Humor & History

12 niche attractions put the ‘muse’ into museums

Vim and Vinegar
Versatile ingredient is a force on the food page

Eggshell Garden
Celebrate Easter and Earth Day

Mark Your Calendars!
YOUR Annual Meeting is April 26
The path of creative expression

Our mailboxes (both for email and “snail mail”) were overflowing after our last issue. Nearly 500 folks entered our drawing for pie gadgets, and aspiring poets of all ages were eager to share their works with us. (In the March issue we invited readers to enter a pie prize pack giveaway and also send us an original poem for possible publication in the April issue.) I encourage you to check out the reader submissions on our Odds ‘n’ Ends page (page 30) and enjoy a sampling of the different styles of poetry we received.

Our long-time readers may remember that many years ago, Electric Consumer ran a column of readers’ writings called “Poet’s Corner.” Since we stopped printing poetry over 20 years ago, my encounters with iambic pentameter have been rare — not counting my early parenthood Mother Goose immersion period.

However, judging from the response from our poetry call-out, creative writing is still something many of you enjoy. It’s certainly heartening that this outlet for expression has never lost its relevance and popularity. Poetry is universal: anyone of any age can take pen to paper or fingers to keyboard to compose their thoughts into a thoughtful meter or rhyme.

As we all maneuver our hectic schedules and juggle laundry lists of responsibilities, creative expression is often our key to sanity. That’s why many of us unwind through activities like cooking, woodworking, painting, gardening, building, photography or music.

When I was attending college, I spent my first 2½ years ignoring my passion for the arts, choosing to take more “serious” classes that were recommended to complement my journalism degree. But try as I might, natural resources and political science never captured my interest the way painting and art history did. Once I decided to embrace who I was and not struggle to be someone I wasn’t, I could pursue an academic path that played to my creative strengths.

I carry that lesson with me to this day: creative pursuits may not seem to lead anywhere but, in fact, they lead you back to who you truly are. And from there, they allow you to travel to who knows where.

EMILY SCHILLING
EDITOR, eschilling@ElectricConsumer.org

ON THE COVER
The legacy of Red Skelton, the gentle funny man from Vincennes, still makes people laugh long after his passing. That legacy has now been enshrined at the Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy. The cover art is based on the relief image of the comedian on the facade of the museum in Vincennes.

Digital illustration by Richard C. Bever, based on a photo of museum’s facade

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Let your voice be heard on the EPA’s proposed rule that will effectively ban coal as a future power source and raise your electric bill.

Readers pen poems
April is National Poetry Month. Here are some readers sent us.
Do any of these names ring a bell for you? Daniel Leininger, J. Alva Mellott, Arch DeFries, William Orr, Glen Walther, Howard Mauzy, Olney Clase, Joseph Shilling, Samuel Knoop, Major Carl Beyer and Ralph Wrigley.

These 11 names may not mean much to you at first glance. However, these gentlemen made a big difference in life for you and all Kosciusko County residents. You see, these were the men who signed the original articles of incorporation for Kosciusko REMC on Nov. 2, 1935. As work started getting rural people interested in the electrification process, these men and their families devoted time and energy to help prepare Kosciusko County for the future.

On Saturday, April 26, at Warsaw Community Church, KREMC will celebrate its 75th annual meeting — a historical achievement which had its seeds planted many years ago by people with the foresight, hopes and expectations for what electricity could mean for the rural areas of Kosciusko County. And through the 75 years since the first annual meeting, co-op members have come together every year to put democracy into action through the election of a board of directors to represent all members.

This year, we urge you to keep the annual meeting tradition alive by attending. As we do every year, we will hold an election for three directors to serve on the KREMC board (see the slate of candidates on pages 16B-C).

For the children’s program (ages 4-12), we have a very special event planned. The Fort Wayne’s Children’s Zoo will bring its “Amazing Animals Show,” Holly and Mandy from Electric Consumer will be back again with a craft area, and Tag Art will have a caricaturist and balloon animal maker.

Prior to the meeting, don’t miss the free doughnuts and coffee, along with the always interesting Energy Expo. We’ll have booths and displays featuring an assortment of information. And don’t forget, you’ll receive an $8 electric credit off your next monthly bill just for attending.

After the entertainment, stick around for the door prize drawings. We’ll have some great prizes including a new HDTV, an iPad and a $100 energy credit. We’ll also have special prizes for the kids, including a 7-in-1 game table and SkyZone (indoor trampoline park) passes.

KREMC’s annual meeting is a great time to see friends and visit with your neighbors. But it’s also a serious representation of democracy in action. And as you know, a democracy needs its members to actively participate in order to function and thrive. Come take your place in the history of KREMC, and vote in our annual election. It’s through the participation of members like you that we can be assured KREMC will be alive and well in another 75 years.

BRUCE GOSLEE is president and CEO of Kosciusko REMC.
**KREMC Rates**

**Schedule RF (Residential and farm service)**
- Service charge: $21 per month
- Kilowatt-hour (kWh) charge: @$.0835 per kWh
* (Plus tracker charge listed below)

**Schedule C (Commercial single phase and commercial three phase)**
- Service charge (single phase): $21 per month
- (Multi-phase): $40 per month
- Kilowatt-hour (kWh) charge: @$.0909 per kWh
* (Plus tracker charge listed below)

**Schedule LP (Large Power)**
- Service charge: $82 per month
- Kilowatt-hour (kWh) charge: @$.063 per kWh
- Energy charge: $0.0061 per kWh

**Schedule SL (Security Lights)**
- 100w HPS: $7.30 per month
- 200w HPS: $11.20 per month
*Tracker charge: $9.20 per kw

**KREMC Products/Services**

**REBATES**

- **Electric water heaters 50 gallons or larger:**
  - Electric to electric replacement — $50
  - Gas to electric replacement — $100
  - New construction water heater — $100
  - Second water heater — $25

- **Geothermal/heat pump:**
  - Geothermal system installation — $250
  - Air-source heat pump system — $150

**Guidelines:**
Please visit www.kremc.com for complete guidelines and restrictions. Additional rebates can be found at www.powermoves.com.

