

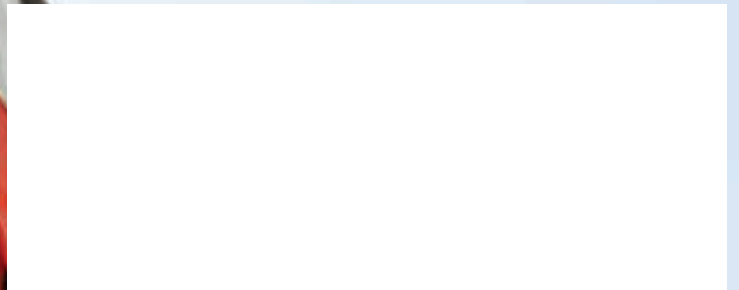
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# Illinois Country Living

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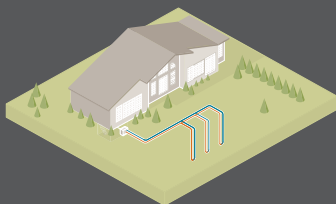


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## 10 MINISTERING ON THE MISSISSIPPI

Kempton Baldrige is a unique pastor, ministering to those that work Illinois' waterways.

## Volume 70, No. 4, August 2012

### 4 COMMENTARY

Electric co-ops are testing and demonstrating solar photovoltaic systems.

### 6 CURRENTS

Illinois co-ops send youth leaders to meet with their Congressmen.

### 14 SAFETY & HEALTH

Lightning strike victim warns others to take storms seriously.

### 16 YARD & GARDEN

Summer's heat and drought have a positive side.

### 18 ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Doug Rye describes his first radio show and advice that is still valid.

### 22 FINEST COOKING

### 24 POWERED UP

### 25 MARKETPLACE

### 27 2012 YEAR OF COOPERATIVES

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives salutes the co-op structure and tips its hat to other cooperatives in a year-long series.

### 28 NEW POWER

New consumer-owned coal-fired power plant begins operation.

### 30 DATEBOOK

## Here comes the sun

### Electric cooperatives installing and testing solar systems

Passersby on I-55, which runs right alongside the office of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives on Springfield's far south side, might catch a glimpse of something new ... a shiny, new solar photovoltaic system. The AIEC just installed a pole-mounted, solar PV system that will produce electricity to help power our 20,000 square foot headquarters facility.

The new system consists of 48 solar panels, mounted in a fixed array more than 10 feet off the ground. The panels, which produce electricity in direct current or DC, are wired to two power inverters — installed in an indoor service room — that convert the power to alternating current, or AC power. The system itself is relatively neat and clean, and while high tech, also fairly simple to operate and service.

The PV system is 12.24 kilowatts, or KW, in size. We expect the solar system to produce more than 16,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, or an average of about 1,350 kwh per month. So far, after just the first 18 days of operation, we've generated the first 1,000 kwh of electricity. Things appear to be operating just as projected — perhaps even a little better than planned.

So, you might ask why the electric cooperatives' association would install a solar electric system at its office. That's a logical question, and one we asked ourselves. There are several reasons.

First, we think solar energy has a bright future (no pun intended) and we need to learn more about it.



There's no way better to learn about something than to gain some first-hand experience. That's probably the most important factor. Second, we have the opportunity to meet some of our own power needs for our facility. So we'll learn at the same time that we generate power and offset some of our electrical needs and costs. And third, solar installation costs have been coming down and this form of renewable energy is realistic and affordable.

As the statewide organization for all the electric cooperatives, the solar system offers a perfect opportunity for a hands-on learning environment for co-op leaders and employees. When co-op folks come in to our office, as they often do for meetings and training sessions, they'll be able to monitor the production and performance of the solar system on a lobby television screen. And we'll all learn more about how the system can endure Illinois weather, and how the generating production might vary from month to month, and season to season.

How much of a "deal" is solar power? Well, solar panel costs have really come down in the past couple years, while technological improvements have made the systems much more efficient and productive.

At today's power costs, we predict that our system will take 18 years for a complete payback of our investment. Just a few years ago, that same system may have taken 30-40 years to pay for itself in energy. All renewable systems have a payback, whether we're talking about wind

power, solar, hydroelectric or geothermal heat pumps. Some are simply longer than others.

Several Illinois cooperatives are also experiencing solar power first hand at their headquarters' facilities. In Shelbyville, leaders of Shelby Electric Cooperative have installed a major 80 kw solar photovoltaic system on the roofs of several buildings at the co-op headquarters. The system helps to offset the energy needs of operating the co-op headquarters facility. In Winchester, Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative has installed a small, residential-sized system at its headquarters. These systems provide experience and education for co-op leaders and members who want to learn more about solar energy.

We'll share more information in future issues of ICL. Until then, if you're just driving by and want to stop by for a closer look at the system, the light's always on.

**John Freitag is the Vice President of Operations for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and Executive Director of the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois.**





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# 53 years of developing young leaders on the Youth To Washington Tour

After a 20-hour bus ride home on June 22, 75 of Illinois' brightest high school students were a little low on energy but full of good memories from this year's Youth to Washington Tour. At the end of trip the students hugged and said their goodbyes at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) office in Springfield. You could tell that some lasting friendships had been made during their week in Washington, D.C.

More than 1,560 high school students and 281 chaperones from electric cooperatives across the country participated in the tour. The main purpose of the trip was to give young leaders an inside introduction to government and the cooperative business model. The students met with Representatives John Shimkus, Jerry Costello, Tim Johnson, Randy Hultgren and Bobby Schilling.

The Youth Tour is celebrating its 53rd year. One student from each state is selected to be a representative on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC). Sarah Hempen from Monroe County Electric Co-Operative, Inc. was chosen by her peers to represent Illinois on the YLC. Hempen's duties will include attending the Youth Leadership Conference

in Washington, D.C., the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Annual Meeting in Springfield, the NRECA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperative Youth Day and providing input for the NRECA's Youth Education and Leadership programs.

A high percentage of young people who go on this trip have an interest in government, but for some it is an introduction to government. Some of the students go on to work in state or federal government after school. Some of the more notable past participants of the Youth to Washington Tour are Art Tenhouse who was a State Representative from 1989 to 2006, Tom Ryder who served as an Illinois State Representative from 1983 to 2001 and Dr. Robert A. Easter who is the current President of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

For more information about the Youth to Washington Tour contact 217-529-5561 and ask for John Freitag (jfreitag@aiec.coop) or Kristin Banks (kbanks@aiec.coop). To see pictures from this year's trip, search "Illinois Youth to Washington Tour" on Facebook or Google. ■

*In June, 75 of Illinois' best and brightest young people met with Rep. John Shimkus and other congressmen from Illinois while in Washington, D.C. on a leadership building trip sponsored by the Illinois telephone and electric cooperatives.*





## Illinois Drought Response Task Force to help minimize harm caused by dry conditions

The state agencies that make up the Drought Response Task Force in Illinois met in mid-July to provide recommendations and assistance in dealing with persistent dry weather in the state.

The Drought Response Task Force is chaired by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and includes experts from the Illinois departments of Agriculture, Water Survey, Public Health and the Emergency Management Agency.

The Illinois State Water Survey reports that most of southern and central Illinois are considered in drought based on precipitation deficits

of five inches or more dating back to July 2011, with deficits of eight inches or more in southeast Illinois and up to 12 inches in portions of west-central Illinois during that time. Northern Illinois is also dry, and if lack of rain-fall persists, could be considered in the coming weeks. Updates on dry conditions can be found on the ISWS website at <http://www.isws.illinois.edu/hilites/drought/>.

“Early assessments indicate farmers will sustain substantial yield losses, especially in southern Illinois where much of the corn crop has been destroyed,” Illinois Department of Agriculture Acting Director Bob Flider said. “I appreciate Agriculture

Secretary Vilsacks efforts to simplify the disaster declaration process. It will result in the immediate declaration of 26 Illinois counties as disaster areas and make farmers in those counties eligible for low-interest emergency loans that can be used to pay not only production expenses, but also essential family living expenses.”

