This Little Piggy ...

Pigs step into spotlight at new education center

A Slice of Pi(e)
Celebrate Pi Day (3-14) with pies that are round and delicious

Gallery of Art
The deadline for our student art contest is March 21

Scholarships Available
Apply by March 26
That Reminds Me

‘Honest-to-Goodness’ describes us well

Back when Cabbage Patch Kids and Trivial Pursuit were all the rage, Hoosiers and non-Hoosiers alike were encouraged by the Indiana Office of Tourism Development to “Wander Indiana.”

Thirty years ago, the tourism office’s slogan bombarded us on TV commercials and even on license plates. “Wander Indiana” stuck with me so much that I didn’t even realize our state had adopted other tourism slogans through the years. In 1995, Indiana tried to lure visitors here by suggesting “You could use a little Indiana.” Apparently, visitors decided “a little Indiana” was more than enough. The slogan only lasted three years.

Next, in a nod to Hoosier Hospitality, came “Enjoy Indiana; the Welcome Mat is Always Out.” But just because the mat is out doesn’t mean folks are going to bang on the door to come in. So, this passive promise was replaced soon into the new millennium with “Travel Indiana” which is about as close to “Wander Indiana” as a slogan could be. Simple and to the point, it boiled the slogan only to last three years.

But why not embrace our “honest-to-goodness” description instead of dismissing it as old-fashioned? Down-to-earth Midwestern values are something we should be proud of, and “honest-to-goodness,” in fact, aptly encapsulates the Hoosier spirit. A trip to Indiana is not going to be the same as a trip to Florida, Las Vegas or New York. Everyone knows that. And that’s not only OK, but is something we should capitalize on.

EMILY SCHILLING
EDITOR, eschilling@ElectricConsumer.org

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KREMC receives award for service

At the annual Warsaw Kosciusko County Chamber Dinner in January, Kosciusko REMC was awarded the 2013 Dimensions in Business Service Excellence Award. I am proud of this achievement. It signifies the local community recognizes the dedication from our employees that I have seen every day in my years with the cooperative.

Being a service company, specifically in the electrical energy business, we face many different challenges. I am blessed to have a team of employees who address those issues head on each and every day. Whether it’s our outside folks working in different weather conditions to provide power or our office staff helping our members, excellent service has been a priority of this company for 75 years.

The employees of Kosciusko REMC sincerely strive to be accountable not only to our members, but to this great community in which we live and work. We support many of our employees’ involvements in a wide variety of organizations and activities throughout the year in order to “give back” to the very community that supports our cooperative.

The award also reflects our excellent system reliability which we have worked tirelessly to improve over the last several years. We, of course, try never to have members without power, but drivers, rodents and Mother Nature don’t always cooperate. The investment, both financially and in labor hours, has paid off with even more reliable service to our members.

Our mission statement really sums it up, “Kosciusko REMC is dedicated to safely providing quality electric energy and services to customers at a competitive cost. We value integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community above all else.” The Dimensions in Excellence Service Award shows we are accomplishing this mission.

We are grateful to the chamber and to PNC Bank, who sponsor the award, for recognizing our employees and our company. Again, I am blessed to be surrounded by a great team both present and past.

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
- Demand charge ....................... $9.20 per kw
- Energy charge ........................ $0.063 per kWh

Schedule SL (Security Lights)
- 100w HPS ................................................... $7.30 per month
- 200w HPS ................................................... $11.20 per month
  *Tracker charge ........................................... $.0061 per kWh

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 cousley@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.

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 March 13.

March Trivia Questions:

1) Who is the newest employee of KREMC? ____________________
2) Name one reason to attend the KREMC Annual Meeting? _______________________________________________________________
3) Name the local business profiled in this issue as part of the Co-op Connections Card Business Spotlight?
   _______________________________________________________________

Name: __________________________________________
Phone Number: ____________________________
Account Number: ____________________________

Monthly trivia contest winner

Congratulations to February contest winner NAME of CITY! She’s the winner of a $75 bill credit for answering our trivia questions correctly.

Welcome Rios to the Kosciusko REMC Team!

Let’s join together in giving Jennifer Rios a warm welcome to the Marketing and Customer Service Department at Kosciusko REMC. Rios started her duties as the part-time customer service representative in early 2014.

In her new position, she will assist KREMC members with bill payments, payment arrangements, budget billing, and create work orders for the Engineering and Operations Department.

Originally from Iowa, Rios moved to Warsaw to attend Grace College. She and her husband, Armando, have three beautiful children and a Goldendoodle, Cali.

Rios is currently enrolled at Indiana Wesleyan and is working to earn a bachelor’s degree in management with a concentration in human resources. When not at work, or spending time with her family, she makes time to teach four Zumba classes each week.

“We are very excited to have Jennifer on our team. She has a great attitude and is fluent in Spanish,” said KREMC Customer Service Supervisor Stephanie Scott.
**Tax-season tips**

Protect your ID when filing your IT-40 and 1040

Criminals who steal identities take both money and a sense of security from their victims. Victims of identity theft must deal with the time and stress of reclaiming their identities. They may even find their reputations and credit ratings have been damaged. To protect their identities and potential tax refunds, the Indiana Department of Revenue recommends taxpayers consider the following seven tips during this tax season:

- **Safely store your tax return documents:** Once your tax return has been electronically filed, save the file to a CD, USB drive, or external drive and then delete the file from your computer. This ensures that no one can hack your computer and steal the information. Store the device in a safe, locked place. If you work with an accountant, ask him or her about the measures they take to protect your information after your return is filed.

- **Watch out for scams:** Tax season brings a significant increase in scam emails, phone calls and texts. Be cautious when someone calls or emails you saying that they’re from the Indiana Department of Revenue or the federal IRS and asks you for personal information. Neither agency will ever call or email you and ask for your personal information. If in doubt, call the IRS or Department of Revenue at publicly posted numbers to address the issue.

- **Know where to be cautious:** Be aware of common ways thieves can access your information. Some of the most common ways identity theft criminals can find your personal information are: posing as someone who needs your information through a phone call or email; looking through your trash for personal information; accessing information you provide to an unsecured Internet site or via a public Wi-Fi service.

- **Dispose of documents correctly:** If you no longer need a document with your personal information on it, shred it. Don’t just throw it away.

- **File your taxes electronically:** E-filing is significantly more secure than paper filing. Individual taxpayers can file their taxes online for free if they qualify at [www.freefile.dor.in.gov](http://www.freefile.dor.in.gov)

- **Protect your Social Security card and number:** Don’t carry your Social Security card with you. Don’t give out your SSN unless you have to, and always ask why it’s needed, how it’s going to be used and how it will be stored.

- **Find the right tax preparer:** Ask for recommendations and research tax preparers before you turn your personal information over to them. This is especially important if you are new to an area. For tips on finding tax preparers, visit [www.in.gov/dor/4618.htm](http://www.in.gov/dor/4618.htm).

For more info, visit [www.in.gov/dor/4794.htm](http://www.in.gov/dor/4794.htm). Hoosiers can also sign up for the Attorney General’s ID Theft Protection Toolkit at [www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/2853.htm](http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/2853.htm).

