

SHELBY News

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Pictured left to right: Cooperative COO Jim Matlock, Friends of the Park spokesperson Teresa Toler, Moweaqua Mayor Shawn Conlin, Moweaqua in Motion Treasurer Janet Simmons, Cooperative Member Services Specialist Faith Wheeler, and CoBank's Associate Vice President for Electric Distribution Banking Group Molly Bohlander.



Pictured left to right: Cooperative Broadband/Member Engagement Specialist Kaelynn Carlock, Cooperative COO Jim Matlock, ShelbyFiber Project Manager Nate Miller, Tri-Committee Capital Campaign Chairperson and Building and Ground Committee member Adam Vocks, CoBank's Associate Vice President for Electric Distribution Banking Group Molly Bohlander, Christian County YMCA Executive Director Bruce Blanshan, and Cooperative Member Services Specialist Faith Wheeler.



Pictured left to right: Cooperative COO Jim Matlock, Silk Purse Shift Manager Morgan Russell, Family Life Center Executive Director Mary Hovis, Coordinating Manager of Silk Purse Thrift Stores Dana Sawyer, Silk Purse Store Manager Kim Hilvety, Cooperative Member Services Specialist Faith Wheeler, ShelbyFiber Project Manager Nate Miller, and Family Life Center Board Chairman Ted Rhodes.

Commitment to Community

Commitment to Community is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles. Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC), partnered with CoBank's Sharing Success Program, acted on this core principle by donating a combined \$20,000 to Moweaqua in Motion, the Christian County YMCA, and the Shelbyville Silk Purse.

Moweaqua in Motion is a community organization that is working to unite residents and businesses to promote a thriving and sustainable village. Friends of the Park is a subcommittee of the organization and is actively involved in fundraising for projects to improve the town's Central Park and North Park. SEC and CoBank donated \$9,500 to help update Central Park, including a complete renovation of the park's bathroom. "The parks in our community are always being used by families," shared Teresa Toler, spokesperson for Friends of the Park. "This donation from Shelby Electric Cooperative and CoBank helps us continue to provide our community with a great outdoor recreational space."

The Christian County YMCA serves 3,290 people in multiple towns. They are a community-focused nonprofit

that promotes healthy living, youth development, and social responsibility. Recently, the YMCA spearheaded a capital campaign to raise money for much needed projects around the facility, including rejuvenating the athletic center, enhancing the family aquatic center, and modernizing the wellness center. SEC and CoBank donated \$9,500 to help support these projects. "Our YMCA is more than just a facility; it's a community," shared Bruce Blanshan, executive director for the YMCA. "With the help from generous donors like Shelby Electric Cooperative and CoBank, we are able to make a real difference in our community by building possibilities for generations to come."

The Silk Purse received a \$1,000 donation to help with their expansion into the Shelbyville area. The Silk Purse is a thrift store operated by the Family Life Center, which helps their clients with free clothing, household goods, etc., through their Earn While You Learn Program. "We are so excited to grow in this community," shared Mary Hovis, Executive Director of the Family

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Empowering our youth

17 - \$3,000 scholarships available



IEC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Josh Shallenberger, Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) President/CEO would like to remind co-op members that applications for the 2026 Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarships are now available. At Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC), we believe the key to a brighter future lies in empowering the next generation. That is why electric cooperatives across Illinois are committed to investing in youth through scholarships that honor the legacy of our cooperative family while fueling the dreams and goals of tomorrow's leaders.

The following 17 scholarships of \$3,000 each will be awarded in 2026:

Ten scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are members of an Illinois electric cooperative and plan to enroll full-time at a two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school.



Isabella Miller of Shelbyville was presented the IEC Memorial Scholarship during the 2025 Shelbyville High School awards night in May. Pictured with Isabella is Shelby Electric Cooperative Member Services Specialist Faith Wheeler.

Five scholarships will be awarded to students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college whose parent(s) are electric cooperative members, employees, or directors.

The Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director and will enroll full-time at a 2-year or a 4-year college, university, or vocational/technical school.

