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Illinois Country Living

OCTOBER 2016 • ICL.COOP

More than just a crown

A co-op pageant queen wins big in life

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**Co-op careers offer paycheck
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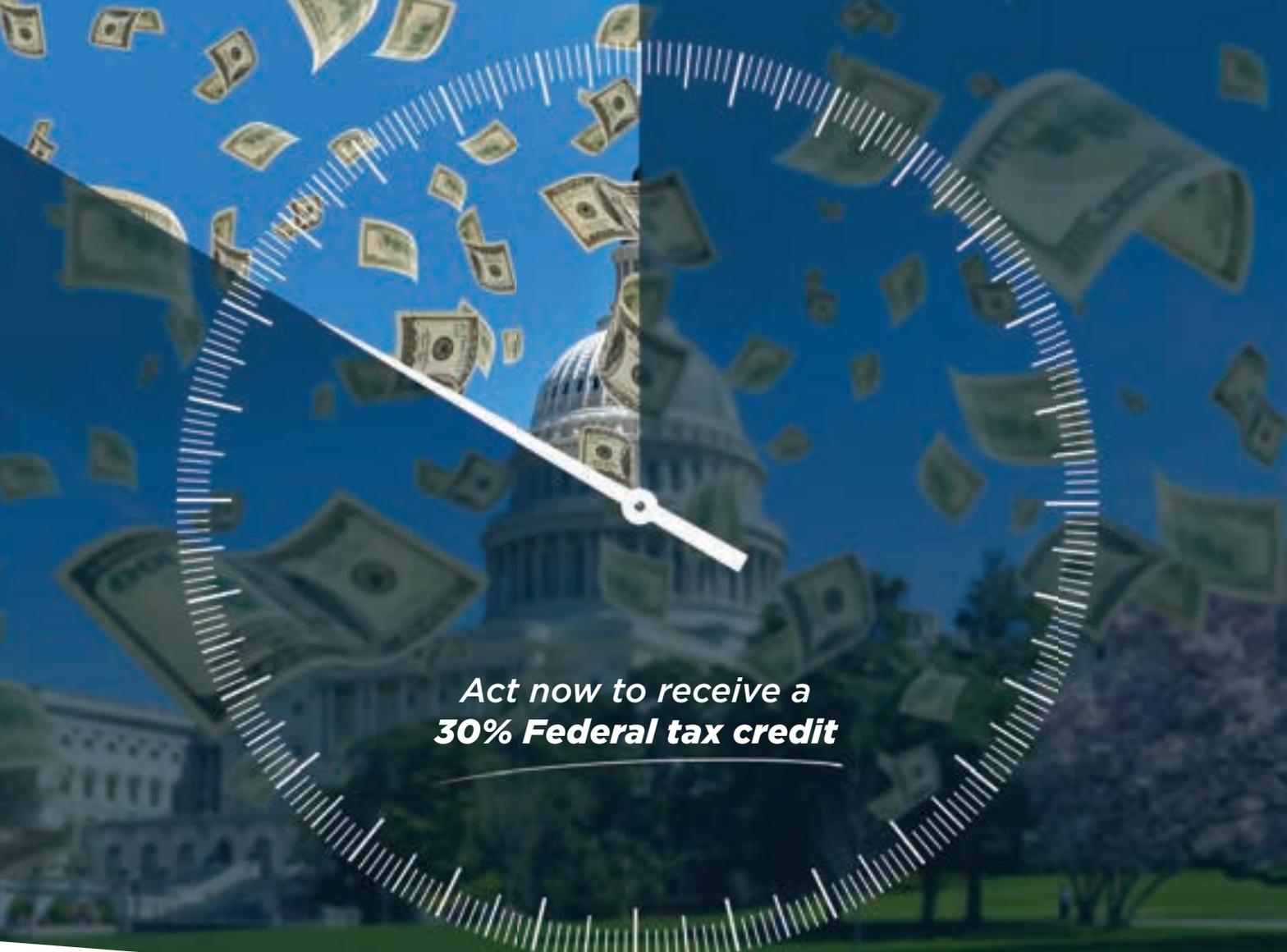


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Illinois Country Living

October 2016 Volume 74, No. 6



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Power, politics, progress and the cooperative way

I grew up on a modest farm in deep southern Illinois with six siblings. I remember when I was five and a group of men came to set a meter pole. I remember that day in 1941 because those men threatened to throw me in the hole they were digging because I was being a nuisance.

It is amazing that was 75 years ago, and the power those magic wires brought to our farm was transformational. I remember electric motors replacing gasoline motors and electric lights helping us sort the fruit from our orchards, along with the refrigerator and electric stove that helped my mom feed seven kids.

Those transformations were significant, but were only the tip of the iceberg of what the future would hold.

Power, progress and politics...the word power is an integral part of our

“In the political arena, the people that have the most influence in politics are the ones that show up.”

vocabulary. The power is on. The power is off. After a storm we might call a neighbor and ask do you have any power? We might call our cooperatives power companies.

In 1934 less than 11 percent of farms had electricity. I have a lot of respect for the Eisenhower initiative to develop an interstate road system, which tied rural areas and cities together. But I put the rural electrification of America ahead of that in

terms of value to farm families.

Politics has always been a part of that progress. We owe a lot to the early pioneers of rural electrification. I believe they had no idea the impact it would have in terms of progress for rural America.

We are the beneficiaries of the past and present visionaries. And I am proud of my family's legacy in the REA. My farm is served by SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative. My father was an active board member at that cooperative for 39 years and my brother followed him.

Political involvement is still critical. For instance, I'm terribly disappointed by the President's lack of support for the coal industry in Illinois. As a former senator from Illinois, he must realize the key role the coal industry has in southern Illinois and other places.

Dustin Tripp, President/CEO of SouthEastern Illinois Electric Cooperative says, “Coal has proven to be the most abundant, reliable and economical fuel to generate electricity in the United States. Since 1980, coal use for electricity has increased 170 percent while key emissions have decreased 90 percent. Advancements in coal technology, like those used at the Prairie State Generating Campus, continue to improve efficiency and reduce emissions.”

It does seem to me that each time we get a new regulation we meet it and then we get an even more stringent one, which has huge implications for cooperative members. I'm aware that the EPA released the Clean Power Plan, which has the potential to dramatically alter the ability of existing and future generating facilities to operate. But the unprecedented action of the Supreme Court put a stay on that. It is only a temporary patch and I think the issues of climate change and the Clean Power Plan will not go away. We all need to

be alert for not only legislation, but regulations that can severely hamper our ability to serve rural consumers. Cooperative members and leaders need to be actively engaged in the local, state and national political arena.

A few years ago, I often visited Washington regarding issues for agriculture cooperatives and the farm credit system. I'll never forget when one senator said, “In the political arena, the people that have the most influence in politics are the ones that show up.”

I'm convinced that energy and energy development will be a key ingredient in our progress in the 21st century. It will be a front burner issue. I think Illinois electric cooperative leaders are using astute judgment to experiment and be a player in the wind and solar arena. Both coal and natural gas have finite resources. It stands to reason that while coal and natural gas may be the fuels of choice today, we need to be sure that we are on the front line of alternative ways to generate power.

Demand for electric energy will continue to increase. More power will need to be generated. A lot of the current infrastructure will need modernization. Building for the future takes courage, insight, and vision. I'm confident that today's leaders and their successors will be in the forefront of building that enthusiastic future before us...building it with courage and wisdom.

Power, politics and progress will continue to be important elements in our pursuits. 💡



Glenn Webb served as Board Chairman and President of GROWMARK, Inc., a cooperative formerly known as FS Services, and as a Director of the National Bank for Cooperatives, known as CoBank.



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Rep. Danny Davis gives quick history and civics lesson

A native of Parkdale, Ark., 74-year-old Illinois Congressman Danny Davis (D IL-7), from the west side of Chicago, still remembers reading and doing his homework with a coal oil lamp, before the REA-financed local electric cooperative brought electricity to his home.

“I was about 10 years old, it was a new era for us, a brighter future,” he said to a group of 64 Illinois high school students on this summer’s electric and telephone cooperative Youth Tour. “I learned to read by a coal oil lamp. My mother always said I was going to ruin my eyes trying to read by this dim light. I think she was right.”

