

# THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2021 • VOLUME 73 • ISSUE 10

## Thank You Notes

2021 POWER FOR PROGRESS  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS  
SHARE WORDS OF  
GRATITUDE

FROM THE CEO

OPERATIONS  
UPDATE

CARBON  
MONOXIDE  
SAFETY

AN APPETITE  
FOR ENERGY

FALL FLAVORS

## Meet Your Directors

THREE MEMBERS  
ELECTED TO  
CO-OP BOARD



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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!

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#### Ask The CEO

Have a question for the CEO? Send it to Bobby Williams at [bobby.williams@sweci.com](mailto:bobby.williams@sweci.com), or write to him at Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL. Periodically, we'll print some of your questions with his replies in *The Southwestern*. Each member who submits a question will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 bill credit. We'll draw a name each time we run an "Ask The CEO" Q&A segment in the magazine.

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## FROM THE CEO



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Annette Hartlieb, Secretary ..... Vandalia  
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Sandy Nevinger ..... Greenville  
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Traditions play an important role in our lives. They remind us where we've come from, ground us in the present, and serve as milestones as we move through life. Years before I began working for Southwestern, I was a rural electric cooperative member. The annual meeting of members has long been a favorite tradition of mine, and my appreciation for the event has only grown since I became a co-op employee.



Last year the look of that tradition had to change. We adopted measures to ensure your health and safety, and rather than urge you to pack a gym, we expanded the voting schedule and encouraged you to vote early at our facilities in St. Jacob, Greenville or St. Elmo.

When we began planning this year's meeting in the spring, COVID mitigation measures were active and the future was uncertain. Your board and I agreed that the expanded voting schedule and social distancing measures we put in place last year needed to remain in place for 2021.

Given current conditions, our choice to err on the side of caution seems a wise one.

So once again, in late August and early September, during the days leading up to the meeting, we provided opportunities for you to vote from the comfort and convenience of your car.

Like last year, I saw this as an opportunity to introduce myself and chat with you briefly, as you cast your vote in St. Jacob, Greenville or St. Elmo.

And like last year, I met a lot of you.

During the first evening we offered after-hours voting in 2020, 350 of you cast your votes in St. Jacob. The turnout far surpassed our expectations.

This year, 538 of you voted on opening night. I met members in cars, trucks and on motorcycles. I met young families with infants, multigenerational families who carpooled to vote and planned to have dinner after, families with pets who act as copilots, and friends, neighbors and colleagues who stopped to vote on their way to or from work.

I met members who'd been voting in the co-op election for 40 years. I met first-time voters. I met members from every corner of our service area—and more than a few of you were driving EVs.

You were in good spirits. You appreciated our efforts to keep everyone safe. And many of you commented on how much you appreciated the extended hours for early voting and the \$50 bill credit.

*Continued on page 4* ▶



## NEWS & NOTES

► *Continued from page 3*

The interesting thing about traditions is how they change. Often they adapt slowly, shifting with the preferences of the people who observe them. On rare occasion, they alter almost overnight, out of necessity.

By the time you read this, our 2021 annual meeting will be a memory. Last year at this time, I felt confident COVID would be behind us. I'm slower to forecast the future these days. I don't know what our 2022 annual meeting will look like.

Here's what I do know: In some form or fashion, Southwestern Electric will always hold an annual meeting of members. You will always have an opportunity to elect your friends and neighbors to a board of directors. And those directors will always serve as your advocates. Your directors — and your employees — will always listen to your concerns and act in the best interests of the membership.

Because we aren't just Southwestern Electric.

We're Southwestern Electric *Cooperative*.

And come flood, fire or pandemic, meeting the needs of our membership is one tradition that will never change.

Bobby Williams, CEO



bobby.williams@sweci.com

### *Coronavirus Response*

## Greenville Office Remains Open to Members

**B**oth the lobby and drive-up window of Southwestern Electric's Greenville office remain open and available to members who'd like to conduct business in person.

"Our top priority will always be the health and safety of our employees and members," said CEO Bobby Williams. "We expect everyone — employees and members alike — to wear a mask while they're in the building and follow CDC health and safety guidelines."

In March 2020, Southwestern Electric took precautions to curb the spread of COVID-19 and safeguard

the health of employees and members. Most of those measures — including adopting CDC health and safety guidelines, social distancing, wearing face coverings when appropriate, and reviewing safety measures with employees—remain in place.

Members may continue 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, see our social media channels or go to [www.sweci.com](http://www.sweci.com).

## FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For the latest news and notes, follow us on facebook and twitter. You'll find us at [facebook.com/SWECI](https://facebook.com/SWECI) and [twitter.com/sweci](https://twitter.com/sweci). Search for Southwestern Electric on YouTube.



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

We've rebuilt our website! The new site is easier to navigate and displays well on a broad range of devices. It also allows us to accommodate additional material. You'll find updates and a link to the board meeting minutes on the drop-down menu under the News & Information tab at [sweci.com](http://sweci.com).

## CO-OP REMINDERS

**October 11** Payment processing systems will be unavailable from midnight to 4 a.m., while we perform system maintenance. No payments will be processed during this time. We will resume processing payments at 4:01 a.m.

**November 8** Payment processing systems will be unavailable from midnight to 4 a.m., while we perform system maintenance. No payments will be processed during this time. We will resume processing payments at 4:01 a.m.

**November 11** Offices closed in observance of Veterans Day.

**November 25-26** Offices closed for Thanksgiving.



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

Three members of Southwestern Electric Cooperative were elected to the co-op's board of directors during Southwestern's 83rd Annual Meeting of Members, held Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Bond County Fairgrounds in Greenville, Ill. Southwestern members elected one director from each of the co-op's three voting districts.

In District I, incumbent William "Bill" Jennings of Alhambra defeated challenger Phil Hocher of Collinsville. Jennings received 1,791 votes, while 593 votes were cast for Hocher. In District II, incumbent Jerry Gaffner defeated challenger Bruce Unterbrink. Gaffner received 1,220 votes, while 1,147 votes were cast for Unterbrink. Both candidates were from Greenville. Jared Stine of St. Elmo was elected by acclamation to represent District III.

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

## William "Bill" Jennings

Since being elected to the cooperative's board of directors in 2018, Bill Jennings has made it his mission to identify and define challenges and opportunities in the energy industry as they relate to Southwestern Electric Cooperative members. Jennings completed an extensive curriculum developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), earning the organization's Director Gold Certification in 2020. Through his course studies, he cultivated relationships with industry personnel, co-op directors, and expert instructors from across the country — resources he can call on.

In addition to his industry training, Jennings brings 38 years of experience in requirements analysis and cost effectiveness value assessment for the Department of Defense and Boeing Commercial Aircraft to his role as director.

In 2019, he was one of 16 directors selected by NRECA to serve on a national advisory committee which provides knowledge, insight and recommendations for improvement in director duty execution.

Bill Jennings has been a Southwestern Electric member since 1993. He lives on a farm near Alhambra with his wife, Patty. They have two grown children, Anna and Thomas.

## Jerry Gaffner

Southwestern Electric director Jerry Gaffner has made it a point to practice what the co-op teaches. Since being elected to the board in 2018, he's added solar technology and an electric vehicle to his farm.

Prior to running for the board, he served on Southwestern Electric's Nominating Committee for three years.

Gaffner said investing in infrastructure, hiring quality employees, and implementing modern engineering technology will continue to ensure Southwestern meets the membership's energy requirements.

From 2002-2008, Gaffner served as president of the Illinois Milk Producers Association board. He served on the Elder Board of the First Christian Church of Greenville from 2003-2010. He's also served on strategic planning committees at the University of Illinois and at Bond County Community Unit School District #2.

Gaffner has served eight years on the board of HSHS Holy Family Hospital and currently serves as board chairman.

Jerry Gaffner has been a member of Southwestern Electric for more than 20 years. He resides on his farm northwest of Greenville with his wife, Sherri. They have three children, Jonah, Abby and Hannah.

## Jared Stine

Jared Stine describes a director's role as being an honorable and accountable representative, collaborator, communicator and visionary. Since joining the board in 2018, he has worked to deepen his understanding of the energy industry. In December 2020, he was recognized as a Credentialed Cooperative Director by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). His studies focused on the attributes of good governance, fiduciary responsibility and effective advocacy.

Stine has played a key role in the cooperative's strategic planning sessions. He's an advocate of new technology, including public EV charging stations, and would like Southwestern to continue to investigate distributed generation and storage opportunities. He would like to see the co-op continue to prioritize infrastructure improvements.

