Music Department Awarded Touchstone Energy® Classroom Empowerment Grant

Nathan Jesse, band director for Shelbyville High School, recently received a Touchstone Energy® Classroom Empowerment Grant in the amount of $965, which he plans to use to purchase new recording equipment. Shelbyville High School English teacher Rose Bennett urged Jesse to apply for the grant. “I have applied for grants before but didn’t have any success,” said Jesse. Bennett wrote the grant and sent it in.

Touchstone Energy® Electric Cooperatives from across the state distributed a total of $10,000 in Classroom Empowerment Grants to fund innovative, unfunded school projects and materials. The grant for new recording equipment submitted from Shelbyville High School was among 12 grant winners from a pool of 86 total grant applicants.

Jesse remarked, “We won’t have to bring in personal equipment from home now. With the grant money we can buy new recording hardware, monitor speakers and a nice microphone with computer interfaces so our students can make their own recordings, even MP3s. Students will be able to play and record their own music and then play it back digitally. They can combine their individual skills for a nice finished piece that we can even use to sell as fundraisers.”

James Coleman (L), President/CEO of Shelby Electric Cooperative presents Nathan Jesse (R), Band Director for Shelbyville High School a check for $965 on behalf of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Illinois. Jesse was one of 12 recipients of the Touchstone Energy® Classroom Empowerment grants handed out to Illinois Schools.

Jim Coleman, President and CEO of Shelby Electric Cooperative was on-hand to present the check on behalf of Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Illinois. The presentation took place in the Moulton Middle School band room where Jesse was conducting a music appreciation class.

Coleman said, “These grants will provide a real boost for smaller projects that would not otherwise be funded. Right now, this is being done on a local level, but if it proves successful we are hoping it will become nation-wide program for the 635 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives across the country.”

Jesse also said that the check comes at a good time. “Hopefully we can order the new items now and have everything ready to go for the spring semester.”

The grant was available for the first time in 2006 and was made available to Illinois Schools and the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in Illinois. It is expected that the program will grow and be able to offer more money in grants this year.
Private First Class Martin Carlen, son of Shelby Electric lineman Kevin Carlen and Engineering Assistant Debbie Carlen, returned home from Iraq on December 23 just in time for Christmas. He started his tour of duty in Iraq in February 2006.

“You couldn’t have given us anything better for Christmas than the safe return home of Martin,” Debbie said. Martin was home for a couple of weeks before heading back to Ft. Wainwright, Alaska where he is currently stationed.

While in Iraq, Martin was a driver of a Stryker Vehicle and saw combat action in Mosul, Singar and Baghdad. PFC Carlen said he enjoyed his duties while in Iraq and the reality of what was going on in combat didn’t sink in until he saw one of his troop mates get shot right in front of him. “I’ve wanted to be part of our country’s military since I was 10 years old,” said Martin. “And I was proud to be serving our country over in Iraq,” he added. When asked if we should be over in Iraq, Martin said that is for the politicians to debate but we shouldn’t leave until it’s fixed.

He said people in Northern Iraq are happy we are over there but factions in Central Iraq, including Baghdad, are not. He also said despite what you hear in the media there are a lot of good things happening over there.

“I missed the freedoms we have at home the most,” noted Martin. “This may sound funny to some, but as simple as knowing when you were going to eat your next meal is one of those freedoms,” he added. His favorite Meal Ready to Eat (MRE) was pasta and veggies.

Depending on how things progress over in Iraq, PFC Martin Carlen expects his Stryker battalion to return to Iraq in about a year.

Your friends and family at Shelby Electric Cooperative thank you for your service, Martin, as well as the other military personnel fighting for the freedoms we enjoy.
It isn't uncommon to see various waterfowl and Canadian geese making a stop on Lake Shelbyville on their way to warmer climates as they head south for the winter.

But seaplanes? That's right...two seaplanes made a planned stop on Lake Shelbyville as they were making their way to Florida. Brian Schanche, the owner of Minnesota-based Adventure Seaplanes, and his employee, Matt Hollman, were en route to Florida to conduct business during the remainder of the winter when they made a scheduled stop on Lake Shelbyville Tuesday, January 3.

