

Ellie Krause



A Young Member's Winning Presentation

Ellie Krause stood with confidence and poise when asking the crowd, “Did you turn on the lights this morning? If you did, and live in the country, your electricity probably came from Oakdale Electric Cooperative.” On May 6, Ellie, a fourth-grade student from Wyeville Elementary School, presented at the Regional Heritage Fair event. Her topic of choice? Oakdale Electric Cooperative!

The Heritage Fair project is a program offered to fourth-grade students providing the opportunity to research a historical person, place, thing, or event from Wisconsin that they hold an interest in. The guidelines include creating a display, writing a speech, and presenting the topic to a live panel of judges from local businesses. Some youth even opt to get into character by dressing up and using props. This program not only teaches youth about Wisconsin’s history, but it also enables students to learn valuable public speaking skills. For the first round of competition, students compete against their own classmates, and only one winner

from each school is able to move on on to the Regional Heritage Fair. However, at this event all youth are recognized and deemed winners.

Over 75 students traveled from Viroqua, Hillsboro, Cashton, Sparta, Westby, and Norwalk/Ontario/Wilton to St. Matthew Church in Warrens to listen and learn from their peers. Ellie, along with her peers, delivered her speech twice to two different groups, with a milk and cookie break in between. In addition, this special day included an awards ceremony and guest speaker, Jarrod Roll from the Monroe County Historical Society.

This isn’t the first time a member of Ellie’s family received top honors for a Heritage Fair project. Three years ago, Clara, Ellie’s older sister, was also selected as Wyeville Elementary School’s representative. With Clara being a great role model, Ellie was very dedicated, practicing daily immediately following school for an hour. Her efforts were noticeable as she spoke without any notecards or nerves, which is a difficult feat for many adults!

Ellie has a passion for this topic because she was eager to learn more about the company that has employed her grandfather (or “Bumpa,” as Ellie refers to him), Jim Hayward, for 44 years. Ellie confidently spoke about the origins and history of Oakdale Electric Cooperative, explained the meaning of the cooperative difference, as well as the changes and growth over the years. She highlighted the new headquarters building built in 2004 and excitedly shared the increase in membership from 700 to currently 17,000. When asked what she found most interesting during her research, Ellie replied that she learned Oakdale Electric Cooperative’s first members, Mr. and Mrs. William Mortenson, used to live near her family’s home.

Besides her Bumpa, Ellie sought out other retirees for information, pictures, and items for display. These included books, newsletters, safety glasses, gloves, hard hat, mini bucket truck, and even a picture of Bumpa

their journey to adulthood. We provide secondary educational scholarships, sponsor attendees to Youth Leadership Congress, and support our local high schools. If Ellie is any indication of what our future generation holds, it is as bright as her pink Oakdale Electric Cooperative hat!—*Deana Protz, PR & Communications, Oakdale Electric Cooperative* ■

If you would like to listen to Ellie’s speech, visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oakdale-Electric-Cooperative/306987979341958>

Ellie’s presentation included props and historical pictures she gathered from books and newsletters.



climbing a pole! Her poster contained a collection of photographs of Oakdale Electric Cooperative’s history over the past 75 years. And keeping in part with her theme, Ellie proudly sported a bright pink OEC hat that complimented her contagious smile and enthusiasm.

Ellie rounded off her speech with a very direct statement: “People’s lives wouldn’t be the same if it weren’t for Oakdale Electric Cooperative!” We couldn’t agree more! Oakdale Electric Cooperative proudly serves our members, including Ellie’s family, based on a foundation of honesty and integrity, while improving the economy and quality of life in the communities we serve. And we are committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity through superior customer service.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative values our youth members and believes in supporting them as they make



15th Annual Waterfest Celebration

August 2, 2014



The Touchstone Energy Venetian Lights Boat Parade begins at The Dirty Turtle, on O'Dell's Bay, New Lisbon, at sunset on August 2, 2014. The parade travels along the shoreline to Juneau County Castle Rock Park, with the grand finale of fireworks at 10 p.m. An additional fireworks display is set off from Splash Waterfront Bar & Grill on Dakota Lane in Friendship. Spectators can view the parade from the Juneau County Castle Rock Park and at various establishments along the shore. Be sure to bring along a flashlight to signal the entrants and show your approval of their decorated boats!