Stine has served on the St. Elmo Christian Church board since 2012 and the St. Elmo Community Unit School District #202 board since 2013.

Members since 2009, Jared Stine and his wife, Krista, live with their children, Sydney, 16, Anna, 15, and Wade, 13, south of St. Elmo, where with other family they operate a sixth-generation family farm.



# THANK YOU NOTES

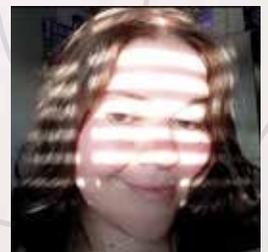
SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC'S POWER FOR PROGRESS  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS SHARE LESSONS LEARNED  
AS THEY LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

**D**ifficult circumstances often bear great gifts. They force us to rethink the way we address the world, encourage us to adapt, and inspire us to overcome. The students you'll meet in the following pages graduated from high school or advanced their college careers in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Conditions in 2020 and 2021 required them to adopt new methods, strategies and techniques for learning. They were asked to change their expectations. And they were expected to move forward while the world tried to find its footing.

They didn't let the virus curb their enthusiasm, hinder their work ethic, or dim their dreams. Rather, they used the circumstances to kindle their determination and shine brighter.

In the pages that follow, our 2021 scholarship recipients share insights, experiences, words of thanks, and their plans for giving back to their communities — all in their own words.

We'll echo a sentiment they express time and again in their letters to you: Thank you for making these scholarships possible, and for helping dreams become reality.





**Isabelle Daiber,**  
Vandalia

**Parents:** Tim and Gena Daiber

**Graduate:** St. Anthony High School, Effingham

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

**Areas of Interest:** Middle school education in mathematics

### Realizing Your Potential

Giving to the community takes little — a little time, a little effort, and a little money. But giving to the community using your full potential can be immeasurable. We can never count the lives we touch by a simple action or the number of people we inspire with a simple word. Each person is different in how they reach that full potential. But for me, I think I can reach that through higher education.

Education has always been important to me, and I have been very fortunate to receive a beneficial one. I want to be able to return the gift I received to others who could be inspired by a simple lesson. I plan on majoring in education so that I may help, inspire, and influence the younger generations to reach their full potential by giving them the enthusiasm for learning that I have, which could very well one day save a life, impact the nation, or go down in history.

### To the Class of 2025

Always be true to yourself. Never lose yourself in the world of crazy demands.

### The Obstacle is The Way

I believe my strongest qualities are my work ethic, patience and responsibility. I never back down from a challenge or a job to do. I always try to give someone the time they need for explanations or thought. I have overcome many obstacles to be the person I am today. Some were more trying than others, but they have all made me a stronger leader, sister, daughter and friend. I recognize that I will always have obstacles to overcome and the ones I have defeated are stepping stones for the next.

### The Ripple Effect

Slowly but surely I hope to inspire a chain reaction through the young people of the world — our future — to act selflessly, confidently, and humbly.

### Remembering Your Roots

I will not forget that the small stuff counts too. In addition to teaching others, I intend to continue to volunteer at fundraisers, events, or community functions while using skills that I have acquired through my newly found education. I will impact my community by the example I hope to set, the spark I hope to ignite in others, and the quiet work I do for the betterment of the community.

“I never would have made it to where I am today if it wasn’t for my siblings, my parents, and my teachers. But more specifically, I would like to thank my mom. She has been with me every step of the way from telling me not to worry to embarrassing me in front of my classmates. I couldn’t have done it without you, mom!”

## THANK YOU

*I would like to thank all of those who put the hard work into this scholarship program. Not only has it benefited me, but others as well. I am super excited about being able to pursue my dream as a teacher. This scholarship allows me to achieve my degree and pursue my career. Although going to college can be scary, I’m looking forward to meeting new people. I cannot wait for the upcoming year as a college student and to put this money to good use for my future. Thank you for everything.*





**Megan Darby,**  
St. Jacob

**Parents:** Janine and James Darby

**Graduate:** Triad High School, Troy

**Attending:** Baylor University, Waco, Texas

**Areas of Interest:** Political Science on a pre-law track with minors in French and economics

## THANK YOU

*Thank you so much to all those involved in awarding me this scholarship! I am honored to have been selected and am very grateful for this support towards building my future and achieving my dreams.*

### Helping to Build Better Lives

After law school I aspire to become an immigration attorney and represent clients in U.S. immigration courts to help them find their forever home. The next big step to achieving my goal is getting my undergraduate degree and preparing for law school. I have chosen to be a political science major to gain a complete understanding of U.S. political systems and courts as well as the skills of political analysis and reasoning.

Law school is undoubtedly a large intellectual investment and a pretty stressful level of education. So what makes it worth it? I wish to go to law school and into immigration law for several reasons. Primarily that working for clients seeking refuge or a home is an incredibly important and impactful position that will make the lives of so many much better and more secure than they could have dreamed.

The rights and privileges that I have received due to my growing up in the U.S. are immeasurable and the ability to extend those privileges to new members of my community would be an incredible privilege.

On a federal level, the immigration court system lacks many of the resources and personnel needed to effectively run such a large system and my contribution would certainly be of help to the system. Whereas on a community level, not only would my legal endeavors allow for people seeking help to safely and properly enter my community and the communities of others, but it would also help make my community safer. By helping to give security and citizenship to U.S. immigrants I would play a key role in adding diversity of thought and safe access to prosperous communities, thus incentivizing proper and safe entry to the nation and my community!

### Standout Memory

A standout memory from high school is winning an outstanding delegate award in Model United

Nations! After a year where most everything I enjoyed was canceled, it was so exciting to be able to focus my attention on Model UN and learn and grow even without the activities of a traditional year. This accomplishment also represented my growth throughout my years of Model UN and it was a great note to end on.

### To The Class of 2025

Take a step back and breathe for a moment and look at all that you have accomplished. It is hard to admire the successes and joys of life if you don't take a step back from a busy life to do so. So continue your exciting and fast-paced life, but remember to appreciate it and slow down when you can.

**“The aspect of college I am most looking forward to is being able to learn about the topics that interest me and push myself in those specific fields by being in a community of others who aim to be the best they can be. I am excited to have peers and professors who challenge and encourage me to continue to learn and succeed.”**

### Thanks Mom!

My mom has helped me tremendously throughout my education. She has helped motivate me when I needed it and encouraged me when the going got hard. She has set an example for me to be determined and excited about my education and has remained my biggest supporter.



**Sophia Eckhardt,**  
Vandalia

**Parents:** Tony and Johanna Eckhardt

**Graduate:** Vandalia Community High School

**Attending:** University of Illinois Springfield, Springfield, Ill.

**Area of Interest:** Psychology

**“With each unexpected turn in life, a new lesson is learned and I have chosen to let each experience make me stronger.”**

**The Importance of Family**

My family has always been my biggest support system. My mom and I often ended up at the kitchen table until midnight, as she helped me with challenging math homework. My dad was my go-to when I needed help with artwork on my poster, making a plant cell for my science class project, or creating a Valentine box. And, even though my sister is younger than me, she listened while I read books to her when we were younger which developed my reading comprehension. Little did I know that reading books to her also helped me become a better reader.

**Standout Memory**

The most memorable time in high school for me is definitely this past year. The hardships that students have faced during the pandemic have molded us into a strong, resilient and determined generation. Although my senior year was by no means “normal” or “easy,” we learned many valuable life lessons along the way — especially how to adapt to new and challenging circumstances. The Class of 2021 will have an important skill set as we enter the workforce and definitely a story to share with our grandkids.

**Looking to the Future**

As I move on to the next chapter of my life at the University of Illinois Springfield, I am looking forward to discovering my future. Many adults have told me that college is one of the best times of their lives. As I expand upon my knowledge and

challenge myself with new experiences, I will find out who I am and where my interest in psychology will lead me.

**To the Class of 2025**

Never forget how far you have come. You are capable of adapting to any challenge that comes your way. Most humans do not like change because of the way our brains are hardwired, but change is not always bad. Growth takes place when we are faced with new challenges and we step outside of our comfort zones.

**Listening, Learning and Leading**

My listening skills have allowed others to feel heard and important. They have also helped me absorb information and grow as a young adult. Listening is the beginning of learning. A Greek philosopher, Epictetus, once said, “We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.”

My response to the obstacles that life has presented has helped mold me into the student, leader, friend and family member that I am today. Helping others overcome the obstacles created by the Covid-19 pandemic, including Vandalia’s shift to a hybrid school plan and complete online education, is something I can feel good about. By encouraging my classmates to participate, reminding others to complete assignments or attend Google meets, I feel like I made a difference.

