

# THE *Southwestern*



A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

MAY 2024 • VOLUME 76 • ISSUE 5

## Learning the Ropes

**ANNUAL MEETING INSPIRES  
LOVE FOR LINE WORK IN 2023  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

**SHARED HISTORY**

**BOARD NOMINATIONS**

**CO-OP KITCHEN**

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

**ENERGY & EFFICIENCY**

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525 U.S. Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.  
Phone: (800) 637-8667. Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
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Annette Hartlieb, Secretary ..... Vandalia  
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#### The Southwestern

Joe Richardson ..... Editor  
e-mail: [joe.richardson@sweci.com](mailto:joe.richardson@sweci.com)  
Mike Barns ..... Art Director  
e-mail: [mike.barns@sweci.com](mailto:mike.barns@sweci.com)  
Nathan Grimm ..... Media Specialist  
e-mail: [nathan.grimm@sweci.com](mailto:nathan.grimm@sweci.com)

#### Satellite Locations:

St. Jacob Office  
10031 Ellis Road, St. Jacob, IL 62281

St. Elmo Distribution Center  
2117 East 1850 Avenue, St. Elmo, IL 62458

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Dark skies.

## NEWS & NOTES

### ON THE COVER

In February, Carter Bain of Herrick, a 2023 Power for Progress scholarship recipient, stopped by Southwestern to demonstrate his climbing skills and discuss his experience in the distribution line worker program at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. See our story on page 8.



### CO-OP REMINDERS

**May 13** 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.

**May 27** Offices closed for Memorial Day.



### FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For the latest news and notes, follow us on Facebook and X. You'll find us at [facebook.com/SWECI](https://facebook.com/SWECI) and [x.com/sweci](https://x.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.



# Reader Contest

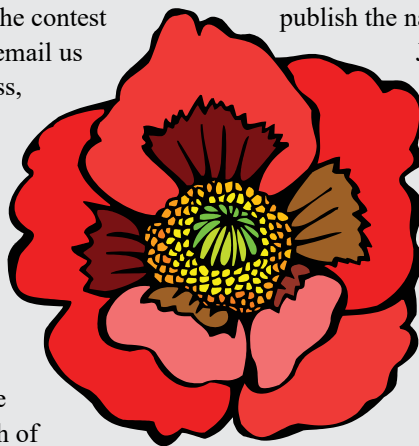
**W**e've hidden a flower in your magazine. Your job is to find it. The actual image may be larger or smaller than what you see here. We may change the color or reverse

or alter the image we've hidden to make the contest more challenging. If you find the flower, email us or send a postcard with your name, address, phone number, and the page number where you found the image. 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 May contest, we'll need your entries in our inbox or postmarked by June 1, 2024.

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 July issue of The Southwestern.



### MARCH WINNER

Congratulations to Cynthia Otto of Ramsey. As the winner of our March Hide & Seek contest drawing, Cynthia will receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill. Thank you to everyone who participated in our March contest. This month's image appears at left. You'll find Hide & Seek rules below.

### 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 posts, 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.

- May contest entries must be in our inbox or postmarked by June 1.
- We'll never hide the image on the front or back cover or on the page where we list the rules.

# Recycle with Southwestern

## WE'RE A NATION IN LOVE WITH ELECTRONICS

According to a Connected Consumer Survey conducted by Deloitte in 2023:

- You probably have 21 connected electronic devices in your home.
- Half the people reading this article brought a new connected device into their home last year.
- About one out of every six people seeing this added three or more connected electronics to their home.

Given the statistics, it's likely you own an outdated TV, PC or mobile phone. We can help you find new life for your old devices through e-cycling — electronics recycling. E-cycling is the process of refurbishing, redistributing and reusing electronic devices and components, rather than discarding them. It extends the lifecycle of electronics and lowers their overall environmental impact.

Southwestern Electric will host three e-cycling drives this year. You're invited to bring your obsolete electronics to our collection sites on the dates listed at right. Your electronics will be collected and recycled by an EPA-approved recycling center. All collections begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon or when the truck is filled — whichever comes first.

### We can help you recycle a variety of electronics, including:

- Computers, printers, cables and peripherals (keyboards, mice, etc.)
- Fax machines, scanners, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers.
- Video game consoles, digital video disc player/recorders, portable digital music players.
- Networking equipment, server, telecommunications, phones, cell phones and clocks.
- VCRs, stereos, and audio/video equipment (including cable/satellite).
- Electrical, cabling, communication machinery, and equipment.
- Home electronics, blenders, toasters, irons, etc.

#### Please Note

- Rechargeable batteries (NIMH, Li-ion and NICD) will be accepted for a fee of 50 cents per pound.
- CRT TVs, console TVs, projection TVs and monitors will be accepted for a fee ranging from \$5-\$35 depending on their size and model. Please bring cash or check for payment.
- Light bulbs, DVDs, CDs, and VHS and cassette tapes and hazardous materials will not be accepted.



## RECYCLING DRIVE DATES & LOCATIONS

- **May 11** Southwestern Electric's St. Elmo Distribution Center, 2117 East 1850 Avenue (frontage road southwest of the St. Elmo exit off Interstate 70), St. Elmo, IL 62458
- **June 8** Southwestern Electric's St. Jacob Office, 10031 Ellis Road, St. Jacob, IL 62281
- **Fall Date TBA** Southwestern Electric Cooperative's headquarters, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246
- **Collection Times** All collections will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon or when the truck is filled — whichever comes first.

## QUESTIONS & CJD E-CYCLING

Have questions regarding e-cycling or recyclable items and fees? Call or email CJD E-Cycling at 618-414-9209 or [info@cjdeycling.com](mailto:info@cjdeycling.com). CJD E-Cycling is a family-owned recycling business with offices in East Alton and Edwardsville. You can learn more about CJD E-Cycling and the materials they recycle at [www.cjdeycling.com](http://www.cjdeycling.com).



# Board Candidate Nominations

## Filing Deadline: May 23

**A**s a not-for-profit cooperative, Southwestern Electric is both owned and governed by its members — the consumers who receive their electricity from the co-op. A board of directors, consisting of nine members democratically elected by their peers, is responsible for overseeing the general direction and financial stability of the organization.

The cooperative’s service territory is divided into three voting districts. Three of the nine board seats — one per voting district — are open for election each year. District I encompasses the co-op’s territory in Macoupin, Madison and St. Clair counties; District II includes Bond, Clinton and Montgomery counties; and District III covers Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Marion and Shelby counties. The three directors whose terms expire in 2024 are William “Bill” Jennings in District I, Jerry Gaffner in District II, and Jared Stine in District III.

The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the 2024 Nominations Committee are listed below. Any Southwestern Electric member interested in running for a seat on the board, or who would like to submit another

member’s name for consideration, must notify a Nominations Committee member from the appropriate district prior to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 23.

If the nomination deadline is missed, members may also file for candidacy by petition. Such a petition, bearing the names, addresses and signatures of at least 15 Southwestern Electric Cooperative members, must be filed at the co-op’s headquarters by Monday,

**Any Southwestern Electric member interested in running for a seat on the board, or who would like to submit another member’s name for consideration, must notify a Nominations Committee member from the appropriate district prior to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 23.**

June 24. Any candidate who doesn’t file by June 24, 2024 will not be eligible to run for election until 2025.

All members 18 years of age or older and in good financial standing with the co-op are eligible to serve on the board of directors, so long as they meet the qualifications set forth in Section 5(B) of the bylaws. The relevant sections of the cooperative’s bylaws are reprinted on the next page for your reference.

The results of the 2024 board election will be announced at Southwestern Electric’s 86th Annual Meeting of Members, which will take place on Saturday, September 7. Each director will be elected to serve a three-year term beginning on September 7 and ending on the date of the 2027 Annual Meeting.

Questions about board service and the election process should be directed to Susan File, Southwestern Electric Cooperative’s vice president of member services. She may be reached by telephone at (800) 637-8667, or by e-mail at [susan.file@sweci.com](mailto:susan.file@sweci.com).

## 2024 Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee will meet at the cooperative’s headquarters to submit the names of qualified director candidates. Members interested in submitting a name for consideration, or who would like to run for a board seat themselves, must notify a Nominations Committee member from their district by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 23.

