

Welcome, new employees!

Austin Baskett is a Second-Year Apprentice Lineman. Austin graduated from Pleasant Plains High School and earned his associate's degree in Distribution Linework Technology at Lincoln Land Community College. While completing that degree he worked part-time in our warehouse as summer help. "It was such a great experience working here, and I am happy to be back," he says.

Justin Turner is a Journeyman Lineman with over 23 years of experience. Justin spent most of his career at Lewis County REC, a similar-sized electric cooperative in Missouri. "I'm just happy to be here and happy to help out," he says.



Austin Baskett



Justin Turner

We are thankful

- To be nonprofit and owned by you, our members
- To be governed by a board elected from our membership
- To have experienced employees
- To be a part of your community

Happy Thanksgiving!



Scholarships

\$2,000 University and Community College Scholarships are available through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative's Memorial Scholarship Program. Deadline 12/31/22.

\$2,000 scholarship to LLCC's Lineworker Program available through LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship. Deadline 04/30/23.

Find eligibility details and applications at www.menard.com/scholarships.

Exotic Acres Animal Outreach Center

Member
Spotlight

Our employees were all smiles the day Exotic Acres Animal Outreach Center came to the office. It's not often that a person has the opportunity to touch an armadillo, witness a prairie dog's energy, feed a tortoise or carry a bird on your arm. We learned so many interesting facts about our four guests that day. Did you know that a tortoise may live to be 75 and weigh 175 pounds one day? That prairie dogs have a large language? That an armadillo can dig through concrete? But we digress. What we really want to tell you about is the outreach center, which is served by the co-op.

The center seeks to provide a fun and interactive experience for all ages through facility tours, outreach classes and even birthday parties. Owner Joe Bartenslager has taken his animals to homes, libraries, schools, businesses, day cares and more. When you are reading this, the center will have just held its first open house event in its newly renovated barn.

The barn was the first big project of many. "The property looks different every week," says Joe, who has started small and is expanding bit by bit. Future projects include a contact yard for goats and other outdoor animals, work on a rain gully that could become a pond and much, much more. He's got big plans.

The vision for the center came about after his five years as a zookeeper. "At first I just wanted to work with animals at the zoos, but then one day I was speaking with a young man for quite some time and realized that interacting with people had grown on me and I enjoyed educating the guests," Joe says. Combining his ability to care for the animals with his new excitement for sharing with and teaching others, Joe wanted a place where he could welcome visitors as well as take the animals out in the community. When we spoke, he had just applied for nonprofit status.

Currently the center houses 30 animals, comprised of 16 different species. "The Fennec Fox, for example, is a very social animal, and so we have two females," he

DEDE

This two-year old Red Crested Turaco could live to her 20s. She is fascinated by shiny jewelry and after a bit of a warm-up was happy to visit with Dispatcher Alycia Clifton and other employees.



says. "The majority of the animals are African species and will remain indoors. As our outdoor facilities are built we will get more winter-hardy species."

At this time Joe is able to care for them all himself, spending about two to three hours a day doing so. In addition to daily care the animals must also visit the local veterinarian for regular checkups, just like a farm animal or pet would.

One of the most common questions Joe is asked is about keeping one as a pet. "I always caution that they take a lot of time and care. Unlike a dog or cat, these animals will not seek out cuddling

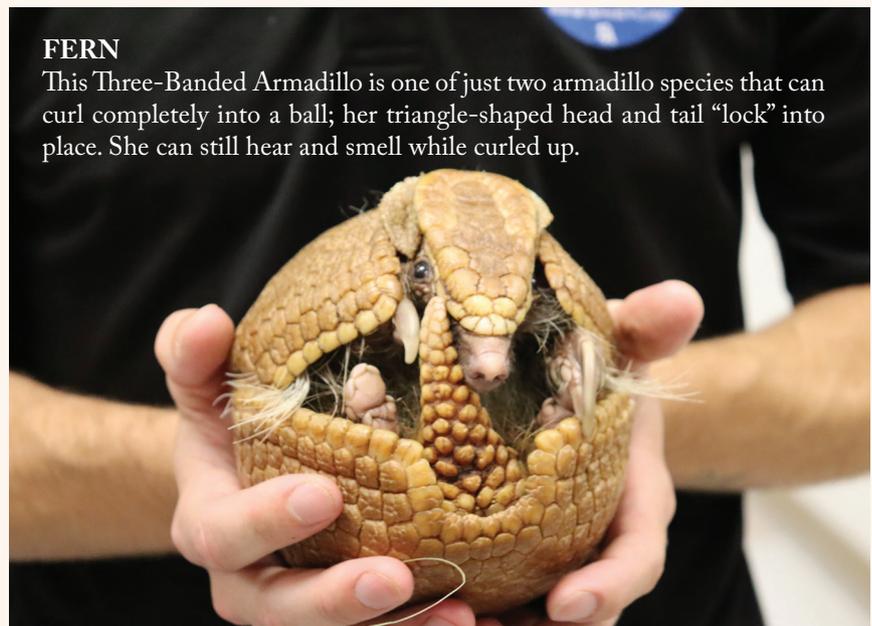
and interaction. They are friendly, and we have a good relationship, but they are very different than traditional pets."

