

Wayne-White NEWS

WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE • FAIRFIELD, ILLINOIS • (618) 842-2196 • WWW.WWC.COOP

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



In this issue...

"Youth to Washington"
essay contest ... 16b-c

Christmas tree
recycling 16d

Save money by stopping infiltration

Winter is here, with its short days, cold weather and howling gales.

We've said here many times, that tightening up your house will save you money all year 'round. But a snug home seems to be more comfortable when the temperature's down in the single digits and the wind's seeking out the little nooks and crannies in the walls. No matter what the time of year, reducing air infiltration will save you money.

If your windows leak air around the edges of the window, inside the frame, you can minimize the infiltration by putting in a shrink-fit film on the inside. While it looks difficult, it really isn't.

You can buy kits at hardware and home-supply stores, and they usually include double-sided tape and enough film to do one or two windows. They come in different sizes, so you'll need to know how big your windows are. The kits are generic, so you may need to buy a larger film than you actually need and cut it to fit with scissors.

After you get the tape up and the plastic cut to size, you apply the film carefully, and press it against the tape, which you've put around the window frame and peeled the backing off of, naturally! If it's not perfect, you're still okay. You can shrink it to fit with a hair dryer.

Some homes have problems with infiltration that require more effort. Weather-stripping may be your next step, and is the next simplest up the line of things to do. It involves the use of materials to seal cracks that are supposed to be there, but that aren't supposed to leak. This includes doors and win-

dows, and weather-stripping should fill those gaps so the window or door can be opened and closed as needed, but air is kept out when it's closed.

There are all kinds of weather stripping materials on the market, and cost varies considerably. These materials also vary in ease of installation and the quality of the job they do. Look for them in the "insulation" or "weatherization" section of your local home improvement place, and look for good, understandable instructions on the package.

If you're at all unhandy, talk to someone in the store and have them clear up any misunderstandings you have about installing the stuff. They'll be glad to help you. Be sure to ask how long you can expect the different materials to last. Usually the ones that cost the most and/or are the most difficult to install tend to last longest.

Caulking is intended to seal cracks between different kinds of construction materials. These cracks are partly due to settling, and partly because different materials expand and contract differently as the temperature changes. As a general rule, caulking should be applied wherever two different materials or parts of the house meet.

You can apply caulking with a few low-cost tools and a little practice. When you load your caulking gun, cut the tube open with a sharp knife at a 45-degree angle near the end of the tapered portion. The ability to lay a nice, uniform bead comes with a little practice. Be sure to scrape away the old materials and clean the surfaces, before you start.

Continued on page 16d



Sophomores, juniors, seniors: Enter your essay now . . . Win a free trip to Washington, D.C.

Two students will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 14-21, 2002.

Two finalists will be selected from each of the following area high schools: Carmi, Cisne, Clay City, Crossville, Edwards County, Fairfield, Grayville, McLeansboro, Norris City, Noble and Wayne City. A minimum of 10 finalists will be selected.

The finalists will participate in "Illinois Rural Electric Youth Day," April 17, 2002.

Eligibility:

Any high school sophomore, junior, or senior living within the Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative service area is eligible. They need not live in a home receiving electricity from the cooperative.

Members of the immediate family of the board of directors, employees and winners of previous Washington, D.C. trips are not eligible.



The students who represented WWCEC on the 2001 trip met Congressman David Phelps on Capitol Hill. From left are Joshua Lemons, Congressman Phelps and Summer Johnson.

Essay Deadline

Essays and entry blanks must be received by noon, Feb. 22, 2002. Enter now!

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, P.O.
Drawer E, Fairfield, Illinois 62837

Please send an entry blank and information concerning this summer's "Youth to Washington" essay contest.

Name _____ Date _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____ Age _____ Sex: _____
Male _____ Female _____

High School _____ Class Year _____

Topic:

"How can the electric cooperative use the Internet to do business?"

Form:

Length — not less than 500 nor more than 1,000 words. Typed on 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper, double-spaced and on one side only. Footnote information source. Number each page. Do not type your name on the essay; type it on a separate sheet. Preliminary judging will be made by number.

Information:

May be obtained from Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative's office, Fairfield, Illinois, or schools in the cooperative area.

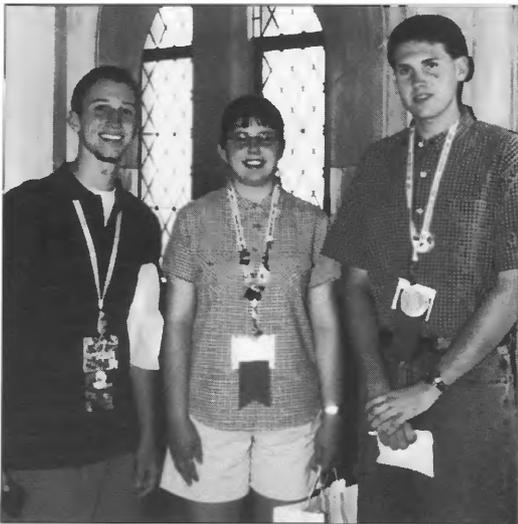
Entry:

Deliver the essay to the teacher in charge or mail to Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, P.O. Drawer E, Fairfield, Illinois 62837, no later than Feb. 22, 2002.

Sponsored by
Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative
Fairfield, Illinois
Serving Rural America



Pictured are all the participants of the 2001 Youth to Washington tour on the steps of the White House. Students from all across the state participated in the tour.



Making new friends is an important part of the Youth to Washington experience. Here, Joshua, right, poses with two other youth leaders.

Enter your essay now...
 Win a free trip to
 Washington, D.C.



Summer, middle, and Joshua, right, take a break with one of their fellow participants inside the Smithsonian Museum.



Joshua and Summer pose in front of the Jefferson Memorial, one of the many places the students visited while in Washington.

A gift for the environment

This holiday season, give a special gift to the environment, recycle your Christmas tree.

When the holidays end, Christmas trees do not have to wind up sharing space with overburdened landfills. To help with the disposal of your Christmas tree, Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative will be offering a tree chipping service the first week of January at the following locations:



Wayne City	Wayne City Park
McLeansboro	Hamilton County Fairgrounds
Carmi	White County Fairgrounds
Albion	Edwards County Fairgrounds
City of Fairfield	Wayne-White Electric Coop
Enfield Area	Wayne-White Enfield Office

Before you recycle your tree, make sure you remove all the decorations and nails that may have been used to support the tree.

Save Money

Continued from page 16a

Since it's as easy to apply a high-quality compound, it makes good sense to use the best caulk you can afford.

Oil or resin-based caulks are inexpensive, last from one to seven years, and adhere fairly well. They're the least expensive of the caulking materials. Latex, polyvinyl and butyl rubber are better. They adhere better and last two to 10 years, but they're somewhat more expensive. The silicone, polysulfides and polyurethanes are better yet, with excellent adhesion and a 20-year life expectancy. They're more expensive than the other types, too.

And while you're at it, look for other air leaks through openings where plumbing or electrical wiring go through walls, floors and ceilings.

While there are many things you can do, the most important thing is to get started on some infiltration prevention work soon.



To America's heroes: thank you.



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives

The power of human connections

Wayne-White

NEWS

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In this issue...

