



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Morrisonville Food Pantry selected for donation



RECC donated \$500 to the Morrisonville Food Pantry. RECC employees contributed \$250 and the co-operative matched the contribution with an additional \$250. In the past several years, donations have been made to food pantries in Pawnee, Raymond, Girard, Waverly, Palmyra and Divernon. The co-op's Safety Committee chose Morrisonville as this year's recipient and plan to continue the tradition in the future.

Dorothy Bullard operates the Morrisonville Food Pantry and receives help from her son and several volunteers in the Morrisonville Community. She turned 92 last month and has been involved with the food pantry for more than 40 years. Mrs. Bullard and her son Chuck were grateful for the donation and thanked everyone for their contribution.

Mrs. Dorothy Bullard accepts RECC's donation from lineman Mark Bartolozzi.

Line crews remove potential hazard

Northeast of Loami, line crews took down a large oak tree that was located next to RECC's three-phase lines. The 70-foot tree was a potential hazard because it was dead and hollow on the inside. As the tree was being cut, linemen used their Bobcat to pull the tree away from the power lines. The Bobcat was also useful in hauling leftover wood to a nearby neighbor.

If the tree had fallen into the power lines, it would have caused significant damage. Two or more poles could have broken and numerous outages would have occurred. If this happened, RECC would have still had to cut and remove the tree before the poles could be replaced and the lines repaired.



Bucket trucks are not always the best option

Spring brings warmth and rain, which ultimately lead to mud. The warmer weather is much appreciated, but it can make simple tasks more challenging. Replacing a bad transformer at Hilda's Antique Mall provides us with a classic example.

Traditionally, RECC crews would back one of their bucket trucks up to the pole and replace the faulty transformer. The trucks do all the heavy lifting and provide a stable platform for the linemen to work from. Power is restored quickly and the crew can move on without much notice.

With poles located away from roads or out in fields, the mud complicates the traditional methods of operation. For shorter distances, mud mats are an option. These are large plastic mats used to prevent the bucket trucks from sinking into the ground and getting stuck. They reduce ruts that can damage lawns and wet fields. The plywood-sized mats are heavy and awkward to move, especially when covered with mud.

Linemen always have the option of using climbing hooks, a common occurrence before the introduction of the bucket truck. The manual pulley system is also a tried-and-true method of delivering equipment and material 35 feet up and down a pole. The goal is to identify which method is the safest and most efficient way to perform the task.

Continued on page 20C ▶



Matt Evans and Sean Koen replace a transformer using a gin and pulley system.

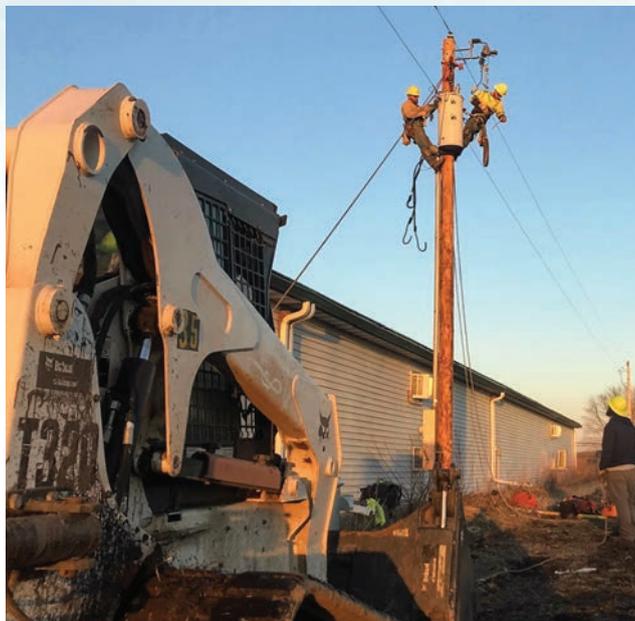


Warehouseman Dave McCarty holding up a one of the many mud mats available for use.

"Bucket trucks" continued from page 20B

After careful consideration, the linemen climbed the pole and set up a gin with a pulley system. The Bobcat pulled the line that was attached to the pulley, which supplied the force to lift and lower the heavy transformer. This too could have been performed manually if other equipment were not available.

This was the right decision because it eliminated the need to transport, retrieve and clean 24 mud mats. Journeyman Lineman Shane Norris said, "It couldn't have worked out any better. I'm sure the farmer will appreciate that no ruts were left in his field."



Rural Electric
Convenience Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Boston promoted to journeyman lineman

On March 13, Andrew Boston was promoted to journeyman lineman. Andrew started working at RECC as an intern in May 2015 and did a second internship in 2016 before getting hired full-time as an apprentice.

Tim Hemberger, manager of operations and maintenance, presents Andrew Boston his certificate from Northwest Lineman College.

RECC Annual Meeting Thursday, June 10 Knight's Action Park
Route 66 Drive-In Springfield, Illinois Registration: 5:30 p.m. Meeting: 6:50 p.m.

**\$20 Bill Credit
for attending**



**Includes free
food & movie**

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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See our web page for monthly Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

The RECC nominating committee met on March 11, 2021 and has chosen candidates for the board of directors for elections to be held at this year's annual meeting. The committee nominated three incumbent directors who are seeking re-election in districts 7, 8 and 9.

District 7	Andy Goleman	1248 E. Divernon Rd.	Divernon, IL 62530
District 8	Lou Wietekamp	3253 Illinois Route 48	Raymond, IL 62650
District 9	Cassie Eigenmann	1767 Hurricane Timber Lane	Modesto, IL 62667

The nominations have been posted the Auburn office, as stipulated in the co-op's bylaws. Other candidates may be named by petition for a district, signed by 15 or more members in that district.

Petition forms are available from the co-op office in Auburn and must be returned by **May 11, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.** Any persons nominated by petition will be included in the 2021 Annual Meeting Notice, to be printed in the June edition of the Illinois Country Living magazine.

Biographical information and a statement from each candidate will also be printed in the notice.

Thank you to these members for their time and interest in the cooperative's election process and to the candidates who are willing to work for the cooperative. The election to the board of directors will take place at the annual meeting of members on June 10, 2021, to serve until the third subsequent annual meeting of members thereafter:

The undersigned further report that after taking the foregoing action, the Nominating Committee duly adjourned.

Dated at Auburn, Illinois this 11th day of March, 2021.

Mike Higginson
Shawn M. Cox
Dennis Kerhlikar
Denise Kink
Wayne Rovey
Larry Ziegler
Melvin Wempen
Todd Becker
Denise Rosenthal
Wayne Rovey
Chairman

Nominating report 2021/streccmin

2021 Nominating Committee: Wayne Rovey, Dennis Rosenthal, Denise Kerhlikar, Denise Kink, Melvin Wempen, Shawn Cox, Todd Becker, Larry Ziegler and Mike Higginson.



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MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

We will be closed Monday, May 31,
in observance of the holiday.