**THANK YOU**

*Thank you so much for this great opportunity! I am truly honored to be one of the recipients of this scholarship and grateful for the extra financial support from Southwestern and the Power for Progress Committee. Attending the University of Illinois Springfield in the fall as a psychology major is something that I am very excited and passionate about. I plan to represent Southwestern and make the cooperative proud!*





**Hannah Jansen,**  
Highland

**Parents:** Andrew and Laura Jansen

**Graduate:** Highland High School

**Attending:** University of Illinois Springfield, Springfield, Ill.

**Areas of Interest:** Elementary education and mathematical sciences

**“Teachers serve as role models for their students. Therefore, my actions in my classroom will greatly influence my students. I plan to create a loving and accepting community in my classroom. Having a loving classroom environment will help my students be caring and accepting of individuals and their community.”**

# THANK YOU

*I am a junior at the University of Illinois Springfield. I am double majoring in elementary education and mathematical sciences. As an elementary teacher, I plan to create a caring and safe learning environment. I will strive to help each of my future students to learn and achieve their goals. Along with that, I hope to pass on my love for learning to all my future students. I am so thankful for all the members who helped fund the scholarship that I have received. This money will help me to continue my college education and help me to learn how to become a skilled and caring elementary teacher. I greatly appreciate your help.*

## **Friends & Family**

My family and friends have helped me get to where I am today. All my family members have always supported me in my schooling and activities. They have been my cheerleaders and I greatly appreciate them for that. As for my friends, they have been there with me encouraging me to be my best. They have been with me during late night study sessions, and they have been there for a shoulder to lean on. Without my family and friends in my life, I would not be where I am today.

## **Standout Memory**

Looking back at all the memories from my college career, one that stands out is when I interviewed for a job at Cox Children’s Center during my freshman year of college. Cox Children’s Center is a daycare that is located on the University of Illinois Springfield campus. I remember being nervous since it was my first time interviewing for a job. In the interview, they offered me a job as a student worker at the daycare. It was the perfect job for a college student. I have been working there during the school year ever since. Going to work and seeing the children at the daycare

brightens my day. It is a great place to work and has transformed my college experience for the better.

## **Shaping the Future**

Over my past few semesters, my passion for teaching has flourished. The teaching courses that I have taken and working at a daycare have shown me how to impact my future students positively. Children are the leaders of the future and shaping them to be confident and caring will impact the communities that they live in. In my career as a teacher, I plan to share my love for learning with my future students, be a positive role model for them, and shape them into confident leaders.

## **To the Class of 2025**

Everyone should create a balance between their school life, work life, and their personal life. I am someone who loves to work hard and keep busy. One thing that I can forget to do is take a break or I feel guilty when taking a break. It is great to work hard but it is also important to take a break. So find that balance between school life, work life and personal life. Remember to work hard but take time for yourself.



**Felicity Guttmann,**  
Edwardsville

**Parents:** Brent and Renee Guttmann

**Graduate:** Edwardsville High School

**Attending:** University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.

**Areas of Interest:** Agriculture, agronomy and plant genetics

about the potential of food destined for landfills and start food collection programs to reduce food waste while aiding struggling families.

**Standout Memory**

At the end of my junior year, during online classes, I decided to run for both drama club and FFA officer positions. I thought I would be lucky to get one office, but I ended up becoming the President of EHS drama club and the Secretary of EHS FFA. I learned to never limit myself or turn down an opportunity for fear of failure.

**Role Model**

My biology teacher, Ms. Doll, was a role model for me throughout high school. As a tiny, scared freshman,

**“Food is one of the most basic human needs, but hundreds of millions of people suffer from hunger every day. By becoming more educated in agricultural practices and advocating for hunger-curbing programs, I aim to end hunger in my community, the U.S., and the world.”**

her confident and unapologetic demeanor was both terrifying and impressive. When I took her AP class two years later, I grew to love her no-nonsense attitude coupled with a relentless enthusiasm for all-things-biology. I hope to love my future career, to notice little things, and to stand up for what is right, just as Ms. Doll would do.

**To the Class of 2025**

Wherever you are and whatever you do, be open to a new idea or a new perspective. You never know where someone else is coming from.

**Addressing Hunger at Home & Abroad**

Hunger is the most important societal problem at the community, national, and global level. Without proper nutrition, everyday tasks are nearly impossible. Beyond the immediate effects on physical health, hunger leads to difficulty with education and mental health.

I plan to pursue an agriculture degree to become an agronomist or plant breeder/geneticist, and use my knowledge to address the societal issue of hunger in my community, the United States, and the world.

With a rapidly increasing world population leading to a decrease in available farmland, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have the ability to produce more food on less land. GMOs have a unique ability to resist severe droughts, temperatures, disease and insect plagues. For the problem of hunger

to be solved for the present and the future, vast improvements to current agricultural practices must be made, and GMOs are a part of that solution.

Food waste in the United States is a shockingly large issue. Forty percent of food produced in the United States is wasted, much of which is due to the belief that food past the best by date has gone bad. This is a common misperception.

In many cases the food is safe for weeks after the date on the packaging. Programs such as Project 612, a local program started to curb food waste in Edwardsville schools, salvage packaged food items and donate them directly to food pantries and other charities. This system requires no additional tax dollars and no legislation, just volunteers helping their communities. Through this type of community advocacy and education, I hope to inform people around me

**THANK YOU**

*Thank you so much for this scholarship! I'm so excited to attend Mizzou this fall and utilize the Southwestern Electric Cooperative scholarship.*





**Zach Burks,**  
Beecher City

**Parents:** Jacob and Carrie Burks

**Graduate:** Beecher City Jr-Sr  
High School

**Attending:** Southern Illinois  
University Carbondale

**Area of Interest:** Civil  
Engineering

**Mentor Moments**

There are many people who have contributed to who I am today. However, two people who have had a major impact on my life are my grandfather, Michael Majors, and my coach, Andrew Nohren. My grandpa has provided a very positive attitude throughout my upbringing. He came to every sports event he could and was always there if I needed anything. He has been a superior role model to all of his grandkids and embodies the hard-working yet humble spirit that I strive to be. My coach, Andy, has been another role model that I truly admire. He always pushed me to be better in any situation, athletic or otherwise. He continues to wish the best for me and check in with

me every now and again. These two individuals have been major influences in my development and educational career.

**Standout Memory**

A standout memory that I have made over the past year in college is the experience of being a part of the Steel Bridge Design Team. Last year's competition was very different because of gathering restrictions, yet our team pushed through it and was able to complete a bridge for the competition and compete. It was a great learning experience, and I had a lot of fun fabricating and assembling the bridge.

**To the Class of 2025**

Do not let anything hold you back. There are a lot of things that can make you feel stressed or incapable during college. Just work hard and remember to not take everything so seriously. Enjoy yourself when possible, but remember what you are there for.

**Building Community**

I am from the village of Beecher City, Illinois. The town is a very close-knit community with active citizens and groups. A location that receives a lot of foot traffic, especially during the warmer months, is the community park. The park looks great and it is a great host for attractions that bring people together. I believe that a few improvements would greatly enhance the function and appeal of this lovely public park.

The pit area is muddy and bare. Trailers move in and out of this area and have difficulty moving about when the ground is soft. I propose rocking this area and hiring local contractors to complete the work. I can assist with this project as I have experience for surveying equipment and design.

**“Nothing else can really match the sense of belonging you get from being a part of a small town.”**

Developing a plan for implementation is something I believe I am very capable of. Not only would this help with the function of the pit area and reduced damage grounds, but it would improve the aesthetic as well. I would work with the city council and determine how much prep work would need to be done before the rock is brought in and laid down. We would also discuss what size of rock is the most cost-effective and efficient. I believe in the end that this project is very doable and can improve the park greatly.

The plan I have shared above is assuming all funds are available and that the project would be approved. I would love to complete this and give back to the place where I grew up.

