



Alan W. Wattles

Across The President's Desk

Line personnel from Monroe County Electric Cooperative competed in the annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Thursday, Sept. 24. The event was held at the LLCC Line School yard in Springfield and brought together 22 teams from 15 electric cooperatives, two municipal electric utilities and four line school students. Five linemen also competed individually.

Representing Monroe County Electric Cooperative were Gary Gilbert, Drew Goff and Matt Kish, who competed as a team against line personnel from across Illinois.

The rodeo puts the skills linemen use every day to the test, with an emphasis on agility, speed, accuracy and, most importantly, safe work practices. Competitors participated in events including the egg climb, cutout change, H-structure crossover, hurt man rescue and transition climbing challenge.

Scores for each event are based on completion time, proper execution and safety. Penalties are assessed for mistakes such as slipping while climbing, dropping tools or failing to follow proper procedures.

The MCEC team turned in a strong performance, missing the podium by just .08 of a second and finishing 4th overall in the Egg Climb.

Individual results included:

- Matt Kish – 4th out of 55 competitors in the Egg Climb
- Gary Gilbert – 16th out of 55 competitors in the Egg Climb
- Drew Goff – 16th out of 53 competitors in the H-Structure Crossover

We are proud of Gary, Drew and Matt for representing Monroe County Electric Cooperative and demonstrating the skill, teamwork and commitment to safety that our line personnel bring to the job every day.

Congratulations on a great showing at the Lineman's Safety Rodeo!

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



Office closures



In observance of Veteran's Day, the office will be closed Wednesday, November 11, 2026.
Thank you, veterans, for your service!



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

In observance of Thanksgiving, the office will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27, 2026.

WHAT IS STEP POTENTIAL?

Why every step matters near a downed power line

When a downed power line touches the ground, electricity can spread out like ripples on a pond.

If your feet touch two different voltage levels, electricity can move through your body.

That is step potential, and it can be deadly.

IF YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE:

- **STOP.** Keep yourself and others at least 50 feet away.
- **CALL 911.** Report it and wait for help.
- **Never touch the line or anything it touches,** including fences, vehicles, trees, equipment or people.

IF YOU ARE NEAR A DOWNED LINE, DO NOT WALK OR RUN AWAY:

- **Shuffle to safety.** Keep feet close together and on the ground.
- **Hop away.** Keep feet together; hop and land together.

Downed lines can be silent, still and deadly. Stay away and call 911.

Learn more: SafeElectricity.org

MCEC line outages September 2026

Date	Duration	# Out	Map Location	Cause Desc	Substation
09/01/26	1:08	2	LL Rd	Other, Deterioration	Poe
09/03/26	1:16	24	Obst Rd/Griggs Rd	Other, Faulty Equipment	Poe
09/07/26	1:01	2	Cari Lane	Small Animals Or Birds	Poe
09/09/26	1:14	3	Schmidt Ln	Small Animals Or Birds	Smithton
09/16/26	1:03	14	Ames Rd	Small Animals Or Birds	Poe
09/16/26	1:14	7	Kropp Rd	Lightning	Millstadt
09/23/26	0:27	2	Braun Dr	Small Animals Or Birds	New Athens
09/28/26	1:01	5	Nike Rd	Vehicles Or Machinery	New Athens
09/30/26	0:14	31	J Rd	Public Accidents, Other	Poe



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

www.mcec.org

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



MCEC
Monroe County Electric Cooperative, Inc.



**House of
Neighborly Service**
MONROE COUNTY, IL

THANKSGIVING *Outreach*

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MCEC is partnering with House of Neighborly Service to collect Thanksgiving dinner supplies for families in our community. Your donations will help provide meals and bring hope this Thanksgiving.

Neighbors helping neighbors.



ITEMS NEEDED:

- Meat gift card (Schneiders, Schnucks, Walmart, Visa, etc.)
- Stuffing
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Gravy mix
- Cranberry sauce
- Sweet potatoes
- Marshmallows
- Green beans
- Corn
- Cream of mushroom soup
- Fried onions
- Canned fruit
- Jello
- Bisquick type mix
- Pumpkin
- Evaporated milk
- Paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.)



COLLECTION DATES:
OCTOBER 16 – NOVEMBER 13



DROP OFF AT
MCEC OFFICE
6132 STATE ROUTE 3, WATERLOO, IL



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 2026-2027 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. 9, 2026. Entries will be evaluated by an impartial panel of judges. Awards will be announced mid-December.

Columbia Middle School 2026 Classroom Empowerment Grant recipient



Millstadt Consolidated School 2026 Classroom Empowerment Grant recipient



Zahnw Elementary School 2026 Classroom Empowerment Grant recipient

