



along the lines

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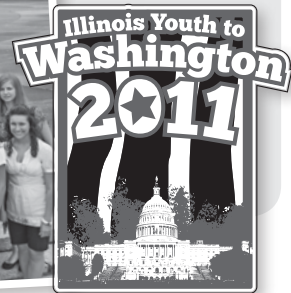
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Allen & Niemann Attend Youth to Washington 2011

Meghan Allen of Carlinville and Andrew Niemann of Hillsboro represented M.J.M. Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 10-17. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction to our democratic form of government and cooperatives for rural youth.

The students met with Congressman Bobby Schilling and were among 76 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,500 young leaders from across the country. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Roosevelt, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the National Archives, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

*From left are:
Congressman
Schilling,
Niemann and
Allen.*



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M.J.M Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



264 North East Street
Carlinville, Illinois 62626
Phone: 800-648-4729

Office Hours
Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Holidays observed

New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, day following Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

How to report an outage

Call 800-648-4729. Do not call the local lineman. Collect calls will be accepted to report outages. When you report an outage, give your name and location number. Before calling, check your fuses or circuit breakers. Check with your neighbors. Call to report hazardous conditions.

M.J.M. Along The Lines

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Tips To Cut Your Utility Bills

"The more things change, the more they..."

Yes, you know the last three words to the old saying, don't you? And they are, "remain the same."

About 21 years ago, I asked and received an opportunity to host a live radio program about energy efficiency. I knew that the new KBIS talk station in town needed additional programming and I knew that my topic could help a lot of their listeners.

It was definitely on my mind, but I didn't really know how to proceed. One evening, perhaps by coincidence, I attended a minor league baseball game that happened to be sponsored by KBIS radio.

It was bingo night and between innings Mr. Bill Powell was calling bingo numbers and giving KBIS gifts to the winners. I thought that Mr. Powell owned the station since he had a four-hour program every weekday morning. I convinced myself that I should get out of my seat and go down and try to talk to him about a program. I stood beside him and waited until he finished calling the next bingo numbers and gave away another prize. He then looked up at me and reached to shake my hand. I introduced myself and told him that I would like to do a live call-in show about energy efficiency. He thought



Doug Rye

that I meant health energy. I told him that I was talking about utility bills. I hurriedly asked him if he had a water heater at his house and he immediately said that he did. I asked him where it was located and he said that it was located in a small hallway closet. I asked him if he had noticed that it was always warm around that closet and he said, "As a matter of fact, I have." I asked him if the air conditioning thermostat was located close to that area and he said it was on the wall right next to that closet. I explained that the heat from the water heater was probably making his air conditioner run more than necessary. The baseball inning was coming to an end and it was time for more bingo as he asked what he should do. I told him to install a water heater blanket. He asked if I had a card. I handed him a card as he announced that this game would be straight-line bingo; the first number is

I was informed that the program would be an hour long and that we could receive calls if we wanted. It was now about 9 a.m. and I was sweating and trying to get a plan together.

B11, he said. He nodded his head at me and I figured that I might never have another chance. Well, at least I tried.

About a week later, I received a call from an employee at KBIS. I was so surprised that I can't remember, even to this day, if it was a man or woman that called. The person said that Mr. Powell had asked them to call me and get more information about our discussion at the game. The caller asked several questions

► *Continued on page 3*

and I gave several examples of things that a person could do to lower their utility bills. The call might have lasted five minutes. The caller didn't seem very impressed and I didn't feel that I had done a very good job in presenting my idea, but again I had tried. On the next Friday, I got a call from a fellow at KBIS asking if I could come to the station the next morning at 8:30. I told him that I would be happy to do so. No details were given, but I was excited. I actually got to the station about a half hour early, entered through an unlocked door and sat down in the small lobby. I felt certain that Mr. Powell would soon be there to talk. At about 8:30 a.m., a young man walked by in the hall but didn't acknowledge my presence, so I just waited. He walked by again at 8:45 a.m. and I asked him if he knew what time Mr. Powell might come in. He told me that his name was Russell and that Mr. Powell didn't come to the station on Saturday. I said that I must be mixed up because I thought that I was supposed to meet him or someone at 8:45 a.m. He asked, "Are you the energy guy?" I told him that I was and he said, "Follow me and I will show you how to do the show." I still remember how my heart skipped a beat or two as I headed into the studio 15 minutes before show time. I was informed that the program would be an hour long and that we could receive calls if we wanted. It was now about 9 a.m. and I was sweating and trying to get a plan together.

At 9:05 a.m., Russell introduced me. There was no music or any big build up. Just, here is Mr. Doug Rye. It went something like this: "Good morning, my name is Doug Rye. How many of you have a water heater in your house?" And, as the old saying goes, the rest is history. I received five calls, which I learned was very good for a first show. And by the way, that advice is still good – many of you would still benefit by installing a blanket on your water heater.

Another of the callers to the first show wanted to know why his upstairs

was much hotter than the downstairs. I answered his question. Well, just two nights ago my wife and I were dining in a nice restaurant when we overheard one fellow say to another across the table that his thermostat was set on 74 degrees but the upstairs was 82 degrees. Well, a lot has changed but many energy problems remain the same. In these next several issues, I plan to list the typical energy problems found in houses and tell you how to solve them. In some cases, I will give you new changes for solving those same old problems.

