

Honoring our Veterans

We all know someone who is serving in the military or served our country in one of the branches of the armed forces. November 11 is the one day each year we honor and celebrate those who put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms that we often take for granted. As we say **thank you** to all those who serve or have served, we would also like to say **thank you** to two of our employees for their service to this country.

Tim Bejosano, propane technician/driver for Shelby Energy Company, is in the Army Reserves as a fuel

handler for Black Hawk helicopters. Serving for 13 years out of Fort Knox, Kentucky, Bejosano also served eight years as an infantryman in the Army. Dalton White, broadband technician for PWR-net, has been in the Air Force Reserves for six years as an air transportation journeyman. White's unit is based out of Grissom Air Reserve Base in Northern Indiana. He will be deployed to Germany for two weeks in November. We appreciate you, Tim and Dalton!

Remember to say **thank you** and shake the hand of a Veteran, especially on Saturday, November 11.



The cooperative would like to say **thank you** to our employees who serve our country in the Reserves. Dalton White (left) is in the Air Force Reserves, and Tim Bejosano is in the Army Reserves.

**Cooperative
Offices Closed**

Friday, November 10, Veterans Day
Thursday, November 23, Thanksgiving
Friday, November 24, Thanksgiving

IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Josh Shallenberger, Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) President/CEO, would like to remind co-op members that the Illinois electric cooperatives will once again be awarding academic scholarships to high school seniors through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. In 2024, **17 scholarships of \$2,000 each** will be awarded.

Ten scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the children of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from their cooperative.

Five scholarships are reserved for high school seniors enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college and are the children of Illinois 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.

The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the



Sophie Trainor of Shelbyville was presented her IEC Memorial Scholarship during the 2023 Shelbyville High School senior awards night in May. Pictured with Sophie are her parents Ellen and Charles Trainor.

lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, individuals enrolled in the Lincoln Land Lineworker's School, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker's scholarship.

Over the years, SEC has been fortunate to have several IEC Memorial Scholarship winners, and

in June 2023, Sophie Trainor was awarded one of these scholarships at the cooperative's annual meeting.

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 is **December 31, 2023**. The lineworker scholarship deadline is **April 30, 2024**.

For more information regarding scholarships, contact Faith Wheeler at 217-774-3986 or email scholarship@shelbyelectric.coop.



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Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Time to fall back

Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 5. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday evening.



Local fire officials recommend changing the batteries in your smoke detector(s) at this time.

Linemen defend their title



Line personnel from Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) participated in the annual Lineworker's Safety Rodeo coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives on Thursday, September 21. Eighteen teams from 14 electric co-ops and two municipal electric utilities participated in the friendly competition, along with eight others competing individually. The rodeo highlights the skills lineworkers use to work safely and efficiently.

Lineworkers Jamie Sharp, Dalton Brown and Brian Chevalier combined for a three-man team, and Josh Phegley and Luke 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,



SEC's Jamie Sharp, Dalton Brown, and Brian Chevalier were presented with the awards they received for best overall team and third place in the pole top rescue event.



Brian Chevalier competes in the pole top rescue.



Dalton Brown competes in the H-structure obstacle course.



Lineman Luke Brown participated as an individual.



Apprentice Lineman Josh Phegley participated as an individual.

speed and accuracy. While these skills are part of the judging criteria, above all, participants are judged on safe work practices.

Line personnel competed in four team and individual events, a 40-foot climb, pole top rescue, H-structure obstacle course and a cutout change. The day concluded with a head-to-head 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.

At the end of the day, SEC's team of Sharp, Brown, and Chevalier defended their title of overall team winner for the second consecutive year. In addition they earned third place in pole top rescue. Congratulations to our lineworkers on their team and individual efforts.

Making dreams come true

\$20,000 donated to the Autism and Movement Project

Not everyone can say they are working at their dream job. However, Erica Matthews is doing just that as the owner and lead instructor at the Autism and Movement Project (AAMP)/Autism Movement Therapy (AMT) in Pana, Illinois. You don't have to be around Erica long to see her passion and love for her students. "I just felt like there was a need for students who live in the autistic spectrum to receive specialized care, so I started AAMP/AMT in 2012, created Brewin' Hope in 2019, and recently partnered with the Historical Society on the sensory garden," noted Matthews.

In September, Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) representatives and CoBank presented Matthews \$20,000 in a symbolic check presentation. There were three separate checks presented to make up the \$20,000 donation to assist Matthews in her goals for her students.

- **\$15,000 went to AAMP/AMT Learning Center Inc.** The funds provided will allow AAMP/AMT to expand what they can offer their students and community in their sensory gym. Matthews' students range from eight months old to 15 years of age, with many coming from SEC's service territory.
- **\$2,500 went to the Pana Historical Society for the sensory garden.** The funds provided will allow the purchase of necessary equipment to enable not only involvement from AAMP, but also collaboration with the community. The students will be able to use their creativity to ensure the garden is dynamic and an innovative place to visit.
- **\$2,500 went to Brewin' Hope Coffee House.** The funds provided will allow the coffee house to purchase additional equipment so the employees can make, bake, and create an enjoyable experience for their customers. The coffee house is



A large contingent of supporters were on hand for the CoBank Sharing Success symbolic check presentation on September 19, 2023. Pictured in front from left: Karen Cherry, Christian County Master Gardener and supervisor of the Sensory Garden; Aaron Johnson, electric distribution division vice president of CoBank; Amanda Taylor, AAMP; Erica Matthews, AMMP owner and lead instructor; Scott Ohmes, director, Shelby Electric Cooperative; and Christy Biddle, Shelby Electric Cooperative executive assistant. In back: Faith Wheeler, Shelby Electric Cooperative member services specialist; Dana Frailey, Erica's mother; Jim Matlock, Shelby Electric Cooperative COO; and Amy Hagen, U.S. Bank vice president, Taylorville, who suggested AAMP for the grant.

staffed by AAMP students to allow them to gain life skills by joining the workforce.

"When I started this, I had six students, and this year I'm up to 137 students. The money I received from Shelby Electric Cooperative and CoBank's match will go a long way in continuing to provide families the care they need and want, and I am truly grateful," stated an emotional Matthews.

"One of the core principles of the Seven Cooperative Principles is Commitment to Community, and being able to provide these funds to this program exemplifies what the CoBank Sharing Success program is all about," said cooperative member services specialist Faith Wheeler.

SEC's \$10,000 donation was matched by CoBank through its Sharing Success program. Sharing Success was established in 2012 to celebrate the International Year of the Cooperative. Since the program's inception, CoBank and its customers have together provided more than \$60 million in support to charitable organizations across the nation.

Aaron Johnson, electric distribution division vice president of CoBank, said, "We have been doing this program since 2012. We set aside \$3 million every year and receive applications from April 1 to October 1, and match dollar for dollar for our members up to \$10,000 each. It all goes to improving the quality of life for rural America, and we are proud to be a part of this."

AAMP/AMT is changing the lives of kids and their families by helping make their dreams come true.

Since the inception of CoBank's Sharing Success program, the cooperative has received matching dollars for donations to the 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, and the Village of Strasburg, to name a few. Including the CoBank match, SEC has donated \$135,000 in philanthropic donations through the Sharing Success program.