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- If you power goes out Standby generators* 16c
- Concern for Community* 16d

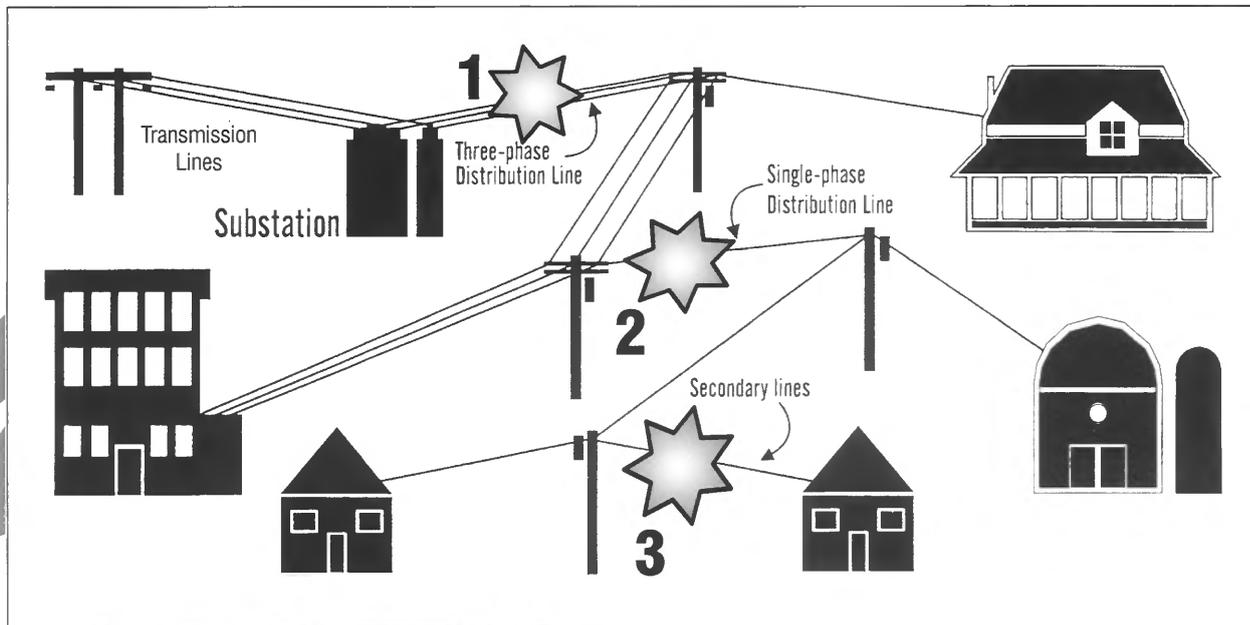
Mark your calendar
Wayne-White Counties
Electric Cooperative

65th ANNUAL MEETING

FRIDAY NIGHT
MARCH 15

Fairfield High School

Pork Chop Dinner
Doors open 5:00 p.m.
Business meeting 7:00 p.m.



We've got plans for stormy weather

The past few winters have been generally milder than normal, with no severe snow or ice storms. Will this winter go back toward the other extreme? No one knows, but sooner or later things do seem to average out, so it's a good idea to be prepared.

At Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative we do our best to keep your electric service active, but we can't control Mother Nature. That's why WWCEC has developed an outage management plan to restore your power in the event that severe weather, such as a snow or ice storm, causes an outage. The following is the step-by-step process our line crews execute to bring the system back online after major damage has been inflicted:

1. Priority repair is given to lines that restore power the quickest to the most customers. These are called *three-phase feeder lines*, which ex-

tend directly out from the substations and distribute power to the entire system.

2. After the three-phase lines have been repaired, crews can begin work on *single-*

WWCEC has developed an outage management plan to restore your power in the event that severe weather, such as a snow or ice storm, causes an outage.

phase lines, which extend from the three-phase feeder lines. Priority is given to the single phase lines that serve the most customers.

3. Once single-phase line damage is repaired, crews then

begin working on *secondary lines* that extend from the single-phase lines and provide power to individual residences or businesses. In the case of a home set back from the road, our high-voltage line may extend into the property, but this is still considered an individual service with the third level of priority.

Widespread damage

Keep in mind that most service interruptions can be resolved within hours. However, during major outages, there are usually several points within the system that are damaged and it is often impossible to complete repairs within the day. Rest assured, our focus is to restore service to all of our customers as quickly as possible and our dedicated line crews work around the clock to meet this goal.

If our operations department determines that the outage is more extensive than our crews can handle in a timely

manner, more help is available from our neighboring co-ops. The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives coordinates an Emergency Action Plan to provide help between co-ops for major outages.

Be patient

Our office and phones would be manned round-the-clock during the restoration effort. During peak periods, all lines coming into the office may be busy and patience is needed. We don't ask you to talk to a machine - we want to know what and where the trouble is.

Of course, we don't anticipate experiencing a major outage in the near future.

However, should it occur, take heart knowing that WWCEC is prepared with an action plan to restore your service quickly and efficiently.

What to do if your power goes out

1. Are all your lights and power outlets off, or just part of them? Check your fuse or breaker box to make sure that it's in working order. Check the main fuse/breaker at the meter pole if you have one. Be sure all breakers are switched to the "on" position and that all fuses are good.
2. Check with your neighbor to see if their power is off too. If so, designate one person to call the WWCEC dispatch center at (618) 842-2196 or (888) 871-7695.
3. Have your account number or meter number available to give the dispatcher. This helps us locate your account faster, especially if you have more than one account with WWCEC.
4. Turn off major appliances, heating and cooling systems and lights to avoid overloading the system when power is restored. You might also prevent damage to your equipment if voltage fluctuations occur when our lines are re-energized. Leave one light on so you'll know when the power is on again.

Is your standby generator ready for an outage?

Even with our extensive efforts to keep the lights on, an occasional

outage will occur, and some members have installed a standby generator to keep critical loads going until service is restored.

However, if you have or are considering purchasing a standby generator, remember that it's vital to follow proper safety procedures. If used incorrectly, a standby generator can cause serious harm or even death. Here are some important things to know.

Generators can provide 120/240 volt power to a home

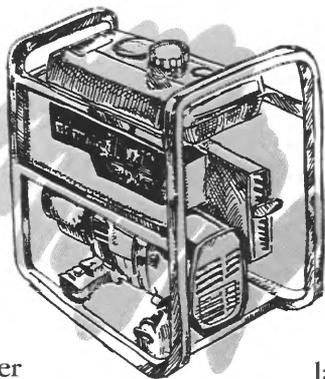
or farm. However, if a generator is not properly connected to the electric system, the "backfeed" will result in an output of 7,200 volts on the distribution line - which a line-man may assume is dead. As a result, a line crew working on the system would be put in danger.

For everyone's sake - yours, the co-op and our crews - generators need to be isolated from the co-op's power lines. This means you should install a double-throw switch to separate your generator from the co-op's system. Or, you can connect appliances or other devices directly to the genera-

tor with appropriate-size cords.

If you have a generator, and it hasn't been run recently, get it now and try it! If it's powered by a tractor PTO, make sure it's accessible, not buried behind every piece of equipment in your shed. Make sure all power connection cords are in place and in good condition. Operate the generator to make sure it's working properly!

For self-powered generators, make sure you have fresh fuel and a charged starting battery. Run the engine under load at least once a month. Clean out any animal nests on the equipment, and provide for adequate air supply and ventilation of the exhaust. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations on how to use your generator.



Concern for Community

One of the seven basic principles that cooperatives follow is concern for community. After all, cooperatives were formed more than 60 years ago to serve a basic need in their communities.

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities. We provide a reliable source of energy. We help your local schools and students. We provide additional services to improve the quality of your life. And we are working with local leaders to bring new jobs and opportunity to our communities.

We live and work here too, that's what makes us different. **We're Illinois' electric cooperatives.**



Wayne-White NEWS

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In this issue...

More annual meeting news
..... 16b-c

Live Line Demo
..... 16d

Plan to attend!

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative's

65th

annual meeting

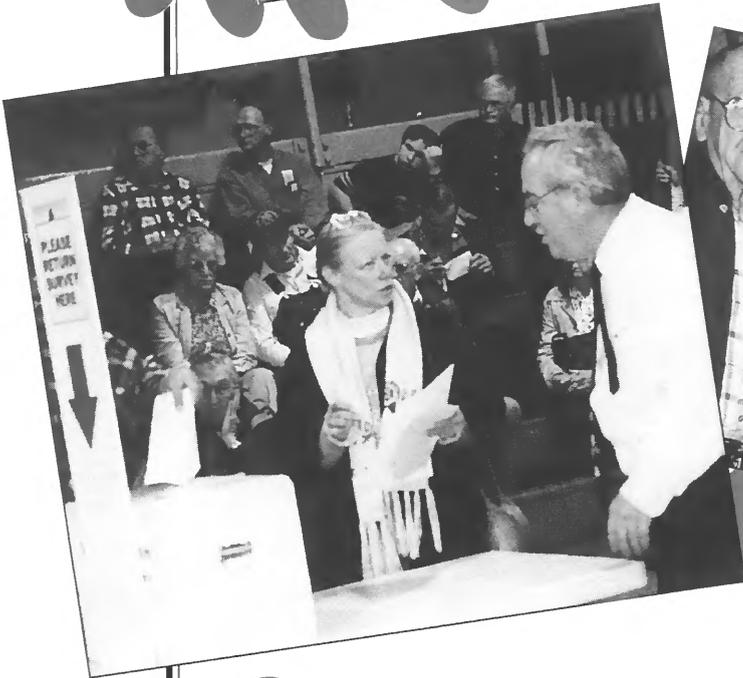
Friday night, March 15, at the Fairfield High School



The Wayne-White Quartet will perform this year.



