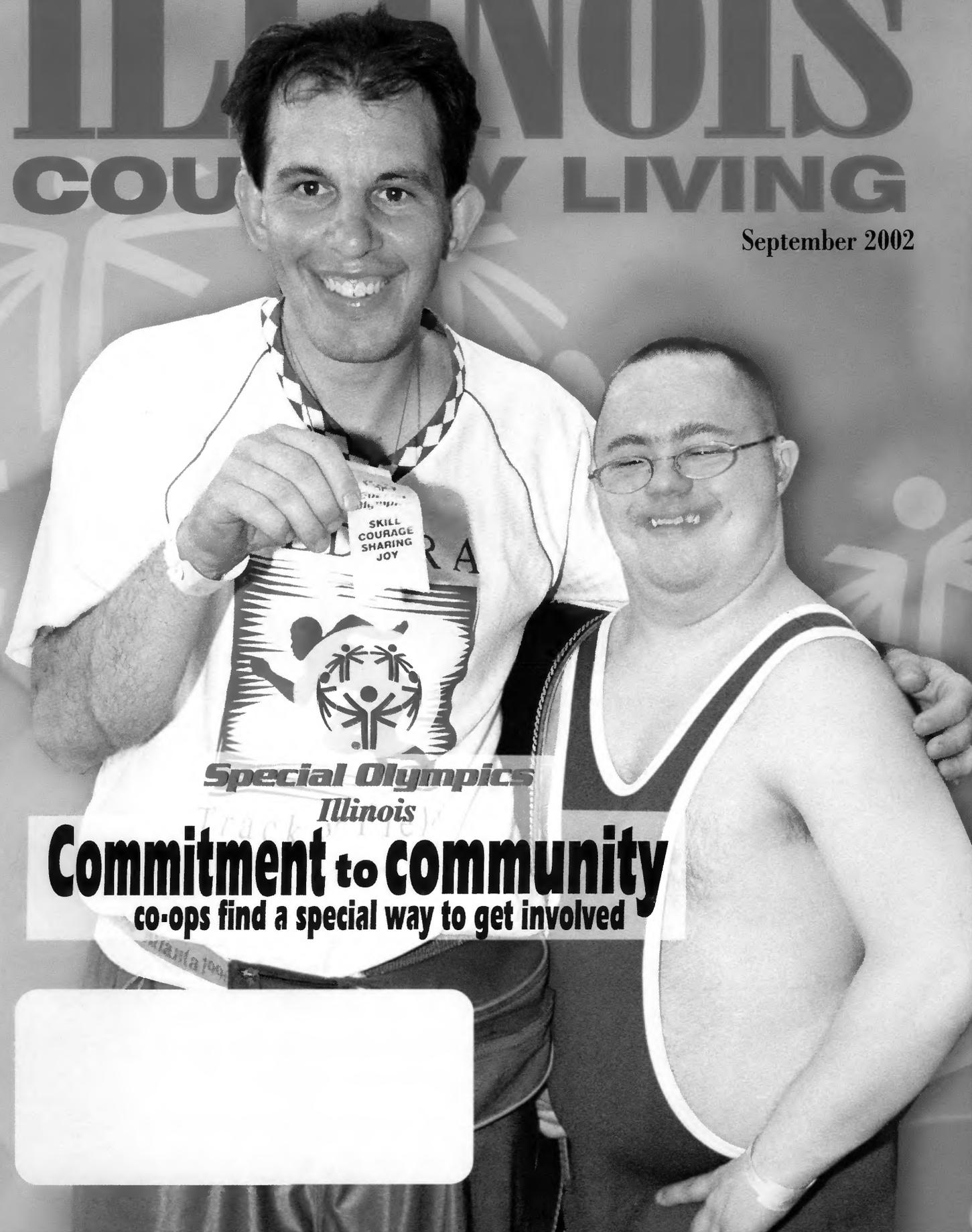


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COVER STORY



Commitment to community through Special Olympics 10

Pure joy - you can see it in all the faces at a Special Olympics event. The employees of Illinois' Touchstone Energy co-ops have found an inspiring human connection in their charity of choice. You can too.

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- Derek Squires Graphic Technician/Designer
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ILLINOIS COUNTRY LIVING™

September 2002 Volume 60 Number 5

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Frank M. Dry

FFA – making excellence a tradition

As another school year gets under way, the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Organization prepares to kick off its 75th anniversary at the National FFA Convention, October 30-November 2, 2002, in Louisville, Kentucky. The FFA was established in 1928 as an organization for farm boys enrolled in high school vocational agriculture classes.

The Illinois Association FFA, which was chartered in 1929, will be celebrating its 75th anniversary next year. The 2002-2003 Illinois FFA officers have selected "Excellence Becomes Tradition" as the theme for this year. This theme is appropriate because the FFA has always promoted excellence among its members, and that has created a rich tradition.

The most visible tradition of the FFA is the blue and gold corduroy jacket, which FFA members wear with pride and everyone recognizes. The FFA is also known for leadership development, public speaking, parliamentary procedure and supervised agricultural experience programs.

An important part of each chapter is its Program of Activities. One of these activities is community development, which fits right in with another tradition of the FFA, community service. Illinois FFA chapters and their members have given countless hours of volunteer time and work to improve their school and community.

The other two parts of the FFA's Program of Activities are student development and chapter development. Members learn skills that will benefit them throughout

life. For many FFA members, life-long friendships also begin with people they meet through the FFA.

The agriculture classroom and the supervised agricultural experience program are also important parts of the total agricultural education program. Today's career opportunities in agriculture are many and varied. For example, the "Green Industry" is one of the fastest growing areas in agriculture today. Research and agricultural sales also offer many career opportunities for students. Although production agriculture is only a small part of agriculture, it requires a vast network of support and related businesses. Approximately 20-25 percent of the people in Illinois are employed in agriculture or an agriculture related job.

Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

Each year, the Horatio Alger Association prepares a report on the "State of Our Nation's Youth," a survey of the thoughts and opinions of the typical student. In 1999, the study compared agricultural education students and FFA members to the typical high school student. The study found the following:

- 89 percent of FFA members believe in career success and are optimistic about the future vs. 68 percent of the typical students.
- 83 percent of FFA members say courses are exciting vs. 32 percent of typical students.

- 88 percent of FFA members vs. 49 percent of typical students think courses are interesting.
- 90 percent of FFA members participate in sports, school and community activities vs. 77 percent of typical students.
- 91 percent of FFA members vs. 66 percent of the typical students relate personal effort to personal success.

The FFA mission states: "The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education".

Book on Illinois barns

As a closing note, the Illinois Foundation FFA is still accepting pictures of Illinois barns for the book they are doing. If you have a barn picture you would like to submit, please contact the Illinois FFA Center at (217) 753-3328 for an entry form, which needs to be submitted with the picture. We had hoped to have all the pictures in by now, but we still need more. If you can help, we would appreciate it. Thank you to all who have already submitted pictures.

Frank M. Dry is the Associate Executive Secretary of the Illinois Association FFA. He taught high school agriculture for 12 years before accepting the position with the Illinois Association FFA in July 1985.

The opinions and views of guest commentators are their own and may not represent those of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives or the electric co-ops of Illinois.

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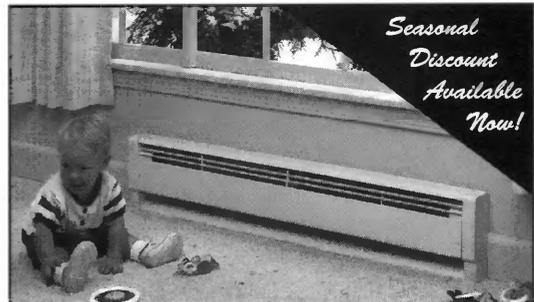
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Illinois youth meet Washington leaders

Fifty-eight youths representing rural Illinois spent the week of June 14-21 exploring Washington, D.C. The students met with Illinois congressional leaders and learned about their government during the annual "Youth to Washington" tour. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began in the late 1950s to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

During their journey, the students met young people from all over America while attending Rural Electric Youth Day. Youth Day is a rally, which gathers future leaders together and gives them an occasion to learn from public figures and inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included a survivor of the September 11 attack on the Pentagon, Lieutenant Colonel Brian Birdwell, who shared his harrowing experience and miraculous recovery. Birdwell touched on the importance of selfless service and the acceptance of life's challenges.



Senator Dick Durbin (left) met with the group of 67 representing Illinois on the Youth to Washington Tour this year.

In addition to Youth Day, the students visited the Capitol, the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Museums, George Washington's home, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and a number of other historical sites.

Co-op and homebuilder fight terrorism with energy conservation

Roger Huddleston Homes and Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative (EIEC) joined forces on a hot summer weekend to teach local citizens how to fight terrorism. Their weapons included compact fluorescent light bulbs, fuel cells,

geothermal heat pumps and an army of experts with common sense advice.

Roger Huddleston says, "Energy efficiency improvements can have the most immediate impact on terrorism. We know we need to be less depen-

dent on foreign oil. Each of us can contribute by decreasing our personal energy expenses."

