

# THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

JULY 2023 • VOLUME 75 • ISSUE 7

A photograph of two men standing in front of a brick building with "Anderson Health" and "GOSHEN CA" visible on the wall. The man on the left is wearing a red polo shirt and dark pants. The man on the right is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and dark pants, and has a name tag that reads "NEDY PAGE, PRESIDENT, ANDERSON HEALTH, GOSHEN, IN 46526".

## **HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH**

**ANDERSON, SOUTHWESTERN  
SHARE VALUE OF CARING FOR  
COMMUNITY**

**BEAT THE HEAT**

**ELECTRIC SHOCK  
DROWNING**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**POWER FOR PROGRESS**

## **THE ION IN WINTER**

**TESLA RANGE DROPS  
WITH TEMPERATURE**

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Fill out and present the attached voter registration card to receive an additional \$10 bill credit when voting in our 2023 Board of Directors election.

Designed by sculptor Ruth Duckworth, "Spirit of Survival" stands on the campus of Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey.

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## NEWS & NOTES

### ON THE COVER

Southwestern CEO Bobby Williams (left) and Keith Page, President and CEO of Anderson Healthcare, pause for a photo at Anderson's new Goshen Campus in Edwardsville. Williams toured the buildings and grounds in May. See our story on page 10.



### FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For the latest news and notes, follow us on Facebook and Twitter. You'll find us at facebook.com/SWECI and twitter.com/sweci. Search for Southwestern Electric on YouTube and Instagram. You can listen to our podcast, Wireside Chat, on Apple Music, Spotify, Audible and anywhere podcasts are found.



### CO-OP REMINDERS

**July 4** Offices closed in observance of Independence Day.

**July 10** Payment processing systems will be unavailable from midnight to 4 a.m., while we perform system maintenance. No payments will be processed during this time. We will resume processing payments at 4:01 a.m.

**September 4** Offices closed for Labor Day.



## Redeem Southwestern Voter Registration Card on Back Cover for \$30 Bill Credit

To ensure you have the 2023 voter registration card in time to claim your \$30 bill credit for voting in this year's election, we're including a card in both the July and August issues again this year. The cards are identical. You only need one card to register and vote, and you may register and vote only one time.

To expedite voting, members are asked to bring the registration card printed on the back cover of the July issue or the August special edition of The Southwestern to one of Southwestern's voting locations. Members will earn a \$30 bill credit by presenting their preprinted registration card when they vote in this year's election of directors. A schedule with dates, times and locations appears on page 27 below the voter registration card.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 85th Annual Meeting of Members will be held at the Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site located at 315 W. Gallatin Street, Vandalia, Ill. More annual meeting information will appear in the August issue of The Southwestern and online at sweci.com. Questions may be directed to Susan File, vice president of member services, at 800-637-8667 or susan.file@sweci.com.

#### VOTER REGISTRATION CARD 2023 Please sign and present this card at the registration table.

##### 85th Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, September 9, 2023



Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please enroll me in Operation Round Up

#### PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Home Phone # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fill out and present this registration card to receive an additional \$10 bill credit!**



### HAVE YOU HEARD?

The Southwestern Electric Cooperative podcast, that is. *Wireside Chat* is a monthly podcast aimed at delivering insight into your electric co-op in an entertaining and easily digestible way. The show is available on all major podcast-hosting platforms.

# Hide & Seek Reader Contest

For decades we ran a reader contest we called On Account. We asked you to look for a member-account number we'd hidden in the magazine. If the account number was yours, you could contact us to win a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill. Account numbers were selected at random from a pool that included our entire membership. The rules were simple, but your odds were long. We retired that contest with our December 2022 issue.

This year we're bringing you a new contest. It isn't based on your account number, and if you're a regular reader, you'll have a much better chance of winning a \$25 bill credit.

It works like this:

Each month — with the exception of August, when we break from our traditional format to bring you Southwestern's annual report — we'll hide an image in the magazine. Your job is to find it.

The image may be a photo, illustration, icon, logo — or any other graphic that catches our eye. This month's image resembles the life preserver pictured at right.

The actual image may be larger or smaller than what you see here. We may change the color. We may make the image black and white. Or robin's egg blue. It may be reversed. Or upside down. Or reversed and upside down. Who knows? We don't. We're making this up as we go.

If you find the image, email us or send a postcard with your name, address, phone number, and the page number where you found the image.

For instance, if you found this month's image on page 32, send an email or

postcard with your name, address, phone number, and a line or two saying you found the image on page 32. That would be an awful answer, by the way, as this issue is only 28 pages.

Please email us at [thesouthwestern@sweci.com](mailto:thesouthwestern@sweci.com) or send your postcard to The Southwestern Magazine, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.

Entries must be postmarked or in our [thesouthwestern@sweci.com](mailto:thesouthwestern@sweci.com) inbox by the first day of the month following the month of publication. For our July contest, we'll need your entries in our inbox or postmarked by August 1.

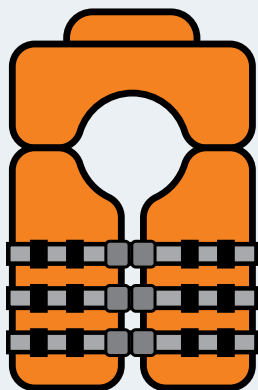
We'll choose one winner in a random drawing. Our winner will receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill. We'll publish the name of this month's contest winner in the October issue of The Southwestern.

If your magazine hasn't landed in your mailbox and the hour grows late, you can look at our online edition. You'll find PDF files of The Southwestern at [sweci.com](http://sweci.com). Go to News & Information in the main menu, then click on The

Southwestern in the dropdown menu. We usually post the current issue of the magazine on the first day of the month, or when someone emails to say we haven't posted the current issue of the magazine.

That's a lot of information for a simple contest. Clearly, we didn't think this through. If we had, we may have passed on

the idea. But we've already told friends and family about it and asked IT to set up [thesouthwestern@sweci.com](mailto:thesouthwestern@sweci.com) as an email address, so good luck, godspeed, and mind the Rules To Play By in our sidebar at right.



## RULES TO PLAY BY

- One entry per membership per month.
- A membership can only win once per calendar year.
- No phone calls, texts, social media messages, walk-in traffic, carrier pigeons, singing telegrams or other clever means of communication that may occur to you.
- Please respond *only* by emailing us at [thesouthwestern@sweci.com](mailto:thesouthwestern@sweci.com) or by sending a postcard to The Southwestern Magazine, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.
- Entries submitted by other methods will be disqualified.
- Entries emailed to other Southwestern Electric email addresses will be disqualified, deleted, then disqualified again, just to be safe.
- Entries mailed to other departments or included with other correspondence will likely never find their way to the editor. If they do, they'll be disqualified. Also, he'll add you to his list of people who can't follow instructions. It's a long list and not one you care to be part of.
- Again, entries must be postmarked or in our [thesouthwestern@sweci.com](mailto:thesouthwestern@sweci.com) inbox by the first day of the month following the month of publication. For this contest, we'll need your entries in our inbox or postmarked by August 1.
- We'll never hide the image on the front or back cover or on the page where we list the rules.
- Did we mention responding *only* by postcard or by sending email to [thesouthwestern@sweci.com](mailto:thesouthwestern@sweci.com)? Well, we have the space, so we'll bring it up one last time — just to show we're sincere.

## HIDE & SEEK MAY WINNER

Congratulations to Janet Plickebaum of Maryville. Jan was the winner of our May Hide & Seek contest. She found the American flag on page 10, hidden in our Youth Tour story. Jan will receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill. Well done, Jan! Thanks to everyone who participated in our May contest.

# The Ion in Winter

## *Range drops with temperature*

**A**s coordinator of Southwestern Electric's EV program, Energy Manager Julie Lowe has logged a lot of miles in a Tesla Model 3. She regularly shares her EV experiences, good and bad, with members interested in electric vehicles. For nearly a year, Lowe has driven the co-op's Tesla daily, making notes on its performance. With autumn around the corner, we wanted to share some of her insights from last winter.

Here's the upshot of what you'll read in this article: If you're in the market for an EV, don't let Illinois' harsh winters stop you from buying — but move forward knowing that, come cold weather, you'll sacrifice range for fuel economy.

Low temperatures slow reactions in lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries making them operate less efficiently. Li-ion batteries power many EVs, the co-op's 2020 Tesla Model 3 included. Our car operated far less efficiently in winter. At the same time, it delivered significant fuel savings.

"I drove just over 4,900 miles during the months of December, January and February," Lowe said. "Over the winter, charging at home only cost me between \$50-60 per month. At \$4 per gallon for fuel, a normal gas-powered car would need to get 140 miles per gallon (mpg) to compare."

