

THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

MAY 2019 • VOLUME 71 • ISSUE 5

Power For Progress

SOUTHWESTERN NAMES
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS

Election 2019

NOMINATION
DEADLINE
NEARS

Kindling the Cooperative Spirit

ALAN LIBBRA SHARES INSIGHTS FROM
A LIFETIME OF COOPERATIVE SERVICE

**ELECTRICAL
SAFETY MONTH**

**OCCUPATIONAL
INSPIRATION NIGHT**

MEMBERS IN FOCUS

SUMMER COOLING TIPS

Ntec

Inside This Issue

04 Southwestern Scholars

Southwestern Electric awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 10 students this year. Join us in congratulating our 2019 scholarship recipients.

05 After School

The co-op's communications crew met with Altamont High School students in February to talk shop during Occupational Inspiration Night.

06 Election 2019

Interested in running for a seat on Southwestern Electric's board of directors? Contact a member of the Nominations Committee by May 16.

08 Kindling The Cooperative Spirit

Director Alan Libbra guided Southwestern Electric through eras of change, challenge and growth. Libbra retired from the board in September 2018, but his message regarding the power of a cooperative still stands strong.

12 Members in Focus

You shared shots of birds in flight and at rest, pre-dawn power restoration, a sunflower standing tall, and daylight illuminating a country cathedral.

14 Energy & Efficiency

With summer right around the corner, we're offering 10 timely tips to reduce energy consumption while you maintain a comfortable temperature in your home.

16 Health & Safety

May is Electrical Safety Month. It's the perfect time to evaluate your home's electrical system and eliminate potential hazards.

18 Out & About

Take a quiet walk through Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Ill., final resting place of our nation's 16th president.

20 Who-What-Where?

This month we challenge you to name a storied statesman and identify an agricultural artifact.

22 Co-op Kitchen

We're celebrating Cinco de Mayo in the Co-op Kitchen.

24 Current Events

Go for a stroll to identify birds in West Alton, catch a movie in Maryville, celebrate America's military in Vandalia, get your Route 66 passport stamped in Litchfield, and enjoy Kids' Day at Cahokia Mounds in Collinsville.

27 Final Frame

Land of Lincoln

On Account: We've hidden a member-account number in this issue (mailing label excluded). If the account number belongs to you, contact us within 30 days and we'll take \$25 off your electric bill. Good luck!



On the Cover

Chris Schmid, apprentice lineman, and Adam Simmons, journeyman lineman (back cover), sharpened their safety skills as they practiced power restoration tactics during a drill held at Southwestern Electric Cooperative's Greenville office in October. While National Electrical Safety Month is observed by various industries in May, safety is the top priority of Southwestern employees every day of the year. For electrical safety tips you can implement at home, see page 16.

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 16

Board candidate nomination deadline.

May 27

Offices closed in observance of Memorial Day.



Board of Directors

Ann Schwarm, President Loogootee
Sandy Grapperhaus, Vice President .. Collinsville
Annette Hartlieb, Secretary Vandalia
Sandy Nevinger, Treasurer Greenville
Jerry Gaffner Greenville
Richard M. Gusewelle Edwardsville
William "Bill" Jennings Alhambra
Jared Stine St. Elmo
Ted Willman Greenville

CEO

Bobby Williams Chief Executive Officer

The Southwestern

Joe Richardson Editor
e-mail: joe.richardson@sweci.com
Mike Barns Art Director
e-mail: mike.barns@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

Southwestern Electric Cooperative reserves the right to re-print member comments and correspondence in its cooperative educational and promotional materials.

The Southwestern (USPS 612-500) is published monthly by Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. Periodical postage paid at Greenville, IL. Subscriptions cost \$8.85 per year. Comments or questions regarding material in this publication may be mailed to Joe Richardson, editor of *The Southwestern*, c/o Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246, or e-mailed to joe.richardson@sweci.com.

Postmaster: Send address corrections to *The Southwestern*, 525 U.S. Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.

Apple and the Apple logo are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Android, Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google Inc.

Cooperative Spirit

If you attended Southwestern Electric's 80th Annual Meeting of Members last year, you were present for several exceptional podium addresses. The meeting marked the retirement of two longtime directors, and both shared their thoughts and impressions on the day.

Ron Schaufelberger's humble and good-natured farewell illustrated his hallmarks: gratitude, optimism and kindness. And Alan Libbra's message regarding faith in the cooperative model and our membership's ability to work for the common good was both moving and instructional.

Ann Schwarm, president of Southwestern Electric, had the most rewarding yet difficult job of the day. She was tasked with summarizing the significance of both directors to Southwestern, expressing our gratitude, and saying goodbye—all in the space of a few sentences. She found the perfect words to express our sentiments and delivered them with heart and grace.

I couldn't have done it nearly as well.

So I won't try.

Rather, I'll use her words regarding longtime board president Alan Libbra to introduce for this month's feature article. "Alan's commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Southwestern Illinois was a driving force behind his leadership efforts," Schwarm told the membership. "His mission set the stage for three decades of cooperative accomplishment. It was Alan's fire-in-the-belly commitment that moved Southwestern forward through some of the most challenging, formative and fruitful years of the co-op's history."

You can read more about Alan Libbra's service to Southwestern on page 8.

While we're on the topic of annual meetings, if you've never been to one, mark Sept. 7 on your calendar, and make 2019 your first.

You're sure to hear words that will inform and inspire.

We look forward to seeing you.

Joe Richardson, editor
joe.richardson@sweci.com

Southwestern Talks Communications at Occupational Inspiration Night

Southwestern Electric’s communications crew is accustomed to sharing co-op news, information and events with members. But earlier this year, the two-person department accepted an invitation to reach out to a select segment of the membership—high school students.

On Feb. 25, Mike Barns, art director, and Joe Richardson, editor of *The Southwestern*, spoke with Altamont High School students about careers in communications. The co-op’s communications team appeared as part of Altamont High School’s first annual Occupational Inspiration Night.

“I think the best part of participating in an event like this is sharing your interests with our young adults who will be the future of our communities and our country,” Barns said.

“What surprised some of the students was the fact that graphic design is a growing field with many different career paths, with jobs ranging from packaging design, print, web design, illustration, logo design, flash design, photo editing, brand identity design, animation and multimedia design,” he added. “Everything has to be designed and more companies than ever before recognize the value of investing in skilled creative professionals.”

Robin Elam, Altamont High School guidance counselor, and Teresa Lee, high school resource teacher, coordinated the event. Elam said the school wanted the evening to be an informal gathering that provided opportunities for students to speak with individuals representing a wide variety of careers. “We wanted to introduce our students to careers that are available in their own community, as well as careers they may be unfamiliar with,” she said. “We were excited by the number of community members and businesses who volunteered their time to participate.”

One of the objectives, Elam noted, was for students to discuss real-life experiences with career representatives. “We were pleased with the student turnout. We are hoping to make



Mike Barns, art director for Southwestern Electric Cooperative, discusses graphic design with a student from Altamont High School.

this an annual event,” she added. “We would like to invite the junior high students and find additional ways for businesses to get involved.”

Joe Richardson, communications coordinator for Southwestern Electric, said the evening offered opportunities to share stories regarding day-to-day communications and event-related messaging. “A lot of the students we spoke with were surprised by the responsibilities and opportunities that come with being a communicator for a small company. There aren’t many jobs that offer more variety than ours,” he said.

“I’ve climbed the exoskeleton of a power plant, interviewed a professor who specializes in abolitionist history, and shot photos of solar arrays. I’ve also spent nights camped out at my desk posting outage restoration updates to the web. Duties range from everyday to extraordinary. You could see the shift in attitude and pick-up in interest as we shared those stories,” Richardson added. “It was a privilege to spend time with the Altamont students and meet the other career representatives. Everyone we spoke with asked thoughtful, well-considered questions,” he said. “I’d love to catch up with these kids a few years from now and see where their ambitions have taken them.”



Altamont High School’s first annual Occupational Inspiration Night offered students insight into a variety of local careers.

Board Candidate Nominations

Filing Deadline: May 16

As 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—is 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 2019 are Sandy Grapperhaus in District I, Ted Willman in District II, and Ann Schwarm in District III.

Potential board candidates are advised to begin their preparations for the 2019 election soon. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the 2019 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 16.

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

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 16.

the co-op’s headquarters by Monday, June 24. Any candidate who doesn’t file by June 24, 2019 will not be eligible to run for election until 2020.

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 2019 board election will be announced at Southwestern Electric’s 81st 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 2022 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.

