



**Western Illinois**  
ELECTRICAL COOP.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

P.O. Box 338 ■ Carthage, Illinois 62321 ■ [www.wiec.net](http://www.wiec.net) ■ 800-576-3125

# NEWS

## 30th Annual Safety Fair

WIEC's annual Safety Fair began in 1994 as a way to equip fifth-grade students with knowledge about different ways to be safe in the world around them. The message of "Live Smart, Keeping Safe and Having Fun" has been shared with thousands of students from our area over the years.

This year's fair is scheduled for Sept. 11 and will endeavor to educate youth at a critical age, when they are just starting to be given more freedom to be independent and handle situations on their own. Past sessions have focused on bicycle safety; farm safety; how to make a 911 call and the interaction with an ambulance and its crew; ATV safety, including the importance of wearing proper safety gear; boating safety and how critical it is to wear the correct size life jacket, as well as other boating safety techniques. The presenters do a fantastic job of engaging with the students. Some bring games to play and also have prizes to win! Presenters allow kids to ask questions while helping them to understand the need to be safe. **6814-16**

We hope fifth-graders from all area schools can attend. Our wish is that they have such an enjoyable time they remember the lessons they are taught there for years to come.





524 North Madison | P.O. Box 338  
Carthage, IL 62321  
www.wiec.net | 800-576-3125

#### OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

#### BUSINESS OFFICE

217-357-3125

#### TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

800-576-3125

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Mark Burling** —  
President, **Carthage**
- **Dustin Walker** —  
Vice President, **Burnside**
- **Janet Spory** —  
Secretary/Treasurer, **Sutter**
- **Kim Gullberg** —  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer,  
**Stronghurst**
- **Landon Guymon** —  
Director, **Carthage**
- **Jay Morrison** —  
Director, **Niota**
- **Stephen Patrick** —  
Director, **Carthage**

#### MANAGEMENT TEAM

- **Todd Grotts** — General Manager
- **Ryan Biery** — Manager  
of Operations
- **Wendi Whitaker** — Finance and  
Accounting Manager

#### MAP LOCATION CONTEST

Every month we are printing four members' map location numbers in the newsletter. If you find your map location number call the WIEC office by the 25th of the following month, tell us where it is and we will give you a \$10.00 bill credit. Keep on reading the WIEC News.

# Hancock County 4-H Fair results — electric projects

#### Best electricity exhibit

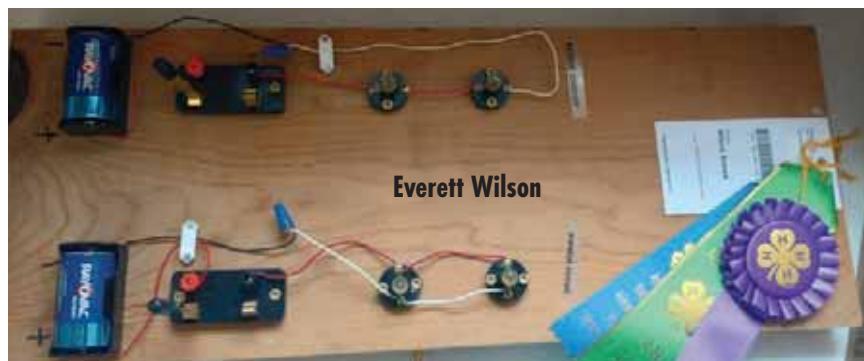
Everett Wilson, Hamilton Busy Bees

#### Blue ratings

Grady Henson, Hamilton Busy Bees  
Kaleb Mohr, LaHarpe 4-Leaf Clovers  
Everett Wilson, Hamilton Busy Bees

#### State Fair delegates

Grady Henson, Hamilton Busy Bees  
Kaleb Mohr, LaHarpe 4-Leaf Clovers  
Everett Wilson, Hamilton Busy Bees



WIEC will be closed on Sept. 1 in observance of Labor Day. In case of a power emergency, please call 217-357-3125. If busy, please hang up and call 800-576-3125.

#### Welcome new members

June 2025

Jeff & Renee Connor

Ty & Rachel Huston

Melinda Plagge

Jay M & Stephanie A

LABE, Inc.

