Senator Frank Watson met with 17 students representing Shelby Electric Cooperative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, March 28, in Springfield. Students had an opportunity to view state government in action, meet with Secretary of State Jesse White and tour the State Capitol, Old State Capitol and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Front row from left are chaperone Chris Spears, chaperone Marla Pruemer, chaperone Sara Shumard, Annie Chalfant of Cowden, Alecia Wildman of Strasburg, Jana Bonifacius of Cowden, Sen. Watson, Chelsea Ballinger of Stewardson, Adam Schuler of Stewardson, Tyler McKay of Beecher City, Justina Klare of Stewardson and Roma Ryan of Beecher City. Back row from left are Katy Hankins of Shelbyville, Jessica Clotfelter of Windsor, Jillian Schmitz of Pana, Rebecca VonBehren of Blue Mound, Stanley Donahoo of Findlay, Saskia Carstensen of Blue Mound, Trevor Cunningham of Moweaqua, chaperone Kyle Knop of Cowden-Herrick High School and Nick Novota of Assumption.

Senator Watson also provided a special treat to the Shelby Electric Cooperative sponsored students by bringing them into his office for a visit and he took the group onto the Senate floor for a picture. Students also met with Senator Deanna Demuzio and Representative Roger Eddy.

The day was sponsored by the Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 280 students from across Illinois who participated in Youth Day.

Shelby Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of more than 640 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Shelby Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The cooperative serves more than 9,660 members over 2,219 miles of line in parts of Christian, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie, Sangamon and Shelby counties. For more information visit www.shelbyelectric.coop.
Youth To Washington Tour Winners Announced

Out of a group of 17 students who attended the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperative’s Youth Day on March 28, two students were selected as winners of the Youth to Washington (YTW) tour. Two alternate winners were also selected.

Pictured left to right are chaperone Marla Pruemer from Shelby Electric Cooperative, YTW alternate Alecia Wildman from Stewardson-Strasburg High School, YTW winner Jana Bonifacius from Cowden-Herrick High School, YTW winner Jillian Schmitz from Pana High School, YTW alternate Rebecca VonBehren from Meridian High School and chaperone Chris Spears from Shelby Electric Cooperative.

Shelby Electric will sponsor Jana and Jillian as they join 80 other high school students on a weeklong trip to the nation’s capitol in early June.

To learn more about the Youth To Washington tour visit www.youthtour.coop.

Cooperative Welcomes A New Employee At Shelby DirecTV

Tammy Carson started working for Shelby DirecTV as a Customer Service Representative on March 26, 2007. Tammy is a graduate of Dieterich High School and went to Business College in St. Louis. Prior to employment with the cooperative, Tammy worked for Shelby County State Bank. She has two children, an eight-year-old daughter, Autumn and an eleven-year-old son, Austin.

Tammy enjoys spending time with her family and enjoys scrapbooking. She loves the people here and looks forward to your calls at 774-2323 regarding DirecTV or WildBlue Internet service. Be sure to stop by and say hi to Tammy on your next visit to Shelby DirecTV in the Shelby Electric Cooperative building on East Route 16 in Shelbyville.

Welcome to the cooperative family, Tammy.
Well, I wasn’t sure what the title of this month’s column should be but I’m sure it got your attention. And isn’t that what a title is supposed to do?

I have spent my entire adult life helping folks just like you have more energy-efficient houses. It was important years ago and it is even more important now. In some places, utility rates have already increased considerably. In many other areas of our country, there are proposals to raise utility rates very soon. In my hometown, electric rates increased 50 percent this month. And guess what? All of a sudden, many of the folks in our church and around town want to talk to Doug Rye.

Across the Arkansas River, in the next county, electric rates increased 38 percent just last month. I am now getting lots of calls from that area. When I was working in a western state recently, I was advised that approval had already been granted for a 10 percent rate increase for each of the next five years. That is actually more like a 70 percent increase when compounded.

The stories go on and on. Fortunately, many families will be able to pay the increased bills. But others may have to decide between food, medicine or utility bills. My heart feels for those of you in that situation.

Folks, it is time – I mean starting today – for us to start thinking of energy improvements as investments not just costs. In fact, statistics have shown for several years that energy improvements are among the best investments we can make. The improvements usually increase the value of your home, save you money each month and make your house more comfortable.

