

## January Electric Bill Will Reflect Rate Adjustment

Hopefully by now you have been informed of Shelby Electric Cooperative's rate adjustment. This rate adjustment will appear on your January bill. What does this rate adjustment actually mean to you? A residential member will see an approximate 19% increase in their bill depending on usage.

As explained to you in the December issue and on our website, a residential member's bill will see adjustments in three different areas.

1. You will see a \$7 increase in the facility charge. This is in place to help recover the cooperative's fixed costs to bring electricity to your home.

2. You will see an increase, the first in 16 years, of about 10 – 12% in the energy portion of your bill. This portion of your bill reflects your actual energy consumption in kilowatt-hours.

3. You will see a Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment, or as it appears on your bill, Wholesale PCA. This component has been a line item on your bill and can be adjusted if needed.

As an electric cooperative we are facing the same challenges and economic uncertainties as other utilities. We will continue to educate our members on how to reduce the energy portion of their bill. Watch

for energy tips in upcoming issues of Illinois Country Living magazine or visit the cooperative's website [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop). Click on the Touchstone Energy® Savers icon for more energy-savings hints.

Prairie Power, our wholesale power provider, has purchased a stake in a new clean coal power plant in Lively Grove, Illinois called the Prairie State Energy Campus. When this plant goes on line in 2011 it will help provide our power supply needs well into the future.

If you have any questions please feel free to call us at 1-800-677-2612 or visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop).

### Here is an example of how this new rate adjustment will affect your bill. This example will utilize 1,100 kWh of consumed electricity by the homeowner.

This information can be found on the current bill information box on your electric bill.

Rates Effective Through December 31, 2008 (table does not include state taxes)	
Usage	1100 Kilowatt-hours – Based on old 500 Block KWH Pricing
ENERGY CHARGE:	500.0 KWH @ .107000 = 53.50
	500.0 KWH @ .095000 = 47.50
	100.0 KWH @ .084000 = 8.40
WHOLESALE PCA:	000.0 KWH @ .000000 = 00.00
FACILITY CHARGE:	22.00
	Net Due 131.40
Rates Effective Through January 1, 2009 (table does not include state taxes)	
Usage	1100 Kilowatt-hours – Based on new 1,000 Block KWH pricing
ENERGY CHARGE:	1000.0 KWH @ .107700 = 107.70
	100.0 KWH @ .105900 = 10.59
WHOLESALE PCA:	1100.0 KWH @ .0048221 = 5.30
FACILITY CHARGE:	29.00
	Net Due 152.59

This particular member/owner would see an increase of \$21.19 under the new rate adjustments.

NOTE: The effect of the rate increase, both on a percentage and dollar basis, is dependent upon the member's energy usage.

# Saving You Money With the Co-op Connections Card

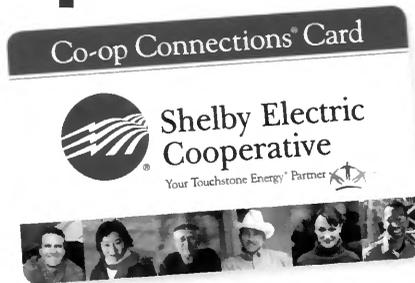
Have you used your Co-op Connections card yet? If you haven't, you're missing out on some money saving discounts when you visit participating local and national stores. See a new and improved website for locating and searching available nationwide discounts. It is easy to use. Go to [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop) or link via [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop).

Your Connections card also has a great pharmacy benefit with over

its inception.

The back of the card has information to help get your pharmacy discounts. Visit [www.locateproviders.com](http://www.locateproviders.com) to see a full listing of pharmacies honoring the Co-op Connections card. Pharmacy discounts are not intended as a substitute for insurance.

Here is a listing of Shelby Electric Cooperative Co-op Connections card local business participants as of Nov. 26, 2008.



**\$4.2 million** saved across the country with Shelby Electric Cooperative members saving over **\$7,000** since

### Assumption

- The Knick-Knack Shoppe 820-1168  
10% off final purchase of non-consigned merchandise excluding furniture

### Bloomington

- Glass Specialty Company Inc. 309-664-1087  
\$20 Wal-Mart gift card with any auto glass replacement

### Champaign

- Glass Specialty Company Inc. 352-4258  
\$20 Wal-Mart gift card with any auto glass replacement
- Wireless Mike's 356-9300  
50% off car cord or leather case when activating a new line or upgrading an existing plan

### Decatur

- Glass Specialty Company Inc. 429-2371  
\$20 Wal-Mart gift card with any auto glass replacement



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**P.O. BOX 560**  
**Shelbyville, IL 62565**  
**Phone: 217-774-3986**  
**Fax: 217-774-3330**  
**[www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop)**

**Office Hours:**  
**7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

- Creative Media Services, Inc. 428-9950  
First hour of graphic design work is 20% off

### Effingham

- Great Clips 342-4030  
\$2 off haircut

### Findlay

- Eagle Creek Resort 756-3456  
15% off regular room rate. Subject to availability. Golf- receive free cart rental.

### Greenville

- Enertech, Inc 618-664-9010  
\$50 per ton equipment discount (max 5 ton) on GeoComfort or Paradise geothermal systems

### Mattoon

- Wireless Mike's 258-8771  
50% off car cord or leather case when activating a new line or upgrading an existing plan

### Oconee

- Hired Hands Services 539-4218  
5% off any carpet or resilient flooring

### Pana

- Pana Iron Store Co. 562-2168  
10% discount off retail purchase

- Bland Heating & Air Conditioning 562-4256  
10% discount on service calls

- Merle Norman Cosmetic / Cut N Curl 562-4722  
10% off retail

### Peoria

- Glass Specialty Company Inc 309-676-6181  
\$20 Wal-Mart gift card with any auto glass replacement

### Pleasant Plains

- Paul Tree Farms, LLC 414-9556 971-7876  
10% off pine, spruces, maples and oaks

### Shelbyville

- Barker's Ballooney & Bridal 774-2588  
10% off all balloons & gift basket purchases
- Shelbyville Public Printer 774-2337  
15% off business customers or individuals
- Best Wedding Chapel 774-7809  
10% off the full guest-wedding package
- Merle Norman Cosmetic's & Boutique 774-4233  
Save \$2 on a purchase of \$25 or more
- Leach-Wilson Chevrolet Buick CO 774-3975  
5% off parts and labor any day of the week
- Woodpile Primitives 254-6955  
10% off on any stock item
- Macari's Service Center 774-4214  
10% discount on furnace/AC clean/checks. 5% discount on appliances over \$250. Card to be present at billing, no exceptions.
- Coon Creek Lodge 756-3147  
10% discount on kitchenettes
- M & M Crafts 774-2609  
10% off
- Possum's Treasures 774-1300  
Free greeting card with \$10 purchase
- Main Street Decker-Rations 774-2535  
10% off McCall's candles
- Custom Care Cleaners 774-3422  
\$1 off every \$10, \$2 off every \$20, \$3 off every \$30, etc.
- Just A Stitch 774-2227  
20% off regular priced merchandise
- Carl Grabb Motors 774-2165  
\$5 off full service oil change
- Beyers Chiropractic 774-5313  
10% off vitamins, braces, pillows
- Bogart Vision Care 774-4422  
20% eyeglasses/sunglasses 50% second pair

▪ **Whalen's West Side Floral** 774-4644  
10% off, some restrictions apply

▪ **Druby's** 774-5143  
2 free medium drinks w/ purchase of any everyday Family Deal

**Sullivan**

▪ **Coyote Cabins** 728-7150  
Regular price is \$125/night; discount price is \$99/night weekend and \$89 Sunday through Thursday.

**Taylorville**

▪ **Yard Heating & Cooling** 824-4737  
10% off on furnace and/or air conditioner checkup

▪ **Market Street Inn** 824-7220  
10% off single night stay, 20% off two or more night stay

▪ **Pro Stitch Auto Interiors & Upholstery, Inc** 824-3228  
\$10 off any basic headliner replacement or free black vinyl for ag/commercial seat repairs

▪ **Don's Lion's Den** 824-6111  
10% on all non-consigned merchandise

▪ **The Best 4 Less** 824-4003  
10% off already discounted prices

▪ **A Classic Bouquet** 824-6556  
10% off purchases - cash & carry

▪ **Taylorville Community Credit Union** 824-9658  
.25% off any new installment loan

▪ **Gordon Pontiac GMC** 824-3381  
\$200 off bottom line price after you have made your best deal. Limit- 1 offer per transaction, no cash value

**Urbana**

▪ **Wireless Mike's** 365-9300  
50% off car cord or leather case when activating a new line or upgrading an existing plan

**Windsor**

▪ **Hickory Hills Crafts & Collectibles** 459-2347  
10% off on \$20 or more

Please keep this copy for your convenience, as we will notify our members of any future participating businesses through the Shelby Electric Newsletter or on the cooperatives website www.shelbyelectric.coop. If you have lost your card stop by the cooperative for a new one.

**Home Energy Savings Booklet Available**



Your cooperative has available to you an energy savings booklet entitled "101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Home Energy-Savings Measures."

This booklet was produced by Touchstone Energy® and contains a list of low-cost/no-cost energy saving tips to help you better manage your home's energy costs. Pick one up today at your cooperative's main office in Shelbyville or click on the Energy Savers icon on the cooperative's website www.shelbyelectric.coop.



**"Energy Efficiency" "Going Green"**



**What do they mean? How do they affect your life?**

Shelby Electric Cooperative's Member Services Representative, Marla Eversole, will help you learn more. If your group or organization is interested in a program, please call or email Marla Eversole at 1-800-677-2612 or meversole@shelbyelectric.coop.



**OUTAGE REPORT**

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
11/11/2008	1.25	Elwin	Equipment failure	164
11/18/2008	2.45	Velma	Broken conductor	521
11/23/2008	1.45	Taylorville	Vehicles	54
11/30/2008	0.22	Shelbyville	Animal/bird	443

## Real Life, Real Power

### Member tips give you the power to win

People often believe they have no control over their utility bills. Although we can not control the price of electricity, gasoline, natural gas and other energy sources, we do have some control over the amount used in our homes and on our farms.

'Real Life, Real Power' will help empower members to become more energy efficient, saving money along the way. To kick off this program, Shelby Electric would like to share your proven energy efficiency solutions and tips with other members. Each month we will print member tips in the 'Real Life, Real Power' section of our monthly newsletter, "Shelby News", in the Illinois Country Living (ICL) magazine. From the tips submitted, two names will be drawn each month for a \$10 Shelby Electric bill credit. All members submitting tips will have their names entered into a drawing for a prize at the end of 2009.

The 2007 Shelby Electric Cooperative Member Survey indicated that 92 percent of our membership lives in single family homes. Sixty-five percent of these homes are 26 or more years old. Presumably, many of them could benefit from some energy efficiency improvements.

The survey also showed that 76 percent of our members frequently read "Shelby News". If you are in that 76 percent, you are one step closer to having a more energy efficient home. How? Shelby Electric Cooperative will be offering energy efficiency programs and incentives throughout 2009 and you can learn about them in upcoming ICL is-



...sues or by visiting the cooperative's website [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop).

Here are some suggestions to help get you thinking:

- Have you put the pencil to the paper and calculated savings on changes you have made?
- Do you have good ideas for getting kids (and adults!) in the habit of turning off lights, televisions and other types of electronics?
- Don't forget energy conserving tips for the barn, shed and livestock.
- Think ahead for holiday and

seasonal ideas. Our deadline for print is a full month before an issue is mailed. For example: items you are reading in this January Shelby News insert were sent to our printer on Dec. 1, 2008.

Please submit your tips to:  
 Shelby Electric Cooperative  
 Real Life, Real Power  
 PO Box 560  
 Shelbyville, IL 62565  
 Or email  
[meversole@shelbyelectric.coop](mailto:meversole@shelbyelectric.coop)

**Shelby Electric Cooperative**  
 1-800-677-2612  
 1-217-774-3986  
 24-hours-a-day

**Shelby DirecTV & PWR-net**  
 1-877-994-2323 weekdays  
 1-877-241-6605 after-hours for  
 DirecTV only

**Shelby Energy**  
 1-217-774-2311  
 24-hours-a-day

## Youth Day Coming Soon

Once again, Shelby Electric Cooperative is offering area high school students an opportunity to get a close look at their state government. The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and its member cooperatives, including Shelby Electric Cooperative, are sponsoring the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives "Youth Day" and the "Youth to Washington" tour. Both of these programs have been in existence for more than 40 years. Today, many alumni of these programs work in local, state and federal government. Additionally, some are serving as elected officials.

James E. Coleman, President and CEO of Shelby Electric Cooperative and the Board of Directors of Shelby Electric Cooperative would like to provide two students from every high school in the Cooperative's service area the opportunity to attend "Youth Day" which is scheduled for April 1, 2009. Shelby Electric will provide transportation and meals. During the day in Springfield, hundreds of students from all over Illinois will have an opportunity to meet with their elected senators and representatives at the Capitol. In addition, students will tour the State Capitol complex, the Illinois Supreme Court and visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Last year, 12 students from 7 area high schools attended "Youth Day," representing Shelby Electric Cooperative.

Two of the Shelby Electric student representatives who attend the "Youth Day" event will be selected to attend the "Youth to Washington" tour. Winners of the "Youth to Washington" tour in 2008 were Mason Flowers from Cowden-Herrick

High School and Margaret Riley from St. Teresa High School. This year Shelby Electric Cooperative will again sponsor two students on a weeklong, all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. The "Youth to Washington" tour will begin on Friday, June 12, 2009 and conclude on Friday, June 19, 2009. During the week in the nation's Capitol, the Illinois contingent will meet with Illinois senators and the downstate Illinois congressional delegation



Upper right photo, Shelby Electric Cooperative participants gather for a group shot in front of The State Capitol building during the 2008 "Youth Day" in Springfield. Pictured above, "Youth to Washington" tour participants gather for a photo opportunity in Washington D.C.

at a Capitol Hill luncheon. Meetings are also scheduled with leaders of co-op organizations such as the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. In addition, there will be opportunities to tour many historic sites. For more information about the "Youth to Washington" tour visit [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop).

Area high schools have been informed about "Youth Day" and the "Youth to Washington" tour. Each high school has been asked to select

two students to represent their school at "Youth Day." Students should be a junior or senior. The manner in which students are selected is determined by each high school.

Any student interested in participating in "Youth Day" should contact the guidance counselor at their high school. For additional information, please contact by calling Marla Eversole, Member Services Representative, at 217-774-3986 or 1-800-677-2612.

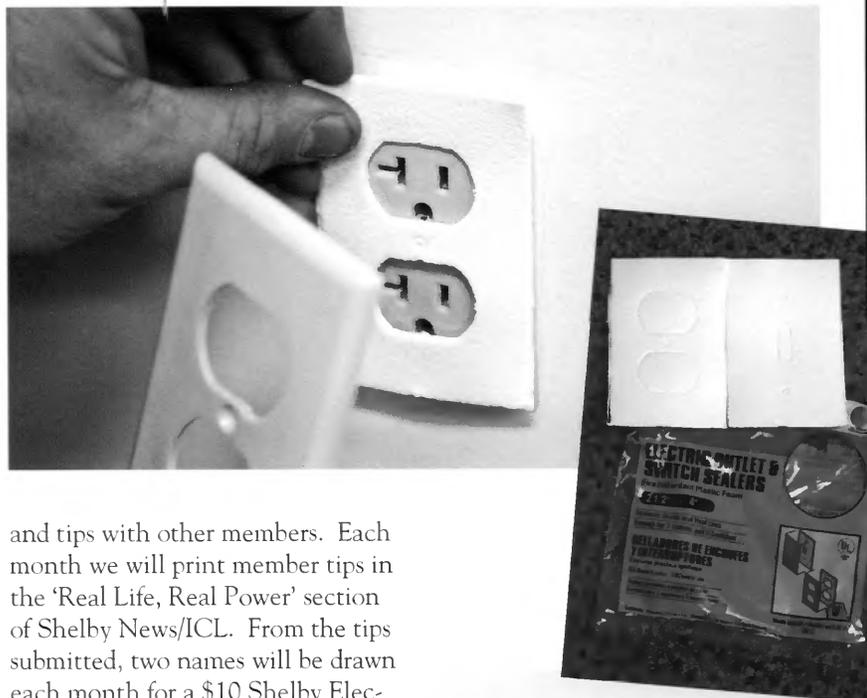
# REAL LIFE REAL POWER

Shelby Electric Cooperative wants to help you become more energy efficient in your home and lifestyle. Little changes can add up to savings and more comfort in your home.

Have you ever felt a draft on a cold day from around your light switches and outlets? If you have felt cold air leaking into your home on a winter day, be assured it is also leaking hot, humid air into your home in the summer.

Foam sealers are an inexpensive way to gain comfort and energy savings in your home. To help you get started, Shelby Electric Cooperative will provide, free of charge, one pack of Frost King Multipack Foam Sealers per member, while supplies last. To pick up your free pack, stop by the Cooperative headquarters. Pick up your free Touchstone Energy "101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Home Energy-Saving Measures" brochure while you are there.

'Real Life, Real Power' will help empower members to become more energy efficient, saving money along the way. We would like to share your energy efficiency solutions



and tips with other members. Each month we will print member tips in the 'Real Life, Real Power' section of Shelby News/ICL. From the tips submitted, two names will be drawn each month for a \$10 Shelby Electric bill credit. All members submitting tips will have their names entered into a drawing for a prize at the end of 2009. Our deadline for print is a full month before an issue is mailed. For example, items you are reading in this February Shelby News insert were submitted to our printer on January 1, 2009.