District I	Duane Meyer	6223 Staunton Rd	Edwardsville, IL 62025	(618) 520-9854
	Dan Joachimsthaler	88 Timberwood Lane	Collinsville, IL 62234	(618) 979-5690
	Dennis Petry	8201 West Kirsch Road	Troy, IL 62294	(618) 667-6868
District II	Rick Hilliard	1316 Spring Drive	Greenville, IL 62246	(618) 882-8360
	Nick Reisner	805 Shoal Creek Road	Greenville, IL 62246	(618) 954-2987
	Clarence Zimmerman	857 RC Cardinal Lane	Greenville, IL 62246	(618) 530-5388
District III	Joe Lawson	274 E 1700 Ave	Vandalia, IL 62471	(618) 780-3731
	Tony Koberlein	2098 N 2200 St	St. Elmo, IL 62458	(618) 292-6952
	Gordon Moore	1946 N 725 St	Vandalia, IL 62471	(785) 375-7454



# Candidates for the Board of Directors: Qualification & Nomination Guidelines

## Section 5 (B): Qualifications

To be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative, such person:

1. Shall not be a Close Relative of an incumbent Director;
2. Shall not be an employee or agent of the Cooperative;
3. Shall not be, directly or indirectly, employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise, business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to, among others, the Members of the Cooperative;
4. Shall not be, directly or indirectly, interested in any contract, permit, franchise or other similar agreement or authorization to which the Cooperative is or may be a party;
5. Shall be a Member in good standing with the Cooperative and receiving energy or service from the Cooperative at his primary place of abode;
6. Shall be a Natural Person;
7. Shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age; provided, however, that a duly elected officer or duly appointed agent of any Member which is not a Natural Person shall be exempt from the qualifications stated in Section 5(B)(6) and Section 5(B)(7) if such Member is in good standing with the Cooperative and receiving energy or service from the Cooperative.

## Section 4 (D): Election of Directors

At each annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative, Directors shall be elected by secret written ballot cast (except as otherwise provided in this section) by the Members present at such annual meeting and qualified to vote under the terms and conditions of the Bylaws. Such election shall be conducted as follows:

1. Appointment of Nominations Committee: The Board of Directors shall appoint, not less than one hundred fifteen (115) nor more than one hundred forty-five (145) days prior to the date of the annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative, a Nominations Committee which shall consist of nine (9) Natural Persons, three from each Directorate District. Members of the Nominations Committee shall not be employees, agents, officers, or Directors of the Cooperative, shall not be known candidates for Director, and shall not be Close Relatives of employees, agents, officers, Directors of the Cooperative, or known candidates for Director.
2. Candidates Nominated by Nominations Committee: On or before eighty-five (85) days prior to the annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative, the Nominations Committee shall:
  - a. Nominate as many Natural Persons who meet the qualifications stated in Section 5B of these Bylaws as the Nominating Committee deems desirable to be candidates for election to the Board of Directors; and,

- b. Post a list of the names of such Natural Persons so nominated by the Nominations Committee at the principal place of business of the Cooperative.

3. Candidates Nominated by Petition: In addition to those candidates named by the Nominations Committee, any fifteen (15) or more Members of the Cooperative may nominate such other Natural Persons as candidates for election to the Board of Directors by filing with the Secretary of the Cooperative not less than seventy-five (75) days prior to the annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative a written petition bearing the signatures, names and addresses of at least fifteen Members of the Cooperative nominating such other Natural Persons as candidates for election to the Board of Directors and listing the candidate's name, address, age, and telephone number. The Secretary of the Cooperative shall post such petition at the principal places of business of the Cooperative where the list of nominations made by the Nominations Committee was posted.

4. Notice to Members of Nomination of Candidates: The Secretary of the Cooperative shall mail or cause to be mailed to the Members notice of the annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative at least fifteen (15) days but not more than sixty (60) days before the date of said annual meeting a statement of the names, addresses, ages, and telephone numbers of all candidates nominated for election to the Board of Directors. Such statement shall identify the Directorate District to which such candidate may be elected, and such statement shall identify which candidates were nominated by the Nominations Committee and which candidates were nominated by petition filed by Members of the Cooperative.

## VOTING OPTIONS

**Absentee:** at the cooperative's headquarters (525 US Route 40, Greenville) Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., August 23 - September 6. (excluding Labor Day).

**In Person:** Members may vote for board candidates during the co-op's annual meeting, Saturday, September 7. The time and site of Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 2024 Annual Meeting of Members has yet to be determined.

## CATEGORIES OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

**Individual Residential:** One name is listed on the account, and only this individual is entitled to voting rights.

**Joint Residential:** Two names are listed on the account, but only one of them may vote in a given election.

**Commercial:** The name of the business is listed on the account, and one duly appointed officer or agent may vote in a given election.



# *Learning the Ropes*

Southwestern Electric's annual meeting instilled a love for line work in Carter Bain. Now a graduate of the electrical distribution line worker program at Lincoln Land Community College, the 2023 Power for Progress scholarship recipient is building his career with an eye toward working for the co-op that inspired his calling.

Words & Photos by Joe Richardson



**T**he first time he pulled on lineman's gloves they were three sizes too big. A third-grader at Cowden-Herrick Elementary School, Carter Bain was attending Southwestern Electric's annual meeting with his parents. For members Marc and Lisa Bain of Herrick, the meeting was an opportunity to see friends and neighbors, catch up with employees and directors, and conduct co-op business. For Carter it kindled a dream.

"Ever since I was a little kid, I was always coming to your annual meetings, going to the kids' tent, playing the different games and seeing the linemen and the trucks there," he recalled. Each year, he took part in the junior lineman rodeo exercises, wearing lineman's glasses and rubber gloves, fastening nuts to bolts and threading rope through eyelets. The exercises were designed to impress the difficulties of performing precise work in gauntlets and glasses.

Some kids found the tasks daunting. Bain was intrigued by the tools of the trade. Each year his interest in line work deepened. In 2023, he graduated from the electrical distribution line worker program at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill. "You guys are definitely the reason I wanted to become a lineman."

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

It's an unseasonably warm day in February and Bain has dropped by the co-op's Greenville office to discuss his training experience and demonstrate his climbing skills. Standing in Southwestern's pole yard, he's clad in hard hat and glasses, boots and gaffs, tool belt and gloves.

The gloves fit.

He makes easy work of scaling a 35-foot pole, reaching the crossarms, changing position, addressing the braces and checking tension on the bolts. His movements are economical, confident and performed with grace — but he's quick to point out they didn't start that way. "To some people climbing comes easy," he said, "but it took a little bit to get my legs and the muscle memory."

If you dropped by Lincoln Land's applied science program for line workers during weeks one through three, you'd see something akin to a book-based undergrad electrical engineering class. Bain and his classmates — there were close to 40 — learned electrical theory, studied the mechanics of transformers, and were taught lessons in overhead and underground residential electrical distribution. The tools of the trade were PCs, projectors and PowerPoint.

Week four, the program's resemblance to a traditional classroom vanished. Students stepped out of the building and into an outdoor laboratory of bucket trucks, transformers, utility poles and power lines. Offered with assistance from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, Lincoln Land's line worker program provides

hands-on training that, while on campus, is far from textbook.

Students climb utility poles, operate bucket trucks, work with electrical distribution system hardware and hand tools, and spend hours scaling, framing and installing components on utility poles.

A key skill students were asked to master was one Bain arrived ready to perform. Students were required to tie a litany of knots and understand the purpose, versatility and configuration of each. Bain had quizzed friends who'd graduated from line school about the training, routines and requirements. They'd talked about climbing, which he couldn't practice, and working with rope, which he could. "All summer, to prepare for this, I was practicing the different knots," he said.

Rope is a basic but indispensable tool of a lineman's trade. It plays an ongoing and important part in Lincoln Land's program. When Bain attended Southwestern Electric's annual meeting in 2023 to thank members, employees and directors for his scholarship, he wore a rope on his shoulder. It was a training tool students were asked to always have on hand.

On campus, during breaks, instructors would challenge students to demonstrate their skills. "The teacher would say, 'Before we go back to work, you need to tie a bowline for us,'" Bain recalled. "I already knew how to do it."

Knowing a clove hitch from a bowline and being able to tie the right knot for the job moves work forward quickly and safely. Rope work shifts front and center during storm repairs when crews are hanging hand lines and lifting crossarms. "The hand line is a rope and pulley system we use to bring different tools and crossarms up," Bain explained, adding that students were trained to fashion knots "the right way, and safe way, to bring the crossarm up."