Doug Rye, a licensed architect living in Saline County and the popular host of the "Home Remedies" radio show, works as a consultant for the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas to promote energy efficiency to cooperative members statewide. To order Doug's video or ask energy efficiency-related questions, call Doug at 1-501-653-7931. More energy-efficiency tips, as well as Doug's columns, can also be found at www.smartenergytips.org.

You don't want to miss the heat, sparks, arcs and explosions at the 2011 Farm Progress Show!



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FOR SALE: Winchendon (Paul McCobb) blond Birchwood drop leaf "modern" table. Very good condition. Has production number/label underneath, an American collectible, from the 1950's. \$625. Call 217-324-3869.

FOR SALE: 40 hp 2008 Diesel 4x4 Nortac Tractor. Has 14 hours on it, 60 in. bucket, 3 pt. backhoe. \$18,000 obo. Call 618-278-4508 or 618-610-6621.

FOR LEASE: 80 acre farm for 2011 deer and turkey season, bow and shotgun, near Chesterfield. Call 217-248-8621.

FOR SALE: 1972 Ford grain truck, 14 ft bed with hoist, 429 motor, good condition, \$3,500 obo. Call 217-248-8621.

FOR SALE: 12 green glass Hemingway insulators, \$1 each. Many plastic ice cream buckets, free. Call 618-836-5484.

FOR SALE: 2004 Coachman Class C Motor

Home. 21,000 miles. 1 slide. New tires. Good condition. \$33,900. Call 618-836-7044.

FOR SALE: 1994 Suzuki 3-cylinder outboard motor, needs starter, has all cables and shifter, as is. \$500. Call 217-324-3869.

FOR SALE: 5 church pews, 8 ft long, upholstered cushions, light oak finish: \$50 each. Freeman front loader from Case tractor: \$975 obo. 2 bottom 3 pt plow, \$175. Call 618-372-8400 or 618-791-7490.

FOR SALE: Nikon D40 6.1 MP Digital SLR Camera Kit. Professional Camera in very good condition. Includes body, lens, strap, carrying case, battery, memory card, instructions, & DVD about photography. \$395 obo. Call 217-710-1914.

FOR SALE: Recliner, sewing machine with cabinet, canning jars, and a 1976 Bonanza Camper. Call 217-532-7908.

FOR SALE: Poulan Pro 500EX Riding Mower, 20HP, 46 inch cut, Excellent Condition. \$700 618-836-7038

FOR SALE: Black futon, used only once, paid \$125 asking \$75. Brother MFC 420 CN all-in-one networking printer \$80 not very old, HP psc 1315v

all-in-one printer \$50 not very old, and a metal 3-compartment rabbit cage asking \$25. Call 618-498-1096. Leave a message.

FOR SALE: Land Pride 6' Finish Mower, 3-point. \$800. Call 217-825-4361

FOR SALE: Pride lift chain, like new. Original price was over \$1,000.00. Asking \$400. Call 618-729-3262.

WANTED: 40x8 Storage Container. Call 217-259-5945.

FOR SALE: Heavy duty Kenmore electric washer and dryer set in excellent condition. \$300. Call 217-854-6071.

FOR SALE: 2 1/2 ton residential A/C unit with coil & copper \$300. 2,600 PSI Pressure washer, Honda motor, needs pump work asking \$125. Call 217-836-0355.

FOR SALE: Railroad landscape ties, good shape. \$8/each. Can deliver. Call 618-407-2560 or 618-635-3531.

FOR SALE: Semi Trailers 48' boxes with or without wheels. \$1,750/each. Can deliver. Call 618-407-2560 or 618-635-3531.

July Outages

07/02 2:06 A.M.

South Palmyra, OCR Opened, off 1 hour

07/07 9:33 A.M.

Rosedale, OCR Opened, off 2 hours

07/09 4:23 P.M.

Piasa, Tree on line, off 2 hours

07/10 2:46 P.M.

Hillyard, Gillespie, Bunker Hill, and Dorchester, Bird blew high side fuse in substation and Ameren lost power to sub, off 4 hours

07/10 4:33 P.M.

Ruyle, Chesterfield, Fidelity, Shipman, Piasa, and Brighton, Ameren lost power to substation, off 6 hours

07/12 11:52 A.M.

South Palmyra, Stinger wire came off line, off 1 hour

07/12 4:59 P.M.

Fidelity, OCR opened due to high wind, off 2 hours

07/12 5:00 P.M.

Richwood, English, Jersey, Otter Creek, and Mississippi, OCRs opened due to high wind, off 1 hour

07/12 5:04 P.M.

Brighton, OCR opened due to high wind, off 2 hours

07/12 5:24 P.M.

Grisham, Tree on line, off 3 hours

07/12 6:09 P.M.

South Palmyra, Tree on line, off 5 hours

07/15 3:05 P.M.

Honey Point, Bird on line, off 2 hours

07/15 7:30 P.M.

Barr, OCR Opened, off 2 hours

07/19 5:06 P.M.

Hillsboro, East Fork, Grisham, and South Fillmore, High side fuses blew in sub, off 3 hours

07/21 6:04 P.M.

Walshville, OCR opened due to high load, off 2 hours

07/24 1:02 P.M.

Grisham and East Fork, Tree online, off 3 hours

07/26 7:57 A.M.

Mississippi and Piasa, Contractor dug into UG primary line, off 1 hour

07/27 9:23 A.M.

Elsah, Phase and Neutral crossed, off 4 hours

07/27 7:58 P.M.

South Otter, Tree on line, off 2 hours