**Energy Audits**

Energy audits are FREE for Kosciusko REMC members. To arrange an energy audit, contact KREMC Energy Advisor Carol Ousley at 574-267-6331 or at oussley@kremc.com.

**Easy Pay and E-Billing**

Sign up for our Easy Pay and E-Billing programs, and make your life easier! You can register for both of these convenient services by visiting www.kremc.com or by contacting a KREMC customer service representative for more information at 574-267-6331.

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**Win! Win! Win! A $75 monthly bill credit**

In honor of Kosciusko REMC’s 75th Anniversary, each month a $75 bill credit drawing will be held for members participating in the Electric Consumer trivia contest. A trivia coupon will be printed each month with three questions to which answers can be found in the articles of the Electric Consumer. To submit your answers, clip the coupon along the dotted line, fill in your answers and mail to: Kosciusko REMC, Attention: 75th Anniversary Drawing, 370 South 250 East, Warsaw, IN 46582

Winners will be notified and their names printed in the following monthly issue of Electric Consumer. Deadline to enter is April 13.

**April Trivia Questions:**

1) Name the employee celebrating 40 years at KREMC?
   ______________________________________________________

2) What funds will be distributed to KREMC members this month?
   ______________________________________________________

3) How many candidates are there for the KREMC board of directors?
   ______________________________________________________

**Name:** ____________________________________________

**Phone Number:** __________________________________

**Account Number:** _________________________________

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**Reeve celebrates 40 years with KREMC!**

Kosciusko REMC Customer Service Representative Sheri Reeve will mark her 40th year as a KREMC employee on April 16.

When she started at the co-op, Reeve’s job was to manually record meter readings in meter books and serve as a cashier when needed. Later, she was trained to process work orders, inputting information on computers. She is currently in charge of billing for all KREMC accounts.

Reeve said one of her best memories to date was when the KREMC office staff dressed in red, white and blue to help send a co-op employee in the Army National Guard off to Iraq. The employees lined the street in front of the co-op, held a huge banner and waved goodbye to the local Guard members as their bus headed out of town. While the Guard unit served in Iraq, co-op employees sent goodie boxes and letters to the employee.

Reeve is an Argos native and a 1974 graduate of the International Business College. She and her husband, Jim, reside in Pierceton. She has three stepsons, Michael, Scott and Brian; a granddaughter, Pressley; and a grandson, Colin. She is a Cub Scout pack leader and is active in her church.

Kosciusko REMC president and CEO Bruce Goslee said, “Sheri has been and continues to be an important part of the co-op staff. Her many years of experience and dedication are a valuable asset to the co-op and its members.”

Congratulations, Sheri!
Sad to see story on factory farming

I was saddened to see that Electric Consumer has allowed itself to be misled by the animal agriculture corporations in Indiana (“This Little Piggy...,” March issue). It is far reaching to find any positive in factory farming. It is even more impossible to raise millions of animals used for food humanely and sustainably.

Not only is factory farming an ecological disaster, farmed animals today are sick and diseased and people are consuming bacteria-laden flesh and pus-filled milk.

The vast majority of all cancers, heart disease and other degenerative diseases can be prevented and even reversed with a plant-based diet. I feel sorry for anyone that listens to this greedy industry’s lies because those that believe the lies and don’t change their eating habits are destroying the planet and their health.

I notice that virtually all of the recipes that are provided in your monthly publication contain some form of animal product. Be it animal flesh, eggs or dairy. I have included a delicious vegan recipe and I’m curious if you will publish it for readers such as myself who actually care about our health, animals and the environment for future generations.

— ROBIN KERSTIENS, SELLERSBURG, IN.

We need to stop polluting now

I am a senior who has enjoyed many articles in your magazine, but I have sat back way too long while you hammer the EPA on its new coal regulations. It’s time to give the other side of the argument a chance. I feel that we must look at the big picture even if it is difficult.

I am not financially well off, but I care deeply for the world around us and the air we breathe. Through ignorance, careless planning and greed over time, we have done a real number on the environment. We are now at a tipping point of no return, and unless we take some real meaningful steps to curb air, water and land pollution, our grandchildren will be doomed to live in a world not nearly as pleasant as we have now.

There is no such thing as clean coal today. We should research it, but we can’t continue to operate the current coal plants and just hope it will happen. We need to stop polluting now. Global warming is real. Yes, it will cost me more and make my life harder, but I’m willing to do so for my grandkids. It will make me happy that I did something instead of sitting back and doing nothing. How about you?

— JULIE KAMBOURES, ECKERTY, IND.

Bias against EPA is well deserved

Yes, there IS bias against the EPA (Letters, March issue), and it’s well deserved. The EPA is getting itself involved in issues that are either prohibited to them by law or exceeding their authority granted to them by Congress. Too often this is accompanied by “studies” based on politically-driven agendas and using junk science.

There’s nothing wrong with adding wind or solar to the mix but that’s what’s it, a mix. Neither can provide long-term sustainable power levels at prices equal to or lower than current power generation sources. Until that happens and in a way that doesn’t take up valuable (and sometimes scarce) land or kill huge numbers of migrating birds, then it won’t be economically feasible.

"Global Warming” has been shown to be based on bogus computer modeling, political agendas and downright opportunistic greed. Concentrate on recycling and not polluting now to include not pouring anti-freeze or used oil on the ground, throwing your cigarette or other trash out the car window, or letting pesticides/herbicides/fertilizers run into running water, etc.

That’s a much better way of being "green" than sticking it to your fellow electric consumers.

— R.K. FRENCH, HAMLET, IND.

Legislative lesson

Young co-op members participate in Page Day

The most impactful lessons tend to be learned “hands on.” Indiana’s electric cooperatives recognized that when they started REMC Page Day at the Indiana Statehouse last year. This educational opportunity for teenaged electric cooperative members, age 13-18, was held again on Feb. 18.