# THANK YOU

*Thank you to the members who have helped support the scholarship program! I am honored to have been chosen for this award and really appreciate the impact Southwestern has on our local communities. I am grateful for the investment in my education and cannot thank you enough!*



**Brooke Tompkins,**  
Smithboro

**Parents:** John and Tina Tompkins

**Graduate:** Mulberry Grove High School

**Attending:** Kaskaskia College

**Area of Interest:** Agriculture

## THANK YOU

*Thank you for being a generous sponsor of the Power for Progress Scholarship Program! I am looking forward to attending classes at Kaskaskia College this fall. Among several general education classes, I will be taking a variety of agricultural classes, like animal science and agricultural economics. I am excited to gain valuable knowledge and skill sets I can use for the rest of my life, which you have helped make possible.*

### **Giving Back to Those Who Gave**

With a post-secondary education and an agriculture-related career, I plan on sharing my time and resources in the future with the FFA and 4-H, just as I was invested in throughout my youth. FFA and 4-H helped shape me into the person I am today. With countless opportunities to develop my work ethic, soft skills, and become involved in community organizations, they have readied me for my post-secondary education and made me into a competitive candidate for the workplace. Not only have they prepared me for my future, but they have instilled a love for my community within me as well.

Through years of growing up in Bond County, I have witnessed and grown to personally know people

who sacrificed their time and resources to help fellow members of our community. I have seen this myself at the annual 4-H auction, where local business owners purchase 4-H members' projects so they can save money to put towards next year's project or their education. I have been honored to see hundreds of people attend the annual Mulberry Grove work auction to donate their money towards the FFA chapter so our members can continue learning and doing what they love, helping make us into the people we are today. I have seen people donate their time to honor those who selflessly fought for our freedom. I have seen community support demonstrated as a current student of the Bond County CEO program. Behind every guest speaker, town, and customer supporting our business is a

person who invests in their community, helping each CEO student get one step closer to achieving their dreams.

With my career and education, I will strive to be one of those people: a person who supports their community, donating their resources to help young people flourish, just as I was invested in. I am grateful to have received invaluable support from community members.

### **Love and Support**

My parents have helped me get to where I am today. Whether it was picking me up from sports practices, helping me with my 4-H projects, or giving me their love and support, they were always there for me. (Love you, Mom and Dad!)

### **To the Class of 2025**

Graduating Class of 2025, always remember to live in the moment. I know, I know — you've heard it countless times, but there's a reason why: a moment is literally one moment. It's vital you are fully present right then — not thinking about the past or the future but living in that single moment. It will end just as fast as it began.

### **Standout Memory**

As a freshman, I attended my first-ever Illinois FFA State Convention in Springfield. As we walked into the convention center, I found myself among nearly 5,000 other FFA members who were there to celebrate one thing we all loved — agriculture. In that moment, a fire was lit in my heart for agriculture. Now, I plan to pursue an agricultural-based career after my studies.

**“I am so grateful to have grown up in Bond County. If it weren't for this welcoming community, I wouldn't be who I am today.”**





**Matthew Lay,**  
Ramsey

**Parents:** Steve and Jennifer Lay

**Graduate:** Ramsey High School

**Attending:** Southern Illinois  
University Edwardsville

**Area of Interest:** Business

**“I will always continue to fight for what is right in any circumstance. The Earth is a crazy place right now and it needs people to look after it and everything on it.”**

# THANK YOU

*I would like to thank the committee members who awarded me and the rest of the participants with this amazing scholarship. With their support I can continue my education after high school and in the future get a degree and a job in something I am passionate about.*

### **Standout Memory**

A defining moment from my high school career came at the very end, at graduation. When it came time for me to lead the class in the turning of the tassel I finally realized how far the class and I had come. Finishing high school during a pandemic wasn't always the easiest thing, but we all managed to pull it off and finish together with all of our friends and families in the stands.

### **All About Family**

My family has been my biggest supporter and without their help I would not be where I am today. Through constant reassurance and the ability to go along with my crazy ideas my family has always been right there to help.

### **Looking Ahead**

College and the next chapter of my life is something I have been looking forward to for quite some time. I am looking forward to all the new people and I am excited for all the new experiences. Coming from such a small town, the typical student might find big new places worrisome, but I believe that is where you meet the people who will change your life.

### **To the Class of 2025**

Never stop trying new things. You never know until you try it and it might just be the next best thing in your life.

### **Building Opportunity**

I would like to pursue a degree in business and a career in the same field once I graduate from college. My goal in life is to make a difference. I want to make things better

than they were before, fix what needs mended, and leave the world better than I found it.

I am a stout advocate for community service and dedicate my time to a community that has given much to me.

Using my education as an entrepreneur and soon-to-be college graduate, I plan to bring opportunity to this area. More people are choosing to leave the area instead of staying. We are home to many low-income families and individuals. With little to no low-income housing, it's hard for these individuals to find shelter.

Using my education I intend to help fix these problems. Through my entrepreneurial education from the Fayette County CEO program, I have learned that business attracts opportunities, opportunities attract people, and people are what make a community. To lure more people to my community, I plan to bring more business to the local area. I want to make people want to stay. Ramsey has the potential to grow, it just needs a little push.

More business equals more opportunities for the people and the community. Bringing in more business through small business or corporate business will provide more job opportunities which Ramsey is in need of.

By fixing what needs to be fixed and by bringing in more business and people, I plan to improve the quality of life here and positively impact my community of Ramsey.



**Morgan Wilderman,**  
Greenville

**Parents:** Bryan Wilderman &  
Julie Elders

**Graduate:** Greenville High  
School

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

**Area of Interest:** Biochemistry

**Standout Memory**

A standout moment from my high school career was the school musical my junior year. The show was “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers,” and all of my friends and I were cast as the brides and brothers. We got to do a lot of dancing and singing together (our favorite things to do). The show was so fun to put on, and it brought me so much closer to my friends. This moment was special because it taught me that big things don’t have to be scary. Big decisions and events can be fun and enriching rather than stressful. That experience helped me to grow into who I am now!

**Caring for the Community**

I am pursuing an education in biochemistry. With this degree, I plan to build a career in the medical or pharmaceutical fields. These fields interest me because creating reliable care and resources is a vital role in our healthcare system that I want to be a part of. Serving others is one of my pinnacle values and goals in life. My intended career path allows me to help people address their physical and medical needs and will put me in a position to aid others as people, not just patients.

I plan to continue improving the health and medical resources in my community. My region should continue to have access to the best

“During my education, I not only plan to take courses relevant to my career, but also join clubs, organizations and peer groups that encourage community involvement, fellowship, and direct action. Using skills from these experiences, I will encourage higher education and involvement in my community. Experience in these areas will allow me to better serve my community not only as an extension of my workplace and education but also as a citizen.”

healthcare possible: working to ensure this necessity will be my top priority. I will use my position in the community to influence my industry of employment, and use my position in my work environment to push positive change in the community. I plan to reach a broad audience with my practice via education, assistance, and service. I will approach my career with a focus on fellowship and will constantly be asking myself how I can support the members of my community.

My education will be driven by my desire to help others. My career goal is to do the best scientific work possible and create a credible base for education and science. I will invoke positive change in my area by pursuing opportunities in community involvement, service, and innovation, and I will use my career to improve the medical resources and care in my community.

# THANK YOU

*I send a huge thank you to the Southwestern Electric members and Scholarship Committee. This scholarship allows my focus to reside on my schooling rather than financial stress. I’m so excited for college in the fall, and it’s so much more exciting knowing that some of the cost is taken care of! I am so grateful to know that there are people who are willing and able to help students like me cover the cost of education. Once again, thank you. Your generosity is very appreciated.*





**Katie Maine,**  
Alhambra

Parents: Donald & Marsha Maine

Graduate: Highland High School

Attending: Southern Illinois  
University Edwardsville

Area of Interest: Nursing

**My Sister & My Calling**

I was adopted at birth and brought to Alhambra, Ill. My mom and dad were foster parents. I grew up as an only child until I was three, when we had two siblings come into our home. Finally, I had someone to play with. They stayed with us for three years, then they left to go back to their family. Once again, I was an only child.

In 2003, my mom and dad got a call to see if they wanted to adopt a baby. I was going to be a big sister! When my sister was born, she weighed 1 pound, 11 ounces. She was 12 inches long. She spent her first five months in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at

Children's Hospital in St Louis. This meant several surgeries and different procedures for her, and many hours, days and months at the hospital for my family.

I believe it was at this point, even though I was only eight years old, that I decided I wanted to go into nursing. The nurses were amazing and so caring — not only for my sister, but also for my family — for the five months that she was in their care.

I am really looking forward to nursing school so I can make a difference in someone's life like they made a difference in mine.

**THANK YOU**

*Thank you so much for this scholarship! I will be going into the nursing field, and it will help me pay for my college education. Nursing school will be costly, but I know the rewards of nursing will be well worth the expense.*



# Southwestern Accepting Scholarship Applications for 2022

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

Since 1995, Southwestern Electric Cooperative's Power for Progress Scholarship Program has provided more than \$276,000 in academic assistance to students pursuing a college degree or vocational school certificate. The tradition will continue in 2022 with Southwestern's pledge to award \$10,000 in scholarship money to 10 students in spring 2022 for use in the fall 2022 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 11, 2022.