**Business
meeting
begins
at 7 p.m.**



***It's for you....
the member,
bring your
family and
enjoy!***

DOOR PRIZE

**Each member
will receive a
\$5 credit on
their May 1
electric bill.**

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative

2002 Annual Meeting

Friday night, March 15

Fairfield Community High School Gymnasium

**FREE Pork
Chop Dinner!**

Experience something new!

ATTENDANCE PRIZES

Registration at 5 p.m.

Begin serving dinner at 5 p.m.

Bring your program book with
you to register for drawings!

**Grand
Prize:
Color TV**



Live Line Demo

*If you have an interest in scheduling the
Live Line Demo Display,
please contact our office at*

**(618) 842-2196 or
(888) 871-7695**

Wayne-White

NEWS

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Automatic bill payment

Presenting the easy, no-hassle way to pay your WWCEC bill.

We'd like to answer your questions. If you have others, just contact us.

- Q. From what types of accounts can payment be made?
 - A. You can specify your checking or savings account at any bank, savings and loan, or credit union that offers automatic payment. Most financial institutions do, but you might call yours to confirm.
- Q. How will I know the amount of my bill and payment date?
 - A. Your WWCEC bill will show your monthly use and the date and amount of your payment. This will help you track your use and give you ample time to update your account register and make sure you have adequate funds. The payment will appear on your checking or savings statement.
- Q. What if I don't have sufficient funds on the payment date?
 - A. It would be as if you'd written a check with insufficient funds; you may incur fees from your financial institution and WWCEC.
- Q. When will automatic payments start?
 - A. Please allow up to two billing cycles. Your WWCEC bill will indicate when automatic payments will begin.
- Q. What if I disagree with my bill?
 - A. Call WWCEC at least five days before the bill's due date.
- Q. Where do I mail my enrollment form?
 - A. Just mail it to. Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, P.O. Drawer E, Fairfield, IL 62837.

Do away with dozens of bill payments

Complete this form and *enclose* a voided check from the checking or savings account you want to debit and mail it along with your WWCEC payment. It will be one of the last stamps you ever use for your WWCEC bill payment!

Customer Information (please print)

Name _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____

Service Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Required Financial Institution Information

Name of Institution _____

Phone Number (if credit union) (____) _____

Address of Institution _____

Account Number _____
 (please include a voided check or deposit slip)

Account Information
 Write your WWCEC account number as found on your bill

In this issue...

- Linemen attend safety classes**
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- Tampering with electric service is illegal**
..... 16d

Linemen attend ongoing safety classes

Providing education, training and information to employees and members is one of the seven principles governing cooperatives. At Wayne-White Electric, we understand the importance of providing members with information about conserving energy, staying safe around electricity, and about the cooperative itself.

We also know how important it is to give our employees adequate information and education about cooperative happenings so they can serve you better. But perhaps the most important part of our employee education and training programs concern our linemen. We

provide our linemen with ongoing training classes to help them do their job better and safer.

A lineman's job is very hazardous at the best of times and life threatening at the worst. We at Wayne-White do our best to make sure our linemen have the right safety equipment and are equipped with the knowledge they need to do their job the safest way possible.

One way we provide this knowledge is by sending our linemen to training courses provided by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Below are the linemen who attended these safety schools.

Chad Hinkle, attended a 10-day climbing school that certified him to safely climb electric poles. Hinkle is shown on the pole with safety instructors Roger Stegemen (left) and Brian Anderson from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.



Kerry Meritt, Larry Smith and Chad Hinkle were instructed on electric safety methods during a first-year distribution school held last October. The three linemen learned ways to safely handle and repair energized electric lines.

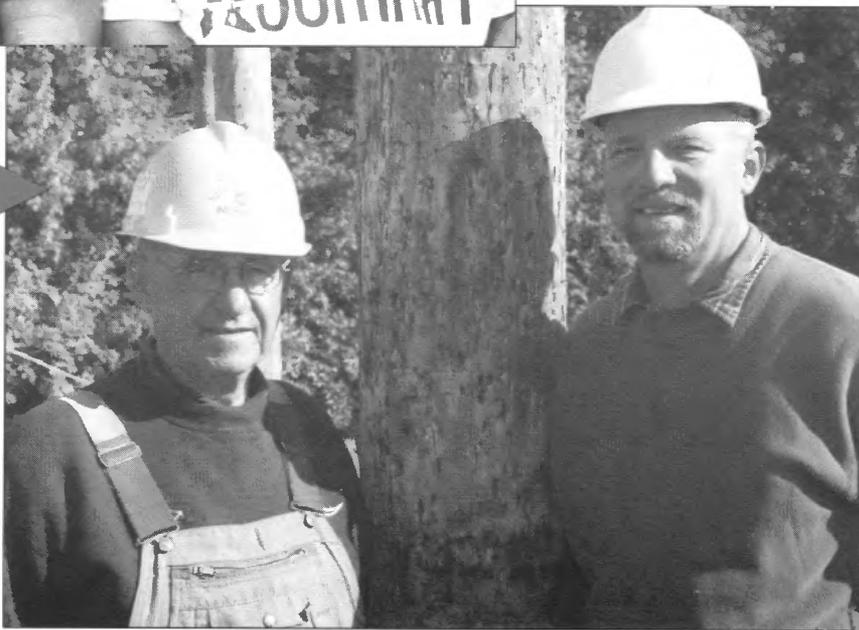


Last May three employees attended a line clearance tree trimming school. They learned the proper way to prune trees to prevent disease and train trees to grow away from power lines. The school also taught safe tree climbing methods. David Orr, Jim Gifford and Stan Garner attended.



Joe Holman and Steve Spicer took part in an underground distribution school last October. The school taught the fundamentals of safely installing and maintaining underground electric lines.

Last October Joe Holman, a journeyman lineman updated his skills in an advanced distribution school. He is pictured with his instructor Chuck West, an employee of Corn Belt Energy.



Tampering with your electric service is illegal and dangerous

Throughout the nation many people have come to believe that cheating the power company is okay. They believe that since you cannot see the electricity it is fine to steal it. Some have come up with ingenious ways to reduce the accurate operation of a utility meter. Every method of tampering with wires, meters, or other service equipment which belong to a utility is a crime. Not only is tampering with an electric service a crime, but it can be extremely dangerous.

Your electric cooperative is concerned about this problem, not only from a lost revenue standpoint, but from the standpoint of safety. The electric service equipment is designed to be operated and maintained by qualified personnel who are trained to work on energized electric equipment. Tampering with any part of an electric service will expose an individual to live electrical parts. Contact with these parts can cause serious injury.

The electric wires, meters, and other equipment that comprise an electric service are the property of the electric utility.

Criminal law places stiff penalties on tampering and current diversion. Tampering with components of an electric service leaves a specific trail of evidence that is quickly identified by trained personnel.



The cooperative is concerned about trends in the utility industry that indicate tampering is on the rise. Wayne White Counties

Electric Cooperative is comprised of mem-

bers who also are the owners of the cooperative. Any theft of electricity is a crime against you and your fellow members. The costs associated with theft of electricity are passed on to other members as part of the cost of doing business. The penalty in Illinois for utility meter tampering is up to six months in jail and a possible \$500 fine.

Education, training and information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of the co-op. We also provide everyone with information about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

Wayne-White NEWS

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



In this issue...