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**Say ‘hey’ to Haiti electric cooperative**

In February, the latest international not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative had its first general meeting and approved a constitution and bylaws and elected a board of directors. Coopérative Electrique de l’Arrondissement des Côteaux convened with 372 members.

The new cooperative project is administered by the international arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association with $2.18 million in funds from the United Nations Environmental Programme, provided by the government of Norway, and $530,000 from the U.S. Agency for International Development. The co-op is seeking to provide member-owners on the southern coast of Haiti with affordable, reliable power.

The rural electric cooperatives that NRECA, to which all 39 electric co-ops serving Hoosiers belong, has formed and supported now serve more than 110 million rural beneficiaries in more than 40 countries.
TVA nuclear unit in home stretch

The Tennessee Valley Authority says it’s moving toward a testing phase at its Watts Bar nuclear power plant, where a new reactor could be up and running within two years.

Unit 2 of the Watts Bar Nuclear Generating Station west of Knoxville, Tenn., is about 82 percent complete and on track to meet its $4 billion budget, TVA officials said in January.

The 1,100-megawatt facility would be the first commercial reactor to come on-line in the United States since Watts Bar Unit 1 started producing electricity in 1996. TVA said it hopes to have Unit 2 licensed by federal regulators by the end of 2015.

The plant should help the nation’s largest public power provider continue its shift from fossil-fuel generation. TVA announced in November that it is closing eight coal plants with 3,000 MW of capacity.

The plant dates to the 1970s but was sidelined in 1985 amid growing construction costs and the aftermath of the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in Pennsylvania. TVA restarted the project in 2007.

Savings Zingers

Avoid ‘charging’ violations!

In basketball, “charging” is an offensive foul whistled whenever a ballhandler loses control and runs over a set opponent. In our homes and workplaces, a charging foul occurs when we lose control of our cell phones, iPods, etc., and leave them plugged in too long.Unchecked portable devices will run unnecessary charges all over the electric bill. Here are tips from the U.S. Department of Energy and suggestions from us to help avoid that:

- Once an electronic device is fully charged, unplug its charger from the outlet. Chargers left plugged in will continuously draw small amounts of power even when no device is connected, and even more when a fully charged device is still connected.
- Establish a set place in your home as a central “charging station” where you’ll consistently charge your electronics. This should be a high traffic area, like an entryway from the garage or office area, that has enough outlets to accommodate your electronics. This way, it’ll be convenient to grab your device, you’ll always know where the chargers are, and you’ll notice if any have been left plugged in.
- Use a power strip with multiple outlets for charging electronic devices. When nothing is being charged, toggle off the strip’s main power switch to cut power to all the outlets on the strip. Power strips are great for “vampire” electronics, like flat screen TVs, DVD players, cable boxes, computers and other accessories, that use electricity even when they are not “on.”
- Plugging devices into an outlet operated by a wall switch will accomplish the same benefit. It may seem these items use only little bits of electricity at a time, and that’s mostly true. But the average American household now owns 40 appliances and devices that constantly suck power. Over a month, like a dripping faucet, that wasted electricity starts adding up to real kilowatt-hours — and dollars lost.
- Phantom loads or energy vampires can often be responsible for adding 10 percent or more to your monthly electric bill. For more savings and safety ideas, visit ElectricConsumer.org.

Speaking of Cell Phone Chargers ...

Keeping your power-hungry smartphones charged with cables and portable batteries may be a thing of the past as two engineering students have figured out a way to charge them with Wi-Fi.

Allen Hawkes and Alexander Katko from Duke University’s Pratt School of Engineering have developed a device with metamaterials that captures energy waves from wireless Internet and converts them into electrical current. The students say the power-harvesting device is even more efficient than a USB charger and it has similar output to modern solar panels.

The device can wirelessly convert Wi-Fi’s microwave signals into direct current voltage to recharge a cell phone battery or other small electronic devices. In an age when we are swimming in a sea of wireless broadband and cellular networks, this device could allow us to keep charging our phones no matter where we are.

The researchers say the material could also be applied to make our homes more energy efficient. A metamaterial coating could be applied to the ceiling of a room to redirect and recover a Wi-Fi signal that would otherwise be lost. However, the technology is still in progress. Hawkes and Katkoare are working on perfecting the technology to make the metamaterials operable inside of a cell phone.
Sears and Kmart recall Kenmore oscillating fan heater

A Kenmore Oscillating Fan Heater sold by Sears and Kmart has been recalled for fire and burn hazards. Broken motor mounts can cause the unit to overheat, catch fire and ignite nearby items, posing a fire and burn hazard to consumers.

- **Description:** The fan heaters are gray and white, measure about 12 inches tall by 9 inches wide, have two dials at the top for temperature and fan speed and a red on-off button on the front base. “Kenmore” is printed on the front bottom of the fan heaters. The heaters were sold at Sears and Kmart stores nationwide from September 2013 through November 2013 for between $35 and $40. They were manufactured in China. Sears and Kmart have received seven reports of the fan heaters smoking or catching fire, including two reports of injuries. Injuries include one report of smoke inhalation and one report of a blister to a consumer’s finger.

- **Details:** This recall involves Kenmore oscillating fan heaters with model number 127.90914310. The model number and Kenmore are printed on a silver sticker on the bottom of the unit.

- **Remedy:** Consumers should immediately turn off and unplug the recalled fan heaters and return them to any Sears or Kmart store for a full refund. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission notes that it is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

For more details about the recall and refund, contact Sears/Kmart toll-free at 888-820-3341, 7am-9pm CT, Mon-Fri; and 7am-6pm CT, Sat; or visit www.sears.com and www.kmart.com, and click on “Product Recall” at the bottom of the page.

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Starbucks coffee presses recalled

A Bodum rose gold Chambord coffee press sold late last year has been recalled. The glass carafe can fall out of the metal frame and plastic base of the coffee press and break or shatter, posing laceration and burn hazards to consumers.

- **Description:** This recall involves Bodum® rose gold Chambord locking lid 8-cup glass coffee presses. The press was sold at Starbucks nationwide and online at starbucks.com from November 2013 through December 2013 for about $40. The coffee press' glass carafe, screen and plunger are held in place by a metal frame which is rose gold-colored with a black molded plastic base. Consumers put ground coffee and hot water in the glass carafe and push the plunger and screen down through the water to brew coffee. The coffee presses are 10 inches high by about 4 inches in diameter. The coffee press has a locking lid. Bodum is printed on the glass carafe. Bodum has received about 14 reports of the glass carafes breaking or shattering when the coffee press' plastic base separated from the metal frame. There have been four reports of minor injuries, including two lacerations and two burns.

- **Details:** Bodum and SKU number 11029732 are printed on a white label on the bottom of the base. Bodum and Made in Portugal are embossed on the bottom of the black plastic base.

- **Remedy:** Consumers should stop using the recalled coffee presses immediately and return them to the Starbucks store where purchased or contact Bodum for a full refund. Bodum or Made in Portugal are embossed on the bottom of the base. Consumers who purchased the coffee presses online should contact Bodum for a pre-paid return label to return the coffee presses to receive a full refund.