Please submit your tips to:  
 Shelby Electric Cooperative  
 Real Life, Real Power  
 PO Box 560  
 Shelbyville, IL 62565

Or email:  
[meversole@shelbyelectric.coop](mailto:meversole@shelbyelectric.coop)

## SHELBY News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**P.O. BOX 560**  
**Shelbyville, IL 62565**  
**Phone: 217-774-3986**  
**Fax: 217-774-3330**  
**www.shelbyelectric.coop**

**Office Hours:**  
**7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



## OUTAGE REPORT

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
12/4/2008	0.36	Velma	Broken conductor	410
12/7/2008	5.38	Moweaqua	Broken conductor	71
12/7/2008	4.00	Pana	Vehicles	79
12/10/2008	1.55	Richland	Trees	79
12/14/2008	4.00	Taylorville	Miscellaneous	123
12/15/2008	1.30	Dunkel	Broken conductor	142
12/15/2008	2.15	Dunkel	Broken conductor	59
12/16/2008	1.30	Neoga	Broken conductor	115
12/16/2008	3.30	Taylorville	Unknown	71
12/19/2008	0.30	Taylorville	Broken conductor	88
12/19/2008	2.45	Taylorville	Broken conductor	580
12/31/2008	1.15	Shelbyville	Trees	64

# Rate Increase Q & A

Shelby Electric Cooperative members experienced a rate increase effective January 1, 2009. The following information was put together in hopes of answering any questions you may still have. You can also refer back to your December 2008 and January 2009 issues of the Illinois Country Living Magazine. In addition, you can read archived issues of the Cooperative's insert by clicking on the Shelby News icon on the website, [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop).

## 1. Why are we experiencing a rate increase? And, why now?

First, you will need a little background information. Shelby Electric Cooperative, along with 10 other electric cooperatives in Illinois, purchases electricity from Prairie Power Incorporated or PPI. For the past three years, PPI has been working to secure a long-term, economical power supply. They purchased a stake in a new clean-coal power plant located in Lively Grove, Illinois called Prairie State Energy Campus. (see a story relating to the Prairie State Energy Campus in the March issue)

PPI anticipated the power plant would be online in time to coincide with the expiration of Shelby Electric's current rate contract, which expired at the end of December 2008. Due to unfavorable environmental challenges, the process has been delayed until 2011. PPI was then forced to purchase base-load power on the open market causing Shelby Electric's wholesale power to increase approximately two cents per kWh. That may not seem like much, but it will result in a substantial increase in Shelby Electric's operating costs.

As member-consumers, it is necessary that Shelby Electric asks you to share in these costs. Maintaining dependable service at the most affordable price possible is the cornerstone of Shelby Electric's business model. To be successful in providing that kind of service, it is essential to protect the integrity and financial stability of the organization.

## 2. How much can I expect my bill to go up?

Residential members will experience a total rate increase of approximately 19 percent - the primary driver being the

substantial increase in Shelby Electric's purchased power as explained above. For 16 years, Shelby Electric has managed to avoid an energy rate increase for its members. It is simply not realistic to continue with our rates intact when our operating expenses have significantly increased in that 16-year period.

With that being said, keep in mind Shelby Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative. It exists to serve its members with reliable, affordable power. Shelby Electric is in business for the good of the public rather than the financial benefit of an individual owner or stockholders.

## 3. How will the increase look on my bill?

For residential members on Shelby Electric's Schedule A Rate Tariff, which makes up the majority of its member base, the total rate increase percentage consists of the following three components:

- a) The facility charge, a monthly charge necessary to help cover Shelby Electric's basic costs associated with providing electricity, will go from \$22 to \$29.
- b) The portion of the bill reflecting your energy consumption will increase 10-12 percent.
- c) The line item on your bill called the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) has always appeared on your bill but has never been utilized. The WPCA can be adjusted monthly, up or down, to keep Shelby Electric's budget in order and will be utilized beginning at the first of the year. It is anticipated that, once the clean-coal power plant is up and going and barring any major cost overruns and/or carbon legislation, the WPCA will allow flexibility to reflect a reduction in the wholesale power cost.

## 4. Is Shelby Electric the only one raising rates?

Absolutely not. Due to rising consumer demand and increasing costs, electric utilities nationwide are being forced to seek rate hikes. Newspaper articles announcing double-digit rate increases for utilities all across the country have become commonplace as the industry has moved toward a deregulated environment in which higher costs

must be passed on to the consumer.

## 5. What can I do to make my bill more manageable?

Shelby Electric offers a number of options to help members manage their power bills. The development of ideas for energy efficiency programs to be implemented throughout 2009 is one example of Shelby Electric's dedication to educating members on how to reduce costs. A Member Services Representative is on staff and happy to work with you on ways to decrease your power usage and increase the energy efficiency of your home.

In addition, Shelby Electric offers a leveled-billing program that averages monthly costs in order to soften the financial impact on members during high-usage months. Members who have paid their bills in a timely manner for the past 12 months may be eligible.

## 6. When can I expect another increase?

As mentioned before, Shelby Electric has not had an energy rate increase in 16 years. There are times when unforeseen circumstances cause change or have the potential to change the stability of the Cooperative, such as storm damage or the rising costs for coal, natural gas, etc. Shelby Electric works hard to anticipate any potential issues that could escalate the costs of energy. Whenever possible, work is done to minimize the impact those issues could have on your energy bill. Alternatives are thoroughly examined before a rate increase is considered. Again, it is Shelby Electric's mission to provide you with reliable, *affordable* electricity.

Please contact Shelby Electric with any questions you may have. You are encouraged to visit Shelby Electric Cooperative's website [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) if you would like to learn more about the rate increase. The website can also be used as your online tool in creating a more energy-efficient lifestyle by clicking on the Touchstone Energy Savers home icon on the website. Thank you for your loyalty and commitment - Shelby Electric looks forward to working with you, as energy efficiency is our future.

# Three Scholarships Available From Shelby Electric Cooperative

Every year Shelby Electric Cooperative awards three academic scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. Scholarships are awarded to a son or daughter of a current Shelby Electric Cooperative member who is receiving electric service from the Cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted. In 2008, the winners were Andrew Nimmer, Taylorville High School; Margaret Riley, St. Teresa High School; and Samantha McCue, Bartlett High School.

"We are pleased to be able to provide these outstanding students with an opportunity to be awarded a scholarship as a way to give back to the communities we serve," said Marla Eversole who coordinates this program for the Cooperative.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the United States are eligible to participate in the program. Scholarships may be used for educational costs at any two-year or four-year accredited college or university, including vocational/technical schools. Candidates are judged based on grade point average, college entrance



Scholarship recipients for 2008 were (left-right) Andrew Nimmer of Taylorville, Margret Riley of Decatur and Samantha McCue of Bartlett, who wasn't available for picture.

tests scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, a biographical statement and a short essay that demonstrates knowledge of the organization and services of Shelby Electric Cooperative.

March 16 is the deadline for receipt of completed applications for 2009. Scholarship winners will be notified in June.

Applications can be obtained by visiting the Shelby Electric Cooperative website [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) and looking under the "Our Community" menu tab or by calling Marla Eversole, Member Services Representative. The telephone numbers for the cooperative are (217)774-3986 and 1-800-677-2612. Applications may also be obtained from high school guidance counselors.



## Offices Closed

Monday, February 16 in  
observance of Presidents' Day



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Keep your fireplace damper closed unless you built a fire. An open damper allows as much warm air to escape as a fully open window. If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Shelby Electric Cooperative  
1-800-677-2612  
1-217-774-3986  
24-hours-a-day

Shelby DirecTV & PWR-net  
1-877-994-2323 weekdays  
1-877-241-6605 after-hours for  
DirecTV only

Shelby Energy  
1-217-774-2311  
24-hours-a-day

## Prairie State Energy Campus Construction on Schedule

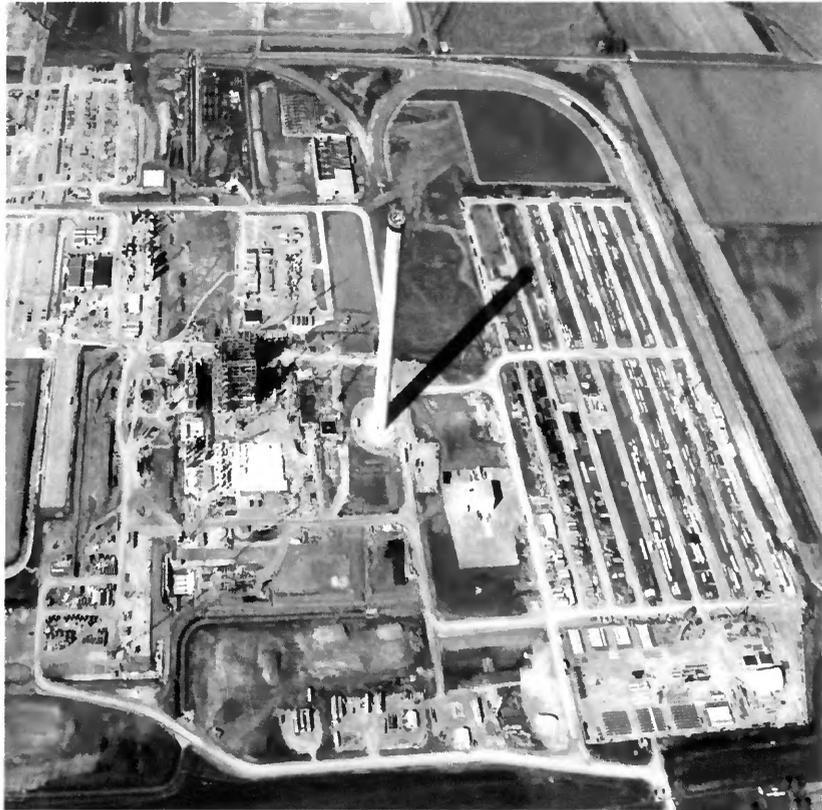
The Prairie State Energy Campus is a 1,600-megawatt supercritical coal-fueled power plant currently under construction near Lively Grove, Ill. The Prairie State project, which broke ground October 1, 2007, will be supplied Illinois coal by an adjacent coal mine in southern Illinois.

The project is expected to create 2,300 jobs at the peak of development. Unit 1 is scheduled to go on line in August 2011 and unit 2 is scheduled for May 2012. It is one of the largest power plant construction projects in the United States.

Prairie State is being developed with 21st century technologies, making it among the cleanest U.S. coal-fueled plants. Emission rates will be approximately 80 percent lower than existing U.S. power plants. This new plant's carbon dioxide emission rate will be approximately 15 percent lower than the typical U.S. coal plant.

"The new Prairie State Energy Campus represents the future of clean-coal technology and Illinois is proud to be leading the way," U.S. Congressman John Shimkus (R-19th District) said. "This power plant is environmentally sound and will stimulate our state's economy by providing hundreds of new jobs."

"If we are to break our dependence on foreign sources of oil, we must capitalize on our domestic energy assets, and coal is our most abundant energy resource. This project will show that we can utilize Illinois coal, which is good for the environment and the economy,"



Construction on the Prairie State Energy Campus is underway in Lively Grove, Ill. Units 1 and 2 are expected to be on line in the 2011 to 2012 time frame.

said U.S. Congressman Jerry Costello (D-12th District.).

Prairie State will deliver low-cost energy to more than 1.7 million families through a partner group consisting of utility groups in three states which includes Prairie Power, Inc.

Shelby Electric Cooperative is one of 10 member distribution cooperatives of Prairie Power Inc., an electric generation and transmission cooperative located in Jacksonville, Ill., participating in the Prairie State project. According to Robert Harbour, President/CEO of Prairie

Power, "Our member cooperatives' ownership share in Prairie State is part of our member cooperatives' strategy to secure reliable, cost competitive electric energy for the future. Prairie State promises to be one of the most reliable, environmentally friendly and economical resources for electricity ... today and into the future."

For a virtual tour of the power plant or to express interest as a job applicant or vendor, please visit [www.PrairieStateEnergyCampus.com](http://www.PrairieStateEnergyCampus.com).

## Special Rates Still Available

Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) offers special rates in certain situations. Two of these rates will be offered in exchange for the member's permission to allow SEC to practice load control during times of peak alert conditions.

SEC purchases power in advance to receive a better rate. When load conditions are high, SEC is notified by their power provider to reduce load. One way to reduce load without affecting the entire membership is through load management practices with qualifying members.

One such rate is the Qualified

Heat Pump (QHP) rate. This rate is available to members with an air source heat pump or geothermal system. The member must purchase and install a sub meter which measures all kWh used by the qualified heat pump. A special rate is applied to those kWh, year round, in exchange for SEC's ability to interrupt service to the unit's compressor during times of peak alert. An additional \$5 per month facility charge is applicable.

Another rate often utilized by members with a whole-house generator is the Residential Inter-

ruptible (RI) rate. This agreement allows SEC permission to interrupt power to the member's service. When an interruption occurs, the generator automatically switches on and provides the power. When the interruption period is over, the power switches back to the electric service.

The Electric Heat rate is an option for members that utilize electric heat as their only heat source. In this situation, there is a discounted rate for use over 1000 kWh/month for December, January and February.

Rate/Schedule	Facility Charge	Tier 1 Cents/kWh First 1000	Tier 2 Cents/kWh Over 1000	Tier 3 Cents/kWh
Regular Rate	\$29.00	.1077	.1059	-
QHP	\$ 5.00	.0638 All kWh for QHP	-	-
EH Dec/Jan/Feb	\$29.00	.1077	.0689	-
RI	\$29.00	.0986 First 500 kWh	.0875 Next 500 kWh	.0773 >1000kWh

If you have any questions regarding special rates, please contact Marla Eversole  
1-800-677-2612 or meversole@shelbyelectric.coop



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**P.O. BOX 560**  
**Shelbyville, IL 62565**  
**Phone: 217-774-3986**  
**Fax: 217-774-3330**  
**www.shelbyelectric.coop**

**Office Hours:**  
**7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



Shelby Electric  
Cooperative

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### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Check your water heater thermostat. Many manufacturers set thermostats to 140° F, although most households only need a setting of 120° F. Each 10 degree drop in water temperature can save you between 3 percent and 5 percent in energy costs.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## REAL LIFE **REAL POWER**

**H**ave you made the switch to CFLs yet? Shelby Electric Cooperative wants to help! While supplies last, members may pick up one free 14 watt CFL at the office on Route 128 North, Shelbyville.

Replace a 60 watt bulb to start saving money and electricity. A 60 watt bulb, burning four hours a day, will cost about \$0.78 per month. A 14 watt CFL (60 watt incandescent equivalent) burning the same amount of hours per month will cost about \$0.18 per month! Multiply the savings (60 cents) by the number of bulbs replaced and it adds up. Plus, CFLs last approximately 10 times longer than the less efficient incandescent bulbs.

Shelby Electric Cooperative is also a recycling drop-off center for used (not broken) CFLs.



### Your energy efficiency tips are needed!

Submit your tip(s) and you will be entered into a drawing to receive one \$10 Shelby Electric bill credit. All entries will be included in a drawing for a grand prize at the end of 2009.

Submit to:  
Shelby Electric Cooperative  
Real Life / Real Power  
PO Box 560  
Shelbyville, IL 62565  
or  
meversole@shelbyelectric.coop

## Scholarship Deadline Approaching



**A**pplications can be obtained by visiting the Shelby Electric Cooperative website [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) and looking under the "Our Community" menu tab or by calling Marla Eversole, Member Services Representative. The telephone numbers for the cooperative are 217-774-3986 and 1-800-677-2612. Applications may also be obtained from high school guidance counselors. Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded and winners will be notified in June.

**March 16 is the deadline for receipt of completed applications for the 2009 Shelby Electric Cooperative academic scholarships.**

## Lincoln Prairie Water Announces Phase III Construction

**W**ith Phases I, II & IV complete, Lincoln Prairie Water Company (LPWC) will begin Phase III construction this month. With 690 rural water customers already receiving safe, potable water, Phase III will add another 200 customers to its system.

Phase III will serve the following towns: Oconee, Ohlman and Wenonah and parts of the following townships: Rose, Tower Hill and Oconee in Shelby County

and Audubon and Nokomis in Montgomery County. There is also two miles of line that goes through Pana Township in Christian County. Easements are still needed but LPWC obtained the needed 70 percent easements to receive funding and to let bids for construction.

If you are in those areas to be served and you have questions about Phase III, please call LPWC at 1-800-542-0705.

## OUTAGE REPORT

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
1/9/2009	0.30	Dunkel	Planned work	209
1/13/2009	0.20	Dunkel	Planned work	209
1/16/2009	1.45	Velma	Broken conductor	218

# Shelby Electric Service Area Blanketed With Snow

**Linemen Sent to Help Ice Devastated Cooperatives in Southern Illinois**

Old Man Winter dumped 8-10 inches of snow over parts of Shelby Electric Cooperative's service territory in late January, but the cooperative escaped any major outage issues. The same could not be said for cooperatives in the southern part of Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky. Snow and ice create widespread damage, outages and the call for help.

Shelby Electric sent a four-man crew and equipment earlier in the week to help - SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative located in Eldorado, Ill. to restore power to its members.

"We originally had requests to send crews down to Kentucky who were also hit hard with ice and caused massive outages but we needed to first make sure our members' power wasn't affected by the sleet and snow we received," said Operations Superintendent Terry Oldham.

"Once we were clear of any major outages our attention then shifted to southern Illinois, and when we knew they needed help we sent the first crew down at 3 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28."

Linemen Brian Bunton, Roger Jones, Brad Wright and Apprentice Blake Knearem were already in southern Illinois helping restore power to SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative before a second crew, pictured above and led by Foreman Kris Koehler, was requested to help out Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative located in Dongola, Ill..



*Pictured (left - right) are Lineman Brian Chevalier, Apprentice Ryan Musser, Groundman Nick Dunaway and Foreman Kris Koehler. This Shelby Electric line crew left for Dongola, Ill. to assist Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative restore power following another devastating ice storm that hit southern Illinois the last week of January. Another four man crew left earlier in the week to assist SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative located in Eldorado, Ill. Shelby Electric crews also assisted cooperatives in Kentucky and Missouri.*

Even with rural electric cooperative line crews from several co-ops in the central portions of Illinois already helping out, another call for additional crews came from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) located in Springfield, Ill. The AIEC coordinates these efforts through the cooperatives emergency work plan. When a cooperative is in need of additional assistance the emergency work plan goes into effect.

"We know what it is like to be without power and to try and get a devastated system back together from our own ice storm back in 2006. Those southern co-ops sent crews up to help us out so now we get to return the favor and get their members back on," said Koehler. "It is one of the great things about being a cooperative, we help each

other out in times of need like this."

Both crews were expected to be in southern Illinois for seven days.

As with any storm situation where you have downed electric wires and equipment, stay away from the damaged lines and always assume the wires are hot. Never, under any circumstance, do you want to touch a downed power line. If you discover a downed line, leave it alone and call your utility immediately.

