



THE WIRE

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Nick Scholer, Former AMU GM, Remembered

Nick Scholer, former General Manager for Algonia Municipal Utilities, died November 16, 2011 at Kossuth Regional Health Center. He was 79.

Scholer was AMU General Manager from 1971 to 2000. Prior to moving to Algonia, Nick was general manager for McGregor Municipal Utilities from 1906 to 1963, and general manager of Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities from 1963 to 1971.

Scholer was active in the utilities industry serving as President of NIMECA, Director of Cornbelt Cooperative. He also served on the legislative committee for the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, past President of Iowa Association of Municipal utilities, a Director of the Missouri

Basin Power Agency, and was a municipal representative to start a lineman's program at Northwest Iowa Vocational School.



Scholer was born and raised in Remsen, Iowa. He served in the US Navy during the Korean war and was a lifetime member of the VFW.

Scholer was active in the community. He served

on the Algonia Community School Board, President of the Algonia Chamber of Commerce and Algonia Economic Development. Scholer served on the Board of Directors for Iowa State Bank and Security State Bank. He was the President of the committee that established the Algonia Prisoner of War Museum, and was active in St. Cecilia Church and the Algonia Knights of Columbus.

Left to honor his memory include his wife, Shirley, daughter Desiree Meyer, Nick J Scholer, and three grandchildren.

The family requests memorial be directed to Hospice of the Heartland or the American Cancer Society.

Think Safety When Stringing Holiday Lights

The holiday season is here and many are preparing to light holiday decorations to celebrate the season. Be sure to follow these simple safety precautions.

Before stringing outdoor lights, check for overhead power lines. If you come in contact with the lines, the results could be fatal. Keep 10 feet away from overhead lines.

Before stringing lights on outdoor trees, make sure the tree limbs haven't grown near

power lines. Branches, an entire tree, and even the ground next to the tree can become energized when trees come in contact with power lines.

Check all light strands for cracks, frayed insulation, bare wires or broken plugs. Worn cords can cause fires. Discard damaged sets of

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Think Safety When Stringing Holiday Lights



Improve the Efficiency of Your Fireplace

There is nothing like roaring fire in a wood-burning fireplace on a cold winter night. That fireplace, however, is an extremely inefficient way to heat a home. Between 80 and 90 percent of heat produced by a wood-burning fireplace is lost through the chimney. An Open fireplace also pulls in more air than is needed for burning, including warm inside air and cold outside air, reducing heating efficiency.

Homeowners can com-

bined energy saving accessories with regular maintenance to improve the efficiency of a fireplace.

You can reduce heat loss by using flue sealers that are easy to install and inexpensive. A flue Sealer below the damper prevents heat loss and drafts when the fireplace isn't in use.

Glass fireplace doors designed to fit the opening prevent heat loss when the fireplace isn't in use.

A heat exchanger is

made of large tubes and fans that circulate war air within the tubes and force heat back into the room. A heat exchanger can improve a fireplace's efficiency by up to 10%. It does require routine cleaning to remove soot buildup, and the installation is expensive and complicated.

Fireplace inserts improve the efficiency of a fireplace 65% or more.

It's important to have a fireplace cleaned and inspected annually.

MEGAtalk Introduces The Almost Family Family Plan

For years, cell phone companies have offered family discounts, but only if you're truly family.



MEGAtalk by I wireless now

offers the "Almost Family" Family Plans for Pay in Advance customers; family discounts for friends, co-workers, roommates, even actual family members.

The more people in your family, or almost family, the more you can save. Some conditions apply. Family plan discount available up to 5 lines.

Receive an additional 5 dollars in savings when you bundle AMU Cable TV, High Speed Internet, and Local and Long Distance Telephone service with a MEGAtalk monthly billed cellular plan.

Receive more information about MEGAtalk monthly billed and Pay-in-Advance plans by stopping at Algona Municipal Utilities in downtown Algona.

Save Energy Preparing Your Holiday Meal

With the holidays comes parties and meals with family and friends. The energy preparing food can add to the cost of your utility bill.

Energy savings starts when the oven is turned on. Preheat the oven to the exact temperature required. Preheating is not necessary for foods that cook for several hours.

Limit the number of times you open the oven door. Opening the door lowers the temperature as much as 25 ° F. If you use an electric oven, turn the oven off 15 minutes before the cooking time is complete and food will continue cooking at the set temperature.

Cooking on a range top uses less energy than

cooking in an oven. Use the lowest heat setting possible. Keep pots and pans covered to prevent heat loss. With an electric range, turn the off the burner a few minutes before cooking is complete as the heating element will stay hot enough to continue cooking. For electric ranges match the size of the pan to the heating element.

Think Safety When Stringing Holiday Lights

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lights.

Route cords inside the home to prevent people from tripping over them. Don't place cords under furniture, rugs or appliances. Covered electrical cords can overheat or become frayed and cause a fire.

Follow the manufacturer's limits for the number of light strings that you can safely connect together. Always turn off indoor and outdoor holiday

lights when leaving the house or before going to bed.



Don't place the Christmas tree near a heat source such as a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree making it more susceptible to fires caused by heat, sparks or flames.

Install LED holiday lights as

most are shatter proof and shock resistant. LEDs produce almost no heat and are safer to touch and reduce the risk of fire. LED lights are more energy efficient and can last up to 20 holiday seasons.

Use only UL-approved lights and extension cords. Avoid overloading electrical circuits. Connect lights to power strips that have several outlets and a built-in circuit breaker. Never let children touch lights or plugs with wet hands.



*Community Owned For
Community Benefit!
That's Our
Commitment to You,
Our Customer and
Owner!*