In addition to reminding the students of the important history lesson of the Rural Electrification Administration,

Davis told the students that public service can be rewarding and fulfilling. “I’ve been a member of the city council, the county board, and I’ve had the good fortune to be here for the last 19 years or so,” he said.

Speaking to the students inside the U.S. Capitol, Davis told them to understand and take ownership of their citizenship. “Welcome to your house, and when I say your house it is because your parents pay for everything that is here when they pay their income taxes. Everything that goes on here actually belongs to you. We are just the keepers of it. You send someone to represent you. That is what the 700,000 people in my district do every two years.”

Louisiana co-op spirit fights back against worst disaster since Katrina

As Baton Rouge homeowner Chanon Johnson picks through the remains of her flood-ravaged house, the irony of her situation isn’t lost upon her.

As a case manager at the DEMCO Foundation, the charitable arm of the Dixie Electric Membership Corp., Johnson helps decide where the foundation’s Operation Roundup funds go.

“It’s pretty ironic. Now we’re the ones needing help,” Johnson said.

Johnson is one of an estimated 50 employees at the Baton Rouge co-op whose home was damaged by the “1,000-year” storms that dumped more than two feet of rain in 48 hours across Louisiana.

The Red Cross is calling the disaster the nation’s worst since Superstorm Sandy four years ago. Ground zero was Livingston Parish in south Baton Rouge, the heart of DEMCO’s service territory. Overall, 70 percent of homes in the parish were damaged.

“I’ve been spending the day helping members pull off sheet rock,” said Billy Gibson, manager of communications at the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives. His house was spared, he said, leaving him with “survivor’s guilt.”

Gibson says this event was every bit as devastating to people, commerce, education system, government, neighborhoods and churches as Katrina was 11 years ago. “The misery index, the amount of grief, emotional distress and anguish, physical exhaustion, financial burden, the tears shed — all added to 100 degree temps — is very difficult



Photo by Billy Gibson

to grasp,” he says. “But, as usual, the overarching story is a prevailing spirit of determination to battle back against the odds.”

The co-op spirit has triumphed over another natural disaster. “To witness how many co-op folks around the country responded to help our employees, and how our employees have responded, is a truly inspiring narrative,” says Gibson.

A relief fund reactivated by the statewide association has already begun disbursing aid to Johnson and other co-op employees.

If you want to contribute, please make checks out to Hurricane Relief Fund and send to ALEC, Hurricane Relief Fund, 10725 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, La. 70816.



Illinois pioneers of rural electrification

Delbert Mundt

Delbert Mundt of rural Dieterich is known for his unique leadership qualities and his contributions to rural electrification and rural water development in eastern Illinois. Mundt was elected to the board of directors for Norris Electric in 1983 and served as its chairman for 10 years.

He represented Norris Electric Cooperative on the AIEC board of directors and served as chairman for two years. His tenure was marked by his leadership to help electric cooperatives across the state maintain their historic position of local control. That electric deregulation legislation was signed by Gov. Jim Edgar and provided for the long-standing right of electric cooperative members to determine the direction of their local cooperatives.

Mundt may be best known for founding and serving as the first president of EJ Water Corporation, which provided residents of Effingham, Jasper and Cumberland counties with safe, essential water for residential, agriculture, industrial and commercial development in the area.

In celebration of the AIEC's 75th anniversary, this is tenth in a series of profiles on Illinois' rural electric pioneers.

Turning carbon into commodity

Dr. Kevin O'Brien, Director of the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center at the University of Illinois, talked to electric co-op directors and managers at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting about how the center is working to create a sustainable market for captured CO2 from coal plants.

The AIEC has already provided in-kind support for the research project being conducted at the university's Abbott Power Plant, and O'Brien thanked the co-op leaders for their letter of support for the second phase of the project. He said they hope to receive Department of Energy funding for the second phase so that a market can be developed making reuse of captured CO2 a viable and sustainable option. Coal ash from power plants is already an example of this concept and is used in concrete and dry wall production. ♡



Turning carbon dioxide into fuel — it is what plants do

In a new study from the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory and the University of Illinois at Chicago, researchers were able to convert carbon dioxide into a usable energy source using sunlight. The process is similar to how trees and other plants slowly capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, converting it to sugars that store energy.

One of the chief challenges of sequestering carbon dioxide is that it is relatively chemically unreactive. "On its own, it is quite difficult to convert carbon dioxide into something else," said Argonne chemist Larry Curtiss, an author of the study.

While plants use their catalysts to make sugar, the Argonne researchers used theirs, a metal compound called tungsten diselenide, to convert carbon dioxide to carbon monoxide. Scientists already have ways of converting carbon monoxide into usable fuel, such as methanol.

Although the reaction to transform carbon dioxide into carbon monoxide is different from anything found in nature, it requires the same basic inputs as photosynthesis. "In photosynthesis, trees need energy from light, water and carbon dioxide in order to make their fuel; in our experiment, the ingredients are the same, but the product is different," said Curtiss.

The research team was able to construct an "artificial leaf" that could complete the entire three-step reaction pathway. The reaction occurs with minimal lost energy. "The less efficient a reaction is, the higher the energy cost to recycle carbon dioxide, so having an efficient reaction is crucial," Zapol said. ♡

Source: Jared Sagoff Argonne National Laboratory
U.S. Department of Energy

Co-ops honor Sen. Manar with public service award

During a special award ceremony held at M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, Inc., on August 31, Illinois State Senator Andy Manar (left, D-Bunker Hill) received the 2016 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award from AIEC President/CEO Duane Noland. The award was made in recognition of Sen. Manar's dedicated public service to all citizens of the state of Illinois and for outstanding contributions to the rural electrification program.

Noland said, "Senator Manar has been a great friend and supporter of electric cooperatives and our members, and a dedicated public servant to the 48th district and all of Illinois. He understands the importance of rural issues, including rural electric cooperatives, education



and agriculture."

"I'm pleased to be one of the many who go to Springfield and carries, with a loud voice, your issues and everything you stand for," said Sen. Manar upon acceptance of the award. "I love my hometown and plan to stay in my hometown. Everyone knows the story of young people who want to leave their towns to go find opportunities elsewhere. I've dedicated a lot of my life to make sure there's

more opportunities in small towns, especially the ones I represent."

The 48th Senate District includes the service territories of M.J.M. Electric Cooperative, Inc., Shelby Electric Cooperative, and Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. ♡

Illinois consumers average monthly energy bill is \$280

We made it through the heat of summer and air conditioning bills but some of that electricity for the A/C may now show up on your electric bill. Soon we'll be heading into the heating season. In the U.S., energy costs eat between five and 22 percent of families' total after-tax income, with the poorest Americans, or 25 million households, paying the highest of that range.

And lower energy prices don't necessarily equate to savings. Where we live and how much energy we use make up a larger part of the math. Electricity might be cheap in Southern Louisiana, for instance, but its scorching summer weather could still result in higher costs for its residents than the temperate climate in more energy-expensive Northern California, where heating and cooling units stay idle most of the year.

To better understand the impact of energy, WalletHub's

analysts compared the total monthly energy bills in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Their rankings account for the following residential energy types: electricity, natural gas, motor fuel and home heating oil.

Energy Consumption & Cost in Illinois

(1 = Most Expensive; 25 = Avg.):

- Avg. Monthly Energy Bill: \$280
- 25th – Price of Electricity
- 35th – Electricity Consumption per Consumer
- 39th – Price of Natural Gas
- 1st – Natural-Gas Consumption per Consumer
- 8th – Price of Motor Fuel
- 39th – Motor-Fuel Consumption per Driver ♡

Source: *Richie Bernardo wallethub.com/edu/energy-costs-by-state/4833/*

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Trick, or treat?

Kids already know that it's better to get a treat than a trick. When you look at your electric bill each month, which do you get ... a Snicker's bar or a sour lemon? If it's a lemon, log on at www.togetherwesave.com and find out how little changes you make can add up to big savings.

By using the numerous suggestions from the site, such as sealing your home's cracks, adding insulation, and installing a programmable thermostat, when your next bill arrives you'll be snickering instead of puckering!

For more information about the togetherwesave.com campaign, call your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative.



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More than just a crown

*A co-op pageant queen
wins big in life*

by Nancy McDonald

Under the heat of bright lights, several women in stunning formal gowns with perfectly coifed hair stand on stage, nervously holding hands. One can almost taste the anticipation as a booming voice announces, “And the winner is ...” Then there’s that pause when every pageant finalist holds her breath until a name, hopefully hers, is announced. And oh, the changes that win will bring.

In the 1950s through the 1970s, nearly every electric cooperative in the state held a beauty pageant at their annual meeting. Some co-ops, such as Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative in Dongola, continued the practice until a few years ago. Local co-op pageant winners would represent their co-op at the state pageant, sponsored by the AIEC, for the title of Miss Illinois Rural Electric Co-op. Those young ladies crowned at the state competition would compete on the national co-op stage for Miss Rural Electrification, sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Rural electrification had always been male-dominated, but pageants helped bring women to the forefront. Those who were crowned pageant queens were the new fresh faces of the co-ops, and became public figures. Donning their crowns and sashes, they represented the co-ops at local events and spoke at charity events and conferences. They broadened their horizons, and became positive role models for other girls. The first pageants helped young ladies prepare to become homemakers. Later pageants stressed attending college and pursuing careers.

In 1973, Kathy Harriss, now known as Kathy Land, was a shy girl from rural Fairfield, and a reluctant co-op beauty pageant contestant. She explains, “I got into this pageant when Ivan Holler, a friend of mine who worked at Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, asked if I would do this. I thought, ‘Okay, sure.’ It was a chance for me to wear a long dress, and I thought that would be really nice.” Then reality hit. “It wasn’t until closer to the time of the pageant that Ivan told me I had to wear a swimsuit,” she says, laughing. “Had I known



that, I probably would never have done it.” She won the pageant, and this set the course for an adventure no one, including her, could have predicted.

Later that year, excited but a little nervous, Land competed in the Illinois state co-op pageant in Springfield. Representatives from Wayne-White and the AIEC, who accompanied her there, helped ease some of her fears. That support, and the pageant coaching she received there, boosted her confidence. She says, “We had to practice, and for a lot of us, that was something new because we had never experienced something like that.” It all paid off. She was crowned queen at the statewide competition, and even got to meet then Governor Dan Walker.

Between the pageants, her life was a flurry of speaking engagements and public appearances. In early 1974, she was off to San Francisco to compete in the national pageant. It was a whirlwind of excitement there, and Land enjoyed modeling and makeup lessons, and city tours with other contestants. However, a series of unnerving events occurred before and during the pageant. “The night of the pageant was probably one of the worst nights of my life,” she laments. “I had extremely thick hair that took hours to fix. By the time they finished, it was one huge bubble. It was terrible.” And in her mind, things went downhill from there. In her first appearance at the pageant, she got rattled when she stumbled on stage in front of the judges, then got tripped up on one of the judge’s questions.

She says, “I couldn’t wait to get off that stage. I knew I blew it, so I wasn’t really paying attention when they announced the winner. I heard them say ‘Illinois’ and I remember being happy that the state of Illinois had won. It took me

“I remember being happy that the state of Illinois had won. It took me a few seconds to realize ‘oh my gosh, that’s me.’”

a few seconds to realize ‘oh my gosh, that’s me.’ It was so exciting.” She was so grateful for her good fortune, and before she left San Francisco, she gave roses she was presented on stage to the other contestants to whom she’d grown so close.

Later in 1974, Land’s co-op pageant adventure yielded another surprise.

The Philippines, whose National Electrification Administration had been established in 1969, was hosting its first national beauty pageant. NRECA representatives asked if she’d be willing to travel there and help with it. Her mother was invited to accompany her, and the answer was, of course, yes. Although the pageant would only last a week, they were asked to stay for a month and experience the country’s culture.



In 1973, after winning the Miss Illinois Rural Electric Co-op title in Springfield, Kathy Harriss (second from right) shares the stage with other contestants and Governor Dan Walker.

In July 1974, Land and her mother flew to the Philippines, and were greeted with a celebrity’s welcome. Soon after their arrival, they were honored to meet Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda at their palace.

The pageant was exciting, yet exhausting. Land enjoyed the time she spent meeting and getting to know the pageant contestants. Since this was their first pageant, there were a lot of questions. She was able to pay forward the valuable advice and guidance she’d received through her pageant experience. “Like most pageants, you go through lessons. I had a great responsibility because I was representing our country.” She was gratified to have played a part in their country’s inaugural event.

The Miss Universe pageant was also being held in the Philippines, and it was assumed she was part of its entourage. She says she “got the royal treatment.” She explains, “When I landed at the Philippines, I didn’t go through customs. They just took me to



After winning the national electric cooperative pageant title in 1974, Harriss' next duty was to fly to the Philippines to help with their first national rural electric cooperative pageant.

this lounge and did all the paperwork and took care of my luggage. It was wonderful." Other perks included special side trips, extravagant dinners and attending the Miss Universe pageant.

Land and her mother visited so many beautiful areas of the Philippines, but some were quite remote, and travel could be challenging. To complicate matters, the country was under martial law. Land explains, "One time, we were supposed to travel to a location by military helicopter but plans had to change because we could have been shot down." Fortunately, a private company provided a helicopter for the trip. She says, "When we were landing, there was circle around us of soldiers with guns." Once they touched down, the soldiers left but it was still a bit unnerving. Another time, they flew in a small plane that experienced a lot of turbulence, and nearly everyone on board became ill.

As Land toured the country, she could see that the Philippines lagged significantly behind the U.S. in electrifying their rural areas. Seeing the

residents' excitement over it made her realize what it must have been like before rural Illinois had power. She was asked during interviews how she thought electrification had changed the Philippines. She assumed people were excited to have it because it made their lives easier, and she was right. However, there was another motivation. So much of Philippine culture involves music and dancing, and electricity brought new access to music in the rural areas. As she traveled through the countryside, she was surprised to see grass huts with jukeboxes on their porches.

Land and her mother were so warmly welcomed everywhere they went in the Philippines, and she recalls feeling extreme sadness when they departed. She returned home with boxes of gifts from the generous Philippine people and fond memories of an amazing journey.

An article with a photo, detailing her experiences in the Philippines

appeared in her local newspaper, triggering the best surprise of all. David Land, who was about to return from two years in the U.S. Army, had seen her picture in the paper and proclaimed to his mother that he was going to marry "that girl." When he returned home, he asked her on a date, and exactly six months later after a whirlwind courtship, they wed. Wayne-White Counties Electric even gave her a wedding shower.

It's amazing to think that Land's life-changing journey started on the stage of her local co-op's annual meeting. The pageants took her out of her comfort zone and opened doors to a whole new world. After being on stage for so many different speaking engagements, the formerly shy girl attended college and earned her teaching degree. She taught fifth grade for more than 20 years, is now retired and lives with her husband in Fairfield. She can't thank Ivan Holler, Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative, the AIEC, and NRECA enough for giving her an experience that was about so much more than winning pageants.

Janna Harner

Beauty and brains: a winning combination

Like Kathy Harriss Land, Janna Harner of Dongola got her pageant start through an electric cooperative. Harner grew up on Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative (SIEC) lines. Her family believed in co-op values, and stressed the importance of attending SIEC's annual meeting and participating in the decision-making process.

A highlight of the meetings was always the annual SIEC Beauty Pageant. The pageant comprised three parts; interviews, and the swimsuit and evening gown competitions. As a little girl with big dreams, the first time she saw those beautiful girls on stage, Harner was hooked.

When Harner was young, her sister Jenna won the SIEC pageant, and talked Janna into giving it a try. Her big sister had lots of advice for her, and coached her well. When Janna competed in 2012, she was first runner-up, and in 2013, she took the crown.

Janna says the SIEC pageants had some humorous moments. She and Jenna looked very much alike, which at times could be confusing. In 2012, as the contestants got ready for the pageant, a photographer from the newspaper came backstage to take some candid photos of them. A photo of Jenna helping Janna apply her lipstick ran in the newspaper and the girls' names were reversed in the cutline.

In 2013, she had a wardrobe malfunction. As she was undressing, her dress zipper got off track, and she simply couldn't make it budge. She had to be cut out of the dress with an Exacto knife. She laughingly says, "Yeah, here's the new queen. I had my eyelashes on, and my hair was done, and someone was cutting me out of my dress. You could not even come up

with something like that."

Janna, an excellent student, always planned to attend college, and winning the SIEC pageant gave her a great start. The prize for winning was a \$1,000 scholarship. A \$500 scholarship from SIEC followed for being an outstanding student attending Shawnee Community College. In 2014, she won a \$1,500 scholarship from the Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship program through the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield.

There have been many other pageant wins along the way. Two years ago, Harner was fourth runner up in the Miss Illinois America pageant. In January of this year, she won the Miss Southern Illinois pageant title, then later won second runner up in the Miss Illinois America pageant. And more wins could come as she has several more years of eligibility to compete.

The scholarship money she has received from her pageant successes is helping this brainy beauty pursue her dreams. A senior at Southeastern Missouri State University, majoring in literature and minoring in math, she plans to work toward a post graduate degree to teach at the university level.

Of all her pageant wins, Harner says her SIEC pageant title is especially meaningful because of the local tie. She explains, "It's about representing the people in your local community—the love for one

another. It was the same community spirit that brought electricity to rural Illinois. As Miss SIEC, I got to be part of that legacy."



Don't sacrifice safety for speed during harvest

For many farmers, the harvest season is a flurry of activity with long hours and little rest. The pressure to harvest as much as possible — in combination with fatigue and looming deadlines — can result in too little attention being paid to potential hazards. Safe practices should never be compromised for the sake of speed. Doing so could potentially end in tragedy.

Farmers and agricultural workers have dangerous occupations. One of the causes of injury and death in the agricultural industry is electrocution. Of those injuries, overhead power lines are the most common cause of electrocution. The best way to avoid problems is to keep equipment a safe distance from power lines. Equipment and vehicles, such as



Equipment and vehicles, such as augers and grain trucks, around grain bins are particularly at risk of coming into contact with overhead power lines

augers and grain trucks, around grain bins are particularly at risk of coming into contact with overhead power lines. It is important that bins be built a safe distance from power lines to help ensure the safety of all farm workers.

If you are a farm operator or worker, be aware of the location of power lines and keep the following safety guidelines in mind during the harvest season:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call the local utility immediately.
- If your equipment does hit a power line do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others

to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

To help ensure a safe harvest, stay alert for power lines, exercise caution, and always put safety first. If you or someone you know would like more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Molly Hall is Director of Safe Electricity. E-mail molly-hall@SafeElectricity.org. Safe Electricity is a public awareness program of the Energy Education Council. www.EnergyEdCouncil.org



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Three tips for fall that will help things along next spring

If nature sticks to schedule, sometime this month we'll get hit with a killing freeze. It usually happens more toward the middle of the month for the upper half of state, and toward November for the bottom half. And the freeze usually spells the end of the gardening season as we know it.

But there are still a couple of big chores to do, not counting raking leaves which is probably the granddaddy of all big chores. Let's look at three of them.

1 Fertilizing trees. Of course, this seems counter-intuitive. The trees are going dormant, leaves are dropping fast, and any new growth will be frozen off. The key is the first part – the trees are going dormant. The fertilizer won't stimulate growth this autumn, but next spring you should notice the effects.

Not every tree needs to be fertilized. If you are one of those people who likes a thick lush lawn, you probably are feeding the trees and shrubs with the nitrogen that leaches through the turfgrass root zone. If your tree is putting out 18 inches of growth per year, it's doing okay and you can save the fertilizer. But, if the tree isn't growing and you haven't fed it since Nixon was president, it might be time to consider fertilizing the tree.

The method is simple, but time consuming. You'll need to poke three-quarter inch wide holes in the ground at the tree's dripline, and then three feet in and three feet out. Space holes 3 feet apart. The holes should be 12 to 18 inches deep. A piece of rebar 24 inches long or more is a good tool, but



make sure the ground is slightly moist or you'll have the dickens of a time getting the rod out of the ground.

Next, fill the hole with a 6- to 8-ounce cup of a balanced garden fertilizer such as 10-10-10 or 5-10-10. Just make sure there are no weedkillers in it. After fertilizing, thoroughly water or pray for rain to collapse the soil over the fertilizer and start the process where the roots will absorb the nutrients during the fall, winter and spring.

2 Fall is a good time to plant spring bulbs for next year. Again, it's another one of those "huh?" things. But spring-flowering bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths need some chilling temperatures to initiate flowering. Typically, most Illinois winters suffice but there have been some mild ones where the bulb display is rather puny in the spring.

The key to bulb success, though, is planting at the proper depth. This ensures the bulbs keep coming back year after year. Too deep and the flowers are at ground level; too shallow and the bulbs may last only one season or, worse, the four-legged critters get to them.

When it says plant tulips, daffodils

and hyacinths six to eight inches, that means six to eight inches. Get out a ruler, dig your holes and see if they are that depth. The first ones generally are; the others aren't. Keep that ruler handy. Measure from the top of the bulb, not the bottom, to the top of the soil. A bulb auger, an electric drill and a long extension cord makes planting much easier.



3 If you are bringing outdoor plants indoors for the winter, check them thoroughly for insects and hose them down thoroughly outside, or bring them indoors and give them a thorough shower, though cover the soil with aluminum foil or plastic so it doesn't go everywhere. If you have mild soap, such as Ivory Liquid hand soap, use it, but make sure it's rinsed completely off the plant.

Then, and this is the biggie, check the plants in four weeks. Outside, many of the bad bugs are kept in check by the good ones. The good ones, though, are the first to perish indoors, which allows the bad ones to multiply. Check them four weeks later. Put those dates on the calendar. And if you see colonies forming, give the plant another thorough shower.

The alternative is to let them freeze out and buy new ones next year, keeping the local garden center in business. 💡



David Robson is Extension Specialist, Pesticide Safety for the University of Illinois. drobson@illinois.edu



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1/2"	62431/239

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^ *Maple Bacon Cupcakes*

Butter cake:

- 1 c. butter, softened
- 1-1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 4 lg. eggs
- 3 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 T. baking powder
- 1 t. salt
- 1 c. milk
- 2 t. vanilla
- 12 cooked bacon slices,
broken into pieces

Maple frosting:

- 1 c. butter, softened
- 16 oz. pkg. dark brown sugar
- 1/2 c. evaporated milk
- 1/4 t. baking soda
- 1 T. light corn syrup
- 4 c. powdered sugar
- 2 t. maple flavoring

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat butter and granulated sugar at medium speed until creamy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating until blended. Combine flour, baking powder and salt; add to butter mixture alternately with milk, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Beat at low speed until blended after each addition. Stir in vanilla. Spoon batter into two paper cup lined muffin tins filling two-thirds full. Bake for 12-15 minutes or until toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool in pans for 10 minutes and remove to wire racks to cool completely. To make frosting: melt butter in heavy saucepan over medium heat. Add brown sugar; bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Stir in evaporated milk, baking soda and light corn syrup; bring to a boil stirring occasionally. Remove from heat and let cool. Transfer caramel mixture to a large bowl. Gradually add powdered sugar to caramel mixture; beating at medium speed until creamy. Stir in maple flavoring. Beat at high speed for 2 minutes or until creamy. Icing firms up quickly, so use immediately. Frost each cupcake using a metal tip and top with bacon.



^ *Applebutter Cake*

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/2 c. butter, softened | 1/2 t. nutmeg |
| 1-1/4 c. sugar | 1/4 t. allspice |
| 2 eggs | 1-1/2 c. canned applebutter |
| 2-1/2 c. flour | 1/2 c. raisins |
| 1-1/2 t. baking soda | 1/2 c. pecans, chopped |
| 1 t. salt | Powdered sugar, optional |

Cream butter; gradually add sugar, creaming until light. Add eggs, beating well after each addition. Sift together dry ingredients. Add alternately to creamed mixture with applebutter. Stir in raisins and nuts. Turn into greased and lightly floured 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until tests done. Cool in pan. When cool, dust with sifted powdered sugar, if desired.



Recipes prepared, tasted and photographed by Valerie Cheatham. For more recipes and photos go to www.icl.coop. Questions? Email finestcooking@aicl.coop.

 Visit www.icl.coop to see more Illinois Country Living recipes.



◀ *Fried Green Tomatoes*

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 2 med. green tomatoes | 1/4 t. onion powder |
| 1 egg yolk beaten with
1 t. water | 1/4 t. oregano |
| 1/4 c. cornmeal | 1/4 t. dill weed |
| 1/4 c. flour | Bacon drippings or oil |
| 1/4 t. salt | Parmesan cheese or ranch
dressing, optional |
| 1/8 t. pepper | |

Slice tomatoes into 1/4-inch slices and place on paper towel to absorb moisture. Mix cornmeal, flour and seasonings. Dip slices in egg batter, then cornmeal mixture. Heat bacon drippings or oil until hot and fry tomatoes until lightly brown, then turn and fry other side. Place on paper towel to absorb excess grease. Serve with grated Parmesan cheese or ranch dressing.

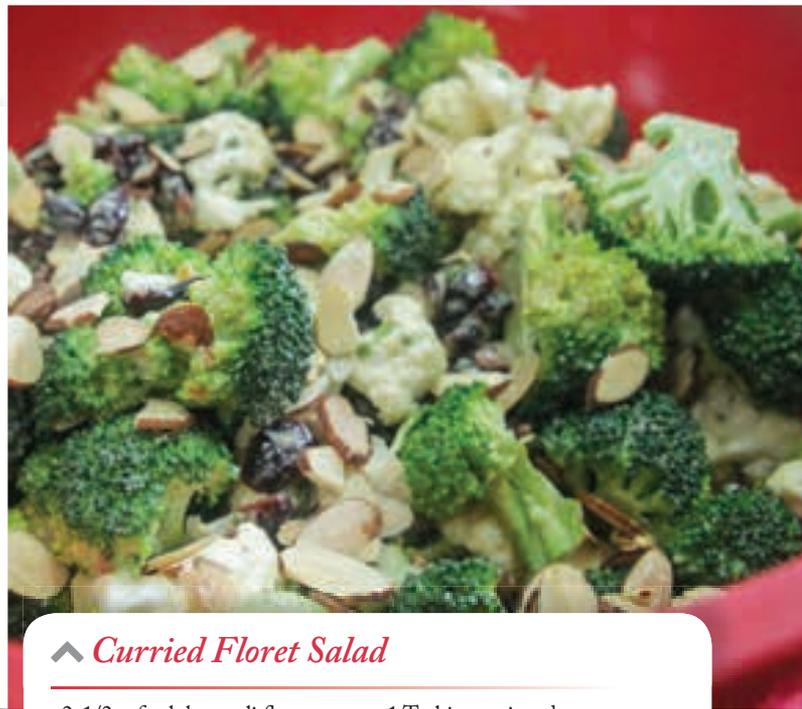
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▼ *German-style Smoked Chops*

- 1 lb. can sauerkraut, rinsed in cold water and well drained
- 1 sm. onion, chopped
- 1/2 to 1 T. sugar
- 2 med. apples, peeled and chopped
- 4 smoked pork chops
- 1/2 c. water

In a 2-quart casserole, combine half of the sauerkraut, onion, apples and sugar; arrange evenly and top with chops. Layer remaining sauerkraut, onion, apple and sugar on top, mixing slightly. Pour water over mixture. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes or until heated through.



^ *Curried Floret Salad*

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2-1/2 c. fresh broccoli florets | 1 T. chives, minced |
| 2-1/2 c. fresh cauliflower florets | 1-1/2 t. curry powder |
| 1 - 6 oz. pkg. dried cranberries | 1-1/2 t. soy sauce |
| 1/4 c. vegetable oil | 1/4 t. garlic, minced |
| 2 T. plus 2 t. white vinegar | 1/3 c. mayonnaise |
| 1 T. brown sugar | 1/3 c. slivered almonds, toasted |

In a large bowl, combine the broccoli, cauliflower and cranberries. In a small bowl, whisk the oil, vinegar, brown sugar, chives, curry powder, soy sauce and garlic. Whisk in mayonnaise until blended. Pour over broccoli mixture and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours, stirring several times. Before serving, stir in almonds.

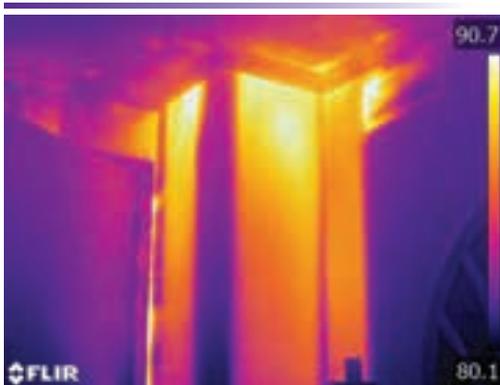
Where is the biggest heat loss in your home?

The nights are getting cooler and the leaves on the trees are starting to turn colors. Is your home ready for old man winter? Or, are you wondering where the best place is to start making your home more comfortable and save money on your energy bills?

Typically, the best place to start is in the attic. In the winter, the greatest heat loss is usually to the attic - and it's not all about insulation. Although cellulose insulation far outperforms all other attic insulation on the market, it plays a very important part in keeping heat in the home. However, it alone does not make an attic energy efficient and it's not just because heat rises.

You've seen me write about the thermal and pressure boundaries of the home. Just to be clear, from an energy perspective, we do not care about the interior walls, floors or ceilings. All energy geeks are concerned about is the part of the home where one side is the warm interior and the other side is the cold outside. Between these two distinctly different environments is where the thermal and pressure boundaries should be located.

The pressure boundary for the attic is usually the drywall on the ceiling. This keeps the warm air, not the heat, from flowing up into the attic and the cold air from flowing down into the home. Typically, the attic has the greatest air leakage potential in the home. Air can flow into and out of an attic through all the cracks and holes in the attic floor every time an outside door is opened or closed. The home is momentarily pressurized or depressurized pushing air into or pulling air out of the attic. This is also where a lot of the dust in the home comes from. When you turn on your bath fan, range hood or clothes dryer a good amount of the air that is drawn



A flue chase for the furnace and water heater in a basement. It is a 2-foot by 2-foot hole from the attic to the basement in a two story home.

into the home from the ventilation fans comes from the attic because this is where the biggest leaks are. This is why air sealing your attic floor is so important. Remember to always air seal, then insulate, or you will be just covering up the problems.

FYI - Air sealing the attic floor would be any place where the drywall has been penetrated, or the perimeter of the rooms. You do not need to spray foam over the top of the drywall; air cannot leak through the drywall, it goes around it.

The thermal boundary is the insulation above the drywall and in full direct contact with the drywall or pressure boundary. The thermal and pressure boundary must align. This means the insulation must be touching the drywall ceiling or it will be an insulation void and greatly reduce the R-value of the insulation. This is why batt insulation doesn't work well in the attic.

Before weatherizing your attic, I would highly recommend getting a detailed plan together. List all of the projects that need to be done from the attic not related to weatherizing. Completed these projects before adding the insulation.

Important - If you have ducts in your attic be sure to air seal and insulate them prior to installing

attic insulation. Duct leakage to the outside of the home can be a significant source of heat loss or heat gain, and Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) contaminates. Even when air is not being circulating through the ducts in the attic, this is still a source of air infiltration. Ducts can be leak tested similar to a blower door test to see how leaky they really are. Ducts can also be sealed without getting into the attic by using an aerosol duct sealing process called Aeroseal®.

There are five main areas of the attic we are concerned about before installing insulation:

- 1** Air seal the attic floor - top plates, fire stops, wire and plumbing penetrations and thermal bypasses.
- 2** Insulate chutes and wind-blocks in the eaves for attic ventilation and to stop the cold wind from blocking through the insulation.
- 3** Attic ventilation for moisture removal from the attic and to keep your attic cool in the summer. Don't use powered attic fans.
- 4** Attic access is air tight and insulated with foam board with no fiberglass batts lying on top.
- 5** Make sure all exhaust fans are operating properly and ducted to outside - never into the attic.

Again, ALWAYS air seal then insulate. 💡



Have questions?
Brian Kumer can be contacted at brian_kumer@yahoo.com.



Drug Companies Nervous as Doctors and Patients Demand the AloeCure

Big Pharma execs stand to lose billions as doctors and their patients abandon drugs like Nexium® and Prilosec®. Drug free remedy could put Big Pharma out of the digestion business.

By David Waxman
Seattle Washington:

Drug company execs are nervous. That's because the greatest health advance in decades has hit the streets. And analysts expect it to put a huge crimp in "Big Pharma" profits.

So what's all the fuss about? It's about a new ingredient that's changing the lives of people who use it. Some call it "the greatest discovery since penicillin"! And others call it "a miracle!"

The name of the product is the AloeCure. It's not a drug. It's something completely different. And the product is available to anyone who wants it, at a reasonable price. But demands may force future prices to rise.

Top Doc Warns: Digestion Drugs Can Cripple You!

Company spokesperson, Dr. Liza Leal, a leading integrative health specialist out of Texas recommends AloeCure before she decides to prescribe any digestion drug. Especially after the FDA's stern warning about long-term use of drugs classified as proton pump inhibitors like Prilosec®, Nexium®, and Prevacid®. In a nutshell, the FDA statement warned people should avoid taking these digestion drugs for longer than three 14-day treatment periods because there is an increased risk of bone fractures. Many people take them daily and for decades.

Dr. Leal should know. Many patients come to her with bone and joint complaints and she does everything she can to help them. One way for digestion sufferers to help avoid possible risk of tragic joint and bone problems caused by overuse of digestion drugs is to take the AloeCure.

The secret to AloeCure's "health adjusting" formula is scientifically tested Acemannan, a polysaccharide extracted from Aloe Vera. But not the same aloe vera that mom used to apply to your cuts, scrapes and burns. This is a perfect strain of aloe that is organically grown in special Asian soil; under very strict conditions. AloeCure is so powerful it

begins to benefit your health the instant you take it. It soothes intestinal discomfort and you can avoid the possibility of bone and health damage caused by overuse of digestion drugs. We all know how well aloe works externally on cuts, scrapes and burns, but did you know Acemannan has many other health benefits?...

Helps Calm Down Painful Inflammation

According to a leading aloe research scientist, the amazing Aloe plant has a powerful anti-inflammatory effect. Aloe Vera calms the fire in your belly like it does the sunburn on your skin and in many ways helps heal damaged cells. Inflammation is your body's first reaction to damage. So whether it's damage that is physical, bacterial, chemical or auto-immune; the natural plant helps soothe inflammation — rapidly reducing redness, heat and swelling.

Rapid Acid and Heartburn Fix

Aloe has proved to have an astonishing effect on users who suffer with digestion problems like bouts of acid reflux, heartburn, cramping, gas and constipation because it acts as a natural acid buffer and soothes the digestive system. But new studies prove it does a whole lot more.

Side-Step Heart Concerns

So you've been taking proton pump inhibitors (PPI's) for years and you feel just fine. In June of 2015, a major study shows that chronic PPI use increases the risk of heart attack in general population.

Debilitating brain disorders are on the rise. New studies show PPI's are linked to an increased risk of dementia. Cutting edge research shows that the health of your brain is closely linked by the state of healthy bacteria that comes from your gut. The things happening in your belly today might be deciding your risk for any number of brain conditions- Studies have been ongoing since the 1990's. New studies suggest that taking PPI's at both low and high dosage also disrupts a healthy human gut!

Sleep Like A Baby

A night without sleep really damages your body. And continued lost sleep can

lead to all sorts of health problems. But what you may not realize is the reason why you're not sleeping. I sometimes call it "Ghost Reflux". A low intensity form of acid discomfort that quietly keeps you awake in the background. AloeCure helps digestion so you may find yourself sleeping through the night.

Celebrity Hair, Skin & Nails

One of the Best-Kept Secrets in Hollywood. Certain antacids may greatly reduce your body's ability to break down and absorb calcium. Aloe delivers calcium as it aids in balancing your stomach acidity. The result? Thicker, healthier looking hair... more youthful looking skin... And nails so strong they may never break again.

Save Your Kidney

National and local news outlets are reporting Kidney Failure linked to PPI's. Your Kidney extracts waste from blood, balances body fluids, forms urine, and aids in other important functions of the body. Without it your body would be overrun by deadly toxins. Aloe helps your kidney function properly. Studies suggest if you started taking aloe today you'd see a big difference in the way you feel.

Special Opportunity For Readers of this Magazine

With this introductory offer the makers of the AloeCure are excited to offer you a *risk-free supply*. Readers of this magazine are pre-qualified for up to 3 FREE months of product with their order. Take advantage of this special opportunity to try AloeCure in your own home and find out how to test AloeCure for a full 90 days. But that's not all... If you don't see remarkable changes in your digestion, your body, and your overall health... Simply return it for a full refund less shipping and handling (when applicable).

Just call 1-800-330-0061 to take advantage of this risk free offer before it's too late. This offer is limited, call now.



Drug companies are understandably upset since the AloeCure® delivers quicker and better health benefits.

All politics is local. So is the future of rural America.



By Justin LaBerge

Next month, Americans will go to the polls and cast votes for a president, 34 senators, 435 members of Congress, 12 governors, 5,920 state legislators and countless other local races.

While the presidential race is at the top of most voters' minds, it is the state and local races that have a more direct and immediate impact on the "kitchen table" issues that matter most to families. For rural America, the stakes in this election are especially high.

An annual snapshot prepared by U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service says "rural employment in mid-2015 was still 3.2 percent below its pre-recession peak in 2007."

That same report found that rural America continues to experience population decline driven by outmigration of residents to larger urban areas.

The trends underlying much of this outmigration – issues such as globalization, technology advances and the shift from a manufacturing-based economy to a service and knowledge-based economy – are largely beyond the control of any community, state or even country.

Although the challenges facing rural America are global, the prevailing sentiment among rural stakeholders and researchers is that the solutions are largely homegrown.

In other words, if rural America is to enjoy a prosperous future, it will be thanks to the ingenuity, self-reliance and determination of its people.

The rural electrification movement is a prime example of this.

When for-profit utilities based in urban areas declined to build electric lines in sparsely populated rural areas, the residents of those communities banded together to form cooperatives and build their own systems with the help of government loans.

Today, America's electric cooperatives are finding new ways to sup-



port and promote the interests of the communities they serve.

Co-ops Vote

One program that is particularly relevant today is the Co-ops Vote initiative.

This non-partisan, nationwide program is designed to promote civic engagement and voter participation in communities served by electric cooperatives.

Co-op members can go to vote.coop to gather information on the voter registration process in their state, dates of elections, information on the candidates running in those elections and explanations of key issues affecting rural America.

Visitors to the website can also take a pledge to be a co-op voter. By taking this pledge, they can send a message to candidates at all levels of government that electric cooperative members will be showing up at the polls in force, and are paying close attention to the issues that impact the quality of life in their communities.

Growing our own leaders

Mil Duncan, a noted scholar on rural economic development issues, said in a recent essay "far and away the biggest challenge rural development practitioners face is the need for greater human capital – for more leaders, more entrepreneurs..."

To answer the call for more rural leaders, America's electric cooperatives created the Washington Youth Tour program.

Each year, approximately 1,700 high school students representing electric cooperatives from across the nation converge in Washington, D.C., for a weeklong, all-expenses-paid leadership development experience.

Previous Youth Tour participants have become university presidents, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies and members of Congress. Many more have returned home to serve in the many underappreciated leadership roles – coaches, small business owners, church deacons, county commissioners – that form the backbone of our communities.

Making the most of natural strengths

One of the greatest advantages enjoyed by electric cooperatives is their ability to leverage the unique strengths of the communities they serve.

The members of each cooperative are empowered to explore different approaches to solving problems and figure out what solutions are best for their community. This applies to the energy sources they use to generate electricity, the technologies they use to operate the system and the policies and procedures they adopt. What works for co-op members in Texas might not be right for co-op members in Oregon.

The same holds true for rural economic development according to Harvard Business School's Institute for Strategy & Competitiveness.

In its list of six key steps for boosting rural economies, Harvard researchers say “rural economic development should focus on the unique strengths of each area rather than concentrating on ameliorating generic weaknesses.”

While many rural communities face similar challenges driven by similar factors, the best way to address those issues can vary widely from community to community.

Fostering connectivity

In the early 1900s, electricity access was a key factor in determining the quality of life and economic prosperity of a community. Those that had electricity enjoyed many modern conveniences. Those without it languished in darkness and struggled to compete. When electric cooperatives brought electricity to rural America, the playing field was leveled and small towns experienced a renaissance. A similar trend is unfolding as broadband access makes its way to more rural communities.

One recent high-profile example involves Christopher Ingraham, a data journalist at the Washington Post.

In 2015, he wrote a short article based on a dataset from the USDA that ranked American communities on qualities that are often indicators of desirable places to live. The community with the lowest score in the USDA ranking was Red Lake County, Minnesota.

His story generated a lot of comments, including many from the people of Red Lake County who encouraged him to come out for a visit. He did, and was struck by the kindness of the residents and beauty of the landscape.

As a journalist who writes about data, Ingraham wasn't tied to any particular location. As long as he has a reliable high-speed internet connection, he can download the government datasets he needs to do his job and email his editor the finished stories.

In March of this year, he announced in another story that Red Lake County had won him over, and he'd be moving there with his wife and young children.

He can make this move because of high-speed broadband.

The shift to a knowledge-based economy might be hurting some traditional rural industries, but as more and more companies embrace teleworking, employees who were forced to move to large cities to work in certain industries can keep their jobs while working remotely from rural communities.

Expanding access to broadband in rural areas is one of the key issues addressed by the Co-ops Vote program, and Ingraham's story is just one example why.

Taking action for the future

The challenges facing rural America will not be solved by one person, one idea or one action. But on

November 8, we will determine which leaders we trust to enact policies that will help small communities help themselves.

Study the issues that are critical to the future of your community. Look at the positions and backgrounds of every candidate running for every race from president to county road commissioner. Decide which ones are best qualified to address these issues. Then join millions of fellow electric cooperative members at the polls.

Justin LaBerge writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Simplifying your digital photo storage

There are some tasks that can be downright terrifying when it comes to technology. One of those is photo management. After all, our photos are one of the most precious files we keep. I have even found myself struggling with this task from time to time as devices come and go and space to store photos gets depleted.

Over the last 10 years, we have transitioned from dedicated digital cameras to just using our smartphones. We have also evolved from developing standard film, or printing digital photos on photo paper, to simply storing all of our photos digitally. Sure, some people still prefer to use a high end digital or film camera but, with the quality of the cameras on smart phones these days, most of us just use it. Why not? My iPhone takes really nice photos and even does a great job with HD video.

Here's the caveat. Now that we print less photos, and take more pictures and videos, we need a way to manage those files. Otherwise our phone's storage fills up and sometimes, especially in the case of storing videos, we fill up the hard drives on our PCs. More often than not we end up with duplicate photos and a less than ideal solution to storing our digital media.

Does this sound familiar? You copy photos from one device to another in order to free up some space and then, somewhere in the middle, the photos

were synced to a cloud service for backup. Then you got a new phone, because the old one took a dive in some unsanitary water. You copied the photos to your new phone, and before you know it you have a big mess on your hands.

There is one solution in particular that stands out to me. I'm not implying this is the best solution, but it does seem to do the trick. The best part is that it will work on almost any device, PC, Mac, Android, iPhone, iPad, etc. If you have a Gmail account, you are already setup to start using it. Think of Google Photos as a central repository where all your devices will send a copy of your photos.

There are several advantages that stand out when using this solution and maybe the best being it is free unlimited storage for all your photos and videos. It should be noted, however, there is a limitation of 16 mega pixel photos and 1080p HD Video when taking advantage of the free storage. For most users, this will be more than adequate. When you reach the point that you no longer have space on your device, feel free to delete those photos that have been synced to Google photos and know that Google has them backed up.

Another incredible feature is the search function. I am absolutely amazed at how well this feature works. If you're like me, and have thousands

of photos, it can be hard to find that one particular photo that you are searching for. Google photos makes this a snap by simply using the search box. For example, if I wanted to find all the pictures I have taken of power lines, I would type in the search box "power lines" and, viola, it returns all of your pictures with power lines in them. Most of the time this feature is not used with other solutions because of the time associated with adding tags to make this possible. Google intelligently identifies subjects in your photos, how cool is that?

As with all cloud services, make sure you are aware of the inherent security risks associated and take appropriate measures to protect yourself. With that said, this is just one of many solutions that are available to you. Personally, I have turned off all native photo syncing solutions, and I have been solely using Google Photos to manage my pictures and videos over the past year. I can say without a doubt that I couldn't be happier with the results.

 [Comment on this column](#)

Visit icl.coop and click on Powered Up to respond. Your response might even be included in a future column.



Dan Gerard, CISSP, is the IT Manager for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield.



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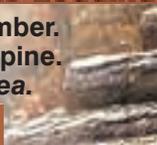
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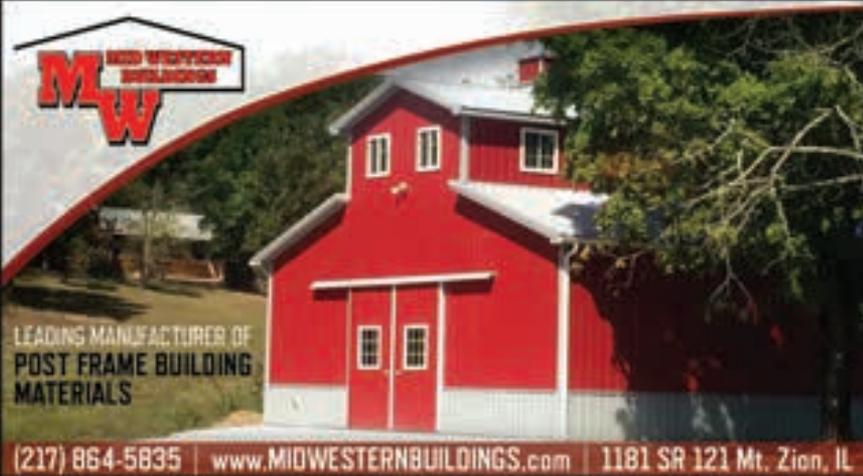
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Co-op careers offer paycheck and a purpose

By Justin LaBerge

Every day in this country, more than 75,000 men and women go to work at America's electric cooperatives to keep the lights on for 42 million energy consumers in 47 states.

It's challenging work, but in addition to a paycheck, co-op employees go home each night knowing they've helped make their communities better places to live. Over the next five years, thousands of workers will get to experience that sense of purpose and pride as America's electric cooperatives hire nearly 15,000 employees nationwide. These new hires will replace Baby Boomers reaching retirement age and accommodate organic growth in the energy industry.

Despite competitive wages, excellent benefits, job stability and rewarding work, electric cooperatives and other energy companies often

have a difficult time attracting new employees.

One reason for this recruiting challenge is a lack of awareness among potential new hires. To overcome this challenge, America's electric cooperatives have joined forces with other energy companies to celebrate Careers in Energy Week. The event, which runs October 17 through 21, is an opportunity for co-ops to promote their career opportunities and correct common misconceptions about jobs in the energy industry.

Many career options

A lineworker high atop a pole is the first image that comes to mind for most people who think about electric cooperative employees. It's true that lineworkers comprise the largest segment of the co-op workforce –

approximately 25 percent – but it takes a variety of talents to keep a cooperative running smoothly.

Information technology and engineering are two rapidly growing career opportunities at co-ops. The need for more high-tech workers is driven by the shift to a smarter electric grid and the growth of renewable energy sources that must be carefully monitored and managed.

Other in-demand career paths at electric cooperatives include finance, member services, equipment operators, energy advisors, communications and marketing, purchasing, administrative support and human resources.

Hundreds of co-ops. One purpose.

For people who enjoy the rural quality of life but want to explore other parts of the country, an electric



cooperative career might be the perfect option. There are more than 900 electric cooperatives in the United States, and combined they serve 75 percent of the nation's land mass.

Co-op lines stretch across every region, climate and geographic feature America has to offer, and each cooperative reflects the character of the community it serves. No matter what living situation and work environment prospective employees might be seeking, they're sure to find it somewhere in the electric cooperative network.

Who says you can't go home?

Although the national statistics are impressive, it doesn't mean much to a job seeker if his or her local co-op is fully staffed and doesn't anticipate any openings in the near future. Many jobs – especially lineworkers, equipment operators and other similar roles – are available through regional and national contractors.

These contractors are typically hired to supplement local utility crews to help build large projects or repair widespread storm damage. They move from project to project over time, offering employees a chance to see different parts of the country.

They provide a great option for individuals who would like to join their hometown co-op when a position becomes available, but want to start working in the energy industry immediately.

Second careers

Some people think the only time to start a new career is fresh out of high school or college. While the energy industry offers many rewarding careers to recent grads, it is also a great place to start a second or third career.

Lineworker training programs, such as the one offered through a partnership with the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and Lincoln Land Community College in

CO-OP CAREERS

Over the next five years,
America's electric cooperatives will hire
15,000 PEOPLE.

ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?

Springfield, are growing in popularity among people who previously worked in oil and gas, manufacturing, mining, forestry and other similar industries.

Electric cooperatives are also eager to hire military veterans and their spouses. Last year, America's electric cooperatives launched a program called "Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country" to honor and hire veterans and their spouses. Nearly 40 percent of veterans come from rural America and only one third of them return after leaving the service. Rural cooperatives appreciate the value of the skills veterans learned while in

service to our country. To learn more about the program go to www.servevets.coop.

As not-for-profit, member-owned, locally based businesses, America's electric cooperatives offer careers that allow employees to make a difference in the communities they serve. Cooperatives are guided by a set of principles that put people ahead of profits, and offer fulfilling work to those who enjoy serving others.

To learn more about the opportunities available across the cooperative network, visit careers.touchstoneenergy.coop.

WHEN: OCTOBER 1, 2016 @ 12 P.M. – 10 P.M.

10th Annual Galena Oktoberfest

WHERE: Depot Park, 99 Bouthillier St., Galena, IL 61036
CONTACT: Lisa Schoenrock 815-275-4881 or lisann25@att.net

Free admission will be offered to all patrons in appreciation of their ongoing support at the 10th annual Galena Oktoberfest, hosted by the Galena Lions Club. People of all ages enjoy Galena Oktoberfest, as it features non-stop live music by three bands; polka dancing and lessons; wiener dog races, costume contest, and parade; a beanbag tournament; bounce house and activities for the kids; and plenty of German-style food. For online registration and more information about the Galena Oktoberfest and the Galena Lions Club, visit galenaoktoberfest.com or call 815-331-0180.



WHEN: OCTOBER 22, 2016 ALL-DAY



Kincaid Mounds Archaeology Field Day

WHERE: Kincaid Mounds Historic Site, Massac County, IL
COST: Free
CONTACT: Kincaid Mounds Support Organization at kincaidmoundsorg@gmail.com

The Kincaid Mounds Archaeology Field Day formal programs will start at 10 a.m., 12 noon, and 2 p.m., with a walking tour to Mound 8, and Mississippian artifact displays. The Kincaid Mounds Archaeological Site is a series of Mississippian Mounds located in Massac County. The Mounds are an Illinois Historic Site which includes a public observation and interpretation area. More information on Kincaid Mounds and directions to the Historic Site can be found at www.kincaidmounds.com or Facebook-Kincaid Mounds Support Organization.

WHEN: OCTOBER 14, 2016 @ 4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

Critter Night

WHERE: Lincoln Memorial Picnic Ground,
 521 N. Main St., Jonesboro, IL
COST: Free

A Shawnee National Forest Special Event, children and their families are invited to come explore and enjoy an evening of activities and crafts centered around nocturnal animals. Large groups (scouts, 4-H clubs, etc.) are asked to call ahead and pre-register at 618-833-8576.



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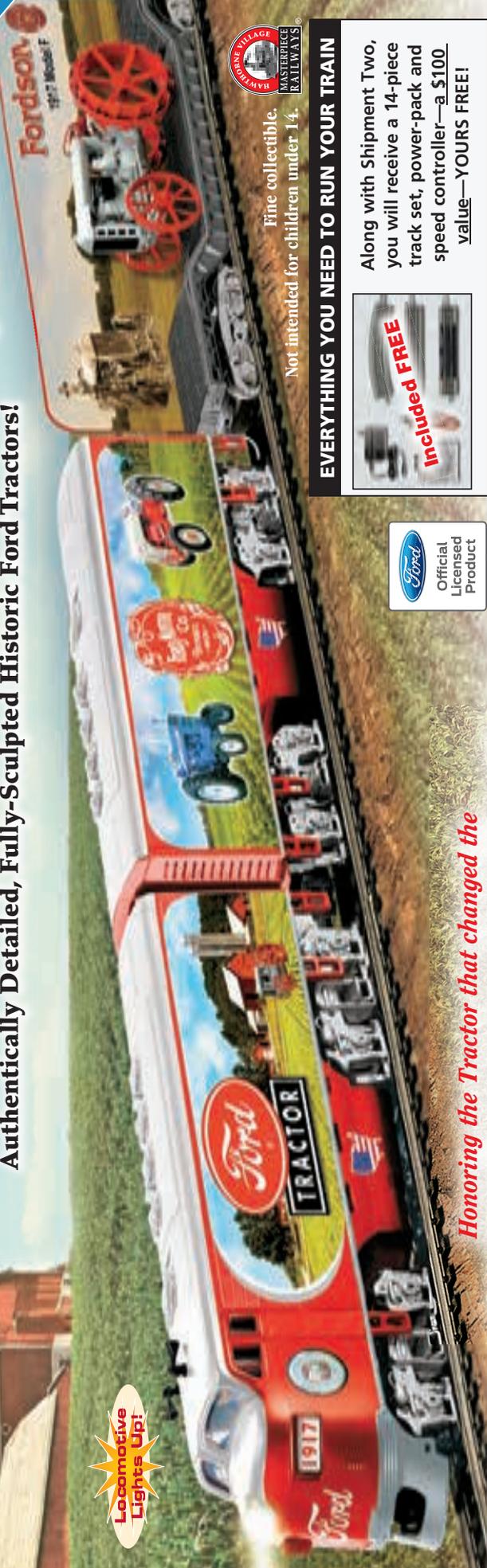
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Honoring the Tractor in America and around the world!

In October of 1917, utilizing their expertise in assembly line mass production, the Henry Ford and Son Company built 7,000 tractors for England and Canada to aid in food production during WWI. From these relative humble beginnings, and now under the sole name of the Ford Motor Company, Ford became one of the keys in the mechanization of farming by producing affordable, handsome and durable tractors that are still in use today in America's heartland and throughout the world.

Hawthorne is now proud to present the exclusive Ford Classic Tractors Express that celebrates these fabled farm machines in a heirloom-quality train that runs on any HO-gauge track.

An incredible train at an exceptional value.

Begin your train collection with the illuminating "Ford Tractor Diesel Locomotive." It can be yours for three easy payments of \$26.66*, the first billed before shipment. Subsequent train cars—many featuring removable replica sculptures of these famous tractors and featuring vintage period photography and logos—will be billed separately each at the same attractive price and sent about every other month. You may cancel at any time and with our best-in-the-business 365-day guarantee, your satisfaction is assured!

Not available in any store! Order today!

This is a limited-time offer and strong demand is expected. You need *send no money now*. Just sign and mail the Reservation Application today.

www.bradfordexchange.com

BRADFORD EXCHANGE

9345 Milwaukee Avenue
Niles, IL 60714-1393

HAWTHORNE VILLAGE DIVISION

Limited-time Offer—Please Respond Promptly

YES! Please enter my order for one *Ford Classic Tractors Express* electric train collection, beginning with the "Ford Tractor Diesel Locomotive" as described in this announcement. **SEND NO MONEY NOW.**

Signature _____

Mrs. Mr. Ms. _____

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

917959-E-38501

*Plus \$9.99 shipping and service. Allow 4-6 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.



Flat cars feature removable faithfully sculpted replicas of historic Ford tractors!

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