The Energy Independence Day Expo and Open House was held at Roger Huddleston Homes show home site in Mahomet where EIEC built a two-story, 2,000 square foot Cape Cod home with the latest in energy efficiency measures and high-tech home technology. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) and other co-sponsors helped out with the event.

In addition to a geothermal heat pump, the home has whole-house surge protection, security systems, wireless high-speed Internet, the latest in water conditioning systems and satellite TV service. The co-op also demonstrated a working model of a fuel cell.

For more information go to www.eiec.org.



EIEC Manager of Marketing Bob Dickey helped spread the word about energy independence during the co-op's home energy conservation expo.



Leg pain could be more than just "old age"

Peripheral vascular disease (PVD) is a condition in which the arteries that carry blood become narrowed or clogged, interfering with blood flow and sometimes causing pain. Not only can the body's coronary arteries (those around the heart) become clogged with plaque, but so can the arteries supplying blood to your arms and legs.

PVD affects about 8 to 10 million people in the United States. It often goes undiagnosed because many people do not experience symptoms in the early stages of the disease, or they mistakenly think the problems they are having are a normal part of aging. Only about half of those individuals with symptoms have been diagnosed with PVD and are seeing a doctor for treatment.

A common symptom is claudication, a painful cramping in the leg or hip, particularly when walking. Other symptoms may include numbness, tingling or weakness in the leg. Some people experience a burning or aching pain in their feet or toes while resting, a sore on their foot or leg that does not heal, a cooling or color change in the skin of the legs or feet, or loss of hair on the legs.

The disease can affect anyone, although men are somewhat more likely than women to have PVD. Individuals with PVD are at a higher risk for heart disease and stroke.

PVD patients frequently have elevated cholesterol levels that contribute to the disease. You can help control your cholesterol level by following a low fat diet. Cigarette smoking is also a strong risk factor for PVD.

For many patients, medication, exercise and lifestyle changes can control the symptoms and progression of PVD. Other patients may require a more sophisticated evaluation and procedures or surgeries.

Contact your doctor for a screening. September 22 to 28, 2002, is national screening week for PVD. Look for a screening program in your area by visiting the Web site www.legsforlife.org.

Source: Char Shallow, a RN HBSCN and Healthcare Assistant at Prairie Cardiovascular Consultants, LTD in Springfield, Illinois.

Have you been on the "Youth to Washington" tour?

Since the first "Youth to Washington" tour 43 years ago, the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois have sent more than 2,500 students. They've all seen their government in action and met presidents, senators, congressmen and other national leaders. Some have even gone on to hold public office.

Throughout the years we have heard from many alumni of the "Youth to Washington" tour but we are still gathering information for our database and would like to receive an address, e-mail address and/or telephone number from all who have participated in the tour.

If you, or someone you know participated in one of these tours, please send a note to John Freitag or Linda Comstock, Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708 or e-mail to lcomstock@aiec.org.

Dates for next year's "Youth to Washington" tour are June 13-20, 2003. Interested high school sophomores, juniors and seniors should contact their local electric or telephone cooperative for more details on winning a trip of a lifetime.



Alumni of the 1964 "Youth to Washington" tour Russell McCaskill, Jeane Danhaus, Tita Geeraedts, Diana Lea White and chaperone Roger Mohrman of Adams Electric Cooperative are just a few of the thousands of tour alumni. Do you know someone else? Let us know.

Geothermal heat pump sales increase

Sales of geothermal heat pumps during the past five years have grown an average of more than 22 percent per year. "Our increased market share in our area is due to a more educated energy wise customer," says Brian Houchin, Geothermal Sales Manager for Bratcher Heating & Air Conditioning of Bloomington. Bratcher Heating & Air Conditioning installed nearly 100 ClimateMaster geothermal heat pumps last year and received the top sales award among Illinois dealers.

Steve Smith, owner of Entertech, Inc., the Illinois distributor of ClimateMaster geothermal heat pumps, says sales were up 80 percent in 2001, due in part to the rising cost of propane and natural gas. He agrees with Houchin that consumers are more aware of the benefits of geothermal heat pumps now. Although more expensive than typical equipment, geothermal heat pumps pay back with 25 to 50 percent less energy use, better comfort control and lower life-cycle cost.

Improved indoor air quality and design flexibility make geothermal heat pumps a valid option for schools and commercial buildings that need to replace old systems or are building new conditioned space.

Smith says the installation of geothermal heat pumps in schools is booming in Iowa and Missouri, but has been held back in Illinois because many architects and engineers aren't aware of the advantages.

For more information go to www.geoexchange.org.



Warn your children — don't be like Mike

Electric co-op safety officials say there is little to like about a key element of the plot in the new movie "Like Mike" that involves a young boy and a power line.

The teen, played by 14-year-old rapper Bow Wow, is shown being struck by lightning while retrieving a pair of sneakers hanging from the high-voltage line. The diminutive boy survives the incident to discover the shock has given him amazing powers that make him an NBA superstar.

The scene sends chills through Susan Olander, general counsel of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, which puts safety at the top of its list of concerns.

"To see a scene such as this depicted in a movie that clearly appeals to children is disheartening," Olander said. "Protecting children, protecting the public in general, is very important to us and to rural electric cooperatives.

"We've seen a tremendous increase in public contacts [with power lines] in the last two or three years," Olander added.

Instead of imparting superpowers, real-life contact with a power line is often fatal. "Just as flying a kite in an electrical storm won't make you a statesman like Ben Franklin, playing around power lines won't make you an NBA star like Michael Jordan," said National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Counsel Jonathan Glazier.

"What both activities are likely to make you is deceased," Glazier said. "It is this brutal fact-and not the Hollywood fantasy of 'Like Mike'-that safety professionals see all too often."

For more safety information, visit www.SafeElectricity.org, and page 14 of this magazine.

Source: Electric Co-op Today, By Bill Pritchard



Photo by Sidney Baldwin

The movie "Like Mike" is giving children the impression that high voltage electricity can super-charge their basketball skills to Michael Jordan heights. Electric co-ops are warning parents to talk to their children about the difference between deadly reality and movie fantasy.

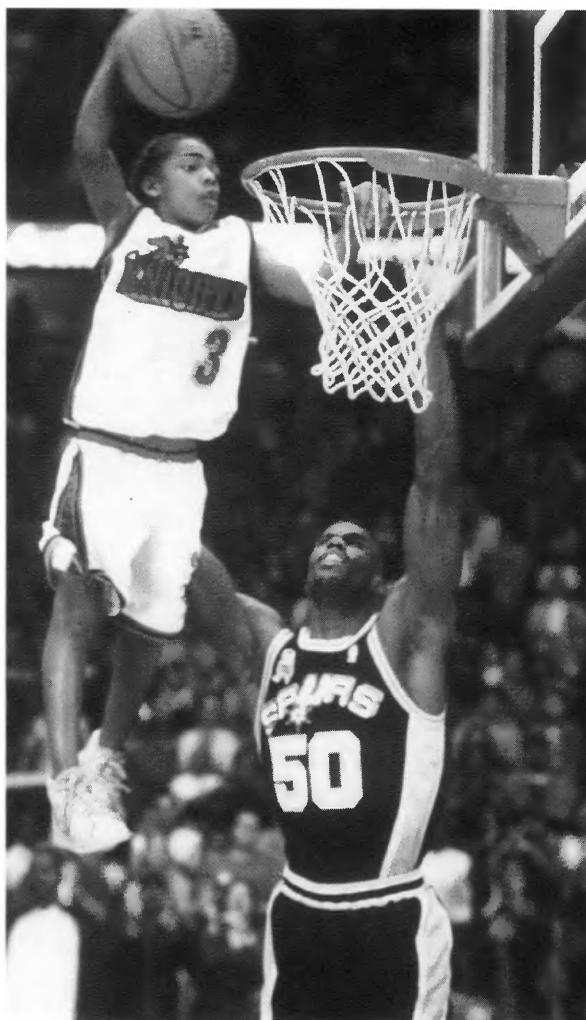
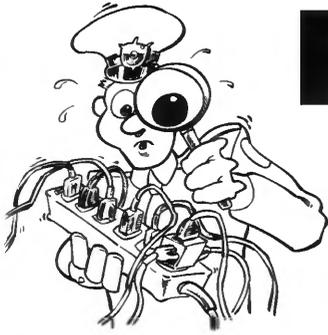


Photo by Sidney Baldwin





PROTECT your home and family — inspect for electrical safety

by April Kramer

Each year, more than 300 people are electrocuted. Thousands more are injured from electrical shocks or electrical fires in and around the house. When you hooked up your home computer or plugged in a stream of Christmas lights, did you consider the electrical safety of your home? With the increase of technology, it is easy to overload electrical circuits with that one extra appliance. Perhaps it's time again to evaluate the electrical safety in your home.

Inspecting your electrical outlets, cords and their positions in the home can prevent hazards. A simple electrical safety inspection could save your home. More importantly, it could save the lives of you and your family.

