

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Scholarships awarded

Three area seniors have been awarded \$500 scholarships from Norris Electric Cooperative. Abby Kessler, daughter of Stacy and Robin Kessler of Robinson, received the award at Robinson High School Awards Night Monday, May 14th. Nicole Kinkelaar, daughter of Doug Kinkelaar and Dana Wentz received the scholarship at Dieterich High School graduation ceremonies on Sunday, May 13th. Haleigh Peters, daughter of Bernard and Nancy Peters of Greenup accepted her scholarship at Cumberland High School Awards Night on Tuesday, May 15th.

Keith McKinney, Co-op Manager said "The employees and board members of Norris Electric Cooperative have always been involved in our local school and communities. We live here too, and like our members, have a vested interest in the future of our children. These scholarships are just a small way we can help make a difference for students like Abby, Nicole and Haleigh."

Congratulations to all area graduates!



Photo Credit: Toledo Democrat

Haleigh Peters receives scholarship from Joe Helmink, Cumberland County director.



Nicole Kinkelaar accepts scholarship from Gilbert Garbe, Effingham County director.



Abby Kessler receives scholarship from Frank Draper, Crawford County director.



Norris Electric Cooperative • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 783-8765 • www.norriselectric.com

Biggs one of seven IEC Memorial Scholarship winners

Jace Biggs of Palestine is one of seven winners of the 2012 Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarships. Jace is the son of Norris Electric members Corie and Sherry Biggs and graduated from Palestine High School.

Biggs competed for the scholarships with 230 other students from across the state. The \$1,250 awards are given each year to six sons or daughters of electric co-op members and one to the son or daughter of a co-op employee or director.


Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of energy cooperatives.

Good luck, Jace, we know you

have a great future ahead of you and are happy we could help in this small way.



Crawford County Director Larry Buser presents IEC Memorial Scholarship to Jace Biggs of Palestine.



Norris Electric Cooperative congratulates Jack Graves of Elizabeth as Illinois Country Father of the Year. Three members of Norris Electric were also nominated. While only one individual can hold the title, we consider every person nominated to be extra special. Join us in giving our nominees praise. The fathers nominated from our membership are: Corey Dasenbrock, Teutopolis, nominated by: Linda Ruholl (next door neighbor), Chet Dobbins, Wheeler, nominated by: Tori, Sydney & Ellie Dobbins (daughters) and Lindell Hering, Mt. Carmel, nominated by: Sheila Colbert (daughter.)

Read their nomination letters on the Illinois Country Living Website: www.icl.coop



Co-op Connections Card featured Local Business Schuetz Companies, LLC. – Olney, Ill.

Homes by Schuetz was formed in 1996 with a dedication to quality workmanship down to the smallest detail. We can handle most any project; large or small, limited only by the imagination. Our staff of nine can meet the tightest of schedules and challenges that go with the business. Our jobs range in size from a few hours to months. All employees are drug-tested, trained and insured. We are fully insured for liability, auto and worker's compensation.

Schuetz Rentals began in 1978 with the purchase of a few one bedroom homes and has now grown to a total of 39 units. Our inventory now includes 7 single family homes, 11 duplexes, 2 furnished Gulf coast condos and 4 commercial buildings. In 2000, we converted 4 duplexes from 'unfurnished' to 'completely furnished' and entered the short-term stay market. Our Lee Avenue duplex properties are considered the homiest and most comfortable available in Olney.

Keen's Laundromat was purchased in 1981. We have a wide variety of washers and dryers available. The major part of our business is self-service. However, we also do 'pickup' and 'drop-off' custom laundry services. Our hours are 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week.

Schuetz Companies is located at 4464 East Radio Tower Lane in Olney. Please call us at 618-395-4425 or toll free at 877-743-7173. You may also visit us at www.schuetzcompanies.com.

Use your Co-op Connections card from Norris Electric and receive a free consultation and estimate for any commercial or residential project (\$250 value) from Homes by Schuetz.

Seek a safe haven when you travel

When you're traveling, whether on business or vacation, your hotel should be a safe sanctuary. But thieves can rob you of your security along with your valuables unless you're careful. Take these simple precautions to prevent your trip or vacation from becoming a nightmare:

- Pick the safest room. Generally, higher rooms are safer from thieves and criminals. Though if you're nervous about fires or other possible emergencies, you may want to be closer to the ground where rescue is more practical.
- Check your security. Make sure the doors are secure and self-closing, and lock automatically. Deadbolts should have at least a one-inch bolt. Make sure your windows close and lock firmly, and that any balconies can't be accessed from the room next door. Don't be afraid to ask for another room if necessary.
- Don't open the door for strangers. A surprise visit from a maid or a room service delivery you

aren't expecting could be trouble. If you're at all uncertain, contact the front desk to question whether the person outside is really a hotel employee.