For the 15 pages, their day at the state capital included assisting Indiana’s legislative staff — and so much more. Because the House and Senate were in session, they were able to witness both legislative bodies in action, said Matt Randall, manager of legislative advocacy at Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, which coordinates the REMC Page Day program. Pages also learn how the state legislative process works and get a brief history lesson about the Indiana Statehouse through a fun scavenger hunt activity.

This year’s Page Day participants were: Alex Becker, Springville (UDWI REMC); Payton Waltz, Liberty, and Savannah Thomas, Richmond (Whitewater Valley REMC); Evan Lamping, Greensburg (Decatur County REMC); Kayla Schepers and Autumn Lynch, Sellersburg, and Peighton Curtis, Haubstadt (Clark County REMC); Amelia Dayton, Washington (Daviess-Martin County REMC); Alexis English, Owensville, and Grace Waggoner, Vincennes (WIN Energy REMC); Christina Coats, Wawaka (Noble REMC); Brennan Schramke, Greenville (Harrison REMC); LeAnn Lux, Shelbyville (RushShelby Energy); Ben Williams, Fort Wayne (Northeastern REMC); and Alexander Fox, Plymouth (Marshall County REMC).
**Electric Consumer welcomes Warren County REMC**

Warren County REMC, which serves over 3,700 members in western Indiana, is the newest co-op to send Electric Consumer to its members. The co-op, headquartered in Williamsport, began subscribing to Indiana’s electric cooperative magazine with this month’s issue.

“We are thrilled to welcome Warren County REMC to the Electric Consumer family,” Emily Schilling, Electric Consumer editor, said. “We look forward to providing its members with the news, information and features our readers from across the state have come to expect.”

**Jasper County REMC offers epub**

Members of Jasper County REMC can now read their Electric Consumer on their computers, tablets and portable electronic devices.

The Rensselaer-based co-op has begun including a link to the Electric Consumer electronic flipbook on its website, www.jasperremc.com. The flipbook allows members to enjoy the publication even when they don’t have access to the copy they get each month in the mail. Included throughout the electronic publication are live links which allow readers to instantly contact advertisers, send emails, access websites and search for articles.

Four other co-ops — Tipmont REMC, Harrison REMC, Wabash County REMC and United REMC — provide online flipbooks of Electric Consumer on their websites. Readers can view a generic version of the Electric Consumer flipbook at www.ElectricConsumer.org.

**Plan before you plant!**

Trees add beauty and value to your family’s home. They attract songbirds to your yard and can help save energy by shading your home in summer. Trees use some of the excess carbon dioxide we create. But if you plan to join in Arbor Day celebrations and plant a tree this spring, here are some things to remember:

- **Choose the right tree for the right place.** Trees that grow too close to electrical lines can create power outages, shock and fire hazards. Do not plant near overhead power lines any tree that can grow to 25 feet tall. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended. Trees that later interfere with utilities have to be trimmed or removed.
- **Do not plant near underground utility services.** Tree roots can grow and interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities also could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.
- **Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.**
- **At least a few days before planting, call 8-1-1, the underground utility locator service, to mark location of underground utilities so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided. To see more safety/efficiency tips, go to ElectricConsumer.org.**

**New manager at state’s third largest electric cooperative**

As of April 1, Mark McKinney is the general manager of Jackson County REMC. He succeeds Jed Wheatley, a 42-year employee of the Brownstown-based cooperative. McKinney most recently served as project manager at the REMC.

Jackson County REMC serves nearly 20,000 meters over 2,900 miles of distribution line in portions of Jackson, Washington, Scott, Jennings, Brown, Bartholomew, Clark, Jefferson, Lawrence and Monroe counties. Territorially, it is Indiana’s third largest electric cooperative.

McKinney’s appointment is the latest of several management changes within the Indiana electric cooperative family. Throughout the past year, new CEOs/managers have taken the helm at co-ops including Henry County REMC (Shannon Thom), Jay County REMC (Mark Arnold), Kosciusko REMC (Bruce Goslee), Miami-Cass REMC (Robert Schwartz), Southern Indiana Power (Steve Seibert), Tipmont REMC (Ron Holcomb), Whitewater Valley REMC (Mary Jo Thomas), and WIN Energy REMC (Thomas Gregory).

At NineStar Connect, the state’s only electric/telecommunications cooperative, CEO Tim Hills recently announced his retirement. NineStar Connect is headquartered in Greenwood.
Air compressors pose shock hazard

HDX™ and Powermate® brand two-gallon electric air compressors have been recalled for a potential shock hazard.

The terminals of the pressure switch can come into contact with the motor housing and electrify the air compressors. The Home Depot sold the HDX air compressors, and Menards and other stores sold the Powermate air compressors nationwide from June 2010 through October 2013 for between $80 and $120.

Description: Each air compressor has a pair of one-gallon tanks that are stacked upon each other. The air compressors are 120 volts, have an operating pressure maximum of 100 PSI and air delivery of .4 SCFM at 90 psi. The HDX air compressors are gray with HDX printed in white on the top cylinder. The Powermate air compressors are red with Powermate printed in white on the top cylinder.

Details: HDX model numbers include VSP0000201.HDX, VSP0000201.HDX1 and 947282, with numeric serial numbers. The model and serial numbers are printed on a sticker on the back of the unit. The Powermate model numbers include VSP0000201, VSP0000201.01, VSP0000201.KIT and VSP0000201.NS with numeric serial numbers. HDX or Powermate compressors with a letter in the serial numbers are not included.

Example: Serial number 158380061039 would be subject to recall, but serial number U0MW23285263 would NOT be subject to the recall.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled air compressors and contact MAT Industries for a free repair.

For details, call MAT Industries toll-free at 855-922-2300 from 10am-6pm ET, Mon-Fri; or go online at www.powermate.com and click on Air Compressors, then VSP0000201; and online at www.homedepot.com and click on Product Recalls for more information.

Duraflame space heater can overheat

This recall involves the Twin-Star Duraflame-branded electric space heaters. The heater, sold from August 2013 through January 2014 for about $60, at Farmer’s Furniture, Meijer, QVC, R.C. Willey, Ross and other retailers nationwide and online at Maxtool.com. The heater can overheat and cause the unit to melt, catch fire and ignite nearby items.