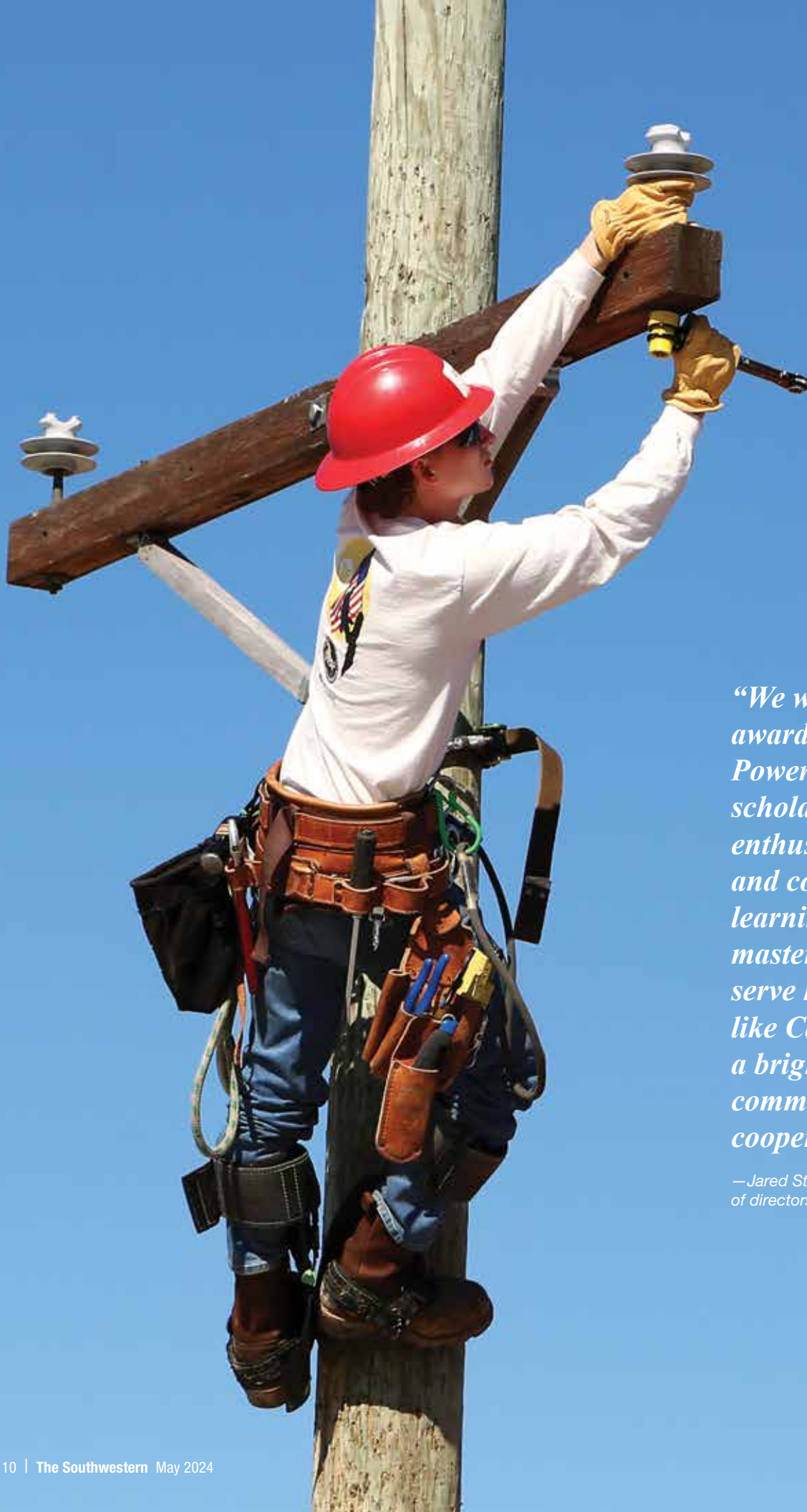
## CLIMBING SCHOOL

Climbing is perfected through practice. And practice they did.

Students were timed scaling and descending 40- and 65-foot poles. They were evaluated on their proficiency with transitions — moving around a pole to address different elements of the distribution system. And they drilled pole-top rescue exercises — scenarios where students work to save the life of a lineman belted to a pole 30 feet above the ground. To successfully complete the exercise, students are required to reach the injured lineman quickly and safely, secure him to a rope, and lower him to the ground quickly, carefully and clear of the pole. Orchestrated by seasoned instructors, in the moment, the exercise feels nerve-rackingly real.

For Bain, climbing didn't come easily. "The first day I

*Continued on page 11 ►*



*“We were proud to award Carter Bain a Power for Progress scholarship. His enthusiasm, character and commitment to learning his trade and mastering its skills will serve him well. Students like Carter are building a brighter future for our communities and our cooperative.”*

*—Jared Stine, Vice President of the board of directors & Scholarship Committee chair*



► *Continued from page 9*

had no rhythm and pattern,” he said. “I definitely had to find a rhythm. Some people do a one step,” he explained. “Take one step and pull your belt up, pull up your BuckSqueeze,” he said, referring to a fall arrestor worn by linemen. “I do one-two, and then I pull my BuckSqueeze up. After I got that pattern down, it was clockwork. Because we climbed so much, at the end, I could tell a huge difference. It definitely makes you feel more comfortable being on the pole, climbing so much at school.”

Students also assisted at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative’s annual lineman safety rodeo. The event, which attracts linemen from cooperatives throughout Illinois, is an opportunity for crews to compete on the basis of time and technique, and for linemen to teach and learn from each other as they compare skills. “It was really cool to see the experienced climbers do their thing,” he recalled.

## **SAFETY FIRST, SAFETY ALWAYS**

Bain frequently teamed with different students and trained with new instructors. “Each day we had a different rotation,” he said, noting that instructors changed routines to simulate shifting priorities and conditions.

While tasks and training varied, every lesson shared a common focus: safety. “That was their number one priority. We always had the proper PPE (personal protective equipment). We had to have our hard hat, gloves and glasses on in the yard, no matter what.” Each day, instructors emphasized the importance of safety protocols, procedures and equipment, including the lineman’s uniform — proper clothing worn in a professional manner — to instill a “safety first, safety always” mindset that’s reinforced and developed throughout a lineman’s career.

Bain learned how to maintain, test and use rubber gloves — insulated gauntlets linemen wear to protect themselves from electrical contact. “The slightest pinhole,” Bain said, compromises the gear and the safety of the person wearing it.

Students also learned methods for applying insulated hoses and covers — guts and blankets — that stand as barriers between linemen and energized lines.

By mid-November, Bain had received electrical industry and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) approved training in an array of areas, including electrical arc protection, job briefings, safe grounding practices, flame resistant clothing, personal protective equipment, lifting and rigging, fall protection and flagging procedures. He received OSHA certifications for both flagging and electrical distribution work.

## **POWER FOR PROGRESS**

Bain’s training experience at Lincoln Land was thorough, rigorous and what he’d envisioned. “I’d been preparing for this for a long time. I talked to a lot of people that had gone to different lineman schools,” he said, noting he’d interviewed friends who completed line worker programs in Georgia and at Lincoln Land. Their reports shaped his expectations and fueled his enthusiasm for the training and the trade. His family and friends are equally enthusiastic about his profession. “They are happy to see me going into a career that I’ve talked about going into my whole life,” he said. “They love seeing me fulfill my dreams.”

If Southwestern Electric inspired his dream, its members helped him pursue it. In May 2023, Southwestern Electric awarded Bain a \$1,000 Power for Progress scholarship. Bain was intentional about pursuing it. “Going to the meeting every year, I knew about the scholarship, so when I came closer to my senior year, I kept looking for it,” he recalled. “My junior year, I was looking in the magazines and reading the articles about it. I just went online and printed off the application and filled it out, and then I hand-delivered it, because I’ve always been taught that’s the right way to do it,” he said.

He described the application as straightforward and the

*Continued on page 25 ►*



PHOTO BY MIKE BARNS

***“Going to the meeting every year, I knew about the scholarship. It allowed me to not have to worry so much about the cost of trade school. I can’t thank you guys enough.”***

***—Carter Bain***

Southwestern Electric Executive Assistant Brooke Scott leads the crowd in recognizing 2023 Power for Progress scholarship recipient Carter Bain during last year’s annual meeting in Vandalia.

# HOME SERVICE REPAIR PLANS OFFER ASSURANCE, QUALITY AND CONVENIENCE

**W**e've all experienced home mechanical and system failures. When breakdowns involve exterior home electrical lines, members sometimes call Southwestern to request repairs. Many members understandably assume all electrical lines outside their home are owned by the cooperative. But components that connect a member's home to the cooperative's distribution system — elements like the weather head, insulator, riser, meter base or loop, and service entrance conductor — are owned by the member.

That's why Southwestern partnered with HomeServe USA, an independent provider of home repair service solutions. HomeServe offers home service repair plans that protect a homeowner's budget from expenses that come with water, sewer, electrical and heating and cooling home emergencies. Their external electrical line plan will pay for repair or replacement of items that your homeowners insurance may not cover when the components fail due to normal wear and tear.

If something goes wrong with a system or appliance covered by a HomeServe repair plan, the member can call HomeServe anytime, 24/7, at 833-334-1874. The company will dispatch a pre-screened, local repair technician to the member's home to diagnose the problem. The technician will fix the issue or replace the covered item as detailed in the home repair plan.

HomeServe is available to take emergency repair calls around the



clock. Technicians dispatched through HomeServe are local, licensed and insured. Their work is covered by a one-year HomeServe guarantee.