One hitch to their trip was their ground support that they were counting on for land transportation, overnight accommodations and much needed fuel.

Traveling by land was Schanche's girlfriend, Lori Melbrinck. Her task was to provide logistical support, including transporting additional fuel for both planes needed for the approximate 1,400-mile flight to Florida. Brian's dog and fishing boat were also with Lori.

Lori inadvertently obtained Internet-based map service directions to Shelbyville, Indiana so needless to say they didn't meet up as planned.

So with the fuel miles too far away to do the pilots any good, Schanche and Hollman found themselves scrambling for a source of fuel that they needed for their takeoff from the Ninth Street Beach area at the lower end of the lake.

After being unable to make contact with Lithia Springs Marina to obtain fuel, both pilots made arrangements for overnight lodging with Kenny Fry, owner of the Shelby Historic House and Inn in Shelbyville.

The next day, Fry contacted acquaintance Wayne Small, of Shelbyville, who helped Schanche and Hollman obtain several cans of fuel from the nearby Joseph’s Landing gas station and drove them back to their planes.

Once the pilots cleared the morning frost off their windows and refueled their planes, they taxied out into the lake from the cove and took to the air above the Lake Shelbyville Dam, heading southbound with the Canadian geese.

They were going to make planned stops in Tennessee and then in Alabama before reaching their Florida destination. We hope their ground crew caught up with them before their next stop.

Adventure Seaplanes specializes in custom Midwest and Canadian Seaplanes, Ski-plane and Tail-wheel training adventures from Minnesota that offers the experience of exploring the scenic world of floatplane flying.

Adventure Seaplanes also gave the lake area an unusual sight for passers-by and Canadian geese because they normally don’t see seaplanes taking off into the blue skies over Lake Shelbyville.
For Sale

- Used 1hp Black & Decker router, like new, comes with 7 mostly new router bits and used combination router/sabre saw table, $60. Call 217-895-2131.
- Squirrel corn, nice clean full ears, 40 lbs for $6; sofa and matching chair, beautiful wood trim, light blue, make an offer, delivery available. Call 217-567-3293.
- 214 John Deere with mower and tiller, standard transmission, professionally rebuilt engine has 10 hours on it, $1,495. Call 217-967-5118 or 217-962-0804.
- 2003 Chevy Cavalier, 4 cylinder, 4 door, well maintained, 105 K miles, silver, asking $5,000. Call 217-273-1713.
- Dark blue sofa and love seat, $50; Sanyo 19” stereo TV, $25; Hewlett Packard computer, includes monitor, printer and speakers, $50. Call 217-433-7530.
- “Economic Survival Kit” or How to Survive in Times like These, author has written about her experiences she has had in her life of needing to economize, this includes food/cooking, finances, house/car hunting, health and more, $10. Call 217-895-3914.
- Two 1965 El Caminos – 1 has 283, 4 barrel, 4 speed, drivable, $2,495 obo – other 1 has no engine or transmission, factory air conditioning in dash, $1,995 obo. Call 217-967-5118 or 217-962-0804.
- Quaint 2 or 3 bedroom home on 4 lots, located on the west edge of Strasburg, detached 2 car garage and tool shed, central gas furnace and air, original woodwork and flooring, wrap around front porch, enclosed back porch, partial basement, nice neighborhood, lots are landscaped with shade and fruit trees, shrubs, and flowers. Call 217-644-2667.
- Magic Chef flat top range with self-cleaning electric oven with microwave above, $250. Call 217-226-3617 after 5 pm.
- Man’s Lazy Boy rocker/recliner, burgundy in color, great shape, $100. Call 217-774-2971.
- Ethan Allen, double dresser and desk with side drawers, pecan finish, very nice, $300; George Foreman family grill with bun warmer, plus 2 slice toaster, never used & still in original box, $45; Emerson microwave 0.6 cu. ft., never used & still in box, $35; motion moving picture, water fall scene, with box $45. Call 217-855-2521.