For details about the recall and refund, call Bodum toll-free at 855-378-6864 from 10am-5pm ET, Mon-Fri; email Bodum at recall@bodum.com; or go online at www.bodum.com and click on Product Advisories.
Efficient outdoor lighting

BY JAMES DULLEY

I need to add outdoor lighting for security at my home. I’d also like to use the lights for entertaining. How can I brighten outdoor spaces without driving up my electric bills?

Outdoor lighting can be effective for security, but it drives up utility bills if done improperly. Security lights are not always best for entertaining, and vice versa. Make your security and entertaining lighting plans independently, then check to see where they overlap.

Security lighting is usually on all night; entertainment lighting is not. Choosing the proper security lighting has a greater impact on your utility bills.

Before you consider adding outdoor security lighting, make other low-cost security improvements to your home. Make sure window latches lock securely, install bump-resistant door deadbolts, and consider an alarm system.

Once you feel the perimeter of your home is relatively secure, plan your lighting. Do an outdoor walk-around inspection of your house at night to see where additional lighting might help. Sometimes there is enough brightness from a neighbor’s home to illuminate otherwise dark, suspect areas.

Prioritize lighting need areas and use compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light emitting diodes (LEDs) which produce more lumens per watt of electricity compared to standard incandescent bulbs.

I can barely see the stars on a clear night due to the excessive lighting in my subdivision. When planning outdoor lighting, make an effort to minimize nighttime light pollution. Bright lights create a problem for wildlife and can be annoying to neighbors. If you install floodlighting, mount a directional light shield over it.

It is a misconception that brighter lights provide more security. Lower lighting levels are more effective because it’s difficult for the human eye to quickly adjust from a very bright area to darker area. If lighting is less bright, it’s easier to see movement in darker areas where someone might be hiding.

Motion-sensor lights are some of the most efficient and effective for security. When the light comes on, a would-be thief assumes he has been seen. They also catch neighbors’ attention. Select one with two-level lighting. You can switch it on for low-level background lighting; it only switches to full brightness when motion is detected.

Wherever there is access to the full sun by day, consider solar-powered motion-sensing floodlights. Spend extra for an ample battery pack (measured in watt-hours). These lights continue to operate even after a few consecutive cloudy days with little recharging sunlight.

If you plan to install low-cost standard 120-volt outdoor lighting fixtures, try using CFLs. CFLs do not always work well in cold outdoor temperatures, and take a little while to reach full brightness. Try one or two first, and read the packaging to see if the bulb is intended for outdoor use.

LEDs, another super-efficient lighting option, are not affected by the cold, but are generally more expensive upfront than CFLs. With a bright white light output, LEDs last up to 50,000 hours. Their light output is directional, so they are best for lighting specific targeted areas.

To light a larger area for an entire night, LPS (low-pressure sodium) fixtures are efficient. The fixtures are fairly expensive and they start up very slowly to reach full brightness. The light quality is monochromatic (yellowish) so they would only be applicable for security and not for entertainment lighting.

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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.
Easy riders

BY BECKY BILLINGSLEY

You’ve heard of the “easy rider” and “CC Rider,” but for quick trips around campus, the neighborhood or even the local golf links, nothing beats the EC rider — that’s the “electric consumer” rider. Check out these electric-powered scooters and carts that are quiet, energy-efficient and a whole lot of fun to drive.

ADULTS ONLY

*RAZOR SMART*
You won’t earn any style points riding it, but the Razor EcoSmart Metro Electric Scooter is great for quick errands around town. It runs for up to 40 minutes per charge at speeds up to 18 mph. $363.
800-697-3277; sears.com

*COMMUTER COURSE*
The Segway i2 is the second-generation personal transporter from the company that built the original self-balancing scooter. Indoors or out, the i2 climbs curbs and steps and can carry a rider up to 24 miles at speeds topping out at 12.5 mph. $6,400.
866-473-4929; segway.com

*Bike Boost*
Made with recreational cyclists in mind, an IZIP E3 Vibe LS electric bicycle from Currie Technologies allows riders to pedal, get a power assist from the battery or let the motor do all the work. The boost comes in handy for tackling hills or riding through headwinds. $849.
877-284-2453; currietech.com

KID POWER

*The Electric Slide*
Kids love riding go-karts, but parents may appreciate the speed limit on the electric Razor Ground Force Drifter, which maxes out at 12 mph. Designed for children over 8 weighing up to 140 pounds, the low-to-the-ground frame delivers thrills as it slides through corners and pulls 180s. $239.
866-467-2967; razor.com

*RUGGED RIDE*
Wear and tear are to be expected when young riders are on board, so the X-Treme X-140 electric scooter has a high-tension steel frame to withstand those unavoidable drops and bumps. Plus, sturdy tires resist puncture. It’s foldable for storage; top speed is 10 mph. $150.
253-777-0690; x-tremescooters.com

BEYOND GOLF

*SOLAR FLAIR*
Add a SunRay Solar Top to the Cruise Car M4SB3, and you’ll gain up to 10 extra miles of driving distance per day, plus extended battery life. There are four seats under the roof and a 3-foot bed, handy for hauling coolers, beach gear, shopping bags—even golf clubs. $7,200 base price.
941-929-1630; cruisecarinc.com

*Solar Flair*
The eco-friendly E-Z-Go 2Five offers safety and convenience in an environmentally responsible package. Recycled materials, zero emissions and noise reduction are among its design features, along with multiple storage compartments, three-point seat belts, a safety-conscious braking system and on-road radial tires. $9,395 base price.
800-241-5855; ezgo.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 cooperative magazine of the Palmetto state. Product inclusion on this page does not imply endorsement; prices listed are subject to change.
This time the concern is global warming and carbon dioxide — CO₂ — not acid rain and SO₂. But solving global warming won’t be as simple as solving acid rain. And this is where a major disconnect exists between the federal Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed fix and reality.

Seeking to limit CO₂, the EPA is singling out America’s coal-fired power plants, though they emit only 4 percent of the world’s CO₂. EPA’s new limit on coal, published in January, is so strict it essentially bans future coal plants.

Thirty years ago, coal’s fingerprints were all over the deposition of acid rain. Changes to the Clean Air Act in 1990 required large SO₂ reductions. Costly, but existing “scrubber” technology to remove SO₂ from the coal exhaust was employed. Acid rain went away.

Michalene Reilly, manager of environmental services at Hoosier Energy, power supplier for Indiana’s southern electric co-ops, notes scrubbers use a fairly simple chemical reaction. The technology was used as Hoosier Energy built its Merom Generating Station in Sullivan County. From day one in 1982, Merom already met 1990’s SO₂ standards.

The EPA maintains coal can meet its new CO₂ standard using partial carbon capture and storage technology. The technology captures CO₂ from emissions and injects it deep underground to entomb it. CCS is still only experimental and far from commercially viable, by as many as 25 years, according to the electric industry’s research group. And, it could increase the cost of coal-generated electricity by 75 percent.

