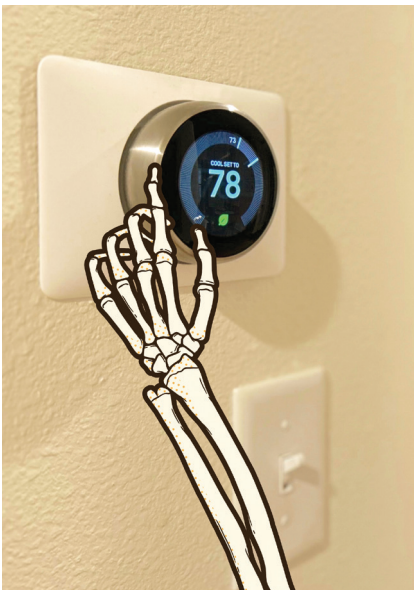


Spooky Energy Savings

This spooky season, we are sharing a few energy saving tricks so you can treat yourself to lower energy bills. Here are four simple ways to summon the spirit of energy efficiency.

Conjure instant savings with a smart thermostat. One of the easiest ways to save energy is through thermostat control, since home heating and cooling account for a large portion of monthly energy use. Smart thermostats can help you manage heating and cooling costs by learning your daily routine and adjusting the temperature settings accordingly. You can control a smart thermostat from anywhere (through your Smartphone), which allows you to prevent unnecessary energy consumption while you're away. Sorcery!



Meter - Abby Berry, NRECA

Get rid of goosebumps by eliminating ghostly drafts. The winter chill is just around the corner, so now is the time to seal air leaks around your home. Apply caulk and weather stripping around drafty windows and doors to make your home more comfortable and lower your energy use.



LED Smart Bulb - Haus Automation

Illuminate your lair with energy-efficient lighting. LED bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. Make the switch to reduce energy used for lighting. Remember to use LEDs when it's time to decorate for the upcoming holiday season. LED light strings offer an average of 88% energy savings compared to traditional incandescent light strings.

Stir up savings with countertop cauldrons. Cooler weather summons our favorite soup recipes. Small countertop appliances like slow cookers use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop. Grab your book of spells (or recipes) and start stirring up savings in the kitchen.

When we look around our homes, there are many opportunities to save

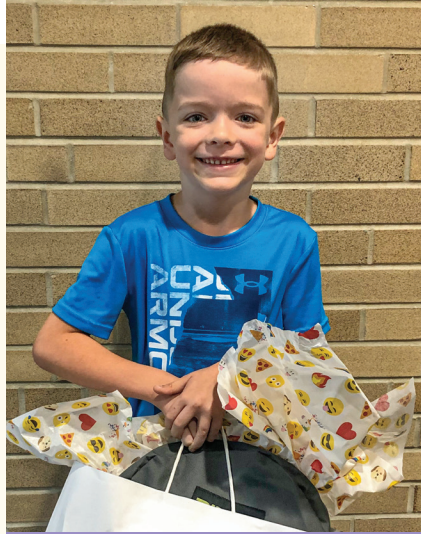


Crockpot - NRECA

energy. So, this spooky season, investigate your space and unlock a different kind of magic — the kind that brings real energy savings.



Claudie Hatfield
ages 4-6



Logan Likes
ages 7-9



Nikola Gephart
ages 10-12

Coloring Contest Winners

This summer, our annual coloring contest provided kids ages 4-12 a chance to decorate a page from the Mr. Lineman Electric Safety coloring book. Not only was it a fun picture for the entrants to color, they learned a safety message as well.

Out of the many creative entries submitted, 6-year-old Claudie Hatfield, Shelbyville; 7-year-old

Logan Likes, Stonington; and 11-year-old Nikola Gephart, Decatur, put their coloring skills to work and were named winners of the Shelby Electric Cooperative's 2023 coloring contest. "Our three winners took home an assortment of fun items stuffed into a backpack," noted Jill George, who coordinated the contest for the cooperative again this year.

Every child who entered the contest received a \$5 gift certificate from McDonalds. "It was fun to

provide the kids something to do so they could show some creativity away from their devices and electronic games, and also learn a safety message about climbing trees around power lines. The best part was seeing the winners' excitement when they came in to claim their prizes and have their picture taken!" exclaimed George.

For more information about Shelby Electric Cooperative's youth programs, visit the "Community" tab on www.shelbyelectric.coop.



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Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Faith's ROADTRIP



From Swine to Wine

Many of you probably remember the hog market crash of 1998, where prices dropped as low as 8 cents a pound, resulting in many multigenerational hog farms going out of business. This was the same story for Dennis and Brenda Vahling, who earned their livelihood raising 3,600 head of hogs a year in central Illinois.