Under new USDA rules announced today, a county automatically qualifies for a disaster designation once it is categorized by the U.S. Drought Monitor as being in a severe drought for eight or more consecutive weeks during the growing season. A formal request for the designation is no longer necessary. ■

## Farm Bill passes Senate and includes energy funding

The National 25x25 Alliance commends the Senate on its passage of a Farm Bill yesterday by a 64-35 margin that includes \$800 million in mandatory funding for Energy Title programs. Not only did the final vote represent an important victory for rural renewable energy supporters, the overwhelming opposition to amendments that would have stripped away vital funding from energy programs helped to once again demonstrate the widespread and bipartisan support these programs enjoy.

With the approval of the Senate bill, the 25x25 Alliance will be working to build support for renewable energy programs in the Farm Bill that the House Agriculture Committee will

begin marking up after returning from recess on July 11th. Although it seems that gaining support for funding for the Energy Title programs will be more difficult in the House, there has been some important progress made recently with the release of a Dear Colleague letter signed by



7 Democrats and 5 Republicans calling for renewal of Energy Title programs.

In addition, a “marker bill” was introduced that would offer nearly \$1.3 billion in mandatory funding and \$1.4 billion in discretionary funding to Energy Title programs over the five-year life of the Farm Bill, fiscal 2013-2017.

In passing a Farm Bill with mandatory funding for rural energy programs, the Senate has reaffirmed our nation’s commitment to the crucial job creation, national security and environmental benefits that these programs provide.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is committed to a roadmap for increasing the

development of domestic renewable energy options under the 25x25 Action Plan. This plan charts a course to meet an ambitious goal: using renewable energy to meet 25 percent of the nation’s total energy needs by the year 2025. ■



## Heat strains budgets and electrical systems

Increased summer electric demands do not only place a strain on budgets, they also can place a severe strain on your home's electrical system, which poses a dangerous shock and fire

hazard. Frequent circuit breaker trips or flickering or dimming lights, TV screens or computer monitors are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked

immediately by a professional.

For more information and tips to help cut costs and improve home safety, visit [EnergyEdCouncil.org](http://EnergyEdCouncil.org) and [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org). ■

## Farmers and ranchers will face greenhouse gas regulation challenges

Many of America's farmers and ranchers will face economic challenges due to the Environmental Protection Agency's plan to regulate greenhouse gases, the American Farm Bureau Federation told a House subcommittee.

Carl Shaffer, President of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, testified on behalf of AFBF before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power.

"Costs incurred by utilities, refiners, manufacturers and other large emitters to comply with GHG regulatory requirements will be passed on to the consumers of those products, including farmers and ranchers," Shaffer said.

"The end result is that our nation's farmers and ranchers will be forced to contend with higher input costs to grow food, fiber and renewable fuels."

Shaffer said farmers will face another economic hit when regulations are fully phased in under EPA's "tailoring" approach, which will apply to farms and ranches that emit, or have the potential to emit, more than 100 tons of greenhouse gases per year. Those farms and ranches will be required to apply for and obtain a Title V operating permit. Based on EPA's numbers, Shaffer said just the expense of obtaining permits would cost agriculture more than \$866 million. ■

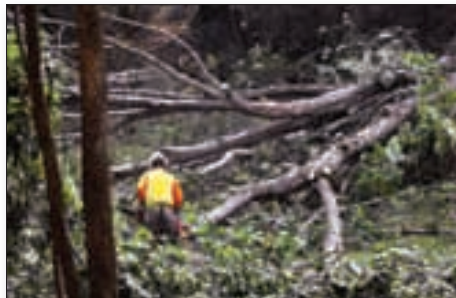
## Illinois co-ops send help to Ohio outage victims

In July Illinois electric cooperatives sent crews to assist sister co-ops after a massive storm hit utilities hard from Chicago to the East Coast.

The storm that went through Chicago and headed towards Washington, D.C. hit Ohio very hard. Co-ops that sent help include MJM Electric Cooperative, Rock Energy, Jo-Carroll Energy, Corn Belt Energy, EnerStar Electric Cooperative, Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative and Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Spoon River Electric Cooperative sent crews to help in other hard hit areas.

The vicious and damaging thunderstorm front that raked Chicago, Ohio and other states has a name: 'derecho.'

Pronounced similar to "deh-REY-cho" in English, the word is Spanish for "direct" or "straight ahead." This is exactly the description of the



hurricane force winds, from 58 to over 90 miles per hour, experienced in Ohio and other states where the dangerous storms occurred.

Southern Illinois was hit by a similar storm a few years ago and some described it as an inland hurricane.

The power of the principle of cooperation among cooperatives is never more vivid than during a disaster like this. Electric cooperatives from Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan and Pennsylvania answered the call for help, sending 27 crews to aid

restoration efforts just to Ohio alone.

Outages of this size often occur in the winter. This time severe weather is blamed in the deaths of at least 17 people, and in some areas 100-degree temperatures threaten those who are vulnerable to high temperatures.

In the Chicago area, ComEd reported outages for more than 250,000 customers before restoring power July 1 to some 96,000.

Once again after a major outage, lasting multiple days, and covering many states, the call for burying power lines was demanded by some. While burying power lines avoids tree, wind and ice related outages, it doesn't prevent all outages and the cost is as much as ten times more expensive. Outages on underground lines when they occur take longer to locate and repair. Study after study has shown that the impact on electric rates is not justified. ■





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*For more information about the Super Energy Saver Program,  
contact your local Touchstone Energy cooperative*



This image and cover photo courtesy of Rev. David Rider.



# Ministering *on the* Mississippi

by Les O'Dell

**K**empton Baldrige doesn't dress like most pastors. He doesn't wear a formal robe or even a suit and tie. Instead, his attire includes steel-toed boots, a baseball cap and life vest. What Baldrige does isn't what most pastors do, either. He's not one to preach from a pulpit or deliver sermons from the front of a church. In fact, he doesn't have a church building. He's more likely to be found climbing gangways and riding on tugboats up and down the Mississippi, the Ohio, the Wabash, the Illinois and many of the other rivers of the Midwest.

Since 2010 the ordained Episcopalian minister has served as one of three full-time inland waterways chaplains for the Ministry on the Rivers and Gulf Program of the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI), a New York-based mariners' service agency. His role is to care for and serve the more than 60,000 men and women who work on tug boats, barges and related vessels on the rivers of the eastern half of the United States. Based in Paducah, Ky., Baldrige is a frequent traveler on the rivers of Illinois, often riding along on a tug.

"My job description says I'm supposed to be underway three days out of every five," he says. "Sometimes it's just overnight, sometimes it's for a week or more."

Baldrige says he is able to board as towboats dock or has been known to transfer from one vessel to another with the use of a john boat. On board, he looks like many other mariners, except for the black clergy shirt and white Episcopal collar. He goes by the simple nickname of "Chaps."

"They call me Chaps because my first name, Kempton, would just



Chaplain Kempton Baldrige of Seaman's Church Institute greets a crew member aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Chippewa. The Chippewa, a 75-foot buoy tender, is responsible for working floating and shoreline aids along the Tennessee, Ohio and upper Mississippi rivers. Baldrige travels these same rivers offering support and encouragement to members of the inland merchant marine. Photo courtesy of Gregory Thorp.



get me in trouble. It's too much like 'Captain.' Chaps establishes what and who I am and it works. It's both affectionate and respectful at the same time."

Every day is different for Baldrige,

the son of an inland mariner, and he likes it that way. As a former Coast Guard petty officer and Navy chaplain who served as a chaplain at NATO headquarters in Brussels before joining SCI, he has had his share of formality

and routine. On the river, there is none of that.