To cover the same 4,900 miles in a 2020 Toyota Corolla XSE, a comparable, gas-driven sedan that averages 34 mpg, it would have cost Lowe a little over \$575, based on gas prices at the time. That's a savings of about \$400 in three months.

In exchange for the savings, she lost a lot of mileage. "I figured low temperatures would reduce the range," Lowe said, "but I was unprepared for such a big difference. Cold weather had a huge impact on the distance I could drive on a charge."

In months where temperatures were mild, Lowe averaged about 220 miles per charge. "On the coldest days that I drove last winter, I would get 140-150 miles," she said, noting that temperatures averaged between 28 and 33 degrees during drives in December through February. As for accessories, Lowe often used headlights during the shorter, darker days of winter, as well as wipers, seat heaters and the car's radio. She kept the cabin temperature at 70-72 degrees.

Lowe said the car's range dropped more quickly on days when semis and high profile vehicles were fighting strong, sustained winds. "I didn't have a lot of opportunity to drive on the snow and ice, as we didn't get a lot last winter, but temperature and wind definitely affected our range."

While she didn't alter her travel plans, she did change her charging routine to accommodate the reduced range. Lowe recharges the Tesla's battery in her garage with a level 2 ChargePoint

HomeFlex charger. "Typically I have the Tesla set to charge to 80-85 percent overnight. If I'm only driving to and from work, that will be about 65 miles, and depending on the temperature I will be down to 30-50 percent charge," she said. "If I knew I would be driving more than my normal commute, I would charge the Tesla to 100 percent, and then I would put it on the charger when I got to work. Sometimes, I would have to put it on the charger when I got back to the office from my appointments in order to have enough charge to comfortably make it home," she noted. "I found myself charging at work several times throughout the winter months, when previously I didn't have to."

Even after charging at work, she occasionally made it home with less than 10 percent charge. "On January 31, the high temp for the day was 22 degrees. I started my commute with 86 percent charge and ended up driving a total of 158 miles that day," she said. "I charged at work for a few hours to get enough charge to make it home and still ended my commute with 2 percent battery!"

Lowe pointed out that, even for experienced EV drivers, range anxiety is valid — as are concerns relating to a fusion of software and machinery.

In November 2022, she was west of Altamont when the Tesla flashed a warning on its dashboard tablet. Seconds later the car shut down. Lowe was on hold 70 minutes before a Tesla Roadside Assistance representative answered. The representative said the car needed to be towed to a Tesla Service Center in Chesterfield, Mo., more than 100 miles away. It took Tesla about 45 minutes to locate a service that would tow the car from Altamont to St. Louis County. Lowe waited another 45 minutes for the truck to arrive.

The towing service trucked the car to Chesterfield on Nov. 10. The Tesla

### WHERE'S YOUR EV RATE?

At the outset of our program, we promised to provide a rate that would enable members to charge their cars at home, economically. To date, Meridian Cooperative, formerly SEDC, the data management company that developed and maintains Southwestern Electric's billing system, has failed to integrate an EV rate into our overall rate schedule.

"Meetings with Meridian have proven unproductive," said Southwestern CEO Bobby Williams. "We're frustrated by their inability to accommodate what appears to be an industry-standard request. If you're an EV owner, I know you're extremely frustrated as well," Williams said. "We're taking decisive measures to address the problem. I appreciate your patience and I apologize for the delay."




Service Center messaged her Nov. 11 to say the car's rear drive unit had failed, they'd completed the repair, and the EV was ready for pickup. Repair and towing expenses were covered by the car's warranty, which lasts 50,000 miles or until September 2024, whichever comes first.

"It wasn't an awful experience," she said. "The problem was taken care of promptly. The biggest issue was the time on hold with roadside assistance, and waiting for them to contact a towing company willing to take the car from Altamont to Chesterfield. That's the biggest downfall of the Tesla — that the closest service center is so far away. Once the repair had been completed, we had to pick up the car in Chesterfield," she said.

"Anytime something like this happens, it makes you a little jumpy that it could occur again — or that something similar could — in a less than convenient time or place. Had I been on the interstate or in an area I wasn't familiar with, I wouldn't have been comfortable waiting all that time for the car to be picked up."

The drive unit failure didn't announce itself in any way prior to the warning tone and tablet alert. "It wasn't like a transmission going out, where you notice little things for several days or weeks indicating a problem. It was out of the blue and immediate," she said. "I had less than a minute before the car was completely disabled."

Thoughts of that experience came to mind now and then on winter evenings when the sun had set, temperatures were below freezing, and the car's charge was running low.

Lowe offers two pieces of cold weather advice. First, park in a garage whenever possible. "Keeping the battery a few degrees warmer than the outside temperature will help it hold a charge longer," she said. And then, schedule your departure time in the car's software whenever your plans permit. "That allows you to precondition your vehicle," she said. "A cold battery drains much faster than a conditioned one." 

*Have questions about EVs? Email Julie Lowe at [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com).*

# Gas or Electric?

## Used to be a question for kitchens. Now it applies to your garage.

EVs aren't for everyone. That said, they're a sound choice for some. Your driving habits, preferences, priorities, your budget and the availability of charging stations on routes you frequently travel play a significant role in how you see electric vehicles.

If you're considering an EV as your next automobile, you may have questions that need real-life answers.

Since August 2022, Energy Manager Julie Lowe has been traveling Southwestern's service area in a Tesla Model 3, keeping a journal as she commissions and recommissions hundreds of member-owned cogeneration projects connected to the co-op's 3,500 miles of power line.

Under summer sun and in winter snow, she's driven an EV over the highways and backroads we call home.

We'll continue to share her experiences in coming issues of the magazine.

Our question for you is: What would you like to know? Are you curious about how an EV handles? If there are unexpected benefits to driving an EV? Do you wonder about the blessings and banes of EV ownership? We've collected data, experiences and impressions to answer those questions.

But you likely have questions of your own. Email them to Julie Lowe at [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com). She'll do her best to answer them in honest, straightforward language. And we'll share some of your questions and her responses in the pages of our magazine.

Because we're not here to sell you a car. We're here to share our experience, so you can make an informed decision regarding a car that's right for you.

**What would you like to know about EVs? Email your questions to Julie Lowe at [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com).**



# 85th ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

## Five Candidates on the Ballot; Candidacy By Petition Deadline Pending at Press Time

**T**wo incumbent directors and three other co-op members have filed for candidacy in Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 2023 board election. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, a nine-member Nominations Committee convened on May 25 to submit candidates for three open seats (one per voting district) on the board of directors. In addition to those members submitted as candidates by the Nominations Committee, at press time (mid-June), one member, Brad Lurkins, had submitted a bid for candidacy by petition in advance of the June 26 deadline.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's directors are responsible for establishing organizational direction and policies, ensuring member needs and concerns are given fair and timely treatment, and overseeing the overall financial stability of the cooperative.

As of June 9, board candidates include:

- District I: Incumbent Marvin Warner, Pocahontas  
Challenger Michael Rehg, St. Jacob
- District II: James Tarasuik, Greenville  
Brad Lurkins, Greenville
- District III: Incumbent Annette Hartlieb, Vandalia

Each elected director will serve a three-year term beginning Sept. 9, 2023. A profile of each board candidate will appear in the August 2023 edition of *The Southwestern*, which serves as the Official Notice of the 85th Annual Meeting of Members and Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2022. If USPS delivery delays prevent your August issue from arriving in a timely fashion, you can view the magazine online at [sweci.com](http://sweci.com).

Our voting schedule was developed to allow ample opportunity for early voting. Dates, times and locations appear on page 27.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 85th Annual Meeting of Members will be held Saturday, Sept. 9, at 10 a.m. on the grounds of the Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site at 315 W. Gallatin Street, Vandalia, IL 62471.

### Absentee Voting Guidelines

**Section 4 (E): Proxy Voting, Absentee Voting and Voting by Entities:** Proxy voting is prohibited. However, anything contained in the Bylaws to the contrary notwithstanding, a Member may vote by absentee ballot as follows: A Member desiring to cast his vote absentee, shall appear in person at the Cooperative's headquarters at Greenville, Illinois, during the ten weekdays preceding the election at regularly scheduled office hours, or at such other locations as may be established from time to time by the Board of Directors for the purpose of casting absentee ballots, during hours and days as directed by the Board of Directors and shall request an absentee ballot. An absentee ballot approved by the Credentials and Election Committee shall be provided and the Member shall cast such ballot secretly and seal such ballot in an envelope, which shall be provided in such sealed envelope to the Credentials and Election Committee. On the date of the Annual Meeting of the Members, the Credentials and Election Committee shall open and count such absentee ballots so provided. Any absentee ballot, which is delivered to the Credentials and Election Committee in an unsealed condition, shall be deemed invalid and shall not be counted. Notice of this Bylaw provision shall be provided to the Members of the Cooperative in the notice of Annual Meeting. Voting by Members other than Members who are Natural Persons shall be allowed only upon the presentation to the Cooperative by a duly appointed officer or agent of such Member (prior to or upon registration of such Member at each Member meeting, or when requesting an absentee ballot) of satisfactory evidence entitling such officer or agent presenting the same to cast a vote on behalf of such Member.