The Vahlings moved to Stewardson, Illinois, in 1986. While Dennis was a hog farmer, one of his favorite hobbies was to make homemade wine. When the hog market crashed, he had to figure out what his next step was going to be to sustain their future. Many people suggested that he turn his hobby into a business, which is exactly what he did. In 2002, the doors to Vahling Vineyards opened, and they have been serving their customers faithfully for the past 21 years.

“Making wine is all about record-keeping,” Dennis shares. “You try to improve it, so each time you go one step further, a little more of this, a little less of that.”

Over the years, his taste for wine has changed. Like most beginners, he used to prefer sweet wine, but now he favors dry white. His favorite Vahling Vineyards wine is the Great White, a smooth, dry white wine that pairs well with white meat. “The first batch of wine I ever made was horrible, but I learned,” he laughed. “Wine needs time to mature and develop on its own to make it taste better. Letting it sit



Owners Brenda and Dennis Vahling

for 2-3 years in a barrel is ideal.”

Dennis and Brenda also own a distillery called Twilight Distillery that opened in 2019. “What do you do with less than perfect wine?” Dennis questioned. “Every

winery has it. It tastes okay but not enough to bottle it. So, you put it in a barrel and let it sit for a while and distill it. Eventually it turns into brandy, which is made from fruit.” The first brandy that Twilight Distillery made was called Midnight Run, which is a brandy liqueur made with honey and brown sugar. It is aged in an oak barrel and has a similar taste to Wild Turkey American Honey.

After 21 years of being in operation, Dennis shared the biggest lesson he has learned as a business owner. “If you have

good quality products, then people will come. Be polite and treat others how you would like to be treated,” he shared. “My favorite part of this journey has been having the opportunity to meet people, because everyone has a story to tell.” He contributes their success to the wide variety of wine they have to choose from, over 40 different types. Their wine can also be found in more than 71 stores in central Illinois.

After being faced with an unknown future, Dennis and Brenda Vahling turned their passion into a prosperous business. Each bottle and recipe is created with YOU — the customer — in mind.

Vahling Vineyards is located at 2683 County Highway 6 in Stewardson, Illinois. They are open year-round Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sundays 12 p.m.-5 p.m. Visit their website, vahlingvineyards.com, or their Facebook page for more information.

Thanks for riding along. I'll see you down the road!



Twilight Distillery opened in 2019.



October 6-8, 2023
Columbus Day Weekend
10.6 | Friday Evening

Event Kickoff | 4-8 PM | Willow Ridge Winery
 Some balloons will inflate and do a short glow if weather permits
 Pauly's BBQ food truck and Donut Dollies available
 Entertainment by The Grand Moff
 Sunset time: 6:29 PM

10.7 | Saturday Morning

Sunrise Fun Flight | 7-9 AM | Shelby County Airport (W Hwy 16)
 Balloons will fly over airport in a fun flight sponsored by Software Solutions Inc.
 Music by All Kindz of Soundz
 Best viewing of balloons: Airport | Sunset time: 6:54 AM

10.7 | Saturday Evening

2 PM-Dusk: Summerskyz helicopter rides: \$40 per person—3 people maximum per ride
BALLOON GLOW & COOKOUT | 4-8 PM | Shelby County Airport
 J & R Collision Centers BALLOON GLOW BEGINS AT DUSK
 Balloon Glow Cookout benefits the Shelbyville Fire Department
 Several local food & drink vendors, Music by All Kindz of Soundz
 Balloon Twisting by Paddi's Air Filled Fun
 4-6:45 PM | FREE Inflatables/bounce houses for kids sponsored by Family Drug
 5-8 PM | Tethered balloon rides: \$10 per person to benefit local charities
 Spectacular view of all balloons in one location | Sunset: 6:28 pm

10.8 | Sunday Morning

Sunrise Fun Flight | 7-9 AM | Shelby County Airport (W Hwy 16)
 Balloons will fly over beach in a fun flight
 Music by All Kindz of Soundz
 Best viewing of balloons: Dam West | Sunrise time: 6:56 AM

Balloonfest admission is FREE & events are open to the public | Donations appreciated

ALL SCHEDULED EVENT TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE, WEATHER DEPENDENT & ARE AT PILOTS DISCRETION

Follow the Touchstone Energy Balloonfest at Lake Shelbyville on Facebook: @balloonslakeshelbyville

Call 217-774-2244 for more information OR go online

www.shelbyelectric.coop | lakeshelbyville.com/events/balloon.htm