

(MLGW linemen continued from inside page.)

Linemen from three states competed on June 10-11 with various tasks that are a part of their work routine. They earned points for speed and accuracy, but were docked if construction guidelines and safety standards weren't met.

While the teams battled in Paris, those same linemen partnered with MLGW over a mutual enemy – severe weather. Just days after the event, a storm barreled through Memphis on June 15 toppling trees and leaving 54,000 customers without power. With the help of linemen from Somerville, Brownsville, Jackson, TN, and Scottsboro and Russellville, AL, all power was restored within two days.



Huston and Smith compete in the blown transformer event.

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## Community Calendar

**Aug. 30:** Vine to Wine at the Garden with wine, beer, eats and sweets, 750 Cherry Rd., from 6-8 p.m. Cost: \$30-45 Info: 901-636-4131.

**Sept. 10:** Commission on Missing and Exploited Children's Charity Golf Tournament at 8 a.m. at The Links at Galloway, 3815 Walnut Grove Rd. Entry fees are \$100 per person. Info: 901-222-0700.

**Sept. 10-11:** Germantown Festival with 400 artists and craftsmen, kiddie rides and games at 7745 Poplar Pike. Sat.: 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sun.: noon – 6 p.m. Free shuttle parking at 2745 Hacks Cross Rd. and 2120 Exeter Rd.

**Sept. 17:** International Tea and Fashion Show with tea tasting, food sampling and global music from 2-4 p.m. at Crowne Plaza East, 2625 Thousand Oaks Blvd. Admission: \$25.

**Sept. 17:** Collierville Police Classic Car Show at Central Church, 2005 Winchester, from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Do you have a community event in the next eight weeks? Send an email to [lgarlington@mlgw.org](mailto:lgarlington@mlgw.org). Make sure to include Community Calendar in the subject heading.



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# Customer CONNECTION



PRODUCED MONTHLY BY MEMPHIS LIGHT, GAS AND WATER DIVISION

## Students plant wildflowers in MLGW power line corridor



Angelina Carias, 11, adds water to her team's plants.

Ten-year-old Arianna Wright wrinkled her nose when she and her team from Memphis Business Academy charter school spotted a slug among the wildflower seedlings.

"It was disgusting," she said. "Then I saw a worm. I held it and put it in the hole."

Arianna was among a group of 20 students who recently planted 200 seedlings along a section of power line right-of-way inside John F. Kennedy Park in Raleigh. Earlier, workers on a tractor with a seed drill scattered native grass and wildflower seeds in a 13-acre area near the park's ball fields.

(continued inside)

*(Students plant continued from front page)*

MLGW is joining a handful of other utility companies which are creating power line corridors of wildflowers and native grasses.

“This will not only lower our maintenance expenses, but it will also enhance the natural environment,” said

MLGW’s Commercial and Industrial Customer Care manager Bill Bullock. It likely will take two summers before the meadow is fully established with black-eyed Susans, purple coneflowers, milkweed and other wildflowers.

In addition to providing food and habitat for birds, bees and butterflies, the meadow will filter any runoff into the nearby Wolf River.

“Any day you get students outside experiencing nature is always a good day,” said Clean Memphis co-founder Janet Boscarino who worked with the charter school students during a summer enrichment program.



*Memphis Business Academy student Paola Morales holds a milkweed seedling that she and Shakeria Wesson are about to plant.*

## Mayor appoints Mitch Graves to MLGW’s Board of Commissioners



*Mitch Graves*

Mayor Jim Strickland has named health care CEO Mitch Graves as the newest commissioner to MLGW’s five-member governing body. He replaces Rick Masson who had been on the board since 2004.

Since October 2013, Graves has led HealthChoice LLC, a joint venture between Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare and MetroCare Physicians. He previously spent eight years as president and CEO of the hospital’s affiliated services division.

Graves attended his first board meeting as a commissioner on July 20. A native Memphian, he also serves on the boards of Christian Brothers University, United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, Boy Scouts-Chickasaw Council and the finance committee of the Church Health Center.

## MLGW linemen finish third among 25 teams from three states in rodeo

Taking turns shimmying up a 40-foot wooden pole, MLGW linemen Devlin Smith and Shane Huston needed speed and agility if they were going to finish on top in the skill climb/obstacle course event. The two, along with ground man Steve Person, won the event with a finishing time of 9:14:35. They also finished third in the wire transfer competition.

MLGW took home third place overall honors among 25 teams during the 19th annual Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo at Paris Landing State Park in Paris, TN. Apprentices Greg Meador and Bryan Harper also competed and Shane Smith served as an alternate.

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*L to R: Shane Huston, Steve Person and Devlin Smith*