


MONROE ELECTRIC NEWS

Waterloo, Illinois • 618.939.7171 • 800.757.7433

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

MCEC linemen compete at AIEC Lineman's Safety Rodeo

Line personnel from Monroe County Electric Cooperative recently participated in the annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo, coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Thursday, Sept. 25.

The event, held at the Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) Line School training yard in Springfield, brought together **18 teams from 13 electric cooperatives and two municipal utilities**, along with 10 individual competitors, for a day of friendly competition and professional skill-building.

Representing MCEC were **Gary Gilbert, Drew Goff and Cale Moore**, who competed as a team against line-workers from across Illinois. Events tested agility, accuracy and speed, with participants judged above all on their commitment to safe work practices.

Competitions included the **armor rod install, cutout change, hurt man rescue, 40-foot transition climb and a transition climbing challenge**. Each event was scored based on completion time, proper execution, and safety, with deductions for mistakes such as tool drops, slips or incorrect procedures.

We are proud to congratulate **Gary, Drew, and Cale** for representing Monroe County Electric with skill and professionalism. Their performance at the rodeo highlights the training, dedication and safety focus they bring to serving our members every day.



Our office will be closed
November 27th & 28th
for Thanksgiving.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

www.mcec.org

6132 State Rt. 3 • P.O. Box 128
Waterloo, Illinois 62298
618-939-7171 • 800-757-7433

Office hours:

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

Bright Lights, Safe Nights

Outdoor holiday lighting safety

- Use outdoor-rated lights with UL safety labels.
- Plug into GFCI outlets for shock protection.
- Stay at least 10 feet from power lines when hanging lights.
- Don't hang lights with tacks, nails or screws — use clips instead.
- Keep cords away from water and snow.
- Inspect for damage like broken sockets or frayed cords.
- Don't overload extension cords or outlets.
- Turn off lights before bed or when away; a timer makes it easy.



MCEC line outages September 2025

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
09/02/25	0:43	5	Gall Rd	Small Animals or Birds	N. Waterloo
09/03/25	0:09	32	Eagle Cliff Estates	Maintenance	Fountain
09/07/25	1:26	8	Mule Rd	Small Animals or Birds	E. Carondelet
09/08/25	0:56	506	Waterloo South	Equipment	Poe
09/14/25	0:58	846	Millstadt Area	Equipment	Millstadt
09/15/25	1:03	2	Maus Rd	Unknown	Fults
09/16/25	1:08	3	Lords Corner Ln	Small Animals or Birds	New Athens
09/16/25	0:43	12	Rt 159	Other, Faulty Equipment	New Athens
09/18/25	0:54	2	Ames Rd	Electrical Overload	Poe
09/20/25	0:23	3	Green Acres Dr	Lightning	N. Waterloo
09/20/25	2:42	846	Millstadt Area	Power Supplier	Millstadt
09/22/25	0:52	3	Kuehner Dr	Small Animals or Birds	Poe
09/26/25	4:07	1	Hay Ln	Vehicles or Machinery	New Athens
09/26/25	1:28	4	Lunceford Ln	Other, Deterioration	E. Carondelet

The season of giving

As the holiday season approaches and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another — and at Monroe County Electric Cooperative, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our concern for community. It's not just a nice phrase — it's one of the core principles that makes electric cooperatives like ours different from other utilities. We're not just here to keep the lights on (though, of course, we're always working hard to do that). We're here to make life better for the people we serve — our members, our neighbors and our friends.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our co-op family has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong and to build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season.

Take our classroom grant program, for example. Each year, we award 15 \$500 grants to local teachers and schools, helping fund projects that might otherwise go unrealized. Supporting the educators who give so much to our communities is one way we give back. Every little bit adds up — and it makes a big difference.

We're also proud to support local students through our scholarship program, where we give away 15-20

\$500 scholarships to high school seniors. That's giving in the most meaningful way — by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

And, because we care deeply about safety, we also spend time visiting schools throughout the communities we serve, holding demonstrations and teaching folks of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We believe knowledge is a gift, too — and we love sharing it.

Beyond our programs, you'll find MCEC employees coaching youth sports, volunteering at local events, serving on nonprofit boards and working with the Chamber of Commerce to strengthen our local economy. For us, giving back isn't an obligation — it's simply part of being a cooperative.

We also recognize that the holidays can bring financial stress. If you need advice on saving energy, want to explore payment options like budget billing, or just have questions, please reach out. We're here to help, during the holidays and throughout the year.

At MCEC, we believe concern for community is more than a value — it's the heart of who we are. And during this season of giving, we're especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.

From all of us at Monroe County Electric Cooperative, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful, safe and bright holiday season.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov













Empower your classroom

Enter our Classroom Empowerment Grant Program and your submission could win a \$500 grant for classroom and education projects! Classroom Empowerment Grants totaling \$7,500 are being funded by Monroe County Electric Cooperative, Inc. for the 2025-2026 school year.

For more information about the grant program, go to our website at mcec.org. You can also contact Julie Rohr at jrohr@mcec.org.

Grant applications will need to include the following information:

-  A description of the project and what it will accomplish
-  The estimated cost of the project
-  An explanation of why outside funds are necessary to complete the project
-  Whether other funding options have been pursued, and if so, how
-  When project will be completed
-  The number of people affected by the project
-  If the project's goals are measurable, and how
-  How the project ties in Touchstone Energy's four core values of Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and Commitment to Community



Photos and supporting data are required. Grant applications must be received at Monroe County Electric Cooperative by Nov. 7, 2025. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced mid-December.

Freeburg High School
2025 Classroom Empowerment
Grant recipient



Millstadt Primary Center
2025 Classroom Empowerment
Grant recipient



Parkview Elementary
2025 Classroom Empowerment
Grant recipient