"Our Southwestern Scholars have powered through another remarkable year of uncertainty. They have adapted and accepted the new realities, all while planning their futures. Our best hope for these resilient young people is that the lessons of perseverance learned during these tough times will serve them well in the year ahead as they begin and continue their college experiences. We wish them well and we are so very proud of them."

President Ann Schwarm, Southwestern Electric Cooperative

"Congratulations to our 2021 Power for Progress Scholarship recipients. Thank you for sharing your hopes and dreams with the members of Southwestern Electric. It's a privilege to be part of your journey."

CEO Bobby Williams, Southwestern Electric Cooperative

"With a world struggling around them, these students continued to excel at school, at work, and in their communities. Thank you, Southwestern Scholars, for setting the example we need. We are blessed to be able to assist in your aspirations."

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



This month we identify five power-hungry household items and share ways to feed them without emptying your wallet.

by Julie Lowe, Energy Manager

When it comes to comfort, there's no place like home. With the help of household appliances and home environmental systems, we can dial in data and create conditions to suit our personal preferences, morning, noon and night.

But that same technology can make us uncomfortable when it's time to pay our energy bills — particularly in winter and summer months.

If you notice spikes in your electric bills as temperatures rise and fall, here are five common culprits, and ways to offset that expense without sacrificing comfort.

### HEATING SYSTEMS

We couldn't weather Illinois' cold without an effective home heating system. But from December through February, the same system or appliance that takes the edge off winter is likely consuming more energy than any other system or appliance in your home. The



Use a programmable or smart thermostat to reduce your heating bills by lowering the temperature when you are away from home, and bumping it up to the temperature you're comfortable with shortly before you return home.

kilowatt-hour (kWh) range for running a heating system can be broad, with energy consumption varying widely by the type of system, size, manufacturer, and efficiency rating. Regardless of where your system lands on that scale, you can take steps to optimize its efficiency.

- Use a programmable or smart thermostat to reduce your heating bills by lowering the temperature when you are away from home, and bumping it up to the temperature you're comfortable with shortly before you return home.
- Schedule regular maintenance for your heating system to ensure that it is running at optimal efficiency.
- Consider replacing an older system with a new, high efficiency system, such as a heat pump.

### SPACE HEATERS

Space heaters can be a helpful supplement to your primary heating system. They allow you to save money



Don't rely on space heaters to warm your entire home. It is never more efficient to run more than one space heater, rather than your main heating system.

by setting your household thermostat at a lower temperature, while you rely on your space heater to make a smaller, more frequently used area warmer and more comfortable.

But don't rely on space heaters to warm your entire home. It is never more efficient to run more than one space heater, rather than your main heating system. If you opt to use space heaters, be aware of how much energy they use. A 1,500-watt space heater will consume 1.5 kWh for each hour that it runs. If used frequently, that energy will add up quickly.

Additionally, keep in mind that space heaters are fire hazards. They should never be left unattended. Read the manufacturer's guide, make sure you understand the appliance's limitations, and observe the safety precautions.

## WATER HEATERS

According to the Department of Energy, water heating can account for up to 18 percent of your home's energy use. The amount of energy your water heater consumes will vary by brand, size, and efficiency rating. The number of people in your home, your water temperature

preferences, and your appliances also impact water heater energy use.

You can reduce water heater energy use by:

- Running your clothes washer on the cold setting whenever possible.
- Keeping showers short.
- Setting the temperature on your water heater no higher than 120 degrees F.

## COOLING SYSTEMS

We've just stepped into autumn, so the summer cooling season is months away — but these items are worth noting now as you review your 2021 energy bills and plan for 2022.

Like your heating system, the efficiency of your air conditioning unit will vary greatly by the make, model and size of the system or appliance. And just as your heating system probably consumes the lion's share of your energy budget in winter, your cooling system is probably the dominant factor in your summer electric bills. You can take simple steps to improve the efficiency of your cooling system.

- Schedule routine maintenance for your cooling system.
- Close vents in rooms that are not used frequently.



According to the Department of Energy, water heating can account for up to 18 percent of your home's energy use.

With most units ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 watts, a dehumidifier can consume a large amount of power.

- Use a programmable or smart thermostat to keep temperatures higher during hours you are away from home, and to lower the temperature shortly before you return home.
- Consider checking insulation levels in your attic. Adequate insulation will keep more of the sun's heat out of your home, so your cooling system will not have to work as hard.

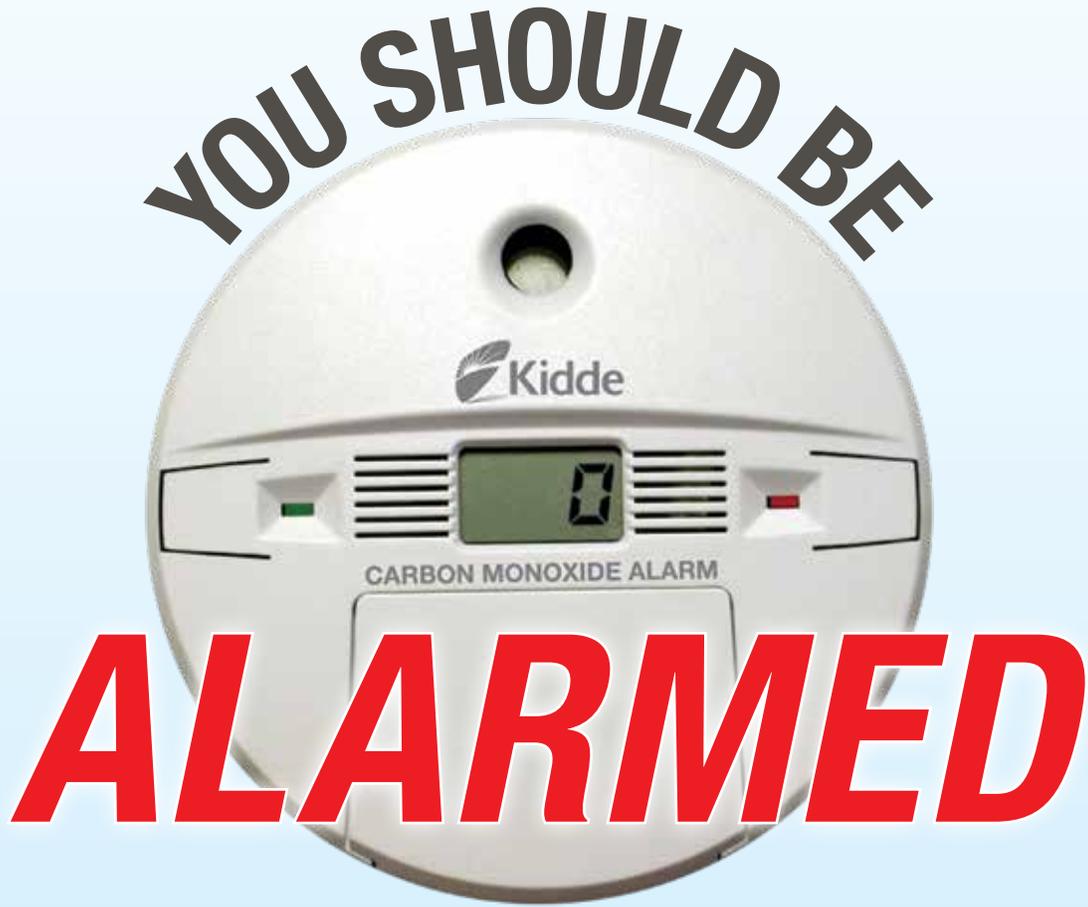
## DEHUMIDIFIERS

A dehumidifier can be a valuable asset for keeping your home's humidity level in check. It can prevent the growth of mildew, eliminate odors, and make your living area more comfortable. But with most units ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 watts, a dehumidifier can consume a large amount of power. Here are steps you can take to reduce the operating costs.

- Be sure your dehumidifier is sized properly for the area it's serving.
- Close off the room in which you've placed your dehumidifier, so it isn't trying to serve a larger area than it can effectively accommodate.
- Set the timer on your appliance or set it to shut off at the desired humidity level.
- Replace older models with newer, more efficient models.

Household appliances and home environmental systems bring comfort and convenience to our lives. Being aware of your home's most power-hungry appliances and systems, and how to use those items effectively, will help you save valuable energy while lowering your monthly power bills.