"No week is the same," he explains. "The absence of routine is routine. I do my best to come up with an itinerary for each week, but there are always





Photo courtesy of Gregory Thorp.

changes and modifications. Some days I wake up in places that I never intended to be.”

He says he is often asked what he does, and explains that it is sometimes easier to explain what he

doesn't do—things like formal revival or church services and group Bible studies.

“People ask me if I hold services onboard,” he says. “My answer is no, not if I want to be invited back. My role is very different than most pastors. I'm not there with an agenda. I'm here to be an empty vessel.”

He said his tasks range from talking with members of the merchant marine and answering questions to offering pastoral counseling. When tragedy strikes anywhere in the Coast Guard's Ohio district, he is quick to respond in person, offering comfort to family and fellow crew members. For instance, he recently responded when a towboat worker lost his life in saving others who were trapped in a powerless fishing boat which was taking on water near St. Louis in June.

“It's a privilege for me to be with these crew members and link arms with them following such a tremendous loss,” he explains. “To be permitted to be there and to help each of them take the first few steps forward is an honor that I value very much.”

He is there for the celebrations as well, often leading christening ceremonies for new tugboats. But mostly, he is just there for the crew members who otherwise may not receive any spiritual support or guidance.

“These men and women on the rivers are on them for half of their lives,” Baldrige says, explaining that a crew serves for 28 days before being relieved by a replacement team. “There's no chance for regular church attendance, but that doesn't mean there is an absence of religion here. It's quite often the opposite. There are guys out here that know their Bibles inside and out, and there are others who live on the edge. I understand and appreciate that.”

Baldrige tells many stories of crew members who ask him simple questions which lead to hour-long conversations of deeply spiritual matters.

“If I posted a sign that says ‘Bible Study at 5:45,’ no one would come, but

individually, we can have talks that are mature and honest and about a wide range of topics exploring why faith matters. That's why I'm here,” he says.

His presence makes a difference to sailors.

“You live in a very closed world when you're on board,” says U.S. Coast Guard Master Chief Petty Officer Dan Kilkeary of Troy, Ill. “You don't have access to the resources that you may need, so it's great to have Chaps with us. He looks out for us and helps us in our personal lives and our spiritual lives. He's always there, willing to lend a hand.”

Baldrige said that he sees himself as a “waterborne Barnabas”—a reference to one of the Apostle Paul's traveling companions and encouragers. In this case, one whose task is to teach crew members what it means to be a shipmate.

“A shipmate is a guy who may be hygienically-challenged and tell offensive jokes. He might be someone that you avoid on shore, but he is still someone who deserves your respect and admiration because he'll do all he can to save you if needed,” he explained. “Jesus spoke in the Book of John of how ‘greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.’ That's a shipmate.”

Mostly, he said, his role is to just be there and build relationships with mariners.

“I have to let their concerns become my concerns as I get to know them. You have to earn the right to be able to provide a pastoral direction. I have to listen to them in order to become a sort of a visual reminder that God knows that they are here and cared for. I answer biblical questions, do some pastoral counseling and try to make crew members comfortable,” he adds. “I'm here for the ‘Hey-Chaps-you-got-a-minute’ moments. That's what I'm here for and it's a joy.” ■

## Taking lightning storms seriously

### Lightning strike survivor shares story to educate public

Unfortunately the old saying, “Lightning never strikes twice,” is not true. Even more unfortunate, it only takes one strike of lightning to change a person’s life forever. Tamara Pandolph-Pearry of Chatham, Ill. learned the dangers of lightning the hard way.

She describes herself as a hard worker who was on the move from the moment she woke up to the moment she went to sleep. However, being struck by lightning in 2010 changed everything for her.

“People don’t take storms seriously enough,” says Tamara. She is working with the Safe Electricity program to share her story about storm safety and educate others so they can avoid accidents.

After work on a rainy day Tamara, a manager at a store, offered to get her van and give everyone a ride to his or her car. As Tamara put her hand on the van door, she saw a bright light bounce off her umbrella. The next thing she remembers is sitting in her van and being confused about how she got there.

Tamara’s employees insisted that she had been struck by lightning and encouraged her to go to the hospital. However, Tamara was sure the van had been struck—not her—so she went home as normal. However, things were not normal when Tamara went home. She could not remember how to use her house keys, and she noticed her clothes were warm. A Lichtenberg Figure, or lightning rash, began to appear on her face. At her family’s insistence, she finally went to the hospital. Doctors were not able to offer her advice beyond taking a pain killer and getting plenty of rest. Unfortunately, this would not be enough to treat the damage Tamara had suffered.

The lightning took its greatest toll on Tamara’s memory. Now Tamara has what she calls “bad brain days.” On



*Tamara Pandolph-Perry survived being struck by lightning. Now she is working with Safe Electricity to share her story and help prevent lightning accidents.*

these days she struggles to do basic things, even forgetting where her home is if she goes for a walk. In addition to “bad brain days” Tamara deals with chronic pain and exhaustion.

Despite all the challenges of life after a lightning strike, Tamara has managed to find the positive in it. “I’ve learned to cherish each day,” she says. “Every day is a blessing. When I have a bad day, I remember that tomorrow will be better.”

Tamara and her family have adjusted to a new normal since the accident and she values optimism and positivity more than ever. She has found hope by supporting others who have been struck by lightning and is sharing her story so that others may learn from it.

Tamara emphasizes that it is always important to take necessary precautions in severe weather to avoid being struck by lightning. “It’s changed my life. It’s changed the lives of everyone around me. It may seem like a one in a million chance, but it is not a risk worth taking,” she says.

Fortunately, there is a lot you can do to protect yourself from lightning. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining, even if you don’t see clouds. This means that if you can hear thunder, you’re within striking distance.

The best policy is to plan ahead so

you do not get caught outside in a storm. If you do get caught outdoors during a thunderstorm and are unable to take shelter in a building, take the following precautions:

- Try to take shelter in a vehicle with a solid metal roof. Close the windows and avoid contact with electrical conducting paths, such as the steering wheel, ignition, gear shifter, or radio.
- Avoid water, high ground, or open spaces.
- Do not seek shelter under tall, solitary trees; canopies; small picnic or rain shelters; or in any open-frame vehicles such as jeeps, convertibles, golf carts, tractors or mowers.
- Do not stand near power, light or flag poles, machinery, fences, gates, metal bleachers, or even other people. If you are in a group, spread out so that you are at least twenty feet apart.
- If your skin tingles or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Squat down low to the ground with your head between your knees making yourself the smallest target possible.

After a storm, wait until 30 minutes has passed without lightning or thunder until you return outside. If a person is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being electrocuted by the victim.

To read more about Tamara’s story or for more information on outdoor electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

**Molly Hall is Director of Safe Electricity. E-mail [molly-hall@SafeElectricity.org](mailto:molly-hall@SafeElectricity.org). Safe Electricity is a public awareness program of the Energy Education Council. [www.EnergyEdCouncil.org](http://www.EnergyEdCouncil.org)**





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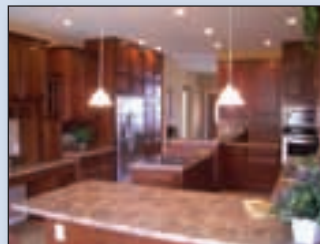
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## Thinking positively

Summer's heat and drought have a positive side — really

**A**rgh! Who really wants to think of gardening right now? After a wonderful early spring that made us wish it would just go on and on and on and on for the rest of the year, summer descended on us like a vampire, sucking all the life out of us and our plants.

Autumn will eventually arrive followed by winter, which may be cold enough to make us wish in January that July would come quickly. Midwesterners are never satisfied with the weather.

Until then, there's nothing you can do but water if you can. If you can't, there's nothing to be gained by worrying, so don't. Yes...easier said than done. (I can, and did, water and water and water and water. The water company thanks me.)