At the time this story was sent to be printed, Koehler's crew returned home after approximately seven days. The crew consisting of Bunton, Jones, Wright and Knearem were sent to Missouri to assist with outages there. Lineman Jerry Johnston switched out with Jones as the crew was heading to Missouri.

<p>Shelby Electric Cooperative 1-800-677-2612 1-217-774-3986 24-hours-a-day</p>	<p>Shelby DirecTV &amp; PWR-net 1-877-994-2323 weekdays 1-877-241-6605 after-hours for DirecTV only</p>	<p>Shelby Energy 1-217-774-2311 24-hours-a-day</p>
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## Coleman Receives NRECA's Highest Honor

Touchstone Energy recognized James Coleman, President/CEO of Shelby Electric Cooperative, with its highest honor, the Touchstone Energy's National Distinguished Service Award. Mike Sims, President of the Touchstone Energy Board of Directors, presented the award on Tuesday morning, Feb. 17, during the 2nd General Session of the NRECA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Coleman is completing his second three-year term on the board of directors for Touchstone Energy and was unanimously approved to receive the award. Coleman received the award for his commitment to the brand, both on a national and local level, and for innovative ways he incorporated the brand at his cooperative.

"James leads by example. We will miss his service on the Touchstone Energy Board but know he will continue to be a strong advocate of the Touchstone Energy brand," said Jim Bausell, Chief Operating Officer for



James Coleman, Shelby Electric Cooperative President/CEO, receives the Touchstone Energy Distinguished Service Award from Touchstone Energy President of the Board Mike Sims and Jim Bausell, Chief Operating Officer for Touchstone Energy. Pictured left to right: Sims, Coleman & Bausell.

Touchstone Energy.

Shelby Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy — an alliance of more than 670 local, consumer-owned electric utilities

around the country. Shelby Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.

## EARTH DAY is April 22

What are you doing for Earth Day? Now is the perfect opportunity to make energy efficiency improvements that will not only benefit you but also the environment.

Let Shelby Electric Cooperative help you get started. While supplies last, members may pick up one free 14 watt CFL bulb and one free pack of Frost King Multipack Foam Sealers at the Cooperative's main office on Route 128 North in Shelbyville.



## Home Energy Savings Booklet Available



Your cooperative has available to you an energy savings booklet entitled "101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Home Energy-Saving Measures."

This booklet was produced by Touchstone Energy® and contains a list of low-cost/no-cost energy saving tips to help you better manage your home's energy costs. Pick one up today at your cooperative's main office in Shelbyville or click on the Energy Savers icon on the cooperative's website [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop).



## SHELBY News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## "Energy Efficiency" "Going Green"



**What do they mean?  
How do they affect your life?**

Shelby Electric Cooperative's Member Services Representative, Marla Eversole, will help you learn more. If your group or organization is interested in a program, please call Marla Eversole at 1-800-677-2612 or email her at [meversole@shelbyelectric.coop](mailto:meversole@shelbyelectric.coop).

 **Shelby Electric Cooperative**  
 Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



### Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Use a programmable thermostat to vary your home's temperature based on your schedule. Lower your thermostat when you're not home or at night to save as much as 10 percent on heating and cooling costs!

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## OUTAGE REPORT

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
2/9/2009	1.55	Airport	Miscellaneous	78
2/11/2009	0.27	Shelbyville	Storm	118
2/12/2009	1.00	Airport	Storm	78
2/12/2009	2.40	Lakewood	Broken conductor	205
2/15/2009	1.05	Airport	Vehicle	78

# REAL LIFE REAL POWER

It's all over the news; with the passage of the federal stimulus bill there is money available to help many Americans weatherize homes and make energy efficiency improvements. How can residents in our area connect with these resources? Shelby Electric Cooperative is ready to help as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 goes into effect.

"The state of our economy has left many Shelby Electric Cooperative members searching for ways to make ends meet," said James Coleman, President/CEO of Shelby Electric. "Making the most of each energy dollar is high on everyone's list of concerns. We're ready to help explain which parts of the stimulus bill may affect you, especially if you're considering energy efficiency improvements."

Investing in a few basic measures to secure a home from outside elements could provide major benefits. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) says weatherization—the process of sealing air leaks and properly insulating a home—can reduce heating bills by up to 32 percent, resulting in an average energy savings of \$358 per year.

"You can be more comfortable and save on your energy bill while improving the environment," adds Member Services Representative Marla Eversole. "Making our nation more energy efficient takes all of us doing our part. The stimulus bill provides new ways to save money while you're making improvements."

As a result of the stimulus package, DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program is expanding with a goal of weatherizing one million homes per year. In the past, only households that earned up to 150 percent of the national poverty level were eligible to participate. The stimulus bill extends eligibility to those with



incomes below 200 percent of the national poverty level. For a family of four, that is an income limit of \$66,150 [EDITORIAL NOTE: Different in Alaska and Hawaii].

Program participants receive a professional energy consultation with an analysis of energy bills, a blower-door test to locate air leaks and advice on how to be more efficient. Workers then arrive to make energy upgrades like insulating walls and roofs, sealing air leaks, and installing more efficient heating and cooling systems. The process to weatherize a home through the program usually takes two days with an average cost of \$2,500. Since some homes have different needs, the stimulus bill allows up to \$6,500 to be spent on each home.

For members not eligible for federally funded programs, the stimulus plan provides a homeowner an efficiency tax credit of up to \$1,500, or 30 percent, of the cost for new energy upgrades, including weatherization activities as well as installation of efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. Efficiency tax credits were already available for 2009, but carried a \$500 limit (with additional caps for certain types of upgrades) and only covered up to 10

percent of a member's investment.

"You may have looked at the tax credit in the past and thought it wasn't worth it," notes Eversole. "This change effectively triples the amount of financial investment you get credit for, and, coupled with how much you can save on energy costs each year, it makes these efficiency measures much more affordable."

Tax credits directly lower a member's federal income taxes and are generally more valuable than tax deductions because they reduce taxes owed dollar-for-dollar. In contrast, a tax deduction, like a home mortgage or charitable gift, lowers taxable income and may only offer small savings. For example, a \$1,500 tax deduction for someone in the 25 percent tax bracket would lower taxes owed by \$350; a \$1,500 tax credit for energy efficiency efforts will lower taxes owed by \$1,500!

Weatherization programs will be handled differently in each state. The Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program is designed to help low income residents save fuel and money, while increasing the comfort of their homes. To learn about services and eligibility, contact your local C.E.F.S. office or call the C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation in Effingham, Illinois.

The phone number is 217-342-2193, for weatherization dial extension 123 and for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) dial extension 127.

To learn about other ways your cooperative is helping members save on energy use, visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) and click on the Touchstone Energy Savers Home icon.

Members who want to apply for the program should visit: [www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization/state\\_contacts.cfm](http://www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization/state_contacts.cfm)

# It Is Time to Get Connected!



## Our Energy, Our Future™

A Dialogue With America

[www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop)

Global warming and climate change are hot topics in the nation's capitol and discussion is all over the electronic media. We at Shelby News felt like we should present the other side of the story.

According to the latest Pew Research Center 2009 Survey of "Top 20 Priorities for 2009," global warming was last in priority with only 30 percent of those interviewed saying it was one of their "top 20" priorities. Global warming as a priority has been declining for the past three years according to Pew.

The political reality is that the new Obama Administration and the leadership in Congress have made energy and the environment a top priority. The political process to address these issues with legislation is on a fast track. This will impact the cost of energy for all of us and we are concerned about affordability and the impact on our already fragile economy. There is only a short window of opportunity for citizens to contact their representatives and express their concerns.

Many scientists have been quoted as saying global warming is the result of increased carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels caused by mankind burning fossil fuels. Other scientists are stating that the burning of fossil fuels is not the reason. In December of 2007, 100 scientists signed an open letter to U.N. Secretary, General Ban Ki-moon stating that "its conclusions about carbon dioxide's role in climate change are quite inadequate as justification for implementing policies that will diminish future prosperity. In particular, it is not established that it is possible to significantly alter global climate through cuts in human greenhouse gas emissions."

In March of 2008, 500 hundred scientists attending the International Climate Conference in New York City signed the Manhattan Declaration which says in part, "there is no convincing evidence that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from modern industrial activity has in the past, is now, or

will in the future cause catastrophic climate change." In a Senate Report dated Dec. 11, 2008, more than 650 international scientists are quoted as saying that "man-kind is not causing global warming." If there is global warming, they think there are other more important factors including:

- Reduced solar activity
- Increased volcanic activity
- Increased oceanic temperatures
- Weakening of the earth's magnetic field
- Fluctuations in the earth's jet streams
- Changes in the earth's ocean currents
- Reduced cloud formation

Any encyclopedia will tell you the earth's atmosphere contains 78 percent nitrogen; 21 percent oxygen; 0.09 percent argon and 0.01 percent other gases including carbon dioxide. More than 75 percent of all CO<sub>2</sub> is formed in the oceans. Man-made carbon dioxide created by burning fossil fuels represents 0.4 percent of 1 percent of all CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. To put this in perspective, one major volcanic eruption anywhere in the world, including under the oceans, will release more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than all of mankind's emissions for a year. The oceans emit 185 times more CO<sub>2</sub> than mankind in a year.

So what's the big deal? There are those with political influence who fear that global warming caused by mankind burning fossil fuels will result in all of the earth's coastal areas being immersed under water.

As if potential Global Warming laws out of Congress and the

President are not bad enough, the Environmental Protection Agency is likely to jump in first. The EPA is under order of the Supreme Court to determine whether carbon dioxide is a pollutant that endangers public health and welfare. Lisa Jackson, the new EPA administrator is preparing scientific evidence for a so-called endangerment finding. **If the EPA determines that carbon dioxide is a pollutant under the Clean Air Act, it will set off the creation of the most far-reaching rules ever placed on American manufacturing. The EPA will try to restrict the findings only to electricity generators using coal and natural gas for fuel (guaranteeing large rate increases in most of the country). When 97 percent of the world's carbon dioxide is created and used by nature, how can the EPA make such a ruling on an attempt to control the 3 percent connected to modern society?**

This issue may affect all of us at a time when we can least afford it. There are those in Congress who believe that if the cost of carbon dioxide emissions is high enough for burning fossil fuels such as diesel fuel, natural gas, propane and coal, we will reduce our energy consumption and thereby reduce carbon dioxide emissions. According to a study just completed by Carl D. Duffner, P.E. Senior Vice President of Engineering and Brian Adams, E.I.T. Electrical Engineer for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives shows that **a government mandated limit and cost imposed on carbon dioxide could increase your electric bill each month between \$20 and \$100 if you use 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per month.** This monthly cost increase is just for your electricity.

It is time to get connected! You can contact your legislators by going to Shelby Electric's home page, [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) and clicking on the "Our Energy Our Future" icon in the lower left-hand corner. Shelby Electric Cooperative is your Touchstone Energy Partner.

## Trimming Trees with Care & Proper Planting of Trees

### Two of Many Bright Ideas from Your Electric Co-op

#### Grooming Your Trees

Trees are beautiful and important to our environment, but when they come into contact with power lines, bad things can happen. Branches can tangle with the power lines, snapping them or causing short circuits that make lights blink and damage equipment. That's why we work hard to make sure trees don't interfere with power lines, by encouraging members to plant trees safely, and trimming trees to distances that are safe from power lines.

Your electric cooperative can tell you more about where and how to plant trees safely.

#### Energy Friendly Trees

Planting trees can be energy smart, because they provide cooling shade in summer and deflect winter's chilly winds. Plus, trees transform carbon dioxide – a greenhouse gas – into healthy oxygen. It's important to keep trees and power lines separate to prevent damage to both. If you'd like to add a tree,



consider how large it will be when fully grown, and make sure you don't plant it where it will eventually interfere with power lines. National standards for electrical safety require that branches within 15 feet of electrical equipment be removed. Be careful when trimming tree

branches near power lines, too. If a tree presents a safety concern, call your electric cooperative for help.

Contact your Cooperative for more information about tree safety. It's just another way we provide advice when you want it, and help when you need it.

#### Co-op receives safety award at state conference

Shelby Electric Cooperative received a safety honor recently during the Safety/Supervisory Technical Conference held in Springfield. The award was given to cooperatives with outstanding "accident/illness" safety records for 2008.

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives sponsors the conference annually. The theme of this year's conference was "Make Safety Your Brand."

Cooperative offices closed on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day



# Save Money With the Co-op Connections Card

Have you used your Co-op Connections card yet? If you haven't, you're missing out on money saving discounts when you visit participating local and national businesses.

Visit a new and improved website for locating and searching for available nationwide discounts. It is easy to use; go to [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop) or link via [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop) and click on the Connections Card icon.

Your Connections Card also has a great pharmacy benefit with over \$5.6 million saved across the



country. Shelby Electric Cooperative members have saved over \$11,977 using this feature since its inception in 2007. A total of 1,232 prescriptions have been filled for

Shelby members with an average savings of 22%.

The back of the card has information to help you get your pharmacy discounts. Visit [www.locateproviders.com](http://www.locateproviders.com) to see a full listing of pharmacies honoring the Co-op Connections card. Pharmacy discounts are not intended as a substitute for insurance.

Here is a listing of Shelby Electric Co-op Connections card local business participants as of April 1, 2009.

**Assumption**

The Knick-Knack Shoppe 820-1168  
10% off final purchase of non-consigned merchandise excluding furniture.

**Bloomington**

Glass Specialty Company Inc. 309-664-1087  
\$20 Wal-Mart gift card with any auto glass replacement.

**Champaign**

Glass Specialty Company Inc. 352-4258  
\$20 Wal-Mart gift card with any auto glass replacement.

Wireless Mike's 356-9300  
50% off car cord or leather case when activating a new line or upgrading an existing plan.

**Decatur**

Creative Media Services, Inc. 428-9950  
First hour of graphic design work is 20% off.

Glass Specialty Company Inc. 429-2371  
\$20 Wal-Mart gift card with any auto glass replacement.

Scotty's Pest Control 422-9372  
10% on all jobs.

**Effingham**

Great Clips 342-4030  
\$2 off haircut.

**Findlay**

Eagle Creek Resort 756-3456  
15% off regular room rate. Subject to availability. Golf- receive free cart rental.

**Greenville**

Enertech, Inc. 618-664-9010  
\$50 per ton equipment discount (max 5 ton) on GeoComfort or Paradise geothermal systems.

**Macon**

Macon Speedway 764-3000  
\$2 off regular admission ticket.

**Mattoon**

Wireless Mike's 258-8771  
50% off car cord or leather case when activating a new line or upgrading an existing plan.

**Oconee**

Hired Hands Services 539-4218  
5% off any carpet or resilient flooring.



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**Office Hours:**  
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## OUTAGE REPORT

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
2/26/2009	1.05	Elwin	Vehicles	54
3/6/2009	1.30	Richland	Vehicles	95
3/7/2009	2.40	Elwin	Broken insulator	54
3/8/2009	2.15	Velma	Storm	409
3/8/2009	0.55	Velma	Storm	536
3/8/2009	1.30	Yantisville	Storm	186
3/8/2009	2.25	Dunkel	Supplier	300
3/24/2009	0.45	Shelbyville	Broken pole	199

- Pana**  
Bland Heating & Air Conditioning 562-4256  
10% discount on service calls.
- Merle Norman  
Cosmetic/Cut N Curl 562-4722  
10% off retail.
- Pana Iron Store Co. 562-2168  
10% discount off retail purchase.
- Peoria**  
Glass Specialty Company Inc. 309-676-6181  
\$20 Wal-Mart gift card with any auto glass replacement.
- Pleasant Plains**  
Paul Tree Farms, LLC. 414-9556 971-7876  
10% off pine, spruces, maples and oaks.
- Shelbyville**  
Barker's Balloonyery & Bridal 774-2588  
10% off all balloons & gift basket purchases.
- Best Wedding Chapel 774-7809  
10% off the full guest-wedding package.
- Beyers Chiropractic 774-5313  
10% off vitamins, braces, pillows.
- Bogart Vision Care 774-4422  
20% eye glasses/sun glasses 50% second pair.
- Carl Grabb Motors 774-2165  
\$5 off full service oil change.
- Coon Creek Lodge 756-3147  
10% discounts on kitchenettes.
- Custom Care Cleaners 774-3422  
\$1 off every \$10, \$2 off every \$20, \$3 off every \$30
- Druby's 774-5143  
2 free medium drinks w/ purchase of any everyday Family Deal.
- Just A Stitch 774-2227  
20% off regular priced merchandise.
- Leach-Wilson Chevrolet Buick CO. 774-3975  
5% off parts and labor any day of the week.
- M & M Crafts 774-2609  
10% off.
- Macari's Service Center 774-4214  
10% Discount on furnace/AC clean/checks. 5% discount on appliances over \$250. Card to be present at billing, no exceptions.
- Main Street Decker-Rations 774-2535  
10% off McCall's candles.
- Merle Norman Cosmetic's & Boutique 774-4233  
Save \$2 on a purchase of \$25 or more.
- Possum's Treasures 774-1300  
Free greeting card with \$10 purchase
- Shelbyville Public Printer 774-2337  
15% off business customers or individuals.
- Whalen's West Side Floral 774-4644  
10% off some restrictions apply.
- Woodpile Primitives 254-6955  
10% off on any stock item.
- Taylorville**  
A Classic Bouquet 824-6556  
10% off purchases - cash & carry.
- Don's Lion's Den 824-6111  
10% on all non-cosigned merchandise.
- Gordon Pontiac GMC 824-3381  
\$200 off bottom line price after you have made your best deal. Limit- 1 offer per transaction, no cash value.
- Market Street Inn 824-7220  
10% off single night stay, 20% off two or more night stay.
- ProStitch Auto Interiors & Upholstery, Inc. 824-3228  
\$10 off any basic headliner replacement or free black vinyl for ag/commercial seat repairs.
- Taylorville Community Credit Union 824-9658  
.25% off any new installment loan.
- The Best 4 Less 824-4003  
10% off already discounted prices.
- Yard Heating & Cooling 824-4737  
10% off on furnace and/or air conditioner checkup.
- Urbana**  
Wireless Mike's 365-9300  
50% off car cord or leather case when activating a new line or upgrading an existing plan.
- Windsor**  
Hickory Hills Crafts & Collectibles 459-2347  
10% off on \$20 or more.

