# **ROCK ENERGY NEWS**



July 2021

#### What's Happening

July 4 Independence Day

July 15 National Pet Fire Safety Day

#### June 1-July 4 is Fireworks Safety Month

Fireworks result in nearly 10,000 injuries every year. More than 65 percent of all fireworks related injuries occur during the month of July. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals.

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## **Keep it Cool Using Less Energy**

There are a number of different steps you can take to help you prepare your home, and yourself, to handle the heat.

The Energy Education Council suggests ways to help you save energy while staying cool when the weather gets hot this summer. From adjusting your ceiling fan to checking your AC unit, here are some tips that will help you stay cool and save money when temperatures rise:

- Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep cold air in and hot air out.
- Open your windows at night to let cool air in, and then close them in the morning to trap it.
- Use curtains and blinds to keep the sun out on hot days.
- Consider shading your home by installing awnings over windows in direct sunlight.
- Operate ceiling fans in a counter-clockwise

allow you to easily cool your home when you are there and increase the temperature when you are not.

- If you are looking for a new air conditioning unit, be sure to check out an Energy Star rated model.
- If a new AC unit is out of the question, a routine annual inspection and regular maintenance can help. Turn off power to the air conditioner before you work on it. Clean or replace filters. Clear leaves and other debris away from the condensing unit. Hose off any accumulated dirt.
- Make sure your home has the insulation it needs.

#### Stay Cool & Stay Safe

Prevent heat-related illnesses by seeking out cool environments, drinking lots of water, and wearing light clothes. Know the signs of heat



direction, which forces air down and creates a cooling effect.

- Ventilation, if done properly, is one of the most efficient ways to keep a building cool. When using your AC, attic vents and fans can help reduce energy costs.
- Set the thermostat as high as you comfortably can. Programmable thermostats

exhaustion and heat stroke. If you or someone else experiences heavy sweating and weakness, immediately seek a cool environment, drink water, and apply a cold compress. If these symptoms progress to high temperature, vomiting, and unconsciousness, seek emergency medical attention.

### Rock Energy Member Awarded IEC Memorial Scholarship

Rock Energy is very proud to announce that recent Hononegah High School graduate and Rock Energy member Finley Hamilton is the recipient of the 2021 IEC Memorial Scholarship! Finley is also a recipient of the 2021 Rock Energy Scholarship.



Finley is currently looking at a number of different colleges to attend this fall. In her Rock

Finley Hamilton

Energy Scholarship application, Finley said her career goal is as follows:

"As a teenager, some people may find it difficult to choose a career; however, I am very excited about the plans I have chosen for my future academic and career goals. I plan to pursue a major in communications with a focus in digital media communications or public relations, along with a minor in environmental science. Upon completing my undergraduate degree, I plan on attending law school to specialize in corporate or environmental law. As a Communications major I hope to use the skills I learn to help my future career goals to attend law school and become an attorney."

The IEC Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) in January, 1994. It is designed to provide financial assistance to deserving students in the "electric cooperative family."

Twelve scholarships were given out this year; each annual scholarship is worth \$2,000. The scholarship must be used for educational costs, and they must enter college within a year from the time the scholarship is issued.



personnel will be out on Monday, July 5, in observance of the 4th of July. Members can make payments in the drop boxes at both offices throughout the holiday weekend and at the payment kiosk outside our South Beloit office, 15229 Willowbrook Road. Even though our offices are closed, standby crews are available. If you need to report a power outage, please call 866-752-4550.

## Rock Energy <u>WILL NOT</u> be holding the following events in 2021: • Member Appreciation Day

Electronics Recycling

Given today's ever-changing landscape due to the ongoing pandemic, and taking into consideration the health and safety of our members, it was decided to not hold these events in 2021. Information about future events (in 2022 and beyond) will be communicated in this magazine, the REC newsletter (comes with your bill), and via email as needed.

At this point, Rock Energy has not organized a 2021 "**Night At The Ball Park**" event, and Beloit Snappers tickets are not available from Rock Energy. If the event is scheduled in 2021, we will promote it in our magazine, newsletter, and email.

## **SmartHub is ALWAYS Connected!**

SmartHub is Rock Energy's online account management system. If you're not already familiar with SmartHub, it is a free app for computers and



mobile devices that offers a multitude of features to provide members with secure account management right at their fingertips. If you're new to online account management, you will need to register for SmartHub as a new user. You can access the registration page at the top/right of Rock Energy's home page at **www.rock.coop**.

#### With SmartHub, you can:

- Check your usage.
- Contact our office.
- Pay your bill.
- Receive account notifications.
- Sign up for paperless billing.

Check out our online Frequently Asked Questions page (go to www.rock.coop / Member Services / Payment Options / SmartHub / Frequently Asked Questions) to learn more about how to manage your account. You also can visit our SmartHub Help Page, which has videos describing some of the features and information sheets for reference.

If you have other questions, please call 866-752-4550 during regular business hours and one of our member service representatives will be happy to assist you.

NOTE: If you need to report an emergency, such as an outage or a natural gas leak, please do NOT message the co-op through SmartHub. Instead, please call 866-752-4550. When calling this number, please follow prompts, as this number is fully monitored, 24 hours a day. Messages sent through SmartHub are only monitored during regular business hours.