Members enjoyed the 65th Annual Meeting 16a-d

Members enjoyed the 65th

Annual Meeting of Wayne-White Electric



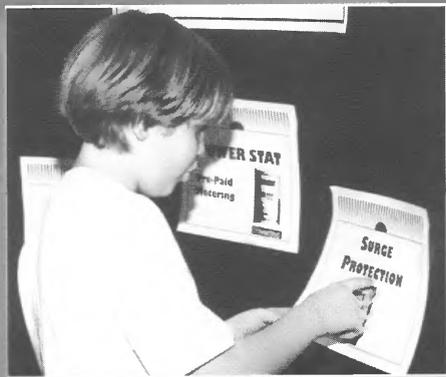
Three area men were re-elected to the board of directors of Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative at the organization's 65th annual meeting, held Friday March 16 at the Fairfield High School in Fairfield. From left are Curtis Endsley of Mt. Erie, Edward Baumgart of Carmi and Delman Bradshaw of Fairfield.

The Wayne-White Quartet entertained again this year with several country and gospel songs. The group was once again a huge success. The vocals are performed by Nathan Coston, Denice Opell, Stan Garner and Al Reid.



More than 1,000 members turned out for the 65th annual meeting.

The
65th
 Annual Meeting
 of Wayne-White
 Electric



A young member looks over the services Wayne-White Electric provides.



Jack Young, president/CEO informed members of his upcoming August retirement. He thanked the members, staff, employees and directors for all their support. He and his wife Mary plan to stop putting up electric lines and do some fishing.



Jeff and Julie Thomas won the grand prize 27 inch television. Royce Carter (right), vice president of operations, helps the couple claim their prize.



The pork chop supper provided to members was again a huge success.

AWARDS



Jack Young, president/CEO gives a Certified Arborist Certificate to Jim Gifford.



Joe Phillips, Jack Emery and L.D. Locke earned 25 year service awards. Jack Young (second from right) president/CEO presented the awards.



Jack Young, president/CEO gives NRECA Management Intern Program Certificates. From left are Jerry White, Erin Halley, Young, Lisa McMeen and Dale Harris.



Al Reid (left) earned a 20 year service award. He is congratulated by Jack Young, president/CEO.



Jack Young, president/CEO jokes with employees who earned the 5 year service award. From left are Erin Halley, Joe Holman, Gerry Kinney, Young, Lisa Grimes, Jason Atteberry and Cathy Barnfield.

The 65th Annual Meeting



Congressman John Shimkus (R-20) showed members his support of the rural electric program in Illinois.



Congressman David Phelps (D-19) spoke to members about defeating terrorism.



Royce Carter (left), vice president of operations gives lucky prize winner Bob Mason an electric outdoor grill.



Office closing

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on May 27th.

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative

Route 15 West • P.O. Drawer E • Fairfield, Illinois 62837
(618) 842-2196 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 5 p.m. • Web address: www.wwcec.com

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YOUTH DAY

WWCEC students take part in “Youth to Springfield”



Ten students representing Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative met with area legislators during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives' Youth Day on Wednesday, April 17, in Springfield. While in the state's capital, they had an opportunity to watch government in action, visit the Illinois Supreme Court and tour Lincoln's tomb. Pictured with Senator William O'Daniel are, from left: Sean Heid of Norris City, Kory Sutton of Norris City, Melissa Phillips of Norris City, Jason Mullins of McLeansboro, Sarah Vinyard of Norris City, Rep. Jones, Erin Hill of Norris City, Brandon Bozarth of Fairfield, Lacy McNear of Norris City, Stephanie Unfried of Norris City and Kelly York of Norris City. The day was sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone co-ops in an effort to introduce young rural leaders to state government.

In this issue...

More Youth Day activities.... 16b-c

Water heater special 16d



Sarah Vinyard and Lacy McNear listened intently to what Secretary of State Jesse White had to say.



Secretary of State Jesse White stood on his desk to address the more than 300 students in his office on Youth Day.

We at WWCEC believe that it is important to help shape our future leaders. We want to encourage them to do great things with their lives and become an active participant in their government and their country. WWCEC has participated in the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives "Youth to Washington" program for several years now to teach students about our government and electric cooperatives.

The participants visit the State Capitol, where they meet with our

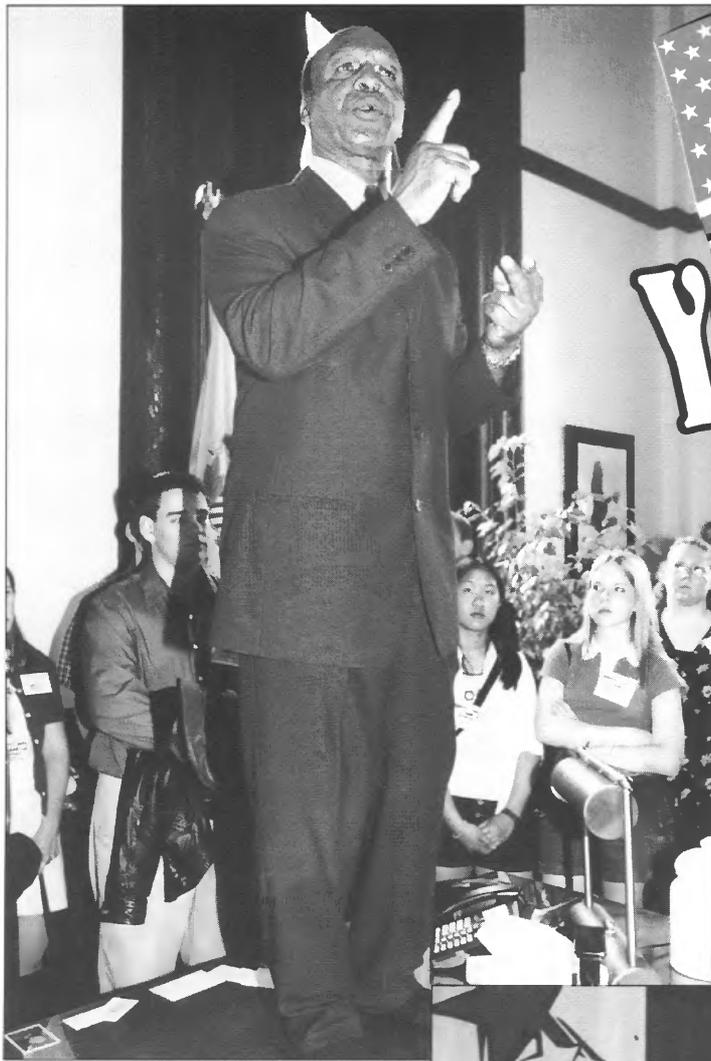
area legislators, tour Lincoln's tomb and play a "Wheel of Cooperation" game to learn about cooperatives.

This year, the students had an opportunity to visit briefly with Sen. William O'Daniel and Reps. John O. Jones and Chuck Hartke. They also had an extended visit with Secretary of State Jesse White. Using humor and his strong motivational speaking techniques, White encouraged the students to do well in school and stay away from drugs and alcohol in order to become the leaders of the tomorrow.



Students were able to participate in the long standing tradition of rubbing Lincoln's nose for good luck.





YOUTH DAY

Jesse White told the students about his job as Secretary of State, and encouraged them to follow their dreams.

After the Youth Day festivities, winners are selected from a written essay contest for a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. While there, they will meet with national legislators senators from our area.

In addition, they tour the Smithsonian Institution, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the nation's Capitol and the National Holocaust Memorial.

WWCEC sent ten young people to Springfield on April 6, and will send two to Washington this June. Look in future issues for the winner's names and essays.



Brandon Bozarth (second from right) was one of the participants on the Energizer Bunny team during the Wheel of Cooperatives game. He played with and against students from other co-ops in the state.

SPECIAL water heater

52-gallon Freedom electric
water heater built
by State Industries
regular price \$206.66

\$100 Rebate

***to WWCEC members
your total cost — \$106.66***

- R-20 insulation
- The amazing LimeEliminator — self cleaning — reduces build-up automatically
- Six-year warranty

***Available at Wayne-White Counties
Electric Cooperative office in Fairfield***

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative

Route 15 West, P.O. Drawer E, Fairfield, Illinois 62837 • (618) 842-2196

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Web address: www.wwcec.com

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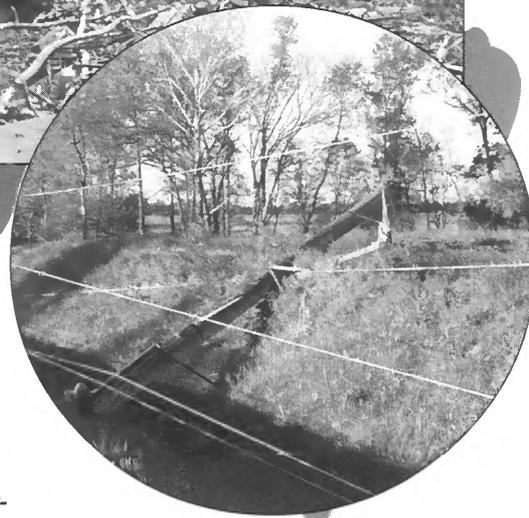
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In this issue...