- Two trainer RC planes with 2 trainer buddy radios, trainer cords, carrying containers for both planes, one is a right flyer 40T with magnum 40 2-stroke motor, the other one is like the 40T with Super Tiger 2-stroke motor, both like new. Call 217-824-8258.
- Alfalfa hay, square bales, wire tied, 1st, 2nd, 3rd cutting, no rain. Call 217-879-2794.
- Snow blower, MTD 21” walk behind, excellent condition, $175 cash only. Call 217-644-2684.
- 25 “Thomas and Friends” train engines and cars, interlocking wooden train track with bridges, tunnels, etc., 3’ x 4’ wooden train table, many accessories and landscaping. Call 217-774-2880.
- Several riding mules, miniature horse and llamas for sale. Call 217-454-8013.
- Sullivan Lake area home, 1700 sq ft, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, great room, family/living room, bonus room, community pool, on 3 level lots, 2.5 car garage with attached workshop, 1.5 acres, near Whitley creek boat launch and located in South Shore Subdivision, $110,000. Call 217-358-1091.
- 1997 Fleetwood Wilderness camper, pull behind travel trailer, 1 owner, new tires, sleeps 8 people, linens and dishes included, air conditioning, heat, microwave, oven, stove, $7,000. Call 217-644-2602 after 6 pm.
- MTD lawn mower, 12 hp, 38” cut, new rings, new valves, new battery, new blades, excellent condition, $425 firm. Call 217-783-2226.
- H Farmall tractor, recent tires, pulls type 5 rotary mower; triple axle 16’ x 6’ dovetail with ramps, heavy-duty ball hitch. Call 217-768-3204.
- 1998 Jeep Wrangler, white with tan soft top, 4 cylinder, automatic, trailer hitch, Michelins tires, 94,000 miles, great condition, $7,500. Call 217-254-4412 or 217-825-7506.
- Dry, seasoned firewood, stored inside building, $695 obo & more machines for parts. Call 217-865-2204.
- String trimmer, $75. Call 217-234-2151.
- Craftsman 358 blower-vac, $50; Husqvarna 125 radios, trainer cords, carrying containers for both planes.
- 2-20” x 78”, 3-24”x78” & 4-30” x 78” oak grain flush interior doors, includes handle sets, hinges and some trim, $5 each or $40 for all 9 doors; 1-28” x 78” prehung 6 panel interior door, $20; 3-44” x 55” single hung, double pane vinyl windows with nailing flange, $15 each or $40 for all three; 3-trailer axles with brakes, $25 each or $70 for all 3. Call 217-895-3551 after 5 pm.
- 73 IMP Aztec w/trailer, 20 ft, 302 cu in, 730 amp, full cover and full top, lots of bumpers and life jackets, lots of room, rides great in rough water. Call 217-259-7445.
- 7ft. black leather hide-a-bed couch, $250 obo; full size futon bed black metal frame, southwest design cover, $75 obo; large 34”x60” red metal office desk and chair, 6 drawers, glass top, $100 obo. Call 217-827-3233.
- Turkeys; 3 Fallow buck deer; 2-old 1950s pedal tractors; 1987 International Cub cadet riding mower, 50” deck, 17 hp motor, hydrostat, $600; Potbelly pigs, just weaned, $25 each; Jacuzzi hot tub, seats 4, works perfect, $1,000; trash compactor, $50; 2002 double, 5 hp motor go cart, large post traction sprocket, large tires, runs about 38 mph; old china dishes; old Atari 2600 unit, over 500 games for sale separately. Call 217-226-4186.
- New Echo SRM 260 string trimmer, $225; Craftsman 358 blower-vac, $50; Husqvarna 125 string trimmer, $75. Call 217-234-2151.

*Continued on page 5*
Is all insulation equal? The answer is “no” because different types of insulation perform differently depending on the actual application. R-value is a common rating given to insulation. But I give little consideration to R-values as I have learned that the test to determine R-values does not adequately measure real-life conditions. In my opinion, R-value is a myth and we’ll discuss that topic in a future issue.

The truth is that some types of insulation will not stop air movement very well. I have known for years and have proven through the construction of thousands of houses throughout America, that the use of cellulose, which is made from recycled newspapers, or foam insulation will not stop air movement very well. I have known for years and have proven through the construction of thousands of houses throughout America, that the use of cellulose, which is made from recycled newspapers, or foam insulation will not stop air movement very well.