Inspect or install GFCIs

Check your home for Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI). A GFCI is an electrical receptacle that has the ability to monitor the flow of electricity from the receptacle to any electrical device that is plugged into it. When a GFCI detects that some current is not returning to the receptacle, for example, if a radio were to fall into the bathtub, it will quickly turn off power to the outlet to prevent possible electrocution.

If your home is equipped with GFCIs, you should test them monthly to make sure they work properly. Here's how to check:

- Plug in a lamp or other appliance and then turn it on.
- Push the "TEST" button on the GFCI receptacle. If the GFCI is working properly, the power to the appliance should turn off. If it does not turn off, there is an electrical problem that should be corrected by a licensed electrical contractor.
- Push the "RESET" button on the GFCI and the appliance should turn back on.

GFCIs are strongly recommended by the Leviton Institute to prevent electrocution accidents. Many new homes are equipped with GFCIs in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and unfinished basements. In new

homes they are required around pools, spas, hot tubs and similar outdoor installations. Many homes built before 1975 are not equipped with GFCIs. If your home does not have these life saving devices, have them installed by a qualified electrician.

Inspect cords and outlets

Electrical cords that are worn or damaged cause two-thirds of electrical fires. If you find damaged cords, do not attempt to solve the problem with electrical tape; have them replaced.

Also keep these points in mind:

- Replace cords that are warm or hot to the touch and plugs that are loose or wobble in the outlet.
- Never run cords under carpets or rugs.
- To avoid wear and tear on electrical cords, always pull from the plug, never by the cord.
- Outlet faceplates that are warm or hot to the touch could indicate a wiring problem and should be checked by a qualified electrician.
- Switch plates that are discolored or warm to the touch could indicate that electrical wiring is overheating and should also be investigated by an electrician.
- Never plug more than three appliances into an outlet.
- Inspect all plugs to make sure you or others in your house haven't forced three-prong plugs into two-prong outlets or cut the ground pin off a three-prong cord.

Electrical safety in the home is important to the lives of the people who live in it. With the increase of appliance usage there are many options to consider that prevent electrocution and electrical fire. For more information on life protecting strategies and devices visit the Leviton Institute at www.leviton.com/institute. The Leviton Institute is the educational arm of the Leviton Manufacturing Company. The company aims to educate consumers and promote safe use of electrical devices in the home.





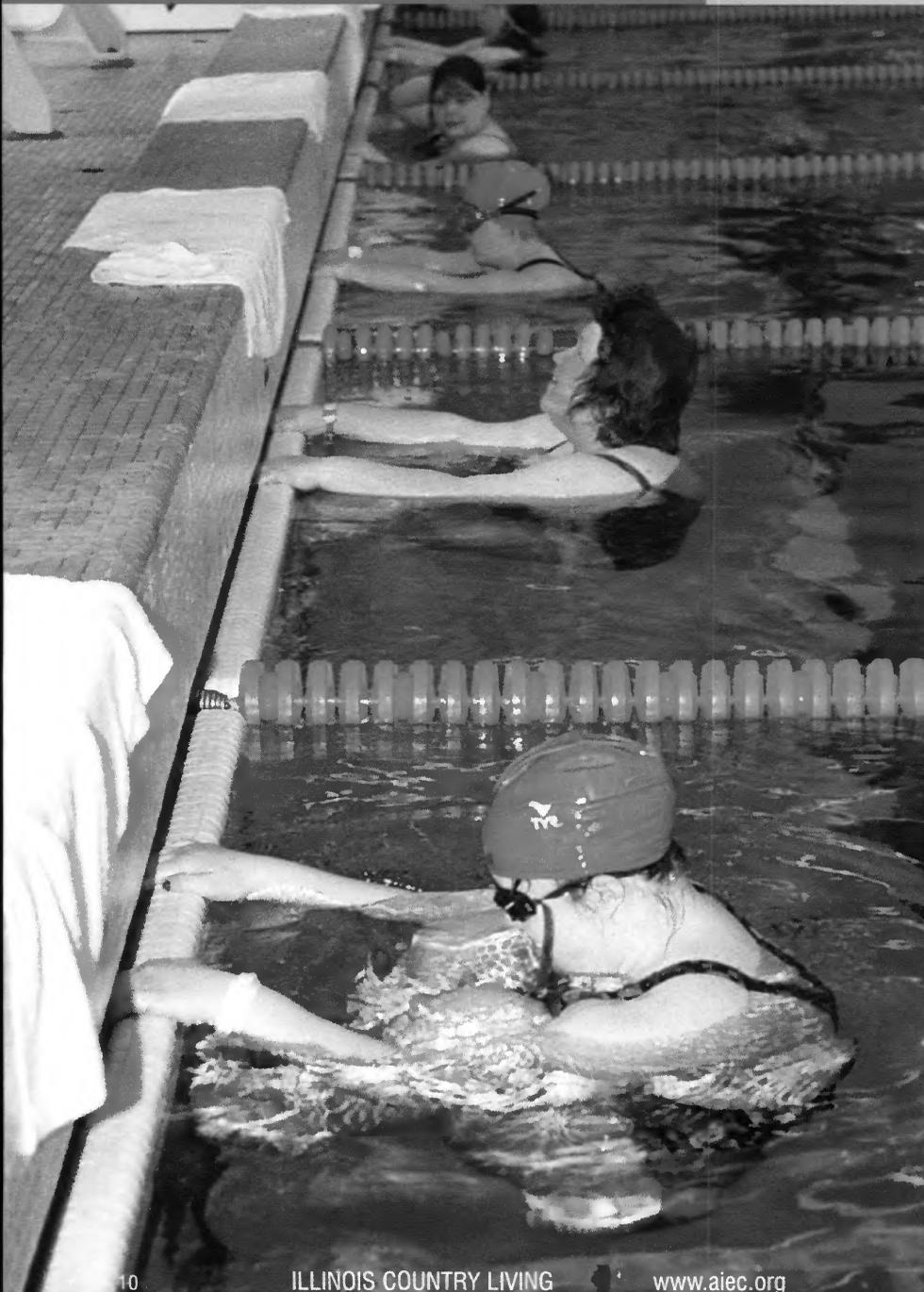
Special Olympics

Illinois

Commitment to community

co-ops find a special way to get involved

by April Kramer



With spring rain falling continuously, dark clouds took a break on one warm and clear Saturday morning as the stars began to arrive by the busload at Memorial Stadium in Springfield. They entered the main gate scanning the track and bleachers, exhilarated by a sight they had prepared for all year. The athletes wore team uniforms and carried loaded duffel bags containing all the equipment and gear they would need to compete in the events they had trained for intensely. On May 4, 2002, the Spring Games of Sangamon and Menard Counties brought together 195 athletes from the Sangamon Special Olympics/Area 17 for a day of events unlike any other that will occur there for the rest of the year.

The Spring Games and events like them allow athletes to build relationships with friends, coaches and their families. They not only learn about goals and success, they teach their community about determination and achievement. Just as Olympic athletes perfect fundamentals, rules and strategies with their coaches, the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois train in the same manner throughout the year for their specified events. As serious athletes, they take their con-



confidence and determination with them in their daily lives at home, in the classroom, on the job, and in the community. Through Special Olympics, the athletes truly experience motivation, success and teamwork.

Watching the teamwork and positive attitudes of the athletes in action is a true inspiration for people of all ages. Fans stayed in the bleachers all day to watch as dreams came true for their friends and family members. These are the kind of dreams occurring in the state of Illinois year-round, in the form of indoor and outdoor seasonal sports that give persons with mental disabilities a chance to shine, and opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship.

Nearly 200 people lined up at Memorial Stadium to support the athletes in a day of track and field events. They walked through the gates, some of them new and curious, some of them old-pros and ready for the day. They signed in, put on their nametags and their logo T-shirts. And these 200 people were only the volunteers for the Sangamon Spring Games.

At the Sangamon Spring Games' awards tent for track events, groups of competitors lined up to receive their medals. Volunteers escorted the athletes



to their positions on the awards platform with a smile and sometimes a friendly hug. Friends, family, coaches and volunteers gathered around for the continuous ceremonies and applauded their hearts out for every athlete announced on the speaker system. The athletes bowed their heads to receive a medal as volunteers shook their hands and commended them for their achievement.

Shelley Vaughan, the Area Director for Sangamon Special Olympics Illinois, was delighted at the 200 volunteers who donated their hearts and time to the event, "That is an impressive number, and I think our commu-

nity and surrounding communities should be commended for their efforts. The turnout this year by far exceeded last year." Of the volunteers, 75 had registered the day of the event to show their dedication to the athletes.

Volunteers show support by attending and donating their time to the games. "Our volunteers are an integral part of our on-going success. We rely on them to serve on event committees, coach our athletes, assist in running our events, and help with fundraising activities," Vaughan says. On their own, volunteers offer encouragement, congratulations and kindness as they meet athletes throughout



the day of an event.