HomeServe lessens the financial burden of unexpected breakdowns by paying the bill on covered repairs up to the benefit amount, and eases the stress and inconvenience that comes with the event. You don't have to research repair bids or vet and hire a technician.

And if the work doesn't measure up to your expectations? HomeServe will work to address the issue as quickly and comprehensively as possible.

Southwestern has partnered with HomeServe to offer home service repair plans as an optional member service.

No one is obligated to buy a plan. Southwestern recommends that members interested in a plan speak with their insurance agent before buying, to make sure the terms and conditions listed in the plan aren't already addressed by your homeowners policy.

HomeServe returns a portion of the proceeds from plan sales to Southwestern Electric Cooperative. The funds support Southwestern Electric's energy efficiency programs and other energy-related initiatives. You can read more about HomeServe at [www.HomeServe.com](http://www.HomeServe.com) and view videos on HomeServe's YouTube channel.

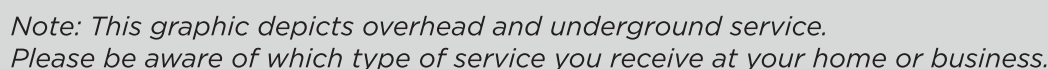


Learn more at  
[www.HomeServe.com](http://www.HomeServe.com)  
or call 1-833-334-1874



# Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

- Co-op owned
- Member-owned

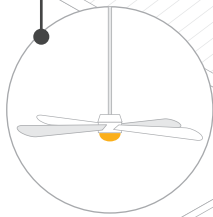


# HEATING AND COOLING TIPS FOR MANUFACTURED HOMES

If you own a manufactured home, take measures to ensure you have an efficient heating and cooling system. You can also make simple improvements that save energy and make your home more comfortable.

## \$ Install ceiling fans

Install ceiling fans throughout your manufactured home. Ceiling fans are energy efficient and can be used to keep warm or cool air moving throughout your home. Be sure to turn them off when you're away. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not rooms.

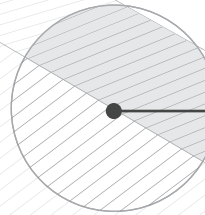


## \$ Option for smaller budgets

## \$\$ Option for flexible budgets

## \$\$ Efficient roof color

Choose a light-colored roof if you live in the southern part of the U.S. and a dark-colored roof if you live in the northern U.S.



## \$\$ Install a mini-split system

Eliminate unnecessary heating and cooling by installing a single zone strategy throughout your manufactured home. A zone system allows you to save energy by only heating or cooling rooms that are occupied.

ZONE 2

ZONE 1

## \$ Install awnings

Install awnings over windows to keep sunlight from overheating your home during the summer.

## \$\$ Add insulation

If you have a home that was manufactured before 1976, you could add insulation to your home's underbelly to reduce any heat loss.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



# Purchase Power Day By Day With **Pay-As-You-Go** Option

**P**ay for the power you need as you need it — that's the idea behind Southwestern Electric Cooperative's Pay-As-You-Go program. "Most members are billed for power a month at a time. The power they've used during the last month is what they pay for," explained Susan File, vice president of member services for Southwestern Electric Cooperative. "With our Pay-As-You-Go program, you only pay for the power you need at the time, and you can add more money to the account whenever you want to."

File said the Pay-As-You-Go program is perfect for families who want to control precisely how much of their budget they put toward electricity.

"Our main goal is to help our members use less power, and forego paying a deposit and reconnection fees," she pointed out. "Studies have shown that households typically experience a 12 percent drop in energy use after switching to this type of program."

Pay-As-You-Go allows the account-holder to purchase electricity at his or her convenience. Payments appear as credits on the member's account. The balance, which reflects energy used and payments made over the past 24-hours, is updated daily. There's no penalty for allowing funds to run out, but electric service becomes subject to disconnection when the account balance reaches \$0.00.

The cooperative doesn't mail a monthly bill to Pay-As-You-Go accounts. Rather, participating members monitor their account balance via the cooperative's online billing system, SWEC IL app or in-home display. In

addition to checking their account balance and payment history, the member will have access to an assortment of tools for tracking their energy consumption, including a breakdown of their kilowatt-hour usage and money spent on power each day.

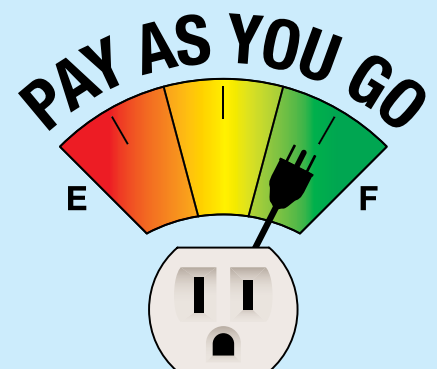
Southwestern also offers an in-home display unit (at no charge), particularly for members who don't have Internet access. The online billing system, app and in-home display allow the accountholder to view their present account balance and average daily usage.

"The member has to keep an eye on their remaining balance with this type of program, but we also have a couple of systems in place to let them know their account's status," said File. "The in-home display sounds an alarm when the account reaches a minimum dollar amount. We can also send the member a reminder message by telephone, text and e-mail if we have a valid phone number or e-mail address on file for their account."

Payments on a Pay-As-You-Go account can be made at the cooperative's Greenville office during regular business hours, at the Vandalia Farm Bureau, or deposited in the dropbox at Southwestern's St. Elmo and St. Jacob offices. Payments are also accepted 24/7 by phone, SWEC IL app and online at [sweci.com](http://sweci.com). Most payments will post to the member's account within an hour. However, members should allow three day's processing time when payments are made at the St. Elmo or St. Jacob offices or Vandalia Farm Bureau.



- Take control of your energy usage.
- No credit checks or security deposits.
- No fees for late payment or reconnection of service.
- Pay with your credit card, debit card or cash (no checks, please).



For more information on our Pay-As-You-Go program, visit [sweci.com](http://sweci.com) or call (800) 637-8667 to speak to one of our member services representatives.

# WEATHERING THE WIND

**S**torms will spawn about 1,200 twisters in the U.S. this year. About 65 percent of the tornadoes that strike in Illinois will appear between the first of April and the end of June, with 50 percent occurring between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. But twisters have appeared in Illinois during every month, at all times of the night and day.

How do you protect your family from a weather event that's both deadly and unpredictable? Roger Edwards, lead forecaster for the operations branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center, offers these tips.

## PLANNING AND PRACTICE

Work with your family to develop a tornado safety plan. Know where you'll take shelter, and practice getting there quickly and safely. Store protective coverings (a mattress, sleeping bags, thick blankets and such) near your shelter space to protect your family from flying debris.

If you shop frequently at certain stores, learn where there are bathrooms, storage rooms or other interior shelter areas away from windows, and the shortest ways to get there.

## WHEN THERE'S A TORNADO WATCH

When a tornado watch is issued for your area, stay tuned to local TV, radio, NOAA Weather Radio, or a reliable app for

updates and warnings. Keep an eye on the sky and be alert for strong, persistent rotation in a cloud base, whirling dust or debris on the ground, hail or heavy rain followed by calm or a fast, intense wind shift, or a loud, continuous rumble.

At night, pay attention to bright flashes near the ground. These may mean power lines are being snapped by strong winds. If you see signs of a tornado, take shelter immediately.

## WHEN THERE'S A TORNADO WARNING

Seek shelter immediately. If your home has a basement, take cover under a heavy table or work bench, or cover yourself with a mattress or sleeping bag. Avoid windows. Know where heavy objects rest on the floor above and stay clear of them; they may drop through the floor if strong winds compromise your home. If you have a helmet handy, put it on — but don't waste precious seconds searching for one.

If you're in a dorm, apartment, or home without a basement, go to the lowest floor and take shelter in a small center room (like a bathroom or closet), under a stairwell, or in an interior hallway. Avoid taking shelter near windows.

Crouch to the floor, face down, and protect your head with your hands and arms. A bathtub may offer some protection. Cover yourself with thick padding like a mattress or blankets to protect yourself from debris.

If you're in an office building, hospital, nursing home or





## TORNADO WATCH vs WARNING

**Tornado watch:** The National Weather Service issues a tornado watch when weather conditions in an area indicate an increased risk for severe weather that may be capable of producing a tornado.

**Tornado warning:** The National Weather Service issues a tornado warning when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. On average, tornado warnings are issued 13 minutes prior to the event, but warning times vary greatly and may be much less. ***You should always take immediate action when authorities issue a tornado warning.***

## STEPS TO SAFETY

### IF YOUR AREA IS UNDER A TORNADO WATCH

- Listen to a battery-powered NOAA weather radio, your local radio or television stations, or use a reputable app for updated information.
- Be alert to rapidly-changing weather conditions. Watch for signs of a possible tornado and be prepared to take shelter immediately.
- Review your family emergency plan.

