



Western Illinois
ELECTRICAL COOP.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ www.wiec.net ■ 800-576-3125

news

2024 Safety Fair a success

WIEC's annual Safety Fair began in 1994 to equip fifth-grade students with knowledge about many ways to stay safe in the world around them. Due to COVID concerns, Western Illinois Electrical Coop. was unable to hold the Safety Fair in 2020 or 2021, but it has otherwise been held annually since it began. We were incredibly happy to be able to spend time instructing the students about safety again this year. The message of "Live Smart, Keeping Safe and Having Fun" has been shared with approximately 6,200 students over the years. **4827-5**

This year's fair was held Sept. 12, with five schools in attendance and close to 178 students learning about many ways to stay safe in different environments. Students were taught how to be safe around power lines, bicycle safety and how to wear protective equipment, how to make a 911 call and interact with an ambulance crew. The kids got to experience the Smokehouse from the Carthage Fire Department to learn about fire safety. In addition, boat and farm safety were also discussed. The presenters do a fantastic job of engaging with the students. Some presenters bring games to play and have prizes to be won! Presenters allow kids to ask questions while helping them to understand the need to be safe.

The day starts with a crowd favorite, the Live Line Demonstration from Steve Hancock of Corn Belt Energy,

Continued on 18B ▶





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OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

■ **Mark Burling** —
President, **Carthage**

■ **Dustin Walker** —
Vice President, **Burnside**

■ **Janet Spory** —
Secretary/Treasurer, **Sutter**

■ **Kim Gullberg** —
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,
Stronghurst

■ **Landon Guymon** —
Director, **Carthage**

■ **Jay Morrison** —
Director, **Niota**

■ **Stephen Patrick** —
Director, **Carthage**

MANAGEMENT TEAM

■ **Todd Grotts** — General Manager

■ **Ryan Biery** — Manager
of Operations

■ **Wendi Whitaker** — Finance and
Accounting Manager

MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four members' map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

Safety Fair continued from 18A



another Illinois cooperative located in Bloomington. He brings an energized electrical system and shows the kids the power of 7200 volts by touching a hot dog to the live line. He explains to them that the reaction the hot dog has is like what would happen if a person were to touch the line. **10526-47** For lunch, the students, teachers, chaperones and presenters are served a hot dog, applesauce and chips on a frisbee to take home as a reminder of the lessons learned during the day. Our time ends with magician Chris Egelston wrapping up. He uses magic, laughter and fun to encourage the kids to stay drug-free.

Welcome new members

**August
2024**

Samantha M Belt

Max Carnes

Fred M Clark

Paxton T & Abigail R
Harmon

Ashton Hunter

Jacob Allen Marshall

Jacob Moest

Mark Mutton
Wendi Noble

Kevin T & Nicole B
Shaw

Wesley J Simmons
Justin R & Kelsey A
Wood

Powering your future

17 scholarships, \$2,500 each

At Western Illinois Electrical Coop., we believe that the key to a brighter future lies in empowering the next generation. That's why electric cooperatives across Illinois are committed to investing in our youth through scholarships that not only honor the legacy of our cooperative family but also fuel the dreams and goals of tomorrow's leaders.

The electric cooperatives of Illinois will award 17 scholarships, each worth \$2,500, to outstanding students from the electric cooperative family through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. **7625-25**

"This isn't just about financial aid — it's also about empowering students," said WIEC Manager Todd Grotts. "While honoring those who came before us, we're also investing in the future. Illinois' electric cooperatives are constantly searching for ways to spark positive change in our communities. Supporting our youth through scholarship programs like this is one of the impactful ways we help shape tomorrow."

Here's a brief rundown of the scholarships available.

- Ten scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are Illinois electric co-op members, giving these students a bright start on their educational journey.
- The Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship is reserved for a student whose parent is an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director, honoring the legacy of service within our cooperative family.

- Five scholarships are dedicated to students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college, who are also children of an electric cooperative member in Illinois.
- The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship is designed for those ready to light up the world by pursuing a career in linework and are enrolled or plan to enroll at Lincoln Land Community College's lineworker program. This scholarship supports students of co-op members, relatives of employees or directors, and those who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

Don't miss out on this opportunity! The general scholarship application deadline is Dec. 31, 2024, and the lineworker scholarship is due by April 30, 2025. For more information, contact the office at 217-357-3125 or visit aiec.coop or wiec.net. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors.

"This is a great opportunity for the next wave of bright minds within our co-op community," said Grotts. "These scholarships will help ensure that our future is powered by knowledge and a shared commitment to excellence. Let's light the way to a brighter tomorrow."



IEC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS



**WE SALUTE OUR
VETERANS**
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

The WIEC office will be closed Monday, Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day. Consider taking time to thank a veteran for their service.

As always, in case of a power emergency, please call 217-357-3125 or 800-576-3125. If the 217 number is busy, please redial using the 800 number, which should always ring through to our off-site call center.



Ready Your Home FOR WINTER

Prepare your home for winter now to ensure safety, efficiency and comfort. Here's a checklist you can use.



INSPECT HEATING SYSTEM:

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are unblocked for efficient heat distribution.

TEST AND MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS:

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors to ensure they function properly.

PREPARE PIPES AND WATER SUPPLY:

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of water shut-off valve in case of emergency.

PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR:

- Clear gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees away from the house to avoid damage.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from the foundation.
- Service and store equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY:

- Seal gaps at windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

Learn more at:



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually. 3531-1

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.

