

THE GRID

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1-888-661-CMEC (2632)
Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

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**To Report an Outage
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**Find Your Name
and Win \$50**

Find your name hidden inside this issue of The Grid and receive a **\$50 bill credit**. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



CMEC's Gavin Bennett, Grant Cooper and Mitchell Huddleston represented our co-op 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 cut-out change was a team event, and the day concluded with a head-to-head climbing challenge.

At the end of the day, the CMEC team won first place in the cutout change. In the individual competition, Cooper won second place in the

40-foot climb, and Bennett placed third in the same event. Ultimately, Cooper won the head-to-head climbing challenge. Congratulations to our lineworkers on their team and individual efforts.



Pictured left to right: Gavin Bennett, Grant Cooper and Mitch Huddleston

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 provider, our team at Coles Moultrie Electric Cooperative (CMEC) 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

Many families enjoy decorating their home for the holidays. Before we deck the halls, always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. This gives you peace of mind, knowing holiday lights are ready to safely brighten our home. Be sure to double check the lights used outside are rated for outdoor use.

Some households 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. Test them 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.

Remind 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. **Teresa Kemper** Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

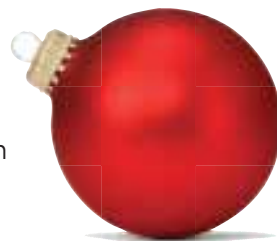
Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy efficient lighting options available,

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 mealtime and energy savings.

We hope you will implement these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans. For more information, visit our website at www.cmec.coop. We're here to help you with safety and savings year-round.

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



IEC scholarships

Illinois electric cooperatives will award 17 \$2,500 scholarships in 2025. The scholarships will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2024. The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2025. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Carla Bradbury at cbradbury@cmec.coop. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at aiec.coop/iec-scholarship.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

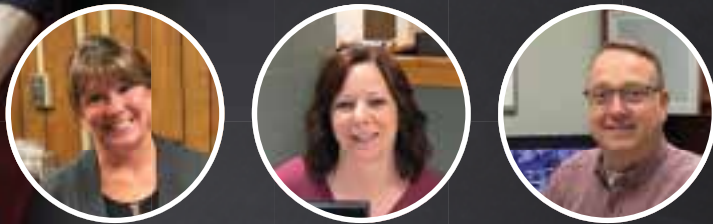
If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting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

Reminders

- Use the Smarthub app to view usage, set alerts, pay your bill & more.
- Sign up for Autopay & never be late again.
- Follow us on Facebook for up-to-date co-op news, safety & tips.
- Report outages by calling toll-free: 888-661-2632.

Honoring CMEC Employee Veterans



Carla, Heather and Dennis

Thank you for your service!





Daylight Saving Time Ends
change your clocks back an hour

CMEC updates submeter terms & conditions

This rate may be withdrawn:

1. If there is evidence of tampering with the load control device, control wiring, or meter socket
2. For failure of the member-consumer to permit the Cooperative reasonable access to its equipment
3. At the discretion of the Cooperative:
 - a. For failure of the member-consumer to keep the submeter socket energized or
 - b. For unsafe or hazardous wiring conditions involving the meter socket

Call our office at (217)235-0341 for more information or questions.

Vanilla Direct

CMEC members can now pay cash at participating locations using a barcode on their Smarthub account. Check out pay.vanilladirect.com/pages/retailers for participating locations. These include Dollar General, CVS Pharmacy and Walmart. Some businesses may accept both cash and a card payment. Your Smarthub can be set up by visiting our website at www.cmec.coop. This gives our members another convenient option for making payments in and around our service area.

Safety Tip

When decorating outside, look up and look out. Never throw holiday lights or other decorations into trees near power lines. Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep ladders, equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from power lines.



Safe
Electricity.org®

**CO-OPS
VOTE**

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
WWW.VOTE.COOP

Election Day is November 5.



HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

We are thankful for you,
our members!

CMEC will be closed Nov. 28 and 29.

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: cmec.coop