



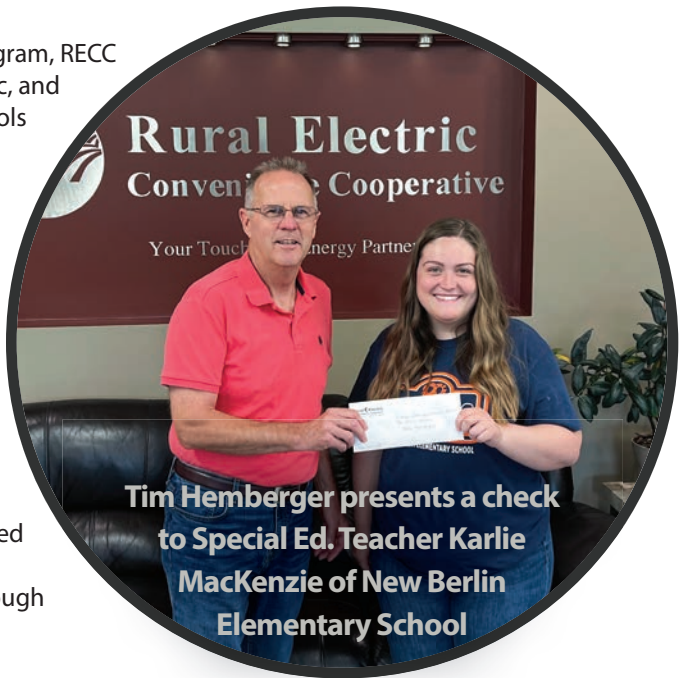
# Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