### IF YOUR AREA IS UNDER A TORNADO WARNING

- Listen to a battery-powered NOAA weather radio, your local radio or television stations, or use a reputable app for updated information.
- If you're at home, go to your predetermined safe zone to protect yourself from glass and other flying objects. If possible seek shelter under a piece of large, sturdy furniture, such as a heavy table or workbench. Stay away from, and do not open, windows. Remain in your shelter or safe zone until the storm has passed.
- If you're not in your home, seek shelter in the basement or an interior room of a sturdy building nearby.

### IF YOU'RE IN AN AUTOMOBILE

- If you're in an automobile, there's no ideal option to ensure your safety. You'll have to evaluate the situation and use your judgement to determine the safest course of action.
- If the tornado is visible, far away, and traffic is light, you may be able to drive out of its path by moving at right angles to the tornado. As soon as possible, leave your vehicle and take shelter in a sturdy building or underground.
- If you can safely get below the grade of the road, exit your car and flatten yourself in a ditch or low area, covering your head with your hands and arms.
- If you're caught by extreme winds or flying debris, park your car out of traffic lanes. Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows. Cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat or cushion.
- Don't hide under a bridge. Bridges offer little protection from flying debris and they can fail under the stress of a tornado. Climbing into the undercarriage of a bridge exposures you to higher velocity winds than if you were sheltered in a ditch or low area.

skyscraper, find an enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building, away from glass, on the lowest floor (interior stairwells are good places to shelter). Crouch and cover your head.

Avoid elevators. You could be trapped if the tornado cuts power to the building.

If you're in a mobile home, leave it. It's not as safe as an underground shelter or permanent, sturdy building. Go to a designated shelter or nearby permanent structure.

If you're caught in the open away from a sturdy building, lie face down on low ground and cover your head with your arms. A tornado can turn large objects like trees and dumpsters into missiles, so stay clear of them.

### AFTER A TORNADO HITS YOUR AREA

Continue listening to local radio or television stations, and your NOAA weather radio, for updated information.

Be aware of potential hazards such as downed electrical lines, ruptured gas lines, and structural damage to your home. Call 911 to report injured or trapped persons. Give first aid where appropriate, but don't move seriously injured persons unless they're in immediate danger. And never enter a building that appears to have structural damage or that poses other hazards.

# Shared History

## COLLINSVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AIMS TO TELL CITY'S STORIES

Words by Nathan Grimm | Photos by Mike Barns

**I**t's a history, one might say, that Pete Stehman was born to tell. A history that's in his blood.

Stehman, 66, is the museum manager for the Collinsville Historical Museum. He's been a volunteer with the museum for close to a decade but only became part-time manager on Jan. 1 to "ease me into retirement," he said, after a long career in fire protection service.

Stehman is also the nephew of Robert "Bob" McLanahan, one of the World War II veterans and Collinsville natives memorialized in the museum. McLanahan, a U.S. Marine who served in Iwo Jima, Japan, was one of just six men from his company of 39 to not be badly wounded or killed during a three-week confrontation with enemy soldiers. A March 20, 1943 letter written

by McLanahan to his girlfriend is among the things on display in the museum.

Stehman said the collection of World War II stories and memorabilia is his favorite part of the museum — but not the only thing he enjoys about it.

"I'm a World War II buff, but really, all of it's interesting to me,"

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**"We're trying to evolve from, 'here's old stuff, look at it,' to telling Collinsville's history."**

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—Pete Stehman, Collinsville Historical Museum Manager

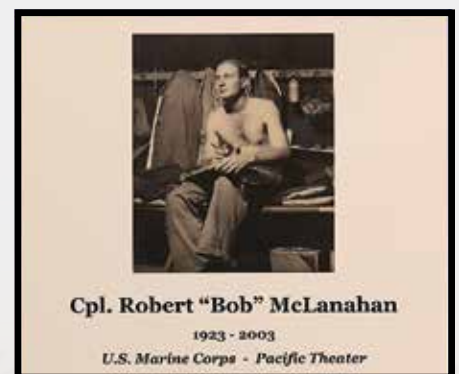
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Stehman said. "When you can see the history that's in your backyard, that's fascinating."

The museum got its start, as many local museums do, with humble beginnings and a small-but-dedicated group of founders led by Irving Dilliard, whose collection of historic items created the foundation for the museum. It was organized in the 1970s as a display in the basement of the now-adjacent Collinsville Memorial Library Center on West Main Street, receiving a grant in the early 2000s from the Illinois Public Museums Grant Program to construct the two-story, 4,800-square-foot facility that exists today.

The freestanding building and additional space allowed the museum

*Continued on page 25 ►*



Collinsville Historical Museum manager Pete Stehman, left, gives the white-glove treatment to a centuries-old letter that the museum recently received from a community member. The museum tells the story of Collinsville's history, from its coal-mining roots to its World War II veterans to today.







“Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it,” Archimedes reputedly said, “and I shall move the world.” Twelve feet may not be lever enough to shift a planet, but it did move many readers to write — particularly the experienced engineers among you.

Not only did you identify the tool that served as our March mystery item, you’d used it for projects near and far. A couple of you keep one handy.

Thanks to everyone who submitted a solution to the March puzzle. And thank you, more so, for sharing your stories. As always, your contributions are the best part of this magazine.

On to our May mystery figure: Can you identify the person on the opposite page? Here are clues to kickstart your search:

- Born in 1823, I was a lawyer, politician and prominent freemason.
- I attended Marshall Academy, in Marshall, Ill., and became an instructor in 1844.
- In 1848 my family moved to Vandalia, where I studied law and worked for my father’s newspaper, “The Age of Steam.”
- I was admitted to the bar in 1853 and practiced in Vandalia until 1858.
- I was initiated into freemasonry in 1854 and became the Grand Master of Illinois in 1864.
- While practicing law in Vandalia, I was a member of the same bar as Abraham Lincoln.
- In 1860 I was elected as a Presidential Elector for Lincoln.

- I served as a U.S. representative from 1865-1869.
- In 1867 I was awarded an honorary degree from McKendree College.
- I died in Denver, Colo., in 1903.

We look forward to seeing your solutions. We’ll share your responses in July. Meanwhile, here’s what you had to say about our March puzzle.

The “What” of the March contest is a leveling rod or level staff and it is used in surveying for determining elevations by reading the difference between a point with a known elevation and the reading of the point of interest through a surveying instrument called a level.

The measurements on the rod are in feet, tenths and hundredths of a foot. While I am not a surveyor, I was a college co-op engineer on the construction of the third unit to the Edwards Power Plant near Peoria and a project engineer for the Duck Creek Power plant near Canton and spent endless hours at both holding a rod identical to the one pictured and sighting one through the level.

Edwards Station is permanently out of service and Duck Creek was demolished a few months ago. On March 1, I retired



from over 55 years of working in the electric industry, however the past 10 years have been part time.

—Paul Reber, Canton

The big ruler shown in your March issue of What Am I? is an instrument used in surveying to establish a known elevation of an object or point. The common name is a linker rod. This type of rod allows the surveyor to read his elevations directly, without the need to do any math. The surveyor will know what the elevation is in regards to the mean sea level. I know it sounds complicated, but in a nut shell, it speeds up the whole process of running a circuit of elevation.

I worked for an engineering firm in Alton for 13 years before changing to the construction side of life. Back in the 1980s it was the best thing going, now, it’s not so hot.

—Mac McCormick, Holiday Shores

The photo in the March edition of Who What Where is a level rod used by surveyors, engineers and tradesmen to determine elevation of a given point. The rod extends to 12 feet and the increments are 100th of a foot. Survey rods are not in inches but tenths of a foot. Personally, the wood rods were easier to work than the fiberglass rods that replaced them.

—John Sedlacek, St. Jacob

Philadelphia level rod. I am a retired surveyor and used one for 50 years.

—Jack McClelland, Edwardsville

Pictured is a vintage grade rod survey transit measuring telescopic wood



stick rod (note the brass fixtures). This measurement method was used before lasers came along.

When planning buildings or roads the grade must be taken to know how much fill is needed or how much soil needs to be removed. Most important is the handling of the stick by the holder, to get accurate readings.

When facing perpendicular to the transit viewer, the stick is swayed forward and backwards a bit as the readings are taken. This movement method is used in case the soil that the stick is standing on is not level. The average between high to low is the most accurate reading.

