



Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

## Students meet with legislators at Youth Day in Springfield



**R**ep. Dan Reitz and Sen. David Luechtefeld met with 14 students representing Monroe County Electric Co-Operative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Co-operatives Youth Day on Wednesday, April 6, in Springfield. The students had an opportunity to view state government in action talking with their elected representatives, and hearing from both Lt. Governor Shelia Simon and Secretary of State Jesse White. The students also toured the Illinois Supreme Court, the Old State Capitol and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Pictured from the left front are: Rep. Reitz, Taylor Herriman,

Morgan Munro, Micaela Smith, Kimberly Byrnes, Abigail Brundage, Sarah Cockrell, Hannah Farley, Joshua Beliveau, and Sen. Luechtefeld. From left back are: Chaperrone Ron Birkner, Jacki Lampitt, Crystal Beckman, Brandon Bernhardt, Michael Sonnenfelt, Brittany Feeney, Corey Matt and Monroe

County Electric Director of Member Services Allan Masterson.

The day was sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were more than 300 students representing 26 co-ops from across the state.



**Our office will be closed  
Monday, July 4  
for Independence Day.**

## Youth to Washington finalists

**H**annah Farley of Freeburg, Abigail Brundage of Red Bud and Michael Sonnenfelt of Valmeyer were selected as the three finalists to attend the Youth to Washington program through Monroe County Electric Cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. The three students attended Youth Day in Springfield along with the other 11 participating students. Their winning essays were selected from a group of 15 with the theme of "Why I would like to spend a week in Washington, D.C."

Farley will be a senior at Freeburg High School in the fall and is the daughter of Edward and Paula Farley of Smithton. She plans to attend college and major in education.



*Hannah Farley*



*Abigail Brundage*



*Michael Sonnenfelt*

Brundage will be a senior at Red Bud High School in the fall and is the daughter of Bruce and Christa Brundage. She plans on attending college and majoring in Pre-Law.

Sonnenfelt will enter his senior year at Valmeyer High School and is the son of Paul and Esther Sonnenfelt of Valmeyer. He plans on attending college and majoring in Chemical Engineering.

All three students are very active with school organizations as well as extracurricular activities.

The Youth to Washington trip is scheduled for June 10 – 17 and is an all-expense paid tour of Washington, D. C. This tour has been a nationwide tradition of the electric cooperatives since 1957.

Congratulations to our three finalists!

## Please contact us to update your phone numbers

**A**s time goes by, members buy new phones or change lines and phone numbers may change along with them.

In order to keep accurate records on our members, we need to keep good phone numbers so that we can reach you if we need to.

Please contact our office and give us your home, work and cell phone numbers so that we can check our system to make sure they match.

Please call our office at 939-7171/1-800-757-7433 and tell us you'd like to give us your current phone numbers or email us at [mcec@htc.net](mailto:mcec@htc.net).

We assure you that we do not give your numbers out to anyone or any organization.

**Thank you.**



## Cooperative assists with Monroe City school move



Several journeymen linemen crews worked to “pave the way” for a building move from Monroe City to New Valmeyer.

The old Monroe City one-room school house was lifted from its foundation and taken to a new location across from the new Valmeyer school.

The cooperative linemen, led by Superintendent of Operations, Chris Scott, de-energized various sections of line that crossed the road to allow the school to pass.

The move occurred on Wednesday, April 13th and took approximately 7 – 8 hours. There were almost 40 places along the route, that the cooperative overhead lines crossed the road. The lines had to be disconnected and then lifted to accommodate the school.

The weather conditions proved very pleasant with a warm sunny day and things went smoothly with no significant problems.

The route that was taken started in Monroe City and continued west



on KK Road to Bluff Road. From there, they proceeded north on Bluff Road, through old Valmeyer and then right onto Woodland Ridge Road. Then the school traveled into new Valmeyer and turned left on S. Cedar Bluff Drive. The school was

placed on a foundation just southwest of the Valmeyer school building at the corner of S. Cedar Bluff Drive and Empson Drive.

### Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc.

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# Your Home: Saving energy while on vacation

## Key Points

- Your empty home continues to use energy while you are away on vacation.
- Change settings to save energy on water heaters, refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners.
- Set security lights on timers and unplug electronic devices.

Summer is a great time to take a vacation and just get away from it all. It is important to remember however, that — unless you take action — the appliances and electronic devices in your home will not get a break and your next month's energy bill may be business as usual. Before you leave on your next trip, take a few minutes and follow these simple steps. You can minimize energy consumption in your empty house and maybe save a few dollars for your next vacation.

**Water Heater** — Unless you have a tankless unit, your water heater will keep on running (and costing you money) to keep the water warm until you get back. Turn down the setting to as low as possible to reduce this “standby” heat loss while you are away.

**Refrigerator** — Your refrigerator is one of the biggest energy users in a typical home. If you are leaving for a short period of time, change the refrigerator thermostat to a higher setting, 38 degrees for the refrigerator, 5 degrees for the freezer. For longer trips (such as four weeks or more) consider emptying your refrigerator and unplugging it.

**Air Conditioner** — There is no need to keep your house cool while you are sitting on the beach hundreds of miles away. Turn off your air conditioner or set the thermostat to 85 degrees or

higher. To avoid coming home to an overheated house, use a programmable thermostat and set it on vacation mode to re-cool your house shortly before your expected return.

**Lights** — Turn off all lights in your home before you leave. You may wish to maintain an outdoor or indoor light for nighttime security. Consider installing a timer. This will limit the illumination to only a few hours a day and help to make it appear as if someone is at home.

**Electronics** — There may be a “phantom load” haunting your empty home (and costing you money) while you are away. Turning off electronic devices is a good energy savings strategy, but remember, digital displays, instant-on features, and remote controls consume energy while not in use. Unplug all electronic devices while you are away.

## Easy summer cooling tips

If your home is too hot in the summer, there are many ways you can help keep heat out of your house. Planting trees, for instance, is one of the best ways to diffuse the hot summer sun before it enters your home. But a surprising amount of heat comes from inside your home.

The biggest sources of internal heat gain are lights and appliances. Reducing their use will save electricity and keep your home cooler. In humid climates, moisture that is released by cooking, bathing and other activities will also make it harder for air conditioners to cool your home. A drier home feels more comfortable.

### Here are some easy ways to keep cool in the summer:

- Replace standard incandescent light bulbs with compact fluo-

rescent light bulbs. The electricity used by standard bulbs produces 10 percent light and 90 percent heat. Also, compact fluorescent lights are cheaper to operate.

- Schedule heat-producing chores like baking or doing the laundry after the hottest part of the day.
- Install an insulating jacket on your water heater.
- Use kitchen and bathroom fans to remove heat and moisture during and after cooking and bathing.
- When replacing appliances, buy those with the Energy Star® label. These appliances conserve energy and release



less unwanted heat.

- If you are home during the day, use a room fan to create a cooling breeze.
- If you live in an area where evenings are cool, don't forget about the cheapest cooling method of all. Open your doors and windows, or run window fans. This will move cool evening air through your home for almost no cost.

*Source: Chris Dorsi is a nationally recognized expert on energy efficiency. For more free energy-saving tips, visit the Saturn Resource Management Web site at [www.srmi.biz](http://www.srmi.biz)*