

Wayne-White NEWS

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Daughter Of Wayne-White Member Wins IEC Scholarship

Erin Pszczolkowski, a Senior at Cisne High School will receive one of the five statewide college scholarships awarded by the Illinois Electric Cooperatives. As a 2006 IEC Memorial Scholarship recipient, Erin becomes the first student ever to win one of the scholarships from the Wayne-White service area since the inception of the statewide scholarship program in 1996.

Erin is the daughter of Mike and Judy Pszczolkowski of Mt. Erie. She will be attending Olney Central College in the fall majoring in Speech Pathology, and later transferring to Eastern Illinois University.

Erin was recognized with a plaque during the Cisne High School Graduation ceremonies. She and her family have also been invited to attend the AIEC Annual Meeting in July at Springfield, where she will be recognized with the other four winners.

The IEC Memorial Scholarships are in the amount of \$1,250 each and are awarded to five students across the state based upon 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.

"We had a 62 percent increase in scholarship applications this year just from our service area," said Randy Olson, Member Services Representative. "We are all very proud of Erin and pleased to have a statewide winner selected from our membership. This is quite an accomplishment considering there were 256 applications statewide."

Cooperative Assists City Of McLeansboro With Ballfield Poles

Crews from Wayne-White recently assisted the city of McLeansboro by straightening poles that were tilted by strong winds, adding support rock at the base of the straightened poles, as well as installing new light poles at the baseball and softball fields adjacent to the high school in McLeansboro. You can watch a video clip of the crews in action during this process at www.Wayne-WhiteCoop.com.



Wayne-White Teaches Students About Arbor Day

In recognition of Arbor Day, Jim Gifford, Manager of the Right-of-Way (Vegetation Management) Department at Wayne-White planted two flowering trees in front of Jasper Grade School with the help of many 6, 7 and 8th grade students.

Students learned proper planting techniques, received hands-on experience and participated in providing the front of the school with two trees that should last for many years and provide beauty to the school's landscape.

The trees planted include a flowering Okame Cherry and a flowering Yoshimo Cherry. One will bloom out in white, while the other will bloom out in a pink/red combination.



As members of Tree USA, Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative has planted trees and provided tree education materials to a different school each year around Arbor Day.

You can watch a video clip of the students in the tree planting process on the Wayne White Web site at www.WayneWhite-Coop.com. Just click on the link to "What's new at Wayne-White."

Cooperative Utilizing New ATV In Many Ways

Two months after purchasing a Yamaha 4 x 4 ATV for vegetation management crew, it has become apparent that this unique vehicle is useful to the cooperative in many other ways as well. Clint Harl (photo above) uses the ATV daily to reach tough areas in spraying the right-of-way to control the growth of unwanted brush near power lines. Meanwhile, the linemen crews were able to utilize the ATV during the April storms when equipment and material could not be transported through the flooded bottoms in regular cooperative trucks.

"In certain situations, the ATV is useful in transporting materials where trucks can't go, particularly across fields," said



Erin Halley, Manager of Operations. "It has already saved us time and labor in helping to get equipment to isolated areas where needed instead of hauling

it slowly by hand." The cooperative put out bids earlier this year and purchased the new ATV from LeMonds Yamaha in Fairfield.

Save Energy By Installing A Water Heater Blanket

Water heaters can use a lot of energy even when you are not using hot water. This stand-by loss happens when heat travels through your water heater's walls, and can account for a substantial portion of your water heating costs. According to Energy Star, an average water heater can consume about 12 percent of your monthly energy bill.

Most older water heaters have only an inch of fiberglass tank insulation, and many newer ones have just an inch of foam insulation.

In contrast, the new Marathon water heaters, sold at Wayne-White, have 3-inches of foam insulation along the sides and 5-inches at the bottom, making them very energy efficient (see the photo of the Marathon cut-away model). Marathon water heaters are also made of polybutylene (plastic) so they feature a lifetime warranty against rusting and leaking.

If your current hot water heater is operating fine, you can reduce your energy consumption by installing a blanket of fiberglass insulation around your present water heater. This is a very effective energy conservation tactic. Water-heater blankets come in kits



that contain a blanket, straps and tape. The straps hold the insulation to the water heater, and the tape seals the seams in the insulation.

Read all the installation instructions that come with the blanket. You will want to identify areas where the blanket will be taped to the water heater and wash those areas well so the tape will stick. Be sure to cut small flaps in the insulation over the access areas of the thermostats and elements. A water heater blanket installed properly will save energy day and night for the life of your water heater.

Welcome NEW COOPERATIVE MEMBERS



- Dea Ames, Grayville
- Jeanne Baldwin, Bluford
- Josh & Jessica Bateman, Mill Shoals
- Willis Bolsen, Lovington
- Kevin Campbell, McLeansboro
- Jerry & Nichole Houston, Fairfield
- Scott A LaMotte & Christie L Smith, Fairfield
- Donald E & Lorraine M Lowery, Fairfield
- Linda G Martin, Dahlgren
- Sharon Owens, Wayne City
- Chad & Tami Payne, Macedonia
- Rebecca Ann Poracky, Wayne City
- Kristy & William Reed, Wayne City
- Linda Schuster, McLeansboro
- Thomas C, Sr & Patricia Simpkins, Plainfield
- Wendy & Mark Stone, Grayville

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Video Clips now Available on Wayne-White Web site

Users of the Wayne-White Web site can now watch a variety of video clips.

Randy Olson, Member Services Representative, has placed a small TV-style screen on various pages of the Web site to conveniently share information, instructions, safety tips and news about the cooperative utilizing video clips of various lengths.

"Pictures and written copy are nice, but the new video technology is like Internet TV - it takes communication to another level," said Olson. "We want to be as interactive as possible with our membership and video clips enable us to actually put Web site users in the middle of a special event, interesting story, energy saving tip, safety instruction or any discussion point."

Some current video clips in-



clude students of Jasper school learning to plant trees for Arbor Day with Wayne-White personnel, a live-line demonstration with linemen crews, on-site footage of crews in action replacing poles, a presentation of the IEC Scholarship to a local student, video highlights of the annual meeting and a variety of energy saving tips from nationally-known experts such as Doug Rye.

Naturally, a computer needs to have high-speed Internet service to be able to watch the

video clips on the Web site as dial-up connections are simply not fast enough to process video.

"We have provided a list of 9 companies that now offer high-speed Internet service in our coverage area," said Olson. "That information was published in the March issue of this magazine and the information is also available on our Web site at www.WayneWhiteCoop.com."

The cost of high-speed Internet service has dropped in southern Illinois and availability is much more common place. High-speed Internet connections also enable computer users to easily download photos, music, watch sporting events and movies, easily manage their e-mail and do research for school, work and other projects. For more information about Internet solutions or the Web site call Wayne-White at 842-2196.

Employees and Retirees Enjoy Cookout

Current and retired employees of Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative and their families recently gathered for a cookout at the Fairfield headquarters. A large group attended. Food was prepared by the Fairfield Rural Fire Department.