Of course, plants don't particularly like heat and drought, though some cacti and succulents seem not to mind too much, and with a little water, many of the tropical-oriented plants seemed to thrive.

There are (assuming the heat and drought are still around when you read this) or were (if the weather finally broke and we had inches and inches of rain and 70 degree temperatures) some positive things to come from heat and the lack of rain.

First, drought will eventually improve the soil's structure though it's hard to tell when cracks go at least halfway to the center of the earth. Just like freezing and thawing during the winter pushes the soil pieces around, drought shrinks the sand, silt and/or clay to the point when we finally do get some moisture, the soil will act like a sponge. A heavier soil will be a little fluffier with more pores.

While we don't like heat and drought, neither do the insects. That's point Number 2.



Mosquitoes? Not a problem, but if we were to be realistic, who really was out in the heat in the first place to see if they were. But they weren't.

Japanese beetles? We seemed poised for a major feeding frenzy due to the ultra-mild winter and little soil freezing which might have killed some grubs. The early spring added to the "uh-oh, they're coming" factor.

The initial emergence, on schedule in southern Illinois but late in central Illinois, seemed to confirm fears of massive feeding.

But something happened. Some think it might be some diseases, but what beetles did come out really didn't like the 100+ degree days and dry conditions. It seemed as if every day over 100 degrees F. was knocking off five days of their life.

And to top it off, the ground has been so hard that it's almost impossible for the Japanese beetle females, as well as the June beetle female, to

lay eggs in the turf. That means fewer grubs to cause problems this fall.

It doesn't take a turf scientist, though, to tell you that grubs would be the farthest thing from most homeowners' minds. The grass looks dead in the first place, so what would a little grub damage do?

Finally, heat makes us appreciate cooler weather, and provides us with some guidelines on what plants can actually survive drought conditions. Don't miss this opportunity to look around and say "hey, maybe that's a plant I want in my yard." ■

David Robson is Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety for the University of Illinois. [drobson@illinois.edu](mailto:drobson@illinois.edu)







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## Doug's first radio show

“The more things change, the more they...”

**Y**es, you know the last three words to the old saying, don't you? And they are, “remain the same.” About 21 years ago, I asked and received an opportunity to host a live radio program about energy efficiency. I knew that the new KBIS talk station in town needed additional programming and I knew that my topic could help a lot of their listeners. But I didn't really know how to proceed. One evening, perhaps by coincidence, I attended a minor league baseball game that happened to be sponsored by KBIS radio.

It was bingo night and between innings Mr. Bill Powell was calling bingo numbers and giving KBIS gifts to the winners. I thought that Mr. Powell owned the station since he had a four-hour program every weekday morning. I convinced myself that I should get out of my seat and go down and try to talk to him about a program. I stood beside him and waited until he finished calling the next bingo numbers and gave away another prize. He then looked up at me and reached to shake my hand. I introduced myself and told him that I would like to do a live call-in show about energy efficiency. He thought that I meant health energy.

I told him that I was talking about utility bills. I hurriedly asked him if he had a water heater at his house and he immediately said that he did. I asked him where it was located and he said that it was located in a small hallway closet. I asked him if he had noticed that it was always warm around that closet and he said, “As a matter of fact, I have.” I asked him if the air conditioning thermostat was located close to that area and he said it was on the wall right next to that closet. I explained that the heat

from the water heater was probably making his air conditioner run more than necessary. The baseball inning was coming to an end and it was time for more bingo as he asked what he should do. I told him to install a water heater blanket. He asked if I had a card. I handed him a card as he announced that this game would be straight-line bingo; the first number is B11, he said. He nodded his head at me and I figured that I might never have another chance. Well, at least I tried.

About a week later, I received a call from an employee at KBIS. I was so surprised that I can't remember, even to this day, if it was a man or woman that called. The person said that Mr. Powell had asked them to call me and get more information about our discussion at the game. The caller asked several questions and I gave several examples of things that a person could do to lower their utility bills. The call might have lasted five minutes. The caller didn't seem very impressed and I didn't feel that I had done a very good job in presenting my idea, but again I had tried. On the next Friday, I got a call from a fellow at KBIS asking if I could come to the station the next morning at 8:30. I told him that I would be happy to do so. No details were given, but I was excited. I actually got to the station about a half hour early, entered through an unlocked door and sat down in the small lobby. I felt certain that Mr. Powell would soon be there to talk. At about 8:30 a.m., a young man walked by in the hall but didn't acknowledge my presence, so I just waited. He walked by again at 8:45 a.m. and I asked him if he knew what time Mr. Powell might come in. He told me that his name was Russell and

that Mr. Powell didn't come to the station on Saturday. I said that I must be mixed up because I thought that I was supposed to meet him or someone at 8:45 a.m. He asked, “Are you the energy guy?” I told him that I was and he said, “Follow me and I will show you how to do the show.” I still remember how my heart skipped a beat or two as I headed into the studio 15 minutes before show time. I was informed that the program would be an hour long and that we could receive calls if we wanted. It was now about 9 a.m. and I was sweating and trying to get a plan together.

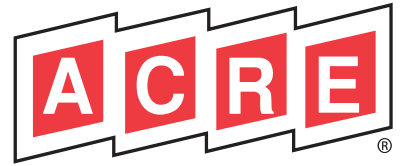
At 9:05 a.m., Russell introduced me. There was no music or any big build up. Just, here is Mr. Doug Rye. It went something like this: “Good morning, my name is Doug Rye. How many of you have a water heater in your house?” And, as the old saying goes, the rest is history. I received five calls, which I learned was very good for a first show. And by the way, that advice is still good – many of you would still benefit by installing a blanket on your water heater.

Well, a lot has changed but many energy problems remain the same. In these next several issues, I plan to list the typical energy problems found in houses and tell you how to solve them. In some cases, I will give you new changes for solving those same old problems. ■

Doug Rye can be heard on several different Illinois radio stations. You can go to Doug Rye's Web site at [www.dougrye.com](http://www.dougrye.com), e-mail him at [info@philliprye.com](mailto:info@philliprye.com), or call 501-653-7931.







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# Round'em up for Cowboy Church

By Lisa Rigoni

Different people have different ways of worshipping. Some share scripture, raise their hands, sing, pray, dance in praise, meditate. Some fellowship together over a meal, sometimes a potluck, sometimes the Lord's Supper. Some go to a church building, a temple, a mosque, sit by a lake or in a tree-stand. And those who deliver the message may wear a suit or a robe or business casual. But have you ever heard of someone giving a sermon atop a horse, wearing cowboy boots and a cowboy hat? I hadn't either, until last year when I was invited to sing at just such an event ... Cowboy Church!

Joyce Morrison is a member of MJM Electric Cooperative and wife of long-time MJM board member and AIEC board director, Gary Morrison, who passed away, June 20, 2012. She says, "A few years ago, Cowboy Church was added to the festivities (Olden Days Festival) on Sunday morning by the inspiration of Tom and Donna Turpin of Chesterfield, Ill. People loved

Cowboy Church from the beginning so when Tom and Donna moved to Wisconsin, Gary and I continued the church service. Dennis and Cindy Cappel, from Hope Giver's Ranch in Silex, Mo., have become the annual ministry team adding a traditional cowboy touch to an increasingly larger attendance each year. Dennis shares his message from horseback. Last year we added AIEC's Lisa Rigoni to the program to sing. We are very excited to have the Cappel's and Lisa joining us again at this year's service."

Dennis and Cindy Cappel will bring their horse and ministry to Tri-County Antique Club's Olden Days in Jerseyville, Sunday, Aug. 26, at 9 a.m. The message will be delivered with a western flair from a cowboy's heart ... Dennis' heart, to be exact. God's message through Dennis is one from a transformed man with a renewed mind. You will leave encouraged and equipped to face the giants in your world. "Ride in victory," the horse whisperer says, with an easy smile. Dennis is an ordained minister and also the president and

founder of Hope Givers Ranch.org for troubled young men. Cindy, his wife, leads a Heart for Horsewomen ministry, where she works with women to help them lead joyful, stable lives. Together, they offer training for marriage, through the horse ministry.