When I talk to people about investing money for energy efficiency in their new house or existing house, the question is often asked, “What’s the payback?” That question has always puzzled me somewhat because they don’t ask about the payback for the kitchen cabinets, bathroom fixtures, drapes, furniture, fireplace or anything else in the house for that matter. I guess the reason they don’t ask is because those items have NO payback. Only by making energy efficiency improvements will you eventually get a payback.

The payback for a roof radiant barrier might come in just one or two good hot summers through your energy savings, while the payback for ceiling insulation might take only one hot summer and one cold winter. Payback times will vary by improvement but there IS a payback.

Now, pay close attention. I mean it. Let’s say you make energy improvements that cost $2,500 and those improvements save you $40 per month on utility costs. At the end of 5.2 years, you will have saved $2,500 – that’s a good payback. In addition to getting your money back, you will continue to make at least $40 every single month in the future at today’s utility costs. As utility rates increase, that amount may be $50, $60 or $70, etc., per month savings.

Now let’s say you do not make the improvements. In that case, you will send the utility company $40 extra per month. At the end of the 5.2-year period, you will have paid out the $2,500 and you still haven’t made the improvements. I could do five more pages here but I hope you get the point. You are going to pay the costs of the improvements either way – so why not own them? I hope you will take this to heart and take action because this most certainly is from my heart, y’all.

Doug Rye, a licensed architect & the “King of Caulk and Talk”, can be heard on radio stations across the country, including Illinois, on his syndicated radio program “Home Remedies.” Visit his Web site www.DougRye.com, e-mail him at info@philliprye.com or call him (888) Doug-Rye if you have questions or want more information.