**For more information regarding the annual meeting, please contact Susan File, vice president of member services, at (800) 637-8667 or [susan.file@sweci.com](mailto:susan.file@sweci.com).**



# Southwestern Students Earn Power for Progress Scholarships

Since 1995, Southwestern Electric Cooperative's Power for Progress Scholarship Program has provided \$298,000 in financial assistance to a total of 438 students.

This year the cooperative awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 11 students, including nine graduating seniors and two students who graduated prior to 2023.

Each year, dozens of applications are evaluated by Southwestern Electric Cooperative's Scholarship Committee. The committee is composed of nine judges. Each judge independently evaluates the merits of every application against an extensive list of criteria, including financial need, academic success, employment, and participation in extracurricular and volunteer activities.

Southwestern Electric scholarship recipients may use the awarded funds to attend any accredited university, college or vocational school in the U.S.

This year's Power for Progress scholarship recipients are:

#### Graduating Seniors

- Lucy Allen
- Leona Baum
- Drake Davis\*
- Anna Forbes
- Madison Harbison
- Kylie Ketcham\*\*
- Alyssa Mae Mann
- Katelyn Ridens
- Teresa Viramontes

#### Mid-America Prep School

- Greenville High School
- Beecher City High School
- Vandalia High School
- Triad High School
- Highland High School
- Civic Memorial High School
- Greenville High School
- St. Elmo High School

#### Post-high school scholarship recipients

- Reagan Caliendo
- Dennis Wollin
- University of Illinois-Chicago
- Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

\*Drake Davis is this year's Cooperative Spirit Scholarship winner.

\*\*Kylie Ketcham is the Alan G. Libbra Memorial Scholarship winner.



**Congratulations to our 2023 Power for Progress Scholarship recipients!**  
It's a privilege to be part of your journey.

# *Here's To Your Health*

## Anderson Healthcare continues to grow — with help from Southwestern Electric

Story by Nathan Grimm | Photos by Mike Barns

One of the seven guiding principles for cooperatives is concern for community, the never-ending quest for sustainable development of the larger community in which a co-op exists.

It makes sense, then, that the relationship between Southwestern Electric and Anderson Healthcare is one of the longest-standing and most mutually beneficial in the cooperative's 84-year history. That's because while the hospital is not a cooperative, its continued growth as a healthcare leader in Southwestern Illinois has made it an indispensable part of the community in which it was founded.

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That growth — and partnership with Southwestern Electric — has continued with the development of the hospital system's Goshen Campus at the corner

of Goshen Road and District Drive in Edwardsville.

With the opening of the Anderson Medical Building last August, the healthcare group continues to strive to meet the needs of its constituents.

"They value partnerships, and they value their community," Southwestern Electric CEO Bobby Williams said. "Just like the cooperative principles that we follow, I believe Anderson follows the same. They truly care about their community; they truly care about the residents that they serve just as we do with our members."

Plans for the future of the 15-acre site began roughly five years ago, Anderson Healthcare President and CEO Keith Page said, with the Anderson Rehabilitation Institute and the Anderson Surgery Center and Cardinal Glennon Children's Specialty Clinic later

becoming the first two occupants of the campus. The Rehabilitation Institute is a state-of-the-art, 34-bed inpatient acute rehab hospital dedicated to the treatment and recovery of individuals who have experienced the debilitating effects of a severe injury or illness. The Surgery Center and Children's Specialty Clinic offers outpatient surgery options for both adults and children.

The newly constructed Medical Building is a 50,000-square-foot facility that has express care, imaging, therapy, and laboratory services on the first floor, and an Anderson Medical Group clinic with 20 physicians and providers on the building's second floor. Page said the campus has room for two more buildings to be built in the future as well if the need arises.

"It's really a healthcare destination in terms of people being able to get





their care and also diagnostic services as well,” Page said. “We’ve had a tremendous start.”

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From its inception, Anderson Hospital was a community-driven effort.

By the early 1900s, the eastern side of Madison County was served by St. Joseph’s Hospital in Highland, and both Alton Memorial Hospital and later Saint Anthony’s Hospital in Alton provided coverage for the western portion of the county. A void still existed in the middle of the county, though, a need that was felt by the communities that occupied that central corridor.

Multiple efforts to establish an area hospital fell short over the decades, until a major fundraising campaign in the early 1970s pushed the initiative over the finish line. Ground was broken on the hospital’s main campus on Illinois Route 162 in Maryville on April 21, 1974, and the hospital opened its doors on January 5, 1977.

“We share that value of how important community is,” Page said. “Anderson Hospital is here because the community wanted a hospital in this town. If you go back to 1977 when it opened, there were residents of the communities that we serve here — Edwardsville, Glen Carbon, Maryville, Troy, Collinsville

*Continued on next page ►*



Anderson Healthcare President and CEO Keith Page, left, and Southwestern Electric CEO Bobby Williams talk outside the Anderson Surgery Center and Cardinal Glennon Children’s Specialty Clinic. The center, opened in August 2020, was the first occupant of the health-care group’s Goshen Campus in Edwardsville.

*“They value partnerships, and they value their community. Just like the cooperative principles that we follow, I believe Anderson follows the same. They truly care about their community; they truly care about the residents that they serve just as we do with our members.”*

— Southwestern Electric CEO Bobby Williams





► *Continued from page 11*

— they raised money to get this hospital started, and so we have continued to focus on developing our services so that we can best serve the community.

“Community is important. We are very happy to serve a number of communities, and we work hard to make sure that we provide the kind of healthcare services that they deserve and need.”

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Concern for community includes caring about the preservation of that community

for future generations.

Throughout its growth, both at the main hospital campus and at the new Goshen development, Anderson Healthcare has kept green energy in its sights. In the new Goshen Campus buildings, Page said making the switch to LED lights and installing timers to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms are just a few of the ways Anderson Healthcare is saving energy while still providing frontline care.

“We have tried to build in green energy and be good stewards of energy

for these facilities that are on campus,” Page said.

That embracing of green-forward technology includes the installation of multiple electric vehicle charging stations at the campus. Those chargers came on the heels of Anderson, in partnership with Southwestern Electric, installing EV charging stations in the parking lot of the Maryville hospital in July 2021.

“They were the first entity to reach out to us about EV charging when they heard we were interested in partnering with the community,” Williams said. “That’s what this is about, taking care of the community. So, having facilities that support the residents, the customers, the members, that’s Anderson providing services that align with their values, and our values as well.”

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The partnership between Anderson Healthcare and Southwestern Electric is one that dates back to the hospital’s earliest days.

When construction on the hospital started at 6800 State Route 162 in 1974,

*“It’s a relationship where there is a lot of confidence, a lot of trust. We know that when we have a project and we come to Southwestern Electric, there’s enthusiasm. The cooperative is always as excited about the projects that we’re doing as we are. That says a lot.”* — Anderson Healthcare President and CEO Keith Page

The Anderson Medical Building, the newest development at the Goshen Campus, is a 50,000-square-foot facility with offerings including express care, imaging, therapy, laboratory services and a clinic with 20 physicians and providers. “It’s really a healthcare destination in terms of people being able to get their care and also diagnostic services as well,” Anderson Healthcare President and CEO Keith Page said.



it was on Southwestern Electric lines. It's where the hospital has remained, and when it came time to expand the Anderson Healthcare services, they again chose to locate their facilities on Southwestern lines with the Goshen Road development.

Williams called the relationship a great partnership and said the growing presence of the healthcare system not only strengthens the existing community but also entices outsiders to visit or become a part of the community as well.

"Having these types of facilities that support our residents and our region helps bring in new residents, and also other businesses to come in and build on what Anderson is doing," Williams said. "I think having these types of facilities to support the community encourages economic development for the area, and with that, it helps all the membership."

Page said there is nothing currently in the works with regards to additional construction at the Goshen Campus but that the extra space leaves open the possibility of further development in the future. If they do choose to expand their


*"They were the first entity to reach out to us about EV charging when they heard we were interested in partnering with the community. That's what this is about, taking care of the community. So, having facilities that support the residents, the customers, the members, that's Anderson providing services that align with their values, and our values as well."*

— Southwestern Electric CEO Bobby Williams

services, Page said, that partnership with Southwestern Electric gives Anderson Healthcare peace of mind as they look to the future.