I first discovered it in the 1970s when I was working for the Farmers Homes Administration (FmHA), overseeing the construction of energy-efficient housing for low- and moderate-income families and senior citizens. I learned about it from a builder in Mountain Home who was using it to soundproof apartments. I decided to use it to soundproof FmHA-financed apartments and that’s when I found that it was also great for insulation. By metering many of the apartments and houses we built, I saw that the utility bills were always at least 20 percent less on structures insulated with cellulose.

So, where should you insulate? If you are building a new home, fill the walls with cellulose or foam insulation. Also insulate the foundation wall of a crawl space or the exterior edge of a concrete slab. And, of course, insulate the attic. For existing homeowners who have less than eight inches of fiberglass insulation in the attic, I recommend that you add cellulose insulation over the fiberglass to a final insulation depth of 12 inches.

Doug Rye, a licensed architect and the “King of Caulk and Talk”, can be heard on radio stations across the country, including Illinois, on his syndicated radio program “Home Remedies.” Visit his Web site www.DougRye.com, email him at info@philliprye.com or call him 888-Doug-Rye if you have questions or if you want more information.

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Make Your Valentine Something Special With One Of These Recipes

Raspberry Pork Chops

4 pork loin chops, cut about 3/4 inch thick
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1/3 cup seedless raspberry jam
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon ground ginger
1/8 teaspoon pepper

Directions
Coat pork chops with flour and shake off excess. In a large skillet, brown chops in oil for 2-3 minutes on each side. Pour lemon juice over chops. Combine the jam, salt, ginger and pepper; spread over chops. Reduce heat. Cover and cook for 5-10 minutes or until chops are tender and meat juices run clear.

Orange Salmon with Creole Seasoning

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 salmon steaks
1 tablespoon Creole seasoning, or to taste
1 orange, juiced

Directions
Heat the oil in a skillet over medium heat. Season salmon with Creole seasoning, place in skillet, and cook 2 to 3 minutes on each side, until golden brown. Reduce heat to low, and pour orange juice around the salmon. Continue cooking 5 minutes, or until fish is easily flaked with a fork.

Filet Mignon with Rich Balsamic Glaze

2 (4 ounce) filet mignon steaks
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper to taste
Salt to taste
1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
1/4 cup dry red wine

Directions
Sprinkle freshly ground pepper over both sides of each steak and sprinkle with salt to taste. Heat a nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Place steaks in hot pan and cook for 1 minute on each side or until browned. Reduce heat to medium-low, and add balsamic vinegar and red wine. Cover and cook for 4 minutes on each side basting with sauce when you turn the meat over. Remove steaks to two warmed plates and spoon one tablespoon of glaze over each and serve immediately.

Champagne Chicken

4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
1/4 cup all-purpose flour for dusting
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 1/2 cups fresh sliced mushrooms
2 cups heavy cream
1 cup champagne

Directions
Lightly dust chicken breasts with flour and a little salt and pepper. In a large skillet, lightly brown chicken breasts to a nice golden brown in olive oil. Once browned on both sides, add mushrooms and champagne. Cook over medium heat, champagne should boil a little, for approximately 1/2 hour. When chicken is tender, transfer chicken to a platter. Pour cream into skillet. Simmer about 5 minutes, until slightly thickened. Pour sauce over chicken breasts. Serve.

Simply Succulent Shrimp

1/4 cup chicken broth
1 pound tiger prawns, peeled and deveined
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
1/2 cup butter
3 cloves garlic, crushed

Directions
In a large skillet over medium heat, bring chicken broth to a simmer and add prawns. Cook until pink. Add red pepper flakes to taste. In a microwave-safe bowl, combine butter and garlic. Heat until completely melted. Place prawns on a platter with separate cups of garlic butter for dipping and serve.
Once again, Shelby Electric Cooperative is offering area high school students an opportunity to get a close up look at their State government. The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and its member cooperatives, including Shelby Electric Cooperative, are sponsoring the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day, which will take place in Springfield, and the “Youth to Washington” tour. Both of these programs have been in existence for more than 40 years. Today many alumni of these programs work in local, state, and federal government. Additionally, some are serving as elected officials.