We will continue to notify members of any future participating businesses through this newsletter or on the cooperative's website www.shelbyelectric.coop. If you have lost your card stop by the cooperative office for a new one. If you're a business and you are interested in learning more about this program call 217-774-3986 for more information.

## Relay for Life Fundraiser



Shelby Electric Cooperative employees are teaming up to raise money to help find a cure for cancer. The team's name is **Team "High Voltage" Caution - Energized for a Cure.**

Mark your calendar now for a "Rummage and Bake Sale" hosted by Shelby Electric in its Community Room. The date is Saturday, May 16 starting at 8 a.m. and concluding by noon. The community room is located in the cooperative's main office on North Route 128 across the street from Moulton Middle School in Shelbyville.

All proceeds donated to Shelby County Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society. For more information call 217-774-3986.



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

When washing clothes, use less water by running full loads. In addition, approximately 80 percent of the energy used by washing machines heats water, so by using cold water and cold-water detergents you can cut a load's energy use in half.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# Plants Eat Carbon Dioxide: Working People Don't

There continues to be a lot of discussion in the news media about climate change and "Global Warming." On Capitol Hill, some Congressmen are proposing legislation to address climate change. Any such legislation will impact everyone who uses electricity, including Shelby Electric Cooperative Members, by drastically increasing the cost of electricity.

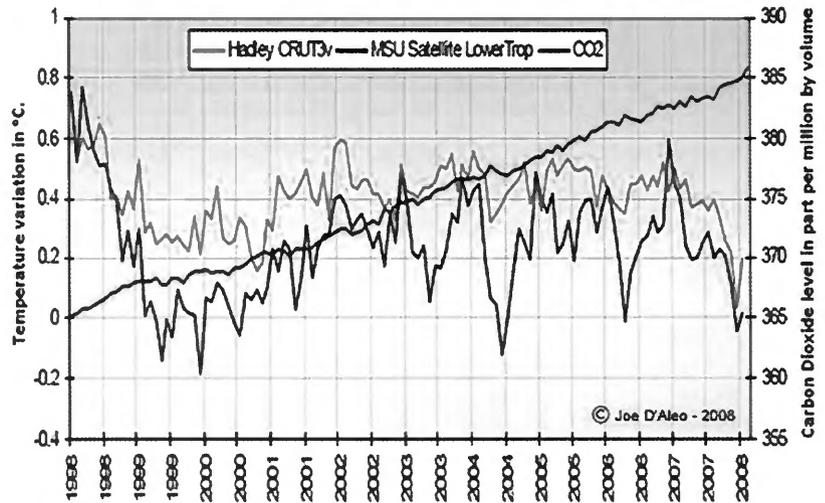
On March 31, 2009 Congressmen Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Edward Markey (D-MA) introduced Cap & Trade draft legislation. If enacted, this bill will raise the cost of electricity dramatically. According to the Wall Street Journal, the hardest hit would be "95 percent of working families".

### When is a Tax not a Tax?

When the government wants your money without raising taxes, they make a "policy". That is exactly what is happening here. Cap & Trade has the same impact as a tax on families and businesses but the legislators get to hide behind a policy. At \$20 per ton of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), a home using 1500kwh per month could expect to see their electric bill go up at least \$35 per month and as high as \$100 per month, according to a study just completed by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives Engineering Department.

If Congress passes the Cap and Trade proposal currently offered by the administration, the government expects to collect over a BILLION dollars in 10

World Temperatures Falling Whilst CO<sub>2</sub> Keeps Rising



years, yet only 20 percent of the money collected would be used to reduce Carbon Dioxide. The other 80 percent would be used to fund whatever earmarks/programs Congress wants.

Is there really an environmental emergency or is it just hype from environmentalists? Irregardless of your beliefs on this issue, Congress is taking action now and your opinions need to be heard.

If you believe in climate change and support Cap & Trade Legislation or a Carbon Tax are you willing to pay up to an extra \$100 per

month on your electric bill under that framework?

**Ask yourself this:** If Global Warming really is an emergency, why is the Administration only using 20 percent of the money to fight the perceived threat?

The world temperature has been cooling for the past 10 years, (see graph).

**Time is running out, now is the time to take action and let Congress know where you stand.**

It is time to get connected! Go to [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) and click on the "Our Energy, Our Future" icon in the lower left-hand corner and let your legislators know how you feel. If you would like to address a letter or would like the cooperative to do this on your behalf, give us a call, 774-3986 or drop off your letter and we will make sure it gets to your ELECTED officials.



**Our Energy, Our Future**  
A Dialogue With America

Shelby Electric Cooperative  
1-800-677-2612  
1-217-774-3986  
24-hours-a-day

Shelby DirecTV & PWR-net  
1-877-994-2323 weekdays  
1-877-241-6605 after-hours for  
DirecTV only

Shelby Energy  
1-217-774-2311  
24-hours-a-day

## Area Students Spend Day in Springfield



*Shelby Electric Cooperative sent 16 students to Springfield for Youth Day. First row from left are: Kolton Minott of Moweaqua, Matthew Entler of Moweaqua, Becca Jefferies of Shelbyville, Katie Pieper of Stewardson, Andy Towler of Pana, Ricky Warren of Ohlman, Courtney Ealey of Edinburg and Kristen Colonius of Edinburg.*

*Second row from left are: Michael Guyer of Neoga, Zachary Letizia of Neoga, Boone Baker of Mode, Levi Pruemmer of Shelbyville, Adam Metzger of Pana, Daniel Martin of Witt, Tyler Handy of Herrick and RhiAnnon Mahaffey of Beecher City.*

*Third row from left are: Marla Eversole of Shelby Electric Cooperative, Roger Kiefting of Cowden - Herrick and Rep. Robert Flider.*

Rep. Robert Flider met with 16 students representing Shelby Electric Cooperative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, April 1, in Springfield. Students had an opportunity to view state government in action and tour the State Capitol, Illinois Supreme Court, Old State Capital and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

The day was sponsored by the Illinois Electric and Telephone Co-ops and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government.

“We had a great time touring the historical sites, visiting the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and talking with our area legislators,” said Adam Metzger of Pana. “We really appreciate Shelby Electric making this opportunity available to us,” said Katie Pieper of Stewardson.

Students also had the opportunity to visit with Senator Bill Brady, Senator Dale Righter and Senator Kyle McCarter.

Shelby Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of more than 680

local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Shelby Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The co-op serves more than 9,805 members over 2,233 miles of line in all or parts of Christian, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie, Sangamon and Shelby counties. Visit them on line at [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop).

# Two Area Students Selected to Attend Youth to Washington Tour



*Pictured left to right: Boone Baker, alternate, Stewardson-Strasburg High School, Zachary Letizia, YTW delegate, Neoga High School, Katie Pieper, YTW delegate, Stewardson-Strasburg High School, Rhiannon Mahaffey, alternate, Cowden-Herrick High School and Marla Eversole Member Services Representative for Shelby Electric Cooperative.*

Zachary Letizia from Neoga High School and Katie Pieper from Stewardson-Strasburg High School were selected to represent Shelby Electric Cooperative in Washington D.C., June 12 through June 19, as part of

the Illinois Electric Cooperatives Youth to Washington Tour. Letizia and Pieper were selected out of 16 students who attended the Illinois telephone and electric cooperative's Youth Day trip to Springfield

in April. Two alternates were also chosen, Boone Baker from Stewardson-Strasburg High School and Rhiannon Mahaffey from Cowden-Herrick High School.

## SHELBY News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**P.O. BOX 560  
Shelbyville, IL 62565  
Phone: 217-774-3986  
Fax: 217-774-3330  
www.shelbyelectric.coop**

**Office Hours:  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



## OUTAGE REPORT

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
4/14/2009	0.15	Velma	Planned work	214
4/26/2009	1.55	Neoga	Storm/trees	65
4/27/2009	0.55	Dunkel	Supplier	272
4/30/2009	0.45	Airport	Tree/storm	78

Visit us online at  
**www.shelbyelectric.coop**

# Electric Cooperative Members: 42 Million Strong

*Your voice is needed now more than ever; let Congress know how you feel*

When electric cooperatives began to spread across America 75 years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt emphasized that electricity in this country was no longer a luxury. It had become, as it is today, a necessity.

In these difficult economic times, a lot of Americans are struggling to make ends meet. As not-for-profit, consumer-owned and controlled electric co-ops, we want to make certain that each and every citizen in this country can continue to receive affordable electric power. We want to make certain we don't step back from the commitment that FDR made.

Congress is currently working to address issues related to climate change and debating federal mandates regarding renewable energy development and energy efficiency. Even if Congress doesn't act, the U.S. Supreme Court has given the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a green light to put new rules curbing emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants in place.



## Our Energy, Our Future A Dialogue With America

As a result of these efforts, there's little doubt electric bills are going to rise. The only question is whether higher electric bills will be kept affordable.

Electric co-ops are dealing with a very different situation than we have in the past. Electric bills will go up because of the climate change and energy policy decisions of U.S. senators and representatives on Capitol Hill—or worse, unelected federal bureaucrats. Higher electric bills will become the norm as we are all forced to comply with these government mandates.

At Shelby Electric Cooperative we're talking to our members of Congress, trying to convince them to work with us to make sure that

we not only deal with climate change, but do so in a way that keeps electric bills affordable. To accomplish this goal, we need your help.

Nationwide, 42 million consumers are served by electric cooperatives. If every co-op consumer would contact their senators and representatives, we could make a real impact on the final shape of any energy or climate change legislation.

Over the last year, electric co-op consumers have made their voices heard on keeping electric bills affordable through the Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots awareness campaign. More than 1.6 million messages have been sent to Congress so far—you can add to that list by visiting [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) and clicking on the "Our Energy Our Future" icon on the lower left hand corner of the landing page or stop by your cooperative office and they will help your voice be heard.

Make certain that those who lead us in Washington, D.C., hear from you today.

**Shelby Electric  
Cooperative's Offices will  
be closed Friday, July 3rd  
in observance of**



### Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37° to 40° F for the main refrigerator compartment and 5° F for the freezer. If you have a stand-alone freezer, it should be kept at 0° F. Appliance settings may vary, so an easy way to check the temperature is to use a meat thermometer.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



# Saving lives where the need is greatest.

As a member of your area Emergency Medical Services team, Air Evac Lifeteam is committed to improving the quality of life for those it services. Air Evac Lifeteam has remained true to its mission and first focus by:

- Providing air medical services to medically underserved areas of rural America;
- Taking an active role in the advancement of health care services in the communities it services;
- And, providing superior patient care and safe aviation.

Membership with Air Evac offers significant benefits. As one of over 760,000 members, Air Evac will work on your behalf with your benefits provider to secure payment for your flight. Whatever your benefits provider pays will be considered payment-in-full for your flight in a life or limb threatening emergency.



**Shelby Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



**Become an Air Evac Lifeteam member through the Shelby Electric Cooperative monthly billing plan for only \$5.00 per month per household.**

Simply complete the application form on the next page and mail with your Shelby Electric Cooperative payment. That's it! Send no money, you will be billed \$5.00 on your current Shelby Electric Cooperative monthly bill. Or you can choose to receive \$10.00 off the standard annual membership rate and send payment directly to Air Evac Lifeteam. It's that easy!

**For additional information about Air Evac Lifeteam**

Contact your local Membership Coordinator

**Roger Luer**  
**(217) 690-6488**

Air Evac Lifeteam Membership Registration – Shelby Electric Cooperative Billing Plan

By applying for membership, I agree to AEL's terms and conditions. Initials: X Today's Date: / /

Name as it appears on Electric Bill: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Date of Birth / / Do you live in City Limits Yes No

Shelby Electric Account Number: (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Please List Others Living in Household and Date of Birth (other than yourself)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth / / Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth / /

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth / / Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth / /

Terms and Conditions

- Air Evac EMS, Inc. (d/b/a Air Evac Lifeteam and d/b/a Texas Lifestar) ("AEL") offers memberships that provide prepaid protection against AEL air ambulance costs that are not covered by a member's insurance or medical benefits, subject to the following terms and conditions.
1. Transport by an AEL helicopter will be to the closest appropriate medical facility for medical conditions that are deemed by an attending medical professional to be life- or limb-threatening, or that could lead to permanent disability, and which require emergency helicopter transport.
2. AEL services may not be available when requested due to factors beyond AEL's control, such as use of the appropriate aircraft by another patient or other circumstances governed by operational requirements or restrictions including, but not limited to, equipment manufacturer limitations, governmental regulations, maintenance requirements, patient size or weather conditions.
3. Members who have insurance or other benefits that cover the cost of ambulance services are financially liable for the cost of services up to the limit of any available insurance or benefit coverage.
4. Membership starts 15 days after AEL receives a complete application with full payment; however, the waiting period will be waived for unforeseen events occurring during such time.
5. Some state laws prohibit Medicaid beneficiaries from being offered membership or being accepted into membership programs.
6. These terms and conditions supersede all previous terms and conditions between a member and AEL, including any other writings, or oral representations, relating to the terms and conditions of membership abuse of the program.

I have read and understand the AEL Membership Terms and Conditions. The information provided on my application is complete and accurate. I authorize my insurer or benefits provider to pay any covered amounts to AEL directly. By signing this authorization I agree to the terms stated above and acknowledge that I authorized to have the additional \$5.00 AEL dues added to my residential electric account. I also understand that I will communicate directly with Air Evac Lifeteam for Membership Member Service.

For Air Evac Office Use Only

PLAN CODE

1843

Air Evac Lifeteam Membership Registration – Shelby Electric Cooperative Billing Plan

The price for an AEL household membership will be \$5.00 per month

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Shelby Electric Account Number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Authorization to add \$5.00 per month to Shelby Electric Cooperative invoice to pay monthly Air Evac Lifeteam fees.

The price for an AEL household membership will be \$5.00 per month

- A member's membership will be effective 15 calendar days after receipt by Shelby Electric Cooperative of the member's first monthly Membership fee and will continue thereafter as long as monthly Membership fees are paid, but will terminate automatically without notice if no monthly Membership fee is received by AEL from member for a 60 calendar day period.
A member may discontinue their AEL membership at any time by signing a discontinuation notice (as provided by AEL).
Shelby Electric Cooperative and AEL are not affiliated. Shelby Electric Cooperative is not responsible for any of AEL's acts or omissions, and AEL is not responsible for any of Shelby Electric Cooperative's acts or omissions. All AEL membership relationships are directly between AEL and its members.

By signing this authorization I agree to the terms stated above and acknowledge that I authorized to have the additional \$5.00 AEL fees added to my residential electric account. I also understand that I will communicate directly with Air Evac Lifeteam for Membership Member Service.

X Member Signature / /

Membership and Payment Options

(select one)

Table with 3 columns: Membership Type, Price, and Household Size. Rows include 1-Year, 3-Year, and 5-Year memberships for 1, 2, and 3+ member households.

- Check or money order made payable to: Air Evac Lifeteam, PO Box 948, West Plains, MO 65775
One Time transfer from checking account or credit card
Recurring annual credit card payment or automatic transfer from checking account. Please make my recurring payment each year on this date: / /

Total 1st Payment Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Annual Recurring Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Credit Card Number Expires 3 digit code on back of card

X Signature

Bank Information (required for monthly membership option and automatic transfers from checking account)

Name on bank account routing number account number (please attach a voided check)

Statement of Authorization I authorize Air Evac Lifeteam to initiate the recurring credit card charge or EFT withdrawal as indicated above. I may change or cancel this recurring payment by notifying Air Evac Lifeteam in writing. All notifications must be received by the first of the month in order to alter the month's transaction. If I have elected to pay by credit card, I agree to abide by all terms and conditions of my credit card agreement. If I have elected to pay via EFT, I authorize my financial institution to transfer the amount indicated on the attached voided check to Air Evac Lifeteam. Adjusting entries to correct errors are also authorized. It is agreed that these debits and adjustments will be made electronically and under the rules of the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA). This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until written notification is given to Air Evac Lifeteam of its termination.

X (Signature required for recurring payment option)

For Air Evac Office Use Only

PLAN CODE

3108

# Words of Thanks From Troops Overseas

The Girl Scout Cookies for the Troops has ended and the final box of cookies were shipped out last month and Shelby Electric Cooperative would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who was involved in our Cookies for the Troops drive.

This year, a number of church youth groups, Girl Scouts and school aged children created thank you cards to be shipped with the cookies. This was an added bonus for our military personnel to receive besides the delicious Girl Scout cookies.

We also heard from several men and women who received the cookies and below are just a couple of comments Shelby Electric received.

*"To everyone at Shelby Electric Cooperative and anyone else involved with sending us cookies here in Afghanistan, THANK YOU. It is always nice to see that there are so many people in the United States that support the soldiers here and in Iraq. It is because of people like you that we are able to be away from our families and do our job over here. I now need to head to the gym to work off all those cookies you sent us."* Thanks again, CPT David Pond.

*"We recently received a care package from you and I wanted to send my personal THANKS for sending the Girl Scout cookies. It truly meant a lot to us and made accomplishing our mission that much easier having that extra*



*A few of the girls that make up Shelbyville Brownie Troop 3127 hold up a banner as part of the Cookies for the Troops store front sale in March.*

*snack available to keep us going and that means the world to us to hear from people like you. We also loved the cards that came with the cookies. Our unit is a CH-47D Chinook Helicopter detachment and we move soldiers, equipment fuel, etc. all over the battlefield."* Sincerely, Jason Rassi.

Shelby Electric Cooperative would also like to acknowledge the following Shelbyville Businesses for donating to the shipping costs! Fire Pro, Wal-Mart, Dairy Queen, Macari's Service Center, Pro-Lawn, Monical's Pizza and Edward Jones. A businessman who didn't want identified also made a large donation.

"Without the broad support of the community and the local businesses this effort would not have the success it has had over the past four years," said Kevin Bernson spokesman for Shelby Electric Cooperative. "We should also thank the cooperative board and management for supporting this community cause and especially employees, Phoebe Kates, Doug Hall and Debbie Carlen for their work getting the cookies boxed up and shipped out," added Bernson.