Reprinted with permission from Doug Rye
For Sale

- Old barn to be torn down, Oak beams with wood pegs, make offer. Call 217-345-7929.
- 25 plus varieties of Heirloom tomatoes including Mr. Stripey, Rutgers, Pineapple, Plum Lemon, Hill Billy, Big Rainbow, Red, Black and Yellow Brandywine, Black Krim and Soldackie to name a few, two miles west of Neoga on Trowbridge Road. Call 217-895-3774.
- Hunter’s paradise raised ranch on 9 acres near Decatur, 3,250 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, scenic views, 40 x 60 pole building with 4 offices, 2 half baths, shop area with overhead doors, plus large warehouse, will accommodate semi-tractor-trailer, $269,900, will consider selling house and 1 1/2 acres, might also consider trading for ranch style home near Decatur. Call 217-865-2062.
- 3 bedroom house in Assumption, fireplace, basement, attached 2 car garage, situated on large corner lot, $69,900. Call 217-855-2521.
- Ford 5 bottom semi-mounted high clearance plow, $400; mobile work scaffold, 1 section mounted on wagon running gears, $300; two concrete well tile, 3 ft. diameter, $50; two row rotary hoe, 3 pt. hitch, $100. Call 217-824-2949.
- 1966 2-ton Chevy grain truck with hoist, 1010 gal water tank, 52 x 47 replacement window. Call 217-739-2217, leave message if no answer.
- AKC Yorkie puppies, 1 female & 5 males, ready May 14, $650 to $800. Call 217-768-5289.
- 1989 Lincoln Town car with burgundy top, 102,000 miles, great shape, $1,500. Call 217-820-1526.
- Ethan Allen 2 piece bedroom set, double dresser, chest with desk, pecan color, $300; George Foreman family size grill with bun warmer and 2 slice toaster, new, still in box. Call 217-855-2521.
- 1990 Dodge Omni, four door, over 100,000 miles, good paint & interior, too many new parts to list, $1,450obo. Call 217-971-9548.
- John Deere turf tires and wheels off a John Deere 1070, rear - 27 x 8.50 - 15NHS, excellent condition. Call 217-562-9226 or 217-433-9225 after 6 p.m.
- Rugged liner under rail bed liner and tailgate guard for ’05 – ’07 Dodge Dakota Club cab, 6 1/2 foot bed, $100. Call 217-825-3731.
- New chain saw mill Alaskan MKII model G776 thickness rails, model G971 helper handle, Model G801A oiler kit assembly, all new, still in boxes, $250; Smokey Bear large size collector’s dolls, 50th anniversary model, never out of box, over 14 years old, $60; Rain soft reverse osmosis drinking water filter system, $100; new ACI paintball gun, Maverick Deluxe, VL200 view loader, PMI face mask and 1200 paint balls, $125; 4-foot long ornate wood church pew, beautiful white oak, some quarter sawn, has carving details, great condition, $200; antique Victorian walnut sheet music cabinet, 15 ¼” deep, 19” wide, 25” tall plus 9” legs, 5 shelves for sheet music storage, top is backed with a 7” x 18” mirror, $175. Call 217-768-4994.
- 2002 4x4 Chevy Silverado LT Z-71, very low miles, short bed with Taran cover, remote start, heated seats, leather, power locks and windows, we bought a diesel and need to sell, $16,700, willing to negotiate; Layton Skyline 26 foot camper, sleeps 6, nice, clean, fully loaded with new refrigerator, we have upgraded and need to sell, willing to negotiate. Call 217-783-2187 or 217-254-5909 or 217-259-5809.
- Two dining room tables each with six chairs; entertainment center holds up to 35” TV. Call 217-774-5815 after 5 p.m.
- 1964 A.C. D19 wide front, good sheet metal, three-point conversion to fit all attachments, stage 1, runs good, $4,500obo. Call 217-549-5782.
- 2000 two bedroom mobile home in Cowden, house siding, shingled roof, central air, stack washer & dryer, utility building, carport, finished front porch & deck, on rented lot or can be moved, like new. Call 217-783-9670.
- 1982 Model B8200 Kubota tractor, 3-point hitch, turf tires, 60” mid mower, recent clutch on front mower, new parts, $2,600. Call 217-768-3204 after 5 p.m.
- JD 350 9’ sickle mower, low acres, one owner, excellent condition, $1,200; 11 hp 30” snapper riding mower, good condition, $200. Call 217-824-5820.
- 7 year old Toshiba 32” color TV with built in cabinet, $150; Royal Palm Tom turkey, large, $30; bronze domestic wild Tom turkey, $30; several Atari 2600 games and 12 2600 units, complete with joy sticks and paddles; 2 one-year-old Buck Fallow deer. Call 217-226-4446.
- Everett upright piano with complete keyboard, great for children lessons. Call 217-764-5289.
- 1968 Mattoon High School yearbook, $50 obo; 1963 Mattoon Central Junior High School yearbook, $20, might make deal on purchase of both, both in excellent condition. Call 217-752-6254.
- 1988 Cadillac, $1,250; 1991 Buick Park Avenue, $1,250; Sears snow blade, $100. Call 217-235-3068.
- 1650 Oliver tractor with a mounted Oliver 1610 hydraulic loader. Call 217-849-5293 after 5:00 p.m.
- 73 IMP Aztec with trailer, 20’, 302 cu in in Mercury, vee hull, partial top and full cover, lots of bumpers and life jackets, lots of room and rides great in rough water, $2,500 firm. Call 217-259-7445.
- Goldendoodle puppies available May 10th, extremely intelligent, friendly, shed-free and hypoallergenic, $200 deposit required to reserve. Call 217-259-2726 or E-mail shelbyvilledoodlesandpoodles@yahoo.com.
- Broyhill couch and chair, dark brown, hardly been used; 2000 and 2003 Mercury trailer hitches, attach to frame, $50 each. Call 217-797-6372.
- 3 bedroom home, carpeted thru out except kitchen and laundry room, 3 tract storm windows plus nice storm doors, forced air gas heat, central air, blown insulation, new water line, smoke detectors upstairs and down, off street parking and open alley and fenced in back yard, new concrete front porch steps, wide sidewalk, realtor says worth $32,500, asking $27,500. Call 217-317-1044 ask for Ruth.
- 1950 Allis Chalmers 12-volt, new rubber, bush hog, rebuilt starter, new battery, $1,500 obo; Barbie pink and white outdoor playhouse, $35. Call 217-345-3456 or 217-549-8103.
- Birmingham Roller pigeons, Bill Benson strain, same strain for 30 plus years. Call 217-895-3947 or cell 217-962-0972.