Further, capturing CO₂ is a totally new ballgame. Consider: a megawatt-hour is about the amount of electricity an average consumer uses each month. A MWh generated by coal produces about 13 pounds of SO₂ — and over 2,000 pounds of CO₂.

That’s because sulfur in coal is more of an impurity; but carbon and hydrogen are the tightly bonded elements of all fossil fuels. Burning them creates CO₂ as an unavoidable byproduct. And, CO₂ is everywhere and a part of every living thing. “We can’t even burn calories without releasing it,” Reilly noted.

In June, EPA is expected to release its new ruling on CO₂ emissions from existing power plants. Because it will affect facilities already generating from 60 to 90 percent of the electricity in Indiana, this ruling may be even more alarming to Indiana’s electric consumers than January’s on new coal plants.

Indeed, the forecasts for what global warming may bring are worrisome to everyone. But our society, its economy, everything we do, requires reliable and affordable electricity.

While electric co-ops constantly add new, cleaner sources for power and coal use has declined, coal is still the number one fuel. It has no reliable replacement. Cleaner natural gas is being used more, but this winter brought volatile pricing and even shortages for electricity generation.

The electric industry is one of the world’s most cost-intensive enterprises and produces one of the most pervasive products and services ever known. The way we generate electricity cannot change overnight. Yet the EPA, with its science fictitious rule, seems to be saying, “Let’s ‘cryogenically freeze’ coal as a fuel source — till such time as a ‘cure’ for its CO₂ can be found.”

We all must face the “real world.” Electric co-ops hope the EPA reconsiders this “anti-gravitas” pie-in-the-sky rule and joins them in working toward real, down-to-earth environmental solutions. [1]

RICHARD G. BIEWER is senior editor of Electric Consumer.
Deadline draws near for 17th annual contest

If you are a student artist planning to enter Electric Consumer’s 17th annual student art contest (or you know one), here’s the last reminder: The deadline is March 21!

Winning works will illustrate the “Cooperative Calendar of Student Art” for 2015 — and join an illustrious gallery of past winners.

The contest, sponsored by Electric Consumer and participating Indiana electric co-ops, provides young artists a unique opportunity to express themselves and develop their artistic talent while possibly earning cash prizes and statewide acclaim.

Winning artists will have their artwork published in the calendar and be part of a special exhibition through the Electric Consumer’s continuing partnership with Hoosier Salon, the historic organization of professional artists, art patrons and galleries.

Check out the highlights of the rules at right, and visit our website for the complete rules and downloadable PDFs of the rules and required entry forms.

Highlights of the rules for 2015 co-op calendar art contest

Who can enter: Any Indiana student, attending any public or private school or educated at home, who — for the 2013–2014 school year — is in the grades kindergarten through high school senior.

Artwork can be submitted by classroom or art teachers, 4-H leaders or others as a group or group project, or by individual students or their parents, guardians or private teachers.

Students may enter as often as they wish.

How does the contest work: Match the grade the student is in during the current school year to the corresponding month. Students should draw or paint a picture to illustrate their assigned month.

1st grade—January
2nd grade—February
3rd grade—March
4th grade—April
5th grade—May
6th grade—June
7th grade—July
8th grade—August
9th grade—September
10th grade—October
11th grade—November
12th grade—December

Kindergarten students will create the cover art. There is no theme for the cover: any subject, season, event, etc., is acceptable.

How is the contest judged: Artwork will be judged on artistic merit, originality, creativity, how well the assigned month is depicted and suitability for a wall calendar.

What are the rules for originality: Students/teachers/parents/guardians are responsible for entering only original works.

Artwork MAY NOT be copied from other sources without substantial creative changes. This includes other paintings and photographs — unless the photo was composed and/or taken by the student.

Every element of the artwork (design, lines, marks, paint, color, shapes, shading, highlights, etc.) must be the work of the student whose name appears on the back of the artwork and be done by that student’s hand.

No tracing of other works is allowed.

No photographs or artwork created with a computer will be judged for inclusion in the calendar.

How should the artwork be submitted: Artwork should be no smaller than 8x10 inches. Do not mount, mat, frame, fold or crease artwork.

How should the artwork/artist be identified: One of two methods can be used to identify the art and artist depending where the artwork was created. Please use the most appropriate.

Entries from home or a small group: On the back of each entry, in the lower right hand corner, include student’s first and last name, age, grade, school, names of parents or guardians, home address and phone number with area code.

In addition, each entry must include a completed copy of the 2015 entry form (A) available from Electric Consumer or downloaded from ElectricConsumer.org.

Entries from a large group, classroom or school: On the back of each entry, in the lower right hand corner, include the student’s first and last name, grade and a complete contact phone number.

In addition to information on the back of each entry, each package of entries must include a completed copy of the 2015 entry form (B) available from Electric Consumer or downloaded from ElectricConsumer.org.


For full rules, policies and required entry forms: Visit our website and click on “Student Art Contest” at ElectricConsumer.org; or contact Richard Biever or Emily Schilling at Electric Consumer, 317-487-2220, 800-340-7362, or email us at ec@ElectricConsumer.org.

ElectricConsumer.org • MARCH 2013 • ELECTRIC CONSUMER 13
here’s the old statement about the pig,” says Tim Belstra, a man who’s spent his life farming the ever-versatile domesticated beast. “The only thing we haven’t found a use for is the ‘oink.’

That was the only thing — till now. Through “oinks” and full-throated “wee, wee, wees,” pigs themselves are telling the story of modern pig farming at one of Indiana’s newest agri-tourism sites — The Pig Adventure at Fair Oaks Farms — in northwest Indiana.

The adventure, a joint venture between Belstra Milling Company’s new Legacy Farms and Fair Oaks Farms, opened last August to show and tell the public how pigs are fed, bred and treated.

“The American farmer, whether that’s livestock or grain or whatever facet of agriculture, has done a wonderful job over the years of producing very affordable, very safe and unbelievable quantities of food,” said Belstra, chairman of Belstra Milling’s board. “Where we have failed is letting John Q. Public know how we do it.”

The Pig Adventure joins the Fair Oaks Farms’ Dairy Adventure in telling that story. The pair create the largest agritourism facility in the nation. The Dairy Adventure, which pioneered educating the public in a fun and firsthand way about modern dairy farming, celebrated its 10th anniversary last year. The farms of Fair Oaks are served electrically by Jasper County and Newton County REMCs.
Pig Adventure at Fair Oaks Farms tells the story of modern pig farming

A tour through the Pig Adventure at Fair Oaks Farms begins with an interactive Visitor Center and the history of pig farming.

Ham 'n' cheese sandwich

The story of today's large modern confined livestock farms seems to have an eager audience ... what one might even call a “pent-up demand.”

Belstra said 75,000 people came through the Pig Adventure, just a short drive north of the Dairy Adventure, as it was being finished last summer. And that was before the facility had its official grand opening in August.

Belstra noted most Americans are now at least three generations removed from working the land and producing their own food. “This is an attempt to show people how it used to be done; how it’s done today; why pork is good for you; why it’s safe,” he said. “And 99-point-some-odd percent of them come out of here and go, ‘Wow. I had no idea.’”