Volunteers receive the utmost respect and appreciation, because without them, Special Olympics could not exist or run so successfully. Illinois receives help from more than 25,000 volunteers. Mary Releford of Springfield volunteered for the first time this year as a presenter of medals. "Seeing the smiles on the athletes' faces when I gave them their medals made me feel good. The hugs and appreciation made it worth every minute. I see myself doing this every year," Releford comments. Next year, her daughter, Amanda, will be old enough to volunteer. "I think children should come and see what the Special Olympics are about and how hard these people work. It's also a great opportunity for them to learn about contribution and compassion at an early age," adds Releford.

Many teenagers from high school organizations volunteer, and children as young as 10 are also allowed to take part. Parents and coaches of athletes, members from organizations like the Knights of Columbus, and many others from the community donate their time to these events. "There is an opportunity for everyone. It proves to be a rewarding experience for all. We have

volunteers that have been with us for more than 20 years. That is dedication!" Vaughan says.

Sandi Carlson, field engineer at Corn Belt Energy Corporation, has been chairman of the souvenir committee for Special Olympics of Illinois statewide events since 1982. The inventory and stock of souvenirs has been "an on-going challenge with the growth of the program over the years," says Carlson. Her dedication to the program is often recognized through the kind gestures of athletes, families and coaches. "I have a number of each that stop by to catch my attention, just to wave and let me know they are there," says Carlson. Rewards like these are priceless and keep volunteers coming back each year for more.

Another important source of support comes from sponsors. Touchstone Energy has supported the Special Olympics for more than two years. "The Illinois Touchstone Energy® cooperatives' involvement with Special Olympics began in 2000 when the group voted to designate it their charity of choice," says Nancy Nixon, Marketing Administrator for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and liaison for Touchstone Energy. "One of the four core values of Touch-

stone Energy is 'commitment to community' and the Illinois co-ops feel that sponsoring Special Olympics is an excellent way to demonstrate that value." There are 20 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in Illinois and they all participate in fundraising opportunities, knowing that all proceeds go to Special Olympics.

On June 7, several cooperatives held a joint key accounts event at Eagle Creek Resort in Findlay. During the outing, "mulligans" (golf stroke subtractions) were sold, raising \$750 for Special Olympics. Along with half the proceeds from a 50/50 drawing and an additional 'kick-in' from participating co-ops, the total donation came out to more than \$1,000 for the day.

Touchstone Energy cooperatives raise money year-round in many creative ways. The Cooperative Balloon Associates (CBA), which is composed of 10 Touchstone Energy cooperatives that jointly own the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon, supports the Special Olympics by donating \$170 for each day the balloon competes or even appears at Illinois events. "In 2000, CBA donated \$1,020 and in 2001, the organization donated \$1,530 to Special Olympics," Nixon says.



Touchstone Energy cooperatives also contribute to a pool of statewide/regional money each year. To date, cooperatives have donated \$7,000 to Special Olympics from the fund. But sponsors donate more than money. They also donate time, dedication, loyalty, kindness and compassion. "We rely on donations from our sponsors state-wide and area-wide. Our sponsors help make our programs possible by their generous contributions," says Vaughan.

Funds raised for Special Olympics Illinois come from individual and corporate donations, foundation grants, service clubs, and special events. Special Olympics does not typically receive government grants, or financial assistance from the Kennedy Foundation or United Way. Donations from sponsors like Touchstone Energy are vital to the success of Special Olympics Illinois and are deeply appreciated by the athletes who know these sponsors help make it possible for the organization to exist. "We feel good about supporting a cause that helps so many people who, without Special Olympics, might never experience success and the joy that's associated with it," Nixon says. "Touchstone Energy has a tagline, 'the power of human connections,' and that

makes our cooperatives a perfect match for an organization such as Special Olympics."

The Special Olympics program operates as a registered, non-profit organization governed by a board of directors based in Washington, D.C. The First International Special Olympic Games were held in Chicago at Soldier Field, where 1,000 athletes from 26 states and Canada competed in track, field and aquatics events. Today, more than 19,500 athletes, ages 8 and older, compete in the state of Illinois alone throughout the year.

Training and competition are offered through Special Olympics Illinois in 19 sports including alpine skiing, aquatics (swimming), athletics (track & field), basketball, bocce, bowling, cross country skiing, equestrian, figure skating, floor hockey, football (soccer), golf, gymnastics, powerlifting, snow-shoeing, softball, speed skating, tennis and volleyball. Competitions are held at the area, regional and state levels. More than 1 million athletes compete worldwide from more than 150 countries. The numbers continue to grow thanks to the support of coaches, volunteers, donations, sponsors, family and friends.



The state of Illinois is divided into 17 areas. Each has an Area Director who coordinates local competition, fundraising and administration. If you are interested in learning more about Special Olympics, volunteering or providing financial support call Special Olympics Illinois at (800) 394-0562. They can answer your questions or direct you to the appropriate Area Director. For up-to-date information on the Web, visit Special Olympics Illinois at www.soill.org.





Molly Hall

Movie "Like Mike" sends a dangerous message

It's not always easy being a parent, especially when it comes to teaching about safety - I speak from experience! One challenge is that many of the images children see on TV and in movies show the characters encountering and overcoming numerous dangers... and never getting hurt.

I often point out that what we're seeing on TV or in other entertainment is "not real," that this didn't or doesn't happen in "real life." The message takes on urgency when I see a dangerous scene that a child might be inclined to imitate.

This summer's movie "Like Mike" presented one of those circumstances. Produced by 20th Century Fox, the movie features an extremely hazardous, possibly fatal act.

"Like Mike" depicts a child who is struck by lightning while trying to retrieve a pair of sneakers off a utility line. The child and the sneakers then become "super charged," enabling the child to become a star basketball player like Michael Jordan.

As adults we understand that this is in reality a deadly act. Children may not understand that contact with a power line can cause serious burns and electrocution.

A spokeswoman for 20th Century Fox said the scene was clearly not meant to be real. "The film in no way advocates taking dangerous risks of any kind including touching power lines," said spokeswoman Florence Grace.

The corporate safety director of an east coast utility argues otherwise. Gary LeMoine first learned of the

upcoming movie after an employee's child saw a promotional piece for it and indicated he, too, wanted to retrieve shoes off a power line so that he could be a child NBA star.

The movie has mobilized many within the electric utility industry to warn parents to talk to their children. "We're very concerned about the message this film (sends) to children. Contact with power lines is extremely dangerous," LeMoine said.

Safe Electricity, a public awareness program of the Illinois Electric Council, took steps before the film was released to urge parents, and other adults responsible for children, to help them understand the difference between the fantasy presented by the movie and reality.

Please take the time to teach your children to always follow safety rules - especially if they see someone do something dangerous and not get hurt on TV or in a movie.

When it comes to electrical safety, please make sure children understand and follow these basic safety rules:

- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Contact your electric co-op for assistance.
- Never climb a utility pole. Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment.

- If you see a power line on the ground, stay far away from it and warn others to stay away. Assume all downed lines are energized. Call your electric co-op.
- Never go into an electric substation for any reason - even on a dare. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Never rescue a pet that goes inside. Call your electric co-op instead.

For help in teaching kids about electrical safety, visit www.SafeElectricity.org. The site features games and interactive activities that allow children to have fun while learning to be safe. There's a Home Safety Checklist that kids can print off so the whole family knows what hazards to look for right where they live. With lesson plans for teachers, experiments and other activities, everything needed to help kids learn to be safe around electricity can be found in one convenient place.

The site is a "virtual safety library" with a wealth of information on electrical safety for work and home, as well as play.

So right now, put this magazine down, take a moment to help your children learn to be safe. And when they see dangerous behavior on TV or in movies, take the opportunity to reinforce *safe* habits by talking about it. What you say could save a life, a life you cherish more than your own.

Molly Hall is the Director of Safe Electricity. E-mail - hall@SafeElectricity.org.

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David Robson

How to build a home among the trees

TTrue story: While poking around at one of the many central Illinois garden centers, someone came up to me and said, "Hey, why don't you write an article for that 'Electric Magazine' about all the idiots who build around trees and then expect them to live." (The trees, not the idiots, though I can't be sure of that.)

He continued, "And then the trees die and they stand around like it had to be something like an insect that magically appeared overnight, or a disease that descended from the skies, or through some radical fundamentalist plot to destroy our natural forests, instead of the idiots who should not be allowed anywhere near a tree because they have so much money they want to build a house in the woods to commune with nature and the birds, yet don't have the foggiest notion that if you weren't meant to build a house next to a tree..."

Well, I interrupted and said a deep long breath was in order, or he would end up in a pine box, and wouldn't that just be a little ironic then?

Of course, some of my memory of the encounter might be different, but it did bring up a good point.

Trees, houses and people don't go together as easily as you might think. This is especially true when you are talking about old trees, new houses and people with no common sense.

I just can't fathom how some people get it into their mind that if they cut most of the roots around a tree, the tree will still live. Or if they add two feet of soil around the trunk of a tree, that water and air will magically just percolate into the soil at the level of that tree.

I've watched subdivisions spring up overnight in wooded areas. Less than five years later, the trees slowly start flagging or dying from the top down. By that time, there isn't much to do or anyone to accept the blame.

TRUE FACT 1: Trees need roots to absorb moisture and nutrients. Most of us know that.