Approximately 800 boxes of Girl Scout cookies were shipped out to Iraq and Afghanistan.

## PWR-net

[www.pwr-net.coop](http://www.pwr-net.coop)

### Affordable Wireless Broadband Internet

1-877-994-2323 or 217-774-2323  
[subscriberinterest@pwr-net.coop](mailto:subscriberinterest@pwr-net.coop)

Now serving Assumption, Windsor, Shelbyville, Pana,  
 Tower Hill, Cowden, Lakewood and Findlay.  
 2 hours of free wifi now available in Downtown Shelbyville.

## Shelby Electric Cooperative Participates in 2009 Safety Day

Over 375 fourth grade students and teachers descended upon the Shelby County Fairgrounds to participate in the 2009 Safety Day. The day was sponsored by Shelby County Ag Awareness and was designed to give each student an overview of various safety messages in a day-long event.

The Shelby County fourth graders participated in eight different safety areas; food and nutrition, sun, fire, chemical, water, first aid and electrical. The day began with a fire safety magic show put on by the Decatur Fire Department.

Lineman Matt Clark and Member Services Representative Marla Eversole treated each fourth grade class

with a tabletop safety display. Clark explained that electricity is a great tool we all use and need but we need to respect it and be safe around it.

"We do this each year for the fourth graders in Shelby County with the hope that we can teach them in a way they can learn about safety but in a fun way," said Ellen Trainor and Amy Rochkes who organized the day.

Clark and Lineman Roger Jones also put on a safety demonstration presentation on May 4 at a DARE picnic at Eagle Creek Resort in Findlay and Clark and Eversole presented on May 6 as part of Conservation Day at Hidden Springs.



Lyle Jefson learns what it is like to be a lineman as he tries on the gear Shelby Electric Cooperative linemen wear while they work on the lines. Jefson and 375 other Shelby County fourth graders learned how to be safe around electricity during Shelby County Safety Day in April. Pictured are Jefson and Marla Eversole Member Services Representative.

## REAL LIFE REAL POWER

Sunshine and summer breezes can help you save money and energy. Now is the time to get into the great habit of line-drying your laundry.

### REAL LIFE APPLICATION:

My clothes dryer costs approximately 65 cents per hour to operate. If I used the dryer for just one hour a day, it adds up to about \$20 per month (\$240 per year). We have teenagers and we raise pigs. I do a lot of laundry! That \$20 per month figure is conservative for my household. If I can save \$20 a month by cutting out one hour a day of using the dryer – to the clothesline I go!

Technology for clothes dryers has not changed significantly in the past several years. Shopping for an energy efficient model can be challenging as clothes dryers are not required to display EnergyGuide

labels. Models do not vary much in the amount of energy consumed. One helpful feature to look for is a moisture sensor. Rather than drying laundry for a certain time period (possibly over-drying), the sensor monitors moisture in the laundry and will shut off the dryer when laundry is dry.

*Please contact Marla Eversole,  
Member Services Representative,  
if you have questions  
about your energy use.  
(800)677-2612 or  
meversole@shelbyelectric.coop*



Shelby Electric Cooperative will help you "go solar" with your laundry, too. Stop by the office in Shelbyville (North Route 128) and ask for your free package of clothespins (while supplies last). While you are outside, take time to plant some flowers. We will also give you a free packet of sunflower seeds.

### Clothes Dryer Tips to Save \$\$ and Energy

- ✓ Locate your dryer in a heated space. Putting it in a cold, damp basement or unheated garage will make the dryer work harder and less efficiently.
- ✓ Make sure the dryer is vented properly. Use the shortest and straightest metal duct possible.
- ✓ Check the outside dryer exhaust vent periodically for blockages.
- ✓ Clean the lint filter in the dryer after every load.
- ✓ Dry only full loads.
- ✓ Dry clothing by similar weights and type of materials. There is no need to shake-n-bake lightweight items while waiting on towels to dry.
- ✓ Dry two or more loads in a row. This will take advantage of the dryer's retained heat.
- ✓ Use the cool-down cycle to allow the laundry to finish drying with the residual heat in the dryer.
- ✓ Use natural resources and line dry!

Source: www.consumerenergycenter.org

# Know What to do in Vehicle Accidents Involving Power Lines

*Stay inside until help arrives or do the bunny hop*

Instincts tell us to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that bring down power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, Shelby Electric Cooperative and Safe Electricity urge you to stay inside the vehicle until help arrives. Getting out of the vehicle, with few exceptions, is the wrong thing to do until the line has been de-energized.

“You are almost always better off to stay in the car, especially if the line is in contact with the vehicle,” says Terry Oldham, Operations Superintendent for Shelby Electric Cooperative. “If the power line is still energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path for that electricity and electrocution is the tragic result.”

It is best to wait until Shelby Electric linemen arrive to make sure power to the line is cut off. The only exception would be if fire or other danger, like the smell of gasoline, is present. In that case, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time, as if doing a bunny hop. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Shuffle or hop to safety keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area near your car to be energized. Stay in-



*This Jeep was tangled up in the power lines near Tower Hill, Illinois following a spring storm. Luckily nobody was injured in this power line/vehicle contact incident.*

side the vehicle unless there is fire or imminent risk of fire.

The same rules apply to situations involving large farm and construction equipment that come in contact with overhead lines. Those working with large equipment should stay inside the cab or remain in the vehicle if equipment extensions come in contact with power lines. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

While driving, if you encounter a down wire on the road, always assume it is an electrical wire and energized, and stay in your car. If you come upon, or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and

lines, don't leave your vehicle to approach the accident scene.

Often our inclination is to step in and help those in danger and offer assistance to the injured. But in accidents involving power poles, call for help. Wait for trained assistance to arrive, or you could become an additional victim in need of rescue.

Accidents and fires involving electricity cause more than a thousand deaths and tens of thousands of injuries each year. The vast majority are preventable if people understand the dangers and steps they can take to be safe around electricity.

For more electrical safety information, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org) or [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop).

<p>Shelby Electric Cooperative  <b>1-800-677-2612</b>  <b>1-217-774-3986</b>                  24-hours-a-day</p>	<p>Shelby DirecTV &amp; PWR-net  <b>1-877-994-2323</b> weekdays  <b>1-877-241-6605</b> after-hours for DirecTV only</p>	<p>Shelby Energy  <b>1-217-774-2311</b>                  24-hours-a-day</p>
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## Touchstone Energy Night at the Races July 11

**M**acon Speedway is proud to welcome Touchstone Energy Cooperatives from across East Central Illinois to its racing event on Saturday, July 11. The Touchstone Energy Sportsman class will kick off the night's races.

Macon Speedway is a 1/5 mile high-banked dirt oval located in Macon, Ill.; 9 miles south of Decatur on US Highway 51.

Macon Speedway has been in operation since 1946. The Speedway has recently come under new ownership that includes local promoter Bob Sargent and NASCAR Stars Ken Schrader, Kenny Wallace and

Tony Stewart.

Macon Speedway is currently racing 5 action-packed classes every Saturday night: UMP Late Model, UMP Modified, UMP Sportsman, UMP Street Stock and UMP 4-cyl Hornets. Northern All-Star Late Models, UMP Summernationals and Wolfpack Modified Challenge are key events on an action-packed schedule that runs from the end of March through mid-September. Special NASCAR Nights offer fans the opportunity to meet NASCAR Stars and see them compete side by side with their local favorites.

Present your Touchstone Energy



**RACING EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT!**

Coop Connections Card any race night at the gate and get \$2 off the price of admission.

To see a complete schedule or to learn more about Macon Speedway go to [www.maconracing.com](http://www.maconracing.com).

For more information about Touchstone Energy visit [www.touchstoneenergy.coop](http://www.touchstoneenergy.coop).

## Visit us at the Farm Progress Show in Decatur

**V**isit the Touchstone Energy exhibit in the Varied Industries Tent at this year's Farm Progress Show Sept. 1, 2 and 3 in Decatur, Ill. While you're there learn about energy efficiency measures that will save you money each month on your energy bill.

We will offer a free gift each day as well as the opportunity to win Wal-Mart gift cards. Present your Coop-Connections card for a special gift. Don't have a Connections

card or lost yours? Contact your cooperative office.

Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperatives along with the Energy Education Council and SafeElectricity.org will also be sponsoring the Live Line Demo, an electrical safety demonstration featuring 7,200 volts of electricity! Great for kids and adults, it's an experience your family won't want to miss. Kyle Finley, owner/operator, will have his Live Line Demo just outside the Varied Industries Tent on Junior Lot #450. Visit [www.livelinedemo.com](http://www.livelinedemo.com).

The Varied Industries Tent runs the length of Fifth and Fourth Progress Street and is in between West Progress and Central Progress

Avenue. The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Exhibit will be on the end cap just inside the entrance/exit on Central Progress Avenue.

The Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will also be making an appearance flying the American flag as part of the opening ceremonies each morning. If weather permits the balloon will do a late afternoon flight as well.

Look for more information soon in Prairie Farmer Magazine to learn more about the 2009 Farm Progress Show or visit their Web site [www.farmprogressshow.com](http://www.farmprogressshow.com).

Hope to see you there.



Co-op Connections® Card



Shelby Electric  
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



# Team High Voltage in High Gear

**G**et your extra cash handy so you won't be outbid or out-selected with all the great items Team High Voltage has put together for its Relay for Life Fundraising project.

Team High Voltage is the "Relay for Life" team name for Shelby Electric Cooperative employees who are participating in this great community cause.

Buy tickets for your chance for a hog. Two raffle winners will share the hog and each get obviously 1/2 the prized pig. Processing from T & L Locker is also included. The two winners will be drawn at the Shelby Electric Cooperative's office on July 22nd. The cooperative's office is located on Route 128 & N. 6th Street in Shelbyville.

Other items that will be raffled away include a Man-Duffel bag and a Man-Cooler. Both made by, who else, Mother. There is also a NOAA weather radio and a Portable Generac 3250 Watt Generator. There will



be several other raffle items available to buy tickets for. These prizes will be drawn on August 8th the night of Relay. You can see the items on display in the cooperative's office.

Purchase your tickets from any

team member or stop by the cooperative's office to get your tickets. You can also call 217-774-3986 for more information about these raffle items or how you can purchase your tickets.

You do not have to be present to win any of the Team High Voltage raffle items and many items are now on display at the cooperative's headquarters in Shelbyville, Ill.

Also mark your calendar for July 18 and a midnight swim. All proceeds benefit Team High Voltage's total amount raised for Relay for Life and finding a cure for cancer.

The midnight swim will be from 10 p.m. until Midnight at the Shelbyville pool located in Forrest Park with admission of \$5 per person or \$20 for a family of four or more.

## OUTAGE REPORT

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
<b>Line Outages</b>				
5/14/2009	4.20	Airport	Storm	74
5/14/2009	6.20	Shelbyville	Storm	65
5/14/2009	2.35	Dunkel	Storm	59
5/14/2009	3.50	Lakewood	Storm	90
5/14/2009	2.33	Wenonah	Storm	85
5/14/2009	2.30	Wenonah	Storm	85
5/15/2009	1.15	Airport	Storm	74
5/21/2009	0.45	Lakewood	Vehicles	71
5/25/2009	1.30	Herrick	Storm	113
<b>Substation Outages</b>				
5/6/2009	0.45	Ishi	Animal/bird	1
5/12/2009	3.15	Grove City	Power supplier	82
5/12/2009	3.15	Taylorville	Power supplier	580
5/13/2009	1.02	Pana	Power supplier	562
5/13/2009	1.02	Wenonah	Power supplier	423

**SHELBY** News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**P.O. BOX 560  
Shelbyville, IL 62565  
Phone: 217-774-3986  
Fax: 217-774-3330  
www.shelbyelectric.coop**

**Office Hours:  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

 **Shelby Electric  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Cooperative Welcomes Manship Back

Shelby Electric Cooperative is proud to welcome back Pam Manship to the cooperative family. Pam worked for Shelby DirecTV and Shelby Electric before her husband's employer, Caterpillar, relocated their family in 2006; first to Peoria and then to North Carolina. Pam replaced Chrissy Grant as Accountant Assistant when Chrissy resigned to help run a recently purchased family business in Findlay. Pam started with the cooperative as a Customer Service Representative with the satellite



TV subsidiary in 1995 before moving to the electric side of the business in 2005. "I'm excited to be back at the cooperative and have missed everyone while I was gone," said Manship. While away, Pam volunteered with school functions as well as with area community organizations. In her spare time she is busy with kid's activities, scrapbooking and playing golf. We welcome Pam, her husband Kevin and family back to the area and to the cooperative family.

## Help Others Beat the Heat

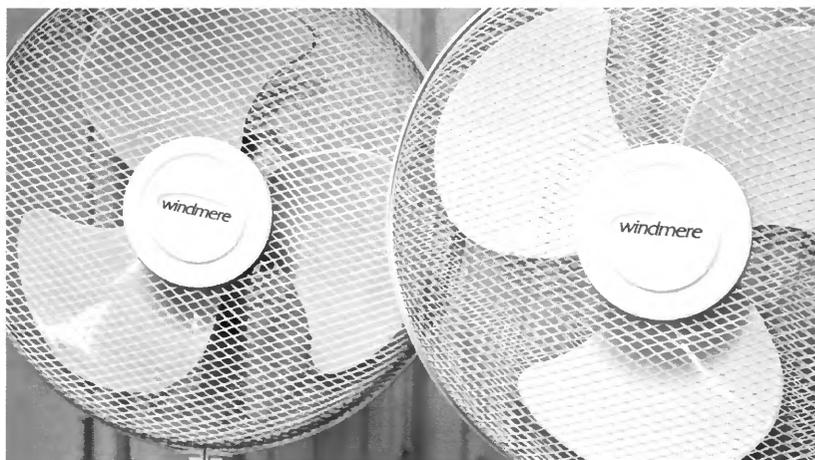
### Donate A Fan II

Like last summer Shelby Electric Cooperative is lending a hand to the Shelby County Senior Center by being a collecting point for people who want to donate a new fan. "We see this as a great Community Service project," said Member Services Representative Marla Eversole. Eversole is also coordinating this project for the cooperative.

"With the rising cost of power and high cooling bills some people can't afford to run their air conditioners. We want to be able to give any family or individual a free fan to help them keep cool this summer. With this great support from Shelby Electric Cooperative and others in the community we will be able to do great things with our fan project," said Mary Beth Massey Coordinator at the Senior Center. "We were delighted to have their assistance and gladly accepted when they offered to buy fans and also to be a drop-off spot for us last year," added Massey.

The Senior Center handed out more than 90 fans last summer, and should receive at least that many requests this year.

Anyone interested in helping out this great cause can either purchase a new fan or bring monetary support



to either cooperative location; the cooperative's headquarters on Route 128 across from Shelbyville High School or their PWR-net building on East Route 16.

Shelby Electric Cooperative will accept fans at either location all summer long and will then deliver the fans throughout the summer to the Shelby County Senior Center. Requests for a fan must be made to the Senior Center.

"If you don't know what kind of fan to purchase or you don't have time to buy one you can also donate money to the project, and we will make sure the Senior Center gets the donation," said Eversole.

"We will only accept new fans. Box fans or fans on stands are the most popular requests, however, we will accept any size or type of fan as long as they are new," said Massey. "If we end up with more fans than we can distribute we will share them with other organizations," continued Massey.

Anyone needing a fan should either stop by the Senior Center or call Mary Beth Massey at 217-774-2251. For more information either contact Marla Eversole at the cooperative by calling 800-677-2612 or Mary Beth at the Senior Center.

# REAL LIFE REAL POWER

**E**lectronics in our homes use energy even when they are “off” to power features like clock displays and remote controls. U.S. households spend \$100 per year to power devices while they are in this “standby” power mode. Even though each individual item may not use much energy – it adds up quickly when all the electronics in a home are combined. A power strip cord may be an effective solution for completely turning

- **82% of US homes have more than one television set**
- **87% of US homes have a DVD player**
- **78% of all Americans have cell phones**
- **More than 40% of all homes in the United States have at least one video game console.**

off electronics if you are not using a timer or do not need to reprogram the electronics every time it is turned back on.

Do not forget battery chargers. If the charger for portable devices such as cell phones, portable DVD units, Nintendo DS games and MP3 players are left plugged in – they are still using electricity!

If the words, “Mo-o-o-m, I’m bored ...” sound familiar, you might want to find something for the kids to do besides play video games! According

to a study by the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sony PS3 Game Console uses an average of 150 watts in Active Mode. The Microsoft Xbox 360 uses an average of 119 watts in Active Mode and the Nintendo Wii is the most energy efficient, using an average of 16 watts in Active Mode.

To save money in your home – power down the system when not actively playing. Some systems have an automatic power-saving feature, but often they are NOT activated. To learn more about activating this feature, visit [www.nrdc.org/energy/consoles/contents.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/energy/consoles/contents.asp)

**Come visit the  
Shelby Electric Cooperative  
booth at the Shelby County  
4-H Fair, July 20-22!**



## Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

When using your laptop computer at home, put the battery charger (an AC adapter) on a power strip that can be turned off. The transformer in the charger draws power continuously, even when the laptop is not plugged in.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

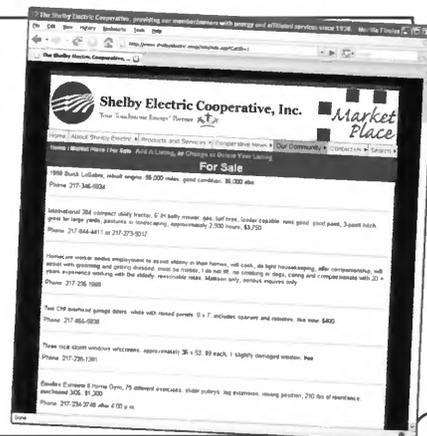
## Market Place Free Classifieds Available Online

Go to [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) and you will locate a feature called MarketPlace. The MarketPlace icon is in the lower right hand part of the cooperatives landing page.

This is a free classifieds ad service for your use. There is a place to list For Sale, Wanted and Free Items as well as a place to list Rentals and Services.

If you do not have Internet access but want to list an item, send your items to MarketPlace, P.O. Box 560, Shelbyville, IL 62565 and we will list your item for you. If you have questions or need assistance contact the cooperative at 1-800-677-2612.