"It's a relationship where there is a lot of confidence, a lot of trust," Page said. "We know that when we have a project and we come to Southwestern Electric, there's enthusiasm. The cooperative is always as excited about the projects that we're doing as we are. That says a lot.

When we present to them a problem or an issue, they help us resolve it.

"All those things are important, because when you take on a big project like this campus, there will be problems that will come up. Southwestern Electric has been a great partner in resolving any issues that come forward and helping us continue to grow as an organization." 

Electric vehicle charging stations like the one pictured are dotted throughout the Goshen Campus parking lots. "We have tried to build in green energy and be good stewards of energy for these facilities that are on campus," Anderson Healthcare President and CEO Keith Page said.



# Dehumidifiers Help You *BEAT THE HEAT*

by Julie Lowe, Energy Manager

As anyone living in the Midwest this time of year will tell you, the heat and humidity are enough to make summer almost unbearable at times. Combined, they make air conditioning a Midwesterner's best friend during the summer months. While we're grateful for air conditioning, the extra energy use isn't easy on a bank account.

Fortunately, your air conditioner doesn't have to work alone. Another household appliance can operate with your A/C to keep your home comfortable while lowering your energy use.

Dehumidifiers are appliances that help maintain preferred — and healthy — humidity levels within your living space. They draw excess moisture from the air and prevent the growth of mold, bacteria, and other particulates — all of which could lead to a variety of health issues. The drier air also enables you to set your thermostat higher without sacrificing comfort.

## HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU NEED A DEHUMIDIFIER?

Signs that signal you could benefit from the use of a dehumidifier include:

- Stains from moisture on your walls or ceiling
- Stuffy or damp rooms
- Your windows are covered with condensation
- A musty odor in your home
- You see mold

## WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE PURCHASING A DEHUMIDIFIER

When paired properly with your A/C, dehumidifiers can reduce your energy use by allowing you to set your thermostat higher. But if not sized properly for your living space, they can use a lot of energy without providing the best return on your investment in terms of comfort and efficiency.

Be sure to do your homework before making a purchase. Research different models on the market, read consumer reviews and look into warranties. You want to be well informed and know what you're looking for before you buy.

Keep these points in mind while you do your research:

- Dehumidifiers are described in terms of pint capacity. Select a size suited to your home. There are models available for small rooms, mid-sized rooms, large rooms, basements and garages, and units designed to dehumidify an entire home. Be sure you're buying the correct size for the space you want to condition.
- Look for a model with an automatic shut-off feature. These units use intelligent software to monitor your environment. They shut down when they detect your living space is at the desired humidity level. In addition, these units will also

shut-off when their internal reservoir is full. This feature will ensure that the device only operates at its best ability.

- Look for the Energy Star rating. An Energy Star rating means the dehumidifier operates in an energy-conscious manner to help you save power — which saves money on your electric bill.
- You can also reduce costs by purchasing a timer-equipped model. You can set the humidifier to turn on before you arrive home, so it creates a comfortable space while you're there, and doesn't use energy while you're away.

Keep in mind that dehumidifiers will address humidity, but they aren't a solution for chronic dampness. If you have standing water in your basement, or you're fighting a persistent musty smell, you need to address the cause.

That may involve performing small DIY jobs, like cleaning gutters and repairing leaky pipes and faucets. Or it may involve larger, more labor-intensive tasks, like patching basement walls, installing a sump pump, adding exhaust fans to your bathroom and kitchen, repairing or installing new guttering, and regrading your yard for better drainage.

## EFFICIENCY OPTIONS

Ready to buy a dehumidifier? Look for these energy-saving features:

- An Energy Star rating.
- An on/off switch so you can easily turn off the humidifier when you leave the room.
- A humidistat that lets you program a humidity level between 30 and 50 percent, which is the optimal range of humidity for most people.
- A timer that enables you to turn on the humidifier a little while before you come home from work. You can set the timer so your humidifier creates a comfortable space while you're present, and doesn't use energy while you're away.

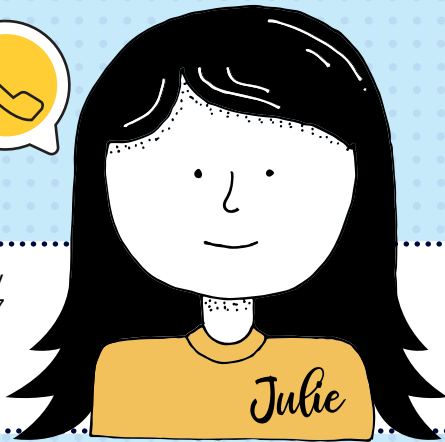
## GET THE MOST FOR YOUR MONEY

Simple steps will help your dehumidifier operate more efficiently.

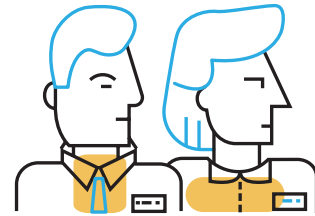
- Start by reducing humidity at the source. Turn on an exhaust fan before you cook or take a shower.
- If you have a programmable model, set the humidistat to keep moisture at a moderate level, such as 50 percent.
- Leave your windows closed at night to keep dry air inside and warm, moist air out.
- Position the unit so air can easily circulate in and out.
- Clean the dehumidifier's filter regularly.



# Steps to Solar Commissioning



Contact Julie Lowe, energy manager, at (800) 637-8667 or [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com) for our information and commissioning packet.



Contact your installer and insurance agent. Ask your installer for a one-line diagram. Request a certificate of insurance from your agent. They're welcome to send those documents to Julie Lowe at Southwestern Electric. Or if you'd like to review them, they can send them to you, and you can pass them along to Julie.



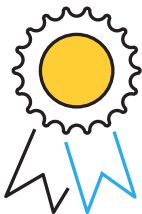
After your one-line diagram is approved by Southwestern Electric, you'll receive a \$500 invoice to cover the installation of your new dual register electric meter, a system inspection, and your array's interconnection to the grid. If your installer will be paying this invoice on your behalf, we'll send the invoice directly to them.



After installation is complete, contact us to schedule your system's on-site review and commissioning.



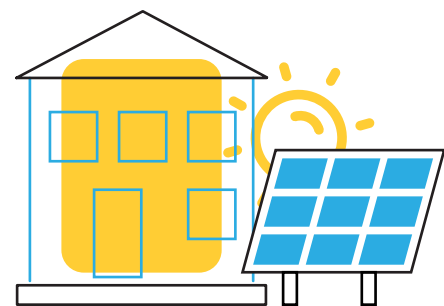
Our commissioning team will visit your site. We will inspect your system to verify it meets our safety specifications. A team member will review a memorandum of understanding with you. You'll sign this document for our files. Note: If you won't be present for commissioning, please schedule a meeting to review and sign the memorandum beforehand. After your system passes inspection, you go live! Your array is connected to Southwestern's distribution system.



We'll send you and your installer a certificate of completion. Your installer will submit this document for you, so you can receive your solar renewable energy credits, or certificates (SRECs).



Each year, you'll submit documentation to confirm you've renewed your insurance. You may add us as a certificate holder on your policy so the renewal will be sent to us automatically each year.



Every three years, we'll visit your system to confirm it's connected properly, well-maintained, and that your safety signs are in place.

# ***ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING***

Lucas Ritz was 8 years old when he died during a family outing at an Oregon marina. In the decades since, Kevin Ritz has honored the memory of his son by protecting the lives of others.

By Kevin Ritz. Reprint courtesy Kevin Ritz and BoatU.S. Magazine

**W**e were a live-aboard family with three active children at a fresh-water marina on a tributary of the Willamette River near Portland, Oregon. Other kids were already swimming in the cove because it was that kind of day — hot and lazy. This was a common practice by adults as well as children during the warm summer of 1999.

Our sons Ian, age 10, and Lucas, age eight, asked to swim with their friends. Permission was granted, subject to close adult supervision by parents including their mother, a graduate nurse. The boys were both wearing Type II life jackets, so it was great fun and presumably safe to play in the water. Our children were schooled in aquatic safety. Being young professional people, my wife, Sheryl, and I had taken every precaution we could for peace of mind in a water environment.

On the inside of the dock, the kids were having a great time floating down with the river current on an inner tube. Lucas moved away from the others toward his mother, who was keeping pace on the dock with the children's water activity. As he approached the ladder to get out of the water, he let out a loud gasp, immediately rolling onto his back in his life jacket, apparently unconscious. Sheryl yelled to the other

kids to help him and jumped into the water herself.