Joe goes on to say that it takes careful training to get the animals used to going in and out of the crates. "We make it a positive experience for them, and we always let them have a say if they do not want to travel. We don't force them to go to an event," he says.

Look for more interesting events in the future and visit their website at exoticacres.org or their Facebook Page to learn more about them or call 443-655-3240.

FERN

This Three-Banded Armadillo is one of just two armadillo species that can curl completely into a ball; her triangle-shaped head and tail "lock" into place. She can still hear and smell while curled up.





LADY EARTHSHAKER

This Sulcata Tortoise is just a toddler at 3 years old and 11 pounds but could mature to over 175 pounds and 75 years old. She's faster than you think and enjoyed having a little lettuce snack with Director of Accounting and Finance Julie Atwater.



SQUEAK

Owner Joe Bartenslager holds tight to an energetic two-year old Prairie Dog. She and her sister, Pip, will live five to six years, are in the rodent family and are incredibly social.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



BudgetWise

Take the guesswork out of monthly budgeting with our BudgetWise program options.

See details at www.menard.com, email info@menard.com or call 800-872-1203 for details.

Contact us today to be added to our Budget Billing fall cycle!



A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

WWW.VOTE.COOP

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP could help pay your bill. Contact your local agency as soon as possible for eligibility requirements.

- **MCS Community Services**
Cass/Morgan County
217-243-9404
morgancounty-il.com
- **Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation**
Macon County
217-428-2193 • dmcoc.org
- **Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois**
Logan/Mason/Menard County
217-732-2159 • capcil.info
- **Sangamon County**
217-535-3120 • co.sangamon.il.us/communityresources
- **Tazwood Community Services**
Tazewell County
309-266-9941 • tazwoodcs.org

**Our office will be closed
Nov. 11 for Veterans Day
and Nov. 24-25 for Thanksgiving.**

Board highlights

For full minutes visit www.menard.com or contact the office.
August 23, 2022

- All Directors present except President Warren Goetsch. Vice-President Jay Frye presided. General Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith present.
- Approved 8/4/22 Reorganizational Mtg Minutes.
- Approved Committee Appointments.
- Anker reviewed monthly & YTD financial operating report, balance sheet & financial trends. Operating margins as of 7/30 were \$1,476,859 compared to \$1,028,622 last year; equity at 42.43%; 12-mo TIER 3.06 & DSC 1.82.
- Anker reviewed July operations report w/97 incidents; longest duration outage 402 min affecting 1 member due to bad transformer; largest # affected by single outage 1,155 due to Ameren loss of transmission to Petersburg Substation.
- Received 3rd ICC notice of investigation of underground facility locating.
- Martin reviewed Finance Committee mtg. Recommendations adopted for transferring unclaimed retired capital credits returned to members in 1992 – 2014 to permanent equity.
- Tate reviewed Policy Committee mtg. Changes adopted to 4 policies concerning connected motor evaluation requirements, removal of inactive electrical facilities, employee insurance & unclaimed retired capital credits; new policy adopted for victims' economic security/safety act.
- Next mtg 09/27/22.

Congratulations

Director Gary Martin has earned his Director Gold Credential through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). According to NRECA, earning the Director Gold Credential is the hallmark of a committed electric cooperative director.

General Manager Alisha Anker has earned her Board Leadership Certificate through NRECA. She serves on the Board of Directors of our wholesale energy provider Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) and is PPI's director on the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Board.

Kilo Watt Korner



Market researchers indicate the home air purifier market continues to increase and we suspect many of our members are choosing to run units in their homes, hoping to lessen indoor air pollutants, dust, dander, pollen and more. Though they vary widely in size and types of filtration systems, all use electricity to operate. This month we look at two floor-sized units to see just how much power they consume.

We ran an AirDoctor model in an open kitchen/family room space. It features an automatic mode option that cycles through low, medium and maximum fan speeds as necessary. In low it used 10 watts/hr; entering max speed, using 81 watts/hr, for short times when needed, like when burgers fried on the stove. Over the course of a month, we calculate costs could range from