Interested in earning a few extra bucks, while having fun? Decorate a boat with Venetian lights, or any kind of lights, and "costume up" to enter the 15th Annual Touchstone Energy Waterfest Venetian Lights Boat Parade! There will be a \$500 "Best of Fleet" prize, plus cash prizes for first, second, and third place in two categories, commercial and residential. Participants are entered into a drawing for additional prizes. Registration is free, and forms are available at the local Chamber of Commerce or at www.juneaucounty.com/waterfest. Register by July 4 to receive a \$25 gas card for the evening of the event. Don't delay—enter now!

Bring the whole family to Juneau County Castle Rock Park during the afternoon and enjoy lots of fun activities, including the great parade of decorated bikes, magic show, train rides by "40 et 8", karaoke party, and more! Take a drive through the park after dark to view the beautiful display of lights at the various campsites for the Light Your Site contest. Other local establishments also have their own activities planned for Waterfest weekend.

This event is funded by local businesses in appreciation and support of tourism in our area. The 2014 major sponsors include Oakdale Electric Cooperative and Touchstone Energy, Lemonweir Valley Telecom, Strong's Prairie, The Dirty Turtle, City of New Lisbon, and Mauston Room Tax. Other important sponsors include the many businesses and individuals that donated prizes. The support of all our sponsors, past and present, is greatly appreciated. Without you there would be no Waterfest!

For more information contact Sandra Morris at 608-427-2070. ■

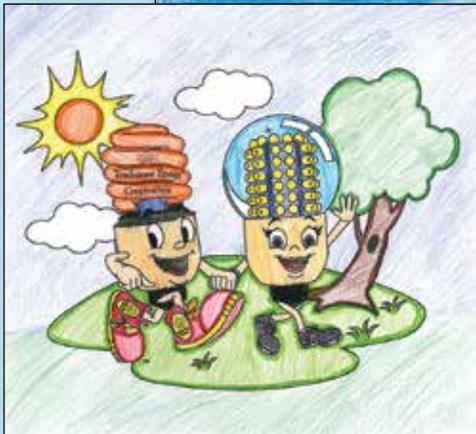
Congratulations to our Coloring Contest Winners!



Jaden
4-5



Jake
6-8



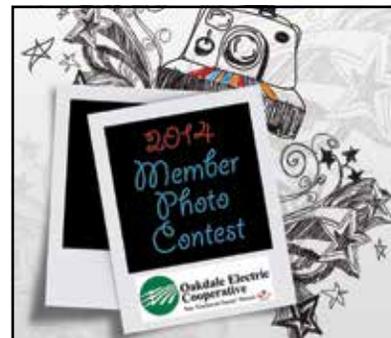
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9 & over

Thanks to 200+ youth for entering our first Annual Coloring Contest!



15 Years of Service Award

Oakdale Electric Cooperative recognized Mike Rosier for his 15 years of service. Congratulations for reaching this milestone and for your dedicated service.



Shutterbugs, don't forget about our photo contest as you enjoy the outdoors this summer!

Winning photos will be featured in Oakdale Electric Cooperative's 2015 calendar. Contest rules, entry forms, and photo release forms available at www.oakdalerec.com.

Photos accepted from Feb. 1-Aug. 15, 2014
Questions? Call 372-4131 or email dprotz@oakdalerec.com.



Oakdale Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: (800) 927-6151

Toll-free online bill payment: 866-392-4307

FAX Number: (608) 372-5173

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call (800) 242-8511.

Oakdale Electric Cooperative's office will be closed on Friday, July 4. Have a safe and happy holiday!