603.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this temporary disruption. These updates are an investment in the future of your cooperative and part of our ongoing commitment to keeping Eau Claire Energy Cooperative safe, secure, and member-focused for years to come.



A rendering of ECEC's renovated lobby, featuring improved security and a welcoming space designed to better serve members for years to come.



TRINITY EQUESTRIAN CENTER:

Building trust, healing, and hope

For nearly 25 years, Trinity Equestrian Center has served as a nonprofit organization focused on helping people navigate life's challenges, trauma, stress, and personal growth. Located on 67 acres in rural Wisconsin and on Eau Claire Energy Cooperative lines, the family-run organization works with veterans, active military members, first responders, youth, families, and individuals of varying abilities through programs centered on connection, trust, and personal growth.

Toni Mattson, her husband Bill, an Air Force veteran, and her sister Jan founded Trinity Equestrian Center in 2002. Long before Trinity existed, they shared a love of horses, a desire to help people, and a belief that connection has the power to change lives. When the opportunity arose to purchase the former Pinewood Stables, they saw the potential to create something special—a place where horses and people could come together in ways that foster connection, growth, hope, healing, and purpose.

From the beginning, Trinity was a family endeavor. Toni and Bill's sons, Ian and Taylor, were 16 and 14 when the family purchased the property. Together, the family helped build what Trinity would become. What started as a shared vision grew through years of commitment, hard work, and more than a few moments when the family wondered how they would keep moving forward. Looking back over nearly 25 years, they point to God's faithfulness as the reason Trinity is still serving today.

The family's understanding of trauma was shaped in part by Toni's father, a World War II veteran. One late-night incident after Toni accidentally startled him gave the family a firsthand glimpse into what trauma can look like and how deeply it can affect not only the individual, but also the people who love them. That experience stayed with them and would later influence Trinity's commitment to serving veterans, military families, first responders, and others facing life's challenges.

While Trinity's early work centered on both youth development and supporting veterans, the organization has expanded its

programs over the years. Today, Trinity serves participants ranging from school-aged children to seniors through mounted and unmounted therapies, youth development programs, family and group sessions, adaptive riding services for people of varying abilities, and individualized experiences tailored to each person's needs and comfort level. Youth development and veteran wellness continue to be two of Trinity's longest-running areas of service and remain at the heart of the organization's work today.

The organization is now guided by the family's third generation. Toni and Bill's son, Ian, serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Trinity Equestrian Center. After spending much of his life helping shape the organization, he now leads its day-to-day operations and future growth. His background in law enforcement helped expand the organization's outreach and programming for first responders and law enforcement personnel, an area of service Trinity continues to lean into as demand for wellness and resilience resources grows. These groups often face many of the same emotional and mental health challenges experienced by military members and veterans.

Many participants come to Trinity after trying other types of therapies or approaches that were not successful in helping





them. Some arrive dealing with trauma, grief, anxiety, stress, or difficulties connecting with others. Trinity’s programs are designed to create a safe place where participants can build trust and confidence at their own pace rather than feeling pressure to immediately open up emotionally.

Much of the work at Trinity begins with simple interaction and observation. Participants spend time around the horses, learning to slow down, build trust, and become comfortable at Trinity. As sessions progress, those experiences can help strengthen communication, patience, consistency, and confidence. Because horses respond honestly and instinctively, they can help participants better recognize their own emotions, behaviors, and patterns.

Those same principles are especially impactful in Trinity’s youth development programs, where children and teens build confidence, communication skills, responsibility, and healthy relationships through hands-on experiences with horses. Trinity serves more than 150 youth each month through a variety of youth-focused programs designed to help young people discover their strengths and navigate life’s challenges.

As participants progress through sessions, activities may include herd walks, hands-on exercises, communication activities, and goal-setting exercises designed to help process experiences and strengthen relationships. Programs are individualized because each participant brings a different background and set of experiences.