Fair Oaks Farms approached Belstra’s milling and farming operations several years ago about adding the pig farm adventure. Belstra said they shared the same ideas of transparency with the public.

“Our company’s philosophy has always been, ‘You want to see what we do? C’mon. We’ll show you.’ So we had over the years taken people to our various farms,” Belstra said. “They showed the way when they built Dairy Adventure. They got right out there and said, ‘Let’s show people the way milk is produced.”

Fair Oaks Farms was established by a group of like-minded dairy farmers who moved to Newton and Jasper counties from California 15 years ago. They developed the state-of-the-art, interactive dairy education center — The Dairy Adventure — to teach folks what went on inside the new giant dairy operations to produce high quantities of high quality milk.

The next-door Cheese Factory came along then, too. From the comfort of the cheese/gift/sandwich/ice cream shop, visitors could look through large windows to follow each step as the farm’s milk was turned into cheese, yogurt and ice cream.

While bio-security on the dairy farm bus tour is strict to protect the dairy herd, introducing a pig farm to a larger audience is a bit more tricky. “Pigs are different than cows because disease is much more prevalent in our industry than it is in theirs,” Belstra noted.

Striking the right chord between creating a profitable working farm that still educated the general public wasn’t easy, he said. Eventually, the Pig Adventure essentially came to be a farm with an enclosed, climate controlled second-story welcome and observation center overhead. This allows humans and pigs to get close, but remain separated. Each level has its own air handling system.

While that pretty much eliminated the odor for visitors, Belstra noted, “That is not so much for you as it is to protect the pigs, believe it or not. People can bring disease to pigs. It doesn’t work the other way back.”

Please turn to the next page.
Like the Dairy Adventure before it, the Pig Adventure seems to be the first of its kind in the nation — something Belstra said he’s not totally sure he wanted to pioneer. “I wish someone else would’ve done it first,” he noted. “I would’ve bought the book.”

The Pig Adventure experience

Visitors arrive at the Pig Adventure on buses they board down the road at the Dairy Adventure. Legacy Farms is a 120,000-square-foot facility housing the farm and a thoroughly modern, interactive visitor center.

From the visitor center, folks go through a simulated “shower,” complete with a bottle of “Hogwash” to show what the farm workers down below must do before and after working with the pigs. Then it’s off to see the life cycle down different corridors.

The Gestation Barn: Provides an indoor birds-eye view of the growing gilts (female pigs that are yet to breed). Visitors can see marvel at the Electronic Sow Feeder. When a pig enters the enclosed feeder, a radio signal reads the individual pig’s ear tag and tells the feeder the correct mix and amount to drop into a trough for the pig. When the pig is finished eating, it exits and another pig comes in. Here visitors also learn modern day pregnancy practices.

The Farrowing Barn: Showcases the miraculous creation of life. Through large, outward leaning windows, visitors can gaze out over scores of sows in the delivery process and see live births. Some 250 piglets are born there each day.

The Growing Barn: Allows visitors to see pigs transition from 4-week-old piglets to more than 600-pound gilts soon to become mothers themselves. Most of the farm’s 75,000 annual piglets, however, are moved to other farms to be grown and “finished out.”

Another feature at the Pig Adventure shows how all that manure is handled.

Large confined livestock operations, like dairy and pig farms, are not without controversy. While animal rights groups often cite the ethics and treatment of confined animals, it’s most often the manure issues that have rural neighbors and environmental groups concerned.

But all the manure produced by the 2,700 sows at Legacy Farms is being pumped to a nearby Fair Oaks dairy farm’s anaerobic digester. Digesters break down the solids in manure and capture the natural methane gas released in the process.

That gas is then used to generate electricity for the farms, or used to power the natural gas-burning tour buses that take visitors to and from the farms. (Fair Oaks Farms’ digesters were featured in an April 2003 cover story. Revisit that story on our website following a link from this issue.)

Any excess electricity, not used by...
the various Fair Oaks Farms’ facilities, is put on the electric grid to be used by REMC members in the region. “We are always willing to work with the technology that our members want to use,” said Bryan Washburn, chief executive officer at Jasper County REMC. “There are now seven manure methane generators on our lines producing power to run livestock facilities. A small amount of electricity is left over a few months of the year and goes out to the grid to help power homes and businesses.”

Visitors at the Pig Adventure are free to spend as much time as they want, before returning by bus to the main Fair Oaks Farms campus.

The addition of the Pig Adventure is just the first of a major planned growth spurt at Fair Oaks Farms to create a true destination that combines all facets of agriculture and tourism. A new 250-seat restaurant and conference/banquet center, along with a bakery and pub, is under construction and should open early this summer, joining the Dairy Adventure barn, Cheese Factory and play area. The Fair Oaks complex also is opening itself to other events, like hosting the revived South Shore Air Show in July. (Please see sidebars on the next page.)

Also in the works are a hotel and indoor water park and additional agricultural education centers for poultry, grain farming and aquaculture.

‘Humble’ hams
Of all the creatures to inhabit a barnyard, few have wallowed their way into culture and the heart quite like pigs.

If you go
Fair Oaks Farms is located on the west side of Interstate 65, at the Ind. 14 exit (exit 220), just north of Rensselaer.

Things to Explore:
- Dairy Adventure — offers a fun-filled, up-close look at sustainable dairy farming. Special attractions include a Birthing Barn, Bus Adventure, 4D Theater.
- Pig Adventure — offers a fun and fascinating journey into the world of modern pig farming.
- Outdoor Adventure — play outside in the seasonal Mooville! Tiny tots to teens will find something exciting.
- Cheese Factory — see milk in motion as it’s created into delicious products such as cheese, yogurt and ice cream!
- Café/Gift Shop — offers products from the farm. Menu offers sandwiches, salads, milkshakes and more. Shop for Fair Oaks’ award-winning cheeses and one-of-a-kind gifts or souvenirs.

Admission to Dairy/Pig Adventure:
- One-Day Pass — Adult $20; Seniors (62+) $18; Kids (aged 3-12) $14; Kids aged 2 and under, free.
- Two-Day Pass — Adult $25; Seniors (62+) $20; Kids (aged 3-12) $16; Kids aged 2 and under, free.
- Special rates — available for school and groups of 20+.

Hours:
- Dairy/Pig Adventure — Mon-Sat: 9am-5pm (CT); Sun: 10am-5pm (CT)
- Cheese/Gift/Café — 7am-6pm (CT)

Contact Info:
- Phone: 877-536-1194; 219-394-2025
- Email: 8info@fofarms.com
- Website: fofarms.com
- Address: 856 N 600 E, Fair Oaks, IN 47943

Special for 4-H, scouts
Through the end of March, Fair Oaks has special pricing for 4-H groups and Boy and Girl Scouts. The special includes a complimentary ice cream cone and a handbook. Scouts also will get a patch. Leaders should call to schedule a special time for their club or troop to visit. Admission is $5 per person per Adventure. Groups must have at least 10 members.
From earliest childhood, piggies going to market have taught us about our toes and touch. The Three Little Pigs, Pooh's pal Piglet, and Wilbur, the "humble" runt saved by "Charlotte's Web," populate our bedtime stories. TV and the big screen have given us Porky; Miss Piggy; Arnold Ziffel; Hamm, the wisecracking piggy bank from Toy Story; Babe, the champion sheep herder; and, most recently, Maxwell, the GEICO-spokespig.