Twin-Star has received 32 reports of the heaters burning or melting, including eight reports of fire and minor property damage; no injuries have been reported.

Description and Details: The Duraflame-branded electric space heater is model DFS-220, sold in three colors — black, red and white. The heaters’ flame effect resembles a fireplace and works with or without heat. The heaters measure about 14.5-inches high, 13-inches wide and 8-inches deep. The on-off switch and the high/low heat settings are located on the upper left back side of the unit. The model number can be found on a white label located on the heater’s back panel.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately turn off and unplug the electric space heater and contact Twin-Star for a full refund.

For details, call Twin-Star toll-free at 855-884-9651 from 9am-6pm ET Mon-Fri; or go online at www.twinstarhome.com and click on “Product Recall” in red at the bottom of the page under the Support column for more information.

Electric Consumer publishes notices provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission as an information service. It is the responsibility of the consumer to contact manufacturers/retailers regarding recalled products. Electric Consumer cannot assume responsibility for refunds or other issues between consumers and the manufacturers/retailers. To stay up-to-date on all recent recalls, visit: http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/.
Knock, knockin’ on efficiency’s door

BY JAMES DULLEY

My front door is wood with a window and the back door is metal. They are the original ones and neither is very efficient nor airtight. I cannot afford new ones. How can I improve their efficiency myself?

Energy losses from inefficient entry doors can account for a significant portion of your monthly utility bills. When leaky doors create drafts, people tend to set the furnace thermostat higher. This wastes even more energy.

There are ways to improve the efficiency of old doors, but don’t immediately eliminate the possibility of installing new ones. The costs of some well-insulated steel and fiberglass doors, especially those for the back door without glass, are very reasonable. A pre-hung door in its own frame is not difficult to install yourself.

Before making a decision, carefully inspect your old doors. If they are in very bad condition, it will be difficult to improve their efficiency by a meaningful amount. First, make sure the wood door is not rotting. Then place a long straight edge across the door to see if it is badly warped.

The most common problem with metal doors is rust, not warping. The first place to check is along the bottom by the weatherstripping on either side. Rainwater tends to collect there, and it is not always painted well.

If you find small holes rusted through, they can be repaired with car body filler and then painted. First, try to determine the reason water is collecting there and correct the problem. Clean out as much rust as possible and fill with automobile body filler.

If the doors are reasonably sound, check for the location of the air leaks. At night, have someone shine a flashlight from outdoors around the seals and check for light indoors. This will highlight significant leaks. On a windy day, move a stick of lighted incense around the seals and watch the trail of the smoke to find the minor leaky areas. Check the astragal on double doors. This is usually the raised half-round overlap where pairs of doors meet and acts as a seal between them.

Often with wood doors, especially ones with compression weatherstripping, the main problem is simply the latch plate is not holding the door tightly closed against the weatherstripping.

One solution is to reposition the latch plate. This will require filling in the old screw holes and drilling new ones. Chisel away some of the wood in the recess for the latch plate. Another option is to install an adjustable latch plate. You may want to reposition it for summer and winter as the door and frame expand and contract from seasonal temperature and humidity.

Steel doors should feature magnetic weatherstripping, so this is not a major issue because the weatherstripping is drawn against the door edge. Just make sure the surface of the door and the weatherstripping are clean and smooth. Paint on the door edge can sometimes come loose in small pieces and create a gap which leaks air.

Check the condition of the hinges, and replace them if needed. If the hinges and pins are worn, the door will not hang square in the opening, and, therefore, will not seal properly. There are many different sizes of hinges, so take an old one along to the store and get an exact match. Don’t just buy the cheapest ones, because there are many to choose from and quality varies.

It is almost certain the seal on the bottom of the doors against the floor threshold is worn. If it is not worn, adjust the floor threshold higher. There are several height adjustment screws across the threshold, but after years of use, they may be filled in with dirt. Poke around to find them. If the seal itself is bad, there are many generic replacement seals you can install.

Another option is an add-on retractable threshold seal which is effective if carpeting is on the floor by the door. The threshold seal is mounted on the inside surface of the lower door edge. When the door starts to open, a pin against the door frame is released and the seal automatically lifts to clear the carpeting. It is easy to install and adjust.

JAMES DULLEY is a nationally syndicated engineering consultant based in Cincinnati. If you have a question about energy use or energy-efficient products, send it to: James Dulley, Electric Consumer, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244; or visit www.dulley.com.
Pampered pets

BY BECKY BILLINGSLEY

Our furry, feathered and finned friends make life interesting and entertaining. Make their lives safe and happy with innovative pet products for play time and down time.

HABITAT HELPERS

PORTION CONTROL

All a kitty needs for a meditative weekend of solitude is a litter box and plenty of water and nibbles. So that greedy cats don’t eat too much too fast, the Cat Mate C3000 has a programmable LCD control to dispense meals three times a day. Works for dry dog food, too. $55.

866-746-7924; wag.com

ON THE LOOSE

For wayward pets that pull Houdini acts, Tagg – The Pet Tracker uses a GPS and wireless technology to keep tabs on their locations. If Fido or Fluffy strays outside the safety zone you’ve set, Tagg sends email or text alerts and shows the pet’s location on a map. $100; includes three months service at $8 per month.

855-738-8244; pettracker.com

KEYED IN

Don’t worry about stray or wild animals getting in through a pet door — give your pet an electronic key to the house. When your pet gets close to the battery-operated PetSafe Electronic SmartDoor, a radio-frequency signal unlocks the flap. $135.

866-738-4379; petsafe.net

PLAY TIME

LASER SHOW

Cats that love chasing laser lights will pounce at the FroliCat Bolt’s zig-zagging fun. Set it on a flat surface and press the power button, and the hunt is on! It will turn off automatically after 15 minutes, or you can control the light show yourself in manual mode. $23.