That personalized approach is so important to Trinity. Rather than following a rigid process, they focus on meeting people where they are and helping them move forward in ways that fit their individual needs.

In addition to therapy services, Trinity also hosts programs and events focused on strengthening support systems within the broader community. One of those efforts is the Strength in Service Summit, which brings together veterans, military members, first responders, and community supporters for speakers, networking opportunities, and conversations focused on wellness, resilience, and support.

The summit continues to grow as more people seek opportunities to connect with others who understand the unique challenges that often come with careers in military service, law

enforcement, and emergency response. Community members can support the event by volunteering, sponsoring, attending, or helping spread awareness.

Volunteers are a vital part of Trinity’s day-to-day operations throughout the year. Their time, talents, and dedication help make many of Trinity’s programs possible. From assisting during sessions to supporting events and caring for the facility, volunteers help extend the organization’s impact in countless ways. No horse experience is required, making volunteer opportunities available to a wide range of community members.



Over the years, Trinity Equestrian Center has continued to grow and evolve while remaining committed to serving others. Although the organization has expanded and evolved, its mission has remained consistent: Changing Lives Through Connection.

That mission aligns closely with the cooperative principle of concern for community. By supporting neighbors, investing in our community, and helping others through challenges, Trinity Equestrian Center continues to make an impact on the individuals and families it serves throughout the region.

For those hearing about Trinity for the first time, the organization hopes people understand that healing and support can look different for everyone. A major part of Trinity’s mission is helping reduce the stigma that can still exist around mental health, particularly among veterans, military members, and first responders, where seeking help is sometimes felt to be more difficult or less talked about.

The team at Trinity encourages people not to give up if one approach to healing does not work for them. As Toni shared, “Don’t stop until you find what fits.” Whether that support comes through traditional counseling, equine-assisted therapy, community connection, or another outlet entirely, Trinity believes the important thing is to continue seeking the right kind of help. Nearly 25 years after opening, Trinity Equestrian Center remains committed to helping people find hope, connection, and a path forward.



Electrical Safety *around* Water

Prevent
shocks around
pools, hot tubs and
spas before
they happen.



- Use a qualified electrician for any new pool, hot tub or spa wiring.
- Use covered outdoor outlets.
- Make sure outlets are GFCI-protected and tested monthly.
- Keep cords away from water. Don't use extension cords for pool equipment.
- Replace cracked outlet covers, frayed cords, loose plugs or damaged equipment.
- Choose battery-operated and waterproof TVs, radios and speakers.
- Don't handle phones, tablets, laptops or charging cords when you're wet, and keep them away from pools, spas and sinks.
- Check power line clearance with an electrician or your utility when installing pools, spas and structures like diving boards; and have utilities marked before digging.
- Schedule periodic electrical inspections and upgrades for your equipment.
- Have an electrician show you how to shut off all power in an emergency and make sure the shut-off switch is labeled.

Know the risks: Wet skin + wet surfaces = increased risk when electricity is present.

Warning signs of shock in the water:

- Tingling sensation.
- Muscle cramps.
- Restricted movement.

If you suspect electrical shock:

- Turn off all power immediately.
- Do NOT enter the water to rescue anyone.
- Use a non-conductive rescue tool (such as fiberglass).
- Call 911.

If you feel a shock in the water, move away from the source and get out.

 Learn more at:
Safe Electricity.org[®]

www.ecec.com

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Monica Obrycki, President and CEO

**Taylor Skibba, Marketing and
Communications Coordinator**

8214 Hwy 12, P.O. Box 368, Fall Creek, WI 54742-0368

www.ecec.com   

Lobby Hours: 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Thursday;
7:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Friday

Non-emergencies: 715-832-1603

Emergencies & outages: Toll FREE 800-927-5090
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Diggers Hotline: 811 or 1-800-242-8511
Call 3 working days before you dig.

ECEC's lobby will be closed August 3–7 for lobby renovations.