Because their internal organs are so similar to humans, pigs play an important role in the development of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and treatments for such things as breast cancer, wounds and diabetes.

But mainly, pigs are raised to feed an ever growing world population. Those who assume the responsibility of raising them, do so with the public's trust that the animals are treated with respect and care. Showing people how it's done and being transparent is key. "At the end of the day, it's the consumers that buy the product — they have to be comfortable with what's being produced, and how it's being produced," Belstra said.

To claims farms beat or mistreat their pigs, Belstra said, "We don't tolerate that. Good companies don't. That's not to say there aren't some blockheads out in the industry. Everybody's got them. It's not a perfect world."

Belstra has made his career out of building better pigs: first through feed, when he and his late brother took over the milling company their late father started in DeMotte in the 1950s; then through genetics; and then pig farming.

Pigs are big business in Indiana. The state ranks fifth nationally in pork farming, raising 8.5 million pigs in 2012. Indiana pork farmers contribute more than $3 billion each year to Indiana's economy and employ more than 13,000 Hoosiers.

Every year, Indiana pork farmers deliver the pork needs of every man, woman and child in Indiana, plus 15 million more Americans and 5 million more people around the world. "I have never seen a period before in my life when American consumers are so concerned about their food and food safety. And there have been some issues that have come up. But there is nowhere in the world that has a food system that's even close to ours as far as safety is concerned," Belstra said.

"But when the producer doesn't tell his story, [others] do. And they don't tell the truth. And that's what drove us to say, 'OK, let's let the people see themselves what we do.' "Our goal was to let people see — to inform the consumer and let them feel good about how their food is produced," Belstra said. "Being quiet is not the thing to do."

RICHARD G. BIEVER is senior editor of Electric Consumer.
Is it spring yet?

Here’s your sign that this looooooong winter has surely passed

BY JACK SPAULDING

People constantly ask me: “When will spring be here?” “Have you seen the robins yet?” “Do you think the prediction by the groundhog is going to stick?”

Like small children on a long car ride, people just can’t wait to get there. People are always begging for woodland signs to tell them when to expect spring.

Not to do injustice or demean the meteorological abilities of the marmot gang, I don’t have a lot of faith in the predictions of Punxsutawney Phil or the rest of the gang. Besides, this year the event was overshadowed by the Super Bowl, and there were other complications.

In Punxsutawney, it was rumored the officials had partied heavily the night before.

In the state next door, Phil’s New York counterpart, Staten Island Chuck, saw his shadow on that Sunday, forecasting another six weeks of winter. New York City’s newly elected mayor, Bill de Blasio, wasn’t able to keep a firm grip on the groundhog who squirmed free of the mayor’s gloved hands and plopped on the ground.

The media protected the new mayor’s image and blamed it on the gloves issued all mayors handling Staten Island Chuck since he bit former mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2009. (Perhaps Chuck was a fan of 32 ounce sugary drinks?) When Chuck hit the dirt, it brought a few gasps from the crowd, but he was quickly recovered by his handler.

If I were in the spring prediction business and someone drug me out of my warm man cave, stuck me under some glaring television camera lighting, and handed me to a slippery-handed politician who dropped me, I would most likely tag on six more months of winter, let alone six weeks.

And, there was also considerable conflict in the forecasts of our furry little critters, especially in the far north. Nova Scotia’s Shubenacadie Sam and Quebec’s Fred la Marmotte did not see their shadows thereby forecasting an early spring. Last I checked the map, Canada’s two pasture poodles are a long way north of our stateside marmots, Phil and Chuck.

I got the latest report on the robins, too. My daughter came up from Lexington, Ky., and told dear old dad she had to wash her car before she could travel. She noticed a huge flock of robins was stripping the neighborhood’s ornamental plum trees and strafing the parked cars.

When it comes to the arrival of warm weather, you can never trust a robin. Everyone thinks robins all head out to bask in Florida until it is time to go back north to enjoy the arrival of spring. Truth be known, there are a lot of robins never leaving the state. The slackers hang around undercut creek banks and keep a low profile until a sunny day comes along, and POOF; there they are. I call robins the “Kardashians of the creek bank.” Robins always look for undeserved recognition, and are ready to jump into the lime light in a heartbeat.

If you want a true harbinger of spring ... look to the skies. Not for robins, but for buzzards. Our natural resource’s sailing sanitation engineers will let you know when spring is near. Buzzards have neither the talons nor the teeth necessary to devour frozen carcasses. They need their road kill soft and chewable.

Hinckley, Ohio, looks forward to the arrival of the local buzzards on March 15. According to locals, the buzzards arrive without fail on this day. But I have known locals to lie. Buzzards will come north as the weather allows. I have seen buzzards return to Indiana as early as mid-February. If the blacktop is warm and the road kill is soft, spring’s a comin’!

Don’t believe me? Then, get a stick, find a ’possum carcass on the side of a road, and poke it. If it’s soft and pliable, look up! See a buzzard? There’s your sign!

Buzzards don’t bring carrion luggage when they fly home for spring. So, when they arrive, their food sources have sufficiently thawed — which Jack says is the most accurate prognosticator of spring’s arrival.

JACK SPAULDING is a state outdoors writer and a consumer of RushShelby Energy living along the Flatrock River in Moscow. Readers with questions or comments can write to him in care of Electric Consumer, P.O. Box 24517, Indianapolis, IN 46224; or email jacksaulding@hughes.net.
Save the monarch!

By Tom Turpin

For hundreds, maybe thousands, of years, monarch butterflies flapped and floated across prairies and through woodlands of the Eastern part of the United States. Then, as trees and native grasses fell before the ax and plow of the pioneers, an agricultural patchwork of pastures, corn and hay fields, roadsides and fencerows emerged. But unlike the bison and the bobcat, the monarch butterflies soldiered on.

Each spring, the bronze-colored butterflies with the distinctive black-line markings begin a northward trek. Along the way, the butterflies sip nectar, mate and deposit eggs on milkweed plants.

Come fall, second- and third-generation descendents of the spring monarchs head south. Some start as far north as the southern regions of the Canadian provinces of Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

These fall monarchs set off on a long and dangerous journey. Some have to travel more than 2,000 miles, with only favorable winds and wing muscles to carry them along. They all head to a little spot, a few square miles, in the mountains of central Mexico. These fall-migrant monarchs have never been there, but it’s a place where wintering monarchs have avoided the lethal cold and snows of northern climates for untold generations.

Because of their size, coloration and migration habit, the monarch is one of the most recognized and most admired of the butterfly species. Many books and poems extol the virtues of this insect, which is native to North America.