*Continued on next page*
Member Exchange Continued

- Golf balls, 25¢ each or $3 a dozen; solid oak 34” plant stand, $50; solid Walnut grandfather clock, 85” tall, Hemle cable driven "flagship" triple chime movement, night shut off, second hand and moving moon dial, $1,800. Call 217-539-4439.
- 18 foot by 48 inch round self-rising pool, all accessories plus chemicals, $75. Call 217-728-4624.
- 1989 Arriva (Baja) 24’ ski boat, 454 engine, ss prop, sink, fridge, cover, skis, tube, nice condition, $8,200 obo. Call 217-822-1520 or 217-946-4256.
- 1100 gallon polly water tank, no chemicals put in tank, $150; bicycle carrier for 2 bicycles, fits on vans, $50 obo. Call 217-856-3879 evenings.

Wanted

- Young calves, weaned and reasonably priced; used go-carts and mini bikes for grandchildren; miniature Ginny donkey; Dart C02 gun to shoot tranquilizer serum in animals’ necks. Call 217-226-4446.
- Food dehydrator in good working condition and reasonably priced. Call 217-823-9902 leave message if no answer.
- Hen Pea Fowls, 1 or 2. Call 217-865-2404.
- Livestock panels, corn crib panels, vents and tunnels. Call 217-348-8335.
- Old cars or parts, ’75 or older, any condition. Call 217-254-0856 or 217-856-2233.
- Model 12, 16 gauge Winchester shot gun & single shot, any brand, 12, 16 or 20 gauge. Call 217-824-8250.
- Old toy farm tractors, implements and pedal tractors, any brand, any condition, no dealers please. Call 217-824-9460 or email list to: Baileyauction@hotmail.com.

Free

- 2 four-year-old lab mix males, fixed, to country home, very well mannered & great with children, must remain together. Call 217-273-4529.
- Bobcat work, spread rock, dirt grading and cleanup, insured. Call 217-865-2062.

Services

- Bobcat work, spread rock, dirt grading and cleanup, insured. Call 217-865-2062.
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Ethanol Fuels Demand For More Corn Acres

Soaring prices have enticed farmers to plant the biggest corn crop in 60 years because of the boom in the demand for ethanol as a gas-stretching fuel additive.

"With corn prices predicted to hit records, growers will plant as much as 13 percent more corn than last year. At 88.5 million acres, 2007’s crop will mark the most corn acreage since the mid-1940s and the single biggest one-year jump in memory,” said Chris Hurt, agricultural economist at Purdue University.

Jim Looft, County Extension Director, U of I Extension - Shelby County has noticed a gradual increase in corn acreage over soybeans for the past seven years, in and around Shelby County. Looft also thinks there will continue to be a shift to the number of corn acres being planted as more and more people are supporting the use of ethanol and E-85.

Weather always plays a factor but government sources expect a bumper crop this year. With more corn being planted, this will mean less soybean and cotton production, which could raise prices for those commodities as well.

Mark Phelan, Manager of Coles County Farm Bureau, hasn’t really noticed an increased in corn acreage over soybeans in his area but with the planned ethanol plant being proposed in Coles County he expects to see a significant increase once the plant is built and contracts are out.

President Bush is calling for greater use of ethanol to help reduce U.S. gasoline consumption by 20 percent in the next 10 years. At present, there are 114 U.S. ethanol plants in operation. Eighty more plants are planned, the Renewable Fuels Association reports.

Chris Woodyard of USA TODAY contributed to this article
**My Kid’s Favorite Pork Chops**

**Ingredients**
- 6 pork chops
- 2 tablespoons steak seasoning
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can or bottle beer
- 1 (18 ounce) bottle barbecue sauce
- 2 onions, sliced

**Directions**
Sprinkle pork chops with steak seasoning. Brown both sides in skillet. After the pork chops have been browned, remove them from the pan. Pour into skillet one can of beer. Stir the beer until all the particles on the sides have been incorporated. Pour in barbecue sauce and place the pork chops back into the pan. Add onions and cover. Simmer on low for 1 to 2 hours.

---

**Lemon Pepper Pork Chops**

**Ingredients**
- 4 pork chops
- 1 tablespoon lemon pepper
- 8 tablespoons butter
- 8 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

**Directions**
Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Tear off a generous square of tin foil for each chop, enough to wrap and seal completely. Coat both sides of each chop with lemon pepper. Put 1 tablespoon butter and 1 tablespoon olive oil in the middle of each square of tin foil. Put the peppered chops on top of the butter and oil. Put 1 tablespoon of butter and 1 tablespoon olive oil on top of each chop. Add 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce over the top of each chop. Wrap each chop tightly and place on middle rack of oven. Bake for 35 minutes.