*Surviving the
toradoes* 16a-b

*Water heater
special* 16d



Surviving the toradoes

On Sunday, April 21, around 4:00 p.m., an F3 tornado ripped across the territory of Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, leaving a mass of destruction in its wake. It took only 10 minutes to demolish the homes and lifetime memories of more than 50 people in the Sims and Fairfield area. The tornado also made toothpicks out of 50 and 60 foot transmission poles. The Cooperative is still looking for some distribution poles that were blown away between Sims and Fairfield.

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative called in help from Tri-County Electric Cooperative in Mt. Vernon, SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative in Eldorado and L.E. Myers Co. to help rebuild the electric system and restore power to the damaged areas.

Crews had just finished with emergency repairs when another twister with large hail traveled as an unwanted guest through the territory from the north, heading southeast. The Cooperative called back crews to again restore power to the affected areas. Two major storms within 10 days was enough for Cooperative members to recover from, but then came the rains which have left thousands of acres of farm ground under water.

Recovery from the damage and impact of the tornado may take time to heal, but the support of the community and sur-

(Continued on 16b)

(Continued from 16a)

rounding areas have come together to help in the process. The Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative's Operation Roundup Kare and Share (WORKS) program assisted in the tornado relief by accepting donations and distributing them to the victims of the tornado (See page 8 for more on the WORKS program). The amount of generosity following this tragedy gave hope to many victims who are thankful for receiving the remarkable acts of kindness.



OFFICE CLOSING

Our offices will be closed
July 4th in observance
of Independence Day.

HOW TO

USE ELECTRICAL EXTENSION CORDS

Safely

Extension cords, with their ability to bring any appliance or lamp within reach of an electrical outlet, are one of the most convenient products in the home. But when they are misused, they can also be a source of potential danger.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that some 3,000 people are treated each year for injuries associated with extension cords. In addition, the CPSC reports that improperly functioning extension cords cause 5,000 residential fires annually.

While extension cords are an invaluable convenience, it's important to use them properly. But what does that entail? Here are some tips from the Leviton Institute:

- Never run extension cords through walls, under rugs or furniture, or across doorways.
- Never try to repair a damaged extension cord with electrical tape; replace it instead.
- Never overload an extension cord. If any part of the cord feels warm to the touch, the cord is drawing too much power and could present a fire or shock hazard.
- Never cut off the ground pin to connect a three-prong appliance cord to a

two-wire extension cord or receptacle. Always use a UL-listed adapter for this purpose.

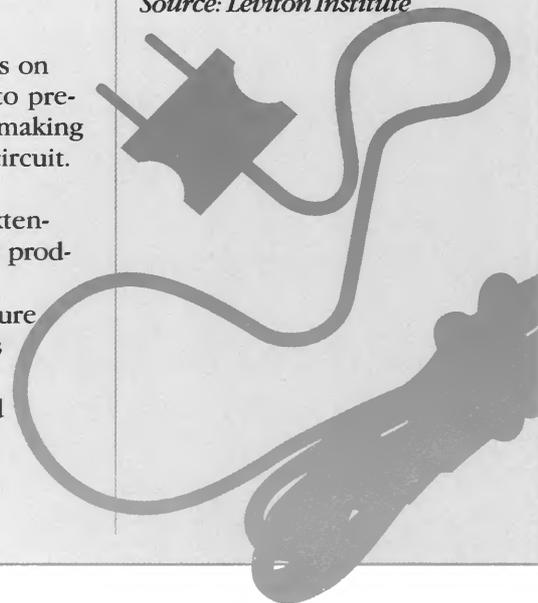
- Replace older extension cords if one of the prongs is not "polarized." In a polarized plug, one prong will be wider than the other.
- Do not allow extension cords to dangle from counters or tabletops. Someone could accidentally pull them down or trip over them.
- Always plug an appliance into the extension cord before plugging the extension cord into a wall receptacle. Also, make sure the appliance is "off" before plugging it in.
- When disconnecting an extension cord, always pull from the plug, never the cord itself.
- Cover unused outlets on the extension cord to prevent children from making contact with a live circuit.
- Before buying an extension cord, check the product and its packaging to ensure that the product has been listed by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or

Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

- Use special, heavy-duty extension cords for high-wattage appliances such as air conditioners, portable electric heaters and freezers.
- When placing furniture or an appliance directly against a wall where a cord is plugged into a receptacle, use a low-profile type of plug. These plugs will let the appliance or furniture get closer to the wall, and there is less chance of the plug coming loose.
- Outside the home, use extension cords designed specifically for outdoor use.

Following this advice will help ensure that your extension cords will always be used in a safe, efficient manner.

Source: Leviton Institute



SPECIAL water heater

52-gallon Freedom electric water heater
built by State Industries
regular price \$206.66

\$100 Rebate

to WWCEC members
your total cost — \$106.66

- R-20 insulation
- The amazing LimeEliminator — self cleaning — reduces build-up automatically
- Six-year warranty

***Available at Wayne-White Counties
Electric Cooperative office in Fairfield***

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative

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(618) 842-2196 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 5 p.m. • Web address: www.wwcec.com

Wayne-White NEWS

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In this issue...

2002 Youth to Washington..... 16a-b

Watch for electric lines..... 16c

Water heater special 16d

Students represent cooperative in Washington, D.C.



02



Two area youths spent the week of June 14-21 exploring Washington D.C. The students met with Illinois congressional leaders and learned about their government during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began in the late 1950s to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives. The theme of the 2002 Youth Tour was "Volunteers in Action."

Jason Mullins of Dahlgren and Sarah Vinyard of Norris City represented Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative. They met with Congressman David Phelps on Capitol Hill and were among 57 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. In addition to the Capitol, students also visited the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Museums,

George Washington's home, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and a number of other historical sites.

In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of the nation's capitol, all the state groups con-



Pictured are (l-r): Vinyard, Congressman Phelps and Mullins.



vened for Rural Electric Youth Day to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included a survivor of the September 11 attack on The Pentagon, Lieutenant Colonel Brian Birdwell, who described his har-

rowing experience and miraculous survival. Birdwell touched on the importance of selfless service and accepting life's responsibilities.

Therese Lyons, director of public liaison for the President's USA Freedom Corps, delivered

the White House's call for increased volunteerism. "Service is the debt of gratitude we owe for the freedoms we have in this country," she said.

Keynote speaker and ardent supporter of volunteerism Julie Laipply, Miss Virginia USA 2002, encouraged the young audience to "remember their ABCs in all that they do – Always Be Confident! Through volunteerism you have the power to change someone else's life," she said.

Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored approximately 35,000 high school juniors and seniors for visits to their U.S. congressional delegations, energy and grassroots government education sessions, and sightseeing in Washington. NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation's more than 900 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to 35 million people in 46 states.



From left: Curt Wood, Judy Wood and Mitchell Coyler joined Mullins and Vinyard on the trip. Judy Wood, an employee of Wayne-White Electric, brought her family along to help her chaperone the trip.

Watch for electric lines



You're taking the combine to the field through a back gate, one you haven't used before. You look back and realize that you're hung up on an overhead power line.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Climbing out of the combine is the worst thing you can do. Unless you're in immediate danger, stay where you are and call for help.

Don't let your body become a direct link between the line and the ground. If you must leave the combine, jump as far as you can so that no part of your body touches the combine and the ground at the same time.

And once you're off the combine, never get back on until the power line has been disconnected by your cooperative.

Every year, 62 farm workers are electrocuted in the United States. You don't want to be one of them.

Source: www.safeelectricity.org

SPECIAL

water heater

52-gallon Freedom electric water heater built
by State Industries regular price \$206.66

\$100 Rebate

to WWCEC members
your total cost — \$106.66

- R-20 insulation
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Wayne-White

NEWS

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In this issue...