"This is the plan of how, and actually *wanting*, to stay together in marriage," says Cindy. "It truly can happen! We are living proof that the principles we will share with you really work. Regardless of what stage your relationship is at, whether preparing for marriage, in a good marriage, separated or even divorced you will leave hope filled." Their life, marriage and ministry are celebrations. Come hear for yourself.

Olden Days is held by the Tri-County Antique Club in Jersey County and open to the public. Every year on the



*Pictured above:*  
Gary, Dennis, Cindy and Joyce





*God's message through Dennis is one from a transformed man with a renewed mind.*



*Joyce with Donna Turpin, one of the originators of the Cowboy Church event.*



*Various musicians are part of the week-end festivities.*

last week-end in August homemade pies, quilts, rugs and other goods are among the great finds there.

"This year on August 25-26 there will be music and all types of antique tractors, tractor pulls and exhibits of antique items on display to bring back memories - but some were not so good. Electricity wasn't around during a lot of that time, and when the REA came through with power lines, it was the greatest thing that ever happened

to rural America," says Morrison. "While it is fun to look at how our parents and grandparents accomplished their work, it is doubtful many of us would want to go back to those days. And this year, we are carrying on the Cowboy Church tradition in memory of Gary. It will be something to remember!"

*For more information on this event: [www.tricountyantiqueclub.org](http://www.tricountyantiqueclub.org) or call 618-639-4192*

## Tribute to Gary Morrison — September 13, 1935 - June 20, 2012

If you ever saw Gary Morrison at Cowboy Church, you might have seen him wearing the cap that read, "Christian by Grace, Cowboy by Choice." And he certainly was both and not afraid to share his faith.

I've known Gary and Joyce nearly five years and really connected to them through the Cowboy Church event. Gary heard me sing the National Anthem at our AIEC Annual Meeting, told Joyce, and she didn't hesitate to sign me up to sing at last year's event.

While they did most everything together, ministering to others about their faith was right at the top of the list. That was easy to see as I waited in line for 1 ½ hours at Gary's visitation.

More than 1000 people paid their respects and told Joyce and others how important Gary's living out his faith and leading by example was to them.



He has left a great legacy and is already missed by many, including those of us in the electric cooperative industry. As for Joyce, "I am going to continue to carry out his mission and ministry, loving others for Christ. That's what he would want, and I feel him with me every day. It's all going to be ok."

Gary, Rest in Peace!



## Grape Salad



## White Chocolate and Berry Muffins (below)

1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese  
1 C. sugar  
2 eggs  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1-1/2 C. all-purpose flour

2 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 C. fresh raspberries  
1/2 C. white chocolate chips

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add eggs and beat well. Stir in vanilla and add dry ingredients until just blended. Fold in raspberries and white chips. Fill greased or paper-lined muffin cups 2/3 full. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack. Makes 1 dozen.

## White Chocolate and Berry Muffins



## Cookin' Up Fun

**Who:** GFWC Savanna Woman's Club  
**Cost:** \$12, including shipping (or \$17 for both books)  
**Details:** soft-backed, comb-bound  
**Pages of recipes:** 173  
**Send checks to:** Jane Shaw,  
1911 Ontario Ave., Savanna, IL 61074  
or call 815-273-3607

## Grape Salad (left)

1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese  
1 (8-oz.) ctn. sour cream  
1/4 to 1/2 C. sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1-1/2 tsp. almond extract  
6 lbs. seedless grapes  
1/2 C. coconut  
1/4 C. brown sugar  
1/4 C. pecans

Mix cream cheese and sour cream together until smooth. Add sugar, vanilla and almond extract. Fold in grapes. Mix together coconut, brown sugar and pecans. Sprinkle on top of salad.

## Sherbet Pie

1 gallon of your favorite flavor  
sherbet, softened  
1 sm. ctn. Cool Whip  
1 Nilla Wafer piecrust  
Crushed walnuts  
Fresh strawberries  
Sliced green grapes

Scoop sherbet into the piecrust. Spread Cool Whip on top and sprinkle on crushed walnuts. Arrange fruit on top. Store in the freezer until ready to serve. A great and refreshing summer dessert.

## Italian Garlic Chicken

6-10 pieces chicken  
6-7 med. potatoes, peeled and halved  
3-4 onions, peeled and quartered  
3-4 carrots, peeled and quartered  
4-5 garlic cloves, diced  
3-4 T. olive oil  
1 tsp. oregano or Italian seasoning  
Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Coat chicken and vegetables with olive oil. Place in a shallow baking dish. Sprinkle with garlic and seasonings. Bake for 1 hour, covered. Uncover and continue baking until brown, 5-10 minutes.