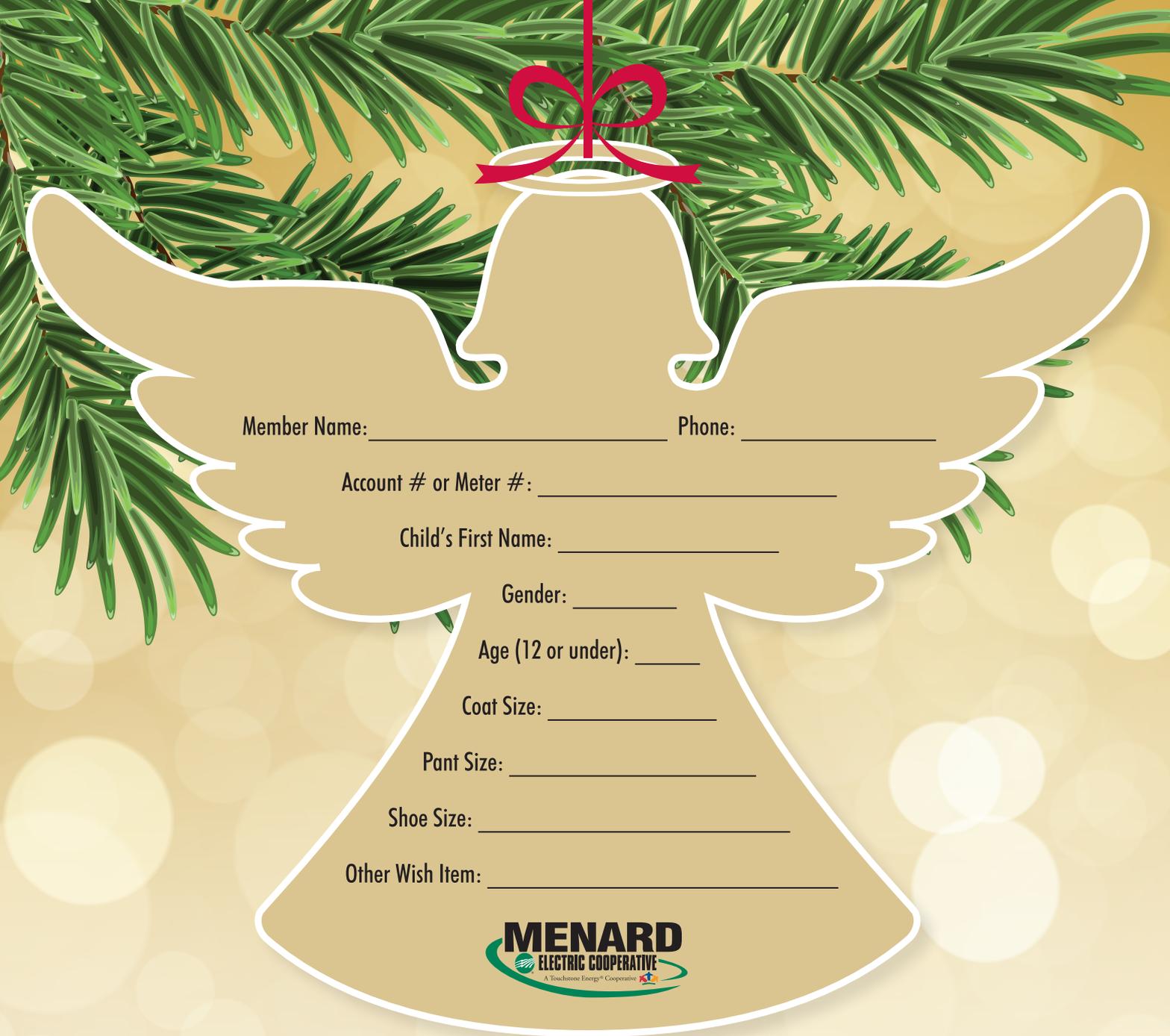
\$0.82 to \$8.00 depending on speed changes. Since the unit ran a majority time in low speed, this unit in the home is estimated to be \$30/year in electricity costs.

The second unit measured was an older model Hunter air purification system. The three manual speed options used 62 watts/hr on low, 79 watts/hr on medium and 92 watts/hr on high. Using the device 24/7 for one month on low would cost \$5.66, or \$68 a year.

Both models featured an ionizer selection that did not change the electric usage when engaged. And, of course, each have different filter replacement timelines and prices.

KWKorner Recommendation: We would breathe easy over the electricity costs, which will vary based on fan speeds and times used but are pennies a day. However, don't forget about buying replacement filters when considering yearly operation costs.





Member Name: _____ Phone: _____

Account # or Meter #: _____

Child's First Name: _____

Gender: _____

Age (12 or under): _____

Coat Size: _____

Pant Size: _____

Shoe Size: _____

Other Wish Item: _____



Menard Electric Cooperative's **Member Angel Tree**

Is your child hoping for a new toy? Maybe they need a new coat or pair of boots? We want to make wishes come true for our members' children ages 12 years old or younger this Christmas. If you need help fulfilling your child's Christmas wish, please submit this angel to us by Nov. 23.

We'd like to fulfill as many wishes as possible, so we ask that you list only one wish item per child and that the expected value be \$30 or less.

Menard Electric's Christmas Committee is comprised of employees who hold fundraising events throughout the year. These donations will be used to fulfill the wishes.

Sadly, we cannot guarantee we will have the funding to fulfill each and every wish. We will do our best. If any members wish to fulfill an Angel's Wish, we welcome the assistance. Please contact the co-op.

Santa and his reindeer will be delivering wishes the week of Dec. 12.

Wishers must fill out all the information on the angel and return to the co-op by Nov. 23. We suggest you mail it with your bill; however, you can also use the drop box at the co-op office or mail separately to P.O. Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675.