2019 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 16.

District I	Duane Meyer	6223 Staunton Rd	Edwardsville, IL 62025	(618) 633-2349
	Dan Joachimsthaler	88 Timberwood Lane	Collinsville, IL 62234	(618) 345-6474
	Dennis Petry	8201 West Kirsch Road	Troy, IL 62294	(618) 667-6868
District II	Sandy Kuhn	410 East Johnson Street	Pocahontas, IL 62275	(618) 580-8611
	Brad Lurkins	1466 Airport Ave	Greenville, IL 62246	(618) 977-3464
	Clarence Zimmerman	857 RC Cardinal Lane	Greenville, IL 62246	(618) 664-0495
District III	Joe Lawson	274 E 1700 Ave	Vandalia, IL 62080	(618) 780-3731
	Barb Tedrick	778 N 200 St	Vandalia, IL 62471	(618) 425-3543
	Tony Koberlein	2098 N 2200 St	St. Elmo, IL 62458	(618) 292-6952

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

In Person: Available 7-10 a.m. on September 7, at the cooperative's 81st Annual Meeting of Members, held at Bond County Community Unit #2 Junior High School in Greenville.

Alternate Sites: Available 7-10 a.m. on September 7, at two Southwestern Electric satellite facilities: 10031 Ellis Road in St. Jacob and on the frontage road southwest of the St. Elmo exit off Interstate 70.

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.

The cooperative may offer additional polling hours at the alternate sites for absentee voting. Details will appear in future issues of *The Southwestern*.

Kindling the Cooperative Spirit



Alan Libbra addresses the membership during Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 48th Annual Meeting of Members, in 1986, during his first term as board president.

It begins and ends with the annual meeting. No single event in the life of a cooperative better exemplifies the principles and practices that distinguish a co-op from other organizations. After 36 years as a director on Southwestern Electric Cooperative's governing board—30 of which he served as president—after countless committee meetings, member forums, contract considerations, and board discussions that stretched into the late hours, after a lifetime of service to tens of thousands of members who call Southwestern Electric's service area home, many of Alan Libbra's thoughts regarding what a co-op can and should be are embodied by the annual assembly of members working for the common good.

Early memories of annual meetings, in part, encouraged Libbra to run for the board in 1982.

The tenor of those meetings called him back to the ballot, year after year, term after term, at times when it would have been simpler, safer, less trying, not to run.

Annual meetings shaped his initial impressions of the cooperative. And it was his address at last year's annual meeting, where he spoke of gratitude, perspective, and accomplishing as a cooperative what any member alone could not, that resonated with attendees both familiar and new, any one of whom may be inspired to serve in similar fashion.

“The only relevant measure of success is whether or not the lives of our members are enhanced by the operations of the cooperative.”

“At the meetings, I listened to friends and neighbors when they talked about Southwestern Electric Cooperative with pride,” Libbra wrote in his 2008 report to the members. “They were proud of the fact that their cooperative could accomplish something that private industry couldn’t or wouldn’t do—bring electricity to rural families. They were also proud to play a part in improving their communities through cooperative action.”

Ironic, it seems, that the seeds of a 36-year career grew from a decision he was afforded only hours to make.

SAYING YES TO COOPERATIVE SERVICE

He wasn’t sure he wanted the job. When Alan Libbra was approached by the Nominations Committee in 1982, he didn’t immediately say yes. He was a father to two young children and farming with his parents. He didn’t know a lot about serving as a director—but he recognized the role as a significant commitment. The members who appeared at his farm offered to let him consider the idea—until 5 p.m., when they were convening to name candidates.

“I remembered that, as an adolescent, in school, the people who were on Southwestern’s lines saw that as a good thing. They took pride in being part of

“This cooperative belongs to you. Watch it, work with it, criticize it, challenge it. As long as our purpose is people before profit, it will serve you well.”

the electric cooperative. And the idea of the cooperative suited me—suited my philosophical and political leanings,” he said. “I was a consumer advocate, which I thought by definition you had to be if you were a cooperative board member.”

He accepted the nomination and was elected to the first of 12 consecutive, three-year terms over the next 36 years. His role as consumer advocate was about to be rigorously tested.

SAYING NO TO THE STATUS QUO

Libbra’s first terms coincided with the onset of a turbulent time in Illinois’ energy industry. As a member of Soyland Power Cooperative, the co-op’s energy provider at the time, Southwestern Electric was part-owner of the Clinton nuclear plant—a project plagued by ever-escalating construction costs. Southwestern members were about to experience significant rate hikes

associated with the project.

“When I started seeing the numbers come in as to what the Soyland project was going to do to our rates, I said, ‘What are we going to do about this? We’ve got to prepare people.’”

Libbra pressed for new approaches to mitigate rising rates and was a strong proponent for clear and constant communications with the membership.

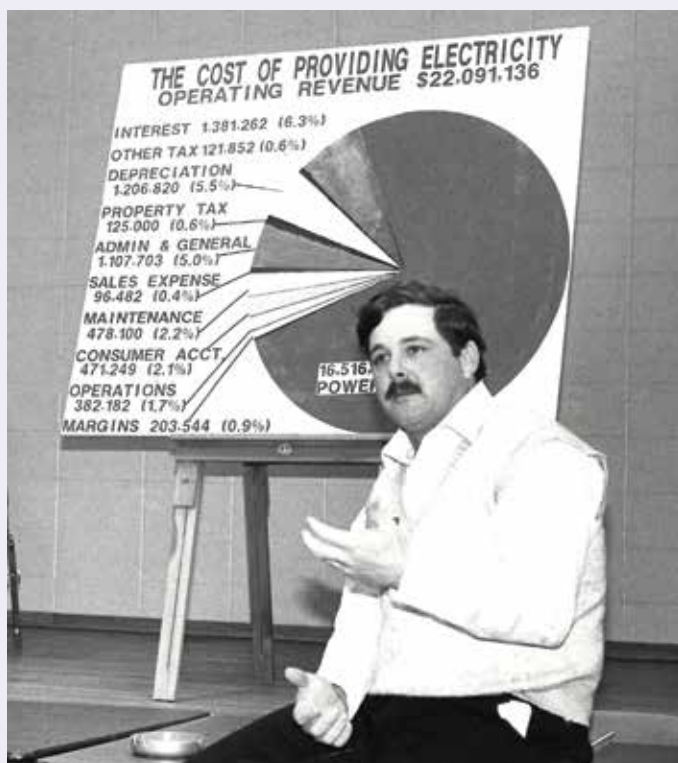
While the co-op searched for solutions to Soyland, Libbra spoke with members one-on-one and at town hall meetings. “Basically the message was, ‘This is a bad situation—but we’re going to find a way to fix it.’” While the membership demanded change, it also offered Southwestern’s board and management team an opportunity to develop a solution. Ultimately, Southwestern negotiated a Soyland contract buyout that set the stage for a series of member rate reductions.

The importance of communicating with members served as a guiding principle for Libbra throughout his tenure. “People want to know what’s going on. If they aren’t informed, they can’t participate.” Member engagement, Libbra said, is the foundation for any healthy cooperative. “That’s the strength of the whole system. That’s what allows you to get through the bad times to get the good times.”

The board’s commitment to reestablishing Southwestern as a valuable community partner, coupled with member support—and a strong streak of tenacity—kept Libbra working fervently for change. “I wanted to see it get back to a place where our members were proud to belong. I wanted them to feel like they owned it, know they controlled it, and see it as a benefit to them and their communities.”

Continued on next page >

A lifelong proponent of communication, education, and member engagement, Libbra explains cooperative operations during a 1990s meeting at Southwestern Electric’s Greenville headquarters.



➤ *Continued from page 9*

A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNICATION

Libbra's focus on member engagement rekindled a sense of member identification with the cooperative. Though conversations were sometimes tense, the board, management team and membership were united by a common goal. Those early, difficult days of searching for Soyland solutions forged bonds between board members that would grow into decades of honest, open discussion.

"Some of my favorite memories are the times when we had a problem, and we just worked on it for hours and hours and hours, until we found a way to fix it," Libbra said. The board's willingness to embrace new approaches positioned Southwestern as a vital, relevant partner in the lives of the members and their communities.

"Our board was eminently flexible. They had no desire to be stuck in staid, old cooperative traces. They always had the interests of the members in mind. We would talk, argue, but after we'd explored all the possibilities, we'd reach a consensus," Libbra said.