Photos by Catrina McCulley Wagner



## Slice of Savanna

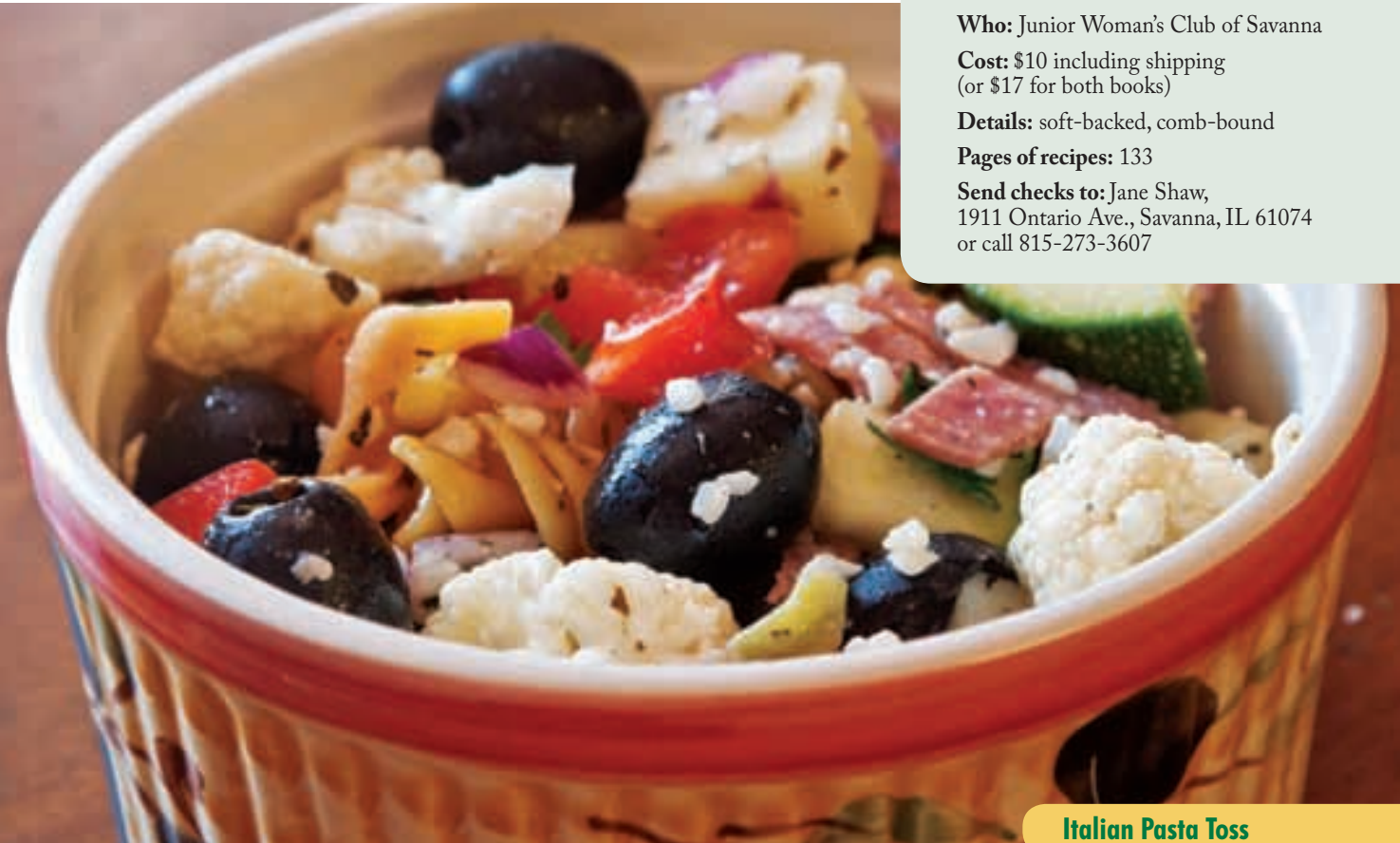
**Who:** Junior Woman's Club of Savanna

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### Italian Pasta Toss

#### Italian Pasta Toss (above)

1 box corkscrew pasta  
6 to 10-oz. cubed Provolone or  
Mozzarella cheese  
6-oz. sliced salami, cut into strips  
1 head cauliflower, chopped  
1 small zucchini, chopped  
1 sweet red pepper, chopped  
1 sm. red onion, sliced  
1 15-oz. can pitted ripe olives  
1/4 C. grated Parmesan cheese  
1/4 C. snipped parsley  
3/4 C. olive oil  
1/2 C. red wine vinegar  
2 cloves minced garlic  
2 tsp. dried basil  
1 tsp. dried oregano  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
2 med. tomatoes, diced (opt.)

Cook pasta according to directions. Drain. Rinse with cold water. Drain.  
**For Salad:** Toss together pasta, cheese, salami, cauliflower, zucchini, pepper, onion, olives, Parmesan cheese and parsley.  
**For Dressing:** Whisk together oil, vinegar, garlic, basil, oregano and pepper. Pour over salad. Toss to coat. Cover and chill 4-24 hours. Just before serving, add tomatoes. Toss gently.

#### Tater Tot Taco Salad

2 C. frozen miniature Tater Tots  
1/2 lb. ground beef  
2 T. taco seasoning  
1/2 C. shredded Cheddar cheese  
1/4 C. sliced ripe or stuffed olives  
1 C. shredded lettuce  
2 T. taco sauce  
1/4 C. sour cream

Bake Tater Tots according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, cook beef over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Stir in taco seasoning. Divide Tater Tots between two serving plates. Top with taco mixture, cheese, lettuce, taco sauce and sour cream.

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#### Raspberry Swirl Cheesecake Pie

Pastry for single piecrust (9-inch)  
2 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened  
1/2 C. sugar  
1/2 tsp. vanilla  
2 eggs  
3 T. raspberry jam  
Whipped topping (opt.)

Line unpricked pastry shell with a double thickness of heavy-duty foil. Bake at 450 degrees for 5 minutes; remove foil. Bake 5 minutes longer. Remove from oven; reduce heat to 350 degrees. In a mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese, sugar and vanilla until smooth. Add eggs, beating on low speed just until combined. Pour into pastry shell. Stir jam; drizzle over filling. Cut through filling with a knife to swirl the jam. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until center is almost set. Cool. Refrigerate overnight. Let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes before slicing. If desired, pipe whipped topping around pie edge.

## Telemarketing scam

### Obama's not going to pay your bills

It's certainly been hot lately! Unfortunately, with all the hot weather we all need to run our air conditioners more. And that means higher electric bills. Now, it seems there are people out there trying to take advantage of you with a scam that falsely offers help from the government to pay your bills.

Although there are several variations, here's the way this one works. You receive a phone call saying that President Obama has approved a special federal program to help pay energy bills. All you have to do is provide some personal information, like a bank routing number or your Social Security number.

This claim is entirely false!

Erin Campbell, Director of Communications for Corn Belt Energy says, "This particular scam seems to be so successful across the country because it's playing on many issues – larger utility bills due to hot weather coupled with a down economy and the lure of government assistance. The ruse sounds so plausible that people don't stop and think twice about giving out their personal information.

"Hopefully, we can equip our co-op members with information to protect themselves from these schemes. If our members are ever concerned or

confused, we encourage them to simply hang up the phone and call our official number to sort things out."

You may not have been contacted yet, but you should keep in mind that scams like this one evolve over time, so the next one may be slightly different.

Kevin Bernson, Vice President of Media and Public Relations for Shelby Electric Cooperative says, "So far we haven't seen or heard of any scams like we've seen in the news recently, at least in our service area, but members should be leery of anyone offering you help with your electric bill or saying they represent the cooperative. They may say they will help subsidize your energy bills, but you should never give out your bank account information or Social Security number over the phone.

"Most utilities would not be asking you for that type of information. As with anything, you can and should always contact your cooperative if you ever have questions."

Law enforcement officials are also keeping a close eye on these types of scams.

Robert M. Ormerod, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, FBI Springfield Division, stated, "Telephone scammers are good at what they do. They say anything and

Here are some sites you can use to educate yourself about current scams:

FBI: <http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/>

Internet Crime Complaint Center: [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)

<http://www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com/>



target everyone to try to cheat people out of money. They may call you and imply that they work for a company you trust, they may send direct mail, place ads to convince you to call them, or they may solicit by email using your computer.

"Don't become a victim to a scam. Educate yourself regarding what to look and listen for when answering your phone or using your computer. The FBI's web site, contains valuable tips that you can use to protect yourself and your family. Individuals can also visit the Internet Crime Complaint Center where you can learn about common scams that are occurring, or report a scam. It is imperative that citizens remain vigilant toward recognizing and reporting scams and fraud."

Remember, if you're ever contacted by one of these individuals trying to scam you report it to state, local, or federal law enforcement agencies. And, if you ever have a question about a special program involving your energy bill, contact your cooperative.

#### More Online

For some helpful tips on how to avoid telemarketing fraud, visit [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop) and look for the Powered Up link.

## Telemarketing Fraud

When you send money to people you do not know personally or give personal or financial information to unknown callers, you increase your chances of becoming a victim of telemarketing fraud.

Here are some warning signs of telemarketing fraud—what a caller may tell you:

- "You must act 'now' or the offer won't be good."
- "You've won a 'free' gift, vacation, or prize." But you have to pay for "postage and handling" or other charges.
- "You must send money, give a credit card or bank account number, or have a check picked up by courier." You may hear this before you have had a chance to consider the offer carefully.
- "You don't need to check out the company with anyone." The callers say you do not need to speak to anyone including your family, lawyer, accountant, local Better Business Bureau, or consumer protection agency.
- "You don't need any written information about their company or their references."
- "You can't afford to miss this 'high-profit, no-risk' offer."
- If you hear these or similar "lines" from a telephone salesperson, just say "no thank you" and hang up the telephone.

Ed VanHoose is the Digital Communications Administrator/IT Manager for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield.



[evanhose@aiec.coop](mailto:evanhose@aiec.coop)



**Wanted to buy:** Coin collections. Top prices paid. Call 309-376-7300.

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**Authorized Rainbow distributor.** Repairs, supplies and service. Living air purifiers. L&L Distributing, 116 S. VanBuren St., Newton, IL 62448. 618-783-3755.

**Vacation cabins-Ohio River,** Shawnee National Forest, Elizabethtown, IL. Cedar Hill River Cabins, Ohio River Scenic Byway, www.cedarhillriverresort.com. 217-652-4257, 618-287-6001.

**Wanted to buy: Standing timber.** All species. Pay top price. Clear or select cut. Call 815-434-4141.

**Wanted to buy: Standing timber,** most species. Pay top prices. Call 217-285-2760.

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**Midwest Bird and Animal Swap & Sale,** Aug. 26 & Sept. 23 at Monroe County Fairgrounds, Waterloo, IL from 5:30 to Noon. 618-939-6809.