866-738-4379; store.petsafe.net

BACON BUBBLES

The bacon-scented bubbles that come with the Bubbletastic Dog Bubble Machine make culinary-minded canines extra enthusiastic about chasing and chomping them. $29.

800-549-4505; sears.com

SWOOPER FUN

The old feather-on-a-stick cat diversion takes a new twist with the Super Swooper Electronic Motion Ball from Petlinks System, which powers the fun while you watch. The battery-operated ball makes an attached bundle of feathers dip and spin for as long as your cat’s attention span holds out. $13.

877-738-6742; petco.com

EXOTIC ACCESSORIES

BIRD BALM

Exotic birds need warm temps to stay healthy. The Lectro Thermo-Perch provides a spot that’s thermostatically controlled to suit birds’ ideal body temperatures. It’s resistant to pecks and uses low voltage. $70.

877-738-6742; petco.com

WATER WORLD

Designed to work with a terrarium or greenhouse, the Exo Terra Monsoon RS400 misting system generates a mini rainforest. Exotic frogs and other reptiles, plus tropical plants, are kept humidly happy with fine, fog-like rain emitted at programmed intervals. $90.

800-825-8373; valuepetsupplies.com

BECKY BILLINGSLEY is a freelance writer from Myrtle Beach, S.C. Her monthly column about new electrical gadgets also appears in South Carolina Living, the statewide electric co-op magazine of the Palmetto state. Product inclusion on this page does not imply endorsement; prices listed are subject to change.
wind and solar cannot replace the coal-based generation that has been the backbone of the electric grid, Emerson warned.

As a result, she said, co-ops need to be heard on EPA plans that would hamstring future coal plants by requiring expensive carbon capture and storage controls that are not commercially viable. EPA plans to issue emissions standards for existing coal plants in June.

“These regulations practically mandate an increase to the cost of energy. It is wishful thinking and at great expense to our members,” she said.

The closing speaker was Jane Pauley, former NBC-TV “Today” co-host and a native Hoosier. She noted she has not forgotten her electric cooperative roots — and, in fact, got something more than she bargained for in preparing for her appearance.

“My grandparents had a farm in Johnson County, Indiana,” Pauley said. “So I called the Johnson County REMC yesterday, just to verify that my grandparents, as I suspected, were members. Yes, they were members from 1943 to 1958, when they sold the farm.”

After some checking, the co-op found her grandfather Fred Patterson. “They said … ‘You know, there’s a balance on that account,’” Pauley said to laughter from the audience.

When master of ceremonies Lou Green of South Carolina’s electric cooperatives said that would be “unclaimed capital credits,” Pauley immediately jumped in, “It’s claimed!”

She said, “You owe me $175.”

Though she grew up in the city, she spoke warmly of her grandparents’ farm. “I have so many memories of kittens in the barn, and chicks you’d scoop up by hand.... The only heirloom I have from our family is my mother’s three-legged milking stool. That’s what passed as an heirloom in my family.”

Pauley, an Indiana University graduate, co-hosted “Today” from 1976 to 1989, went on to anchor “Dateline NBC” for 11 years and then hosted a short-lived talk show.

She now appears on “Today” in a segment which focuses on people age 50 and up who are doing new things with their lives. That’s also the subject of her new book, “Your Life Calling.”

During a chat with Green on stage, Pauley said that unlike generations past, today’s Americans of a certain age can’t think about the rocking chair. “It’s just about staying creative, productive and engaged in decades where my parents were not thinking that way,” Pauley said, adding that she’s living proof.

“At 63, I discovered a passion for storytelling,” Pauley said, particularly stories that connect with people. And the book, she explained, is “not a ‘how to’ book; it’s more show and tell” as she shares stories — one or more of which might resonate with the reader.

Pauley received a standing ovation from her co-op audience. “I’m so grateful that you included me in your convention,” she said. “Fred and Edna Patterson would be so proud.”

Above: NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson uses her address to encourage the nation’s co-op leaders to rally support for co-ops and their 42 million members.

At left: Chris Birky, a director from Kankakee Valley REMC in Wanatah, joins several other Hoosiers and Touchstone Energy volunteers from around the nation building a Habitat for Humanity home from the ground up in Fairview, Tenn. This annual community service project took place prior to the annual meeting.
In her first address as CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to the gathered audience she last year dubbed “Co-op Nation,” Jo Ann Emerson called on electric cooperative leaders to forge a new legacy for the co-op movement by mobilizing their 42 million members to advance the cause of reliable, affordable electricity.

Speaking at the 72nd NRECA Annual Meeting, Emerson challenged co-op managers, directors and staffers to swell the ranks of the Action.coop campaign and bring what she called “common sense” to federal energy policy.

“This is a fight for our survival, and, by God, we are going to put everything we have into it,” she said March 3 at Nashville’s Music City Center. “We turned the lights on. We keep the lights burning. And now, our goal is to make the light bulb come on in Washington.”

Delivering a serious yet upbeat message, Emerson said co-ops face a great challenge in dealing with Environmental Protection Agency regulations that target the nation’s fuel mix.

But co-ops’ will to meet that challenge is even greater, Emerson added, as she asked attendees to enlist 10 people each in Action.coop when they return to their communities. Action.coop already is responsible for 284,500 messages to EPA, she said.

“Our challenge is set: Tell the EPA what climate regulations will do to our families, our businesses and our communities,” Emerson said.

Emerson spoke on the first day of the three-day annual meeting, which attracted almost 10,000 participants to activities under the theme “Co-op Nation: Strong and Proud.”

The centerpiece of the annual meeting is the business meeting, where delegates reviewed, debated and then voted on member resolutions to set a course for the association’s future. Other highlights included policy briefings on key issues, director education programs, and an exposition of vendors that support the electric industry.

In her 25-minute speech, Emerson emphasized that co-ops are national leaders in energy efficiency and renewable energy, owning and purchasing more than 5.7 gigawatts of renewable capacity and 10 GW of hydropower.

“That’s more than 10 percent of the U.S. total. With one-twentieth of the generation in the U.S. and one-eighth of the energy customers, that is a remarkable achievement,” Emerson said.