Your item(s) will be posted for 45 days.



Shelby Electric Cooperative  
1-800-677-2612  
1-217-774-3986  
24-hours-a-day

PWR-net & WildBlue Internet  
1-877-994-2323  
weekdays

Shelby Energy  
1-217-774-2311  
24-hours-a-day

## Members Encouraged to Contact Legislators During 71st Annual Meeting

During Shelby Electric Cooperative's 71st annual meeting held in Shelbyville on Friday, June 12, co-op members were encouraged to contact Congress to voice their concerns about legislation that could create a "tax" on carbon dioxide emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>). Members were warned that the legislation would be a new tax that could increase the cost of electricity by 101 to 129 percent by 2030.

President/CEO James Coleman said, "The majority party in Congress is attempting to tax the electric industry and other CO<sub>2</sub> emitters through a scheme called cap and trade. It should be called cap and tax."

Coleman said this new tax, despite the talk about new green jobs, would hit the economy hard with a loss of 3 to 7 million jobs as well as drastic cost increases for all fossil fuel energy sources including gasoline, diesel, natural gas and coal. Especially hard hit would be consumers who receive electricity generated by coal. Coal is used to generate 50 percent of the nation's electricity, but the percentage is closer to 100 percent in the Midwest.

"The Energy Committee, headed by California's own Congressman Henry Waxman and Edward Markey from Massachusetts, drafted and recently got approval of legislation that will impose cap and tax

measures on the release of CO<sub>2</sub>," said Coleman. "There would likely be a cost applied per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> generated and the emitters would be forced to use or buy credits priced and based on a Wall Street trading scheme. The cost would ultimately be passed on to you, the consumer, through

all sorts of price increases in the products and services you buy."

Coleman said the Obama Administration's budget estimates that \$700 billion will be raised through the cap and trade legislation. However, just 20 percent of that revenue is currently budgeted for solving energy and climate issues.

"We all want a clean environment and a booming economy with plenty of good jobs; but if the climate is in true peril, why isn't all of the money and power of the federal government going to fix the problem?" asked Coleman.

He said 1.6 million rural electric cooperative members from across the country have already urged their elected officials to support changes

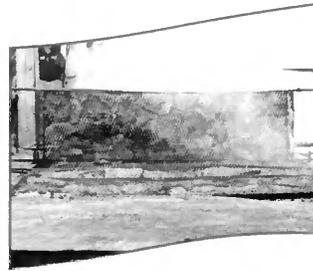


During the meeting, Lawrence Oller of Taylorville, James McCoy of Blue Mound and Richard Boggs of Macon were re-elected to three-year terms on the board. Shown above from left are President/CEO James Coleman, Oller, McCoy and Boggs.

in the legislation that would invest in the nation's ability to deliver affordable, reliable electricity with a diversified energy portfolio.

Coleman said, "If you want to have a say in how Congress spends the tax dollars they take you need to act now. You can go to our Web site at: [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) and click on the "Our Energy, Our Future" icon, or you can come to the office and we will help you send an e-mail message. Tell everyone you know, whether they are a member or not. Please let your voice be heard."

Board President Darrell Shumard of Stewardson urged younger members to become in-



volved in the electric cooperative. He said his father, who recently passed away, was involved in the early days of creating the co-op and helped wire many homes in the early days. Shumard said his father would urge him to come to the co-op meetings saying, "You should go because your generation is going to be in charge someday and you need to learn all you can about it."

"And now 20-plus years later I find myself with the same concerns that my dad had back then. And that is getting the next generation to understand the importance of learning all you can to possibly be a good board member someday."

Shumard's uncle Gene Boldt encouraged him to run for the board of directors after Boldt had served for 33 years. "Uncle Gene told me two things that I should know. He said you will meet a lot of really good people, and never forget who you are working for."

Shumard said he can still remember the days of outhouses and party line phones. Now, the co-op is providing high-speed wireless Internet services as well as electricity.

"There are so many things on the horizon for the next generation to face. It will be our job to find those people who can keep Shelby



Chief Operating Officer Josh Shallenberger, left, presents Carolyn Gruen of Pana, \$250 in Shelby Electric Dollars as the grand prize winner at the 71st Annual Meeting of members.

Electric the strong co-op that it is today," he said.

Coleman reported, that although the co-op's investment in DirecTV service had been successful and the revenue from the business helped keep electric rates down for members, the co-op will no longer have control over the service and would be severing its relationship with DirecTV effective July 15. He said the transition would be as smooth as possible and current customers should not notice the change. Co-op employees from the DirecTV business will have a new mission in growing the co-op's Internet service called PWR-net.coop ([www.pwr-net.coop](http://www.pwr-net.coop)).

Coleman said the co-op employees are adding more than 30 wireless Internet customers each month. "This high-speed, very affordable service will in time be available everywhere in our service area." The wireless Internet service will also be used to connect the co-op's line trucks to office data and mapping systems helping improve efficiency and service.

The co-op, along with other electric cooperatives and municipal utilities, has also invested in Prairie State Power Station at Lively Grove, Ill. Coleman said construc-

tion is on schedule and the first unit should be online in 2011. The 800-megawatt plant will use coal mined at the site and use state of the art emissions technology.

Treasurer Richard Boggs of Macon reported electric sales for 2008 totaled \$22.5 million. Total margins for the year were \$2.16 million. Boggs added that at the end of 2008 the cooperative's assets totaled \$54.4 million, liabilities were \$36.3 million and the net value was \$18.1 million.

During the meeting, Lawrence Oller of Taylorville, James McCoy of Blue Mound and Richard Boggs of Macon were re-elected to the board of directors for three-year terms.

Shelby Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of more than 685 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Shelby Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The co-op serves more than 9,805 members over 2,233 miles of line in parts of Christian, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie, Sangamon and Shelby counties. For more information visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop).

## SHELBY News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**P.O. BOX 560**  
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**Office Hours:**  
**7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

 **Shelby Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Due to excessive storm damage there is not an outage report in this issue. If you would like to see the outage report for June please stop by the office.

## Students Meet Congressman Shimkus

Annon Mahaffey of Beecher City, Katie Pieper of Stewardson and Zach Letizia of Neoga represented Shelby Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 12-19. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began 50 years ago to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

The students met with Congressman John Shimkus and were among 65 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined 1,532 young leaders from across the country. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, the

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the National Archives, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

"The cooperative is pleased to be able to provide our outstanding area youth with these opportunities and these three students represented the cooperative well," said Member Services Representative Marla Eversole who oversees the program for the cooperative.

Mahaffey went on the trip as part of the Willy Wirehand program after being selected as an alternate to the trip following Youth Day in Spring-

field in April. Pieper and Letizia were selected winners of the trip that same day.



From left are Annon Mahaffey, Katie Pieper, Congressman John Shimkus and Zach Letizia posing on the Capital steps during the Youth to Washington Tour.

## Scholarship Winners Announced

Three area students were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships and recognized during the Shelby Electric Cooperative 71st annual meeting of members on Friday, June 12.

This year's winners were Christopher Waddell and Emily Raab both from Taylorville and Kaitlyn Robinson of Shelbyville.

Christopher is a graduate of Taylorville High School and will be attending the University of Illinois to study crop sciences. He is the son of Kenneth and Linda Waddell.

Emily is also a graduate of Taylorville High School and will be attending the University of Illinois under their honors program for the School of Business in Accounting. She is the daughter of Daniel Raab.

Kaitlyn graduated from Shelbyville High School and will attend

Butler University School of Pharmacy. She is the daughter of William and Ronda Robinson.

"We are always pleased to be able to provide our scholarships each year to these outstanding students as a way to give back to the communities we serve," noted Cooperative Board Chairman Darrell Shumard.

Marla Eversole, who coordinates this program for the cooperative, will notify schools within the cooperative's service territory in January about the 2010 scholarships. You can also learn more about the scholarships on the cooperative's website [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) under the "Our Community" menu tab.



Clockwise from top, Christopher Waddell with Chairman Darrell Shumard, Emily Raab and Kaitlyn Robinson with Shumard.

## Important News to Shelby DIRECTV Subscribers

Since the inception of DIRECTV, Shelby Electric Cooperative has been proud to be your local provider. We have worked hard to offer you the best value in television service and the highest level of customer care. Over the years, we have supported new programming packages and popular channels based on customer feedback. As technology came of age, advanced products such as high-definition programming and DVR services to enhance your television viewing experience were added.

As a result of many business factors, Shelby Electric Cooperative has made a decision to exit the DIRECTV business. Beginning August 15, 2009, DIRECTV's national office will provide your programming services and customer care. The Cooperative's Board made this decision after serious consideration with our

membership's best interest in mind. Shelby Electric is confident that our customers will continue to enjoy their DIRECTV service in this new environment and will receive excellent customer care from DIRECTV.

Here is what this means for you:

Within the next month, your DIRECTV services will automatically be switched to DIRECTV's national office. Your DIRECTV programming will remain unaffected during the transition.

You will receive your next programming bill from DIRECTV. Future programming bills will also come from DIRECTV.

After August 15, you should contact DIRECTV at (800) 531-5000 for all of your customer service needs, including required equipment upgrades. Servicing support will be dispatched by the national office,

not Shelby Electric Cooperative.

Since your future DIRECTV invoices will come from DIRECTV directly, please review your new invoice, as this will contain the new remittance address. If you currently use an electronic check or a debit card to remit payment, you will want to update your bank with the new address.

**Shelby Electric Cooperative will no longer accept payments after August 31, 2009.**

As always, contractual obligations with DIRECTV due to equipment installation will need to be addressed by contacting DIRECTV at 1-800-531-5000.

It has been a pleasure to have been your DIRECTV service provider. We continue to remain a part of the community and hope to have the opportunity to serve you in the future.

### REAL LIFE REAL POWER

#### Save Money as You Keep Cool

Nearly two-thirds of American homeowners use air conditioners to beat summer's heat. Both central systems and window units operate by removing heat and moisture from air by blowing it across a coil filled with a liquid called a refrigerant.

There are several things that you can do to improve the efficiency of central air conditioning. Have it cleaned and checked by a technician every year to ensure that it's operating efficiently. Clean or replace the filter monthly or according to the manufacturer's recommendations, and make sure the outside unit is free of dust and debris.

Set the thermostat at 76 degrees when you're at home, and higher when you're away. Close drapes and

blinds to keep sunlight out. Don't use the dryer, dishwasher, stove or oven during the hottest part of the day. Finally, turn off any electronic devices that you aren't using, because they generate heat.

To improve efficiency with room air conditioners, choose a unit with a variety of fan speeds, so you can select the amount of cooling that you need for the situation. If your air conditioner has a timer, use it to turn the air conditioner down before you come home. In addition, be sure that your air conditioner is properly sealed into the window opening.

To see more energy efficient tips visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) and click on the "Touchstone Energy Home Savers" home icon.

#### Now is the Time to SEAL

Shelby Electric Cooperative will help you seal an air leak in your home.

Stop by the main office on North Route 128 and ask for your **FREE** package of Frost King Poly foam weather seal. One package should fit an average window or door.

## Climate Change Must be Fair, Affordable and Achievable

We need your help. As Congress debates climate change this fall, our voices must drown out special interests and businesses interested in turning a profit. We've got to send Congress a reality check.

Since early this year, Congress has considered a cap-and-trade system to address climate change concerns. This system focuses on reducing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, vehicles and factories — essentially impacting all sectors of the economy. As Congress acts on climate change they will be directly responsible for raising our electric bills. But by how much?

Electric co-ops, like Shelby Electric Cooperative, feel it's important for Congress to keep three things in mind regarding climate change. We know rates will go up as a result of any action Congress takes, but any bill should be fair, by taking into account regional differences in how electricity is produced. Some states have more low-carbon resources (such as wind or hydro) available than others. In Illinois approximately 47 percent of electric power is generated using coal. For cooperatives it is closer to 95 percent.

Next, we've got to keep electricity affordable for all Americans. We already have members in Illinois who barely manage to pay their monthly

electric bills, or must choose between paying for medications and keeping the lights on. Even a small increase will be a hardship beyond measure for these members.

Finally, the goals Congress sets must be achievable. Climate change policy must be realistic and in sync with technology to ensure long-

term success. Otherwise it's doomed to fail.

Shelby Electric Cooperative and others across the nation have been

working hard to make sure these concerns are raised — and we need your help.

More than 387,000 co-op members like you across the nation have joined the Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots campaign, ask-

ing their elected officials to keep consumer interests in mind. Their voices had a major impact this summer, as the U.S. House passed a climate change bill that included more than \$3 billion in rate relief for co-op consumers from initial proposals. Still, that bill fell far short of being fair to consumers. The climate change debate now moves to the U.S. Senate. We have an opportunity there to make more improvements — and you can help impact the outcome.

Your senators and members of the U.S. House need a reality check from you, their constituents. Visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) then click on the "Our Energy, Our Future" icon to send a message about the need for fair, affordable and achievable climate change legislation. You can also stop by the cooperative's office to fill out a card and they will submit it for you. Let your voice continue to be heard. Act now.



### Our Energy, Our Future™ A Dialogue With America

[www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop)



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Keeping your tires properly inflated improves gas mileage for the average vehicle by around 3 percent, saving up to 20 gallons of gasoline per year.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

## Home Energy Savings Booklet Available



Your cooperative has made available to you an energy savings booklet entitled 101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Home Energy-Saving Measures.

This booklet was produced by Touchstone Energy® and contains a list of low-cost/no-cost energy saving tips to help you better manage your home's energy costs. Pick one up today at your cooperative's main office in Shelbyville or click on the Energy Savers icon on the cooperative's website [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop).



## "Energy Efficiency" "Going Green"



**What do they mean?  
How do they affect your life?**

Shelby Electric Cooperative's Member Services Representative, Marla Eversole, will help you learn more. If your group or organization is interested in a program please call or e-mail Marla Eversole at 1-800-677-2612 or [meversole@shelbyelectric.coop](mailto:meversole@shelbyelectric.coop)

 **Shelby Electric Cooperative**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**You have the power to make your home more comfortable and more affordable. Shelby Electric Cooperative is here to help you.**

Stop by the office on North Route 128, Shelbyville and tell us you read your Illinois Country Living magazine and receive a free tube of DYNAFLEX 230 Sealant (while supplies last). This sealant can be painted, is weatherproof and may be used on the interior or exterior of your home.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**P.O. BOX 560  
Shelbyville, IL 62565  
Phone: 217-774-3986  
Fax: 217-774-3330  
[www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop)**

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 **Shelby Electric Cooperative**  
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## OUTAGE REPORT

### Line Outages

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
7/11/2009	3.00	Neoga	Lightning	108
7/25/2009	0.50	Richland	Storm/trees	70
7/25/2009	2.00	Velma	Lightning	224
7/26/2009	3.50	Pana	Bad underground	96

### Substation Outages

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
7/8/2009	0.22	Dunkel	Lightning	301
7/15/2009	4.00	Yantisville	Supplier	758

# REAL LIFE REAL POWER

## Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Audits

One of the first steps to making your home more efficient involves understanding how it uses energy. Just as a doctor has to do a thorough examination of a patient before writing a prescription, your home will need a good inspection before most inefficiencies can be identified and corrected.

You can easily conduct a basic home energy audit with a simple but diligent walk-through. When auditing your home, keep a checklist of areas you have inspected and problems you find. Full lists are available online—Touchstone Energy Cooperatives® Home Energy Saver (at [www.tsesavers.coop](http://www.tsesavers.coop)) and the Alliance to Save Energy Home Energy Checkup (search for it at [www.ase.org](http://www.ase.org)) are both useful—and most trouble spots can be found in a few key areas.

### Locating Air Leaks

First, make a list of obvious air leaks (drafts). The potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home may range from 5 percent to 30 percent per year, with the result being a much more comfortable residence. Check for indoor air leaks, such as gaps along a baseboard or edge of the flooring and at junctures of walls and ceiling.

Inspect windows and doors for air leaks. If you can rattle them, movement means possible air leaks. If you can see daylight around a door or window frame, then the door or window has a leak; you can usually seal these through caulking or weather stripping.



On the outside, inspect all areas where two different building materials meet, including all exterior corners, siding and chimney junctures, and areas where the foundation and the bottom of exterior brick or siding join. You should plug and caulk any holes or penetrations for faucets, pipes, electric outlets, and wiring.

Also, look for cracks and holes in the mortar, foundation, and siding, and seal them with the appropriate material. Check the exterior caulking around doors and windows, and see whether exterior storm doors and primary doors seal tightly.

When sealing any home, be aware of indoor air pollution and appliance “backdrafts.” Backdrafting occurs when various appliances that burn fuels and exhaust fans in the home compete for air. An exhaust fan may pull combustion gases back into the living space. This can obviously create a very dangerous and unhealthy situation.

### Insulation

Heat loss through the ceiling and walls in your home could be very large if insulation levels are less than the recommended minimum. When your house was built, the builder

likely installed the amount of insulation recommended (if any) at that time. Given today’s energy prices (and future prices that will probably be higher), your insulation might be inadequate, especially if you have an older home. Online energy audits will provide more details on checking insulation levels in the attic, walls, and basement.

### Heating/Cooling Equipment

Inspect heating and cooling equipment annually, or as recommended by the manufacturer. If you have a forced-air furnace, check filters and replace them as needed. Generally, you should change them about once every month or two, especially during periods of high use. Have a professional check and clean your equipment once a year.

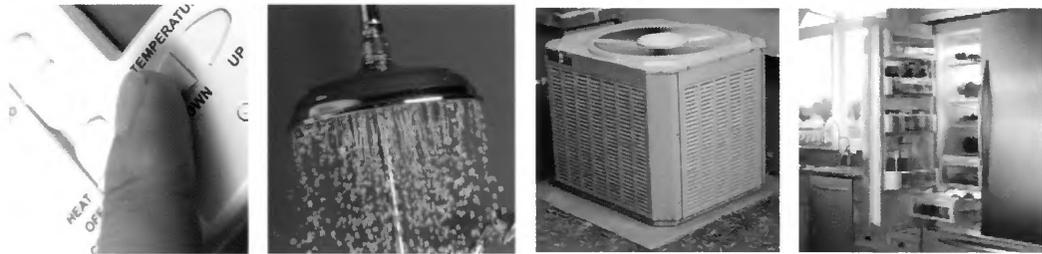
### Lighting

On average, lighting accounts for about 10 percent of a home’s electric bill. Examine the wattage size of the lightbulbs in your house. You may have 100-watt (or larger) bulbs where 60 or 75 watts would do. You should also consider compact fluorescent lightbulbs for areas where lights are left on for hours at a time.