TRUE FACT 2: Most of the absorbing roots are smaller than a strand of hair, thus they are called root hairs. These root hairs are located at the outer reaches of the branches and beyond. This area is usually referred to as the dripline. These small roots feed into larger roots which feed into larger roots which feed into the trunk.

TRUE FACT 3: Ninety percent or more of a tree's absorbing roots are within the top 12 inches of soil.

TRUE FACT 4: Hair roots come and go, and can quickly regenerate if injured. Large roots cannot. You can cut off your hair without disastrous consequences; you can't cut off your head.

TRUE FACT 5: Generally speaking, the roots on the south side of a tree feed the branches on the south side. However, and it is a big however, a tree does have the ability to reroute water and nutrients to some degree.

TRUE FACT 6: It takes about an inch of water to penetrate eight to 12 inches into the soil. If soil is added over the root zone, the roots won't move up readily. That means more water has to be applied to reach the lower levels. It takes longer for air exchange, also.

What does all this mean?

First, if you are going to build in

a forest, expect that some of the trees will die, and those will probably be the ones closest to the new house.

Second, if you want to save a tree, don't build your house within six feet from the dripline.

Third, if you have no choice and trees are in the way, do the least damage possible. Fence around the dripline of trees to keep construction equipment and materials away.

Fourth, if you have soil from the basement, pay to have it hauled away. Don't spread it under trees. It doesn't help. It hurts.

Fifth, if you have to cut roots, do it cleanly. Just like a cut on your skin, a clean smooth cut heals quicker with fewer problems than a ragged one.

Sixth, if you have to damage roots, do it in the fall. There's less water stress on the tree, and roots regenerate faster in the cooler soils.

Finally, choose a builder wisely. If someone says, "Sure, we can save all these trees," find another builder. Better yet, work with a certified arborist who can provide honest answers and actually knows about trees. Let the arborist work with you and the builder.

And as always, call JULIE at (800) 892-0123 before you dig.

David Robson is an Extension Educator, Horticulture, at the Springfield Extension Center, University of Illinois Extension. You can write to Robson in care of Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Telephone: (217) 782-6515. E-Mail: robsond@mailaces.uiuc.edu



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James Dulley

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Q: Dear Jim: My family would feel more comfortable with some outdoor security lights, but bright floodlights will drive up my electric bills. Are low-cost, motion-sensing lights a viable alternative for security? - Bill F.

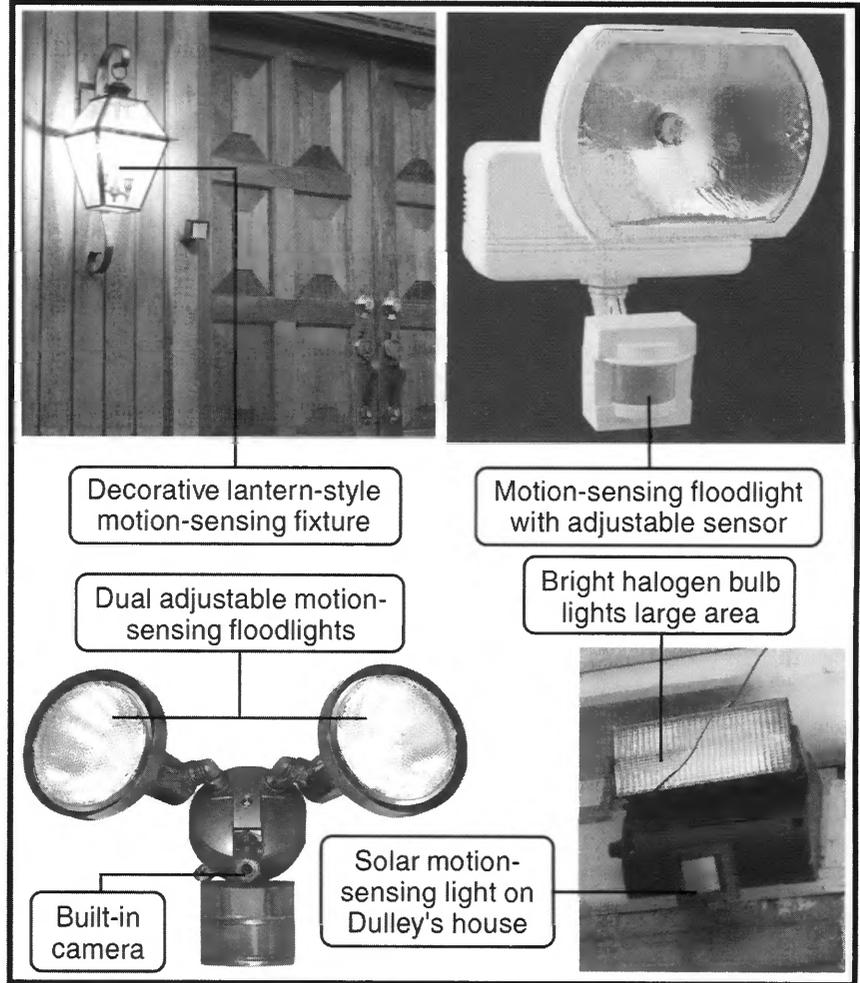
A: Dear Bill: Motion-sensing lights are an excellent choice for security at any home.

The newer models are reasonably priced and have sensitive, controllable motion sensors and timers. By using motion-sensing security lighting, your annual electric bill savings can be more than \$100 when compared to using just three 150-watt floodlights all night.

Nothing scares would-be thieves away faster than having a bright light come on and shine in their eyes. Not only are they instantly blinded, but they think the homeowner has detected them and switched on an outdoor light. With the bright light shining outward, the small motion sensor lens on the light fixture is impossible to see, so it looks like an ordinary security light coming on.

Not only does using motion-sensing lights instead of continuous floodlights reduce global warming, climate change and air pollution, it also reduces nighttime light pollution. Near population centers, the skies are never truly dark at night. This can negatively impact the habits and abilities of some species of birds to navigate the skies at night and thousand die every year as a result.

There are many styles and types of motion-sensing light fixtures from which to choose. The most common



Types of efficient motion-sensing security lights

and reasonably priced style is the standard two-floodlight design. These look identical to a regular floodlight fixture except there is a motion sensor mounted between the two bulbs.

This style gives you the flexibility of pointing each of the two floodlights in any direction, independent of the motion sensor direction. You may want to point the motion sensor toward a spot where you think intruders may try to sneak through

while lighting a different, larger area when motion is detected.

For even more security, some models include a tiny built-in camera between the two floodlights. The camera lens is mounted on the light fixture immediately below the motion sensor. The camera can be connected to a television or VCR to capture a video image of who or what triggered the motion sensor light. The

model for black and white viewing is adequate for security, but models for color monitors are also available.

For a more stylish motion-sensing fixture, select a decorative lantern that mounts on your house wall or on a post. The motion sensor is built into the fixture itself, so it is not readily apparent that it is a motion-sensing light fixture.

Many of the lanterns are made of strong, lightweight cast aluminum and painted in one of several standard colors. More decorative fixtures are made of higher quality polished solid brass with true beveled glass. Although the motion sensor is built-in and not adjustable, it has a large range of coverage.

I use solar-powered motion-sensing security lights at my own house. They are simple to install and, with no electricity needed, you can locate them wherever you need the most security. The sun charges up a battery inside of the housing and the light can continue to switch on and off for more than 100 cycles on a single day's solar charge.

Motion-sensing models that use X-10 technology to turn on other lights and appliances inside your house are also available. Plug an X-10 module into a wall outlet and plug a light or appliance into the module, then set its code to the same as the motion-sensing light. It uses your home's wiring to carry the signal. When the outside light comes on followed by an indoor light and a radio or television, for example, a thief will be sure he was seen.

If you would like low-level accent lighting, but still want security, for when legitimate guests visit your home, choose a dual-output model. When you switch on the outdoor light, it comes on at 20 to 50 percent intensity of its full brightness. When motion is detected, the light switches on to full brightness for one to 20 minutes depending how you set the timer.

The angle of motion-sensing coverage and its range vary considerably among the various models. When selecting a light, determine the area of your yard you want to

protect. Select a model with the appropriate motion-sensing angle (100 to 240 degrees) and range (30 to 100 feet) to cover the area. Most of the better-quality models will have adjustable distance sensitivity so that cars and pedestrians on the street will not trigger the light.

Write for (instantly download - www.dulley.com) Utility Bills Update No. 530 - buyer's guide of nine electric and solar motion-sensing light manufacturers (28 models) listing sensitivity (coverage angle/range), styles, wattages, bulb types and features. Please include \$3.00 and a business-size SASE. James Dulley, Illinois Country Living, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244.

James Dulley is a mechanical engineer who writes on a wide variety of energy and utility topics. His column appears in a large number of daily newspapers.

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Bergman's comeback – with a little help from his friends

by April Kramer

Adversity and tragedy are often opportunities to demonstrate character. Keith Bergman, a lineman for Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, (EIEC), Paxton, has character.