As the kids approached Lucas, they felt a slight tingling sensation in the water and immediately backed off. Upon hitting the water downstream from Lucas, Sheryl's extremities went numb and she experienced extreme difficulty moving her limbs, which, at the time, she attributed to fear. Somehow, Sheryl managed to pull Lucas to the dockside where others assisted in getting him onto the dock.

I arrived moments later after hearing the commotion and, along with another onlooker, started giving him CPR, which we continued until the paramedics took over approximately 15 to 20 minutes later. Our beloved Lucas was pronounced dead at 6:30 p.m. at Portland's Emanuel Hospital. One moment he was laughing and playing — an instant later, his short life was over, leaving our hearts broken forever.

As parents we suffered agonies of

"how did this happen?" This question then turned into "why did this happen?" We relived every moment trying to sort out what we did or didn't do. It was not until the next morning that we were able to start unraveling the pieces of the mystery. The first assumption was that he drowned. However, he was wearing the best life jacket money could buy, which kept his face out of the water even though he was unconscious. He was pulled from a floating position only moments after rolling onto his back and CPR was started immediately. Also, at no time during CPR could we detect a heartbeat and his color was good. Neither of these observations would indicate drowning.

As Sheryl was telling me what had happened, she said she had never been so fearful in her life as to have her extremities tingle and go numb to the point where she could hardly move while in the water. Ian then related to me for the first time that he also felt a tingling as he approached his brother. Upon hearing all this it seemed clear to me that he did not drown, but that somehow, some way, AC electricity was present in the water where the kids were swimming. Our Lucas had been electrocuted.

I then called the County Coroner's office, requesting an autopsy if they had not already done so, because knowledge of the circumstances and common sense

## **Questions about safety? Call Southwestern Electric**

If you suspect electricity is making your boat, pool or marina unsafe, keep people away from the site or structure and call Southwestern Electric at 800-637-8667. We'll examine your site at no cost.

pointed to electrocution, not drowning. They argued that there were no burns on his body. I pointed out that Lucas had been in an electrolytic solution, which eliminated the resistance of the skin (ordinarily skin resistance results in burns when an individual is electrocuted on land). To my complete horror, they responded that they would not know how to test for something like that.

I told them that testing was not difficult and that I was going to test the water in the area. I then called the local Sheriff's Department and left a message telling them my suspicions. With my digital voltmeter, I went to the area where Lucas had been, put the negative lead to a ground, dropped the positive lead into the water, and immediately got AC voltage. I notified the Sheriff's Department, reporting what I had found. They agreed to send out some deputies while I called in an electrician to confirm my suspicions. He arrived later that morning, tracing the electricity to a powerboat that was in the area where the kids had been swimming.

Concerns about liability soon unleashed a stream of other investigators, all of whom were suddenly interested in determining the source of the current. The local utility company wound up sending a team. The owner and manager of the marina arrived. More deputies were called.

Meanwhile, the electrician and I continued our investigation, focusing on the powerboat. We found a 12V wire lying on top of an AC wire, which had gotten hot enough to melt its own insulation and that of the hot (black) AC wire. This put 120V AC into the entire ground system of the boat, including the engines and propellers. This, coupled

with lack of an AC safety ground, forced the voltage and electrical current into the surrounding water.

Fresh water is not a good electrical conductor; therefore the AC was unable to reach ground at a sufficient current to trip the breaker. Because of its high salinity, the human body is a much better conductor of electricity than freshwater. (Saltwater is more conductive than the human body, which explains why electric shock deaths have not occurred in saltwater.) As Lucas approached the ladder, he passed into the field of AC

## **“AS PARENTS WE SUFFERED AGONIES OF ‘HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?’ THIS QUESTION THEN TURNED INTO ‘WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?’”**

current and, for a brief moment, completed the circuit to ground. His heart was stopped instantly; the insidious path of electrical current took the life of our son.

At first we considered this a freak accident — a unique set of circumstances that just happened to us. But this event completely changed my life and my focus. I was determined to understand how this could happen and to do everything I could to keep it from happening again. I did not want anyone else to

suffer the pain we had suffered. With the collaboration of my business partner, Andy Tufts, I wrote a couple articles for The American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC), describing the accident and the actions that I have taken to create public and professional awareness of the problem, to provide education and a better understanding of the concepts involved, and to encourage the following of the ABYC standards and the use of ground fault-type devices onboard boats and in marinas.

I determined to enhance my own knowledge so that I would have a solid understanding of the workings of AC currents in freshwater environments. Andy and I have done that using many different avenues, not the least of which was ABYC. We are now both ABYC Master Technicians. Also, the thrust of our marine business changed significantly from emphasis primarily on sales to one concentrating on keeping boats electrically safe using ABYC standards. Our business motto became “Safer Boating Begins With A Safe Boat.” On-line, I also started checking out freshwater drownings with the suspicion that many were possibly electrical current related.

Much has happened in the years since and all of it good. The awareness of “electric shock drowning” as a serious freshwater issue has significantly increased. A USCG-funded ABYC grant implemented by Capt. David Rifkin and James Shafer has greatly added to the understanding of how AC current behaves in freshwater. The truth is that most people electrically shocked in freshwater, unlike my son, are drowned. This is because of skeletal muscle paralysis caused by low levels of AC

*Continued on next page ►*

### **What To Do If You See Electric Shock Drowning**





► *Continued from page 17*

current using the body as part of its return path to its source. This is what Sheryl experienced when she jumped into the water to rescue Lucas. That she didn't drown or get electrocuted was due to the voltage gradient of the electrical current from its source. She entered the water farther from the faulty boat leak than Lucas. Depending upon several bodily factors, a range of say 15 to 30 milliamps (mA) of AC current will create muscle paralysis, and the drowning of even good swimmers is the result. An AC current flow of around 100 mA will put the heart into fibrillation, and death will likely follow within seconds.

This is a very serious problem, but it is preventable.

First and foremost, no one should go in the water at a marina. Signs should be posted on every pier warning people to stay out of the water. But, since not everyone will read this article, and since people often ignore signs, (as happened in the case of 19-year-old girl in 2005), or may fall into the water accidentally, the only certain cure is to have GFCI-type devices installed on boats that would automatically interrupt the flow of electricity in the case of a fault. There have been at least 60 needless fatalities and 100 unwarranted casualties from freshwater electrically induced faults. The solution in the future may be ELCIs.

The unfortunate reality is that currently there is no post-mortem evidence available to coroners to ascertain whether electricity was involved in a drowning. Nor do most law enforcement personnel have the technical skills or tools to investigate this type of accident. This lack of knowledge, training, and tools leads to questions about how many deaths have occurred due to faulty wiring on boats. Some time after Lucas's death, two Multnomah County River Deputies and I conducted a random sampling of 50 boats in three freshwater marinas in the Portland area. We found 13 boats leaking potentially lethal electrical current into the water. A ratio of 26 percent of faulty boat wiring leads one to wonder if the number of reported electrical deaths in fresh water is only the tip


of the iceberg. If you have any doubts about your boat, it should be inspected by an ABYC-certified technician. Do not depend on an electrician with experience only on land. Let's boat safely and save lives. For more information, contact Kevin Ritz at [KevinRitz@gmail.com](mailto:KevinRitz@gmail.com).

### **THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION: EQUIPMENT LEAKAGE CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (ELCI)**

Lucas's death will not have been in vain if my efforts and involvement with ABYC have played some small part in the creation of a new ABYC E-11 standard that would require the installation of an Equipment Leakage Circuit Interrupter (ELCI) device on boats (already required by code for land-based damp environments such as bathrooms, kitchens, hot tubs, etc.). In our situation, if the 120V AC ground wire had been bonded to the metal components on the boat (i.e. the negative side of the battery), the energizing of the 12V DC system with the 120V AC would have most likely tripped off the shore power breaker, severing electrical current flow. Or, if a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) breaker had been installed by the marina ahead of the boat's shore power, even 10 mA of current would have tripped it. So, bottom line — if the boat had been properly wired with an ELCI device or the marina placed a GFCI in front of the shore power cord, our son would still be alive today.

Once adopted and implemented on a vessel, the ELCI device, along with ABYC E-11 compliance, coupled with other pertinent ABYC electrical

standards, will significantly reduce the odds of an electrically induced death because of an onboard wiring problem. Following standards will not only keep people on the boat electrically protected, but those in the water around the boat will be safe as well. After the accident, GFCI breakers were installed on each of the marina's shore power distribution points. The only problem has been with new people coming to the marina who have tried to bypass the GFCI because their boats have electrical faults and they're tired of resetting breakers.