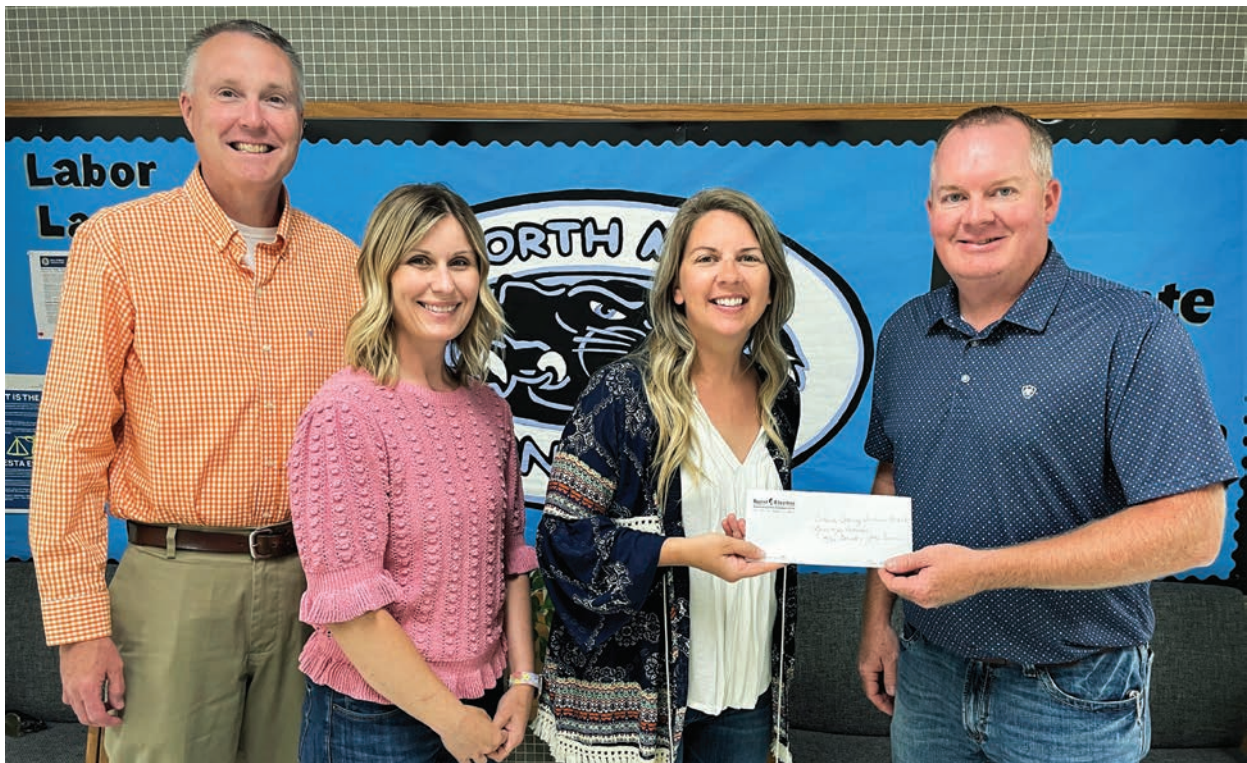
## Co-op Community Grants 2022

With matching funds from CoBank's Sharing Success program, RECC was able to award grants to schools in New Berlin, North Mac, and Taylorville. The grants were divided among these three schools to fund five diverse projects. Some of the funding will go to provide lighting components for a music class and sensory integration equipment to reduce stress. More traditional requests were awarded to STEM with computers and software. A portion was also awarded for physical education and special needs classes. In total, the cooperative and CoBank awarded \$20,000 this year. Congratulations to all!

In the last four years, schools in Ball-Chatham, Edinburg, Pawnee, Auburn, Morrisonville, Raymond, Waverly, Franklin, and Kincaid have received Co-op Community Grants. The primary recipients have been local schools, but food pantries in Taylorville, Virden, and Loami were selected in 2020 and the Auburn Helping Hands received a grant last year. The Refuge Ranch in Rochester and Virden's Prairieland Ambulance have also received similar grants through the sharing success program.



**Tim Hemberger presents a check to Special Ed. Teacher Karlie MacKenzie of New Berlin Elementary School**



**North Mac: John Downs, Randi Anderson, and Kara Dowell receive a grant from RECC's Nick Hays**



Taylorville: Megan Curtin, RECC's Aubrie Megginson, Eric Bruder, and Keith Chase

## RECC students join national electric co-op Youth to Washington Tour

Olivia Marchizza from Auburn and Grace Minder from Loami were selected to represent the cooperative and enjoy an all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from June 17-24 as part of the annual Youth Tour. The students visited Capitol Hill and met with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and U.S. Representatives Rodney Davis and Darin LaHood. They also visited historical and cultural sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, the White House, a variety of memorials and the U.S. Capitol. Among fun activities the students enjoyed was an assembly of more than 1,000 Youth Tour participants from across the nation.

"Youth Tour is a great opportunity that changes these students' lives," says David Stuva, RECC president/CEO. "This experience helps prepare them for their futures. After touring our nation's capital, meeting congressional representatives and learning

firsthand how our government works, they return home with valuable knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime."

Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 60,000 high school students to visit Washington, D.C., talk one-on-one with their U.S. congressional delegations and learn from energy and grassroots government education sessions.

NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation's more than 900 consumer-owned,

not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million consumer-members in 47 states.



Congressman Darin LaHood, Olivia Marchizza, and Grace Minder

## Your cooperative's newest employee



Michael Lavin was hired as an Apprentice Lineman on May 16, 2022. He was employed at West Side Christian Church in the Maintenance Department. Michael has had a variety of jobs, including working as an usher for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Michael completed an internship at RECC in 2021 and graduated from the LLCC-AIEC Electrical Line Distribution Lineman Program. He also has a bachelor's degree in business administration from SIUE in Edwardsville. Michael graduated from Springfield High School and was an All-State Baseball player.

## RECC's McCarty held Auburn track record for 40 years

Jake Barth is the new record holder for the 800 Meter Run at AJHS. In 1982, Dave McCarty set the Auburn Junior High 800 Meter Run record with a time of 2:10.9. Dave's record stood for 40 years. In April, Jake surpassed it with a time of 2:08.8. Two weeks later Jake broke his own record with a time of 2:08.52 and finished 2nd at the State Meet. He also won 1st place at the Junior High State Meet this year in the 1600 Meter Run with a time of 4:47.77, another AJHS record. In addition, Jake took 3rd in long jump at State.

Jake is the son of Jon and Sarah Barth, who are also members of the cooperative.



Jake Barth and Warehouseman Dave McCarty

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAKE AND DAVE!



Our office will be closed on Monday, September 5th for Labor Day.

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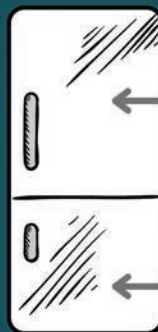
## Photo of the Day



RECC Board Chairman Mel Repscher provided an aerial photo of ComEd crews repairing a 345K line that fell into his strawberry patch. As you can see, the repair required a lot of large equipment and a crane. Mel was told that line workers would be on his property for a week and the entire H structure would have to be replaced.

## Keep Food Safe During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



4

Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.

24 OR 48

Food in a half-full freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a full freezer will last 48 hours.

### Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
3. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

When in doubt, throw it out!