He was actually demonstrating his character, his willingness to help others, when he was hit by a car on a snowy evening in February. After the accident, he lost his lower right leg. When asked about his present intentions of going back to work as a lineman, Bergman replied, "I don't see why I can't." Bergman may have lost part of his leg, but he hasn't lost sense of who he is, whether it be a father, a husband, a lineman or a helping hand.

"I'd still do the same thing again," said Bergman. The Bergmans feel that human service is part of the job as a lineman. "It's just a part of good people," said Bergman's wife, Susan. That's why Bergman and his work partner, Jeff Blackford, didn't hesitate to help a distressed driver whose car was stuck in the ditch on Illinois 9 just east of Paxton on a snowy night. While trying to help, a moving vehicle lost control on the east side, slid into the ditch and struck Bergman. "Jeff did just what he is trained to do when there is an accident. We're just very thankful he was there with Keith," said Susan.

As cooperatives' employees express dedication to members, they also know how to show devotion to other employees. "Keith had an awful lot of support that he didn't know about," said Wm. David Champion, Jr., President/CEO of EIEC. "Everyone at EIEC is aware of Keith's goal and they are rooting for him. The man clearly loves his work."

Co-workers expressed kindness and concern by insisting on helping out. "Some of the other linemen,

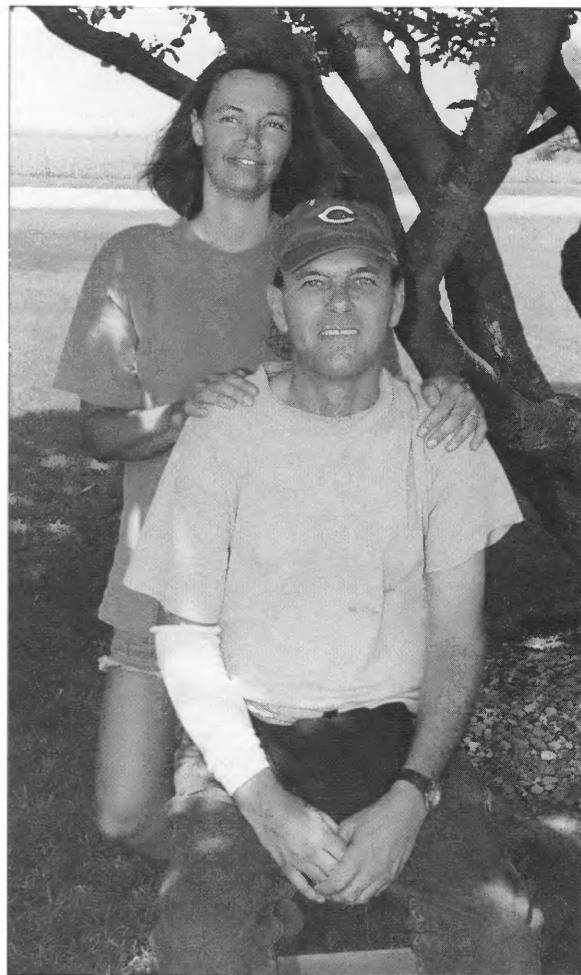
employees at the co-op and even a few of the wives helped me travel back and forth between Paxton and the hospital. Nobody wanted me to drive," Susan admits, "I was tired." She was at the hospital every day with her husband to assure that everything was done in his best interest.

Susan had to keep a diary because she suspected that "he would know nothing about what had happened to him, or all the people who had been there to see him. When I started making a list of all the visitors he had, it was huge."

Bergman awakened after three weeks in the ICU. It was then that doctors suggested amputating the lower half of his right leg. The decision was very hard but without the amputation, the limb would not have been functional.

When Keith was able to go home from the hospital, several co-workers built a ramp in his house to make things easier. He continued to have daily visits from friends and family, including Blackford, who still comes to see him at least once a week.

Bergman's story was covered in several newspapers and proved to be inspirational to the community because of his determination to overcome the loss of his lower leg. As a result, he has received applause and encouragement from a few friendly



readers. He received a letter from a woman in Bloomington whose husband became a double amputee back in the 1930s. "It was such a nice letter because she started it off with 'You can do it,'" said Susan, "It was really inspirational."

Upon full recovery, Bergman looks forward to doing yard work, hunting and fishing. Most of all, Bergman wants to attend his children's activities more. "I'd say that's probably the hardest thing he's going through right now. He misses not going to things for the kids," said Susan. Getting back to work is also in Bergman's future. "I have to take it slow. Everything else is up to me," Bergman said.



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Last Minute Cranberry Relish June Reifsteck

- 1 (8-1/4-oz.) can crushed pineapple
- 1 (16-oz.) can whole cranberry sauce
- 1/4 C. pecans, chopped
- 1/4 tsp. apple pie spice
- Pinch of ground cloves

Drain pineapple. Pour cranberry sauce into a 4-cup bowl. Add pineapple, pecans and spices. Mix well. Serve at once or refrigerate for up to a week.

Cheeseburger Casserole Elma Staley

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/4 C. onion, chopped
- 1/8 tsp. black pepper
- 1/4 C. green pepper, chopped
- 1 (8-oz.) can tomato sauce
- 1/4 C. catsup
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cheese slices
- 1 pkg. refrigerator biscuits

Sauté ground beef, green pepper and onion; drain. Stir in black pepper, tomato sauce and catsup. Simmer until heated. Add meat mixture. Alternate meat mixture and cheese slices in a 2-quart casserole. Arrange biscuits around the edge of casserole. Bake at 400° for 20-25 minutes. Note: I like to bake the biscuits first, separately, and add after the casserole is baked. They are not so soggy on the bottom.

Chocolate Chip Pie Marijo Blacker

- 1 C. sugar
- 1/2 C. flour
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 stick oleo, melted
- 1 C. chopped nuts
- 1 C. chocolate chips
- 1 (9-inch) unbaked pie shell

Mix all pie ingredients together, adding nuts and chocolate chips last. Pour into the pie shell and bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes until golden brown. Can be served with Cool Whip or ice cream.

Macaroni Salad Rita Lybarger

- 1/2 C. uncooked macaroni
- 3 bananas, sliced
- 1 C. pineapple tidbits
- 1/2 C. pecan pieces
- 1/2 C. coconut
- 3/4 C. sugar
- 1/2 C. pineapple juice
- 1 T. flour
- 1 egg

Cook macaroni, drain, cool and set aside. Combine egg, flour, sugar and pineapple juice. Bring to boil and then let cool. Mix all ingredients together, leaving nuts for last.

Dill Dip Arlene Kamradt

- 2 C. mayonnaise
- 2 C. sour cream
- 2 T. Accent
- 2 T. dill weed
- 2 T. onion, minced
- 2 T. parsley flakes

Mix all ingredients together. Chill. Serve with fresh vegetables, Hawaiian or rye bread, or crackers.

Hamburger Soup Shirley Schroeder

- 2 lbs. hamburger
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 ribs celery, chopped
- 3 C. tomatoes, fresh or canned, chopped
- 5 carrots, sliced
- 1-1/2-2 C. instant rice
- 3 bay leaves
- 3 T. beef bouillon or 3 cubes
- 5 C. water (more or less)
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Brown hamburger with onion in a large Dutch oven; drain well. Add bouillon,



bay leaves, water and celery. Bring to boil and simmer for 20 minutes. Add vegetables and rice; cook until vegetables are tender. This keeps in the refrigerator for several days and freezes well.

Carmel Nut Crunch Arlene Kamradt

- 1/2 C. packed brown sugar
- 1/2 C. dark corn syrup
- 1/4 C. oleo or butter
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 6 C. Cheerios cereal
- 1 C. pecan halves
- 1/2 C. slivered almonds

Heat oven to 325°. Butter a 15x10-inch jelly roll pan. Heat brown sugar, corn syrup, butter and salt in a 3-quart saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly until sugar is dissolved, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in cereal and nuts until well coated. Spread in pan. Bake 15 minutes. Cool until slightly firm, 5-7 minutes, then loosen with a metal spatula. Let stand until firm, about 1 hour. Store in a covered container. Makes about 8 cups.





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Taffy Apple Pizza

- 1 (20-oz.) pkg. refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- 2 T. creamy peanut butter
- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 C. packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 Granny Smith apples
- 1/2 C. water
- 2 tsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1/8 C. caramel ice cream topping or caramel apple dip

Roll out cookie dough into a large rectangle jelly roll pan. Bake at 350° for 11-14 minutes or until cookie dough is lightly browned. Allow to cool for 10 minutes. In a small bowl, combine peanut butter, cream cheese, brown sugar and vanilla. Blend until smooth. Spread mixture on cooled cookie dough. Pare and slice apples. In a small bowl, combine water and lemon juice. Dip apple slices in water/lemon mixture to prevent browning. Arrange apple slices on top of cream cheese mixture. Drizzle caramel topping over apples. Cut into pieces and serve.