Yet intermittent sources such as...
History is close at hand and just underfoot in Vincennes.

Indiana’s “first city” is where Lt. Col. George Rogers Clark won a key victory in the American Revolutionary War against the British-held Fort Sackville in February 1779. And from here, William Henry Harrison governed the vast Indiana Territory in the early 1800s.

In 1923, on a downtown sidewalk, a poor 10-year-old boy named Richard Skelton, selling newspapers to help provide for his family, met the vaudeville comedian Ed Wynn who was in town for a show. Wynn bought all of his papers, gave him a ticket and took him backstage — setting the spark for “Red” Skelton to become one of America’s most beloved comedians and radio and TV performers for the next 70 years.

And now, history in Vincennes is more tangible than ever. Two new museums opened last year. One pays homage to the military, to which Vincennes played such a key role early in U.S. history. The other celebrates the life and legacy of laughter left by Skelton, the city’s favorite son. Both add to Vincennes’ offerings as a historical and cultural destination.

Both museums have received strong support from WIN Energy REMC. “Community commitment is one of our core values as a co-op, and these are things important to a community,” said Tom Nowaskie, WIN Energy’s director of operations. “We’re also involved in economic development. In trying get the executives of the Toyotas of the world or even doctors to locate here, it’s another plus for our community when we have museums and things for people to do.”

Nowaskie also will be joining the
board of directors for the Indiana Military Museum, replacing Dave Jones, the REMC’s retired CEO, who is also retiring from the museum board.

The military museum was actually started 30 years ago outside of town by Jim Osborne, the long-time Knox superior judge. But when the not-for-profit museum acquired some prime but abandoned real estate — an old glass factory — in downtown Vincennes, the stage was set for a little shock and awe.

The museum reopened last spring on its new spacious 14-acre lot that adjoins the grassy areas where Vincennes musters its annual Revolutionary War rendezvous each Memorial Day weekend and an 1812 encampment in the fall. The site is a short walk south of the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park.

The Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy adjoins the Red Skelton Performing Arts Center on the Vincennes University campus, also in the heart of town. It opened its doors July 18, 2013 — the 100th anniversary of Skelton’s birth. Coincidentally, the house where Skelton grew up sits just across the street from the arts center and can be seen from the front of the museum. The house is now owned by the university.

Indiana Military Museum

Osborne, who accumulated most of the museum's thousands and thousands of artifacts, clothing, artillery, vehicles, weapons and aircraft, traces his passion for it all to the early 1950s.

A neighbor in Vincennes, a World War II vet, was hauling to the trash a German flag, belt and canteen he’d picked up in the war but no longer wanted. He looked down and saw the 7-year-old Osborne standing there and offered it to him. “I couldn’t wait to show the rest of the kids: ‘Look what I got!’” Osborne said. And his enthusiasm hasn’t dimmed.

Osborne’s collection took off in high school as he sought out artifacts and befriended old soldiers.

Knowing a paint store in town was in the old building used by the Grand Army of the Republic, he stopped in one day and asked if anything was left from its previous tenants. He was given an old tagged pickle jar found in a closet. Inside the jar, lo and behold, was an 1812-era flag.

The museum’s variety rivals any 15
Donetta Richardson, left, and Velma Newton laugh as they try on some silly hats in a mirror at the Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy. Skelton often employed a variety of hats in his pantomimes and other comedy routines. Richardson, of West Terre Haute, and Newton, of Terre Haute, visited the museum in Vincennes to celebrate Newton’s 87th birthday last month.

military museum in the nation — whether visitors enjoy the big hardware: tanks, guns, torpedoes, planes; or the more personal items: uniforms dating back to an 1812 wool dress outfit worn by a drummer boy; the discharge papers of a local cavalry soldier who survived the Battle of Little Big Horn (and just happens to be buried in the cemetery across the street); Gen. Dwight Eisenhower’s dress uniform tailored in England just before D-Day; and Skelton’s WW II uniform, too.

The collection takes visitors on a chronological journey through time and space. Visitors will hear about national legends and local heroes.

Red Skelton Museum

The Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy honors the legacy of a man who touched numerous lives through his comedic talent, great works, compassion and commitment to public service. It is as much of an “amusement” as museum.

Through fully interactive exhibits at the $4 million, 3,500-square foot facility, visitors can learn about the physical comedy of pratfalls and pantomime, slapstick and facial expressions Skelton perfected. They can try on silly hats to pay homage to Skelton’s many guises; and digitally make themselves up into a clown.

TV screens play clips of his shows, comedy routines and his touching, patriotic “Pledge of Allegiance” recitation which he credited to one of his old teachers in Vincennes.

Displays include the costumes of his most beloved characters: Freddie the Freeloader, Clem Kaddidlehopper, Sheriff Dead-Eye, Cauliflower McPugg and more. Also on display are a number of his acclaimed paintings of clowns.

The museum and Vincennes University are hosting the Association for Applied & Therapeutic Humor Annual Conference, April 3-6. This is the first time the international conference is being held away from a large metropolitan area like New York or Chicago. The conference is open to the general public. Contact the museum for more information.

Up the road

Both museums are already looking to the future.

The Skelton museum is scheduled to open Phase 2 this coming July which will add more interactive features and space. The next phase for the military museum is the construction of a new 65,000-square foot facility to properly exhibit its full collection. So many incredible artifacts have yet to be exhibited to the public. [a] This story was compiled from various sources by Electric Consumer.
The nation and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Located in the Old Pathology Building on the grounds of the Indiana Medical History museum, the Grissom Air Museum displays base, and honors those who flew, crewed and designed them, especially those associated with the Bunker Hill/Grissom missile program. The museum tells the story of the Holocaust and the beginning of scientific psychiatry and modern medicine while...
Kosciusko REMC members will soon receive a total of $622,000 in capital credit refund payments. These payments were recently approved by the KREMC board of directors. Each year, directors evaluate the financial condition of the cooperative to determine if it is appropriate to refund capital credits.