More information on both do-it-yourself and professional energy audits can be found at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).

Article courtesy of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

AUTOMATIC HOME STANDBY GENERATORS



PROTECT THE THINGS THAT MATTER MOST

life is better  
with power

Generac automatic standby generators provide peace of mind for you and your family.

Every Generac Guardian Series generator offers 24/7 power protection, hands-free operation and the easiest installation available.

Sales, parts and service. Contact Shelby Energy today.

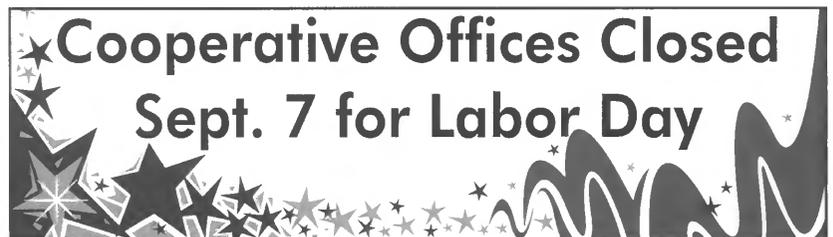


**Shelby Energy Company**

Shelby Electric Cooperative Members ask how you can save \$200 off the price & save money off your energy bill each month.

**GENERAC®**

1-217-774-2311  
[www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop)



## Electric Cooperatives Take On National Issues with 'Revolutionary' Marketing Campaign

**T**ouchstone Energy® Cooperatives, a nationwide alliance of electric cooperatives, announced the unveiling of a "revolutionary" national energy-efficiency campaign, rolled out simultaneously across 46 states, designed to inspire consumers to easily save energy and money.

Hundreds of representatives from electric cooperatives across the nation convened to mark the campaign's debut in downtown St. Louis on August 27-28. It was the first energy-efficiency communications campaign launched by allied local electric cooperatives on a national scale. There were also over 500 online participants.

The integrated campaign, "Together We Save," features the simultaneous roll-out of television and radio spots, print ads and brochures. There are more than a dozen energy-efficiency interactive web applications linked to a virtual home tour. All are designed to encourage co-op members throughout the country to take energy-saving actions now.

A new website, TogetherWeSave.com, will be the gateway through which



Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives

**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**

consumers will easily learn what to do and the immediate cost-savings impact of those actions.

Downloadable energy-efficiency videos will also be offered on a new Touchstone Energy web-TV portal.

"Touchstone Energy's 'Together We Save' campaign illustrates numerous ways our member-consumers can reduce their energy bills and thereby save themselves money by implementing a variety of changes around their homes and businesses," said Jim Bausell, COO of Touchstone Energy. "Whether it's unplugging unused appliances or adding an extra layer of insulation in the attic, what we are showing is how simple these

energy-saving techniques are, so that the end-use consumer goes from just thinking about changing some of their habits to actually taking action," Bausell said.

The campaign launch allowed cooperative representatives to meet the creative team that developed the campaign and get a behind-the-scenes look at how it was produced. Employees also learned how to use the brand's tools for increasing co-op members' satisfaction, discover how to implement the Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections Card Program, and more.

The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives brand represents a nationwide alliance of nearly 700 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives in 46 states. Touchstone Energy co-ops collectively deliver power and energy solutions to more than 40 million members every day. Electric cooperatives distribute power for 75 percent of the U.S. landmass over 2.4 million miles of power lines. Shelby Electric Cooperative is a Touchstone Cooperative and you can visit them on line at [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop).

Source: PRWeb.com

Shelby Electric Cooperative  
1-800-677-2612  
1-217-774-3986  
24-hours-a-day

PWR-net & WildBlue Internet  
1-877-994-2323  
weekdays

Shelby Energy  
1-217-774-2311  
24-hours-a-day

## Spooktacular Will Be Back for a Third Year



Mark your calendar now for the third annual Spooktacular to be held at the Shelby Electric Cooperative headquarters Halloween weekend with the time and date to be determined. "It will be hard to top last year's haunted maze, which was a great success; but we are going to try our best to scare you again," said cooperative employee Vicki Blackwell, one of the event organizers. "We will also have a more friendly themed maze as well," added Blackwell.

The cooperative created their first haunted maze to give area children a fun, safe way to trick or treat. Remember to stop by the cooperative's office for a fright or two. This is a free community event.

## 2009 Farm Progress Show

Shelby Electric Cooperative and 12 other Illinois cooperatives participated in the 2009 Farm Progress Show by hosting a Touchstone Energy booth at the event, held September 1-3 in Decatur, Ill.

The booth focused on energy efficiency and how co-op members can save money by making energy-smart choices in their home. The centerpiece of the exhibit was the "Energy Efficiency Wall." This 20-foot structure goes behind the scenes in building construction to show visitors – first hand – what should and shouldn't be done when building a home or updating an existing one.

The group also sponsored the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon Team. The team presented the American Flag, during opening ceremonies, by flying it over the show each morning. The national anthem was sung by the Mt. Zion Swingsations.

Safe Electricity, the Energy Education Council and the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives sponsored Kyle Finley's Live Line Safety Demo at the show.

Record crowds of young and old were in attendance for this



year's show. Show officials believe this year's late harvest and cooler temperatures played a big role in the record attendance.

## SHELBY News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**P.O. BOX 560**  
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**Fax: 217-774-3330**  
**www.shelbyelectric.coop**

**Office Hours:**  
**7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



### Energy Efficiency

## Tip of the Month

Windows provide great views of the outdoors, light, ventilation, and solar heating in the winter. Unfortunately, they also account for 10 percent to 25 percent of your heating bill. High-performance ENERGY STAR-labeled windows can cut your heating and cooling costs by as much as 30 percent.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy; Alliance to Save Energy

# REAL LIFE REAL POWER

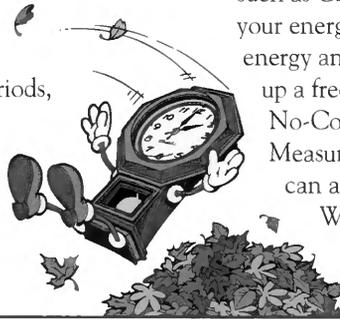
## We Will "Fall Back" from Daylight Saving Time

Sunday, November 1, 2009. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour.

The sun will set at approximately 4:45 p.m. Sunday, November 1 – forcing us to get used to darker evenings. Shelby Electric Cooperative will help you navigate the dark by providing a FREE LED night light. These night lights only require pennies per year to operate. Ask for your free night light at the Shelby Electric office on Route 128 North (while supplies last).

Energy efficiency is especially im-

portant to remember during the fall and winter months. Daylight Saving Time ends and people tend to be in their homes for longer time periods, using more lighting and electronics. Make sure electronics are completely turned off when



not in use by using a power strip and switch to energy efficient lighting, such as CFLs and LEDs to improve your energy efficiency. For more energy and money saving ideas, pick up a free copy of 101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Home Energy-Saving Measures at the cooperative. You can also click on the "Together We Save" banner on the cooperative's website, [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop).

## Can't Keep Up With Energy Bills?

Your local C.E.F.S. office may be able to HELP!

Your household may be eligible for help paying your utility bills if you meet the following guidelines:

Family Size	30 Day Income <small>(before tax)</small>
1	\$1,300
2	\$1,750
3	\$2,200
4	\$2,650
5	\$3,100
6	\$3,550
7	\$4,000
8	\$4,450
9	\$4,900
10	\$5,350
11	\$5,800
12	\$6,250

For Help Please Contact  
Your Local C.E.F.S. Office at:

**Christian** 217-824-4712  
or 217-562-2311

**Clay** 618-283-2631  
or 618-662-4024

**Effingham** 217-347-7514

**Fayette** 618-283-2631

**Montgomery** 217-532-5971  
or 217-324-2367

**Moultrie** 217-728-7721

**Shelby** 217-774-4541



### Jobs.

Cooperative businesses are run by those who live and work in the community keeping jobs at home.

Lots of businesses talk about growing their communities. For cooperatives, it's not just talk. It's what we're all about.

We're in it for the long haul ... strengthening communities through jobs, service and community involvement.

Maybe that's why we're more trusted than businesses owned by Wall Street investors.

### Cooperatives

Owned by Our Members,  
Committed to Our Communities



## OUTAGE REPORT

MEMBER OUTAGES				
DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
8/2/2009	1.15	Shelbyville	Lightning	51
8/4/2009	3.00	Neoga	Lightning	107
8/4/2009	2.32	Richland	Lightning	52
8/4/2009	1.10	Airport	Lightning	75
8/4/2009	1.10	Richland	Lightning	197
8/4/2009	0.05	Neoga	Lightning	108
8/4/2009	3.00	Neoga	Lightning	165
8/5/2009	1.30	Yantisville	Trees/storm	84
8/6/2009	1.30	Lakewood	Trees/storm	52
8/11/2009	0.50	Neoga	Animal/bird	90
8/19/2009	2.30	Blue Mound	Storm	67
8/19/2009	1.25	Neoga	Storm	66
8/19/2009	2.00	Richland	Storm	70
8/19/2009	1.50	Elwin	Storm	67
8/19/2009	3.00	Neoga	Storm	99
8/19/2009	2.15	Moweaqua	Storm	59
8/22/2009	1.55	Wenonah	Animal/bird	67
8/24/2009	0.50	Lakewood	Miscellaneous	119
8/26/2009	4.15	Pana	Bad underground	104
SUBSTATION OUTAGES				
DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
8/4/2009	1.00	Yantisville	Power supplier	748
8/13/2009	2.00	Richland	Sub fuse	588
8/13/2009	2.00	Dunkel	Broken conductor	303
8/16/2009	4.55	Blue Mound	Supplier	568
8/16/2009	0.30	Elwin	Supplier	516
8/19/2009	2.00	Neoga	Supplier	1269

## High Voltage Caution: Energized for a Cure



*Some of the members of Team High Voltage take a moment to pose for a picture during the Relay for Life event in August.*

The High Voltage Relay for Life team would like to thank the many individuals, families and businesses that supported our fundraising efforts for the American Cancer Society. Due to the hard work and support of many, we were able to exceed our team goal of \$4,000.

Cancer will affect all of us in one way or another in our lives. We hope our fundraising efforts will make a difference in the lives of the many people affected by cancer.

Congratulations to Shelby County Relay for Life for raising a record \$67,338.22. Everyone involved should be proud of their efforts.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Shelby County Relay for Life.

Team High Voltage was Shelby Electric Cooperative's Relay Team.

## PWR-net

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For more information call 774-2323 or email [subscriberinterest@pwr-net.coop](mailto:subscriberinterest@pwr-net.coop)



Shelby Energy Company

For all your LP Gas, Generator or Bulk Oil needs call Shelby Energy today at 774-2311

## 2010 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available for High School Seniors

Shelby Electric Cooperative President & CEO James Coleman is pleased to announce for the fifteenth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors.

Seven scholarships of \$1,250 each will be awarded in 2010 to eligible high school seniors through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for stu-



dents who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college.

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with this scholarship," says Coleman. Shelby Electric Cooperative and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are

always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives. Applications must be returned to the cooperative by January 1, 2010.

Blake Durbin (2004) and Jason Barker (2008) were recent recipients from Shelby Electric Cooperative's service area.

Applications and guidelines can be obtained from high school guidance counselors, the cooperative's website: [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) or by calling Marla Eversole at the cooperative at 217-774-3986. You can also contact us by sending an e-mail to [scholarship@shelbyelectric.coop](mailto:scholarship@shelbyelectric.coop).



### Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Only 20 percent of homes built before 1980 are properly insulated. You can increase the comfort of your home while reducing heating and cooling needs up to 10 percent by investing in proper insulation and sealing air leaks. Visit [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com) to take the energy savings home tour.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# Offices Closed

Your cooperative offices will be closed Wednesday, November 11 for Veteran's Day and on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving.

Be thankful for the freedoms we have and tell a Veteran "Thank You" for their service to our country on Veteran's Day.

# SHELBY News

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# ENERGY STAR TELEVISIONS

Are visions of a new, large screen television dancing in your head?



We know it is only November but many people are already thinking about Christmas shopping. If you are thinking about buying a big screen television, you may want to skip the Christmas sales and wait until May to make this purchase. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has raised the requirements for Energy Star rated televisions. The televisions that will meet the new Energy Star requirements will not be available until May 1, 2010.

To earn the Energy Star label the new televisions must use less energy when turned on, ensure a satisfac-

tory level of brightness and reduce the energy needed when downloading program guide information. The new requirements for 46 and 50 inch screens should provide almost 50 percent in energy savings over conventional models of the same size.

It is predicted that more than 19 million televisions with screens larger than 40 inches will move into American homes in 2010. Shelby Electric Cooperative recommends Energy Star rated televisions for energy conservation and savings.

For more information visit: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

# OUTAGE REPORT

LINE OUTAGES				
DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
9/1/2009	1.50	Pana	Vehicle	105
9/5/2009	2.45	Velma	Trees	58
9/8/2009	0.10	Taylorville	Planned work	78
9/19/2009	1.00	Taylorville	Vehicle	104
9/21/2009	2.00	Moweaqua	Equipment failure	78
9/27/2009	2.02	Velma	Broken conductor	58
9/28/2009	2.30	Velma	Vehicle	422

# REAL LIFE REAL POWER

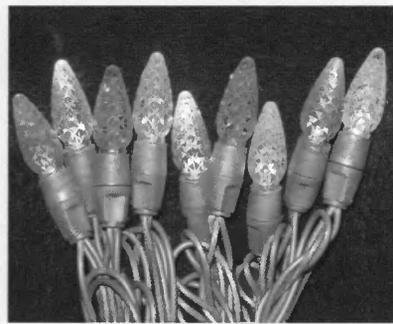
**H**ave yourself a merry little Christmas ... and save electricity by using Energy Star qualified light strings! According to the Energy Star website, Americans could save over 2 billion kWh per year if all decorative light strings sold in America this year were Energy Star qualified!!

Many Energy Star qualified decorative light strings feature light emitting diodes (LEDs). The amount of electricity used by one 7-watt incandescent bulb could power 140 LEDs. That is enough lights for two, 24-foot light strings!

In addition to using less electricity, LED lights have other advantages over incandescent bulbs:

- LED holiday lights last longer.

Their operational life is approximately 20,000 hours compared to 3,000 hours from a 7-watt incandescent bulb.



- LED holiday lights are cooler; reducing the risk of fire and personal injury.
- LED holiday lights are more durable with the lamp shade typically made of plastic rather than glass.
- It is safer to connect multiple strings of LED lights together without overloading the circuit because they use less power.

Sources:

[www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov)  
[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

*Using six strings of 24, 7-watt incandescent bulbs for six hours per day for 30 days will add approximately \$20 to your electricity bill.*



**Ask for your free UL approved Energy Star LED Christmas Light string at Shelby Electric Cooperative headquarters (while supplies last).**

## Shelby Linemen Attend 2nd Year Apprentice Training

**S**helby Electric Cooperative Apprentice Linemen Andy McDonald and Ryan Musser, both from Shelbyville, attended a lineman training class for second year apprentice linemen at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield September 21-25.

The school was hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) as part of an overall lineman safety/training program. Roger Larkin, manager of lineworker and apprentice development for the AIEC, says, "The linemen first learned the proper use of protective apparel. They learned the proper and safe methods for installation of cross-arms, insulators, lightning arrestors and transformers. They also learned how to perform pole and bucket truck rescues."

Lineman Thad France out of the Taylorville outpost and Foreman Kris Koehler from Shelbyville were instructors for the school.

Shelby Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy — an alliance of more than 690 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Shelby Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The co-op serves more than 9,805 members over 2,233 miles of line in parts of Christian, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie, Sangamon and Shelby counties. For more information visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop).



*Andy McDonald and Ryan Musser recently attended apprentice linemen training.*

# Thanksgiving Day Safety Tips

Thanksgiving is a holiday that brings friends and family together to share a good meal, conversation and laughter. Thanksgiving also comes with several health hazards, including an increased chance of fires, food poisoning and choking. Take a few minutes to review these Thanksgiving Day safety tips and enjoy the holiday without worry.

## Fire

The U.S. Fire Administration reports that more than 4,000 fires occur on Thanksgiving Day. The average number of cooking fires doubles on the holiday. In addition to installing a fire detector in the kitchen, there are several easy ways to avoid fires:

Don't leave the kitchen while frying and grilling. Use a timer and check on food often when simmering, baking, broiling and roasting. If deep-frying a turkey, keep the fryer outside, away from walls, fences and other structures. Also keep the fryer away from moisture to avoid burns from steam and spattering oil.

## Turkey

Eating undercooked turkey is another Thanksgiving health problem. If a turkey is thawed at a temperature above 40 F, salmonella or other bacteria that cause food poisoning can grow.

Safely cooking a turkey starts with correct defrosting. There are three methods for safe defrosting. The turkey can be thawed in the refrigerator – one day for every 5 lbs. of the bird. The turkey can be submerged in water if it is in leak-proof packaging – 30 minutes for every pound. The water should be changed every half hour. It's also safe to defrost a turkey in a microwave. Remove any packaging and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

With all three methods it's important to cook the turkey immediately after thawing. Don't slow cook or partially cook the turkey. When cooking the turkey, check the temperature with a meat thermometer to determine if it's done. Even if the turkey came with a pop-up thermometer, it's necessary to check the innermost part of the thigh and wing, and the thickest part of the breast. The turkey needs to be at least 165 F including the stuffing.

Let the turkey rest before carving as this gives the juices time to set.



## Choking

The most common cause of choking is talking while eating. If a person is unable to cough, breathe or speak, the first thing to do is call 911. Next, the Red Cross recommends a technique called FIVE-and-FIVE for choking victims.

The first step is giving the choking victim five sharp blows on the back, using the heel of the hand. If the obstruction is not dislodged by this move, the next step is to give the victim five quick, upward abdominal thrusts.