Strawberry-Chicken Crunch Salad Patty Peek

- 2 (5-oz.) cans chunk chicken
- 2 T. sesame seeds
- 2 T. slivered almonds
- 1-1/2 C. shredded cabbage
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 1 pkg. Ramen Noodles, uncooked and broken into small pieces
- 1 C. strawberries, hulled and sliced

Dressing:

- 2 T. sugar
- 1/2 C. vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 (0.9-oz.) pkg. Good Seasons Italian dressing mix
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

In a large salad bowl, toss all salad ingredients together and refrigerate. **Dressing:** In a small container, mix sugar, oil, salt, dressing mix and pepper together and shake well. When ready to serve, drizzle dressing over top of salad.

Peach-Stuffed Pork Tenderloin

- 1 C. peaches, peeled and sliced
- 1/4 C. toasted almonds, sliced
- 1/4 C. soft bread crumbs
- 1/4 C. carrots, shredded
- 2 T. onion, chopped
- 1/2 tsp. fresh gingerroot, minced
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 lb. pork tenderloin
- Oil
- 1 T. orange marmalade

In a bowl, combine the first 8 ingredients; set aside. Make a lengthwise cut 3/4 of the way through the pork tenderloin; open and flatten to 1/4-inch thickness. Spread peach mixture over pork tenderloin. Roll up from the long side, tuck in ends and secure with toothpicks. Place on a rack in a shallow roasting pan and brush lightly with oil. Bake uncovered for 20-25 minutes at 425° or until meat thermometer reads 155°. Brush meat with orange marmalade. Bake for and additional 5-10 minutes. Allow to stand 5 minutes before slicing.

Cream Cheese Pumpkin Muffins

Filling:

- 1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 T. sugar

Topping:

- 2/3 C. coconut flakes
- 1/2 C. pecans, chopped
- 3 T. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Batter:

- 2-1/4 C. flour
- 2 C. sugar
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1-1/4 C. canned pumpkin
- 1/4 C. vegetable oil
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla

Filling: In a small bowl, beat cream cheese, egg and sugar together; set aside.

Topping: In a bowl, stir ingredients for topping together; set aside. **Batter:** In a

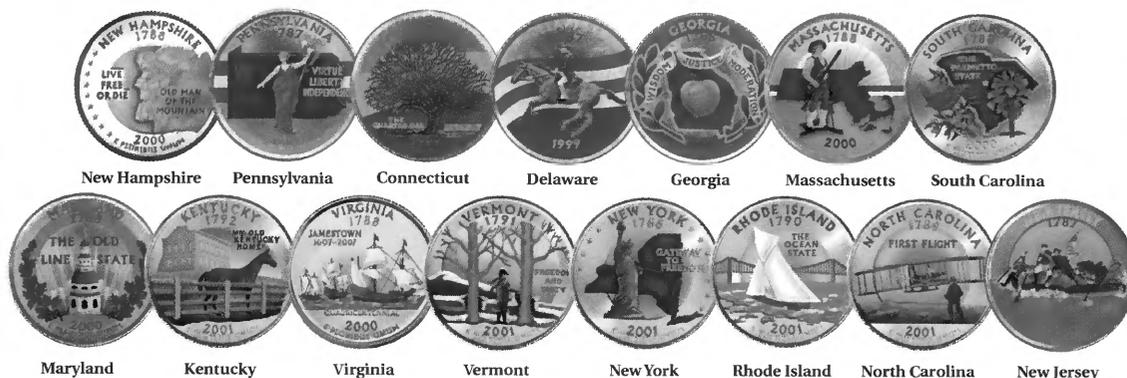


large mixing bowl, combine flour sugar, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Make a "well" in the center. In another bowl, stir eggs, pumpkin, oil and vanilla together then pour into the "well." Stir until mixture is just moistened. Grease 24 regular-sized muffin cups, or line with paper baking cups. Fill cups 1/3 full with batter, then drop one heaping teaspoon of filling on top and add additional batter until 2/3 full. Sprinkle each with topping mixture. Bake at 375° for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

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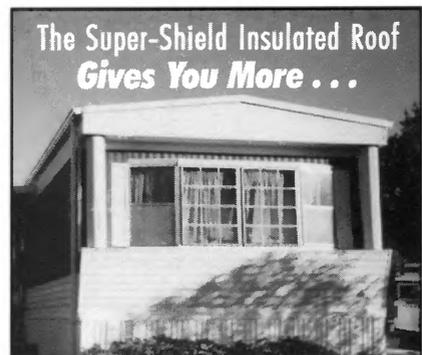
MINI REX RABBITS - Great pets and 4-H projects, small operation, only four or five litters a year, \$20 with pedigree papers, call Parker's Bunny Barn, (618) 928-2328.

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- All ads must be in one paragraph form. No centered copy. Maximum of four all-capital words per ad.
- **Check/cash/money order payable to *Illinois Country Living* and member's address label must accompany order.**
- Please type or print your ad neatly. You may use a _____ separate sheet if needed. Include your name, address and phone number. I am a member of _____ electric cooperative.
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Deadline for November issue: September 15

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ATTENTION BOW HUNTERS: Need a place to hunt this fall? Plenty of deer and turkey in Greene County. (217) 983-2360.

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SEPTEMBER DATEBOOK

1, Art in the Park and Roast Pork Picnic at Memorial Park in Stockton. Arts and crafts vendors, farmers' market, musical entertainment, a clown and a roast pork picnic luncheon. Free admission. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (815) 947-2545.

1-29, John James Audubon, *The Birds of America*, presented by the Southern Illinois Art Gallery in Whittington. Twenty-nine prints will be on view including two from the first edition of *The Birds of America*, engraved and hand colored by Robert Havell and Sons of London from John Audubon's original painting. (618) 629-2220.

1, Lions Club Labor Day Celebration at Fort Massac State Park in Metropolis. Enjoy a parade at 10 a.m. and live music throughout the day. (618) 524-9202.

1-4, Yesterday's Tomorrows, a temporary Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit in Greenup. Free. (217) 923-3401.

2, Pana Labor Day Parade in downtown Pana. The largest Labor Day parade in the state. (217) 562-3966.

5-8, Mowaequa Sesquicentennial at City Park in Mowaequa. Enjoy entertainment, games, crafts, music and food as Mowaequa celebrates 150 years. (217) 768-3435.

6-7, The Second Annual Harvest Bloom Festival in downtown Bloomington. The band, Exit 125, will open the festivities at 4 p.m. on Friday followed by X-Ray Men at 6:30 p.m. and Sister Groove at 9 p.m. Saturday, the festivities will begin at 11 a.m. with the Mt. Pisgah Choir, followed by Modern Cowboyz at 1 p.m., the Heartland Jazz Band at 3 p.m. and the Spectors at 5 p.m. Saturday evening entertainment fires up at 7 p.m. with Dave Scott and the Smokin' Baby Clams. At 9 p.m. the world famous Pork and the Havana Ducks take the stage. (309) 829-9599.

6-8, The 2002 WNNS/VALCO Cruise for Charity in Springfield. Kick off this cruise weekend on Friday at the annual Steak-n-Shake pre-cruise party at Steak-n-Shake on 6th Street. Register for the cruise, eat, dance and check out all the cars. On Saturday, the cruise will run full throttle at the Illinois State Fairgrounds with the annual Park and Peek car show. Activities and contests will continue throughout the day. In the evening, the cruisers will show off their cars as they drive through the Convention Center, located downtown. And this year, the cruise will expand its events to a third day. On Sunday, watch new activities, like the burnout competition and the Ultimate "Smack-Up" Demolition Derby. (217) 629-7077.

7, Farm Tour in Galena. Take a guided bus tour of three beautiful and productive farms in the Galena area hosted by the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, a local nonprofit land conservation organization. Tickets are \$16 for adults, and \$8 for children 12 and under. (815) 777-4011.

7-8, Traditional Music Festival at Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site in Petersburg. More than 100 traditional and bluegrass musicians are expected to participate in the weekend impromptu jam sessions. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

7-8, Cedarhurst Craft Fair at Mitchell Museum at Cedarhurst in Mt. Vernon. Mt. Vernon's biggest festival for more than 25 years, the Cedarhurst Craft Fair is an annual celebration. More than 160 artisans will display and sell a variety of crafts and 2-dimensional art, including jewelry, photography, pottery, weaving, yard art and musical instruments. (800) 252-5464.

8, Midwest Antique Car Show and Parts Swap at the Kane County Fairgrounds in St. Charles. Approximately 700 cars will be on display in 43 classes. (815) 356-9918.

8, Dickson Mounds Museum's 75th Anniversary Celebration at the Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown. The public is invited to celebrate Dickson Mounds' 75th anniversary and the 125th anniversary of the Illinois State Museum at the official opening of the museum's new outdoor stage with the performance of a historic pageant on the history of the area. (309) 547-3721.

11-15, Murphysboro Apple Festival in Murphysboro. Southern Illinois' longest running family festival, featuring a large parade. This family oriented event is a time-honored tradition. (800) 406-8774 or (618) 684-3200.

12-14, The 45th Annual National Popcorn Farmers Day Festival in Ridgway. Stars and Strips Forever is the theme for this free festival. Some of the activities planned include a carnival, food booths, exhibits, arts and crafts booths, and all the free popcorn you can eat. Plus, bring the kids for a parade, a frog jumping contest, and a popcorn-eating contest. (618) 272-8861.