"You do your due diligence, and you think if you lay out a process and go through it, you'll arrive at the right answer. That's not necessarily true," he said. "You don't get points for process. If your answer is wrong, it's wrong, and



Kerry Sloan (left), then-CEO of Southwestern Electric, congratulates directors Randy Wolf, Ron Schaufelberger and Libbra after their reelection to the board of directors in 2009. Below: Libbra delivers a farewell address to the membership during the 2018 annual meeting.

you better figure out a way to make it right. Our board had the ability and the drive to do that," he noted. "They were always goal oriented."

CHANGES BRING CHALLENGES

During Libbra's time on the board, Southwestern's membership changed

significantly. Farm fields gave way to industrial parks, and schools, hospitals and recreational centers grew adjacent to sizable subdivisions that bear little resemblance to the rural farmsteads of old. While agriculture remains a vital interest, many members who live on co-op lines work west of the Mississippi.

I have never been one for looking back. Like an old trail horse, I tend to concentrate on where I'm putting my foot down next while moving forward. Still, at this juncture, I found it hard not to glance back over my shoulder just a little bit. When I did—what struck me was how things had changed.

When I came here 36 years ago I was a young man, father of two small children, my hair was as black as coal, and I didn't have the foggiest notion about what it took to run an electric co-op.

The one thing I did know was that the idea of what a cooperative could and should be appealed to me.

One of my favorite quotes was from Lincoln. He said government is people doing together what they cannot do for themselves. Electric co-ops, because of their history and mission, seemed to

Commitment to the Common Good

An excerpt from Alan Libbra's farewell address delivered during Southwestern's 80th Annual Meeting of Members, Sept. 8, 2018

epitomize the essence of that thought—and I loved that thought.

By the end of my first term the Clinton power plant came on line, and by the end of my second term our wholesale rates had almost tripled. Our financial situation was precarious. The board wasn't happy and you sure weren't happy. On behalf of the board, I asked you for time to fix this. As mad as you were, you granted us that time on nothing more than faith. All we had was a belief that problems created by people could be solved by people—that if we worked hard enough, if we held fast to the idea of the common good, the idea that we could do for ourselves and each



Despite the changing landscape, Libbra said the priorities and concerns of co-op members, as well as the values at the heart of our member-communities, remain much the same. “People expect you to work hard for them and to tell them the truth. If you’re upfront with people, I’ve found them to be more than patient,” he said.

Though the co-op’s core principles and member-focused values are largely unchanged by time, the utility industry is ever evolving, and the tools and techniques Southwestern employs to serve its membership are evolving with it.

“The biggest change is that the changes come faster,” Libbra said. “In my first 20 years, the basics of the business didn’t change a lot. But today, it’s a dynamic business and it’s getting more so. The lesson you learned 10 years ago—or maybe two years ago—is no longer operative. You say, ‘We did this last year and it was right.’ That doesn’t make it right today. Don’t learn your lessons too well,” he cautioned. “The facts are always changing and you have to change with them.”

KINDLING THE COOPERATIVE SPIRIT

While he recognizes milestone moments in his career—helping to guide Southwestern through deregulation of

the power industry and chaotic power markets, hammering out solutions to escalating costs and a shifting economy, positioning Southwestern as the first distribution co-op in the country to build a peaking unit—he’s more pleased by something far more subtle: seeing members embrace and exemplify the cooperative spirit.

“When people come to the annual meeting, they feel like they own something worth having. That’s the platform for everything else. People are vested in what’s going on. They’re part of something they’re proud of, and they want to participate,” he said.

Not surprisingly, when asked what he’ll miss most about serving on the board, Libbra said it will be the members. “I loved the annual meetings. Just seeing all the people. I’ll still get to go, and still see them, but it won’t be quite the same,” he said.

“I always enjoyed the board meetings. And I’ll miss the employees—I liked working with the people there. We’ve had some really good people, and that makes a difference.”

Reflecting on his time as a director, he references his address at the 2018 annual meeting. “My parents instilled in us that whatever happiness and success you have, large or small, a lot of it comes from other people—your family, your close friends, your community. You’re not out there succeeding on your own. And you need to give something back.

“Being on the board gave me the chance to do that for 36 years—to try to lend whatever small talents I had, and apply them to make things better for the people that helped me. The membership gave me an opportunity to give back,” Libbra said. “I’ll always be grateful for that.” **S**

“I am convinced that no cooperative can prosper without a well-informed, active membership as its core driving force.”

other that which we could not do alone, we would find a solution. You gave us the time, we did find the solution.

Fast forward 30 years. I am an old man, grandfather of two young children, obviously my hair isn’t black anymore, and I have learned a little about this business. The only thing that hasn’t changed is my love affair with the idea of a cooperative.

Still, this love isn’t blind. I have come to know that there is a flaw—not in the idea but in the execution. Putting this idea into action requires people, and that’s the rub. You, me, all of us are only people. By definition we are all fallible. We have lapses in judgement. We fail in our analysis. We make mistakes.

Because of our own fallibility, we cannot achieve the perfection of that idea in practice. But if all of us—an engaged membership, a committed board and outstanding employees—if all

of us maintain our commitment to the common good, if we believe we can help ourselves by helping each other, if we never quit trying to reach that ideal, we may never quite grab the brass ring—but we can come awfully close.

Growing up, my parents drilled into my head and my sister’s that a life well-lived carried two responsibilities. The first was to family—to provide for them, to support them, to protect them.

But they also taught us that whatever success and happiness we might achieve in life, large or small, was not by our efforts alone. A fair portion of that success and happiness was due to others—your friends, your neighbors, your community. And you owed them something of yourself—your time, your skills, your resources.

For 36 years you have allowed me to work at fulfilling that responsibility. You can never know how much that has

meant to me. I have offered my time, and as limited as they are, all the skills and abilities I possess, on your behalf. In return you have given me your support, your trust and your friendship. You have overlooked my shortcomings. You have forgiven me my mistakes. If I stayed and worked for another 36 years I could never repay you.

The only sadness I felt in preparing these remarks was knowing that this would be the last time I’d get to talk to you from this platform in this venue. And I really wanted to say something profound. Something you might remember. But I’m neither a skilled enough wordsmith nor a gifted enough orator to do profound. I’m just an old farm boy from Alhambra. So if you remember anything I’ve ever said to you, please remember these words from me to you: thank you, thank you, thank you. Good luck, God bless, goodbye.

MEMBERS IN FOCUS



Photos allow us to capture and recall a moment. In pictures, we relive a laugh, a smile, a winter snow or summer sun.

Members In Focus is your invitation to share those saved moments with members of Southwestern Electric.

In these pages, you can open our eyes to the people and places that mean the most to you. This is your opportunity to introduce *Southwestern* readers to everything that makes your corner of the world an exceptional place to live, work and play.

Send us your shots of life in Southwestern Illinois. We'll publish some of our favorite photos from time to time in our Members In Focus section. Your subject needn't be on Southwestern's lines. If you've taken a great photo, and you shot it on the Highland town square instead of the Brownstown back forty, send it. We'd love to see it.

Submission Guidelines

Please include your name, address, phone number or e-mail address, and a brief description of the photo. We'd like to know when and where it was taken, what we're seeing, and the names of any people in your shot. Digital images must be taken in high-resolution JPG or TIF format (300 DPI or greater)—and make sure the date/time stamp is turned off before you shoot.

Digital images may be sent as e-mail attachments or on a CD. Prints are also welcome. Send photos by e-mail to joe.richardson@sweci.com or by mail to *The Southwestern*, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. If you're sending prints, please make sure they're copies you don't mind parting with, as we won't be returning them. Southwestern Electric Cooperative interprets all submissions as unconditional permission to use the photos provided. We also reserve the right to not use photos. Finally, if you're submitting a shot, it needs to be *your* photo—shot by you. Questions? Contact Joe Richardson at joe.richardson@sweci.com or Mike Barns at mike.barns@sweci.com, or call (800) 637-8667.



Joan Baker of Meadowbrook sent us this stunning photo of a Great Egret preparing to land at Horseshoe Lake.



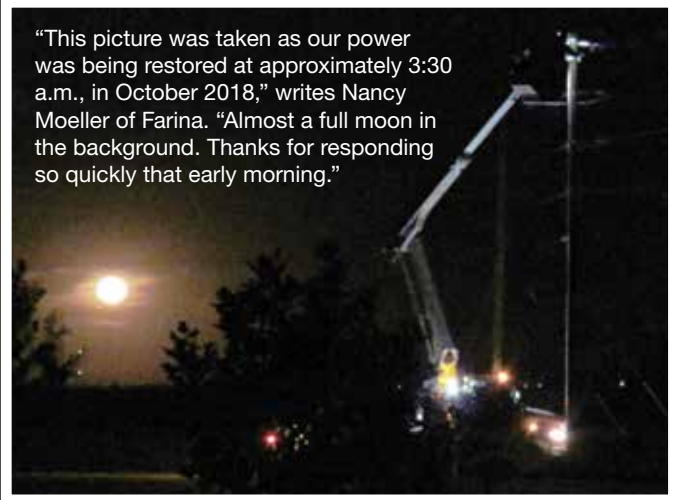
Denise Medford sent us a beautiful set of images she made at her Glen Carbon home. "This mockingbird showed up and declared these feeders his. He even chases off the red-bellied woodpeckers and blue jays," she writes. "He's funny to watch."



Sarah Mulholland of Greenville sent us this shot last summer. "My daughter Regina is 5'7", so we estimate the Great Russian sunflower she grew on our property is well over 12 feet tall," she writes.



Leisa Nesbit, wife of Southwestern lineman Rob Nesbit, broke out her Nikon and braved the cold to shoot a collection of stunning bluebird photos at their St. Jacob home in February.



"This picture was taken as our power was being restored at approximately 3:30 a.m., in October 2018," writes Nancy Moeller of Farina. "Almost a full moon in the background. Thanks for responding so quickly that early morning."



Denny Willman of Greenville sent us this photo, along with an inspired narrative. He writes:

"This old barn was built in 1927, I'm told. My father was 17 years old and helped his father, my grandfather, build it. This farm has been in the Willman family since 1872. The farmstead is presently owned by Steve and Karen Smith. Karen is the daughter of Hollie Willman, who is the son of Milton Willman, who is the grandson of Mathias Willman. Mathias purchased the farm from a lady who homesteaded it some years earlier.

"I took this picture last year, early summer. As I stood there in that loft I could feel the presence of my father and grandfather, though I never knew my grandfather because he passed before I was born. The light shining through those windows was as if God was giving me yet another of his blessings. Truly an inspirational moment. I just thought I'd share this as it is a piece of Bond County history."



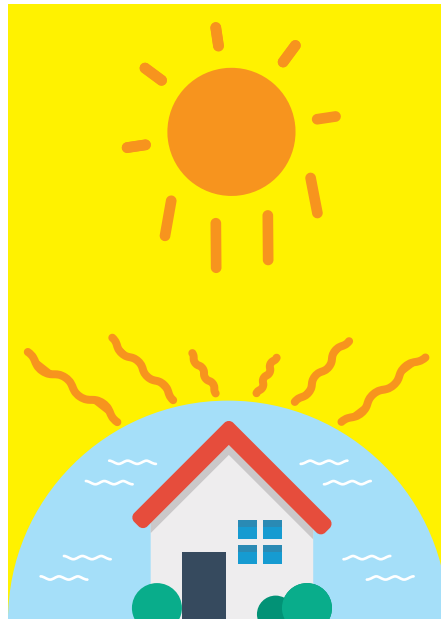
Summer Savings

by Julie Lowe, Energy Manager

It's almost summertime! The days will be long and hot and filled with sunshine. As much as we may be looking forward to those bright days, most of us are not looking forward to the increase in our electric bills due to cooling costs. It is hard to keep cool when the temperature is on the rise, but don't sweat it! With our energy efficiency tips, you can reduce your usage and keep that bill manageable this summer.

Here are 10 tips to reduce energy consumption and maintain a comfortable temperature in your home.

- 1) **Schedule regular maintenance for your cooling equipment.**
Have a trained technician check your system each year before the cooling season begins to ensure it is in good working condition. Also be sure to clean or replace filters monthly for efficient operation.
- 2) **Set your thermostat as high as is comfortable.**
Use a smart thermostat to adjust the settings automatically so the temperature is higher when you are away from home. Program it to decrease the temperature just a few hours before you are due to get home.

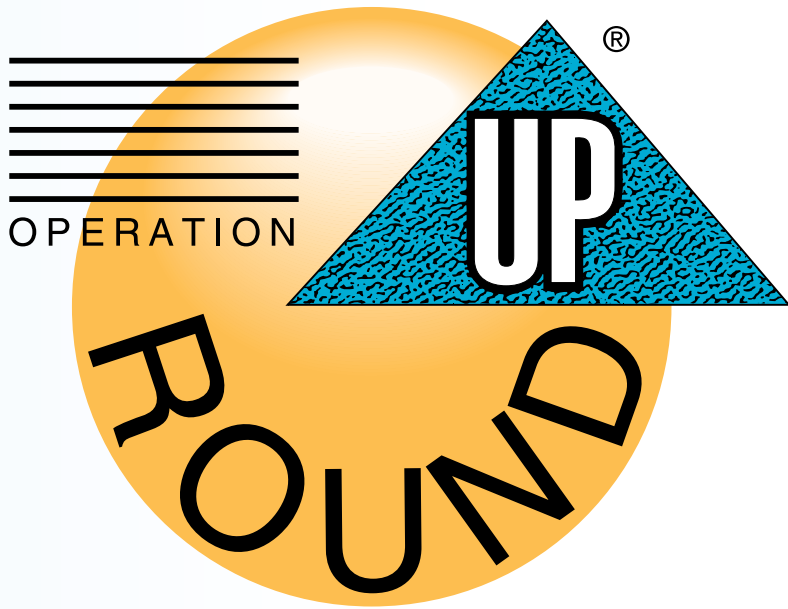


- 3) **Keep blinds and curtains closed during the day.**
Open your windows and turn off the A/C (if practical) during cooler evening hours.
- 4) **Use ceiling fans to increase cooling efficiency.**
Be sure to turn fans off when you leave the room. Remember, fans cool people — not rooms. When you shower, use your bathroom's fan to vent heat and humidity from your home.
- 5) **Minimize indoor heat in the afternoon.**
Run the dryer and dishwasher at night on hot days and let dishes air dry. Instead of using your oven on hot afternoons and evenings, choose dishes you can cook in your microwave.

- 6) **Install efficient lighting that runs cooler, such as LEDs.**
Only about 10 percent of the energy that incandescent bulbs consume results in light—the rest is turned into heat! LEDs are energy efficient and long lasting. When you buy bulbs, look for the ENERGY STAR label. It will help you make informed, energy-efficient purchases.
- 7) **Lower your water heating costs.**
Water heating can account for up to 20 percent of the total energy expense for many households. Lower your water heater's energy usage by wrapping your water heater in a water heater blanket, setting your water heater to 120 degrees, and washing your clothing in cold water whenever possible.
- 8) **Seal air leaks.**
Seal around interior doors and baseboards with caulking and install weather-stripping around exterior doors and windows.
- 9) **Consider adding insulation.**
If it is hot outside, chances are it's even hotter in your attic. Be sure your attic floor is well insulated to prevent hot air from heating your home. Also, your attic should be ventilated to expel the heat. Attic ventilation can come from soffit and gable vents, ridge vents, attic fans, roof fans, or any combination of these.
- 10) **If you have a pool, consider upgrading to a variable speed pool pump.**
Install a timer to control the pump's cycling. Be sure to keep intake grates clear of debris.

On Account: If your account number is 42788001, call us within 30 days to receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill.

Your Spare Change Can Make a **Big Difference** Through Operation Round Up



Neighbors helping neighbors. That's what a co-op is about. And that's the idea behind Operation Round Up (ORU), a charitable program governed, funded and supported by Southwestern Electric Cooperative members like you.

Here's how it works: After you sign up for ORU, Southwestern will round up the amount due on your monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. Your donations are placed in the ORU account. Each quarter, an independent committee of Southwestern Electric members reviews ORU grant requests. ORU grants support various community projects across the co-op's service territory.

Since launching the program in 2005, **Southwestern Electric's Operation Round Up has assisted a wide variety of organizations**, including local food pantries, senior centers and fire departments.

Ready to get started? To join ORU today, just check the enrollment box on your electric bill or online, contact Southwestern Electric Cooperative at (800) 637-8667, or fill out the form below and return it with your bill payment. For more information about Operation Round Up, visit sweci.com.



When you sign up for Operation Round Up, Southwestern Electric will round up the amount due on your monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. Your donations stock food pantries, fund youth activities, provide lifesaving equipment for first-responders, and support veterans programs and many other community causes and local projects.

- **Donations average \$6 annually per account.**
- **Over \$139,000 donated since 2005.**
- **All donations stay local.**

To enroll in Operation Round Up, complete this form and return it with your bill payment.

PRINT YOUR NAME _____

SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

For more information about Operation Round Up visit www.sweci.com





Safe At Home

May is electrical safety month. Now's the time to evaluate your home's electrical system and eliminate hazards. Being aware of common electrical issues is a critical step toward preventing electrical fires, burns and electrocution. The balance of accident prevention requires follow-through.

You're probably comfortable making simple repairs yourself. More complex projects require the attention of a professional. If you're questioning whether you should tackle a task or hire help, better to error on the side of caution, and find a qualified electrician to do the work. Here are three areas to assess this month.

POWER TRIPS

Power strips and surge suppressors allow us to run more appliances from a single outlet. The same circuit serves other outlets and fixtures in addition to the items you've plugged into the strip. Keep these tips in mind when you're using power strips and surge suppressors.

- Don't overload the circuit. Know the capacity of the circuit, the power requirements of the electrical items plugged into the power strip, and the demands of other outlets and fixtures on the circuit.
- A heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Hire a qualified electrician to install additional outlets.
- Surge suppressors can manage small surges and spikes sometimes generated by turning appliances on and off. They may (or may not) protect against a large surge generated from an outside

source like lightning. If the diagnostic indicator on your surge suppressor is off, showing a fault, or an alarm is buzzing, you should replace your surge suppressor.

- Not all power strips are surge suppressors, and not all surge suppressors can handle the same load or surge events. Be sure the equipment you buy meets your needs.

WINDOWS TO WIRING

Your outlets, or receptacles, may be the most commonly used and least considered devices in your home. Outlets are essentially windows to wires buried in your home. Keep an eye on those windows and look for these signs of trouble.

- Regularly check your outlets for over-heating, loose connections, reversed polarity and corrosion. Consider having an electrical inspection performed by a qualified, licensed electrician to determine the integrity of your outlets and your entire electrical system.
- Check for outlets that have loose-fitting plugs, which can overheat and lead to arcing and fire. Remove plugs and have the outlet inspected and repaired. Plugs should fit fully and securely into your outlets, but shouldn't be forced.
- Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances. Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into an outlet.
- Teach your children not to play with wall outlets and electrical cords. If you have small children, invest in tamper-resistant receptacles (see next page).
- Check for hot or discolored outlet wall plates. Warm to the touch is okay. Hot

isn't. If an outlet or switch wall plate is hot to the touch or discolored by heat, immediately shut off the circuit and have it checked.

- Replace missing or broken wall plates.

FAULT LINES

Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) detect dangerous arc faults (a place in the circuit where electricity jumps a gap) and shut off the circuit they protect. Circuit breakers and fuses, which respond to short circuits and overloads, don't detect low-energy arcs. These arcs can start fires and threaten life when flammable materials such as cloth, paper and wood are present. Arc faults often occur behind walls at connections in the electrical system or where a nail has nicked an electrical wire. Hidden electrical fires can spread rapidly and remain undetected by smoke alarms, reducing your family's chances for survival. Arcing is a leading cause of electrical fires in homes, especially those with wiring more than 30 years old.

Similar to AFCIs, ground fault circuit interrupters respond to shorts or ground faults. A ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI or GFI) is an inexpensive electrical device that can be installed in your electrical system or built into a power cord. GFCIs immediately shut off a circuit when they sense a ground fault, or "leak" of current. Safety codes require new construction and major home renovation projects to include GFCI protection for receptacles in areas where water is present, including bathrooms, kitchens, garages, crawl spaces, laundry areas, and outdoors.

Remember to test GFCIs monthly and after every major electrical storm.

SAFETY FROM THE INSIDE: TAMPER RESISTANT RECEPTACLES (TRRs)

Each year approximately **2,400 children** were treated from shock and burns after sticking items into the slots of electrical receptacles. To prevent these types of injuries the **National Electrical Code (NEC)** now requires **Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRRs)** in new and renovated homes.

OUTLET COVERS are OUT



Studies have shown that **children over the age of 2** can easily remove receptacle covers.



TRRs require **no additional parts**, there's no need to remember to put them in.



Tamper resistant receptacle covers are **no longer approved** by independent testing laboratories.



Receptacle covers carry a higher risk of **overheating** and can be a **fire hazard**.

Certified by Independent Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories.

Built in shutters **prevent foreign objects** from being inserted into receptacle.

Permanent solution to receptacle covers.

Installing a **TRR** in your home costs only slightly more than a **traditional receptacle** does.

Complies with the most recent version of the **National Electrical Code (NEC)**.

TRRs are available with **GFCI** and **AFCI** protection.

Regular receptacles can easily be replaced by TRRs by a **qualified electrician** with no additional modifications.

DOES PLUGGING INTO A TRR FEEL DIFFERENT?

The shutters in a **TRR will operate like a traditional receptacle** to open and accept a plug when equal pressure is applied on both sides. Make sure the **plug's blades are straight and are equal lengths**, so they hit the shutter simultaneously.

These **common blade issues** can easily be corrected by straightening out the plug's blades:

BENT BLADE

SPLAYED BLADES

SHARP EDGES
Replace plugs with sharp edges.



www.facebook.com/ESFI.org



www.twitter.com/ESFI.org



www.youtube.com/user/ESFI.org



A RURAL PLACE OF

Of the million people who visit Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery to pay their respects to our nation's 16th president, few know that were it not for Mary Todd Lincoln, they'd be making a trek to the city's center.

Within hours of Abraham Lincoln's death, a group of Springfield residents formed the National Lincoln Monument Association. They immediately set to work collecting funds to build a tomb near the center of the city.

In the weeks following President Lincoln's assassination, his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, remained at the White House. When she received word of the proposed location of her husband's gravesite, she protested, saying the president had wanted a quiet, rural resting place.

Members of the Association acquiesced, adopting a plan to place a Lincoln monument at the city's center instead. The president's wife again protested, saying the monument should stand over her husband's grave. She threatened to have his remains interred in Chicago or Washington, D.C., if residents of Springfield failed to heed her wishes.

And so it came to pass that Lincoln's tomb and monument were constructed on quiet acres away from downtown. Today, Oak Ridge Cemetery's Lincoln Tomb is the final resting place of Abraham Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln, and sons, Edward, William, and Thomas. The eldest son, Robert Todd Lincoln, is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Bronze tablets on the walls are engraved with Lincoln's Farewell Address, the Gettysburg Address, an excerpt of



F REST

Lincoln's second inaugural address, and a biographical sketch.

The tomb shelters a 7-ton block of marble inscribed with Lincoln's name. The cenotaph marks the location of the burial vault 10 feet below.

In 1960, the Lincoln Tomb became one of our nation's first National Historic Landmarks. In 1966, it was one of the first sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Gate hours at Oak Ridge Cemetery are 7 a.m.-8 p.m., April 1-Aug. 31, and 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sept 1.-March 31. The Lincoln Tomb is open daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The tomb's interior isn't accessible to persons with disabilities. The exterior upper deck is no longer open to public access.



GETTING THERE

To visit Oak Ridge Cemetery, follow IL-127 North to I-55 North. Follow I-55 to Springfield. As you near the city, keep left at the fork to continue on I-55BL N/I-55 BUS N. Follow signs for I-55 N/6th St/Interstate 72 W/Jacksonville. Follow S 6th St to North Grand. Turn left onto N Grand Ave E. Follow North Grand Avenue E to Monument Ave. Turn right onto Monument Ave. Oak Ridge Cemetery is located at 1441 Monument Ave., Springfield, IL 62702. Like many older cities, Springfield sees a lot of construction. We recommend consulting your favorite navigational app before setting out for Oak Ridge Cemetery.

WHO



WHAT



WHERE



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 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*.

Leave it to readers in an agricultural area to identify a farm artifact. Where our March puzzle stumped nearly all of you, this month's challenge drew dozens of responses the moment it landed in your mailboxes.

Thanks again to Bill Malec of O'Fallon for providing this month's puzzle photo. Bill found our mystery item on Davis Island, about 20 miles southwest of Vicksburg, Miss. He shared the photo hoping one of you might identify the item and tell us a bit about its use and origins. And tell us you did!



Thanks to everyone who participated in last month's challenge. We hope you'll give this month's puzzle a go. Our clues should lead you in the right direction. Meanwhile, here are some of your responses to last month's mystery shot.

April's picture of "What Am I?" is a plow coulter assembly. It is used to slice a furrow wall in the soil just ahead of the moldboard that turns over the soil. This same concept is still used by today's farm machinery

—John L. Sedlacek, Saint Jacob

The "What Am I?" object on page 21 in the April *Southwestern* is a rolling cutter. It comes before the moldboard on a plow, to cut up "trash," weeds, stalks, etc., in the fields.

—Albert & Linda Durbin, Brownstown

I think the "What Am I?" picture in the April edition of *The Southwestern* magazine is a rolling cutter for a plow. The cutter would cut the sod so the moldboard could turn it over.

—James Elam, Brownstown

I'm contacting you about the "What Am I?" item in the April issue of *The Southwestern*. The item is a stalk chopper, an early form of a modern-day Bush Hog. Farmers used it after corn harvest to mulch up the stalks so they would break down faster over the winter and make spring tillage easier. I am too young to have actually operated one, but I saw one used at an antique farm show. Made for a long dusty day one row at a time.

—Mark Brase, Hamel

It is a coulter that is used on a horse drawn plow and it cuts the soil before the plow gets there.

—Roy and Joann Harris, Collinsville

The picture in this month's edition is what we called a rolling cutter. It was used on a moldboard plow to open the furrow a little so the plow would make a clean sharp furrow. I have seen them used on walking plows and sulky plows. I think later they called them a "coulter" or something like that.

—Norm Baggett, New Boston

This is a rolling cutter from a plow. The sod has to be cut so the plough (historic spelling) bottom can turn the sod over.

—Corey Rabe, Vandalia

The "What Am I?" object pictured in the April 2019 issue challenge is a coulter disk assembly and part of a larger plow assembly, probably containing more than one such coulter disk assembly. This assembly consists of the disk, a bearing shaft, a mounting fork, and a mounting slide shaft which enables the operator to adjust the depth of cut. The disk is used to cut through roots and vegetation of prior year's crops. Each disk is followed by a plow needed to turn the soil and prepare for another year of crops. The plow assembly would then be pulled by a team of horses or a tractor.

It's a nice photo and thanks for another great challenge.

—Tim Bennett, Holiday Shores

My husband Ivan Zanetti wanted to guess on "What Am I?" in this month's issue of *The Southwestern*. He thinks it's an old cutting blade to an old trip plow. When he was young his dad had an old Allis WC with a 2-bottom trip plow... spent many years on the farm using it.

—Vickie and Ivan Zanetti, Alhambra

Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, LC-DIG-cwpbh-03888 (digital file from original neg.)

WHO AM I?

I moved to Alton in 1837.

I served as Illinois Secretary of State from 1841 to 1843.

I was elected to the Senate in 1855.

During the December 1871 congressional debate on the creation of Yellowstone National Park, I spoke in favor of the idea.

I wrote the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery.

After leaving the Senate in 1873, I practiced law in Chicago.

I ran an unsuccessful campaign for governor in 1880.

Explorer John Wesley Powell named an Arizona landmark after me.



CINCO DE MAYO



MEXICAN CORN BREAD



Ingredients

- 3 cups cornbread mix
- ½ cup jalapeño peppers chopped
- 1½ cups shredded cheese
- ½ cup salad oil
- 2½ cups milk
- 3 eggs beaten
- ¼ cup bacon bits
- 1 large onion diced
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup cream style corn
- 4 ounce jar of pimentos drained garlic to taste

Directions

1. Mix all ingredients together and pour into greased 9 x 13 inch baking dish.
2. Bake at 350° for 1 hour.
3. Cut into squares and serve.

SALSA



Ingredients

- ½ cup olive oil
- ½ cup vinegar
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 can corn drained
- 1 can black beans drained and rinsed
- 1½ cups salsa
- ½ cup green pepper chopped
- 2 tablespoons onion chopped
- 2-3 tomatoes diced or 28 ounce can diced tomatoes

Directions

1. Boil olive oil, sugar, and vinegar and let cool.
2. Add corn, black beans, salsa, green pepper, onion, and tomatoes.
3. Let set overnight in refrigerator.
4. Serve with tortilla chips or Frito Scoops.

This month's recipes are courtesy of Fayette County Museum 35th Anniversary Cookbook (fold over tortilla, Mexican corn bread, and tortilla bean casserole) and Greenville Regional Hospital Auxiliary's Home Town Favorites cookbook (salsa).

TORTILLA BEAN CASSEROLE



Ingredients

- 2 cups onion chopped
- 1½ cups green pepper chopped
- 1 14 ounce can tomatoes cut up (retain liquid)
- ¾ cup picante sauce
- 2 garlic cloves minced
- 1 15 ounce can red or black beans
- 12 6 inch tortillas
- 2 cups Monterey Jack cheese shredded

Directions

1. Combine onion, green pepper, undrained tomatoes, picante sauce, and garlic and simmer 10 minutes. Then mix in the beans.
2. In a baking dish layer the bean mixture, tortillas, and cheese 3 times.
3. Bake at 350° for 30 - 35 minutes.
4. Top with your favorite toppings.

FOLD OVER TORTILLA BAKE



Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 cup onion chopped
- 2 14½ ounce cans stewed tomatoes (Mexican diced or stewed preferred)
- 1 cup enchilada sauce
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 12 tortillas
- whipped cream cheese
- 1 4 ounce can green chilies
- 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese shredded

Directions

1. Brown ground beef and onion until the beef is brown and the onion is tender. Drain off grease if needed.
2. Stir in the tomatoes, enchilada sauce, and seasonings.
3. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer for 5 minutes.
4. Pour half of the mixture into a 9 x 13 inch baking dish.
5. Warm the tortillas according to package directions.
6. Spread cream cheese over warm tortillas, top with chilies, and fold in half.
7. Arrange the tortillas on top of the meat mixture and pour remaining meat mixture over the tortillas.
8. Cover with tin foil and bake at 350° for 15 minutes.
9. Uncover, sprinkle with cheese, and bake 5 - 10 minutes until cheese is melted.

LITTLE CHEDDAR MEAT LOAVES



Ingredients

- 1 egg
- ½ cup milk
- 1 cup shredded cheese (I use Velveeta shredded)
- ½ cup quick cooking oats
- 1 onion chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 pound lean ground beef

Topping Ingredients

- ⅔ cup ketchup
- ½ cup brown sugar packed
- 1½ teaspoons mustard

Recipe courtesy Barbara Morrison of Brownstown.

"This is one of my grandkids' favorites."

Directions

1. Beat together the egg and milk.
2. Stir in cheese, oats, onion, and salt. Add beef and mix well.
3. Shape into eight loaves, place in a greased 13 x 9 inch baking dish or pan.
4. Combine the ketchup, brown sugar, and mustard, and spoon over the loaves.
5. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.



Current Events

May 2 **SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON & QUILT SHOW**, Godfrey. A variety of salads, desserts, and drinks will be offered. Quilts will be displayed in the basement, the foyer, and in the pews throughout the sanctuary. There will also be a bake sale in the basement, raffle, and door prizes drawn every half-hour. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Admission is \$10. Recipes may be purchased for fifty cents each. Godfrey Congregational Church, 6104 Godfrey Road. Call (618) 377-9096.

May 2 - October 10 **FARMERS' MARKET**, Brighton. Handmade products, home-grown fruits and vegetables, plants, and flowers. Every Thursday 4 - 7 p.m. Schneider Park, 206 South Main Street. Call (618) 540-8738 or visit brightonil.com.

May 3 & 4; August 2 & 3; November 1 & 2 **BOOK FAIR**, Edwardsville. The book sale offers over 20,000 used books of all kinds including children's, current fiction, mysteries, history, literature, art, cookbooks, gardening, sports, philosophy, religion, biography and much more, including regional titles. Books are sorted by category and priced to sell. Also available for sale are CDs, DVDs and vinyl albums. Friday 5 - 8 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 406 Hillsboro Avenue. Call (618) 656-1294.

May 4 & 5 **ARTFULLY LOCAL STUDIO TOUR**, Alton. See what the artists of Alton have been up to when they open up their studio space and show off their works. Preview night will be hosted at Jacoby Arts Center. Art vendors will be on hand to sell their works. Other venues will be available, including Carriage House Studios and Dark Horse Studios. Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday noon - 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Jacoby Arts Center, 627 East Broadway. Call (618) 462-5222 or visit jacobyartscenter.org.

May 4 - August 4 **PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT**, Elsah. Amateur and professional photographers will display photographs of the Village of Elsah and the immediate area in every season, in an exhibit entitled "Joy and Discovery in Elsah." Exhibit opening April 6 from 1 - 4 p.m. Museum hours are Saturday and Sunday from 1 - 4 p.m. Admission is free. Village of Elsah Museum, 26 La Salle Street. Call (618) 374-1565 or visit escapetoelsah.com.

May 4 - November 2 **OLD TOWN MARKET**, Belleville. Catch the morning's pick of fresh produce grown by local farmers and peruse the booths of local artisans for one of a kind treasures. Open every Saturday 7:30 a.m. - noon. First block of South Charles between East Main and East Washington. Call (618) 233-2015 or visit bellevillemainstreet.net.

May 5 **MUSHROOM FESTIVAL**, Grafton. Listen to live music, browse vendors, grab lunch in the restaurant, taste local wines, and learn all there is to know about mushrooms. Join fellow mushroom hunters as they scan the ground for these delicious delicacies. Then bring your finds back to the lodge and you could win a great prize. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; hunt begins at 1 p.m. (weather and morel permitting). Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center, 13653 Lodge Blvd. Call (618) 786-2331 or visit pmlodge.net.

May 5 **POLKA DANCE**, Madison. Celebrating 102 years of family, friends, and community. Admission is \$2. Children 12 and younger are free. Music by Dave Hylla and the Good Times Band. Polish food and drinks

on sale (cash) including Golabki (cabbage rolls), Pierogi (filled dumplings), Paczki (donuts), Chrusciki (bow tie cookies), and Polish sausage sandwiches. 2 - 6 p.m. Polish Hall, 826 Greenwood Street. Visit folkfire.org/polka.

May 7, 14, 21, 28; June 4, 11, 18 **BIRD AND PHOTOGRAPHY WALKS**, West Alton. Join Audubon Center volunteer, Paul Moffett for a bird and photography hike. This is a great way to learn new skills and spend time with people who enjoy nature. The group will meet at the Audubon Center and then walk paved trails around the Riverlands, and go to one of the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary "hot spots," such as Heron Pond or Ellis Island. Some car caravanning may be required. Total walking distance will be 1 - 3 miles. Bring binoculars and/or camera, wear boots or heavy shoes, and dress for weather conditions. The group will have a record keeper and enter data in ebird at the end of the hike, contributing important data into a global network that helps monitor bird species population and trends. 7 - 9 a.m. Audubon Center at Riverlands, 301 Riverlands Way. Call (636) 899-0090 or visit riverlands.audubon.org.

May 10 **ALTON LITTLE THEATER: MAMA MIA**, Alton. A musical comedy by the Alton Little Theater Company. Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 - 9 p.m.; Sunday at 2 - 4 p.m. Adult \$25; youth \$12. Alton Little Theater, 2450 North Henry Street. For tickets, call (618) 462-3205 or visit altonlittletheater.org.

May 10 **LIGHT UP THE NIGHT GLOW RUN 5K**, Greenville. Proceeds to benefit the Fourthfest. 8 p.m. - 11 p.m. Bond County Courthouse, 200 West College Avenue. For more information, visit greenvilleilchamber.org.

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, or mail your info to *The Southwestern*, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. Please include a contact number with your listing.

May 10; June 7; July 12; August 9; September 6 **HWY 55 CAR CRUISE-INS**, Litchfield. Go back in time at this 50s throwback diner. Enjoy visiting with the other car cruisers, listen to some great 50s music, and eat some great food. 6 - 8 p.m. Hwy 55 Burgers Shakes & Fries, 1403 West Ferdon Street, Suite 21. For more information, call (217) 324-3455 or e-mail kdhw55@outlook.com.

May 11 **SPRING BABY SHOWER**, Dow. Come to see all of the babies we have admitted so far for the spring. Support the center by bringing an item on our wish list to help us care for these baby animals. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Admission is free. Treehouse Wildlife Center, 23956 Green Acres Road. Call (618) 466-2990. For the full wish list, visit treehousewildlife-center.com.

May 11 & 12 **POINT OF DEPARTURE**, Hartford. Commemorate the departure of the Lewis and Clark expedition from Camp River Dubois. View life in 1803-1804 as the men prepare for their departure and re-enactors portray military life. Craft exhibitors will be demonstrating early American skills,

woodworking, candle making, marching drills, cooking and shooting demonstrations. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free. Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, One Lewis & Clark Trail. Call (618) 251-5811 or visit campdubois.com.

May 11 & 12 SPRING FESTIVAL, Elsah. Live entertainment, exhibitions, walking tours, food and craft vendors, and the opportunity to explore this historic village will be on tap. Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Located on the Great River Road (Illinois Route 100) between Alton and Grafton. For more information, visit escapetoelsah.com/events.

May 11 - October 19 FARMERS' & ARTISANS' MARKET, Alton. There will be an

abundance of delicious fresh produce, crafts, baked goods, plants and flowers, locally-raised hormone-free meat, handmade soaps, jewelry, artwork, pottery, and art demonstrations. Every Saturday from 8 a.m. - noon; Wednesday market will run July 3 - September 25 from 4 - 7 p.m. Admission is free. Corner of Landmarks Blvd. (US Highway 67) and Henry Street. Visit altonmainstreet.org.

May 11 - October 19 LAND OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY MARKET, Edwardsville. Visitors can find fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables, farm fresh eggs, naturally raised meats, baked goods, pottery, jewelry, other fine arts, honey, soaps, seedlings, and cut flowers. Every Saturday 8 a.m. - noon. South of the Madison County Courthouse (corner of North Main and St. Louis Streets). For more information, call (618) 307-6045 or visit goshenmarket.org.

May 12; June 9; July 14 PICKER'S MARKET, Litchfield. This open air market specializes in items prior to 1980, including vintage, antique, collectible, and re-purposed items. Every second Sunday of the month through October. Entertainment and food available. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Beginning on the corner of Route 16 (Union Avenue) and State Street. For more information, visit litchfield.com.

May 17-19 ART ON THE SQUARE, Belleville. Featuring the original work of over 100 accomplished artists from around the world, fantastic musical and stage performances as well as delicious local food and drink. The festival will also feature children's art activities, exhibits from Southern Illinois high schools, live entertainment, a children's art garden, art demonstrations, food and wine. Friday 4 - 9 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is free. Call (800) 677-9255 or visit aronthesquare.com.

May 18 MOVIE IN THE PARK, Maryville. Come out to see *The Incredibles 2* (rated PG). 7 - 9 p.m. Admission is free. Schiber Court parking lot, #8 Schiber Court. Call (618) 772-8555 or visit vil.maryville.il.us.

May 18 & 19 ARMED FORCES CELEBRATION, Vandalia. Saturday will begin with a flag raising ceremony at 9 a.m. and a parade at 10 a.m. featuring several vintage military vehicles. There will be many military vehicles, weapons, and equipment on display outside and inside. Raffles and other events will take place both days. Saturday pulled pork lunch for purchase 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and fried chicken dinner 5 - 7 p.m. American Legion Post #95, 321 South 7th Street. For more information, call Lynn at (618) 292-9133.

May 18 & 19 BLUE CARPET CORRIDOR ROUTE 66 PASSPORT RUN, Litchfield. A unique section of Route 66 characterized not only by its Mother Road charm, but also its rich mining history and colorful mobster lore. This corridor stretches from Auburn to Collinsville along three historic alignments of the Mother Road. Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Obtain a passport and stamp at Niehaus Cycle Sales, 718 North Old Route 66. For more information, call (217) 324-8147 or visit bluecarpetcorridor.org.

May 19 FIREMEN'S CHICKEN DINNER, Worden. Help us celebrate our 60th year of this fundraiser. Buffet style dining with homemade desserts. Noon - 5 p.m. Adults \$10; children \$5; carry-outs will be \$10 each. The 60th dine in meal and 60th carry-out meal will be free. Firemen's Hall in Prairietown, 8451 Washington Street. Call (618) 888-2436.

May 19 KIDS' DAY, Collinsville. Hands-on activities, crafts, games and storytelling for kids of all ages. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Event is free. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, 30 Ramey

Street. Call (618) 346-5160 or visit cahokiamounds.org.

May 19 STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL, St. Jacob. Celebrate spring's bountiful harvest of strawberries with strawberry desserts, food, drinks, live music, children's activities, crafters, and the Berry Bike Ride. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission is free. Township Park, 239 Main Street. To register for the Berry Bike Ride, visit trailnet.org. For more information, visit stjacobil.com

May 24 CONCERT IN THE PARK, Maryville. Tres Tequilas Acoustic Band will perform. 7 - 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. Firemen's Park, 300 North Donk Avenue. Call (618) 772-8555 or visit vil.maryville.il.us.