- Watch your valuables. Before leaving on your trip, photocopy your credit cards and other documents, and take pictures of any jewelry or valuables you're bringing with you (if you must bring them at all). This will come in handy if they're lost or stolen. Don't let your luggage out of your sight. Take your laptop or other important items with you when you leave the room, or lock them in the hotel safe.
- Know where you are. Pick up a few business cards in the lobby when you check in, and keep them with you at all times. Leave one near your room phone as well. A large city may have more than one Westin or Sheraton, and if you get lost or need to tell someone where you are, you want to have accurate information readily available.



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*



Don't get your electric bill caught in a spin cycle! When doing laundry, use cold water. If your dryer has a moisture meter, use it to prevent over-drying clothes—50 minutes often works best for a full load. And remember to check your lint filter each time before you run a load to help your dryer run more efficiently (and save energy). Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

Clean up your air with the right houseplants

Clean air is essential to good health at home and in the workplace. One simple way to keep the air you breathe fresh and free of odors and chemicals is to keep a few houseplants around. They'll clean the atmosphere and make your surroundings more pleasant and relaxing.

Pick up some of these:

- English ivy. This climbing vine grows in hanging baskets and low planters, and it helps clear away formaldehyde. (Be aware that it requires regular misting, especially during the winter months.)
- Peace lily. A flowering plant, the peace lily will eradicate toxins like acetone, benzene, and ammonia from the air. Remember to wash the leaves every once in a while.
- Rubber plant. This plant is hardy enough to survive cool temperatures and low light, making it ideal even if you're not particularly good with plants. Like the English ivy, it acts to reduce formaldehyde in the air as long as it gets plenty of water.

Office Closing

Wednesday, July 4th



Get the most for your energy dollars

During the sweltering summer months people nationwide crank up their air conditioners in an effort to stay cool. In the struggling economy, the Energy Education Council wants everyone to get the most for their energy dollars. Be sure your house is ready to beat the heat this year by following a few guidelines.

Most of these suggestions require little effort or cost. The investment is well worth it with added comfort and savings.

- Check the insulation. According to EnergyStar insulation is usually measured using the R-Value. R-Value is a measure of insulation's ability to resist heat traveling through it. The higher the R-Value the more effective it will be to beat the heat. The level of insulation recommended for your area can be found at www.EnergyStar.gov. If you are lacking the recommended insulation, you can add more right on top of the old insulation. However, don't put a vapor barrier between the layers. Be sure the insulation doesn't block vents or cover exhaust fans.
- Ventilate the attic. When the outside temperature is in the 90s, your attic can easily reach 140 degrees. Adequately sized vents and/or an attic fan can help keep hot air from building up.
- Get the air conditioner ready. Shut off power to the unit before cleaning it. On the inside, wash or vacuum cleanable filters; replace disposable ones. Outside, clear leaves and other debris away from the condensing unit. Hose off any accumulated dirt.
- Put a timer or programmable thermostat on your air conditioner.



Leave it on a higher temperature while you're away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.

- Install awnings over windows exposed to direct sunlight.
- Consider installing ceiling fans. On moderately warm days, fans can circulate enough air to keep you comfortable without air conditioning. Even on hotter days when you use the air conditioner, you can set your thermostat higher and save.

Even in summer, you don't have to sacrifice comfort to stay within your budget. Here are a few easily achieved cost saving tips:

- Open windows and doors and let outside air cool your house on moderate days, and be sure to keep them closed when you're operating the air conditioner.
- Avoid unnecessary trips in and out of the house, especially on sultry days. Heat and humidity come in each time you open the door.
- Keep the sun out of your house. Close blinds, shades or draperies during the hottest part of the day. Consider planting fast-

growing trees and shrubs near your home but away from power line, to provide shade.

- Set lamps, TV sets, and other heat-producing devices away from the air conditioner thermostat. Heat from the lamp could cause the thermostat to read higher temperature and keep the air conditioner running more than necessary.

One secret to getting the best efficiency from your air conditioner is to be sure the maximum amount of air moves across the coils. Make sure air can flow freely over the inside and outside coils.

Shut off power to the unit before cleaning it. Outside, clear away leaves and debris. Inside, clean or replace filters. If you can reach the fan blades, be sure the power is turned off and then dust them - if they're filled with lint they can't push as much air. If your air conditioner doesn't give you as much cooling as it has in the past, call a cooling professional to inspect and tune it up.

If you're shopping for a new unit, check the efficiency rating, or SEER. The higher the SEER number, the more efficient the air conditioner. Consider buying an Energy Star approved unit, which uses around 14 percent less energy than traditional air conditioning units for central air and at least 10 percent less for room units. Energy Star and local utilities are offering many incentives to upgrade appliances and insulation this year. Be sure to visit www.EnergyStar.gov/taxcredits and contact your local utility for more information.

Like a car that gives you more miles per gallon, an air conditioner with a higher SEER gives you more cooling comfort for each energy dollar.

Norris Electric Cooperative • 8543 N. State Highway 130 • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 618-783-8765

Office hours: Monday — Thursday

7:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m