13-15, The Ninth Annual Ladies Getaway Weekend in Galena. Three days dedicated to the pastimes and celebrations of women. Parties, shopping, teas, talks and demonstrations. Goody bag items from local merchants available for a fee to those who pre-register. (815) 777-9050.

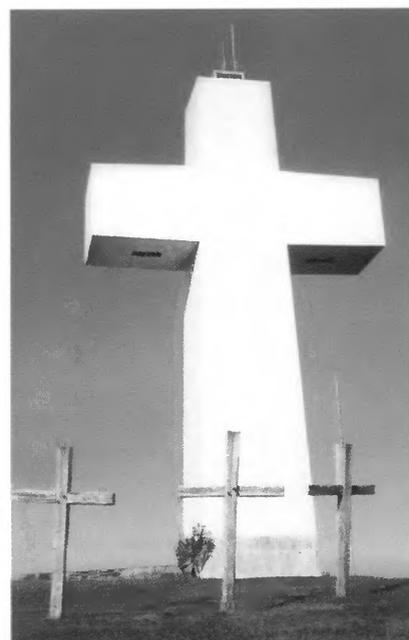
14, Old Fashioned Car Cruise at Rt. 66 Sky View Drive-In Theater in Litchfield. An open cruise for any type of vehicle and for car lovers and movie goers everywhere. This night will offer contests, a poker run, trivia prizes, a DJ, and fun. Cruise from 4 p.m. until sundown; movie begins at dusk. (217) 324-5375.

14, Old Settlers' Day at Bishop Hill. A celebration of the 156th anniversary of the Bishop Hill Colony and the 106th year of the Old Settlers' Association. Enjoy a traditional chicken dinner, High Society band concert and program, and more. (309) 927-3345.

14, Countryside Chautauqua at Eckert's Country Store and Farms in Belleville. Free. Milk a cow, make homemade ice cream, join in a scavenger hunt for the kids and more. New and antique tractors, wheat grinding and games will also be a part of this daylong event. (618) 236-8600.

14-15, Country Cousins Cat Show CFA at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria. Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (309) 699-3773 or (309) 444-8970.

14-15, The Ninth Annual Prairie Festival at the Kane County Fairgrounds in St. Charles. Free. Renowned speakers will be on hand to share their expertise about Illinois' forbs and grasses. Informational handouts, prairie books and much more will be available. (630) 584-0150.



14-15, Bald Knob Cross of Peace's Annual Bar-B-Que near Alto Pass. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Art and craft vendors are welcome. Worship service on Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

14-15, Harvest Moon Celebration at Feathered Nest Arts and Crafts Mall in Springfield. Showcasing Handcrafted items for Halloween and Thanksgiving. Sunflower contest. (217) 528-8633.

14-15, The Fifth Annual Labyrinth Medieval Fair at Apple Basket Farms, north of Barry. A 15th century fair complete with food, dancing, arts and crafts from that time period and more. Bring the family and spend the day. (217) 335-2670.

14-15, The 32nd Annual Abraham Lincoln National Railsplitting Contest and Crafts Festival at the Logan County Fairgrounds in Lincoln. Admission is \$2 for adults and children 12 and under are free. This event features a steam show, a Girl Scout Jamboree, early American crafts, free entertainment, food, historical displays, antique tractors, a flea market, crafts, a quilt show, an Indian village, antique cars and more.

14-15 / 21-22 / 28-29, Apple Fest 2002 at Eckert's Country Store and Farms in Belleville. Enjoy a wagon ride to go apple picking. Enjoy apple cider, caramel apples, country music, kids' activities, live entertainment and more. (618) 233-0513.

19-21, Murphysboro Barbecue Championship in Murphysboro. Come and join in the Barbecue fun with live entertainment and family fun.

20-21, Harvest Fest in Petersburg. Enjoy a pork chop dinner on Friday and a parade, food, craft vendors and free entertainment on Saturday. (217) 632-7363.

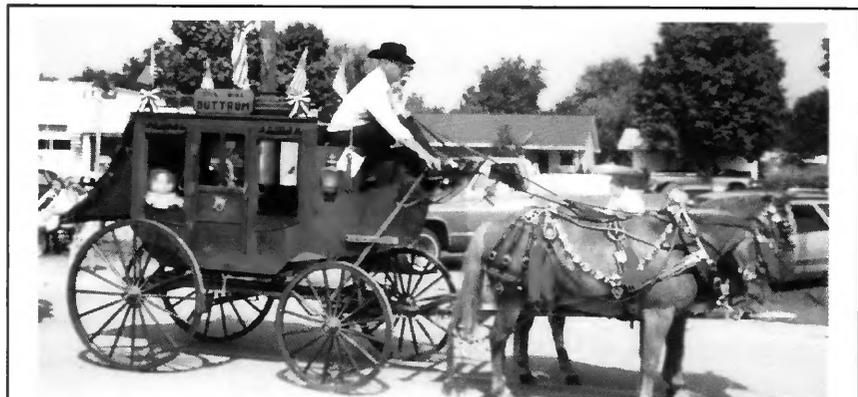
20-22, Western Illinois Bluegrass Fall Festival at Old Lake Hillsboro. Bluegrass music will be performed amidst the fall foliage at Sherwood Forest Campground. (618) 632-6610.

20-22, Stringbenders Bluegrass Festival at Fort Defiance Park, one mile south of Ciaro. Enjoy music, fun, food and crafts. Bring your own instrument and join in the jams. (618) 776-5320.

21, Shrimp Festival in Golconda. Celebrate the harvest of southern Illinois' fresh water shrimp. (618) 683-6246.

21-22, Edwards Place Fine Crafts Fair at historic Edwards Place mansion in Springfield. The beautiful grounds will come to life as more than 70 artisans set up to display and sell their fine crafts. (217) 523-2631.

21-22, The Second Annual Clark County Antique Power Show at Marshall fairgrounds in Marshall. Enjoy an antique tractor display, a small engine show, a tractor pull on Friday evening, a garden tractor pull on Saturday evening. Enjoy food while you shop the craft vendors' displays, and at the flea



25-28, The 21st Annual Wonder Water Reunion Parade in Creal Springs. This celebration will feature gospel music, a queen contest, children's contests, a parade, a carnival, free country music and much more.

21-22, Cruise Night and Car Show at Community Park in Jacksonville. Cruise begins at 5 p.m. on Saturday night, followed by a car show in Community Park on Sunday.

21-22, The 13th Annual Fort Kaskaskia Traditional Music Festival at Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site in Ellis Grove. This festival will feature musical and dance performances from some of America's popular performers in Bluegrass, Cajun and Irish disciplines. Food vendors and crafters will also be available for the enjoyment of visitors both days. Saturday 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 12-6 p.m. \$5 parking fee. (618) 859-3741.

21 and 25, The Annual Mallardfest in Hanover. Enjoy a parade, the Apple River Duck Retrieve, a duck calling contest, the Mallard Duck Crap Shoot, pontoon rides, the Apple River Golf Challenge, The DU auction, tug-of-war, music, kids' activities, food booths and more. This event kicks off with a parade at 11 a.m. then activities following in White Park to last all day. There will also be fireworks to help celebrate our 25th anniversary. (815) 591-3512.

26-29, The 33rd Annual Steam Show and Fall Festival Days at Prairie Land Heritage Museum in South Jacksonville. Enjoy threshing demonstrations, games, food, music and much more. (217) 997-2102 or (217) 886-2335.

27-29, International Route 66 Mother Road Festival in downtown Springfield. This premiere world event will feature hundreds of classic vehicles, free live entertainment and celebrities, food and drink vendors, one-of-a-kind exhibits, a chili cook-off, the world's largest sock hop, and more. The festival is free. Admission



28, U.S. Grant Home Lamplight Tour in Galena. Tour the home of the famous President and Civil War General by the light of oil lanterns. Suggested donation; adults \$3; children \$1. (815) 777-3310.

28, September Night - Arts in Celebration in downtown Carbondale. Enjoy gallery openings and live performances to celebrate the arts in Carbondale. (618) 457-5100.

28-29, The 47th Annual "Old Market Days" at Market House Square in Galena. A turn-of-the-century open air market with farmers' huck and stands offering produce, jams and jellies, breads and pastries, baskets, Rada Cutlery, crafts, plus a heritage skills' demonstration. (815) 858-3392.

28-29, Apple Festival at Boyd Orchards in Anna. Saturday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 12-6 p.m. Fun for the whole family with food, music, apples, hayrides, and more. The children can enjoy a 40-ft. slide, a rope swing, a crawl-through caterpillar, a corn maze, a petting zoo and more. (618) 833-5533.

Illinois Country Living publishes event listings as space allows, giving preference to events of regional or statewide interest. Event listings are provided by the event sponsors and the Illinois Bureau of Tourism. The magazine assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of information submitted for publication and advises calling ahead to confirm dates and times. To be considered for inclusion, send listings and photographs (If sending photographs please include self-addressed stamped envelope) to Illinois Datebook, Illinois Country Living, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708-3787. The deadline for submission is 45 days prior to the publication date.

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