

MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

Monroe County Electric line personnel compete in Lineworker's Safety Rodeo

Line personnel from Monroe County Electric Cooperative (MCEC) participated in the annual Lineworker's Safety Rodeo coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Thursday, Sept. 19. Fifteen teams from 12 electric co-ops and one municipal electric utility participated in the friendly competition, along with seven others competing individually. The rodeo highlights the skills lineworkers use to work safely and efficiently.

Gary Gilbert, Andrew Gotto and Calen Moore represented MCEC

at the rodeo, held at the LLCC Line School Yard in Springfield. They competed against teams from across Illinois in events using skills that focus on agility, speed and accuracy. While these skills are part of the judging criteria, above all, participants are judged on safe work practices.

Line personnel competed in a series of team and individual events including the 40-foot climb, hurt man rescue and crossarm change. The cutout change was a team event, and the day concluded with a head-to-head climbing challenge.

Scores for each event are based on completion time, proper execution of the task and safety. Deductions were made to a team or individual's overall performance score due to mistakes such as slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools or executing inappropriate procedures or methods.

At the end of the day, Gilbert won third place in the individual crossarm change event. Congratulations to our lineworkers on their team and individual efforts.



May your holidays be
merry and bright



As November kicks off, it's hard to believe we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team at Monroe County Electric Cooperative cares about your wellbeing. This month, we'd like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

Safety first

Our family truly enjoys decorating our home for the holidays. Before we deck the halls, we always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. This gives us peace of mind, knowing our holiday lights are ready to safely brighten our home. We also double-check the lights we use outside to make sure they're rated for outdoor use.

Like many households, we also enjoy holiday-scented candles. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. We test ours on the first of each month, so it's easy to remember. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so make it a habit.

'Tis the season for savings

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your bills.

We like to remind our family members to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling makes up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy efficient lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food — not just the meals but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for meal-times and energy savings.

We hope you are able to implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans this year.

From your friends at MCEC, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright.



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Office hours: Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Discontinuing the Co-op Echoes publication

Beginning Jan. 1, 2025, Monroe County Electric Cooperative will discontinue its *Echoes* newsletter. We will be enhancing our *Illinois Country Living* magazine pages, which we believe will provide an even greater value to our members. This publication reaches a wider audience and is more frequently read, making it a more effective way to stay connected.

Rest assured, the community news, cooperative updates and all the features you've enjoyed in *Echoes* will now be included in the center section of *Illinois Country Living*. This magazine is mailed monthly to all active members, ensuring you'll continue to receive the latest information on everything happening at the co-op and within the community.



We're confident this transition will enhance your experience, and we look forward to keeping you informed in a more dynamic format!



MCEC line outages September 2024

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
09/03/24	0:43	9	Stemler Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	Millstadt
09/03/24	0:37	46	Roachtown Rd	Unknown	Smithton
09/05/24	0:27	17	Maeystown Rd	Construction	Fults
09/09/24	1:08	16	MM Rd	Trees, Other	Fults
09/11/24	1:16	9	Lakeview Hills	Small Animals Or Birds	E. Carondelet
09/15/24	6:05	5	B Rd/Levee Rd	Vehicles Or Machinery	Fults
09/19/24	0:30	2	JJ Rd	Unknown	Waterloo
09/24/24	2:35	5	Littekin Ln/ Steppig Rd	Trees, Other	Columbia
09/26/24	0:49	11	Algonquin Forest Estates	Public Accidents, Other	Millstadt

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.

POWERING YOUR FUTURE

17 SCHOLARSHIPS
\$2,500 EACH

The electric cooperatives of Illinois are proud to offer scholarships to deserving students in our co-op family. Whether you're a high school senior planning to attend college or interested in a career as a lineworker, there's a scholarship opportunity for you.

Applications are now open for the 2025 Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarships. Apply by December 31, 2024, for most scholarships, or by April 30, 2025, for the lineworker scholarship. Scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/IECScholarships> for more details.



**IEC MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIPS**