

# THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2020 • VOLUME 72 • ISSUE 10

## Thank You Notes

POWER FOR PROGRESS  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS  
SHARE WORDS OF  
GRATITUDE

MEMBERS  
ELECTED TO  
CO-OP BOARD

OPERATIONS  
UPDATE

FROM THE CEO

AG SAFETY

ENERGY  
CONSCIOUS  
COOKIN'

## POWER UP

OWN AN EV? CHARGE  
IT FOR FREE IN TROY

POWER FOR  
*Progress*

2020

**Southwestern**  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
*Your "You Got an Energy" Cooperative*

SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM

**RECIPIENT**

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**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!



## Southwestern Scholars

Isabelle Marsala and Faith Liljegren pause for a photo during Southwestern Electric's 2020 scholarship celebration. On May 30, co-op directors and employees caravanned across four counties to congratulate Power for Progress scholarship recipients. See our stories on pages 3 and 8.

## CO-OP REMINDERS

### Payment Processing Systems Unavailable During October 16-18 Maintenance

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's payment processing systems will be unavailable from 10 p.m., Friday, Oct. 16, through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, while we perform system maintenance. No payments will be processed during this time. We will resume processing payments at 12 a.m., Monday, Oct. 19.



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# Thank You Notes

Difficult circumstances sometimes bear great gifts. They force us to rethink the way we address the world, adapt and overcome. Such was the case with our 2020 scholarship winner celebration. Southwestern Electric Cooperative has awarded scholarships to area students for 25 years. More recently, we've hosted a dinner at our office to meet the students, recognize their accomplishments, and record greetings we've aired at our annual meeting.

In March it became clear we wouldn't be hosting a banquet in May. So we shifted gears. Susan File, vice president of member services and coordinator for Southwestern's Power for Progress Scholarship Program, contacted our scholarship recipients. She asked if they were amenable to meeting us at their place, instead of ours, and they discussed times and dates.

Then she rounded up directors and employees for a congratulatory scholarship parade. On a Saturday in May, a line of vehicles led by a Southwestern Electric bucket truck caravanned through Madison, Bond, Fayette and Effingham counties, making 10 stops in all.

We hopped from home to home, sounding horns, shouting greetings, and planting scholarship signs. After the initial fanfare, we talked of the year that was and the days to come, all while keeping our distance.

This month we're sharing photos from the day, along with insights, experiences and messages of gratitude from our 2020 scholarship recipients, all in their own words. Our scholarship spotlight begins on page 8.

Difficult days can bear great gifts. Absent the year's strange social climate, we wouldn't have shared that time, on that day, with those students and their families. We'd have missed meeting people who, through excellence and intent, promise to make our world better, brighter, and more than what it is today. You'll find their thank you notes in the pages that follow. You're reading ours here.

Thank you for supporting a scholarship program that recognizes talent, energy, character and commitment.

And to our students, thank you for setting aside a day in May to spend some time with us. We don't know where the road will lead you, but we're better for having been a part of your journey.

Safe travels.

Joe Richardson, editor  
[joe.richardson@sweci.com](mailto:joe.richardson@sweci.com)

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Marvin Warner ..... Pocahontas  
Ted Willman ..... Greenville

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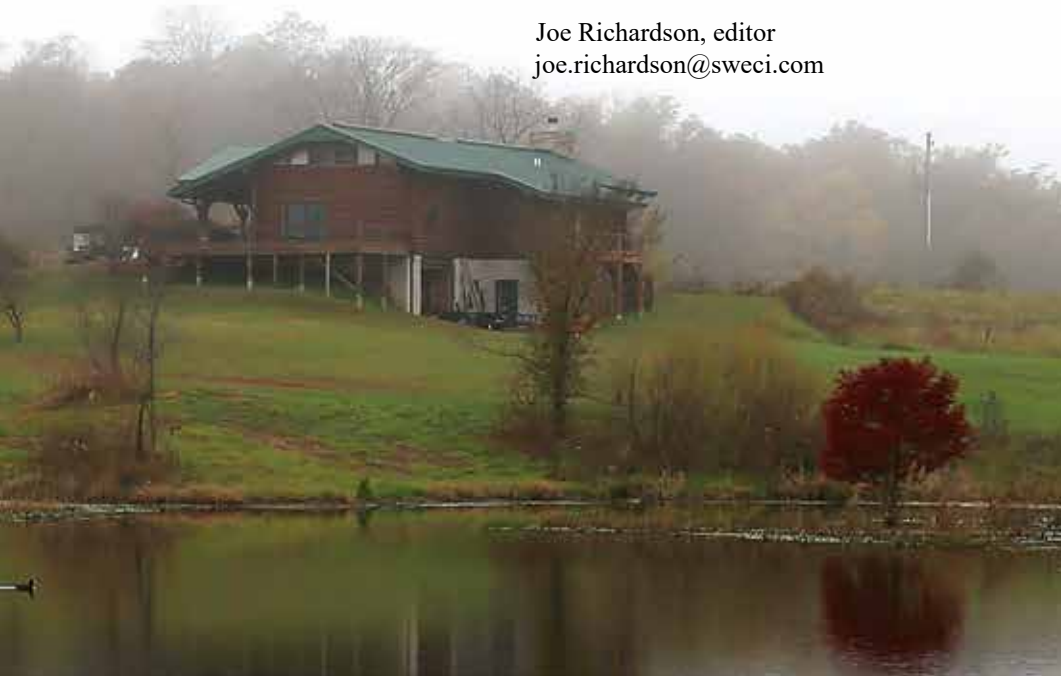
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## October Marks EV Pilot Program Launch

October marks the launch of Southwestern Electric Cooperative's EV Pilot Program—an initiative that will help the co-op develop EV-oriented incentive rates. Beginning October 1, Southwestern will give Level 2 ChargePoint home charging stations to the first 10 members who sign up to share their charging information with the cooperative. Some members may prefer a brand other than ChargePoint. The first 50 members who install new Level 2 chargers of any brand are eligible for a \$200 bill credit.

Southwestern will use data from the Pilot Program to identify demand and usage patterns, determine prime charging hours, and set incentive rates. Rates will be structured to reward EV owners, with margin enough to fund infrastructure improvements.

Until incentive rates are in place, EVs will charge at a member's existing electric rate. "For example, if you're on Southwestern's Residential Rate, your vehicle will charge on that rate until our EV rates are in place," explained Julie Lowe, EV program coordinator.



The co-op's immediate goal is to make electric vehicle ownership an attractive option, encouraging higher EV adoption rates among members. "More EVs mean more power sales," Lowe said. "We can use that revenue to fund more infrastructure improvements. Those improvements ensure reliability. So we can invest in the system while keeping our rates in check."

While EV charging boosts energy sales, it also places new demands on a utility's infrastructure and power supply. "We can provide power more economically and efficiently if members charge their cars at times of low demand on our system," Lowe explained. "So EV owners who charge during off-peak hours will see the greatest savings."

Incentive rate structures and prime charging hours will become clear next year, says Lowe, as

Southwestern reviews data from the EV Pilot Program.

For more information about the EV Pilot Program, contact Julie Lowe, program coordinator, at (800) 637-8667 or [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com).

### *Coronavirus Response*

## Southwestern Operations Update

As of early September, Southwestern Electric Cooperative continued to keep coronavirus mitigation measures in place. In July, Illinois Gov. J. B. Pritzker announced plans to curb a resurgence of COVID-19, with the state evaluating viral infection metrics by region.

In August, the percentage of residents testing positive for coronavirus infection prompted the state to issue more stringent safety measures for the MetroEast.

During Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 82nd Annual Meeting of Members, held Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Bond County Fairgrounds in Greenville, the co-op employed a number of safety measures to mitigate the potential for coronavirus transmission.

"We need to do our part to keep ourselves, our families, friends and coworkers, and our communities safe," Williams said. "That means following CDC guidelines, frequently washing or sanitizing your hands, observing social

distancing protocols, and wearing a mask when conditions call for it."

Southwestern continues to operate as it has in recent months, minimizing employee interactions within co-op facilities. To protect employees and members, Southwestern put processes in place to maintain social distancing, reduce the potential for COVID-19 transmission, and ensure business continuity.

"At present, our lobbies and drive-up windows will remain closed," Williams said. "Our employees will continue to answer your calls, respond to your questions, and repair outages quickly and safely, just as they always do."

Williams encouraged members to manage their accounts, report outages and make payments using the co-op's online payment portal, by using the SWEC IL app, or by calling the cooperative at (800) 637-8667.

For the latest information, go to [www.sweci.com](http://www.sweci.com).

## FROM THE CEO



**T**raditions are important. They remind us of where we've come from, ground us in the present, and act as milestones as we move forward. Many of our most treasured traditions rely on the presence of friends and family. One of my favorite traditions—our annual meeting of

members—relies on you.

Southwestern's annual meeting is the one time of year we get to meet collectively, as a cooperative, face to face. For me, meeting some of you for the first time, and catching up with those of you I've met before, is the best part of the meeting. You'll typically find me greeting you at registration, sharing a smile and a "good morning" while you're waiting in line for breakfast, or dropping by for a quick hello while you watch your kids win prizes at the carnival. More often than not, during the course of our conversation, you express your appreciation for the work we do on your behalf. I deeply appreciate that.

This spring, as COVID mitigation measures remained in place, I knew our tradition would have to change, and so would my interaction with you.

In the days leading up to this year's meeting, we provided opportunities for you to vote early. I recognized this as my best opportunity to spend some time with you. Our early voting process was designed to keep everyone safe. We practiced social distancing and wore masks, and you remained in your vehicles. I found myself, mask on, greeting you as you drove through our warehouses to participate in your cooperative's election.

On the first day of early voting, I arrived at our Greenville office to see members in line, waiting for the gates to open at 8 a.m. I watched as vehicle after vehicle passed through a warehouse bay that typically sheltered a bucket truck. The employees and I greeted each of you as we handed you a ballot. We closed the day having met 174 members who'd taken time to participate in the governance of their cooperative.

During the first evening we offered after-hours voting at St. Jacob, I expected the rainy weather to dampen your spirits—and our attendance. I was wrong. So many of you lined up to vote, we had to open the gates early. We pulled vehicles into the pole yard to keep traffic from backing up on Ellis Road all the way to Route 4. For the first hour and 15 minutes of the evening, we had four lines of vehicles, each about 20 vehicles deep.

That hour and 15 minutes was hectic. I helped to direct traffic, and I was happy to see how you responded. Even though some of you had to wait 30 minutes or more in line, most of you were very patient.

Some of you were compassionate. I hadn't anticipated directing traffic in the rain, so I had no means of protecting myself from the weather. However, I had four offers for an umbrella, one raincoat and one plastic bag! One of the linemen felt sorry for me and loaned me his raincoat. In the first hour alone, we registered over 200 members. We ended at 350 for the night.

The next evening found me directing traffic at our after-hours session in St. Elmo, where we registered 224 members, almost half of them in the first hour.

A month ago, I couldn't have guessed that we'd see record voter turnout in 2020. Your participation was remarkable. I also wouldn't have guessed I would get to enjoy my favorite part of the annual meeting—speaking with you. I may have been behind a mask, socially distanced, tired and rain-soaked, but I enjoyed every minute with you.

I've also enjoyed seeing our employees adapt to the changes, and seeing you adapt as well, with everyone learning and adjusting along the way. It makes me proud to be part of such a great organization and to serve you. Thank you for making our annual meeting part of your annual tradition. And thank you for making my annual meeting experience a tradition I look forward to every year—even this year—when circumstances called for a meeting that was far less traditional.

Bobby Williams, CEO

bobby.williams@sweci.com

# Three Co-op Members Elected to Southwestern's Board of Directors

**T**hree members of Southwestern Electric Cooperative were elected to the co-op's board of directors during Southwestern's 82nd Annual Meeting of Members, held Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Bond County Fairgrounds in Greenville, Ill. Southwestern members elected one director from each of the co-op's three voting districts.

From District I, Marvin Warner of Pocahontas defeated candidates Mark Gusewelle, Arthur W. "Bill" Schnur and Chris Burcham, all of Edwardsville. Warner received 846 votes, Gusewelle received 816 votes, Schnur received 235 votes, and 174 votes were cast for Burcham.

Sandy Nevinger of Greenville and Annette Hartlieb of Vandalia were elected by acclamation to represent Districts II and III respectively.

Each director will serve a three-year term on the board.

## Marvin Warner

Marvin Warner learned about the privileges and responsibilities of being a co-op member at an early age. He grew up on a farm in Shelby County, where his family was active in Shelby Electric Cooperative.

Warner has extensive experience working with a board focused on governance and policy development. He served as an educator in Highland Community Unit School District 5 (CUSD5) for 33 years. During the last 18 years of his career he was an administrator, serving as superintendent of schools during his final four years at Highland CUSD5.

After his retirement from Highland, Warner worked for the Regional Office of Education in Madison County, coordinating professional development for educators. He retired from the Regional Office of Education in December 2017 after 10 years of service.

Marvin Warner has been a Southwestern Electric member for 15 years. He lives northwest of Pocahontas with his wife, Teresa. They have two children and five grandchildren. Their son Brent and his family live near St. Augustine, Fla. Their son Chad and his family live in St. Louis.

## Sandy Nevinger

Sandy Nevinger spent more than 30 years as an employee of Southwestern Electric before running for the board in 2011. As the cooperative's director of member services and public relations, she acted as a liaison to the membership and brought member issues to the board and management team.

As an employee at Southwestern Electric, Nevinger oversaw bylaws and assisted with policies, procedures, rates and

incentive programs. Her position allowed her to work with local, state and federal legislators to address co-op concerns. In addition, she oversaw electrical safety initiatives, administered Operation Round Up, managed Southwestern's scholarship program, and coordinated Southwestern

Electric Cooperative's annual meeting of members. "My greatest gratification was addressing issues and helping our members with their concerns, being their advocate, and bringing value to our cooperative," she said. "My goal, and our goal as a board, is to improve the lives of those we serve."

A Southwestern member since 1977, Nevinger serves on Southwestern's Scholarship Committee and Cyber Security Committee, and chairs the Policy & Bylaws Committee.

Sandy and her husband, Mike, live northeast of Greenville.



## Annette Hartlieb

For Annette Hartlieb, being involved in Southwestern Electric Cooperative is a family tradition. Hartlieb, who grew up on a farm north of New Douglas, was raised on Southwestern Electric lines.

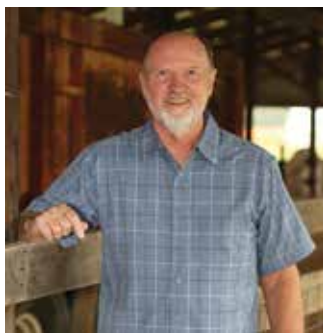
During her first term, Hartlieb pursued a rigorous itinerary of industry training through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), earning the association's Credentialed Cooperative Director certification in 2019. Her areas of focus included finance, government, ethics,

decision analysis and member-focused planning. Hartlieb also completed NRECA's Gettysburg Leadership Experience training, with an emphasis in strategic planning.

Hartlieb currently serves as the Assistant Regional Superintendent for the Regional Office of Education (ROE) #3, which serves Bond, Christian, Effingham, Fayette, and Montgomery counties. Prior to that she served as the division administrator for educational services at ROE #3.

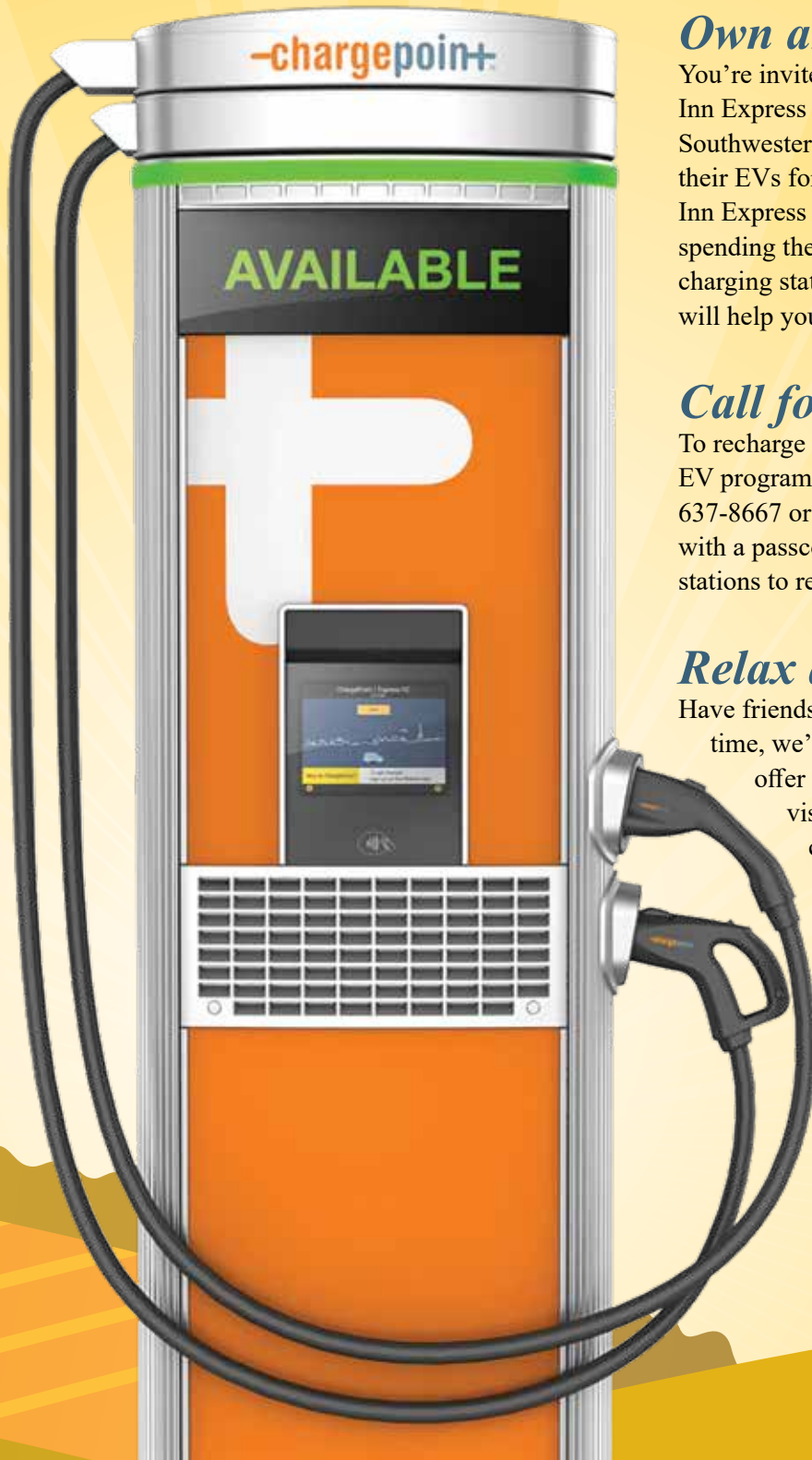
Hartlieb serves on Southwestern's Member & Community Engagement Committee and the Cyber Security Committee, and chairs the Business & Economic Development Committee. She also serves as secretary of the Executive Committee.

Annette Hartlieb and her husband, Dennis, live southwest of Vandalia with their children, Alexi, Bryce and Mason.





# Charge Your EV for Free!



## *Own an electric vehicle?*

You're invited to recharge *free of charge* at Holiday Inn Express Troy. From now through June 30, 2021, Southwestern Electric members are invited to charge their EVs for free at our charging stations at Holiday Inn Express Troy, near I-70 Exit 18. Whether you're spending the weekend or just passing through, our EV charging stations and Troy's restaurants, hotels and parks will help you recharge before you hit the road.

## *Call for a code*

To recharge your EV at no cost, call or email Julie Lowe, EV program coordinator, during office hours at (800) 637-8667 or [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com). She'll provide you with a passcode. You can enter the code at our charging stations to recharge your EV for free.

## *Relax and recharge in Troy*

Have friends or family who own EVs? For a limited time, we're extending the *recharge free of charge* offer to EV owners lodging in Troy. Remind your visitors to ask for a charging code when they check in to their hotel.

**Questions?** To request a code or learn more about our EV program, contact Julie Lowe, program coordinator, at (800) 637-8667 or [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com).

# THANK YOU NOTES

## SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC'S POWER FOR PROGRESS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SHARE LESSONS LEARNED AS THEY LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

In May, Southwestern directors and employees caravanned across the co-op's service area to congratulate our students on a job well done. This month we're sharing photos from the day, along with insights, experiences, and messages of gratitude expressed by our 2020 scholarship recipients in their own words.



Isabelle Marsala (center), and her grandparents, Sherry and Frank Marsala (left), welcome Southwestern Electric directors and employees to Collinsville. Isabelle was one of 10 students to receive a Southwestern scholarship in 2020. Also pictured are (from left), Southwestern CEO Bobby Williams; Jerry Gaffner, director; Susan File, vice president of member services and Power for Progress Scholarship Program coordinator; Bill Jennings, director; Carrie Knebel, vice president of human resources; Mike Willman, vice president of operations; and directors Sandy Grapperhaus and Rich Gusewelle.





John Hanratty

**Nicholas Hanratty,**  
Highland

**Parents:** Nancy and John Hanratty

**Graduate:** Highland High School

**Attending:** Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind.

**Area of Interest:** Engineering



### **In Service**

One of the most important things I have learned so far in life is **that it is greater to serve than to be served. Being able to help others and bring joy to their lives is an amazing thing.** Through Fellowship of Christian Athletes, student council, and National Honor Society, I have been able to do that. Through these clubs I've been able to volunteer with many organizations such as Special Olympics and His Kids. I fully believe that during college I will be able to continue volunteering and making positive impacts within my community.

### **Perseverance**

I believe my strongest character trait is my perseverance. It has helped me push myself in and out of the classroom. I have had the opportunity to be the captain of the track and cross-country teams for the past two years. This has given me the chance to help others push to better themselves as well.

### **Memorable Moment**

One standout moment of my high school career was qualifying for sectionals as a team in cross-country. Our team had not qualified since 2011 and it had been a dream of my friends and I to qualify since freshman year. It felt amazing to see all of our hard work pay off.

### **To The Class of 2024**

High school goes by fast. Savor all the moments.

## **THANK YOU**

*I would like to thank Southwestern Electric for awarding me this generous scholarship. This will help me pursue my dream of studying engineering at Purdue University.*



Excellence runs in the family: 2020 scholarship recipient Nick Hanratty (right) poses with his sister, Lacey, who won a Southwestern scholarship in 2018.

**"My parents have both greatly helped me get to where I am today. They have always been supportive of me and been there to offer advice or help when I need it."**

Continued on next page 



Rene Barr

**Nicole Knackstedt,**  
Alhambra

**Parents:** Karen & Allen  
Knackstedt

**Graduate:** Highland High  
School

**Attending:** Southeast  
Missouri State University,  
Cape Girardeau, Mo.

**Area of Interest:**  
Undecided

### **My Mom**

I would not be where I was today if it wasn't for my mom. She always pushes me to do my best and to work hard at everything I do.

### **To The Class of 2024**

It's ok if you don't know what to do, no one else knows either, so ask for help.

### **Community**

Although I am currently unsure of my future career choice, I know that whatever I end up studying will help me impact my community in a positive way. Today, I like to think that I have an effect on my community of Alhambra by working at its very own Hitz Memorial Home. I strive to make the residents happy, and I love getting to know them. **Meeting and helping local people is really gratifying because it feels great giving back to the community that has always been there for me.**

### **Giving & Gratitude**

I always try to make others smile. Sports and extracurricular activities are another way I think I influence others. I have met a lot of amazing friends throughout my many years of involvement, where I have also learned how important it is to work with others to make a successful team. **Being involved in these activities has led me to volunteer frequently in my community too, and taught me how rewarding giving back is.** I teach students in the special education classroom how to play different sports at Highland Elementary, I donate blood every time I can, I volunteer with Special Olympics, and I helped at my church by serving and working the annual chicken dinner. **Seeing other people's faces light up from something I have done makes me really appreciate life.**

## THANK YOU

*Thank you all so much for selecting me as a recipient of this generous scholarship! It has already been used to help pay for my first semester!*

**"I would not be where I am today without the tremendous support of my community behind me."**



Nicole Knackstedt (left) and her mom, Karen, review photos from the morning.



# THANK YOU

*I would like to thank Southwestern Electric members for their generosity. I feel extremely blessed to have received this scholarship, and I am truly grateful for the opportunities it has allowed me to pursue.*

## **Building Bridges**

I have found that building relationships by being kind and accepting to others should always be a top priority, not only because that's what God calls us to do, but because it gives us someone to lean on in tough times. I try to help and build others up and I can always find someone to help me when I need it.



## **Time Well Spent**

My basketball senior night stands out in my memory when I think back to high school. To reap the benefits of all those long hours spent in the gym one last time in front of my friends and family felt incredible.

## **Mom & Mentor**

My mom has helped me tremendously along the way. Whether it was driving me around before I got my license or proofreading papers late at night, she was always willing to help yet still held me accountable.

## **To The Class of 2024**

Take time every now and then in and outside of class to soak it in. High school flies by and those moments when you stop and appreciate where you are stick out when reminiscing back on high school.

## **Positive Thinking**

American psychologist William James once said, "Man can alter his life by altering his thinking." **Every human being holds the ability to make whatever he or she desires out of life through the power of his or her mind.** I want to help people, through psychology, to recognize the significance of a positive mindset by, first, connecting with them, then, attempting to bring them to Christ.

## **The Sky Is Not The Limit**

I want to positively impact my community by growing trusting relationships and providing beneficial advice. By forming a connection with my community, **I can help people realize they do not need to walk through life's problems alone.** Seeing that people go through similar struggles as oneself brings peace and comfort. Wim Hof once said, "The limit is not the sky. The limit is the mind."

## **Leadership By Example**

By knowing God walks through every aspect of life with us, the Holy Spirit comforts the soul. God's Word also speaks on the idea of loving others as ourselves. Although I would not force belief on people, I would simply show them how it has affected my life.

Continued on next page 



Susan Rosentreter

**Cameron Gusewelle,**  
Edwardsville

**Parents:** Jerry and Susan  
Rosentreter

**Graduate:** Metro East  
Lutheran High School,  
Edwardsville

**Attending:** Grand Canyon  
University, Phoenix, Ariz.

**Area of Interest:**  
Psychology with an emphasis  
in Sports Performance

## My Dad

I would not be the person I am today without my dad. He has provided me with countless opportunities, always ensuring that my sister, my brother and I are his primary priority. It did not matter if he had to drive one thousand miles in one weekend, traveling from my sister's college game, to my brother's college game and then back home to my club game; it is rare that he missed a game. **My dad is the biggest reason that I am where I am today and I could never thank him enough.**

## My Mom

On March 2, 2017 my mom passed away from breast cancer when I was just fourteen years old. **My mom taught me what it means to have endless strength and how important it is to show kindness to everyone. She inspired courage and love within everyone that surrounded her.** Because of my mom, I have always strived to hold these character traits as well. Throughout high school I was blessed with the opportunity to help others in my community going through the same thing I went through, along with other hardships. I spent all four years on the board of KAHOKstrong, a club within my school that raises money for those in the district who are in need. I was able to assist with events and fundraisers that led the club to raise approximately \$40,000 and help over 100 families.

## To the Class of 2024

Cherish everything and take every opportunity—you never truly know when it will be your last time. Whether it is your last football game in the student section, last time playing a high school sport, last time performing at a band concert or simply the last time being with all of your friends in one place, appreciate it all.

## Beautiful Moments Deserve A Beautiful Space

Home has become a very important and meaningful place to me. My house was a comfortable place where extended family, friends and neighbors felt free to come and go. **It is my dream to create beautiful and comfortable spaces that allow families to experience moments as special as the ones I was lucky enough to experience.**

Along with obtaining a degree in finance, I hope to minor in entrepreneurship and psychology. I will also take courses in interior design and obtain a real estate license. After college I plan to buy and sell property and invest in real estate, including buying houses that are in dire need of help and redesigning them so families can prosper in them. **Everyone should grow up in a home that provides the environment mine did and a community like the one I grew up in.**

**"I would like people to know that I am blessed with the most incredible family and friends. I have the absolute most loving and generous support system. I feel lucky that I get to call my family my best friends and my best friends my family."**



Sherry Holten/Holten Photography

**Faith Liljegren,**  
Collinsville

**Parents:** Mike and Kelley  
Liljegren

**Graduate:** Collinsville High  
School

**Attending:** Southeast  
Missouri State University,  
Cape Girardeau, Mo.

**Areas of Interest:** Finance  
and Entrepreneurship

**THANK**

Thank you for seeing me as  
a recipient of the  
Electric Co.  
2020 Power  
scholarship. This  
is such a blessing  
my family and I  
afford





**YOU**

lecting me as  
Southwestern  
operative's  
for Progress  
his scholarship  
izing, allowing  
and I to better  
college.

“Perseverance, perspective and patience. Due to the times in which we are living, our 2020 graduates learned these three timeless lessons before launching or continuing their college careers. My hope is that when these young people look back on 2020, they do so with pride in what they have accomplished during difficult times, and know that these lessons will carry them into the future stronger than they could have imagined.”

Ann Schwarm, President, Southwestern Electric Cooperative

Continued on next page 



Emily Jakob/Emily Jakob Photography

**Lane Sedlacek,**  
St. Jacob

**Parents:** John and Linda  
Sedlacek

**Graduate:** Triad High School

**Graduate:** Southwestern  
Illinois College

**Attending:** St. Louis  
University, St. Louis, Mo.

**Areas of Interest:**  
International Studies and  
Criminal Justice

### **Building Bridges Through Language**

I have had boundless opportunities in my local community through my endeavors in Girl Scouts, the Running Start program, cheerleading, volunteer work, and employment. I have learned that **education is an invaluable asset in our world** and I am ecstatic to represent my university in my future career and ventures. During my undergraduate career, I will double major in international studies and foreign languages as well as study abroad. I would consider linguistics to be a passion of mine; it truly captivates me that by learning another language, I have the ability to connect with millions of people in other countries and my local neighborhood.

### **A Running Start**

A standout memory from my high school career was my first day attending Southwestern Illinois College as a dual enrollment student. The Running Start program played a significant role in my high school career and it was an extraordinary experience. I recommend it to anyone interested.

### **To The Class of 2024**

Be ready for anything. Things will not always work out like you want them to, but try to keep an open mind and make the best out of any situation.

### **Serving With Honor**

I plan on applying for the FBI honors internship program that will take place during my undergraduate summers. This will allow me to gain firsthand experiences and explore career paths within the Bureau, in addition to aiding and upholding the Constitution and the protection of our community and nation's well-being.

## **THANK YOU**

*I would like to express the deepest of gratitude to Southwestern Electric Cooperative for selecting me as a recipient of this scholarship. I am ecstatic to have been chosen and feel honored to have received an award that will allow me to continue my academic career.*

**“Both of my parents have taught me countless life lessons and valuable skills that I utilize nearly every day. They have always supported me through every obstacle and I will always be grateful for it.”**







Alex Paz/PAZ Images

**Isabelle Marsala,**  
Collinsville

**Grandparents:** Frank and Sherry Marsala

**Graduate:** Collinsville High School

**Attending:** McKendree University, Lebanon, Ill.

**Areas of Interest:**  
Criminology and psychology



**Memorable Moment**

My most memorable high school moment was not a moment of achievement but a moment of loss. During the 2019 softball season, we lost the regional championship due to a walk-off home run. Although it was a painful loss, that moment forever bonded us as a team. Growing up playing multiple sports not only helped to define my athletic abilities but also provided the groundwork for confidence, accountability, and moments of leadership.

**To The Class of 2024**

I believe that anyone can achieve success, if willing to put in the work. How you choose to put that success to work is the true definition of Greatness.

**Become The Person You Want To Be, Then Help Others Do The Same**

Consistently playing sports and keeping up on my academics left little time to reflect upon my mother, her addiction, and the realization that she most likely was never coming back. I didn't talk to anyone about my feelings. I kept all the hurt, anger and resentment balled up inside. Then one day as if I had popped the top off the bottle, I just blew! I let all the poison spew out. I slowly began to heal. My coach once told me, "Other people don't define you. You are not the result of someone not loving you. Let all of your experiences shape you, then you become the person you want to be." Those words I'll never forget.

I sincerely hope that through my studies I will obtain the knowledge to make a difference for other kids dealing with similar issues. I'd like to see our schools take on a bigger role, with wellness programs as early as elementary school. We need to empower tomorrow's youth with all the tools needed to make the right choices. Parents and teachers need to teach their children the importance of compassion, so that they may become a better friend or classmate.

"My biggest fan was always my grandma. She was always willing to lend me an ear when I needed it most. I could always hear her cheering me on from whatever field that I was playing on."

**THANK YOU**

*My name is Isabelle Marsala. I am the granddaughter of Frank and Sherry Marsala. I am a proud 2020 Collinsville High School graduate.*

*I will be attending McKendree University this fall to pursue a degree in criminology as well as play golf. I would like to thank all those involved in the Southwestern Power for Progress Scholarship Program. By awarding me this scholarship you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning.*

*Your generosity has been a true inspiration to me. I hope that one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me achieve mine.*



Continued on next page 15



Brian Duncan

**Katelyn Duncan,**

Highland

**Parents:** Brian and Connie Duncan

**Graduate:** Highland High School

**Undergraduate:** University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Mo.

**Area of Interest:** Animal Science

**My Sister**

For me, growing up, my sister was the most influential person in my life because she encouraged me every step of the way and assisted me in getting where I am today. **Her perseverance shed a light on my own obstacles and showed me that as long as I worked hard to overcome my challenges, I could achieve anything.** For example, I have always desired to become a veterinarian, but when I first shadowed with a veterinarian I was overcome by the sight of surgery. Because of this, I feared that veterinary medicine was not the right field for me. But my sister encouraged me to avoid the pessimistic voice in my head, because we do not always succeed on our first try. With her belief in me, I continued to shadow, and I eventually became used to the sights in the surgery room. Now when I shadow, I love observing the surgeries the most; it is amazing what veterinarians can perform. As a result of my sister's confidence in me, I have been inspired to achieve my goal to become a veterinarian.

**Making Connections**

I had the opportunity to help others succeed during my sophomore year when I volunteered at the Cedar Creek Therapeutic Riding Center. I was a horse leader and through this opportunity I was able to make a connection with the children riding the horses. **This allowed me to assist them in becoming more comfortable with riding. While I conversed with them they began to relax and truly enjoy the comfort that the horses provided.** This was an amazing experience for me because I could see the bond that formed between the children and their horses and each week their bond grew stronger.

**To the Class of 2024**

Partake in as many opportunities as you can through your college career, whether that be through joining new clubs or volunteering in your community. It is a great way to meet other students, make amazing memories, and create connections that last a lifetime!

**THANK YOU**

*Dear members of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued assistance to students through the Southwestern Electric scholarship program. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support. I am currently in the junior year of my bachelor's degree at the University of Missouri. I am majoring in animal science. After finishing my undergraduate studies, I plan on attending the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine. Through shadowing at both the Highland Animal Hospital and Greenville Veterinary Clinic, I have developed a passion for helping animals and a love for solving the most puzzling cases that come about from our inability to communicate! Thank you again for providing this wonderful scholarship that has assisted in propelling me one step further to achieving my dreams.*







Bill Walker/Walker Photography

**Hannah Albert,**  
Keyesport

**Parents:** Jason and Melissa Albert

**Graduate:** Mulberry Grove High School

**Undergraduate:** Kaskaskia Community College

**Area of Interest:** Animal Science with a focus in Dairy Science and Ag Business.

### **Making Life Better for Today's Farmer**

I plan to get my bachelor's degree in animal science with minors in dairy science and ag business. With my degrees, I will be able to do in vitro fertilization and artificially inseminate animals. Right now, if in vitro is needed, the farmer has to pay travel costs, which are high. They also have to have the eggs shipped back, which isn't cheap. Getting to use new technology will increase my speed and accuracy. I would be able to help farmers maximize their animals' production and potential, and make their herd more valuable at a cheaper cost.

### **Believe In the People Who Believe In You**

My parents have helped me get to where I am today. They believed in me when I didn't believe in myself. They pushed me and helped me succeed in things I never thought I'd be able to do.

### **To The Class of 2024**

Enjoy the years in high school, they will fly by faster than you think. Participate in all the activities you can without overwhelming yourself.

## **THANK YOU**

*I would like to thank the members who fund the scholarship for young adults like myself so we are able to continue on for a higher education. Thank you very much, it is greatly appreciated.*



**“Being hardworking and independent I’ve accomplished things that I didn’t think were possible. I feel as if everyone has to overcome obstacles at some point in their life. It’s all just a matter of how you do it.”**



Ja-Fa Photo

## **Emma Kuhns,**

Mason

**Parents:** Stan & Shelly  
Kuhns

**Graduate:** Altamont  
Community High School

**Attending:** University of  
Illinois, Urbana-Champaign,  
Ill.

**Area of Interest:**  
Agricultural Economics,  
Pre-Law

### **Cultivating The Future**

Walking out my front door, you can look across the prairie and see corn and soybean fields for miles. My small community is predominantly fueled by the agriculture industry. This view from my front door has been instrumental in the development of my career goals.

As a senior in high school, the most common question posed to any student is, "What are your plans after high school?" Those who ask this question are typically looking for a college choice and a major, but I see the question as an opportunity to express my passions and life-long goals.

Attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a major in agricultural economics pre-law is the first vital step in a lifelong career dedicated to expanding the opportunities and protecting the rights of agriculturalists.

After completing a law degree, I envision my first role far from the Illinois corn fields where I first developed my passion for agriculture. As someone who has grown up in the agricultural industry, I believe that the education of the general public, as well as government officials, is key to promoting our products.

### **State Representative**

A defining moment in my high school career actually occurred after my high school graduation. In June of this year, I was elected to serve as an Illinois FFA State Officer. This means I will defer my enrollment to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for a year as I will be representing Illinois' 20,000 FFA members on a state and national level. This memory stands out to me because I am able to continue to use my heart of service for another year and be able to grow students across our state just as past state officers did for me.

### **A Future Rooted In Family**

My parents are my best mentors. I can always count on both my mom and dad to offer me wise advice and different perspectives. As my parents, they have molded my character and personality. I credit them for my dedication to the service of others and passion for agriculture which is a large part of my past, present, and future. Without them, I would not be confident in my ability to accomplish my goals.

"I believe my role is to make a difference in the life of the American farmer and to promote fair trade that improves the lives of people throughout the world."

## **THANK YOU**

*The cooperative model used by Southwestern Electric allows members to truly play an active part in the service Southwestern Electric provides. This also allows our cooperative to meet the needs of our community. Our members enable students like myself to grow themselves through higher education. I am incredibly grateful for the investment in me as it is more than just an investment in one student, as I plan to return to our area and serve our community members as a public servant.*





*Scholarship Day Highlight...  
Directors Jared Stine & Jerry Gaffner  
Congratulate Nick Hanratty*



POWER FOR  
**Progress**

Emma Kuhns pauses for a photo with her parents, Shelly and Stan Kuhns.



“This year we had the privilege of meeting our scholarship recipients at their homes. Every student I spoke with expressed their gratitude to the members of Southwestern Electric for supporting the scholarship program. Congratulations to our 2020 scholarship recipients. Thank you for sharing your hopes, your dreams, and your journey.”

CEO Bobby Williams

Continued on next page 



Megan Diekemper/Diekemper Photography

**Grace Baum,**  
Greenville

**Parents:** David & Jamie  
Baum

**Graduate:** Greenville High  
School

**Attending:** University of  
Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Ill.

**Area of Interest:** Animal  
Science



### **A New Chapter In Life**

On the first day of my freshman year of high school, I walked into the ag room, sat down, and joined the Greenville FFA chapter. Little did I know of the opportunities that I was opening up for myself by joining that one club. The lessons that I have learned through FFA, I can nowhere begin to describe. I have had multiple leadership and community service opportunities, and have even been a chapter officer for two years now. I have participated in multiple career development events or competitions which have further expanded my knowledge of the agriculture industry. The leadership skills that I have learned from FFA have helped me to be a better 4-H president, to be able to speak in front of a group of people, and to be more involved in my community.

### **Anything Is Possible**

My greatest accomplishment throughout high school was receiving my State FFA Degree my junior year. It was a reminder to me that through hard work and determination, anything is possible. As a freshman, I never would have thought that three years later, I would be standing on the stage at the FFA State Convention to receive my degree. All of the time and work that I put into the organization had paid off.

### **My Career, My Calling**

I have always felt a calling towards veterinary medicine. I grew up on a small family farm, and from the start, I have worked with large livestock and small animals. The time I spent helping my father manage our farm sparked my love for the agriculture industry. Since then, everything I have worked for and accomplished has helped me step forward towards my future goals of attending the University of Illinois and someday achieving my doctor of veterinary medicine degree.

### **To The Class of 2024**

Strive to be the best version of yourself and know that only you can raise the bar in your life. You have to be able to tell yourself, "I can," whenever you feel that you can't. You are the only person that has the ability to make a difference in your own life, so believe in yourself even when you feel that others don't. Focus entirely on the things you can change and do not dwell on the things you can't.

### **Just Getting Started**

As I open this next chapter in my life, I have many things to look forward to. Mostly, I am beyond excited to major in Animal Science and begin my journey of becoming a large animal veterinarian. I am eager to begin learning about different medical procedures and livestock to fulfill my lifelong passion.

## **THANK YOU**

*Thank you to all the members who helped support in the funding of the Power for Progress Scholarship Program. This Program is one of the reasons I am able to attend the University of Illinois to follow my lifelong dream of becoming a large animal veterinarian. I could not be more grateful to Southwestern Electric Cooperative for helping me get one step closer to turning dreams into reality.*





“Never stop learning, never stop living, never stop loving...and your cup will always be full.”

Jared Stine, Scholarship Committee Chair & Director, Southwestern Electric Cooperative

## Southwestern Accepting Scholarship Applications for 2021

Co-op will award \$10,000 in academic assistance.

Since 1995, Southwestern Electric Cooperative’s Power for Progress Scholarship Program has provided more than \$266,000 in academic assistance to students pursuing a college degree or vocational school certificate. The tradition will continue in 2021 with Southwestern’s pledge to award \$10,000 in scholarship money to 10 students in spring 2021 for use in the fall 2021 semester.

Scholarship recipients can apply the funding to tuition at any accredited university, college or technical school in the U.S.

“We at Southwestern Electric believe that tomorrow’s well-educated workforce depends on today’s accessible education,” said Susan File, vice president of member services and Power for Progress Scholarship Program coordinator. “Our scholarships provide students from member families an

opportunity to pursue a degree at an accredited college or university while reducing the financial burden that hinders many deserving students from pursuing or completing higher education.”

Scholarship applications may be downloaded from Southwestern Electric’s website at [sweci.com](http://sweci.com). You may also request an application by calling Susan File at (800) 637-8667.

The completed application and supplemental materials must be delivered to Southwestern’s office at 525 US Route 40 in Greenville by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 12, 2021.



## ENERGY & EFFICIENCY



Now  
You're  
Cookin'

# 7 STEPS TO AN ENERGY CONSCIOUS KITCHEN

## MINUTE MEALS

When it comes to quick and efficient heating, your microwave is your best friend. It uses about half the energy of a conventional oven. It's the go-to appliance for cooking vegetables and warming leftovers in the days to come.

## PLOT WITH PANS

When you're cooking on a stovetop, find a pan that fits your element. A 6-inch pan on an 8-inch burner will send more than 40 percent of your cooking energy up in smoke.

On an electric range, use flat-bottomed pans that make full contact with the element. You also want clean burners and reflectors. They direct heat more effectively.

## WINDOW WATCHER

While it's tempting to open the oven door for a peek at your holiday dish, you'll save time and money if you don't. Opening your oven vents valuable heat into your kitchen. You're lowering your oven's internal temperature by as much as 25 degrees each time you open the door. Use your oven window. It may not leave you basking in the steam of a roasting ham, but you'll be able to eat a little sooner.

## SMART STACKING

Your meal will cook more quickly and efficiently if air can circulate freely around the food. Avoid stretching sheets of foil over the oven racks. If you have room, stagger pans on the upper and lower racks to evenly distribute heat. When recipes permit, bake several batches of cookies at once. The same strategy works for pies.

## TRUE BLUE

If you're cooking with a gas range-top burner, use moderate flame settings to conserve fuel. Your flame should be blue. A yellow-tinged flame suggests the gas is burning inefficiently and that your appliance needs an adjustment.

## CLEAN-UP

A load of dishes cleaned in the dishwasher uses 37 percent less water than the same dishes done by hand. If you're a dish-towel and elbow grease advocate, the same load cleaned in a basin rather than under running water uses half as much water as the dishwasher.

If you opt for the dishwasher, overnight or air-dry settings can reduce your dishwashing energy costs by up to 10 percent.

There's nothing quite like the aroma of a kitchen with a holiday dinner in the oven. If you've prepared a holiday meal, you know it takes a lot of energy to set the table with those savory dishes. In addition to taxing your personal reserves, holiday preparations take a toll on your household energy budget—and your kitchen consumes more than its usual share during the holidays.

But there are simple ways to keep energy in check during the holidays and throughout the year. These tips from Southwestern Electric and the Department of Energy will help you get the most out of your kitchen kilowatt-hours.

## KEEP YOUR COOL

Today's kitchen appliances use about half as much energy as their counterparts from a decade ago. Even so, your refrigerator has a healthy appetite, consuming up to 15 percent of your energy budget. Feed it less by keeping the door closed. The exception to this rule: When you're putting together ingredients for a big dinner you'll lose less cool air by leaving the door open. Repeatedly opening and closing the door will force cool air out. You want air to circulate around items in your refrigerator, but a full fridge is an efficient fridge—chilled food helps to maintain the internal environment.

## STAR PERFORMANCE

You can cut down on energy expenditures by purchasing ENERGY STAR rated appliances. Appliances with an ENERGY STAR designation meet energy efficiency guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency and DOE. ENERGY STAR products perform just like other appliances on the market but trim dollars from your annual energy budget.





# Energy Bill Payment Assistance Available to Low-Income Families

The State of Illinois offers assistance to low-income families who struggle to pay their energy bills. Applications for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted.

Please review the income guidelines listed below to see if you qualify. The amount of the payment is determined by income, household size, fuel type, geographic location, and the amount of funding available.

Use the listing below to find the agency that serves the county you live in, then contact the agency and tell them you'd like to apply for assistance through LIHEAP. The customer service representative who takes your application will explain the requirements, the type of assistance available, and your rights under the program.

## When you apply for assistance, please bring the following items:

- Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day period prior to application date.
- A copy of your heating and electric bills issued within the last 30 days (if energy paid for directly).
- A copy of your rental agreement (if your heating costs are included in the rent) showing the monthly rental amount, landlord's contact information, and proof that utilities are included in the rent.
- Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members.
- Proof that the household receives TANF or other benefits—such as Medical Eligibility or SNAP—if you are receiving assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

The agency will determine your eligibility based on information you provide and will notify you within 30 days of receiving a completed application.

If your application is accepted, the local agency will make the appropriate payment to your energy provider(s) on your behalf, or in some cases, directly to you. All client and vendor payments will be made by the local agency within 15 days of the application's approval. Electric cooperative members, if approved, will receive assistance in the form of a one-time payment.

*Members using Pay-As-You-Go may also qualify for LIHEAP funds. Contact your local community action agency to find out if you qualify for energy assistance.*

## To apply for assistance through LIHEAP, please contact the community action agency serving your county.

County	Community Action Agency	Phone Number
Bond	BCMW Community Services, Inc.	(618) 664-3309
Clay	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	(618) 662-4024
Clinton	BCMW Community Services, Inc.	(618) 526-7123
Effingham	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	(217) 347-7514
Fayette	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	(618) 283-2631
Macoupin	Illinois Valley Economic Development Corp.	(217) 839-4431
Madison	Madison County Community Development	(618) 296-6485
Marion	BCMW Community Services, Inc.	(618) 532-7388
Montgomery	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	(217) 532-5971
Shelby	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	(217) 774-4541
St. Clair	St. Clair Community Action Agency	(618) 277-6790

## Income Guidelines

If your household's combined income for the 30 days prior to application is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, as shown in the chart, you may be eligible to receive assistance. If you rent, and your heat and/or electric is included in the rent, your rent must be greater than 30% of your income in order to be eligible to receive assistance.

Family Size	30-Day Income	
1	\$2,127	Additional \$553 per person monthly income above 8 people, or \$6,630 annual. (Note 30-day income rounded up.)
2	\$2,873	
3	\$3,620	
4	\$4,367	
5	\$5,113	
6	\$5,860	
7	\$6,607	
8	\$7,353	



For more information on this program, visit [IllinoisLIHEAP.com](http://IllinoisLIHEAP.com) or call the toll-free hotline, (877) 411-WARM.

# Harvesting Safety

Farming ranks among the most dangerous occupations in America. Harvest season can be especially hazardous. Long hours, lack of sleep, and mental fatigue can lead to serious injuries. Here are a few suggestions to help you make it through the season safely.

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Just as you'd survey a field before planting, take a minute to look around your work site. Are there power lines nearby? They don't have to be directly overhead to pose a danger. Plot the movement of your equipment around your farm. How many times are you passing near power lines? You can avoid electrical contact accidents by rerouting traffic in ways that will keep you and other workers far from potential points of contact.

Additional tips to keep in mind:

- When you're moving equipment, use a spotter—someone with a broader view of the equipment and its surroundings.
- Familiarize your coworkers with the location of overhead power lines on or near your property.
- Keep in mind that non-metallic materials—lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay—will conduct electricity.
- Plot your route in and out of fields, to and from bins and elevators, and down public roads to avoid power lines. If someone transports equipment for you, specify a safe route and explain why certain routes are necessary.
- Use ladders with caution.
- Be aware of power lines and cords during construction projects.

## IN CASE OF CONTACT

If you're driving a tractor, combine, or other onboard machinery and it comes into contact with a power line, stay onboard. Call Southwestern Electric at (800) 637-8667. We'll dispatch a crew to de-energize the line so you can safely move your machinery.

If your equipment catches on fire and forces you to abandon the vehicle, leap as far as possible from the machinery. Don't allow your body to come into contact with the equipment and the ground at the same time.

If you realize your machinery is touching a power line after you've left the vehicle, don't attempt to move it. Call Southwestern Electric Cooperative at (800) 637-8667. We'll dispatch a crew to de-energize the line so you can safely move the equipment.

## CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

If you're planning a project that requires digging, call JULIE at 811 before you dig. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you'll be doing. The center will notify the necessary utilities. The utilities will send a locator to mark the approximate location of their underground lines, pipes and cables, so you'll know what's below and be able to dig safely.



# ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY



Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.



If you must exit the machinery...

If you can safely drive away...

## If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

## If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

On Account: If your account number is 45756001, call us within 30 days to receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill.



## WHO • WHAT • WHERE

Last month's puzzle came to us courtesy of Southwestern member David Wetzel of Alhambra, and his cousin, Mark Wetzel of Urbana. David shared photos of a family antique shot by Mark.

"The machine was used on the Adolph Wetzel farm, located just east of Alhambra on Illinois 140," David Wetzel said. "Our fathers grew up there. Uncle Hugh apparently brought the washer home when the home place sold years ago. I thought the item might fit your Who~What~Where feature, which I greatly enjoy," he added.

"I'm still living on a portion of the Wetzel farm, which has been in the family since the 1840s. I'm the fifth generation to live on this land, and my grandson is the eighth generation of our branch of the Wetzels, since the family emigrated from Germany.

"There are some wonderful stories about John Wetzel, the first of us in Alhambra, found in the 1912 Madison County Centennial History. John's grandson Adolph and wife Emma (nee Landolt) owned the paddle washing machine pictured."

"I still live in the house in which I grew up, in Urbana," said Mark Wetzel, noting his family bought the home in 1958. "Four generations of our family have lived in this house (with a 5th visiting occasionally)...and that washing unit lived in the attic all that time.

"This contraption, which seems to me to have been well designed for its time in recent history, was likely purchased by our grandparents, perhaps in the early 1920s, or perhaps earlier. It is now on its way south, to again reside in Madison County [at the Madison County Historical Society Museum], in what I believe is the perfect place for it to serve local/regional history, and as a representative of earlier, less

complicated devices that, at that time, were time savers in small ways."

Special thanks to David and Mark Wetzel for providing us with an engaging puzzle and some family history to give it context. And thank you to everyone who submitted a solution to our September puzzle. We hope to hear from you again this month.

Recognize the man on the opposite page? The solution is simple if you read the writing on the wall. But first you have to find the wall.

Meanwhile, here's what you had to say about last month's puzzle.

.....

Thanks so much for proving me correct! My husband, Al Hemann, and myself (Linda Hemann) just couldn't wait 'til October to find out who was right about the picture in the September issue of *The Southwestern* What am I?

He had guessed it was some type of de-seeder, but I kept saying it was some kind of washing machine because it just reminded me of the old wash boards. Al tried to convince me he saw seeds in it, but I wouldn't back down, so I stuck



Courtesy Mark Wetzel

with my intuition, telling him it was some kind of washing device.

Well, curiosity killed the cat as they say, so I had to call you. You confirmed what I thought all along. It was a very old washing machine. Thanks so much for proving this woman was right! Mystery solved!

—Al and Linda Hemann, Troy

The item you have pictured in *The Southwestern* publication is officially "a funky distressed red wooden washing machine." Not sure who gave it this name.

—David Barbey, Greenville

I believe that the item pictured is a hand operated clothes washer from around 1900. There may be a couple of pieces missing, but who wouldn't want that in their laundry room on wash day!

—Mac McCormick, Holiday Shores

The September 2020 "What am I?" challenge is something we can't seem to do without in the present day. Back in the early 1900s, when this particular washing machine was in use, it may have been more of a luxury. The first washing machine was patented in England in 1691. In 1797, the first clothes washing machine was patented in the U.S. Some attachments and settings may be missing from the washing machine pictured—gentle cycle for one.

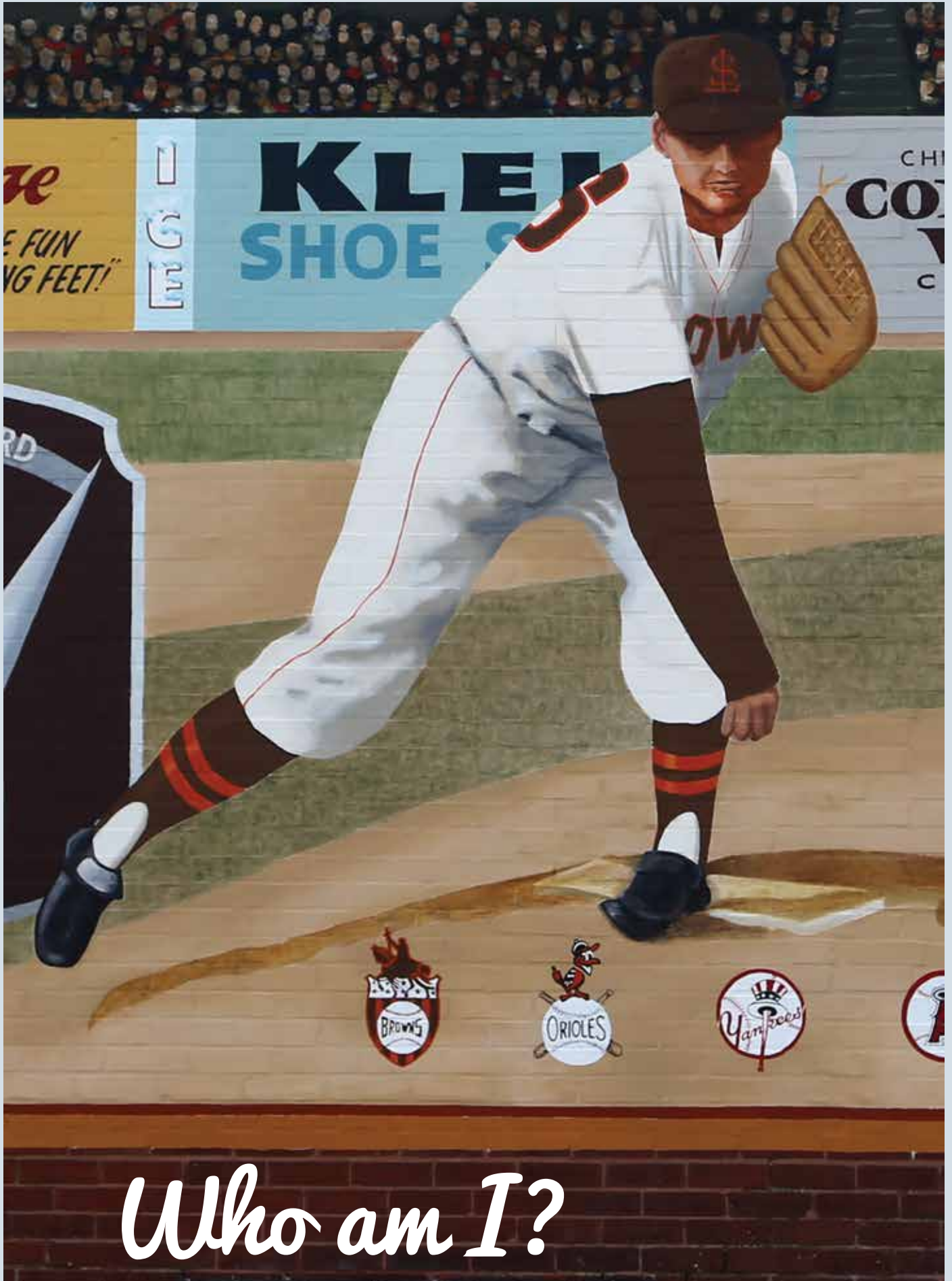
—Bill Malec, O'Fallon

Sure looks like an antique washing machine that I saw in a museum a while back. It does however seem to be missing a piece or two compared to the one I saw, or is a slightly different model. The one I saw had a crank plus a push/pull handle.

—Effie Volberg, Pocahontas

**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*.





Who am I?

CO-OP KITCHEN

# BUSHEL BAKES





## APPLE-GINGERBREAD COBBLER

### Ingredients

- 1 (14 ounce) package gingerbread mix divided
- ¾ cup water
- ¼ cup light brown sugar firmly packed
- ½ cup butter divided
- ½ cup pecans chopped
- 2 (21 ounce) cans apple pie filling
- Vanilla ice cream.

### Directions

1. Stir together 2 cups gingerbread mix and water until smooth and set aside.
2. In separate bowl mix together remaining gingerbread mix and brown sugar and cut in ¼ cup of butter until mixture is crumbly.
3. Stir in pecans and set aside.
4. Combine apple pie filling and remaining ¼ cup of butter in a large sauce pan and cook, stirring often for 5 minutes over medium heat until heated.
5. Spoon hot apple mixture evenly into a lightly greased 11 x 7 baking dish.
6. Spoon gingerbread mixture evenly over hot apple mixture and sprinkle with pecan mixture.
7. Bake at 350° for 30 - 35 minutes or until set.
8. Serve with vanilla ice cream.

## FREESTYLE APPLE TART

### Ingredients

- 1 refrigerated 9-inch pie crust
- 4 ounces cream cheese softened
- 3 red and/or green apples thinly sliced
- ¼ cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon sugar
- 1 cup thawed Cool Whip

### Directions

1. Spread cream cheese in a 6-inch circle in center of pie crust.
2. Toss apples with sugar and flour and spoon over cream cheese.
3. Fold crust partially over apples.
4. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar.
5. Bake at 450° for 20 minutes.
6. Remove, loosely cover with aluminum foil and bake for an additional 5 minutes.
7. Serve topped with Cool Whip.

## McINTOSH MUFFINS

### Ingredients

- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1½ cups flour
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup coconut
- 1 cup McIntosh or tart apples peeled and chopped
- ½ cup pecans chopped

### Directions

1. Mix all ingredients together.
2. Fill greased muffin cups or cupcake liners ¾ full.
3. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes or until golden brown.

*Makes about 1 dozen muffins.*

## FRESH APPLE CAKE

### Cake Ingredients

- 1¼ cups cooking oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 3 cups flour sifted
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3 cups raw apples peeled and diced
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

### Topping Ingredients

- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- ½ cup pecans

### Directions

1. Mix cake ingredients together in the order listed.
2. Pour into a greased 9 x 13 inch baking dish.
3. Bake at 325° for 40 minutes.
4. Mix topping ingredients together until it crumbles.
5. Sprinkle topping over cake and bake for an additional 15 minutes.

*Cake is best if it sits overnight.*

## APPLE TORTILLAS

### Ingredients

- 1 (21 ounce) can apple pie filling
- 10 small flour tortillas
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1½ teaspoons cinnamon
- ¾ cup margarine
- 2 cups water
- vanilla ice cream

### Directions

1. Spoon pie filling on each tortilla, dividing equally.
2. Roll tortillas to enclose filling.
3. Place seam side down in greased 9 x 13 inch baking dish.
4. Combine sugar, cinnamon, margarine, and water in sauce pan. Cook until sugar is dissolved.
5. Pour over tortillas, cover, and bake at 350° for 40 minutes.
6. Serve warm topped with ice cream.

Apple tortillas.

This month's recipes are courtesy of Bond County *Habitat for Humanity Cookbook* (apple tortillas, freestyle apple tart, fresh apple cake, and McIntosh muffins) and Edwardsville Garden Club's *Favorite Recipes* (apple-gingerbread cobbler).



# 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, or contact Southwestern Electric Cooperative at (800) 637-8667. For more information about Operation Round Up, visit [sweci.com](http://sweci.com).





Dew transforms a dandelion into a work of art at Greenville University's Ayers Field Station, north of Greenville.

## THE FINAL FRAME