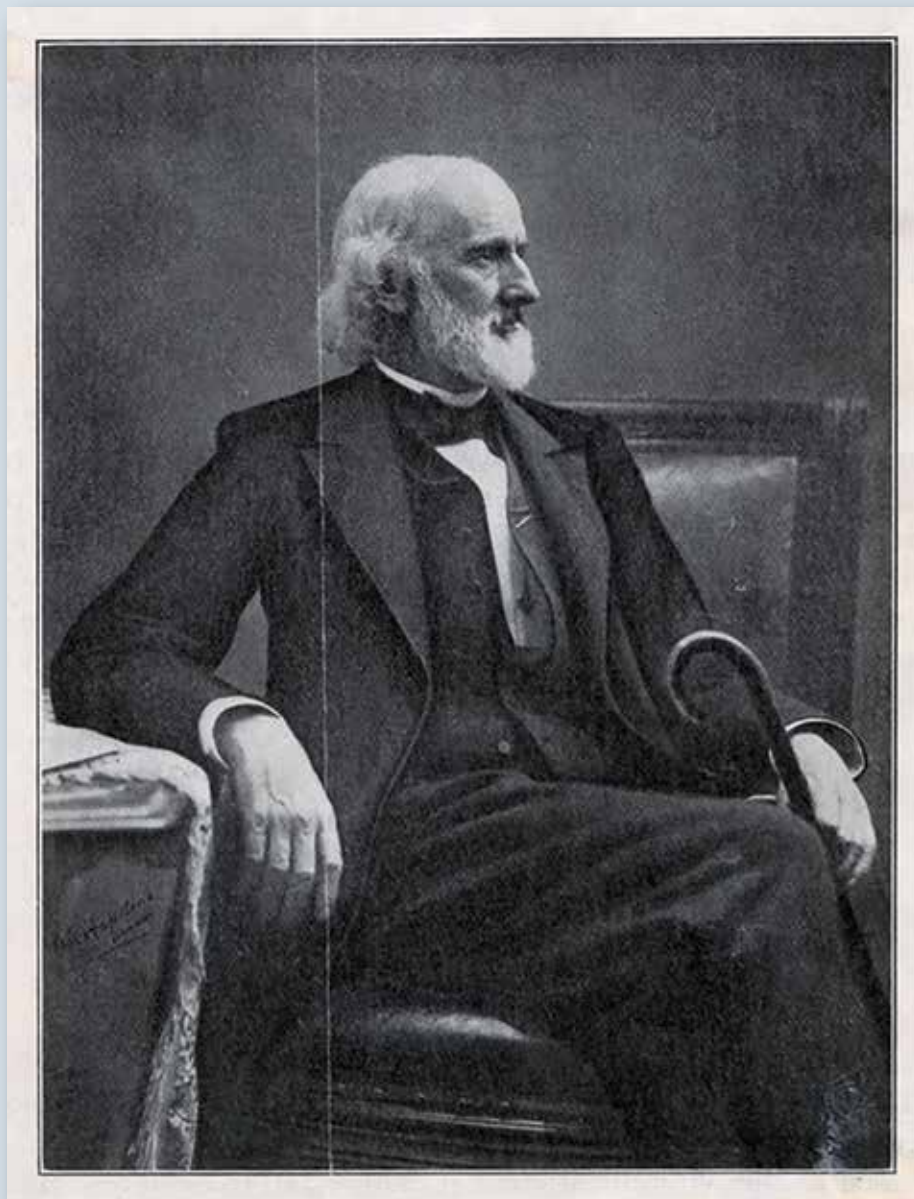
—Corey Rabe, Northern Wilberton Township, Vandalia

The item in the SWEC magazine March issue is a surveyor's staff. It is used to survey elevations and certain locations in an area that needs to be accurate. I am a past builder since the early 1980s and still have one. It appears this one is even before that era.

—Stan Clark, Maryville

I recognized this as a tool used in surveying but the exact name, I wasn't sure of. It turned out to be a vintage Holbro Teleform inverted surveyor's measuring staff, also called a leveling rod, probably made in the 1950s. It is used to determine the difference in height between two points.

—Scott Fischer, Staunton



# Who 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

# When Life Hands You Lemons





## LEMONADE CAKE

### Ingredients

- 1 box lemon cake mix
- 1 (6 ounce) can frozen lemonade concentrate
- $\frac{2}{3}$  cup powdered sugar, plus small amount to sift over cake

### Directions

1. Follow cake directions *except* put  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup of lemonade concentrate in the measuring cup and add water to make the amount of liquid called for.
2. Bake in a 9 x 13 inch baking dish as directed on the box.
3. Let cake cool 15 minutes.
4. Poke holes all over the cake.
5. Mix remaining lemonade with powdered sugar and drizzle the mixture over the cake. Top with sifted powdered sugar.
7. Serve with whipped topping. *Cake is best if left overnight.*

## LEMON SHEET CAKE

### Ingredients

- 1 box lemon cake mix
- 4 eggs
- 1 (15 $\frac{3}{4}$  ounce) can lemon pie filling
- 3 ounces cream cheese softened
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter softened
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons vanilla

### Directions

1. In large bowl, beat cake mix and eggs until well blended.
2. Fold in pie filling and spread into a greased 10 x 15 baking pan.
3. Bake at 350° for 18 - 25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Let cool on a wire rack.
4. In a small mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, butter and powdered sugar together until smooth.
5. Stir in vanilla and spread mixture over cake. Store in refrigerator.

## LEMON LUSH DESSERT

### Ingredients

- 1 cup flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter melted
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup chopped pecans
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup whipped topping
- 2 packages instant lemon pudding
- 3 cups milk
- 1 cup whipped topping
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup chopped pecans

### First Layer Directions

1. Mix together flour, butter and nuts. Press into 9 x 13 inch baking dish.
2. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes. Let cool before adding additional layers.

### Second Layer Directions

1. Combine cream cheese and powdered sugar.
2. Fold in 1 cup whipped topping. Spread over first layer.

### Third Layer Directions

1. Whip pudding and milk together and pour over second layer.

### Fourth Layer Directions

1. Spread 1 cup whipped topping over third layer and sprinkle with pecans.

*Chill several hours before serving.*

Lemon Lush  
Dessert

Prepared &  
photographed by  
Mike Barns

## CURRENT EVENTS

**May 2-12 SOMETHING ROTTEN**, Lebanon. A theatrical performance by the Looking Glass Playhouse. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m., except for Sunday shows, which begin at 2 p.m. \$10 on Thursday and \$12 Friday - Sunday for adults; \$9 on Thursday and \$11 Friday - Sunday for students, senior citizens and active military personnel (with valid identification). Looking Glass Playhouse, 301 West Saint Louis Street. Call (618) 537-4962 or visit [lookingglassplayhouse.com](http://lookingglassplayhouse.com).

**May 4 MUSIC FESTIVAL**, Maryville. Event will feature 11 bands. Great food and drink options for purchase. Proceeds benefit the construction of an entertainment pavilion in Fireman's Park. 1 - 11 p.m. Admission is \$20. Firemen's Park, 300 North Donk Street. Call (618) 233-8965 or visit [facebook.com/tmscoc/](http://facebook.com/tmscoc/).

**May 4 READING IN THE PARK WITH PAIGE**, Grafton. Paige Hulsey of KMOV News 4 will read from her children's book *A Bad Day Fishing*. Free copies of the book available on a first-come, first-served basis. Paige will sign books after the reading. The event will also feature family-friendly vendors. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free admission. The Grove Memorial Park, Corner of Market and Main Street. Visit [facebook.com/enjoygraffton/](http://facebook.com/enjoygraffton/).

**May 4 SPRING FLING FESTIVAL**, Greenville. Enjoy breakfast and lunch in the Lil' Red Barn from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Smok'n on the Farm BBQ Competition starts at 1 p.m. Taste each team's best eats with \$15 armband starting at 1 p.m. Event also includes a flea

market and swap meet, beer tent and live music. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (rain or shine). American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue. Call (618) 664-9733 or visit [american-farmheritagemuseum.org](http://american-farmheritagemuseum.org).

**May 4 - September 21 FARMER'S MARKET**, Hillsboro. A great selection of locally grown produce, plants, artisanal goods, and handmade crafts. First and third Saturday of the month 9 a.m. - noon; third Wednesday of the month 3 - 6 p.m. Lincoln Plaza, South Main Street. Call (217) 710-2495 or visit [facebook.com/hillsboro-farmersmarketillinois](http://facebook.com/hillsboro-farmersmarketillinois).

**May 7 TELESCOPE NIGHT**, Godfrey. Want to look at the universe through a telescope, but don't own one? Come out to the Talahi Lodge on the night after a full moon and we will have some set up. Bring your own telescope and we can help you use it. We will talk about how telescopes work and look at the moon and other night sky objects. 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Space is limited, registration required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. To register, visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**May 10-12, 15-19 ALTON LITTLE THEATER: SINGIN' IN THE RAIN**, Alton. A theatrical presentation by the Alton Little Theater Company. Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. Alton Little Theater, 2450 North Henry Street. For tickets, call (618) 462-3205 or visit [altonlittletheater.org](http://altonlittletheater.org).