Unlike investor-owned utilities that generate profits for shareholders, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, such as KREMC, return any profits, or “margins,” earned in the form of capital credits to members.

The amount of each member’s capital credit refund is determined based on the percentage of total electricity used by that member for each respective year. KREMC carefully tracks members’ investment into the electric co-op in the capital credit account. Since capital credit refunds are based on the amount of electricity used, the amount refunded varies from year to year.

Capital credit refunds of less than $50 will appear as a credit on current KREMC members’ April bill. If refunds are more than $50, a check will be mailed. Those who are not current members will be mailed a check if the amount owed is greater than $6.

Capital credits are one benefit of KREMC membership. Look for your credit listed on your April bill statement, or for your check of more than $50 in the mail.

**What are Capital Credits?**

Unlike investor-owned utilities that generate profits on behalf of shareholders, not-for-profit electric cooperatives like Kosciusko REMC return profits earned to our members.

**Here’s how capital credits work:**

When you move into a home or establish a business in the KREMC service territory, you become a member.

At the end of each year, a portion of the profits KREMC earns are allocated back to you based on the percentage of electricity you used compared to all other members.

Since your portion of capital credits is based on the amount of electricity you use, the amount you are allocated varies from year to year. Businesses that use a lot of electricity build up larger capital credit accounts than a homeowner.

KREMC carefully tracks your investment into the electric co-op in your capital credit account.

Each year, the co-op’s board of directors evaluates the financial condition of the cooperative to determine if we can “retire” or refund capital credits. We may not retire capital credits every year.

When the board does decide to retire capital credits, we calculate the amount we need to pay each member. Anyone who was a member in the previous year may receive a bill credit or refund payment.

Capital credit refunds less than $50 will appear as a credit on your bill in April or May. If your refund is more than $50, you will receive a capital credit refund check in the mail.

**Capital credits – they’re just another benefit of membership in Kosciusko REMC!**
Shively retires after 15 years of service to KREMC

Longtime KREMC director Tom Shively announced his retirement from the Kosciusko REMC board of directors effective April 26. Shively has served the members of KREMC for 15 years as a director. Prior to his service as a director, he spent 20 years as a lineman at the cooperative.

“About two years after I left the co-op, I was working with a nominating committee member and was asked to run for the board,” said Shively. “I knew the distribution system wasn’t in the best shape. I thought with my background I could make a strong contribution to the board.”

During Shively’s 15 years on the board, KREMC membership grew from roughly 15,000 accounts to over 17,000, major construction took place to ensure a reliable distribution system, and a comprehensive technology plan was completed to reduce outage times and increase member satisfaction. He also served five years as Kosciusko REMC’s representative on the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives board.

“I had the opportunity to serve with Tom as a lineman for XX years and over that time developed an appreciation for his devoted work ethic and desire to serve the members of KREMC. Tom was also an integral part to my transition as CEO last year,” said KREMC president and CEO Bruce Goslee. “While his monthly presence will be missed at the board meetings, the impact of his dedicated service to KREMC will continue to be felt for years to come. We cannot thank him enough for his many years of service. The entire Kosciusko REMC family wishes him all the best in his future endeavors.”

Before Tom Shively (back row, second from left) served a director at KREMC, he was an employee for 20 years. Here he’s pictured with fellow employees, back row, from left, Larry Bloom, current KREMC president and CEO Bruce Goslee, and Kurt Carver. Front row, from left, Garry Himes and Phil Adams. Shively retires from the KREMC board this month after 15 years of service to its membership.

KREMC sponsors spelling bee

KREMC sponsored the county spelling bee at Lakeview Middle School on Feb. 4. Twenty-one schools in Kosciusko County participated in the annual competition. Nathan Freeman, whose parents are KREMC members, won the bee for the second consecutive year. Runner-up was Kendall Wayne. Both students received the Richard Long Scholarship which is given in recognition of Long’s years of service to the children, teachers and parents of North Webster School and in honor of his work for the International Palace of Sports (now known as the Shoop Sports and Youth Foundation). The Shoop Sports and Youth Foundation funds the spelling bee scholarships to help provide future higher education opportunities for the winners. Pictured, from left, are Richard Long, KREMC’s Katy Berger, Kendall Wayne, Nathan Freeman, and LMS Assistant Principal and 2014 spelling bee organizer Matt Deeds.
2014 Kosciusko REMC Annual Meeting Highlights

Customer Appreciation Week
Join us at the co-op April 21-25, for Customer Appreciation Week. Members (children & adults) who visit the lobby can enter to win a door prize each day and will be automatically entered to win a grand prize at the end of the week. Refreshments will also be provided daily.

Annual Meeting Energy Expo Booths
The 2014 Energy Expo will feature 10 informational booths.

KREMC Billing Options/Co-op Connections Card
Enter to win a basket full of Co-op Connections Card business gifts as you hear about billing options such as Easy Pay, E-Billing and Budget Billing.

KREMC Meet Your Directors
KREMC directors represent you, the members. If you have questions or would just like to say “Hi,” this is the perfect opportunity.

KREMC Energy Advisor
Do you have questions about your home or business’s energy use? Ask Carol Ousley, the KREMC Energy Advisor.

KREMC History
Equipment sure has come a long way for the electric industry over the past 75 years. Linemen Garry Himes and Phil Adams will be on hand to explain the use of displayed antique KREMC equipment.

Electric Consumer
Stop by the Electric Consumer booth to enter to win a door prize and talk with EC staff.

Geothermal Heating & Air Conditioning
Meet your local WaterFurnace dealer, Gast Heating & Cooling, to ask questions about the efficiency of heating and cooling your home with a geothermal unit.

Kosciusko County Community Foundation
Operation Round-Up gives back thousands of dollars to non-profits in our community each year. To hear more about the grant program talk with KCCF staff at this booth.

Kosciusko Community Hospital
Staff from KCH will be upstairs to provide FREE blood pressure, pulse, bone density, and glucose screenings.

Wabash Valley Power Association
Learn about where and how your electricity is generated, as experts from our power supplier join us at the Wabash Valley Power booth.