James E. Coleman, President and CEO of Shelby Electric Cooperative and the Board of Directors of Shelby Electric Cooperative would like provide two students from every high school in the Cooperative’s service area the opportunity to attend the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day, which is scheduled for March 28, 2007. The Cooperative will provide transportation and meals. During the day in Springfield, hundreds of students from all over the state will have an opportunity to meet with their elected senators and representatives at the Capitol. Furthermore, students will also tour the State Capitol complex, the Illinois Supreme Court and visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Last year, 22 students from 11 area high schools attended the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on behalf of Shelby Electric Cooperative. To learn more about Youth day go to www.shelbyelectric.coop and select youth programs under the “Our Community” tab.

Two of the students who attend the Youth Day event will be selected to attend the Youth to Washington tour. Winners of the Youth to Washington tour in 2006 were Tyler Antrim, a student from Stewardson-Strasburg High School, and Marlene Walker, a student from Windsor High School. This year Shelby Electric Cooperative will again sponsor two students on a weeklong, all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. The “Youth to Washington” tour will begin on Friday, June 8th and conclude on Friday, June 15th. During the week in the nation’s Capitol, the Illinois contingent will meet with Illinois senators and the downstate Illinois congressional delegation at a Capitol Hill luncheon. Meetings are also scheduled with leaders of co-op organizations such as the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Furthermore, many historic sites will be visited during the week. Additional information concerning the “Youth to Washington” tour can be found at www.youthtour.coop.

Area high schools have been informed about the Youth Day and the “Youth to Washington” tour. Each high school has been asked to select two students to represent their school at the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day. Students should be a junior or senior and the manner in which students are selected is left completely up to the high school. Any student interested in participating in the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day should contact the Guidance Counselor at their high school. For additional information, please contact the cooperative by calling 774-3986 or 1-800-677-2612.
Shelby Electric Cooperative Offering
Three Scholarships

Every year Shelby Electric Cooperative awards three academic scholarships in the amount of $1,000 each. Scholarships are awarded to a son or daughter of a current Shelby Electric Cooperative member who is receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted. In 2006, the winners were, pictured left to right, Joseph D. Raab from Taylorville High School, Sarah E. Hoene from Shelbyville High School, and Renea K. Harbert from Pana High School.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the United States are eligible to participate in the program. Scholarships may be used for educational costs at any two-year or four-year accredited college or university, including vocational/technical schools. Candidates are judged based on grade point average, college entrance tests scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, a biographical statement, and a short essay that demonstrates knowledge of the organization and services of Shelby Electric Cooperative. March 15th is the deadline for receipt of completed applications for 2007. Scholarship winners will be notified in June.

Applications can be obtained by visiting the Shelby Electric Cooperative Web site www.shelbyelectric.coop under the “Our Community” tab or by calling the cooperative. The telephone numbers for the cooperative are 774-3986 and 1-800-677-2612. Applications can also be obtained from high school guidance counselors.


Shelby Electric Cooperative has been offering a rebate for Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems for a number of years in the amount of $300 per ton. Additionally, any member of the cooperative that installed a Geothermal System could purchase a 75 gallon Marathon Water Heater at a reduced cost of $400. While the cooperative will continue to offer a reduced rate of 5.7 cents per kWh under the Qualified Heat Pump rate for members who install a Geothermal System or an Air Source Heat Pump, the cooperative will no longer make available a rebate for the installation of a Geothermal System and it will no longer offer the Marathon water heater at a reduced cost. Furthermore, the $100 rebate currently available for a new electric water heater is also being eliminated. These changes will take effect on July 1, 2007.

Due to the December ice storm, there will not be an outage report in the February Shelby News. If anyone is interested in seeing the outage report from November 31, 2006, to December 31, 2006, please contact the cooperative.

The Operation Round-Up® winner for January was Ronald Large of Owaneco. Mr. Large received a $25 credit to his bill. For more information about Operation Round-Up® contact the cooperative at 1-800-677-2612.