*Have a question about energy efficiency? Contact Julie Lowe, energy manager, at [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com).*



**As heating season settles into Southwestern Illinois, take measures to protect your family from CO poisoning. Install detectors on every level of your home.**

**W**ith winter just weeks away, many of us are firing up our furnaces for the first time since May. Before you use any fossil-fuel burning appliance, make sure your carbon monoxide (CO) detector is in working order.

Carbon monoxide, a gas produced by an incomplete burning of carbon-containing fuels, is an undetected threat in many homes. It has no color, taste or smell — and it kills more than 400 people in the United States every year. Most deaths occur during the winter heating season. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year about 20,000

Americans seek medical attention or lose a day of normal activity due to carbon monoxide poisoning.

Household appliances such as space heaters, gas ovens, dryers and furnaces emit carbon monoxide during regular use. Typically, vents safely channel carbon monoxide from an appliance or furnace to the outdoors. When an appliance vent leaks, carbon monoxide can seep into the home and pose a poisoning risk.

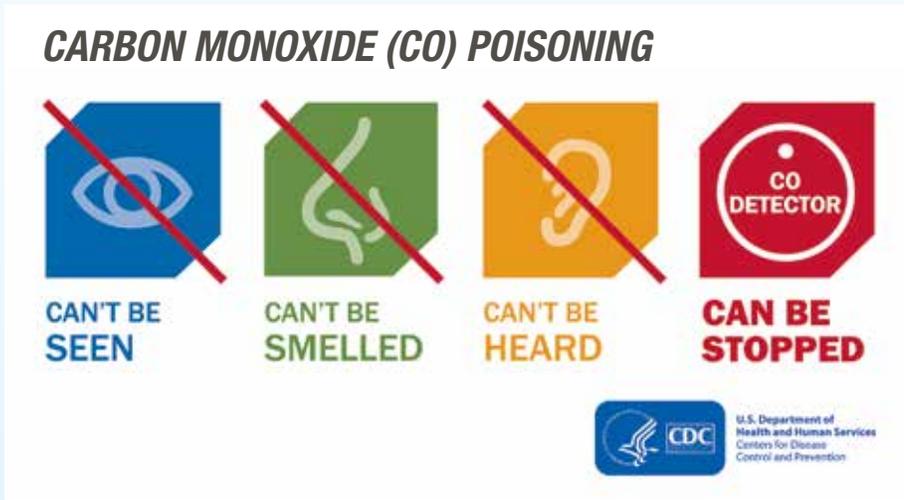
Other common sources of carbon monoxide include generators, gasoline-powered vehicles, lawn mowers, weed-eaters, chain saws and snow blowers, as well as charcoal grills and gas lanterns.

**What are the symptoms of CO poisoning?**

Because carbon monoxide is odorless, colorless, and otherwise undetectable to your senses, you may not know you're being exposed. The initial symptoms of low to moderate carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness

On Account: If your account number is 72250001, call us within 30 days to receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill.



## PROPER USE AND MAINTENANCE

You've installed detectors on every floor of your home. That's an important step toward protecting your family from CO poisoning. But don't let it lull you into a false sense of security. Your first line of defense should be the proper use and maintenance of fuel-burning appliances. Preventing carbon monoxide from becoming a problem in your home is better than relying on an alarm.

## DO THE HOMEWORK

When you shop for a CO detector, research your options and don't select a model solely by cost. Organizations such as Consumers Union (publisher of Consumer Reports), the American Gas Association, and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) can help you make an informed decision. Look for UL certification on any detector you purchase.

## IF YOUR CO DETECTOR SOUNDS AN ALARM

Never ignore a carbon monoxide alarm. If your alarm triggers, don't try to identify the CO source. Move everyone outside immediately. Then call emergency services, your fire department, or 911, using your cellular phone. Forget your phone inside? Don't go back for it. Make the call from a neighbor's home.

After you're outside, do a head count. Verify everyone is accounted for. Don't reenter your home until emergency responders have given you the all-clear. You could lose consciousness and die if you enter your home.

If the source of the CO is a malfunctioning appliance, replace it or have it repaired. Don't operate the appliance until it's been properly serviced by a qualified technician.

**High level CO poisoning results in progressively more severe symptoms, including:**

- Confusion
- Vomiting
- Loss of muscular coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- Death

Symptom severity is related to both the carbon monoxide level and duration of exposure. If you think you're experiencing symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, step outside into fresh air immediately. Then call emergency services using a cellular phone or from a neighbor's home to report your symptoms. If you stay in your home, you could lose consciousness and die.

### Prevention is key

While carbon monoxide detectors are a useful tool and provide a vital layer of protection against CO poisoning, they're not your first line of defense. Your first step toward CO poisoning prevention is

the proper use and maintenance of fuel-burning appliances.

Have your fuel-burning appliances — including oil and gas furnaces, gas water heaters, gas ranges and ovens, gas dryers, gas or kerosene space heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves — inspected by a trained professional at the beginning of every heating season. Make certain that flues and chimneys are connected, in good condition, and not blocked.

Choose appliances that vent their fumes to the outside whenever possible, have them properly installed, and maintain them according to manufacturers' instructions.

Read and follow the instructions that accompany any fuel-burning device. If you can't avoid using an unvented gas or kerosene space heater, carefully follow the precautions that come with it. Use the proper fuel and keep doors to the rest of the house open. Crack a window to ensure enough air for ventilation and proper fuel-burning.

## PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

- Install carbon monoxide detectors on every floor of your home. You can buy carbon monoxide detectors at most discount and hardware stores.
- Have your furnace, vents and fireplace inspected each fall by a professional.
- Don't use an oven or gas stovetop to heat your home.
- Don't leave a space heater running or the stove or fireplace burning while you're sleeping.
- Never let your car run in the garage, even if the garage door is open.

## WHO • WHAT • WHERE

With our annual meeting in the books, I found myself thinking about the days to come and — COVID willing and the creek don't rise — some of the places in our service area I'd like to visit before year's end. Of course, that led me to think of the members I may meet. And that, as always, made me think of our puzzle pages, and how grateful I am to those of you who read, correspond and contribute your words, suggestions, stories and artifacts to this section of the magazine.

Thank you. We deeply appreciate the cards, letters and emails we receive each month. As I've said in the past and will no doubt say again, your voices and the stories you share make Who~What~Where one of the liveliest, most engaging segments of The Southwestern. More often than not, it's my favorite part of the publication. And that, my friends, is all your fault.

Right, then. Enough from me. Let's hear from you. But before I go, can you identify the antique on page 23? Have a story associated with one of these? We'd love to hear from you. You can reach us using the info at the bottom of the page.

Meanwhile, here's what you had to say about our July challenge.

.....  
I recognized the statue of Sacagawea and her baby son Jean Baptiste. It is part of the beautiful campus grounds at Lewis and Clark Community College. It is also pictured in a small display at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site titled "After the Mississippians."

After the Mississippians were gone from the Mounds, a group of French Trappist Monks came to the area. They lived on Mound 48 between 1809 and 1813. They built a monastic complex, with fields and orchards on Monks Mound. Disease, crop failure and

economic problems forced them to leave the site around 1813.

During the time they were at what is now Cahokia Mounds, the priest who was with the group baptized Sacagawea's baby. This is what I like to call a history overlap!

I enjoy Who~What~Where.  
—Linda Sinco, Site Interpretive Coordinator, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville

"Who Am I?" is a statue of Sacagawea. This beautiful statue in the Who~What~Where July edition of The Southwestern magazine is located on the campus of Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Ill.

It is fitting that her statue is located on the Lewis and Clark college campus because she assisted Lewis and Clark as a translator.

To read more about Sacagawea's role with the Lewis and Clark Expedition go to: <https://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/sacagawea>  
—Linda Mauck, Maryville

The statue depicted in the July 2021 issue of The Southwestern is of Sacagawea and her baby. It is located on the campus of Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Ill. That is a very appropriate location as she was an integral member of the 1803



- 1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition of Discovery from St. Louis to the Pacific Coast in Oregon, and their return.

—Darwin Evelsizer, Maryville

This is the statue of Sacagawea on the campus of Lewis & Clark Community College in Godfrey. It was crafted by the same woman who designed the Sacagawea \$1 coin.

—Cathy Bright, Alhambra

The July 2021 Who~What~Where challenge depicts a bronze sculpture of a Lemhi Shoshone woman, Sacagawea, facing west with her young son Jean Baptiste Charbonneau draped on her back. The sculpture fittingly can be found in the central courtyard on the campus of Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Ill. The statue was dedicated on May 14, 2002.