But now the population of monarchs seems to be on the decline. As is the case with all insects, the life of a monarch butterfly is a perilous journey. But to monarch watchers, two factors controlled by humans seem to be at the forefront when it comes to success of the butterfly.

The first is the maintenance of the habitat in the overwintering sites in Mexico. These sites provide the combination of temperatures, tree resting sites and available water that the insects need for winter survival. But the areas have come under logging pressure and are declining in size. Some of the sites have been designated as nature preserves in order to save the habitat.

The other major problem for the monarch butterfly is the availability of caterpillar feeding sites. Monarch caterpillars need milkweed plants as a food source. Because of modern agricultural technology, a weed plant such as the milkweed is now easily controlled, compared to 20 years ago. As a result, milkweed populations are probably at the lowest level in history. This means that monarchs can’t find plants on which to lay eggs and, as a result, butterfly populations decline.

It is obvious that any “save the monarch” campaign must be based on programs dedicated to providing milkweed plants. This can be done individually in home garden sites or in state-mediated programs to maintain milkweeds in state parks and in non-mowed areas of interstate highways and other roadways.

Anyone have any good slogans for this campaign? How about “Feed a Monarch, Plant a Milkweed?” Or “Milkweeds for Monarchs!”

TOM TURPIN is a professor of entomology at Purdue University.
March 15 to 17 • SPRINGTIME IN INDIANA ARTS, CRAFTS AND GIFT SHOWCASE, Noblesville (Hamilton) — Fairgrounds. Admission charge.

March 21 • A SWEET EVENING WITH ENSEMBLE LES BONBONS: AN ENGLISH HORN AND PIANO PERFORMANCE — Franklin (Clay) — Franklin Public Library. 7pm. Free. 765-654-8746.

March 29 to 30 • NATIONAL CENTER FOR GREAT LAKES NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE ARTS CLASSES, Portland (Jay) — County Fairgrounds, Woman’s Building. Four classes for adults age 12 and up. Admission charge. To register, contact Kay Neumayr, 765-426-3022, kay.neumayr@ncglnc.org.

EVEN Ts MARCH 1-31

NORTH

March 5 • SENIOR MONDAY LUNCH, Andrews (Huntington) — Salamonie Interpretive/Nature Center, Salamonie Lost Bridge West. Carry-in meal, program, synopsis of Center, Salamonie Lost Bridge West.

March 8 • ASTRONOMY EVENING, Andrews (Huntington) — Salamonie Interpretive Center. An evening of planet and star viewing, star stories and snacks by the fire and more. 6-9pm. Admission charge. Pre-register. 260-468-2217.

March 9 • LIVING HISTORY FAIR, Lafayette (Tippecanoe) — County Historical Society Museum. Pre-1800 period reenactors will be living history and accoutrements. Trade goods, historic clothing, flax, blacksmith items, pottery, and more. Sat: 9am-5pm; Sun: 11am-3pm. Admission charge. 745-222-4436; www.fultoncountyhistory.org.

March 15 • THE EMPTY BOWLS SOUP SUPPER, Donaldson (Marshall) — The Center at Donaldson, Ancilla Domini Motherhouse. Public is invited to enjoy a meal of soup and bread. Participants choose an empty bowl to take home, a symbol of the profound impact a single effort can make to end world hunger. 5-7pm. To reserve tickets call or email: 574-935-1772; mooreet@poorerhandsmaids.org.

March 15 • HOW TO START A VEGE TABLE GARDEN, Valparaiso (Porter) — Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, 450 W 100 N. Learn tips and tricks from seasoned gardeners. 10:30am-noon. Admission charge. 219-462-0025; TaltreeEvents.org.

March 16-18 • MAPLE SYRUP DAYS, LaGrange (LaGrange) — Maple Wood Nature Center. All day pancake meal served at a working maple syrup camp. Horse-drawn wagon tours through the maple woods, puppet shows, pioneer demonstrations and much more. Meal: 7am-2:30pm (admission charge); tours and entertainment: 8am-5pm (free). 260-468-4022; www.lagrangecountyparks.org.

March 16 • SUGAR CAMP DAYS, New Carlisle (St. Joseph) — Bendix Woods County Park. Watch sap cook into syrup, enjoy a pancake breakfast, tour the sugar bush, listen to family music and more. Admission charge. 574-654-3505; sugarmapks.org.

March 21-23 • MICHIGAN HOME & YARD SHOW, Howe (LaGrange) — Michiana Event Center. Fri: 1-8pm; Sat: 8am-5pm; Sun: 8am-7pm. Admission charge.

March 22 • CHILDREN’S SCIENCE DAY, Valparaiso (Porter) — Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, 450 W 100 N. Make slime, exploring volcanoes and other cool science experiments. For children, K-5th grade. 10:30am-5pm. Admission charge. 219-462-0025; TaltreeEvents.org.

MARCH 22 • DE-WINTERIZING YOUR LAWN EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS, Valparaiso (Porter) — Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, 450 W 100 N. Experienced groundswomen will show participants the most efficient ways to care for their equipment, revivie old tools and pick new tools that could be beneficial in the seasons to come. 10:30am-noon. Admission charge. 219-462-0025; TaltreeEvents.org.

MARCH 22 • PURDUE MASTER GARDENERS OF LAGRANGE COUNTY ANNUAL SPRING SYMPOSIUM, Shipshewana (LaGrange) — Event Center, 760 S Van Buren St. 8am-3:30pm. Admission charge. 260-499-6354; www.ag.purdue.edu/counties/lagrange.


March 28-30 • JASPER COUNTY ART EXHIBIT, DeMotte (Jasper) — Fairfield House, 212 Ne 27th St. Fri: 6-9pm; Sat: 10am-2pm; Sun: noon-2pm. 219-865-5279.

March 30 • NICNA GUN SHOW, Nappanee (Elkhart) — Dutch Village Market Event Center, 700 N. Tomahawk Trail. 300 tables of firearms and related items. 8am-4pm. Admission charge. 574-936-4433; Binky5237@embarqmail.com.

THROUGH MARCH 28 • IDENTIFYING ANCESTORS, Franklin (Clay) — Franklin Public Library. Patrons can help identify ancestors in a photo displayed from Franklin and Brown county businesses of the 1950s-1960s. 765-654-8746.

THROUGH MAY 4 • THE ESSENTIAL ROBERT INDIANA, Indianapolis (Marion) — White Studio Shows. Special Exhibition Gallery, Indianapolis Museum of Art. Indiana’s most famous living artist comes home again for the first time in 40 years. This noteworthy exhibition re-affirms the artist’s role as one of the premier printmakers in modern art. Tue-We, Fri-Sat: 11am-5pm; Thur-Sun: 11am-9pm. Admission charge.

MARCH 14 • SOUTHERN GOSPEL CONCERT, Lafayette (Tippecanoe) — Heartland Community Church, 3000 E 500 N. Featuring the Mike LeFever Quartet and Resurrection. 7pm. Admission charge plus a freewill offering will be received. Resurrection Ministries, 765-426-0101.