**May 11 & 12 DEPARTURE CELEBRATION**, Hartford. Cel-

ebate the departure of Lewis & Clark as they set out on an expedition of discovery. Reenactors, historic artisans, and more will celebrate this important date in Illinois and American history. Demonstrations will include artillery, muskets, candle making, fiber arts, cooking, and more. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, One Lewis & Clark Trail. Call (618) 251-5811 or visit [campdubois.com](http://campdubois.com).

**May 11 - October 19 FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET**, Alton. Local home-grown fruits and vegetables, hormone-free meats, baked goods, plants and flowers, and honey. Artists and makers will offer crafts, homemade soaps and skin care products, jewelry, artwork, pottery, and art demonstrations. Every Saturday 8 a.m. - noon. Parking lot near Riverfront Park at corner Landmarks Boulevard and Henry Street. On June 22 the market will be relocated to the parking lot at the corner of Broadway & Ridge Street (next to FLOCK Food Truck Park). Visit [downtownalton.com](http://downtownalton.com).

**May 11 - October 19 VINE STREET MARKET**, O'Fallon. Farmers and food makers bring produce, meats, dairy, wine, baked goods and sweet treats. In addition to local food our market brings live music, food trucks, and talented artisans together from the area to feature their hand made arts. Every Saturday 8 a.m. - noon. O'Fallon Station, 212 East 1st Street. Visit [ofallonstation.com](http://ofallonstation.com).

**May 12; June 9; July 14; August 11; September 8; October 13 PICKERS MARKET**,

Litchfield. An open-air market with vintage collectibles, live music and food. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. 400 North State Street (intersection of Route 16/Union Avenue and State Street). Visit [visitlitchfield.com](http://visitlitchfield.com).

**May 13 REC FESTIVAL**, East Alton. The goal of this event is to encourage families to explore their outdoor recreational opportunities and learn how to go about them safely. From archery and hiking to weather and first aid there will be plenty for you and your family to test out and learn. Melvin Price Locks and Dam will be open for tours. Rain or shine event. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The National Great Rivers Museum, 2 Lock and Dam Way. Call (618) 462-6979 or visit [mtrf.org](http://mtrf.org).

**May 17-19 ART ON THE SQUARE**, Belleville. Featuring the work of over 100 artists from around the world, musical and stage performances, and local food and drink. The festival will include children's art activities, high school exhibits, live entertainment, art demonstrations, food and wine. Friday 4 - 9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is free. Call (800) 677-9255 or visit [artonthesquare.com](http://artonthesquare.com).

**May 18 & 19 POPS CONCERT**, Highland. A Heartland Community Chorus performance. Our always popular pops concert takes a light-hearted look at love with jazz and Broadway standards. Saturday 7 p.m.; Sunday 3 p.m. St. Paul Catholic Church, Trinity Hall, 1412 Main Street. Visit [heartlandcommunitychorus.org](http://heartlandcommunitychorus.org).

*Continued on page 26* ►

### 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.

► *Learning the Ropes continued from page 11*  
scholarship as more than helpful. “It allowed me to not have to worry so much about the cost of trade school, as well as the commuting I did to get to school every day.” His daily commute was about 130 miles. “I can’t thank you guys enough.”

## EYES ON THE FUTURE

Bain graduated from the electrical distribution line worker program at Lincoln Land Community College on Nov. 3. He completed his Commercial Drivers License training Dec. 15, received his license in January, then turned his full attention to the job market, beginning with the human resources department at Southwestern Electric Cooperative. When he learned there were no openings for apprentice linemen at the co-op, he broadened his search. “My teachers told me to stay around the pole,” he said, noting he looked for opportunities in right of way clearance, communications and solar installation.

Bain’s character, training and enthusiasm made him a strong candidate in a competitive industry. In January, within weeks of completing his training, he secured a position with Jansen Cable Construction, an Effingham-based communications contractor with projects in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. Bain was assigned to the company’s aerial construction division.

“I’ve been learning all the different skills with communication, laying flat fiber and using the bucket truck. We put in a lot of poles,” he said, noting his climbing skills recently came into play. “I’m the groundsman — that’s my title right now.” Bain prepares the truck for deployment and works

with a lashing crew, fastening aerial cable to strands of support wire.

“Learning with the guys, getting the truck ready, getting in the bucket — I love all that stuff,” he said, adding that he’s grateful for experience that moves him closer to becoming a lineman. “I just want to keep moving and get there as fast as I can.”

Earlier this year, Bain’s friends and family asked him about his next step. “They’re like, ‘What are you going to do now? You’ve been chasing this, now you’ve finally hit it.’ I said it’s not over until I get a lineman job and keep moving up from there.” Even after becoming a lineman, Bain said, he intends to grow his skills. “You can never know everything.”


Ultimately, he sees himself working for the people who inspired his dream — the members of Southwestern Electric Cooperative.

And when, at some point in the future, he joins Southwestern’s workforce? He’ll continue to grow. He’ll learn. And he’ll teach.

He’ll likely find himself at a Southwestern Electric annual meeting, helping a student from a rural school pull on safety glasses and oversized gloves, fasten nuts to bolts and thread rope through islets.

He’ll share his insight, his enthusiasm and his love of the trade.

He’ll share the story of how he found a career and his calling at a co-op annual meeting.


Carter Bain will kindle a dream. 

► *Shared History continued from page 18*  
to stretch its wings with things like the Founders’ Room, which tells the town’s history from its earliest settlers, to the new Grand Homes of Collinsville display. A lower level of the building shows off the city’s roots as a coal-mining town and some of the notable athletes who once called Collinsville home.

Unsatisfied to simply exist in a larger space, Stehman said the museum’s next challenge is transforming itself from a

collection of artifacts to an “interpretive history of the community.” That includes more tactile and interactive displays, Stehman said, and more visuals and more efficient writing to hold visitors’ attention in an increasingly short-attention-span world.

“We’re trying to evolve from, ‘here’s old stuff, look at it,’ to telling Collinsville’s history,” he said.

It’s a history Stehman knows well and is well equipped to tell. 



## GETTING THERE

From Interstate 70 West, take Exit 15A to Illinois Route 159 toward Collinsville. In about four miles, turn right onto West Clay Street. After six blocks, make a left onto North Hesperia Street, then make a left onto West Main Street. The museum is on the right, tucked behind the library at 406 W. Main St.

## HELP WANTED

The museum operates independent of the library district and the city, supported only by donor funds or the occasional grant and staffed by volunteers. Difficulty finding volunteers has the museum’s hours limited to a few hours a few days a week at present, something Stehman said is the museum’s biggest obstacle moving forward.

“Like everybody else, we’re really hurting for volunteers,” he said, adding, “even if a person doesn’t have a museum background, all they really have to do is point people to displays and be able to answer questions.”



► *Continued from page 24*  
**May 18 & 19 SPRING NATIVE AMERICAN MARKET**, Collinsville. This year's Spring Native American Market is moving to the Collinsville VFW-Post 5691, located at 1234 Vandalia Street. Over 30 tribal affiliated artists from across North America demonstrate and sell authentic indigenous arts and crafts including jewelry, ceramics, paintings/drawings, clothing, flutes, woodcarvings and more. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Admission is free. Collinsville VFW-Post 5691, 1234 Vandalia Street. Visit [cahokiamounds.org](http://cahokiamounds.org).

**May 19 STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**, St. Jacob. Family event featuring delicious food and desserts as well as kids' activities, free music, crafters and more. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free to enter. Various prices for food, activities, vendors, etc. St. Jacob Township Park, 239 West Main Street. Visit [stjacobbucc.org](http://stjacobbucc.org)

**May 23; June 21 MOONLIGHT HIKE**, Godfrey. Join us on a night hike on the trails of the Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin

Nature Preserve. The terrain is light to moderate and is appropriate for families. The hike will be about 2 miles with stops along the way. Meet at the Tahali Lodge. Leaves promptly at 8:30 p.m. Admission is free for members; non-members \$5. Registration is required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**May 23 - August 22 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).

**May 25 RUN/WALK IN REMEMBRANCE 5K**, Worden. All proceeds will provide assistance and opportunities to those who have been affected by burn injuries, as well as to their children and families. We welcome and encourage individuals and families to wear t-shirts in memory of their loved one(s). Packet/shirt pick-up and in-person registration May 24 from 6 - 8 p.m. or on race day at 8 a.m. Run starts at 9 a.m. Worden Public Library, 111 East Wall Street. Register at [doughbehmefoundation.org](http://doughbehmefoundation.org).