**Guest House Vacation Rental.** Elizabethtown, IL. 2BR, 2Bath. Overlooking Ohio River. Near Garden of the Gods/Shawnee Forest. www.Hardincountybluehouse.com 618-876-9118.

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## How to place an ad:

- 1) Type or print ad neatly.
- 2) Count words. Cost is \$30 for up to the first 20 words. \$1.50 each additional word. Ads with insufficient funds will not be printed.
- 3) Prepayment is required. Include check or money order with ad for amount due. Also include address label from Illinois Country Living or other proof of Illinois electric cooperative membership. Only members of Illinois electric cooperatives may place Marketplace ads.
- 4) Mail to: Illinois Marketplace, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708, by deadline.

Deadlines: October issue – August 20;  
November issue – September 20.

We reserve the right to reject any advertisement. Ads postmarked after the deadline will be placed in the next available issue.

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The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives salutes . . .

## United Producers, Inc.

Livestock farmers in the Midwest may be familiar with this month's cooperative. United Producers, Inc. (UPI) was formed in 1999 through the consolidation in operations of Producers Livestock Association in Ohio/Indiana and MFA Livestock in Missouri. During the following two years, UPI also joined with Interstate Producers Livestock Association in Illinois and the Michigan Livestock Exchange in Michigan, Indiana and Kentucky. The original identities were established in the 1930s and have provided needed livestock services to their farmer members for more than 70 years.

UPI has a total of 38,000 members across the Midwest, with more than 5,100 in Illinois. It has 13 auction barn and collection point facilities within the state, and its Coordinated Feeder Services (CFS) division is headquartered in Salem, Ill. UPI also conducts several sheep pools throughout the state. Company-wide, it markets 3 million head of livestock a year.

The cooperative business model allows UPI to offer a variety of services to its members including livestock marketing, risk management and financing.



It has good relationships with feedlots and backgrounders and works closely with major packing plants, including a major plant in Illinois.

"At United Producers, we understand and embrace the concept of the cooperative," said President and CEO Dennis Bolling. "Our heritage is rooted in helping to create a better quality of life for our farmer members, their families and their communities. Over the years, as our business has ebbed and flowed, one thing has remained constant – when we help our members succeed, we succeed. It's really that simple – and that's the beauty of a cooperative business model. Everyone has a stake in the success of the organization – each employee and each member. And, given the current environment in our country, I see cooperatives becoming even more popular for two reasons.

First, since the members are the owners this gives them a vested interest in the success of the organization. Second, people realize that there is a service mentality that cooperatives have at their very core."

To learn more about United Producers, go to its website at [www.uproducers.com](http://www.uproducers.com).



*In celebrating the International Year of the Cooperative, we want to show our support for the cooperative model. Please join us each month as we continue to feature a different cooperative that you may recognize or might also be a member.*

# New consumer-owned power plant now online

Unit 1 of the Prairie State Generating Company's (PSGC) 1600-megawatt power plant went live on June 6, coming under the control of PSGC, a significant milestone in the process of completing the largest coal-fueled power plant to be built in the United States since 1982. The power produced by PSGC will now be scheduled and sold on the power markets by the PSGC owners for the benefit of municipal and electric cooperative retail customers throughout the eight states in PSGC's footprint. Unit 2 is expected to move into commercial operations in late 2012.

Located in Washington County, Illinois, about 60 miles southeast of St. Louis, PSGC invested \$1 billion in environmental emission controls, allowing it to meet and exceed the newest U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state EPA regulations.

PSGC's journey to produce power with Illinois Basin coal began in the early 2000s, a vision of Peabody Energy leadership and public power agencies with a desire to use domestic energy resources to provide stable and competitively priced power

for their customers. Designed as the model for the next generation of coal-fueled power plants in the United States, PSGC is a coal mine and a 1600-megawatt power plant built together on the same campus, generating wholesale, base load electrical power for its nine owners.

In addition to Peabody Energy, Prairie State Generating Company's owners include eight Midwestern public power agencies and electric cooperatives. The Illinois Municipal Electric Agency is one of the owners and provides wholesale power to 33 electric systems. Two other Illinois-based owners are Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI) and Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC). These two Illinois-based generation and transmission cooperatives are responsible for providing aggregated wholesale power to 18 Illinois electric distribution cooperatives.

Prairie State is unique in that it is owned by public power agencies who are operated by local government boards and member-owned electric cooperatives that are providing communities and rural areas with reliable, not-for-profit electric service. In

total these consumer-owned utilities investing in Prairie State provide electricity to 2.5 million families each year.

The decision by the owners in 2007 to begin construction of the PSGC was based on sound long-term forecasts showing electricity costs from PSGC would be very competitive with other fuels, such as nuclear and natural gas, over the anticipated 30 plus year life of the facility, which remains the case today, even with some operating delays. Additionally, coal-fueled electricity prices remain stable and reliable compared with the historic volatility of natural gas prices. Prairie State's public power owners and Peabody Energy continue to provide their customer-owners with a safe, environmentally sound, reliable, and cost-competitive electricity resource for decades to come. Final completion of the power plant is scheduled for 2013.

SIPC Board Chairman Richard Liefer said, "We had all heard and talked about Prairie State since 2001, but really did not seriously consider investing until five years ago. This investment in Prairie State's future





is once again leading the charge for growth of our co-op, just like the addition of our Unit 4 at Lake of Egypt in 1978, and the upgrades and construction in 2003.”

PPI President and CEO Jay Bartlett said, “We are now part owners of the most advanced coal plant in the United States and probably the world. We have a plant that is more efficient than almost anything on the grid. We are also proud of our investment in Pioneer Trail Wind Farm. Together with SIPC and Wabash Valley Power Cooperative, our purchase of 40 megawatts, of a 150-megawatt wind farm will have a fantastic economic impact on the rural area of Ford County and eastern Illinois. It will also be great diversification for our power portfolio.”

While PPI invested in both new coal and wind generation it had to shut down an older small coal-fired generation plant at Pearl, Ill. Bartlett said, “We wanted to convert it to biomass and it was the perfect size for that project, but it is out of the money.”

ACES Power Marketing is a risk management and power marketing cooperative that serves 19 member cooperatives across the U.S. including

both SIPC and PPI. David Tudor, President and CEO of ACES Power Marketing, said, “My advice to power cooperatives is portfolio diversity and patience. You are in a really good position. Be patient. The trouble I see brewing is in transmission and grid support. A lot of old plants are being retired and that also creates transmission issues. And wind energy is stuck in the Dakotas and it is very difficult to build transmission.”

Bartlett said Prairie State would help the co-op provide long term rate stability. “This plant has a long-term coal supply being mined on the same site. We own the coal and will not be subjected to market-based rates for coal.”

Natural gas prices have been at historic lows and dramatically impacting the market price of power. But Bartlett says natural gas is also traditionally the most price volatile generating fuel. It is most often used for peak demand periods and not for base load generation. Natural gas generation will help make increased development of wind and solar generation feasible, by filling in the gaps when the wind doesn't blow and sun doesn't shine.