My business partner and I did extensive research into this issue and have conducted seminars for law enforcement personnel and local, national, and international marine investigators. We also serve as a resource for several agencies if there is a suspicion that electricity might be a factor in a drowning. Our intent is to set up a website giving technical information on the functioning of electrical currents in freshwater. If this information had been available to us, we would not be still grieving the loss of our son. If this story doesn't say anything else, understand that a relatively simple fix could have prevented years of pain. 

*Kevin Ritz is an ABYC Certified Marine Master Technician, ABYC Pacific Regional Representative, and ABYC Certification Instructor. His son Lucas died from electric shock drowning in 1999.*

Permissions and credits: The Ritz family's story came to our attention during a co-op employee safety training session presented by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Springfield, Ill. The article, written by Kevin Ritz, originally appeared on the BoatU.S. Magazine website in February 2015. We reprinted it through the kindness of the author and with permission from BoatU.S. Magazine, the flagship publication of the Boat Owners Association of The United States. For online editions, membership, insurance and towing information, visit [www.BoatUS.com](http://www.BoatUS.com).

### **Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association**

Awareness is the first step to preventing a tragedy. The Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association is devoted to saving the lives of those who frequent recreational waters. Learn how to protect your family from the danger of electric shock drowning by visiting their website at [electricshockdrowning.org](http://electricshockdrowning.org).

# **WARNING: PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING FOR MARINA AND DOCK OWNERS AND OPERATORS**

Unknowingly, many swimmers and boat operators place themselves in the face of danger by swimming near electric-powered boats and docks. This innocent act of fun can turn tragic as electric shock drowning occurs each year. Help prevent electric shock drowning or other electrical injuries with these tips from ESFi.



For more information on boat and marina electrical safety visit: [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)



## WHO • WHAT • WHERE

**A**s longtime readers know, in August we shift from our usual format to bring you Southwestern's annual report. So the solution to our June puzzle will appear in September, and we'll share your responses to this month's challenge in our October issue.

As long as we have your attention, we'd like to thank you for reading the magazine and writing to us. We're grateful for the time you spend with The Southwestern and your contributions to our Who~What~Where, Members in Focus, Hide & Seek and Remember When? segments, as well as the comments you share regarding our articles and photos.

We said it in the past and it holds true today — your words and pictures are the best part of this magazine. Thank you for sharing your time, your talent, your opinions, and your memories.

On to this month's challenge: Can you identify the item on the next page? We look forward to seeing your responses. Meanwhile, here's what you had to say about the mural that served as your mystery location in May.

.....

The wall mural of Abe Lincoln waving from the rear of an Illinois Central rail car in the May edition of "Where Are We?" is located at the Carlinville Train Depot, Carlinville, Ill.

The mural, by local artist David Bellm, measures 8 feet tall by 17 feet long.

—Mac McCormick, *Holiday Shores*

I believe the May 2023 "Where are we?" is a mural depiction of President-elect Abraham Lincoln's inauguration train as it headed for Washington, D.C.

On February 11, 1861, the train left Springfield and made its last stop in Illinois at Tolono Station.

At 11 a.m. the soon-to-be president provided an enthusiastic crowd of over 1,000 there with a 20-minute farewell address from the rear platform of the last train car.

Waving handkerchiefs and a booming cannon salute marked the occasion.

An excerpt from Lincoln's speech: "I am leaving you on an errand of national importance, attended as you are aware with considerable difficulties. Let us believe as some poet has expressed it 'behind the cloud the sun is still shining.' I bid you an affectionate farewell."

That answers the "What?," but unfortunately not the "Where?" Try as I might, I was unable to locate the specific mural. It is reportedly not located in Tolono although a case can be made that it ought to be.

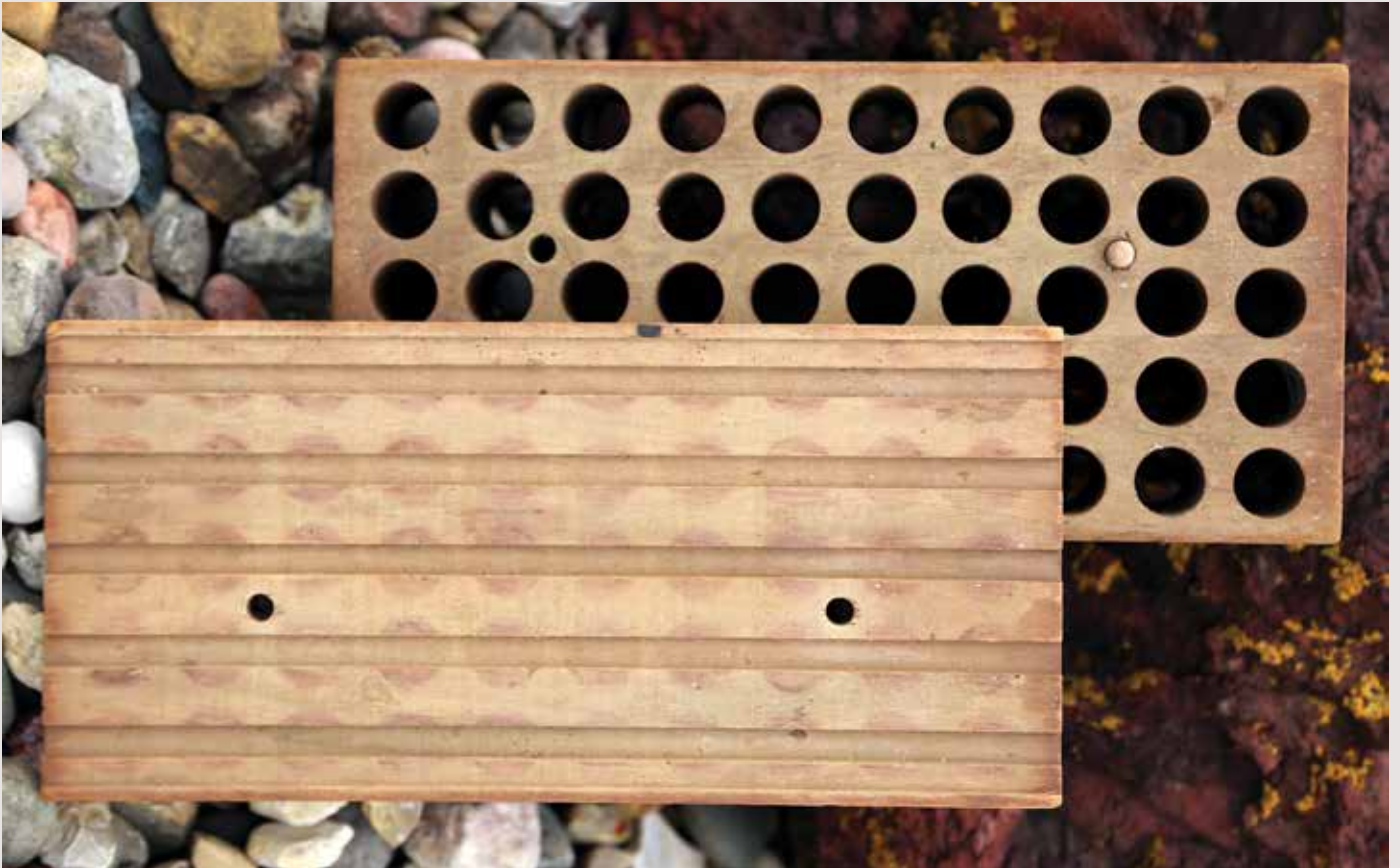
—Bill Malec, *O'Fallon*







# WHAT AM I?



**Who-What-Where** is a contest that challenges your knowledge of people, places and objects in and around Southwestern Electric Cooperative's service area. Here's how it works: Each month, we run a photo. Your job is to tell us who's pictured, what we've photographed, or where we shot the photo. You can email your response to [joe.richardson@sweci.com](mailto:joe.richardson@sweci.com) or send it by mail to Joe Richardson, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 U.S. Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. Please include your name, mailing address, and hometown. If you have a story about our photo topic, include that as well—we love these! The puzzle solution—possibly accompanied by a few words from you—will appear in a future issue of *The Southwestern*.





CO-OP KITCHEN

# Garden to Table

Roasted  
Cabbage

Prepared &  
photographed  
by Mike Barns



## ROASTED CABBAGE

### Ingredients

- 1 head cabbage
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper

### Directions

1. Cut cabbage wedges into eighths leaving the core intact to ensure the wedges stay together.
2. Rub each wedge with olive oil covering all surfaces.
3. Place wedges on baking sheet and sprinkle with salt and pepper.
4. Bake at 450° for 20 minutes, remove from oven, flip wedges over, and bake an additional 20 minutes.