Wind & Solar
Looking for the 411 on “Green Energy”? Come talk with Solar Energy Systems to hear all the details.
2014 Election

The Kosciusko REMC board of directors election will take place at the KREMC Annual Meeting on April 26. Voting for your board of directors is one of the benefits of being a member of a cooperative.

Terry Bouse and Rick Parker are each seeking re-election to the board for a three-year term. There will also be an open seat, vacated by Tom Shively, with three candidates.

New candidates Stan Miller, G. Paul “Butch” Troke, William Leininger, Bryan Sponseller, Robert K. Huffman, Steve Miner, and Kent Ring were selected by a nominating committee.

**Terry Bouse**  
**Incumbent**

Terry Bouse has been a Kosciusko REMC member for 34 years, and has served on the board of directors for 15 years. He is currently the secretary/treasurer of the KREMC board. Bouse is a graduate of McPherson College and is employed by Synergy Feeds in South Whitley. He also works with his son and family at Bouse Farms, a hog operation. Bouse attends Warsaw Community Church. He and his wife, Susan, live in Silver Lake and have four children and 10 grandchildren.

**Stan Miller**  
**Candidate**

Stan Miller has been a Kosciusko REMC member for 17 years. He graduated from Tippecanoe Valley High School. Miller is a self-employed farmer and owns a trucking company in Akron. He is a deacon and board member for the Gospel Hill Church and helps run their food pantry. He is also a member of the advisory board for Farm Credit Services. Miller and his wife have four children and reside in Akron.

**G. Paul “Butch” Troke**  
**Candidate**

G. Paul “Butch” Troke has been a Kosciusko REMC member for 21 years. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and history from Ball State University and is currently pursuing Biblical studies at Grace Theological Seminary. Troke is serving in his 10th year as pastor of the Beaver Dam United Methodist Church. He participates in helping local food banks, United We Stand Ministries, Relay for Life, and numerous local and international mission projects. Troke and his wife reside in Akron.
Rick Parker  
Incumbent

Rick Parker has been a Kosciusko REMC member for 33 years, and has served on the board of directors for six years. In 2010, Parker completed a certification program through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and became a Credentialed Cooperative Director. He graduated from Akron High School and is the second-generation owner of Parker & Sons Equipment. He also farms and raises dairy replacement heifers. He and his wife, Jill, reside near Claypool, and have four children and nine grandchildren.

William Leininger  
Candidate

William Leininger has been a Kosciusko REMC member for 44 years. He graduated from Akron High School and has earned his bachelor's and master's degrees. He taught six years in the Manchester school system and 37 years in the Tippecanoe Valley system. Leininger has operated a sheep farm for the last 40 years and served on the county 4-H Sheep Committee. He also served on the Kosciusko County Fair Association for eight years. He is now a director for the Indiana State Fair with responsibilities in the Cattle Department. Leininger and his wife, Buni, reside in the Akron area and have four children and four grandchildren.

Bryan Sponseller  
Candidate

Bryan Sponseller has been a Kosciusko REMC member for 16 years. He graduated from Tippecanoe Valley High School and went on to earn a business degree. S sponseller currently works at Zimmer and attends Pleasant View Bible Church. He and his wife, Lisa, reside in Warsaw and have three children.

Robert K. Huffman  
Candidate

Robert K. Huffman has been a Kosciusko REMC member for 38 years. He has earned a bachelor's degree from Manchester College, a master's degree from St. Francis College, and an education specialist degree from Indiana State University. Huffman began his teaching career as a teacher and coach at Mentone High School, then went on to serve other school corporations as the athletic director, assistant principal, principal and superintendent. He is a member of the First Church of God and the Indiana Retired School Superintendents. Huffman resides in Warsaw and is married with two children and four grandchildren.

Steve Miner  
Candidate

Steve Miner has been a Kosciusko REMC member for 34 years and previously served on the KREMC board of directors from 1983-2010. He operates a hog and buffalo business and farms 750 acres. Miner has served on the board of the Pork Producers, as well as on a market research panel for Successful Farming magazine. Miner also attends Saint Catherine's Church. He and his wife, Sandy, reside in Pierceton and have two daughters and two granddaughters.

Kent Ring  
Candidate

Kent Ring has been a Kosciusko REMC member for 41 years. He graduated from Warsaw Community High School and went on to study business administration at Ball State University. Ring has farmed in the Claypool area for over 40 years and owns a trucking business. He attends Walnut Creek United Methodist Church and is the treasurer for the Fort Wayne Corvette Club. He belongs to the Warsaw Masonic Lodge, Fort Wayne Scottish Rite, and Kosciusko County and Fort Wayne Shrine Clubs. Ring and his wife, Kim, reside in Claypool and have four sons and four grandchildren.
Kosciusko REMC
2014 Annual Meeting

Powerful Journey, Powerful Future

Warsaw Community Church
2300 Ranch Road, Warsaw, IN

From North: Take SR 15 South through Warsaw. Turn left onto Ranch Road at the Outdoor Living Center. The main campus will be a little over one mile on your right.

From South: Take SR 15 North to CR 200 E. Turn right. The main campus will be a little less than one mile on your left.

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**Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Doors open and refreshments are served in the cafe. Be sure to review the materials in the welcome packet. Among these materials are the board election ballot, a summary of the 2014 candidates, the 2013 KREMC Annual Report and a member survey.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 - 10</td>
<td>The <strong>Energy Expo</strong> will take place with information booths for the Co-op Connections Card; KREMC Energy Advisor Carol Ousley; Wabash Vally Power Association, Gast Heating &amp; Cooling; KCH Health/Wellness screenings; a “Meet Your Director” booth and many more.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 - 12</td>
<td><strong>Business Meeting Agenda</strong></td>
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<td>KREMC board of directors election</td>
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<td>CEO message</td>
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<td>Door prize drawing</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 - 11</td>
<td>A special <strong>children’s program</strong> for kids ages 4 through 12 will be available downstairs. It will feature an “Amazing Animals Show” from the Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo, two caricaturists, balloon animals and a craft area.</td>
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