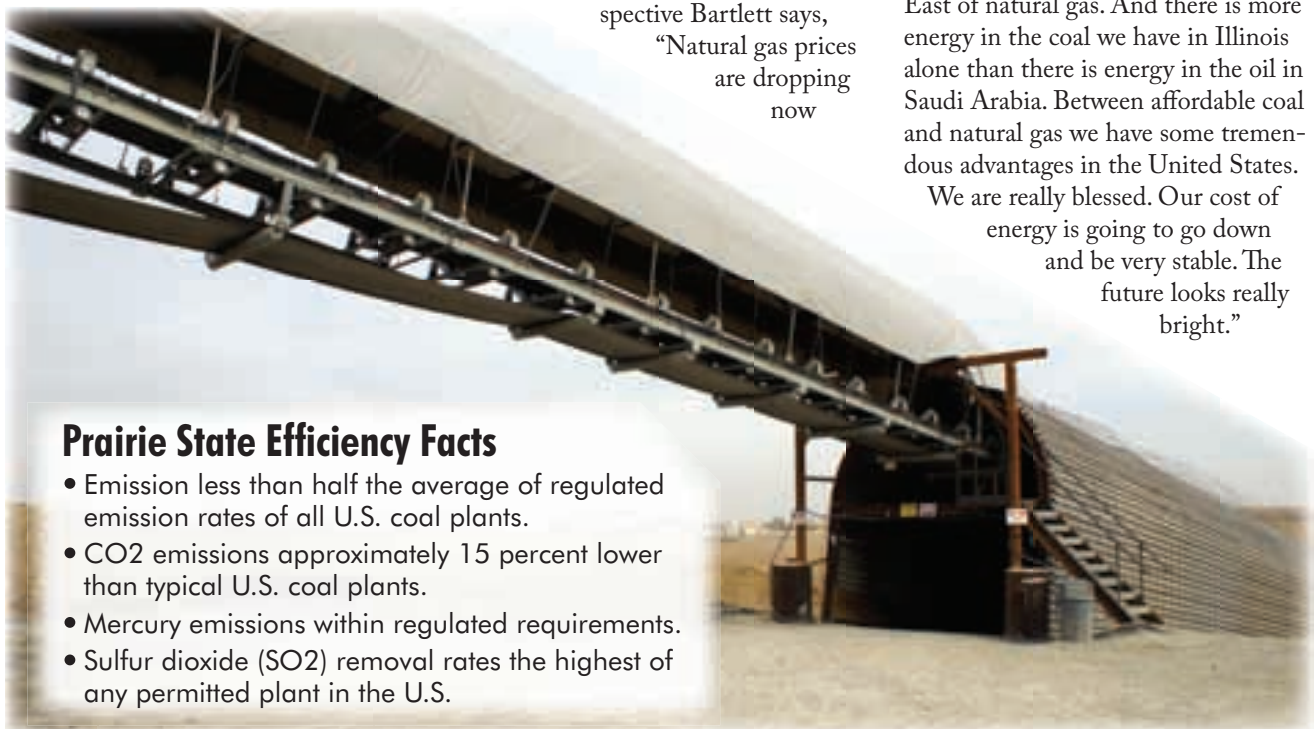
To put things in perspective Bartlett says, “Natural gas prices are dropping now



because we have found new gas supplies. If you could run your car on natural gas compared to gasoline it would be like 88¢ a gallon. If you made the same comparison using the cost of coal and the new Prairie State plant it would be half of that.”

Bartlett is optimistic about our energy future and what it could mean for our economy. He says, “We are fortunate in the United States that we have this new found natural gas supply. We are basically now the Middle East of natural gas. And there is more energy in the coal we have in Illinois alone than there is energy in the oil in Saudi Arabia. Between affordable coal and natural gas we have some tremendous advantages in the United States.

We are really blessed. Our cost of energy is going to go down and be very stable. The future looks really bright.”



### Prairie State Efficiency Facts

- Emission less than half the average of regulated emission rates of all U.S. coal plants.
- CO2 emissions approximately 15 percent lower than typical U.S. coal plants.
- Mercury emissions within regulated requirements.
- Sulfur dioxide (SO2) removal rates the highest of any permitted plant in the U.S.

**1 Pepper Fest** at Darn Hot Peppers Farm in Cobden. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. [www.darnhotpeppers.com](http://www.darnhotpeppers.com) or 618-893-1443.

**1-3 Jersey County Victorian Festival**, Jerseyville. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Civil War Reenactment, arts and crafts, demonstrations, antiques, tours, food and music. [www.greatriver-road.com](http://www.greatriver-road.com) or 618-498-5590.

**5, 12, 19 & 26 Downs Village Market**, Downs. Locally grown and select regional produce, baked goods, plants and crafts. Southwest edge of Downs just off I-74. 309-378-4223 or 309-378-4294.

**7 Atlatl Competition** at Cahokia Mounds in Collinsville. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. [www.cahokiamounds.org](http://www.cahokiamounds.org) or 618-346-5160.

**7-8 Arenzville Burgoo Festival**, Arenzville. This two-day festival is held at Village Park and is family oriented. The days are filled with games, carnival rides, concessions, contests as well as local talent. For more information go to [www.burgoo.org](http://www.burgoo.org) or call 217-997-5514.

**8-9 Grape Stomp Festival** at Ridge View Winery in Mt. Sterling. [www.ridgeviewwinery.com](http://www.ridgeviewwinery.com) or 217-289-3300.

**13-15 Black Earth Film Festival** at Carl Sandburg College Theater in Galesburg. [www.blackearthfest.com](http://www.blackearthfest.com) or 309-342-7415.

**14-16 42nd Annual Abraham Lincoln National Railsplitting Festival** at the Logan County Fairgrounds in Lincoln. [www.railsplitting.com](http://www.railsplitting.com) or 217-732-8687.

**14-16 Scheels Federal Ammunition Hunting Expo** at Scheels in Springfield. Super Retriever Series dog jumping competition and Fun Jumps open to the public. [www.scheels.com/events](http://www.scheels.com/events) or 217-726-6330.

**15 Shrimp Festival**, Golconda. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Farmers market starts at 7 a.m. Live music and entertainment throughout the day. [www.visitgolconda.com](http://www.visitgolconda.com) or 618-683-6246.

**20-22 Threshermen's Bluegrass Festival**, Pontiac. [www.threshermen-bluegrass.com](http://www.threshermen-bluegrass.com) or 815-844-3560.

**22 McPike Mansion Late Night & Tour**, Alton. History of the house, tour of the McPike Mansion grounds and crypt, and dark room session in the cellar. [www.mcpikemansion.com](http://www.mcpikemansion.com) or 618-830-2179.

**22-23 Hunting and Fishing Days** at John A. Logan Community College in Carterville. [www.jalc.edu](http://www.jalc.edu) or 618-985-3741.

**22-23 A-Mazeing Corn Festival** with a 4-acre maze at Auburn United Methodist Church, Auburn. Saturdays 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sundays noon-6 p.m. Food, Hay rides, pumpkin painting and kids games. 217-438-3126.

**23 Autumn Festival** at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Renault. Chicken dinner 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Quilt Bingo 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. [olg@htc.net](mailto:olg@htc.net) or 618-458-7710.

**28-30 Al Sears Jazz Festival**, Macomb. [www.searsjazzfestival.com](http://www.searsjazzfestival.com) or 309-837-4855.

**28-30 Milton Corn Carnival**, Milton. Food, entertainment, kids games and parade. 217-723-4436.

**29 57th Annual Fall Old Market Day**, Galena. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Outdoor market at Old Market House Historic Site. 815-858-3392.

**29 Howl of the Coyote: A Full Moon Hike** at the Sangamon River Forest Preserve in Fisher. Guest presenter and hike in the light of the full harvest moon. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Registration required. [www.ccfpd.org](http://www.ccfpd.org) or 217-896-2455.

**29-30 Apple and Pork Festival**, Clinton. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Food, entertainment, crafts, museum tours and flea market. [www.chmoorehomestead.org](http://www.chmoorehomestead.org) or 217-935-6066.

 Visit our website, [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop)

To be considered for inclusion, please submit events in the format used above. Preference is given to events sponsored by non-profit entities. Submitting an event is not a guarantee of publication. Photos are welcome, but will not be returned unless a self-addressed and stamped envelope is provided. Events are subject to change, so please contact the event sponsor for confirmation.

**Deadline:** August 15 for November events. **Mail to:** Illinois Datebook, PO Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. E-mail to: [datebook@aiec.coop](mailto:datebook@aiec.coop).



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**Philhower Electric, Plumbing & Heating**  
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**Lemanski Heating & Air Conditioning**  
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