## IMPOSSIBLE GARDEN PIE

### Ingredients

- 2 cups zucchini chopped
- 1 cup tomatoes chopped
- ½ cup onion chopped
- ⅓ cup Parmesan cheese
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1½ cups milk
- ¾ cup biscuit baking mix
- 3 eggs

### Directions

1. Sprinkle zucchini, tomato, onion, and cheese into greased 10 inch pie plate.
2. Beat remaining ingredients together until smooth and pour over zucchini mixture.
3. Bake at 400° for 30 minutes or until firm.

## STRING BEAN CREOLE

### Ingredients

- 1 onion sliced
- ½ bay leaf
- 1 whole clove
- 1 tablespoon butter
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 cup canned tomatoes
- ½ green pepper diced
- 1 quart fresh beans or canned

### Directions

1. Combine all ingredients except beans and simmer for 15 minutes.
2. Remove bay leaf and clove.
3. Add beans and heat thoroughly.

## MARINATED FRESH TOMATOES

### Ingredients

- 3 medium tomatoes sliced
- 1 green pepper cut into thin rings
- 2 green onions chopped
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 3 tablespoons tarragon vinegar
- 3 tablespoon sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon oregano
- ¼ teaspoon celery seed

### Directions

1. Arrange tomatoes in bowl and sprinkle onions on top.
2. Combine remaining ingredients in jar and shake thoroughly.
3. Pour over vegetables and refrigerate for at least one hour.



## CURRENT EVENTS

**July 6; August 3** DISTRICT NIGHTS CONCERT SERIES, O'Fallon. A free event for the whole family to enjoy, bring your lawn chairs downtown and hang out while listening to live music. There will be food and beverages available for purchase and fun, family activities. 5 - 9 p.m. O'Fallon Downtown District, 116 East 1st Street. Check out the District Nights Facebook page.

**July 6 - August 10** MUSIC IN THE PARK, Grafton. Bring your lawn chair or picnic blanket and listen to live bands and performers. Every Thursday 7 - 9 p.m. Admission is free. The Grove Memorial Park, corner of Market and Main Streets. Visit [graftonilchamber.com](http://graftonilchamber.com).

**July 8** WORLD'S LARGEST CATSUP BOTTLE FESTIVAL, Collinsville. Celebrate the Brooks Route 66 icon with food and drinks, live music, tater-tot and hot dog eating contests, Brooks Ketchup tasting, mascot-madness dance off, Little Princess Tomato and Sir Catsup contest, hula hooping competition, and lots of old-fashioned party games. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Admission is free. Old Herald Square, 115 East Clay Street. Visit [catsupbottle.com](http://catsupbottle.com).

**July 14 & 15** ARTISAN FAIR, Effingham. A weekend for visitors to enjoy fine art and one of a kind crafts for purchase, artisan demonstrations, food and drink, and live music. Friday 5 - 9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuscan Hills Winery, 2200 Historic Hills Drive. Visit [effinghamartisanfair.org](http://effinghamartisanfair.org).

**July 14; August 11; September 8** SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, Litchfield. Enjoy evenings of live music and good food. Performances include Retro-Rockitin July, B & B Strings in August, and Big Shake Daddies in September. 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Admission is free. Walton Park, 10207 Niemanville Trail. Go to [visitlitchfield.com](http://visitlitchfield.com) for more information.

**July 15** FREEDOM TO EQUALITY TOURS Alton. Learn about Alton's significance on the Underground Railroad, discover the legendary abolitionists who fought against slavery and follow the stories of local Civil Rights leaders who made their mark on the city and the nation. The two-hour guided shuttle tours will stop at Rocky Fork Church, Elijah P. Lovejoy Monument, Union Baptist Church and the Miles Davis Statue. Tours leave at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Admission is \$32.50. Each tour will begin and end at the Alton Visitor Center, 200 Piasa Street. Call (800) 258-6645 or visit [riversandroutess.com](http://riversandroutess.com).

**July 22** MOVIE IN THE PARK, Maryville. Enjoy Top Gun Maverick at dusk. Drost Park, East Division Street. Visit [vil.maryville.il.us](http://vil.maryville.il.us).

**July 25** CLASSIC FLICKS FOR CONSERVATION, Godfrey. Watch a classic movie on our giant inflatable screen. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets, as well as your own snacks. No alcohol is permitted. No pre-registration required. Limited parking is available, so arrive early. Watch The Snows of Kilimanjaro in

June and A Bug's Life in July. 8:30 - 11:30 p.m. Event is free but donations are welcome. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**July 28; August 25** COMMUNITY BAND PERFORMANCE, Troy. Enjoy the sounds of the Troy Community Band. 7 p.m. at the gazebo in Tri-township Park, 410 Wickliffe Street. Find us on Facebook at Troy Community Band.

**July 28 & 29** RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELERS MEET, Collinsville. Over 38,000 square-feet of high-quality models, displays, visiting prototype layouts, and hands-on learning centers. Presentations by historians and modelers, over 20 railroad historical societies and 200 tables of hand-picked scale model vendors—no swap meet stuff. Thousands of models will be on display. Home layout tours on Friday night as well as modular layouts displayed inside the show. Admission is \$35 for Friday and Saturday; \$25 for just Saturday. Gateway Center, One Gateway Drive. For more information, visit [stlrpm.com](http://stlrpm.com).

**July 28-30** HERITAGE DAYS, Greenville. Tractor Pulls, field demonstrations, antique fire truck display, gas engine display, live music, grand-scale railroad, food, vendors, activities, steam engine, Baker fan, sawmill, threshing, The Lil' Red Barn Museum, pedal pulls daily. Friday 8 a.m. - dark; Saturday 8 a.m. - dark; Sunday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$10 arm band

for all three days; Sunday Only \$5; children under 10 years of age free. American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue. Call (618) 664-9733 or visit [americanfarmheritagemuseum.org](http://americanfarmheritagemuseum.org).

**July 29** CHRISTMAS IN JULY, Dow. We will have crafts and activities, door prizes, information about helping wildlife, fall and winter holiday shopping with artisan vendors, inventory clearance sale in the gift shop, and more. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free. Treehouse Wildlife Center, 23956 Green Acres Road. Visit [treehousewildlifecenter.com](http://treehousewildlifecenter.com).

**July 30** CHICKEN DINNER, Marine. Buffet style chicken dinner with homemade dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, slaw, and desserts. Event also includes country store, basket stand, raffle, bingo, and attendance prizes. Dinner starts at 11 a.m. with tickets sold until 5:30 p.m. Adults \$14; children 6 - 10 years of age \$7; children under 5 years of age are free. Carry-outs available. St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, 120 N Windmill St. Call (618) 887-4535.

**July 30; August 27; September 17** SYMPHONY CONCERT SERIES, Edwardsville. Family-friendly free concerts performed by the Edwardsville Symphony. Free children's activities during each concert. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket. 6:30 p.m. Edwardsville City Park at the Cleaon Etzkorn bandstand, 112 South Kansas Street. Visit [edwardsvillecommunitysymphony.com](http://edwardsvillecommunitysymphony.com).

**August 4-6** GATEWAY DULCIMER FESTIVAL, Fairview Heights. Festival features mountain and hammer dulcimer, autoharp and ukulele concerts, workshops all day, vendors, raffles, jamming, and Sunday hymn sing. 8 a.m. - 9

### Call to Confirm

Listings are provided by event organizers or taken from community websites. We recommend calling to confirm dates, times and details before you make plans. All are subject to change.

### Submissions

To submit an event for consideration in our calendar, email your event information to [joe.richardson@sweci.com](mailto:joe.richardson@sweci.com). Please use our Current Events format (as seen on these pages) to write your submission. Include a contact number or email and submit your listing at least two months prior to your event.

p.m. each day. Full festival with workshops both days includes lunch and concerts \$160; Friday or Saturday 1 day only, includes lunch and concerts \$80; concerts (only) \$10 each night starting at 7 p.m. Sheraton Fountains Conference Center, 319 Fountains Parkway. Visit [gatewaydulcimer.org](http://gatewaydulcimer.org), email Sharon Hargus at [gdsmf98@gmail.com](mailto:gdsmf98@gmail.com), or call (618) 651-8271.

**August 5 LIEVERS HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL**, Worden. The Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders will catch and band hummingbirds. Experts will discuss hummingbirds, the banding process and how to encourage these gorgeous birds to visit your yard. Opportunities to “adopt” and release banded hummingbirds are on a first-come basis. A donation is suggested for each adoption. The adopters will receive updates when their banded hummingbird is found somewhere else. Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, water and sunblock. 2-5 p.m. Paula & Jeff Livers Residence, 8203 Brickyard Hill Road. Follow Route 4 to Wieseman Road. Follow Wieseman Road about 2.5 miles west to Brickyard Hill Road. Follow Brickyard Hill Road about a half mile west to the Livers home. Watch for signs—your GPS may not be on the mark. Email [paula@gomadison.com](mailto:paula@gomadison.com).