May 25 UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SHUTTLE TOUR, Alton. Alton's riverfront location along the Mighty Mississippi played a vital role in helping slaves make connections to the freedom of the northern U.S. Buried beneath the streets of Alton and Godfrey, remnants of this period in history still exist. Learn about local Underground Railroad sites on a shuttle tour with J.E. Robinson Tours. The two-hour tours will stop at some of the sites that were part of the Underground Railroad system including Rocky Fork Church and Enos Apartments. Morning tour 10 a.m. - noon; afternoon tour 1 - 3 p.m. Admission is \$25. Alton Visitor Center, 200 Piassa Street. For more information, call the Great Rivers and Routes Visitors Bureau at (800) 258-6645.

May 25 & 26 RIVERSIDE FLEA MARKET, Grafton. More than 50 dealers with all types of goods, antiques glassware, tools, candles, furniture and good old-fashioned junk. Fourth weekend of every month from April through October. Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Loading Dock, 401 Front Street. For more information, call (800) 258-6645 or visit graftonloadingdock.com.

COUNTY FAIRS

June 19-23 MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR, Butler. For more information, visit montgomeryfair.org.

June 25-29 MACOUPIN COUNTY FAIR, Carlinville. Call (217) 854-9422 or visit macoupincountyfair.org.

July 6-12 FAYETTE COUNTY FAIR, Brownstown. Call (618) 427-5285 or visit fayettecofair.org.

July 14-20 CLINTON COUNTY FAIR, Carlyle. Call (618) 594-4169 or visit clintoncofair.org.

July 21-24 SHELBY COUNTY 4-H & JUNIOR FAIR, Shelbyville. Call (217) 412-9378.



May 26 - September 29
CARILLON CONCERTS, Alton. Listen to the melodic songs of the bells ringing forth from the Carillon Tower in the Nan Elliot Rose Garden. Every Sunday during the summer, you can walk the trails through the garden or spread out a blanket to listen as a talented local musician plays the bells for all to hear. 5 - 5:30 p.m. Concerts are free and last approximately 30 minutes. Gordon F. Moore Community Park, 4550 College Avenue (Illinois Rt. 140). Call (618) 465-6676.

May 28 GREATER ALTON CONCERT ASSOCIATION: THE MALPASS BROTHERS, Godfrey. Count on classic, real country, new Malpass tunes, and old-time gospels. This is authentic, down-home country. 7:30 p.m. Adults \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door; Students with I.D. \$10. Lewis & Clark Community College, Ann Whitney Olin Theatre, Hatheway Cultural Center, 5800 Godfrey Road. For more information, (618) 468-4222 or visit greateraltonconcertassociation.org.

June 1 CHEESEFEST, Greenville. A family friendly event with games, cooking with cheese demonstrations (at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.), cheese Olympics, and free samples of our cheese. Lunch will be available for purchase and will include grilled bratwursts, hot dogs, and fried cheese curds. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Marcoot Jersey Creamery, 526 Dudleyville Road. Call (618) 664-1110 or visit marcootjerseycreamery.com.

June 1 POLKA DANCE, Swansea. The St. Louis Metro Polka Club is having a special 35th Anniversary Dance. Steve Meisner, a popular and award winning band from Wisconsin will be the featured entertainment. Food and beverages will be available for purchase plus door prizes and 50/50 raffle. Doors open at 1 p.m.; dance 2 - 6 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Swansea Moose Lodge

No. 1221, 2425 North Illinois Street. For more information or advance tickets, call Shirley at (618) 523-4364.

June 1 STRAWBERRY WINE FESTIVAL, St. James. We will feature wine tasting, beer garden, sangria bar, vendors, and live music. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Spectator only at the door \$5; online tasting admission \$10 through April 30; tasting admission after April 30 and at the door \$12; children age 12 and younger are free. Summer Breeze Barn Venue, 1499 North 2170 Street. 4½ miles south of St. Elmo (watch for signs). Call (618) 322-6330 or visit summerbreezewinehouse.com.

June 1, 2, 9, 16, 30; August 4, 11; September 15 CENTRALIA CARILLON SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, Centralia. Sit on the brick wall, bring your lawn chair, or spread a blanket and enjoy the park setting while listening to the concert. A free climb of the tower will be available after every artist concert. Concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and last approximately 1 hour. Call (618) 533-4381 or visit centralia-carillon.org.

June 2 BARK IN THE PARK, Godfrey. Bring your pooch to the park for food, games, prizes, rides, vendors, and contests to bring awareness to the wonderful work that the Alton Area Animal Aid Association (5As) provides for the community. All ages (and breeds) welcome. Noon - 4 p.m. Admission is free. Robert E. Glazebrook Community Park, 1401 Stamper Lane. For more information, call (618) 466-3702 or visit godfreyil.org.

June 2 CHICKEN DINNER, Grantfork. Chicken dinner served buffet style with dressing and homemade pie. Quilt raffle and country store. Carry-outs available. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Adults \$11; children kindergarten through 10 years of age \$5. Saint Gertrude's Church, 202 North Locust Street. Call (618) 675-3384.

June 2 FISHING DERBY, Collinsville. Child must be 5 years of age to 8th grade student. Fishing award age groups 5-7, 8-10, 11-12, and 13-14. Child should provide his/her own fishing gear and bait, and do most of the fishing if possible. Prizes and awards to follow weigh-in plus hot dogs and soda. Registration 8 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.; fishing 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.; weigh-in 11:10 a.m. Rain-out date is Sunday June 3 starting 10 a.m. Woodland Park, Route 159 & Pine Lake Road. Call (618) 346-0114.

June 6 - July 25 LIVE IN LIBRARY PARK, Litchfield. A free weekly concert every Thursday from 6 - 8 p.m. in Library Park. Bring your lawn chairs, picnic blanket, and a whatever else you may need to have a relaxing summer night listening to some great tunes. Admission is free. 400 North State Street. Call (217) 324-8147 or visit visitolitchfield.com.

June 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30; July 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28; MUNY BAND CONCERTS, Alton. Summer concerts performed by the Alton Municipal Band. Enjoy concert band music, which includes marches, concert pieces, popular tunes, and novelty numbers. Thursday concerts in Riverview Park, Riverview Drive at Bluff Street from 8 - 9 p.m. Sunday concerts in Haskell Park, 1200 Block Of Henry Street from 7 - 8 p.m. Family friendly concerts are free and open to the public. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. For more information, call (618) 465-6676.

June 7-8 DAIRY DAYS, Greenville. Celebrate the thriving local dairy industry with square dancing on the square, live demonstrations, family activities, vendors, milking contests, homemade ice cream contest, and old time carnival games. Downtown on the square. Call (618) 664-1644.

June 7-8 INTERNATIONAL HORSERADISH FESTIVAL, Collinsville. Summer festival featuring entertainment, food,

and fun. Activities will include a recipe contest, washer and bag tournaments, root toss, root sacking, bloody Mary contest, live music, and a beauty pageant. Friday 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission is free. Uptown at 101 West Main Street. Call (618) 344-2884 or visit international-horseradishfestival.com.

June 8 MOVIE IN THE PARK, Maryville. Come out to see *Mary Poppins 1964* (rated PG). 7 - 9 p.m. Admission is free. Schiber Court parking lot, #8 Schiber Court. Call (618) 772-8555 or visit vil.maryville.il.us.

June 8 ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL, Edwardsville. Event will include classic cars, live music, great food, classic car cruise, local talent show, local artists, children's activities, and trolley rides. Friday 5 p.m. - midnight; Saturday 8 a.m. - midnight. Admission is free. City Park, 101 South Buchanan Street. For more information, call (618) 692-7538 or visit edwardsvil-leroute66.com.

June 8 TRAIN SHOW, Greenville. Operating toy and model railroad displays. Vendors selling toy trains, books, videos, and memorabilia. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is \$5; children under 12 years of age are free. American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue. Call (618) 664-9733 or visit americanfarmheritagemuseum.org.

June 8 TWO RIVERS FAMILY FISHING FAIR, Grafton. The event will include fishing and water-safety seminars as well as educational activities and prizes. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free. Pere Marquette State Park, 13112 Visitor Center Lane. Call (618) 786-3323.

Lincoln's nose is polished to a shine by visitors rubbing it for luck. The bronze stands outside Lincoln's tomb, in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Ill.



THE FINAL FRAM



 **Southwestern**
Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

