

What's Happening

Dec. 24 - 25

Christmas —
REC offices closed
Dec. 24-25.

Dec. 31 - Jan. 1

New Years —
REC offices closed
Dec. 31 - Jan. 1.

Made In America Month

December is "National Made in America Month," which was started in 1985 by then President, Ronald Reagan in order to recognize American-made products and support businesses that don't outsource labor to other countries.

Rock Energy Cooperative

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Editor

REC Employee in the RIGHT PLACE at the RIGHT TIME

Most people have been in Michelle Piper's shoes before — rushing to get somewhere, 8-million things on your mind, and in your haste, you misplace something of value. In Michelle's case, the "something of value" was her purse that she left on the roof of her car!

A new Rock Energy member in the Rockton area, Michelle didn't realize, of course, she had left her purse on top of her car before she took off down the road in the late morning hours on Oct. 15th. A couple miles down the road, her purse eventually fell off the car roof in front of Hononegah High School. Yep, there it sat, in the middle of the street. Until, that is, Cal Calkins, REC employee, passed by.

"I called the Rockton Police Department to see if someone had turned it in" said Michelle. "At that time, no one had brought it in, so they were going to send someone out to file a report.

Within five minutes of hanging up, however, I received a call from the police station. They said that someone from Rock Energy had found it in the road in front of Hononegah High School as the students were being dismissed. From what I understand, the REC employee pulled over, gathered all the items from the purse (while directing traffic), and turned it in to the police without leaving a name except that he was from REC!"

Michelle contacted REC to thank Cal for finding and turning in the purse. Cal said he was "just happy to help!"

"It's a good feeling to know that there are people who genuinely help just to help, because it's the right thing to do," said Michelle. "Those people are rare in this day and age, and Cal is one of those people! Rock Energy is lucky to have him as an employee."



Michelle Piper, Rock Energy Member



Cal Calkins, Rock Energy Engineering Technician





REC Scholarships Available

Rock Energy Cooperative again is offering scholarships of \$1,000 to graduating high school seniors who enroll at an accredited school. Students whose parents or guardians are active members of REC are eligible.

Our independent scholarship committee will judge applicants based on general merit, cooperation, leadership abilities, financial need, and class ranking.

Since 1989, Rock Energy has awarded more than \$122,000 in financial aid to deserving students. Online applications are available at www.rock.coop. Just go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. The deadline for submitting applications is Jan. 10.

For questions, please contact Jonas Berberich at 866-752-4550, or jonasb@rock.coop.

In addition, scholarships of \$2,000 will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. These scholarships are available to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the co-op.

Applications must be completed on-line at www.rock.coop. Just go to the Community & Youth tab and click on Scholarships. The deadline is Dec. 31.

Illuminate Your Holiday Season With Safety

Don't let the bright and colorful sparkle of the season distract you from taking the precautions that you need to stay safe when decorating.



From Rock Energy to all of our members, please be careful this holiday season when you're decorating, especially when putting up your lights!

Here are some decorating & lighting safety tips to keep in mind this holiday season:

- If you are decorating with an artificial tree, make sure you choose one with fire resistance protection.
- With a real tree, make sure that the needles are green and sturdy with a trunk that is sticky with resin. These are indicators that your tree is well-hydrated. Keep your tree stand filled with water so that the tree does not become overly dry and present a fire hazard.
- Never place your tree near to heat-emitting devices, such as space heaters or radiators, which can become fire hazards.
- Make sure your lights are rated for the location in which they will be used — whether indoors or outside.
- Before hanging your lights, check the strands for broken bulbs, as well as fraying or bare wires that could present electrical hazards.
- When decorating outside, always be sure to look up and double check that you and any equipment, such as a ladder or a light strand, are a minimum of 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- When securing light strands, never staple or nail them into place, as this could damage the wiring or other parts of the product.



Co-op Offices Closed for Holidays

Rock Energy Cooperative offices will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas, and Thursday, Dec. 31, and Friday, Jan. 1, for the New Year's holiday. 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.

REC Board Update

Rock Energy held the first board meeting last week following its annual meeting, which took place October 5. During the board meeting, directors elected Clark Schoonover as the new chairman of the Board of Directors. Schoonover has represented Wisconsin townships Rock and Beloit and Illinois township Rockton on the board since 2014. Other actions taken during the meeting: Bill Dietsch was named Vice Chairman; Jim Quade was re-elected as Treasurer; and Marian Trescher was re-elected as Secretary.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Energy bills can increase during the winter for a variety of reasons, like house guests, more time spent at home, and shorter days and longer nights. Small actions, like turning down your thermostat, replacing old bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help you save.