The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship supports students pursuing a career in linework through enrollment in the lineworker program at Lincoln Land Community College. Eligible applicants include children of cooperative members, relatives of employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

Over the years, SEC has been fortunate to have several IEC Memorial Scholarship winners, and in May 2025, Isabella Miller was recognized for receiving one of these scholarships at the Shelbyville High School's senior awards night. "These scholarships ensure that our future is powered by knowledge, service, and a shared commitment to excellence," said Shallenberger.

Information has been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is available on the cooperative's website, shelbyelectric.coop, under the "Community" menu tab. The deadline to apply online for the IEC Memorial Scholarships is **Dec. 31, 2025**. The lineworker scholarship deadline is **April 30, 2026**. For more information regarding scholarships, contact Faith Wheeler at 217-774-3986 or email scholarship@shelbyelectric.coop

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**P.O. BOX 560
Shelbyville, IL 62565**

**Phone: 217-774-3986
or 1-800-677-2612**

**Pay-by-Phone:
1-844-963-2859**

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Monday - Friday
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SCAN HERE for more scholarship info.

Safety First!

Cooperative Linemen Compete in Safety Rodeo



Line personnel from Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) participated in the annual Lineworker's Safety Rodeo coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Thursday, September 25. Eighteen teams from 13 electric co-ops and two municipal electric utilities participated in the friendly competition, along with ten others competing individually. The rodeo highlights the skills lineworkers use to work safely and efficiently.

Apprentice linemen Adam Hudson, Wyatt Fox, and Cade Helton competed as a team, and Luke Brown and Dalton Brown competed individually to represent SEC at the rodeo, held at the Lincoln Land Community College Line School Yard in Springfield. They competed against teams from across Illinois in events using skills that focused on agility, speed, and accuracy. While these skills are part of the judging criteria, above all, participants are judged on safe work practices.



The team representing the cooperative at this year's Lineworker Safety Rodeo, pictured left to right, Apprentice Linemen Adam Hudson, Wyatt Fox, and Cade Helton.

This year, the line personnel competed in an armor rod install, cutout change, hurt man rescue, 40-foot transition climb, and transition climbing challenge. Scores for each event are based on completion time, proper execution of the task, and safety. Deductions were made to a team or individual's overall performance score

due to mistakes such as slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools, or executing inappropriate procedures or methods.

Congratulations to our lineworkers on their team and individual efforts.



Forestry Foreman Luke Brown participated as an individual.



Lineman Dalton Brown participated as an individual.



“Commitment to community” continued from 18A

Life Center. “We are grateful to partner with Shelby Electric Cooperative and CoBank to help support the families in this area.”

“Being able to support the communities and people we serve is what Commitment to Community is all about,” said Faith Wheeler, who coordinates the program for SEC. “Seeing the heart and determination that is poured into these organizations is the best part.”

Since the inception of CoBank’s Sharing Success Program, the cooperative has received matching dollars for donations to the following organizations: Shelbyville Fire Department, Roxy Theatre, Shelby County Veteran’s Fund, Shelby County CEO Program, Taylorville Development Association, Shelby County Dive Team, Meridian Ag Foundation, Pana Sacred Heart School, Village of Strasburg, The Autism and Movement Project in Pana, and the Herrick Fire Department, just to name a few. Including the CoBank match, SEC has donated over \$200,000 in philanthropic donations through the Sharing Success program.

Time to fall back

Daylight saving time ends at
**2 a.m. on Sunday,
November 2.**

Remember to set your clocks back
an hour before you go to bed on
Saturday evening.

Local fire officials
recommend
changing the
batteries in your
smoke detector(s)
when you change
your clocks.



Did you **KNOW?**

If you are renting a propane tank from Shelby Energy Company, you may notice a new device on the tank. This is called a **Tank Monitor**, which enables Shelby Energy to read your propane levels remotely from the office. This new feature allows us to serve you better at no additional cost.

Your local propane service provider since 1994.

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