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special!

# Heartland Link



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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## NOTICE

ECI REC offices will be closed Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.  
Happy Independence Day!



## Recovery Efforts Underway After May's Devastating EF-5 Tornado

All residents of Dunkerton, Hazelton, Aurora, and Stanley could do around 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 25, was to take shelter and wait as one of the most damaging tornados in Iowa's history headed their way. The tornado, which would later be classified as an EF-5, twisted its way along county road C57, devouring trees, homes, farms, vehicles, and utility systems. Fortunately, no deaths were recorded in our service territory.

**National Weather Service officials rated the May 25 tornado as an EF-5. An EF-5 rating means winds are estimated to have been greater than 200 mph.**

The tornado's path was about a half-mile wide, and less-devastating damages were inflicted about a mile on each side of the funnel.

The twister wreaked havoc on ECI REC's distribution systems in Fairbank, Hazelton, Buffalo, and Madison Township. Northern Buchanan County was ECI's hardest-hit area, and at least 30 homes were damaged in our service territory alone.

To address the damage as quickly as possible, ECI called in additional help from Linn County REC

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## ECI Presents \$11,500 in Scholarships to Twenty-One 2008 Seniors



Daniel Eschen



Jakob Cory

ECI REC recently presented 21 scholarships to students from several area high schools.

Two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to seniors that will attend Northwest Iowa Community College's Powerline Program for prospective linemen this fall. Daniel Eschen, an

Independence graduate, and Jakob Cory, a Vinton-Shellsburg graduate, were the recipients of these scholarships. Jakob interned at the ECI REC Independence Operations Center this past spring.

Nineteen additional students received college support in the amount of \$500 from ECI REC.

*For photos and a listing of \$500 award winners, see page 5.*

# IN YOUR COMMUNITY

## ECI REC Supports Higher Education for Area Graduates



Jodie Corkery



Justin Kinseth



Mitch Brown



Brittany Goedken



Katie Fliehler

### Winners of \$500 Scholarships

#### East Buchanan Community Schools

Colin Flexsanhar  
Halie Burrage  
Anna Stiefel

#### Independence Community Schools

Jodie Corkery  
Justin Kinseth  
Mitch Brown

#### Oelwein Community Schools

Megan Tupper

#### Starmont Community Schools

Brittany Goedken  
Logan Flexsenhar  
Katie Fliehler

#### Center Point/Urbana Community Schools

Patrick Lahue

#### Benton Community Schools

Ashley N. Gerhold  
Haley A. Luther  
Erik T. Wolter

#### Vinton-Shellsburg Community Schools

Emily Ferguson  
Zach Hyland  
Laura Van Steenhuyse

#### Union Community Schools

Melissa Bathen



Logan Flexsenhar



Emily Ferguson



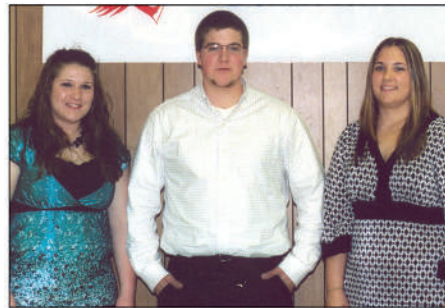
Zach Hyland



Laura Van Steenhuyse



Union Community Schools scholarship winners Melissa Bathen and Robb Riggle are congratulated by ECI Director Jeff Elliot.



East Buchanan scholarship winners Colin Flexsanhar, Halie Burrage, and Anna Stiefel.

## ECI REC Presents \$5,000 to Vinton-Shellsburg School Project

The vision of the agri-sciences program at Vinton-Shellsburg High School is to provide students with hands on experience that will allow them opportunities in environmental science, conservation management, alternative fuels, the biomedical field, value-added agriculture, as well as traditional farm production. A donation from ECI REC will help make that vision a reality.

ECI REC's donation of \$5,000 will be combined with donations from other businesses and nonprofit organizations. The money will fund an outdoor classroom, recreation trail, forestry production area, test plots for agriculture, bio-renewable fuel development, and forestry and general landscaping.

The donation will also help the program purchase a variety of trees, shrubs, and native grass and wildflower seed.

East-Central's donation came from its community reinvestment fund. This fund is financed by unclaimed patronage retirement checks, which the State allows the Cooperative to keep as long as the money is donated back to communities in its service territory.



ECI REC CEO Harry Ruth gives Vinton-Shellsburg Superintendent Randy Braden a check for the high-school's agri-sciences program. The program will give students experience in a variety of agriculture-related fields of study.