**August 6 PEACH FESTIVAL**, Grafton. Local peach growers from all over the area will be presenting their peaches for visitors to sample and purchase. Festival will also feature live music, fresh produce, unique vendors, kids activities, locally made wine, and the peach pitting contest. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission is free. Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center, 13653 Lodge Blvd. Visit [pmlodge.net](http://pmlodge.net).

**August 10-13 MILL ROAD THRESHERMAN'S SHOW**, Altamont. Using antique farm equipment from the past. Demonstrating it in the present.

Preserving it for the future. The four-day event will take you back to country life on the central Illinois prairies. Farming and tractor events, horse farming, bluegrass music, women's activities, children's events and more. Camping is available on the grounds. Admission is \$7 and children 12 and under free. Effingham County Fairgrounds, 722 East Cumberland Road. For more information, visit [millroadthresherman.org](http://millroadthresherman.org).

**August 11 CRUISIN' THE DAM CAR SHOW**, Carlyle. Family friendly event featuring a car cruise, vendors, games, 50/50 drawing, attendance prizes, music, food, and auctions. All types of vehicles including: classic cars, stock cars, drag cars, and custom bikes. The first cruise will leave Carl's Four Wheel Drive, 1509 Carlyle Road in Bartleso at 4:30 p.m. to cruise to Carlyle Lake. The main event will be held at Mariners Village at 1 Resort Drive from 5:30 - 10 p.m. The second cruise will drive across the Carlyle Lake main dam at 9:30 p.m. Visit [carlylelake.com](http://carlylelake.com).

**August 12 KAYAKING ON DROST LAKE**, Maryville. Noon - 5 p.m. Reservations required. Drost Park, East Division Street. Visit [vil.maryville.il.us](http://vil.maryville.il.us).

**August 12 ROCK THE HOPS**, Alton. A large variety of craft brews will be available throughout the afternoon accompanied by live music, art displays, performances, vendors, local specials, and more. 2 - 8 p.m. Downtown Alton, 200 Piasa Street. For more information, visit [rockthehopsalton.com](http://rockthehopsalton.com).

**August 18-20 BALLOON FEST**, Centralia. Annual hot air balloon festival featuring live entertainment, craft booths, family activities, evening balloon glows, car and motorcycle show. Friday 3 - 10 p.m.; Saturday 3 - 10 p.m.; Sunday noon - 6 p.m. \$5 wristband (available at event gates) gives all-access to the three-day festival; children under 2 years of age are free. \$5 parking at

north entrance. Foundation Park, 1490 Gragg Street. For more information, visit [centraliachamber.com/balloon-fest](http://centraliachamber.com/balloon-fest).

**August 25-26 CITYFEST**, O'Fallon. Come out and try a variety of food and drinks from our local businesses. Enjoy the live music, parade, carnival rides, car show, triathlon, hot air balloon rides and more. Friday 4 - 10 p.m.; Saturday noon - 10 p.m. O'Fallon Community Park, 401 East 5th Street. Visit [ofallondowntowndistrict.com](http://ofallondowntowndistrict.com).

**August 25-27 KIRCHENFEST**, Highland. Festival offers food (including a Bavarian skillet dish prepared on a 500-pound skillet and a sit-down chicken dinner), live music, games, live auction, flea market, a competitive run, bingo, raffles, and more. Admission is free. \$5 for Friday night's flea market pre-sale. Friday flea market pre-sale 6 - 9 p.m.; Saturday: 7:30 a.m. - midnight; Sunday: 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. St. Paul Catholic Church, 1412 Ninth Street. Visit [stpaulkirchenfest.com](http://stpaulkirchenfest.com).

**August 25-27 MIDWEST SALUTE TO THE ARTS**, Fairview Heights. Event features local and national artists, artist demonstrations, live entertainment, children's gallery, and food trucks. Friday 6 - 10 p.m.; Saturday 10 - 8 p.m.; Sunday 11 - 5 p.m. Admission is free. Moody Park, 525 South Ruby Lane. Visit [midwestsalute.com](http://midwestsalute.com).

**August 25-27 SUMMER SUNDOWN MUSIC FESTIVAL**, Effingham. Family-friendly, accessible, small footprint, multi-genre music festival focused on the local musicians of Central Illinois, with electrifying national artists atop the bill. Event will also feature vendors, craftspeople, tradespeople, healers, and music-lovers who all bring their own unique addition to the festival atmosphere. 10 a.m. - midnight. Weekend pass is \$75. The Stage at Lake Sara, 8724 East Marine Road. For more information, visit [summersundownfest.com](http://summersundownfest.com).

## COUNTY FAIRS

**July 6-11 FAYETTE COUNTY FAIR**, Brownstown. Visit [fayettecocfair.org](http://fayettecocfair.org).

**July 16-20 SHELBY COUNTY 4-H & JUNIOR FAIR**, Shelbyville. Call (217) 774-5531.

**July 16-22 CLINTON COUNTY FAIR**, Carlyle. Visit [clintoncofair.org](http://clintoncofair.org).

**July 21-29 CLAY COUNTY FAIR**, Flora. Call (618) 780-7747.

**July 25-30 MADISON COUNTY FAIR**, Highland. Visit [madcofair.com](http://madcofair.com).

**July 29 - August 5 EFFINGHAM COUNTY FAIR**, Altamont. Visit [effingham-countyfair.com](http://effingham-countyfair.com).


**July 29 - August 5 MARION COUNTY FAIR**, Salem. Visit [marioncounty-agfair.org](http://marioncounty-agfair.org).

**August 3-8 BOND COUNTY FAIR**, Greenville. Visit [bondcofair.com](http://bondcofair.com).

**August 10-20 ILLINOIS STATE FAIR**, Springfield. Visit [illinoisstatefair.info](http://illinoisstatefair.info).

**August 25 - September 4 DUQUOIN STATE FAIR**, DuQuoin. Visit [duquoin-statefair.net](http://duquoin-statefair.net).



A full-page photograph of a young girl, Hannah Barns, fishing at sunset. She is in silhouette, wearing a white and red baseball-style shirt, and holding a fishing rod. The background is a vibrant orange and yellow sunset sky reflected in a body of water, with dark trees and grass in the foreground.

Hannah Barns of Altamont casts a line, catching the last rays of a long-ago summer sun. Hannah is the daughter of Southwestern Electric Art Director Mike Barns and his wife, Michelle.

## THE FINAL FRAME



**VOTER REGISTRATION CARD 2023** *Please sign and present this card at the registration table.*

**85th Annual Meeting of Members**

Saturday, September 9, 2023



\_\_\_\_\_  
Member Signature

☐ ***Please enroll me in Operation Round Up***

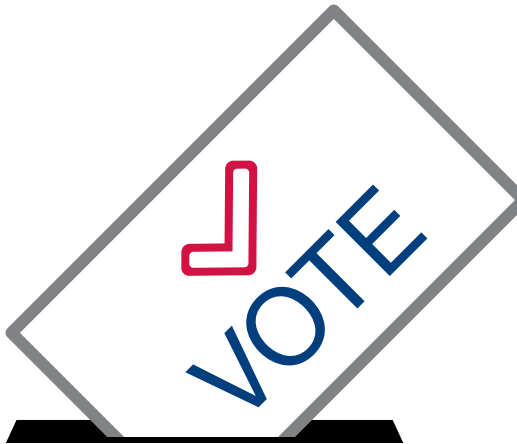
**PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Home Phone # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

***Fill out and present this registration card to receive an additional \$10 bill credit!***



## 2023 Annual Meeting Voting Schedule

\$30 bill credit with your pre-printed registration card, \$20 bill credit without your pre-printed registration card.  
Bill credit to be applied on the October bill — same credit amounts offered for early and day-of-meeting voting.

Greenville office, 525 US Route 40, Greenville

Aug. 30 remains open to 7 p.m.  
Sept. 7 remains open to 7 p.m.

St. Jacob warehouse, 10031 Ellis Road, St. Jacob

Aug. 29 from 4 to 7 p.m.  
Sept. 6 from 4 to 7 p.m.

St. Elmo warehouse, 2117 East 1850 Avenue, St. Elmo

Aug. 31 from 4 to 7 p.m.  
Sept. 5 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site, 315 W. Gallatin Street, Vandalia

Sept. 9 from 8 to 10 a.m.

In addition to the above times, any member of the cooperative can vote during normal business hours at our Greenville office beginning at 8 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 25 through 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 8. We are closed on Monday, Sept. 4 in observance of Labor Day.