James T Scheetz

Cottam

Chase L Lomax

Andrew M Smith

Chase M & Claira M

Candise Mahan

Jeff Vaughn

Dennis

Martha Oppenheimer

Universal EV, LLC

Brendan T Hammel

Larry D & Diane R Peck

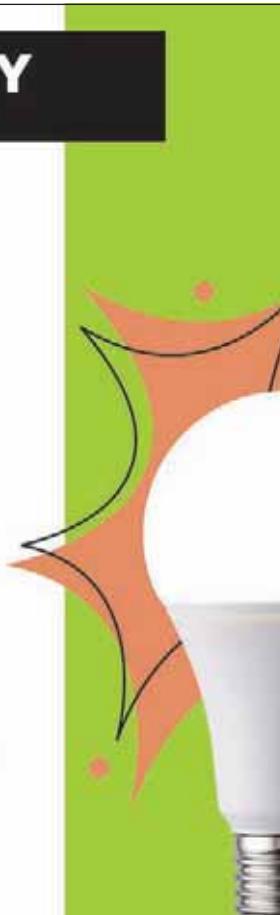
## WIEC board approves capital credit retirement

Manager Todd Grotts is pleased to report that the WIEC Board of Directors has once again approved capital credit retirements for this fall. A refund amount of \$325,000 was approved during the budgeting process for this year. This will retire the remaining capital credits for 1995 and a majority of 1996. The board (directed by co-op bylaws and separate co-op policy) can only approve the retirement of capital credits when it will not adversely impact the cooperative's financial condition. Keep your eyes out for checks to arrive toward the end of September or early October. **861-22-1**

Capital credits represent the cooperative members' equity in (or ownership of) their cooperative. Your credit for a specific year reflects your individual portion of any margins (aka profits) earned that year by the cooperative.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of "shoulder months," which refer to the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to reduce home energy consumption as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat. **8613-56-1**



## FARM SMART: 5 Safety Tips for Kids



Farms and ranches are full of valuable lessons — but also serious risks, especially for kids. More young people die working in agriculture than in all other industries combined, often due to taking on tasks beyond their abilities.

Five ways to keep kids safe around equipment, animals and chores:

### 1 Keep kids off tractors.

Tractors cause more than 40% of fatal farm accidents involving children. Most kids are not tall or strong enough to operate them safely. Only let youth operate tractors if they meet age, size and maturity guidelines.

### 2 Supervise and restrict access.

Never leave young children alone near work zones. Lock or fence off danger zones like grain bins, pens and machinery.

### 3 Assign age-appropriate chores.

Match tasks to age and maturity. Teens may take risks, so set clear rules and supervise closely.

### 4 Create a safe environment.

Eliminate slip hazards, lock up keys, limit heavy lifting and provide protective gear like gloves, non-slip shoes and hearing protection.

### 5 Model safe behavior.

Teach tasks step-by-step and demonstrate safe habits — kids learn by watching adults.

Make safety a family priority so future generations can enjoy the rewards of farm life with less risk.

**Safe  
Electricity.org®**

# Memorial Hospital Foundation

## Celebrating 75 years: Honoring our past, inspiring our future

Memorial Hospital Foundation proudly reflects on a year dedicated to enhancing health and wellness in our local communities through charitable giving.

The foundation is filled with pride as Memorial Hospital celebrates its 75th anniversary and the foundation marks its 10th anniversary. These milestones provide an opportunity to reflect on a legacy of excellence in local healthcare and inspire us to consider how we can continue to strengthen and secure the future of local healthcare for years to come.

This year, funds raised by the foundation supported the “Together We Grow” Endowment Campaign. The “Together We Grow” Endowment Campaign acts as a savings account for the future of local healthcare, ensuring a dependable, perpetual source of funding. As healthcare continues to evolve, endowment funds are crucial for the growth of Memorial Hospital and its services. Contributions of any size are welcomed, including property, bequests, life insurance policies, stock gifts, certificates of deposit and planned giving. **9510-19**

Additionally, the foundation continued to fund the “Grow Our Own” Scholarship Campaign, providing financial assistance and support for staff members seeking to further their education in the healthcare field. This campaign empowers team members who are pursuing advanced education, helping nurture talent from within to build a stronger, more skilled workforce.

Looking ahead, the foundation is thrilled to announce the return of “Celebration of Lights,” set to shine brighter than ever in December 2025. In honor of Memorial Hospital’s 75th anniversary, the Carthage Square will feature 75 sponsored trees, dazzling lighted displays, glowing arches and radiant stars. The event will kick



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

off with the “Celebration of Lights” Lighted Parade on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. Scan the QR code to become a sponsor or enter a float in the parade!

For more information on how you can contribute to the Memorial Hospital Foundation, please contact our team: Greta Wilson Wetzel, Executive Director, at 217-357-8502 or [gwetzel@mhtlc.org](mailto:gwetzel@mhtlc.org); or Katelyn Foreman, Communications Coordinator, at 217-357-5923 or [kforeman@mhtlc.org](mailto:kforeman@mhtlc.org). Memorial Hospital Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and a subsidiary

of Memorial Hospital, supporting Memorial Hospital, and Hancock County Senior & Childcare Services, and the communities they serve.