**May 25 & 26 SPRING FESTIVAL**, Carlinville. Tractor club featuring Allis-Chalmers tractor parade both days at 2 p.m. Museum featuring Macoupin County and Illinois History, print shop and country store, blacksmith shop, and original one-room schoolhouse and church. See demonstrations and Civil War reenactments. Event also features displays of antique tractors and vehicles, small engines, toy show and craft show. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Live music noon - 3 p.m. both days. Admission is free. House tour for adult is \$5; children 6 - 12 years of age \$1; children 5 and younger free. Macoupin County Historical Society, 920 West Breckenridge Street. Visit [mchssociety.org](http://mchssociety.org).

**May 26; June 30; July 28; August 25; September 22 SYMPHONY CONCERT SERIES**, Edwardsville. Family-friendly free concerts performed by the Edwardsville Symphony. This season's theme is "The Color of Music" linking tone, color, timbre, and art to music. Free children's activities during each concert. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Pre-concerts by local dance schools and artists at 6:30 p.m.; symphony starts at 7 p.m. Edwardsville City Park, 101 South Buchanan Street. Visit [edwardsvillecommunitysymphony.com](http://edwardsvillecommunitysymphony.com).

**May 27 LEGACY MEMORIAL DAY 5K**, Belleville. This 5K run/walk honors the many who have given their lives in defense of our country. 7:30 a.m. race check-in; 8:30 a.m. National Anthem; 8:45 a.m. race start; 9:45 a.m. award ceremony. Proceeds support Trail Life and American Heritage Girl Troops IL-0078 efforts to promote patriotism, good citizenship, and a love for the military. Laderman Park, 1105 Mascoutah Avenue. Register at [honoringthelegacymemorial-day5k.itsyourrace.com](http://honoringthelegacymemorial-day5k.itsyourrace.com).

**May 29 - June 2 HISTORIC NATIONAL ROAD YARD SALE FESTIVAL**, Altamont. More than 60 vendors, food trucks, city-wide yard sales, barbecue cook-off, historic Wright Mansion tours and antique stores. Festival runs from Baltimore, Maryland to St. Louis, Missouri. The 824-mile sale celebrates this historic by-way. Individuals and vendors are expected to set up with an assortment of roadside treasures, including antiques and furniture, housewares and collectibles. Wednesday - Saturday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free. Effingham County Fairgrounds, 722 East Cumberland Road. Visit [facebook.com/nationalroadyard-saleUS40/](http://facebook.com/nationalroadyard-saleUS40/) or call or text (815) 954.0450.

**May 31; June 28; July 26; August 23; September 27 FARMERS' MARKET**, Carlyle. Fresh produce, meat, eggs, bread, freshly cut flowers, plants, fudge, syrup... you never know what you'll find at the market. 5 p.m. - dusk. Carlyle VFW, 1250 Franklin Street. Visit [carlylelake.com](http://carlylelake.com).

**June 1 SERVICE ABOVE SELF ROTARY CLUB 5K RUN/WALK**, Swansea. Packet pick-up and late registrations on race day 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.; start at 8 a.m. Proceeds benefit the Chad Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund, which supports college scholarships for qualifying graduates from area high schools. Wolf Branch Elementary School, 125 Huntwood Road. To register, visit [swansearotary.org/service-above-self-5k-run.php](http://swansearotary.org/service-above-self-5k-run.php).

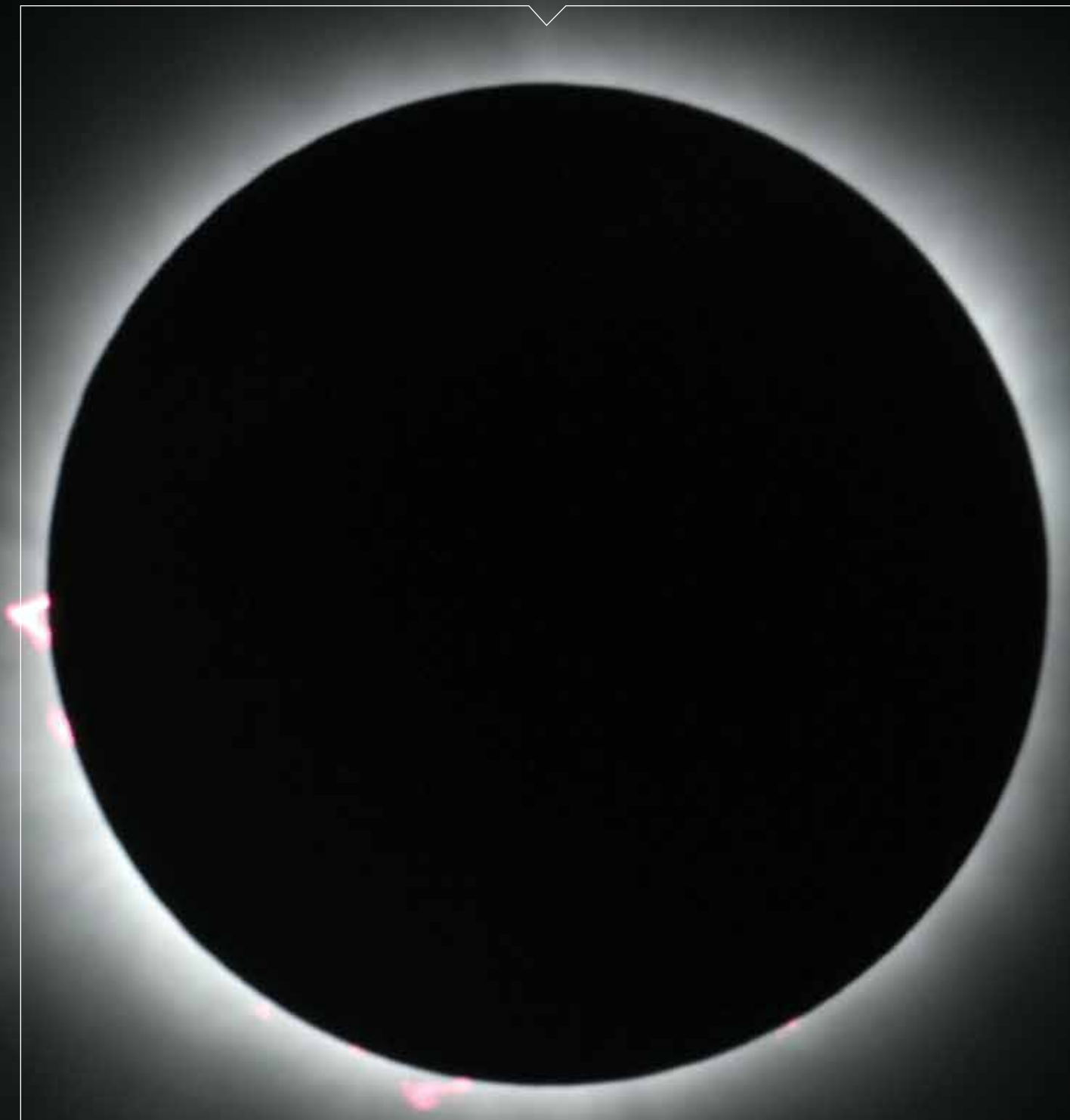
**June 1, 29 BIKES, BIRDS, AND BREWS**, West Alton. Local cyclists and Audubon staff will guide each session and make several stops throughout the sanctuary to view birds and other wildlife. After the biking portion (about two hours), enjoy a cold brew from Old Bakery Beer Company. Non-alcoholic beverages and light snacks also provided. 4 - 7 p.m. Admission is \$20. Pre-registration is required. Audubon Center at Riverlands, 301 Riverlands Way. For more information or to register, call (844) 428-3826 or visit [riverlands.audubon.org](http://riverlands.audubon.org).

**June 2 SAXOPHONE ENSEMBLE**, Troy. Enjoy the sounds of The Saxophonics. 2 p.m. At the gazebo in Tri-Township Park, 410 Wickliffe Street. The alternate site for inclement weather will be the adjacent recreation center/park district office. Find us on Facebook at Troy Community Band.

**June 4-9 MACOUPIN COUNTY FAIR**, Carlinville. 21368 State Route 4. Visit [macoupincountyfair.org](http://macoupincountyfair.org).



**May 31 - June 30 PICK YOUR OWN LAVENDER**, Edwardsville. Pick your own lavender Friday, Saturday, or Sunday at the Stahlhut family farm, shop an old barn full of handmade lavender products, wander the wildflowers, purchase plants and enjoy the walking paths. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Guided tours. Tenderloin Farms, 6368 St. James Drive. Call (618) 917-0188, follow us @ [tenderloinfarms](https://www.instagram.com/tenderloinfarms) or visit [tflavender.com](http://tflavender.com).



Thaddius Intravaia,  
Southwestern's Director of  
Information Technology,  
captured these dramatic images  
of the eclipse using a Canon  
XTI mounted to a 1000mm  
Cassegrain telescope, in West  
Frankfort, Ill.



## THE FINAL FRAME