MARCH 14-16 • HELPI THE SKY IS FALLING, Batesville (Ripley) — Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 5235 SR 62 (across from Polly’s Freezer). Freshly made sausages and homemade potato salad steal the show at this event. Also sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes, breads, drinks, desserts and a kids menu. 4:30-7:30pm. Admission charge. 812-945-2101; www.softloaf.com.

MARCH 15 • PARTY LIKE IT IS 1929, Batesville (Ripley) — Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 5235 SR 62 (across from Polly’s Freezer). Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. 5235 SR 62 (across from Polly’s Freezer).

SOUTH

March 1 • BROWN COUNTY YOUTH MUSICIAN COMPETITION, Nashville (Brown) — Brown County Playhouse. See future stars perform for the first time! The winner of this event will earn a spot performing at the Brown County Music Awards on March 8, 7:30pm. Admission charge. 812-988-6555; www.browncountyplayhouse.org.

March 1-2 • LEANE AND MICHAEL’S SUGARBUDD 125TH ANNUAL MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL, Salem (Brown) — 10 miles east of Salem, 7 miles west of Henryville, or SR 160, follow signs. Clambake, family-friendly with tours, food, fresh syrup, kids’ activities, vendors, no parking charge, many free activities. Free. 812-967-4491; lmSugarcamp.com.

March 2 • SPUD, SOUP & SALAD LUNCHEON, Batesville (Ripley) — Dining Hall, St. John’s UCC of Batesville, 5245 S. Newton St., Suite A. Calling all potato and soup lovers to attend from “Hoosiers” will be attending from “Hoosiers.” Also hear from Maris Valainis and “Buddy” Brad for “party like it’s 1929.” This event will honor the memory of that delightful exitus — Dubois County Draw — from the days when one couldn’t throw a rock without hitting a moonshiner. 6-9pm. Admission charge. 812-634-7733; www.duboiscountymuseum.org.

March 9 • BROWN COUNTY BRIDAL TOUR, Nashville (Brown) — Multiple locations. A new kind of Bridal Show that lets bride-to-be to actually visit venues and experience what their big day will feel like. Visit some of the most popular wedding locations in Brown County, and meet with local vendors who specialize in Brown County weddings. 10am-5pm. Admission charge. www.browncountyweddings.org/bridal-tour.html.

EleTrIC ConsumEr PUbliShES evEnTS LiStINGs as saPcE aLLows, giving preference to those in and around areas served byasing remCs/recs. InformaTiOn can change. electric consumer advises using contact phone numbers or internet sites to check times and dates of events before making plans.

To add events to hoosier happenings, please send information two months before the date of the event. To: hoosier happenings, electric consumer, P.O. Box 2437, Indianapolis, IN 46224; or E-mail (please note new address): happenings@electricconsumer.org.
Scholarships deadline fast approaching

Applications for the six $1,000 John H. Anglin Scholarships must be received at the KREMC office by 5 p.m. on March 26. Application forms are available at the KREMC office, 370 S. 250 E. in Warsaw, or can be downloaded from our website at www.kremc.com. The application form is posted in the “Community Involvement” area under "John H. Anglin Scholarships.” Applicants must be a member or the dependent of a member of KREMC. For more information, contact Katy Berger, KREMC communications specialist, at 574-267-6331 or at kberger@kremc.com.

Henderson celebrates decade of service

Kosciusko REMC lineman Shane Henderson marked his 10 year anniversary as a co-op employee on March 1. Henderson started his career at KREMC as a service technician before entering the four-year Rural Electric Apprenticeship Program (REAP) to become a lineman.

Since graduating from REAP, Henderson has not only excelled in the Operations Department, but also taken a leadership role at the co-op by participating in the employee-led volunteer committee, Team K, and volunteering to give bucket truck rides at the KREMC Annual Meeting. His heartfelt efforts have reached REMC members across Indiana as Henderson has volunteered twice to help other electric cooperatives restore power to their members after severe weather.

"As a lineman, it gives us the greatest satisfaction to know that we are making a difference in members’ lives by keeping the power on," said Henderson.

As an active member in our community, Henderson serves on the Sacred Heart school board and coaches youth basketball and soccer at the Warsaw YMCA. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Indiana Wesleyan University. He and his wife, Danielle, have three children ranging from 11 months to eight years.

"I admire Shane for his commitment to continuing his education to better himself as a person and as an employee at KREMC. Shane is always willing to go the extra mile. He is a great asset to the line department and to the KREMC team," said KREMC Engineering and Operations Manager Kurt Carver.
Almost 10 years ago, Kandi Yates faced the hardest 30 days of her life. Her husband suddenly passed away, she sold her house and she had to move. It was enough to crush even the strongest of people. Instead, she drew on the strength of those around her.

"Had it not been for God, my children and siblings, I would not have made it," said Yates.

Raising four of her six children alone gave Yates an appreciation and respect for single mothers. It also gave her the drive to open her own business.

“I really wanted to set an inspiring example to single moms by opening my own business. I wanted to show them they can succeed and their dreams do come true,” explained Yates.

On April 10, 2013, her dreams came true as she opened the door to Shear Elegance, a full-service salon providing hair services for men, women and children at an affordable price. Carrying on the memory of her husband, Yates opened Shear Elegance in Pierceton, where the family was raised.

With over 50 years of experience between Yates and the salon’s other hair stylist, Angi Harper, everyone is sure to walk away with an amazing hair style. The family-oriented shop offers color, cut and styling. Yates and Harper love working on weddings and offer a number of packages for brides-to-be. The number of updo, color and braiding trophies lining the shop showcases the stylists’ numerous achievements.

“We are very creative with color and there isn’t anything we couldn’t do with hair,” said Yates.

Shear Elegance is located at 402 N. First St., Pierceton. The salon is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday; 2 to 7 p.m., Tuesday; and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday and Friday. It is closed on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Evenings are only by appointment. Use your KREMC Co-op Connections Card at Shear Elegance and you can receive 10 percent off any chemical service of $30 or more. Just call 574-551-7048 to make an appointment.

The Co-op Connections® Card is a valuable benefit of being a Kosciusko REMC member and it is FREE! The card allows you to receive national and local discounts on products and services and includes a pharmacy discount.

Go to www.connections.coop for a list of participants and save!

Does your bucket list include gently floating through the sky in a hot air balloon? If so, put away your nerves and get ready to enjoy the excitement.

Kosciusko REMC is offering tandem balloon rides for members in a Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon at the April 26, KREMC Annual Meeting.

At 77,000 cubic feet, standing over 77 feet tall and 60 feet wide when fully inflated, the balloon is sure to mark the spot for this year’s annual meeting at the Warsaw Community Church. The balloon is built with hyperlife fabric panels and boasts a 14 cubic foot ascot basket, carrying a pilot and two average size passengers. It is fired by dual propane burners and fueled by two 15-gallon propane tanks.

Balloon rides will begin at 9:30 a.m. when the doors to the annual meeting open. Please come inside to get full details and restrictions. If you plan to ride in the balloon, please dress accordingly, as you will need to climb in and out of the basket.

In the event of unfortunate weather – high winds or rain – the balloon will be unable to inflate.