Understanding your Energy Bill... 16b-c

City and rural Firefighters study how to fight propane fires..... 16d



In remembrance of
our heroes. 9/11/01



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

The power of human connections

Understanding your new Wayne White

Beginning this month, Wayne White Counties Electric Cooperative has adopted a new billing format in an effort to better serve you, our member. This new detailed energy statement provides you with more information on your energy consumption in a larger, easier reading format.

Group Billing.

If you have more than one service account, we can bill more than one account by doing a group bill code – please contact the office.

For what location is this bill?

This is the physical address for this service location. If incorrect, please provide on return stub.

Itemized charges defined for monthly billed accounts...

Amount – is the combined energy and facility charge due based on the kilowatts used.

Other charges – will include security light charges, utility tax and charge for other services that the cooperative provides to you.

Enter meter readings...

Enter meter readings accurately in the designated boxes.

0001730600



WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
P.O. DRAWER E
FAIRFIELD IL 62837-0090
A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Telephone (618)842-2196, (888)871-7695
www.wwcec.com

205 1 AV 0.278
ANY MEMBER
123 ANY STREET
ANYTOWN, IL 00000-0000

4 205
C-1 P-1



Service Type	Meter#	Mult	Rate	Fr
ELECTRIC	43169162	1	1 30	06/0 75

Coop Code: 010000
PLACE METER READINGS ON THIS STUB.

Account	Reading				Meter Number Service Type
	X	X			ELECTRIC

ANY MEMBER
123 ANY STREET
ANYTOWN, IL 00000-0000

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative's Energy Bill

Office Hours 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Monday - Friday

Fairfield Office: (618)842-2196 Southern District Office: (618)963-2357
Toll Free Illinois: (888)871-7695 After hours call: (618)842-2196

www.wwcec.com

Failure to receive bill does not exempt from payment or late charges. 10% penalty added to net amount if not paid by the 10th of the current month.

Account is considered paid when payment is received in our office. We are not responsible for the mail services.

NEW BILL NEW BILL NEW BILL NEW BILL NEW BILL

Billing Date: 07/31/2002
Balance Forward: 0.00
Bill Total: 146.00

Page 1 of 1

To	KWH Used	Amount	Total Bill
Present	KW Used	Other Charges	
06/30/02	1415	133.68	146.00
76876			
RITY LIGHT		7.30	
IC UTILITY TAX		4.53	
KS ROUNDUP		0.49	

Cycle	Rate	Bill Type
1	1	REGULAR
Account Number		
Amount Due		146.00
Due Date		08/10/2002
Amount Due After Due Date		160.10

WAYNE-WHITE COUNTIES
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
P.O. DRAWER E
FAIRFIELD IL 62837-0090



Who do I call if I have questions?

Call the WWCEC at the phone numbers indicated or stop by our office in Fairfield or Enfield. You may also visit our website.

Cooperative Information.

Issues pertaining to you and our cooperative will be found in this area.

How do I make my payment?

Be sure to return the bottom portion of the bill with your payment.

1. Mail your payment in the return envelope provided **OR**
2. Pay in person at WWCEC headquarters **OR**
3. Place your payment in the night depository at the WWCEC headquarters **OR**
4. Pay by bank draft or check **OR**
5. Pay at one of our local bank collection sites. (Call the office for details.)

What do I owe and when is it due?

The total amount due upon receipt of this bill is shown. If this amount is not paid by the date indicated, a penalty will be added and the gross amount will be due.

City and rural Firefighters study how to fight propane fires

Firefighters from Fairfield Rural, Fairfield City, Geff, Orchardville, Mt Carmel, Wayne City; and Cisne practiced techniques used to extinguish propane

fires. Engineers from the University of Illinois Propane Safety Department put on the demonstration May 2002 at Fairfield Industrial Park in Fairfield, Illinois.



The safety program started off with classroom instruction, then moved outside for some hands-on training. Working in groups, the area firefighters used a technique of simultaneously fanning and cooling the propane tank fire. The technique works as follows. A fire is started and the group moves towards the flame with two types of spraying. A powerful mist pushes the flame away from the tank and a strong stream of water-cools the tank down so the firemen can move in close enough to the tank to turn off the valve, thus extinguishing the fire.



The U of I engineers lit the propane, donated by Wayne White Propane, Inc repeatedly as all 60 firefighters present took their turn fighting the blaze. Each crew also took a turn extinguishing smaller, barbecue grill size tanks. "They may be small and not have the large flame like the bigger residential tanks have but they can be just as dangerous," stated David Vaughan, Fairfield Rural Department Chief and Wayne White Propane employee.

Gary Moore, Wayne White Propane Manager, was on hand to provide lunch and more than 500 gallons of propane for the session.

Office closing

Our offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2 in observance of Labor Day. Enjoy your holiday!



Wayne-White NEWS

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In this issue...

Winning Youth to
Washington Essays
..... 16a-c

Water heater
special 16d

Winning essays for Youth To Washington trip

Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative sponsored two students to participate in an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Although the co-op received many student essays, the two that follow were chosen by a panel of judges to be the winners. Below are the winning essays of Sarah Vinyard and Jason Mullins.



Winning essay by Sarah Vinyard

Sarah attends NCOE High School

How Can the Electric Cooperative use the Internet to do Business?

In today's society, people are changing their ways of life due to the Internet. People are now able to order groceries without leaving their home and even pay bills online. Everything a person could possibly want... is all at the click of a button. The Internet is a nice way to launch a business, if the information is out there and made available to people. People may look on the Internet to see what different cooperatives offer. Also, with the Internet cooperatives can mobilize their business on the web. While looking at the Wayne-White County Electric Cooperative web site, people see that there are a lot more services offered besides the basic electricity.

There are many nice things that have been described on the web site especially the meter reading. Although, there are some other things that could be done to improve business over the Internet. While looking at other electric cooperative web-sites videos, kids' pages, and a history section to look at previous bills were shown. If people have a little more of an idea what is going on then that will help business. Versatility, mobility, and thinking "out of the box" are the wave of most company future ventures. The Internet incorporates all of the above.

While scanning the Internet

(continued on 16b)

and other public utility companies, it can be noted that the web pages projects the importance of children to the company. Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, located in Eldorado, Illinois, has an interactive game that allows the children to learn about the importance of electricity. Haywood Electrical Cooperative versatility is clearly apparent with the wide range of action games that clearly targeted toward young children, but also draw the attention of teenagers. Our society has introduced the younger generation to the interactive games. From the past to the present we have graduated from hand held game boys to play stations, and now with technology as it is today all we have to do is wait for the most updated, action packed, realistic, game to download on our computer. So now the young have been integrated into the world of electricity.

Convenience is the most important aspect that any company can offer a customer and this includes the public utility companies also. The Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative has made it easy for their customers to view past history, calculate the present bill, and even pay their bills online. There are so many important aspects included in the last sentence. For those people that live on a fixed income, they would be able to budget for their bills. Past history allows for customers to determine when they can expect their bills to increase, due to weather, change in daylight savings time thus allowing them to budget more efficiently. Viewing

energy saving techniques customers are able to log all their personal home information into this web site and then suggestions are made on how to improve your cost of home energy. Paying your bills online has become very popular. Although this idea has not totally caught on, it will take time for most people to feel comfortable allowing personal information on the net.

The main objective of any company web page is to be user friendly, appealing to the eye, and have a zing that wants you to continue to dig deeper. With all this in mind, the Wayne-White County Electric Cooperative web site could use a face-lift. Whatever the eye sees the brain reacts. By using brighter, bolder colors to attract attention or even flashing graphics. Links to different electrical cooperative web sites or state sites may also be added. Also, a FAQ (Frequently asked question)

section may be added to answer any questions or concerns people may have. The Navopache Electric Cooperative has made their monthly newsletter available on-line. This lets customers know what is going on. On the Texas Electric Cooperative web site they have a message delivered from people about the company, about how electricity works, and different things about electricity. Also, this web site tells what the company's mission statement is.

Wayne-White County Electric Cooperative has a lot of things to offer to their customers. Some of the information is available to the customers over the Internet but more could be added to add appeal. These are just a few suggestions or ideas about how the Wayne-White County Electric Cooperative web site may be changed or updated, to show the customers exactly what all the cooperative has to offer.