Sacagawea, at age 16, helped the Lewis and Clark Expedition to achieve their chartered mission objectives to explore the Louisiana Territory. She traveled with the expedition thousands of miles from North Dakota to the Pacific Ocean, helped to establish cultural contacts with Native American populations, and contributed to the expedition's knowledge of natural history in different regions.

The statue was created by noted figurative sculptor Glenna Goodacre who also created the design for the Sacagawea dollar coin. The Olin Corporation of East Alton, Ill., created the bronze alloy specifically for the newly minted coins. Goodacre worked with a Native American woman, Randy'L He-Dow Teton in historically appropriate attire, to capture the spirit of this historic figure. The sculpture was commissioned through the Lewis and Clark Community College Foundation, with support from the Olin Corporation.  
—Bill Malec, O'Fallon

**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.

# What am I?



# A TASTE OF Autumn

Stuffed Acorn Squash

This month's recipes are courtesy of 4-H House Alumni Association's *Nurture the Future @ 805 4-H House Anniversary Cookbook* (apple crisp and harvest loaf cake) and Edwardsville Garden Club's *Favorite Recipes* (pumpkin dump cake and stuffed acorn squash).

## HARVEST LOAF CAKE

### Ingredients

- 1¾ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon ginger
- ¼ teaspoon cloves
- ½ cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup canned pumpkin
- ¾ cup chocolate chips
- ¾ cup walnuts chopped and divided

### Glaze Ingredients

- ½ cup powdered sugar
- ⅛ teaspoon nutmeg
- ⅛ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1-2 tablespoons whipping cream

### Directions

1. Combine the seven dry ingredients.
2. Cream together butter and egg. Add sugar gradually and then beat well.
3. Add dry ingredients alternately with pumpkin.
4. Stir in chocolate chips and ½ cup walnuts.
5. Pour into 9 x 5 inch loaf pan and sprinkle with remaining ¼ cup walnuts.
6. Bake at 350° for 65-75 minutes.
7. Combine glaze ingredients, mix well, drizzle over finished cake, and serve.

## STUFFED ACORN SQUASH

### Ingredients

- 3 small acorn squash
- 2 cups vegetable broth
- ¾ teaspoon salt divided
- 1 cup quick cooking barley
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 small onion chopped
- 1 stalk celery chopped
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 large apple peeled and diced
- ½ cup walnuts chopped
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

### Directions

1. Cut squash in half lengthwise, scoop out seeds, and arrange cut side down in large baking dish.
2. Pour in ¼ inch boiling water and bake at 400° for 30 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, bring broth and ½ teaspoon salt to a boil in large sauce pan.
4. Stir in barley into broth mixture, reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer 12 minutes or until tender. Do not drain.
5. After baking squash set aside and turn oven down to 350°.
6. Melt butter in large skillet over medium heat, add onion, celery, remaining ¼ teaspoon salt, and pepper. Cook and stir for 5 minutes.
7. Add apple and cook an additional 5 minutes.
8. Stir in barley, walnuts, maple syrup, and cinnamon.
9. Remove cooked squash from baking dish, pour off any liquid, and return squash to baking dish cut side up.
10. Spoon barley mixture into squash, cover with foil, and bake at 350° for 15-20 minutes or until heated through.

## APPLE CRISP

### Ingredients

- 6 large apples sliced
- ½ cup orange juice
- 1 cup sugar divided
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¾ cup flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons butter

### Directions

1. Put apple slices in 8 x 8 inch pan.
2. Pour orange juice over slices.
3. Combine ½ cup sugar with cinnamon and sprinkle over apple slices.
4. Combine flour, remaining ½ cup sugar, and salt.
5. Cut butter into flour mixture with fork until it is crumbly.
6. Spoon butter mixture over apple slices.
7. Bake at 350° for 45-60 minutes.
8. Serve warm or cold topped with whipped cream.

## PUMPKIN DUMP CAKE

### Ingredients

- 4 eggs beaten
- 2 cups canned pumpkin
- 1½ cups sugar
- 12 ounce can evaporated milk
- ½ teaspoon cloves
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- ½ cup pecans chopped
- 1 cup margarine melted

### Directions

1. Mix together eggs, pumpkin, sugar, evaporated milk, cloves, nutmeg, and cinnamon.
2. Pour into lightly greased 13 x 9 inch baking dish.
3. Sprinkle dry cake mix evenly over pumpkin mixture.
4. Sprinkle pecans over cake mix and then pour melted margarine evenly over cake and pecans.
5. Bake at 350° for one hour or until lightly browned.
6. Serve topped with Cool Whip.

## CURRENT EVENTS

**Editor's Note:** What used to be a simple decision — stay in or venture out — COVID has complicated. The odds of getting sick, of making someone else sick, of shrugging off the virus or dying from it, vary from person to person, place to place, day to day. They change with chance and circumstance, and with caution and conscious decision.

Conditions are constantly changing. Stay informed. When you visit public places and events, take precautions. Follow state, local and CDC guidelines. When appropriate, wear a mask and engage in social distancing. Wash your hands thoroughly before you leave home and again when you return. Keep hand sanitizer in your car or on your person.

And stay home if you're sick.

Regardless of how you spend your time, please be mindful of your health and the well-being of those around you. Stay healthy and stay safe.

**October 2, 3, 9, & 10 VINTAGE VOICES**, Alton. Step back in time on these guided, gentle-walking tours and meet a controversial publisher, war heroes, and prominent persons from Alton's rich history portrayed by local actors. Noon - 2:30 p.m. Tours will leave from the main gate of the City Cemetery at 5th and Vine Streets. Call (618) 531-6641.

**October 8 & 9 CHILI COOK-OFF**, Belleville. Features the culinary creations of individuals, local organizations and area businesses. Attendees are invited to vote in the People's Choice contest for their favorite chili for \$1 per vote. Proceeds benefit the Community Interfaith Food Pantry in Belleville. 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Downtown on East Main Street. Visit [bellevillechili.com](http://bellevillechili.com).

**October 8-10 TOUCHSTONE ENERGY BALLOON FEST**, Shelbyville. Event includes balloon glows and flights, tethered balloon rides, helicopter rides, cookout, local food and drink vendors, live music, and kids' area. Friday 4 - 9 p.m.; Saturday 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sunday 7 - 9 a.m. For a full schedule of events, go to [visitlakeshelbyville.com/events/balloon.htm](http://visitlakeshelbyville.com/events/balloon.htm).

**October 8-10, 15-17 MOON OVER BUFFALO**, Breeze. A theatrical presentation by Clinton County Showcase. All performances begin at 8 p.m. except for the last Sunday showing, which is at 2 p.m. \$12 for adults; \$10 for students, senior citizens and active military personnel (with valid identification). Historic Avon Theatre, 535 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. For reservations, call (618) 526-2866 or visit [clintoncountytshowcase.com](http://clintoncountytshowcase.com).

**October 9 ART, WINE, & MUSIC FESTIVAL**, Centralia. Event includes local artisans, musicians, crafters, wineries, craft brewers, and food vendors downtown on Broadway Street between Poplar and Elm streets and surrounding the area of the Centralia Carillon. 4 - 10 p.m. Admission is free. Call (618) 533-7623 or visit [celebratecentralia.com](http://celebratecentralia.com).

**October 9 CELEBRATION OF THE MEXICAN HONORARY COMMISSION**, Granite City.

Head out to historic Lincoln Place neighborhood for an evening of dancing, live music, drinking, and eating. This celebration will honor the 95th anniversary of The Mexican Honorary Commission. 2 - 11 p.m. 1801 Spruce Street. Visit [facebook.com/MHCFiesta/](https://facebook.com/MHCFiesta/).

**October 9 GLENFEST**, Glen Carbon. Bring the family out for a fun evening food, drinks, and entertainment for all ages. 5 - 10 p.m. Johnny Rockitt Band plays 7 - 10 p.m. Miner Park, 194 South Main Street. Visit [glen-carbon.il.us](http://glen-carbon.il.us) or call (618) 288-1200.

**October 9 JIM MEYER MEMORIAL ART SHOW**, Wood River. Show will feature the original artworks of Jim Meyer and numerous regional artists. Event is free and open to the public and will include many family-friendly activities such as scavenger hunt, color contest for kids (ages 4-7, 8-10), food vendors, and entertainment. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Located in the back parking lot of the Wood River Downtown District off Ferguson Avenue. For more information, visit [meyercustom-jewelry.com](http://meyercustom-jewelry.com).