---

**Italian Breaded Pork Chops**

**Ingredients**
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 1 1/2 cups Italian seasoned bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons dried parsley
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
- 4 pork chops

**Directions**
Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. In a small bowl, beat together the eggs and milk. In a separate small bowl, mix the bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese, and parsley. Heat the olive oil in a large, oven-proof skillet over medium heat. Stir in the garlic and cook until lightly browned. Remove garlic, reserving for other uses. Dip each pork chop into the egg mixture, then into the bread crumb mixture, coating evenly. Place coated pork chops in the skillet and brown about 5 minutes on each side. Place the skillet and pork chops in the preheated oven and cook 25 minutes.

---

**Pleasant Pork Chops**

**Ingredients**
- 6 pork chops
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 3/4 cup chicken broth
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 teaspoons paprika

**Directions**
Sauté onion and garlic in hot butter. Remove from skillet. Trim excess fat from chops and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Brown chops in skillet; pour off fat. Lower heat; add bay leaf and chicken broth. Cook covered over low heat for 1 hour. Transfer chops to a serving plate, but keep them hot. Heat juices in skillet and reduce to half. Add the sour cream, onion-garlic mixture and paprika, blending thoroughly. Heat through, but don’t boil. Pour over pork chops and serve.

---

**Marinated Baked Pork Chops**

**Ingredients**
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 6 pork chops, trimmed

**Directions**
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a small bowl, thoroughly blend soy sauce, vegetable oil, Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, brown sugar, and ketchup. Place pork chops in a medium baking dish, and spread with 1/2 the sauce. Bake pork chops 30 minutes in the preheated oven. Turn and spread with remaining sauce. Continue baking 30 minutes.

If you have recipes to share, mail them to: Recipes P.O. Box 560, Shelbyville, Illinois 62565 or P.O. Box 709, Mattoon, Illinois 61938.
Local Student’s Whirlwind Journey Almost Over

For Marlene Walker this past year has been one exciting experience after another. Walker was first selected to attend the 2006 Youth Day in Springfield by her school guidance counselor at Wind- sor High School. She was then chosen from among her fellow students to attend the 2006 Youth to Washington Tour and was sponsored on that all-expenses paid trip by Shelby Electric Cooperative.

During the Youth to Washington Tour, Walker gave a speech to the Illinois participants, seeking to be chosen as the group’s delegate for the Youth Leadership Council (YLC). The other students agreed she was the strongest candidate. After the trip, Walker returned to Washington, D.C. to meet with delegates from the other states in the country and to learn more about speech writing, presenta-

tion and how cooperatives have helped improve our country in many ways.

She has attended workshops, given speeches at various state and national meetings and recently attended the NRECA annual meeting and represented the State of Illinois by carrying the Illinois flag during the opening ceremony. She also gave a speech and attended the 2007 Youth Day held recently in Springfield.

“I can’t begin to describe my appreciation to Shelby Electric Cooperative and their participation in this program. If it wasn’t for Shelby’s participation, I would not have had the opportunity to be the YLC delegate representing Illinois,” said Walker. “The experiences and the people I’ve met over the past year will stay with me for the rest of my life and I encourage all junior and senior high school students to ask their guidance counselors about the Youth to Washington Tour,” continued Walker.

Marlene will conclude her Whirlwind Journey with her presence at the cooperative’s annual meeting June 15.

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### Outage Report – March 2007

#### Substation Outages:

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<td>Pana</td>
<td>Equip failure</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/19</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Neoga</td>
<td>Animal/bird</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Dunkel</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>Elwin</td>
<td>Trees/storm</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>Blue Mound</td>
<td>Loose connection</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/22</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>Lakewood</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/23</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>Lakewood</td>
<td>Transformer</td>
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<td>3/27</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>Neoga</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/28</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>Grove City</td>
<td>Trees/storm</td>
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</table>

### Mark Your Calendar

Plan on attending your cooperative’s annual meeting on Friday, June 15, 2007. It will be held at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds behind the cooperatives offices in Shelbyville. Be on the lookout for your annual meeting notice to arrive in your mailboxes around the first of June. The annual meeting notice will serve as the Shelby News June issue. Hope to see you there.

### Office Closed

The Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day.

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**Shelby News**

A publication of Shelby Electric Cooperative

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