Works Cited

Fall River Electric Cooperative.

11 March 2002 <<http://www.fallrivercooperative.com>>

Haywood Electric Cooperative.

11 March 2002 <<http://www.haywoodrecc.com>>

Navopache Electric Cooperative.

11 March 2002 <<http://www.navopache.org>>

Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative.

11 March 2002 <<http://www.siec.com>>

Texas Electric Cooperative.

11 March 2002 <<http://www.texas-ec.org>>

Wayne-White County Electric Cooperative.

11 March 2002 <<http://www.wwcec.com>>

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Winning essay by Jason Mullins

Jason attends NCOE High School

How Can the Electric Cooperative Use the Internet to do Business?

In today's world of high-tech equipment, the use of computers and the Internet is the fastest growing of all. Many businesses are taking advantage of this technology to help their businesses grow by making information about their business and products available to the consumer. Here are some of the ways I believe Wayne-White may benefit from the use of the Internet.

First I believe the Internet could be used to provide general information about the cooperative. Information such as the location of the cooperative's office, the hours the cooperative is open, important event dates - such as the annual meeting, and areas the cooperative provides electricity.

The cooperative could also promote special programs and services they offer. One very useful advantage of the Internet is on-line billing. While being easy for members it also provides more flexibility in the use of employees. This aspect of business can also be a good foundation for loyalty from the consumer. The convenience of on-line billing is important for the member. Many people don't get home from work until late. Of course, the cooperative's office can't stay open all night, so a member can just sit down, start up the computer, and log on.

They could then pay their bill very quickly. Of course, security is a major concern when paying on-line. The cooperative would need to furnish a secure site for bill payment and let their members know it is secure. Aside from billing, members could also view their electric bills to help budget their expenses. For busy consumers the Internet would also be an easy way to report address and telephone changes. If a person needed information or needed to

set up an appointment, that request could be made over the Internet.

Another popular use of the Internet for the cooperative would be to sell products. Many people don't have the opportunity to get to the cooperative during working hours, others may be unable to drive, and others may just prefer to stay at home. I believe a cooperative would benefit greatly from offering on-line product purchases. But, just what could be sold? Well, in life today people like to feel secure. There you go, security lights and home security systems are a couple of products that could be offered on-line. Why is home security so important? Imagine you go to bed one night, leaving your computer hooked up like many Americans do. Then, during the night a storm erupts and lightning runs in on your computer. Well, no more on-line anything for you. Too bad you didn't buy a high-quality surge protection system from Wayne-White. A little extra money spent on surge protection could save a lot for a computer system. Home security systems that would automatically call the police station if someone attempted to break into a home could also be ordered through the cooperative's web site.

Since we're talking so much about high-tech, why not give people information on innovative products? Many people get on-line without knowing the technology with which they are dealing. Why not elaborate on new technologies so that people could make decisions, based on facts, about different technologies they may want to use. There are items such as wireless internet, electric cars and fuel cells. I don't know much about these products, but

would like to read more about them from someone I trust. The cooperative could tell the basics of the technology as well as the pros and cons of these products.

One of the most important uses of the Internet could be links through the cooperative's web site to various communities. What if you like sports, want to see the menu at your school, or don't believe your kids are giving you the straight facts about their grades? Imagine being able to get all this information and more at one site? Why shouldn't the cooperative offer all that to their members? Other information such as weather conditions could also be viewed. The cooperative could also link to area Chamber of Commerce organizations as well as to our senators and representatives so members could see what government is doing for our future and us.

Most of this information so far has been directed to the residential or small business member. However, business development is also very important to the cooperative. The cooperative could list available commercial sites in their service area, listing important information about each site. This information, which is important to a business looking to locate or expand in the area, would be available with a click of the mouse button. The Internet is also a way for the cooperative to furnish information about rates and the advantages of being a member of the cooperative.

In conclusion the importance of the Internet to the electrical cooperative is of great importance, and that importance will continue to grow. As of right now I believe the Internet is an endless source of information for the consumer.

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NEWS

In this issue...

- IEC Memorial Scholarship rule.....** 16b
- Harvest season** 16c
- Water heater special** 16d

Students encouraged to apply for 2003 IEC Memorial Scholarships



Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative Manager Richard Colgan has announced that for the eighth consecutive year, the Illinois electric cooperatives will award \$1,000 academic scholarships to high school seniors. The four scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the state of Illinois are eligible to participate in the program. Three of the four scholarships will be awarded to the child of an electric cooperative member. The other \$1,000 award will go to the child of an electric cooperative director or employee. Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is January 1, 2003.

“The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric



cooperative youth while honoring past rural leaders through memorial gifts,” said Colgan. “Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative and the other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by lending a hand to our youth.”

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay, which demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. For further information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship Program, contact Wayne-White Electric at (618) 842-2196, or ask your high school guidance counselor.

OFFICE CLOSING

Your cooperative office will be closed Monday, November 11, 2002 in honor of Veterans Day. The Cooperative office will also be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28 and 29, to observe the Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends.



VETERANS DAY

A Word from the CEO

want to let everyone know how thankful I am to everyone here at Wayne-White for working with me as the new President/CEO of the cooperative. While I have only been here a short time, I have learned that we have a great group of employees and a wonderful board of directors. Everyone is dedicated to serving the members' best interests.

The events of the past few years — the meltdown in California's retail choice program — the spread of wholesale market volatility and the use of so-called "ricochet" energy trades — the auditing and accounting scandals — all of these events combined to create a crisis of confidence that is shaking the faith of American consumers and investors.

But the other side of the equation is that electric co-ops stand in stark contrast. We have made a promise to treat members AS owners...

- to provide high-quality electric service
- to work for your interests
- to maintain consumer-friendly policies
- to keep you informed
- and to afford you the opportunity to exercise your governance privileges.

I believe in electric cooperatives for three reasons: First, our integrity; Second, we are accountable, with a clear mission; Third, our commitment to community.

First, integrity and trust. Think of trust as a natural resource. It fuels the machinery of human interaction in everything from marriage and friendship to business. Recent business failures have undermined it. We won't let that happen here.

What is trust? It's the expectation that the faith one places in someone or some institution will be honored. Because it's easier to destroy than to create, it tends to be built slowly — through small steps.

The trustees of YOUR electric company are your locally elected Board of Directors. This factor is related to the second co-op strength: The clarity of our mission. Electric co-ops don't exist to provide a return on investment to distant stockholders. They don't exist to pay hundred-million dollar bonuses to CEOs. They exist to serve members. Period.

Co-ops are unique. They're the only utility where the consumers, the owners and the ultimate controllers are one and the same. It's a simple model. It cuts through the clutter. It eliminates divided loyalties. We only have to ask, "What's



best for our members long-term?" That clarity makes it easy for us to be committed to our local communities.

The bottom line is simple. All electric utilities use the same types of conductors, the same types of poles, the same types of hardware, and sell the same type of energy. But not all electric utilities are cooperatives. The difference? It's the people. Wayne-White is a co-op because you are taking the time to read this. You're the person that takes the time to vote at an annual meeting. You're the person that lets us know when there's a problem with a line. And you're the person that takes the time to give a cup of coffee or a cookie to a lineman when he's restoring power during a storm. We get our power from you.

I'm proud to be the new CEO here at Wayne-White and look forward to serving you in the future.

Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship program official rules



- ◆ Four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded each year.
- ◆ Three scholarships per year will be awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member who is currently receiving services from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted.
- ◆ One scholarship a year will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director.
- ◆ A scholarship applicant is eligible for consideration in only one of the two above categories, and is eligible to apply through only *one* electric cooperative.
- ◆ The applicant must be a high school senior.
- ◆ Scholarships may be used for educational costs at any two-year or four-year accredited college or university in Illinois, including vocational/technical schools.
- ◆ Scholarship winners must begin undergraduate studies within a year of being notified that they have won.
- ◆ Scholarship winners will be expected to be "full time" students (at least 12 hours).
- ◆ Scholarships are for one year and are not renewable.
- ◆ Scholarships will be awarded based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, biographical statement and knowledge of electric cooperatives as demonstrated by a short essay.
- ◆ Deadline for receipt of completed applications and submissions is **JANUARY 1, 2003.**
- ◆ Scholarship winners will be notified by May 1, 2003.