**October 9 YANDA CABIN DAY**, Glen Carbon. Learn about blacksmithing, sewing, and rope making trades. Walk through the cabin and learn from knowledgeable volunteers. Hear live violin and dulcimer music as well. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Event is free. 148 South Main Street. Visit [glen-carbon.il.us](http://glen-carbon.il.us) or call (618) 288-1200.

**October 9 & 10 AIRSTRAVAGANZA**, Greenville. Airport open house, plane rides, static displays, and radio controlled planes. Food served on grounds. Reservations required for some plane rides. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 1374 Sky Lane (off of Illinois Route 127, south of town). For more information or to schedule a plane ride, call (618) 664-0926.

**October 10 CONCERT IN THE PARK**, Maryville. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy music by George Portz and Friends of Bluegrass. A Fiddler's Frolic will start the afternoon off with a few young fiddlers. Kettle corn and drinks will be available for purchase. 3 - 5 p.m. Firemen's Park, 300 North Donk Avenue (Route 159). Additional parking is available at Mother of Perpetual Help Church east of the park. Visit [www.vil.maryville.il.us](http://www.vil.maryville.il.us) or call (618) 772-8555.

**October 12 & 26 HEARTLAND PRAIRIE HIKE**, Alton. Walks will focus on identifying native plants and birds. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and bring water, binoculars and a plant identification book. 5:30 - 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. Heartland Prairie, located on the north side of Route 111 across from Gordon Moore Park. The Nature Institute. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**October 15 ENCHANTED FOREST**, Godfrey. Event will include a self-guided hike, face painting, timed star shows in our pop-up dome, yard games, a cozy fire, and educational

### Call to Confirm

Listings are provided by event organizers or taken from community websites. We recommend calling to confirm dates, times and details before you make plans. All are subject to change.

### Submissions

To submit an event for consideration in our calendar, email your event information to [joe.richardson@sweci.com](mailto:joe.richardson@sweci.com), or mail your info to *The Southwestern*, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. Please use our Current Events format (as seen on these pages) to write your submission. Include a contact number or email and submit your listing at least two months prior to your event.

activities. Children will receive a passport to be stamped by all of the nocturnal animal characters that they meet along the trail. Trail is stroller friendly and all guests are invited to dress up in their Halloween costumes. 6 - 9 p.m. Admission is \$5; children 2 years of age and younger are free. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**October 15 & 16 HAUNTED TRAIL**, Carlyle. Brave souls embark on a hayride to the Little Prairie Nature Trail, located on U.S. Army Corps grounds near the lake spillway, where your hike on the haunted trail will begin with ghosts, goblins and ghouls awaiting you. 6:30 - 10 p.m. Admission is \$9. All proceeds benefit the Fireworks Spectacular. Food vendors will be located at Tractor Supply. Hayride departs from Tractor Supply Co., 18100 William Road. Visit [carlylelake.com](http://carlylelake.com).

**October 16 PUMPKIN PATCH**, Carlyle. Children are welcome to come and enjoy all of the fun activities at the Pumpkin Patch. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Carlyle Lake Dam West, 14498-14510 County Road 1430 North - across from the Visitor's Center. Visit [carlylelake.com](http://carlylelake.com).

**October 16 TOUCH A TRUCK**, Edwardsville. This free community event gives area families and children the opportunity to explore and learn about various vehicles they see every day, as well as some that are rarely accessible. Edwardsville Township Community Park 6368 Center Grove Road. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Visit [edwardsvilletownship.com](http://edwardsvilletownship.com).

**October 17 LECLAIRE PARK-FEST**, Edwardsville. Enjoy music, a wine and beer garden, and a wide variety of delicious festival food. Local artisans and crafters will have their work available. The festival features games, pet adoptions, vintage cars and tractors and other activities. Book sale offering thousands of books

at bargain prices. Exhibits of historic photos and narrated trolley tours will tell the story of LeClaire. Noon - 5 p.m. Admission is free. LeClaire Lake Park, 800 Block of Hale Avenue. Call (618) 656-1294 or visit [historic-leclaire.org](http://historic-leclaire.org).

**October 17 LEONID & FRIENDS**, Lebanon. This 11-piece Moscow-based tribute band has earned legions of fans by capturing the spirit, musicality and fire of the jazz-rock super group Chicago. 7:30 p.m. Adult \$40; senior \$38; student/child \$15. The Hett Center for the Arts, 400 North Alton Street. Call (618) 537-6863 or visit [thehett.com](http://thehett.com).

**October 20; November 19 MOONLIGHT HIKE**, Godfrey. Join us on a night hike through the woods on the trails of the Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve. The terrain is light to moderate and is appropriate for families. The hike will be about 2 miles with stops along the way. 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. Meet at the Talahi Lodge and be on time, as the hike leaves promptly at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for non-members and free for members. Registration is required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**October 21; November 20 TELESCOPE NIGHT**, Godfrey. Want to look at the universe through a telescope, but don't own one? Come out to the Talahi Lodge on the night after a full moon and we will have some set up. Bring your own telescope and we can help you use it. We will talk about how telescopes work and look at the moon and other night sky objects. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Space is limited, registration required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**October 22-24 ART ON THE SQUARE**, Belleville. Featuring the original work of over

100 accomplished artists from around the world, fantastic musical and stage performances as well as delicious local food and drink. Festival also features children's art activities, high school sculpture in the city challenge, live entertainment, a children's art garden, art demonstrations, food and wine. Friday 4 - 9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is free. Downtown Public Square, Main Street and Illinois Street. Visit [artonthesquare.com](http://artonthesquare.com).

**October 22-31 ALTON LITTLE THEATER: RED PLAID SHIRT**, Alton. A theatrical presentation by the Alton Little Theater Company. Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. Alton Little Theater, 2450 North Henry Street. For tickets, call (618) 462-3205 or visit [alton-littletheater.org](http://alton-littletheater.org).

**October 23 BUCKIN' FOR WISHES RODEO**, Altamont. Join us for bull riding, barrel racing, trick and roman riding, mutton busting for 8 years of age and younger, food and beer vendors, and kids activities. Gates open at 4 p.m.; welcome ceremony at 6:45 p.m.; rodeo starts at 7 p.m. All proceeds go to Make-A-Wish Illinois. Effingham County Fairgrounds, 722 East Cumberland Road. For more information, call Beth at (217) 663-7935.

**October 23 HOME & BUSINESS EXPO**, Salem. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Orchard, 1300 South Broadway. Visit [sailemilchamber.com](http://sailemilchamber.com).

**October 23 & 24 OWL FEST**, Dow. The hospital, flight enclosure, and rehab buildings will be open to the public. Our education animal ambassadors will be available to meet and greet. The public will have a behind the scenes look at our facilities all while enjoying educational speakers, local environmental organizations, crafts, food, live music, raffle, vendors, kid friendly activities, and our famous teddy bear clinic. All ages are welcome.

Noon - 5 p.m. Admission is free. TreeHouse Wildlife Center, 23956 Green Acres Road. Visit [treehousewildlifecenter.com](http://treehousewildlifecenter.com).

**October 30 FALL FESTIVAL**, Centralia. All-day family event features a children's parade, chili cook-off, Miss & Mister Pumpkin contest, train rides, best-dressed pet contest, craft fair, games for the kids, food and entertainment. Festivities begin at 9 a.m. Children's parade at 11 a.m. Halloween parade at 7 p.m. Downtown Centralia. Call (618) 533-5602 or visit [centraliahpff.org](http://centraliahpff.org).

**November 6 GREENVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFAST**, Greenville. Our famous whole sausage will be available for purchase. 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 512 South Prairie Street. Call Ruth at (256) 509-6110.

**November 7 CITY OF THE SUN 5K**, Collinsville. Event held rain or shine. Registration begins 8 a.m., race begins at 9 a.m. in front of the building. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, 30 Ramey Street. Call (618) 344-7316 or visit [cahokiamounds.org](http://cahokiamounds.org).

**November 11-21 LEND ME A TENOR**, Lebanon. A theatrical performance by the Looking Glass Playhouse. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m., except for Sunday shows, which begin at 2 p.m. \$10 on Thursday and \$12 Friday - Sunday for adults; \$9 on Thursday and \$11 Friday - Sunday for students, senior citizens and active military personnel (with valid identification). Looking Glass Playhouse, 301 West Saint Louis Street. Call (618) 537-4962 or visit [lookingglass-playhouse.com](http://lookingglass-playhouse.com).

#### Attending an event?

Please observe CDC and local health and safety guidelines. Be mindful of your health and the well-being of those around you.

