

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

May 2025



**FORAGE FOR FUN AT THE  
MUSCODA MOREL  
MUSHROOM FESTIVAL**

**COOPERATIVE FAMILY FUND**

**TIPS TO BEAT THE ENERGY PEAK**

**BEEF RECIPES**





Alexander Davis



Noah Dugan



Kali Fischer



Isabella Heinke



Scott Heroux



Brooke Hodkiewicz



Josie Holtz



Jonathan Moody



Hanna Parrett



Kylee Peterson



Caden Pliss



Emerich Skarban

# Congratulations

Oconto Electric Cooperative is proud to announce our 2025 scholarship recipients. This year OEC was able to award twelve scholarships each in the amount of \$2,500. Scholarships are made possible through unclaimed capital credits.

**Alexander Davis**, son of Tom and Dawn Davis, senior at Gillett High School, will be attending Bellin College of Nursing.

**Noah Dugan**, son of Shawn and Annah Dugan, senior at Bay Port High School, will be attending Michigan Technological University for Electrical Engineering.

**Kali Fischer** daughter of Kenneth and Kim Fischer, senior at Lena High School, plans to attend Carrol University to major in Mental Health Psychology with a minor in Religion.

**Isabella Heinke**, daughter of Jon and Tina Spice and James and Cari Heinke, senior at Oconto Falls High School, plans to study Accounting at UW-Whitewater.

**Scott Heroux**, son of Jamie and Penny Heroux, senior at Gillett High School, plans on attending UW-La Crosse to study Physical Therapy.

**Brooke Hodkiewicz**, daughter of Kristin Hodkiewicz, senior at Oconto Falls High School, will be attending Wisconsin Lutheran College to study Sport and Exercise Science.

**Josie Holtz**, daughter of Brady and Candis Holtz, senior at Oconto Falls High School, will be attending UW-Milwaukee to study Architecture.

**Jonathan Moody**, son of Thomas and Melissa Moody, senior at Oconto Falls High School, will study Sport and Exercise Science at UW-Stevens Point.

**Hanna Parrett**, daughter of Thomas and Paige Parrett, senior at Lena High School, will be attending Northeast Wisconsin Technical College for Nursing.

**Kylee Peterson**, daughter of Allen and Tanya Peterson, senior at Oconto Falls High School, will be attending Bellin College of Nursing.

**Caden Pliss**, son of Harold and Leona Pliss, senior at Oconto Falls High School, will attend UW-Milwaukee to study Medicine.

**Emerich Skarban**, son of Todd and Heather Skarban, senior at Oconto Falls High School, plans on attending NWTC to become an Electrician.

# 2025 YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



## PARTICIPATE

in fun, hands-on, educational activities



## DISCOVER

your leadership skills, and the purpose/value of  
cooperatives



## EXPERIENCE

a typical college environment

## JULY 15-17 | UW-STOUT

For students entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year in fall of 2025

Students parent(s)/legal guardian must be an active OEC member.  
All costs covered by OEC, including transportation to and from UW-Stout.

Space is limited. Deadline to sign up is June 20.



Interested? Here's how to apply...  
Contact Katie Jagiello at 920-846-2816 or  
email [kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com](mailto:kjagiello@ocontoelectric.com)

Scan For More Info





# SPARKING THEIR INTEREST

## OEC TEACHES KIDS ELECTRICAL SAFETY

**S**afety is a core value at OEC, for everyone — whether it's our employees or our members, even the youth. The program was developed to teach students about the dangers associated with electricity, how to respect it, and how to keep themselves and their families safe. In doing these things, we are reinforcing our commitment to our cooperative principles #5: Education, Training and Information and #7: Concern for Community.

We invite the fourth-grade classes from the surrounding schools to participate. By the time that we do the safety demos in the spring, most classes have had their basic lesson on electricity.

Once the safety demo table is set, Katie Jagiello, OEC's communication and marketing specialist starts off with "Electricity, you can't see it, smell it, hear it, taste it or out

run it. Electricity is unforgiving and when you have an electrical contact you usually don't get a second chance."

The lineman assisting that day will slip on their safety gloves and show students what happens when common items such as ladders, kites, trees and vehicles come into contact with energized equipment. (1316000) When the electricity arcs like lighting it sparks the students interest and they get really excited.

After answering questions from the students, we end the presentation by providing the students with a bag full of fun safety swag to take home and share with their families.

OEC would like to thank both the staff and students for taking time out of their busy schedules to allow us to teach students the importance of staying away from electric utility equipment.







## Thank you Community Change

Community Change provides funds for worthwhile causes, including medical or financial hardships, educational purposes, and charitable organizations. It is funded by volunteer donations from OEC members, allowing them the opportunity to give back to our local communities. When a member signs up, their electric bills (899701) are simply rounded up to the next whole dollar amount.

In March Community Change awarded the Oconto Area Humane Society with \$500. The funds will help offer a low-cost spay/neuter option to low-income Oconto County residents.

Grace Lutheran Church, Oconto Falls was also awarded \$500 towards the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child ministry.

If you know of a charitable or service organization, civic group, or individual with unusual financial needs, you can encourage them to apply for a Community Change grant.

Applications can be found at [www.ocontoelectric.com](http://www.ocontoelectric.com) or in the OEC lobby. Applications for the June board meeting must be submitted by May 21.

## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, it's crucial to slow down and take your time before taking any action. Scammers will often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the communication by contacting your utility directly. Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill or the utility's website. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.

Source: *Utilities United Against Scams*



## HIDDEN ACCOUNT NUMBERS

Oconto Electric Cooperative hides two account numbers in the local pages of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* each month. If you spot your account number, call our office before you receive the next issue, and OEC will give you a \$15 credit on your electric bill or a \$25 credit if you have a load management receiver. The April account numbers belonged to David Roberts, Little Suamico and Allen Bartel, Pound.



Ryan Miller, CEO

Katie Jagiello, Communications and Marketing

7479 REA Road, P.O. Box 168, Oconto Falls, WI 54154  
[www.ocontoelectric.com](http://www.ocontoelectric.com)

**Hours of Operation:** 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

**Hours of Lobby:** 9:00 a.m.– 3 p.m. Friday

**Non-emergencies:** 920-846-2816

**Emergencies & outages:** Toll FREE 800-472-8410  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week