Farmers urged to watch for overhead power lines, other electrical hazards during harvest season

Dozens of farm workers are killed by electrocution each year when their farm machines and equipment make contact with overhead power lines. These tragic accidents are preventable.

With harvest season getting underway, Safe Electricity urges farm workers to take note of electrical lines when moving equipment like portable grain augers, oversized wagons and large combines, and to use a qualified electrician for electrical system repairs.

"The rush to harvest can cause farm workers to skip important safety steps," said Molly Hall, Director of Safe Electricity. "Tragic deaths and injuries can be avoided if precautions are taken, like making sure everyone who works on the farm knows the location of power lines and keeps farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them."

"Equipment contacting overhead power lines is the leading cause of farm electrocution accidents in the Midwest," said Bob Aherin, University of Illinois Agricultural Safety Specialist. "Moving portable grain augers poses the greatest risk because those who are the ground moving the equipment would provide a direct path for electricity if there's a contact with overhead wires."

"Always lower grain augers before moving them, even if it's only a few feet. Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result," Aherin said.

Farm workers also are advised not to use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins and to use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

"It's also important for operators of farm equipment or vehicles to know what to do if the



vehicle comes in contact with a power line," Hall said. "It's almost always best to stay in the cab, call for help and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off."

"If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result," Aherin said. "Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area nearby to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire."

In that case, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time and continue to shuffle or hop to safety keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

"Like the ripples in a pond or lake, the voltage diminishes the farther out it is from the source," Aherin said. "Stepping from one voltage level to another allows the body to become a path for that electricity. A large difference in voltage between both feet could kill you."



"Be sure that at no time you or anyone touches the equipment and the ground at the same time. Never should the operator simply step out of the vehicle—the person must jump clear."

Prevention of electricity-related tragedies is the goal of Safe Electricity, a statewide program created by a coalition of nearly three dozen organizations including Illinois investor-owned electric utilities, electric cooperatives and the University of Illinois. All are members of the Illinois Electric Council (IEC), a non-profit industry forum which launched the safety awareness program last year.

In addition to public service announcements and other outreach efforts, Safe Electricity has an online electrical safety center, www.SafeElectricity.org. The section on Agribusiness provides tips and detailed information for farm workers. Residential safety, contractor safety and schoolteacher resources and youth games and activities also can be found on the Web site.

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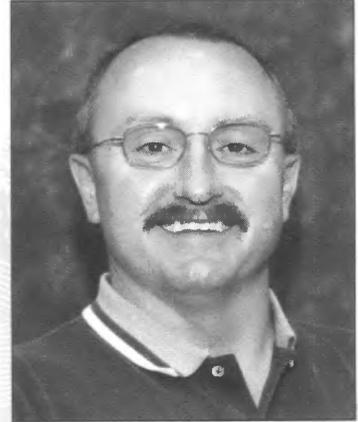
Happy Holidays



Lisa Arview



Jason Atteberry



Richard Atteberry



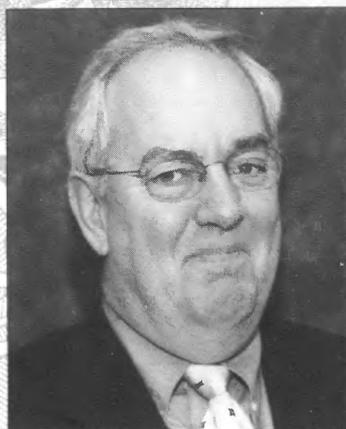
David Bailey



Cathy Barnfield



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Royce Carter



Wesley Clark

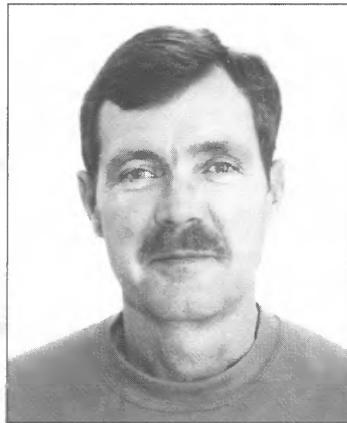


Nathan Coston

Happy Holidays



David Cunningham



Jack Emery



Dennis Estes



Stan Garner



Jim Gifford



Ruby Green



Denice Hallam



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Dale Harris



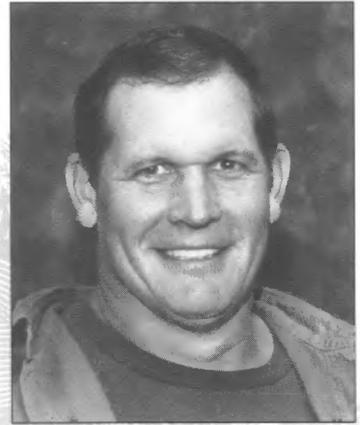
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Chad Hinkle



Joe Holman



Jerry Houser



David Johnson



Lee Johnson



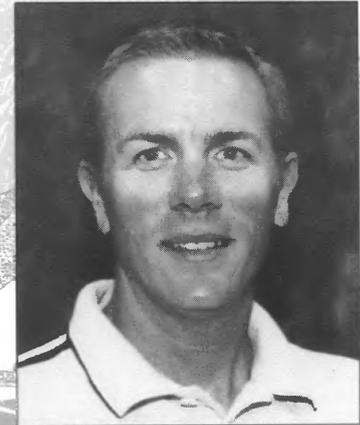
Donna Jordan



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Alan Kincart

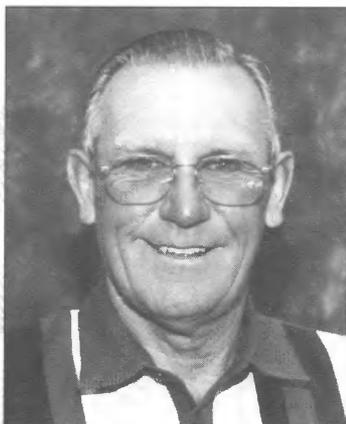


Gerry Kinney

Happy Holidays



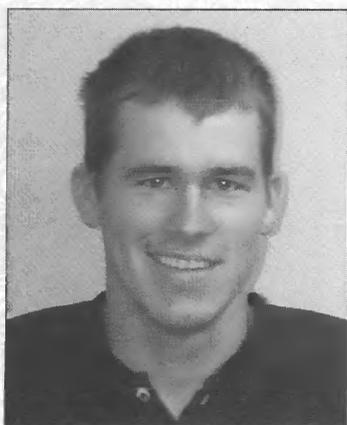
L D Locke



Melvin Maricle



Carl McKibben



Jason McKinney



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Jim Miles



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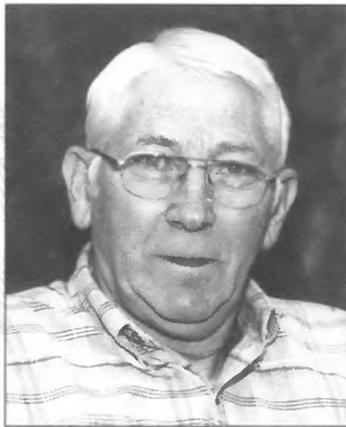


Steve Moore

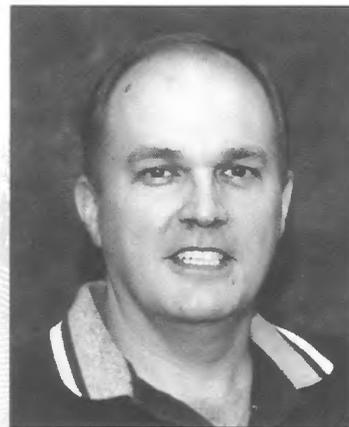
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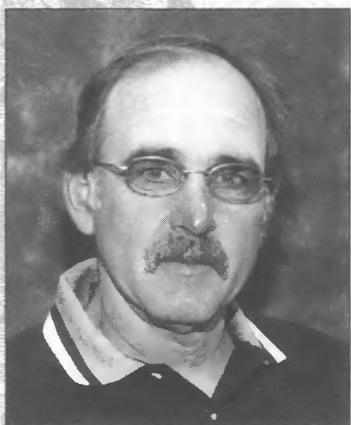
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