Some people leave the table when they start choking. It's important to stay with other people so they can receive assistance. If the victim is alone, they can give themselves the five abdominal thrusts using their hands or by pressing their abdomen firmly against the back of a chair.

## Leftovers

Eating Thanksgiving leftovers that have been improperly stored can also lead to food poisoning. Leftovers, in-

cluding pumpkin pie, need to be put away within two hours after serving the food. Food should be refrigerated if it is going to be eaten within three days; otherwise it should be frozen. Meat should be removed from the bone before putting away and food should be stored in shallow containers.

Leftovers should be reheated to 165 F and gravy should be brought to a vigorous boil.

## Dogs

Thanksgiving brings health hazards to dogs and other pets as well as humans. Don't give turkey bones to pets. Turkey bones and other bird bones are hollow, which makes them likely to splinter. This can cause tears in an animal's esophagus, stomach or intestines.

Fatty holiday foods, such as turkey skin and gravy, can contribute to pancreatitis. More pets are brought to vets for pancreatitis after their owners have had a party or holiday dinner.

<p>Shelby Electric Cooperative 1-800-677-2612 1-217-774-3986 24-hours-a-day</p>	<p>PWR-net &amp; WildBlue Internet 1-877-994-2323 weekdays</p>	<p>Shelby Energy 1-217-774-2311 24-hours-a-day</p>
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## How to Care for Your Farm-Grown Fresh Christmas Tree

When a Christmas tree is cut, over half of its weight is water. With proper care, you can maintain the quality of your displayed trees. Below are tips relating to the care of displayed trees:

- Displaying trees in water in a traditional reservoir type stand is the most effective way of maintaining their freshness and minimizing needle loss problems.
- Make a fresh cut to remove about a 1/2-inch thick disk of wood from the base of the trunk before putting the tree in the stand. Make the cut perpendicular to the stem axis. Don't cut the trunk at an angle, or into a v-shape, which makes it far more difficult to hold the tree in the stand and also reduces the amount of water available to the tree.
- Once home, place the tree in water as soon as possible. Most species can go 6 to 8 hours after cutting the trunk and still absorb water. Don't bruise the cut surface or get it dirty.
- If needed, trees can be temporarily stored for several days in a cool location. Place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket that is kept full of water.
- To display the trees indoors, use a stand with an adequate water holding capacity for the tree. As a general rule, stands should provide 1 quart of water per inch of stem diameter. Devices are available that help maintain a constant water level in the stand.
- Use a stand that fits your tree. Avoid whittling the sides of the trunk down to fit a stand. The outer layers of wood are the most efficient in absorbing water and should not be removed.
- Keep displayed trees away from sources of heat (fireplaces, heaters, heat vents and direct sunlight). Lowering the room temperature will slow the dry-



ing process, resulting in less water consumption each day.

- The temperature of the water used to fill the stand is not important and does not affect water uptake.
- Check the stand daily to make

► *Continued on 16b*

► Continued from 16a

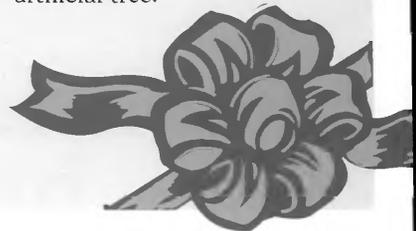
- sure that the level of water does not go below the base of the tree. With many stands, there can still be water in the stand even though the base of the tree is no longer submerged in water.
- Drilling a hole in the base of the trunk does not improve water uptake.
  - Use of lights that produce low heat, such as miniature or LED lights, will reduce drying of the tree.
  - Always inspect light sets prior to placing them on the tree. If a string of lights is damaged, replace with a new set.
  - Do not overload electrical circuits.
  - Always turn off the tree lights when leaving the house or when going to bed.
  - Monitor the tree for freshness. After Christmas or if the tree is dry, remove it from the house.
  - Go to [www.realchristmastrees.org](http://www.realchristmastrees.org) and type in your ZIP code to find a recycling program near you.
  - Never burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace.
  - To learn more about Christmas trees go to [www.christmastree.org](http://www.christmastree.org), home of the National Christmas Tree Association.

## Bet You Didn't Know This

- According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), approximately one tenth of one percent (0.12%) of residential fires involves a Christmas tree – both real and artificial.
- At NO time can a real Christmas tree START or CAUSE a fire. Christmas trees do not spontaneously combust.
- In 1998 more than 32 million real Christmas trees were used in the U.S. Of these, only 0.00093% were ignited in home fires.
- Christmas trees are not as likely to be the first item ignited in

residential fires as many other common household items:

- newspapers and magazines – 13 times more likely
- boxes or bags – 10 times more likely
- curtains or drapes – 9 times more likely
- Overloaded electric outlets and faulty wires are the most common causes of holiday fires in residences. These types of fires can be just as dangerous with an artificial tree.



### Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# SHELBY News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**P.O. BOX 560**  
**Shelbyville, IL 62565**  
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**Fax: 217-774-3330**  
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**Office Hours:**  
**7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

#### LINE OUTAGES

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
10/6/2009	5.05	Moweaqua	Bad arrestor	78
10/19/2009	1.45	Moweaqua	Miscellaneous	93
10/22/2009	1.05	Lakewood	Unknown	156
10/25/2009	1.30	Shelbyville	Animal/bird	57

#### SUBSTATION OUTAGES

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
10/22/2009	1.30	Richland	Equipment failure	588



# Don't Let This Happen To You

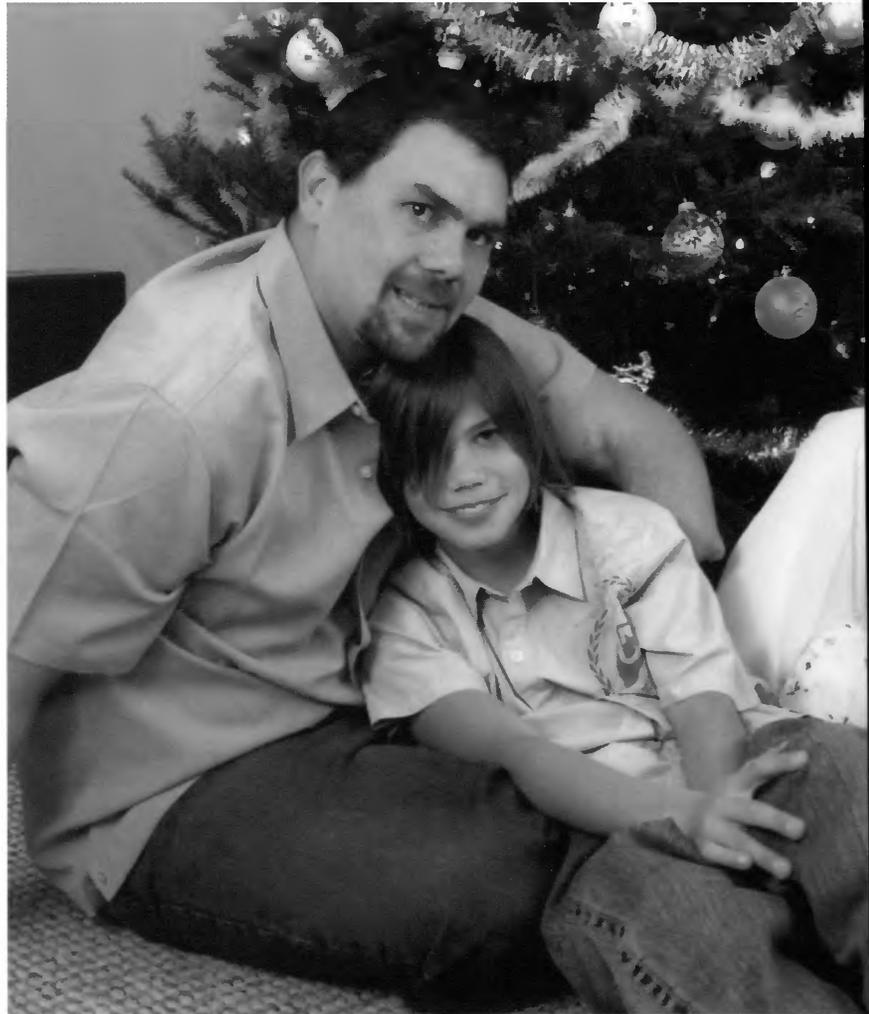
For millions of people every year, the holiday season comes with traditions of festive lights and decorations, extraordinary foods and lavish parties. Unfortunately, time-honored traditions can easily end in tragedy if precautions are not taken. A few years ago, Shawn Miller was one of these people.

His mother, Maria Worth, found her son on the ground with wisps of smoke coming from his body. Miller was unconscious and badly burned. He had been hanging holiday lights in the trees that lined her yard. As he tossed the lights up into the trees, 7200 volts of electricity entered his body, traveling from the overhead power lines through his strand of lights.

"Power lines were the last thing on my mind that day," says Miller. "I was just hanging Christmas lights at my Mom's house like I do every year, only this time, I was decorating a new area, the trees that lined the front of the yard."

Although Miller suffered 27 exit wounds, the loss of his left hand and a finger on his right hand, his survival was miraculous. He urges everyone to use caution this holiday season. Miller's experience is the centerpiece of this year's Safe Electricity's Teach Learn Care TLC campaign, spreading awareness about the importance of electrical safety.

"Shawn Miller has a lot to teach us about electrical safety and we are grateful he is sharing his story through our Teach Learn Care TLC campaign," says Molly Hall, Executive Director of Safe Electricity. "We want people to learn from his tragic experience and care enough to share it with those they love."



*Electrocution survivor Shawn Miller and his family.*

"I'm lucky to be alive," Miller adds. "I want everyone to be careful and be aware of power lines."

Miller and Safe Electricity urge everyone to follow these guidelines while decorating for the holiday season:

- Never throw holiday lights or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines at-

tached to your house. Keep ladders, equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from all power lines.

- Use only lights that have been safety tested and have the UL label.
- Before use, check each light string for broken sockets, frayed cord or faulty plugs. Replace damaged strings and always unplug light strings while replacing bulbs.



- Make sure extension cords are in good condition, are UL-approved and rated to carry the electrical load you will connect to them.
- Match plugs with outlets. Don't force a 3-pronged plug into a 2-pronged outlet or extension cord.
- Do not overload outlets. Use surge protector strips if multiple outlets are needed.
- Keep electric cords away from high-traffic areas and don't run them through doorways or hide them under rugs or carpets.
- Don't let children or pets play with light strings or electrical decorations.
- Place fresh-cut trees away from heat sources, such as heat registers, fireplaces, radiators and televisions; and water frequently.
- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

"After something life-changing happens, you become more interested and learn much more," Miller said. "Had I known more before this happened, I might still have two hands and the job I loved. I have to find ways to move on with my life and help people learn from what has happened to me. Safe Electricity is helping me help others."

For more information on electrical safety and to see a video on Shawn's compelling story, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

- Outdoors, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with GFCIs. Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets are not equipped with them.
- Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords, or attach cords to utility poles
- Don't string together more than three standard-size sets of lights.

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[twitter.com/YourCoop](http://twitter.com/YourCoop)

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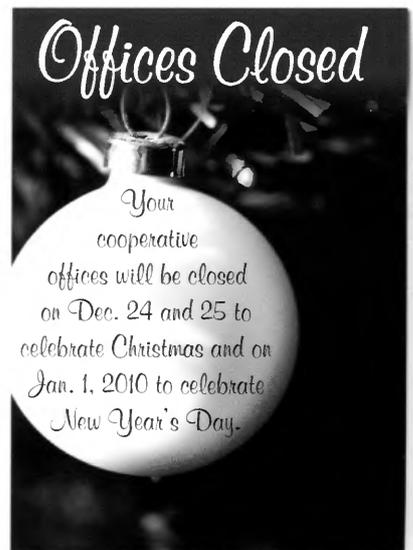
11:24 AM Nov 2nd from TweetDeck

I just voted for <http://pic.gd/4ca236> Check it out!

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960 kids and adults made it through our mazes 3 - <http://bit.ly/42G2tK>

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# Safety Concerns on New Device – Buyer Beware

Looking at its Web site you can see why people might be attracted to the RPU-190, <http://www.reducepowerusage.com>.

“Cut your power bill by 50 percent,” it blares atop the home page. The manufacturer of the \$199 device goes on to claim that it uses “genuine power-saving techniques” and that “if you can plug in a power cord, you can install the RPU-190.”

To consumer-members it might sound impressive; but Brian Sloboda, a program manager at the Cooperative Research Network, has another opinion. “I call it a potential deathtrap,” he said. “This could kill you.”

CRN and some local co-op engineers have been taking a look at the RPU-190, which Sloboda described as a shunt that’s slightly larger than a stick of chewing gum.

“All it is, is a strip of copper that you place between the contacts on the meter base,” he explained. “Shunting means it sends the electricity around, so it’s never counted — assuming it works, which could be illegal.”

Following co-op complaints, Electric Hero, the manufacturer of the RPU-190, removed from its Web site a video that Sloboda called “scary.” In it, a young wom-

an demonstrated how to install the device.

Dressed in shorts and a T-shirt and wearing what appear to be lineman’s gloves, she opens a meter, sticks the copper strip in and closes the meter. “There is the potential for serious harm,” Sloboda said, expressing amazement that the woman was not injured or killed.

Electric Co-op Today made phone and e-mail requests for an interview with an Electric Hero official.

The e-mail was not replied to, and a man answering the phone said the owner, whom he would identify only as “Mike,” would call back. That had not happened at press time.

However, J.P. Daniels, who works in sales and marketing for Electric Hero, told CRN that the company was being “harassed” over the device. “It’s not illegal, it’s not cheating, it’s not stealing and it’s not bypassing anything,” Daniels said. Sloboda noted that the company claims it will halt sales if shown that the RPU-190 is illegal.

That has failed to happen even though several co-ops pointed to laws against meter tampering. While the RPU-190 itself may not be illegal, the primary use of it is.

The Missouri Public Service

Commission alerted utilities to the RPU-190 and encouraged them to sound the alarm. At the statewide association, Rural Missouri magazine decided to see for itself.

Editor Jim McCarty said that for their \$199, they received a package with a Florida postmark and not a whole lot of other identifying information.

Inside was what McCarty described as a “crude” DVD showing how to install the device. “It had words misspelled,” he said. “The name of the utility on the meter was taped over.” CRN is developing an article for statewide magazines to warn of the hazards of the RPU-190.

“They’re selling well-meaning people a device that they advertise as bringing energy efficiency to your home, and people are risking their lives and they’re potentially violating the law,” Sloboda said.

“You’re just wasting your money and you could have spent that money on actual energy efficiency improvements and worked collaboratively with your utility, rather than trying to circumvent the utility.”

*(Reprinted from Electric Co-op Today - Mar. 27, 2009 written by Michael W. Kahn)*

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# REAL LIFE REAL POWER

## Refrigerate Responsibly

Holidays and food go together like turkey and dressing. For safe food storage, it is important to know at what temperatures your refrigerator and freezer are operating. According to the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, refrigerators should maintain a temperature of 40 F or below and freezers should maintain zero degrees F. An appliance thermometer will allow you to monitor the temperature of your refrigerator/freezer. This can be particularly beneficial in the event of a power outage. When power is restored, if the refrigerator temperature is still at 40 F, the food is considered safe. Foods that have been above 40 F for more than two hours should not be consumed.

Proper refrigerator and freezer maintenance will also help save energy and money by allowing your appliance to work in optimum conditions. Use this simple checklist for your refrigerator/freezer:

- Check the seal. Put a dollar bill in various places around the refrigerator door. If you can pull it out easily – the seal is not tight (and you are wasting energy and money!).
- Clean the coils. Coils make a cozy home for dust bunnies! Dirty coils make the unit's compressor work longer to remove heat.
- Setting the freezer temperature below zero degrees F uses extra energy.
- Setting the refrigerator temperature below 37 F uses extra energy.

### FREE

Shelby Electric Cooperative wants to help you keep your food safe and save energy by providing a free refrigerator/freezer thermometer (one per member, while supplies last). Stop in the office at North Route 128 to pick up your thermometer.



## Ghost, Goblins and Ghouls, Oh My!

Shelby Electric Cooperative's Spooktacular III ended with great success and there are plans for a Spooktacular IV. Young and old enjoyed two mazes, one for the faint of heart and one for those who like a bit of a spook and a thrill. Once they made it out alive kids were handed a bag of treats.

"We opened for two nights this year and we had great crowds both nights with Halloween night being the largest crowd as we expected," said cooperative organizers. "It was a great way for the inside employees and the outside employees to work together on a great community event," continued the event coordinators.

Over 960 people ventured through the two mazes with 536 of them being youngsters, many of them in costumes as well.

One person who ventured into the

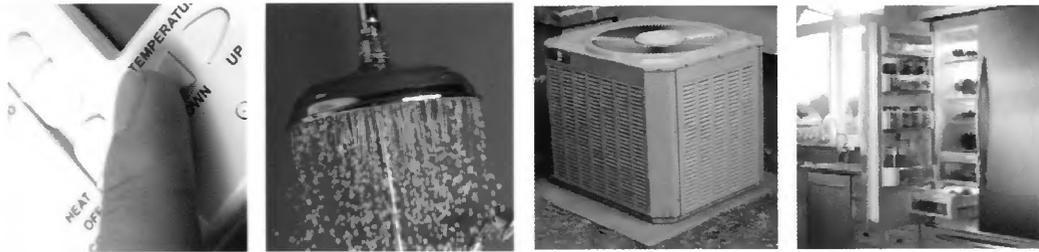


Cast of spooks and characters who were part of the cooperative's Spooktacular III haunted maze. Over 600 bags of treats were handed out during the two-night event.

haunted maze commented on how well the coop employees are able to keep it fresh each year and the kids loved hanging out with Spiderman and Scooby Doo.

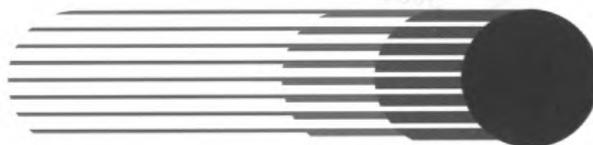
Spooktacular is put on by the employees and family members of Shelby Electric Cooperative and is a free, safe, trick-or-treat community event.

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