

APRIL 2025

PENNLINES

'The Line Wives'

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Who Keep Their Families
Grounded Through
Every Storm

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always a lineworker's family

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Families feel the
impact when major
storms uproot lives
and take lineworkers
away from home.



ON THE COVER

This month's issue
spotlights the families left
behind when cooperative
lineworkers are called to
restore power. Couple
Dave Gardner and Faythe
Caines are shown with their
daughter, Eleanor. Dave is
a lineworker for Claverack
Rural Electric Cooperative.

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ANN PHOTOGRAPHY BY
SARAH MASEYCHIK

Powerful Memories

Once a Lineworker's Family, Always a Lineworker's Family

Editor's note: April 14 is Lineworker Appreciation Day.



**CARLINE AND
CRAIG MITCHELL**

WHEN I WAS ASKED to tell the story of a lineman's wife, I knew it wasn't just my story. It's the story of a community, of a life built around keeping the lights on and of the dedication of the people who make it happen. Being a lineman's wife requires understanding, patience and often shared sacrifice, but my story is slightly different.

For more than 40 years, my husband Craig and I were both employed at Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), which gave me a rare, inside look at the daily challenges lineworkers face. I witnessed the workings of both field and office, gaining a deep understanding of the priorities on each side. When the phone rang at 2 a.m., it wasn't a cause for alarm; it was just another outage for Craig to respond to. It was life as we knew it, even if it meant missing our daughter Jenna's sporting events or

holidays. I fully grasped the urgency of those call-outs: Restoring power was the priority.

I'm sure Jenna endured some tedious dinner conversations. Co-op life consumed almost every aspect of our existence. I often joked that co-op blood pulsed through my veins, and truthfully, I still feel that way. After retirement, I was a bit worried we'd be staring at each other in silence, but we've managed to keep the chatter going. However, I do catch Craig looking at overhead lines when we travel to new places, and he continues to quiz me, "Are these co-op lines?"

The truth is, line life never really leaves you.

As the cooperative's communicator, I once wrote about Thanksgiving safety for *Penn Lines*, specifically about deep-frying turkeys. That same November, on a bitterly cold, snowy Thanksgiving Day, Craig thought it would be a great idea to deep fry our turkey. Naturally — mid-fry — Craig was called to work, leaving me to battle the elements and a stubborn turkey. "Don't move it inside!" I insisted, picturing the irony of the situation if our garage caught on fire. In the end, we had a turkey-less Thanksgiving, fittingly, since Craig was also missing.

And then there was the bright, sunny day when I saw the cooperative's line superintendent sprint out of the office to his vehicle. I knew instantly something was wrong. I rushed to the operations department, where I got the news: Craig and his fellow linemen were suspended on a pole, high above the ground, after a crane caught the lines and left them dangling. It was a very tense time for me, knowing exactly what was happening, when it was happening. Thankfully, no one was injured, but it's memories like those that will be etched in my brain forever.

For us, the co-op was more than a workplace; it was our extended family. Even amid the chaos of severe storms and prolonged outages, when all hands were on deck, family came first, ensuring Jenna was never home alone. I believe now that our shared dedication to the cooperative instilled in Jenna an exceptional work ethic and a clear understanding of work-life balance — a direct benefit of our life at Somerset REC.

Retirement has brought a welcome sense of peace; we no longer listen to the wind howling outside and worry that the phone will soon be ringing. Yet, our family will never forget the dedicated individuals who brave any condition to restore our power, day and night. 📶

CARLINE MITCHELL

RETIRED DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & MEMBER SERVICES
SOMERSET RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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EDITOR

Peter A. Fitzgerald

MANAGING EDITOR

Jill M. Ercolino

SENIOR TECHNICAL EDITOR

Michael T. Crawford

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Kaylin E. Acri

ADVERTISING & PRODUCTION

COORDINATOR

Michelle M. Smith

CONTRIBUTING COLUMNISTS

**John Kasun, Anne M. Kirchner,
George Weigel, Abigail Zieger**

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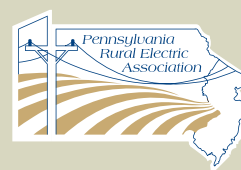
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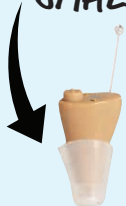
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THE COMFORT OF COMMUNITY

When I first started working for *Penn Lines* – almost 20 years ago now – I thought it was just a magazine. But from visiting a turkey farm to sitting down with co-op members for a turkey dinner, I soon learned this was more than just a magazine. It was something bigger. *Penn Lines* connected me to a wider cooperative world, and that was a comfort.

With a history that stretches back nearly 60 years, *Penn Lines* is a collaborative effort of 12 rural electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania. Just in the same way these co-ops joined together to bring electricity to their communities, they pooled their resources to produce this monthly publication to inform their consumer-members.



Today, *Penn Lines* is one of 32 magazines in the National Electric Cooperatives Statewide Editors Association (SEA). Together, these publications reach 12 million readers in 42 states served by cooperatives. Combined, cooperative statewide magazines are the third-largest consumer publication in the United States.

SEA provides a network that allows co-op publications to share resources and best practices, bringing savings to the magazine production process. *Penn Lines* is also a member of American MainStreet Publications (AMP). Formed as a cooperative advertising agency, AMP exists exclusively to provide advertising support to cooperative magazines, helping to further reduce publication costs. Together, SEA and AMP help magazines like *Penn Lines* tell local cooperative stories – while providing the benefits of being connected to a wider cooperative network.

The past two issues of *Penn Lines* featured stories about cooperative lineworkers and their families. We've seen that electric cooperatives not only work to support their local communities, they also help each other out in times of need – even if it means traveling out of state to assist their sister cooperatives in responding to major events like hurricanes. We've seen how cooperative families manage the home front, networking with each other to take care of things locally so that line crews can assist residents in these storm-ravaged communities put their lives back together.

As a member, you are part of a local cooperative, but you're also connected to a wider cooperative community. It's a community that can gather for a turkey dinner, or gather the resources to help folks recover from a storm. As a member, you're part of something bigger. And that's a comfort.

PETER A. FITZGERALD
EDITOR



FACEBOOK.COM

SEEING IS BELIEVING: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees found this massive goldfish recently in the waters off Presque Isle State Park in Erie County. Officials caution against releasing these pets in the wild, where they grow unchecked and become a nuisance to native fish.

'FROM CUTE TO BRUTE'

'Megalodon' goldfish found in Erie County, raises environmental concerns

Someone's pet goldfish has gone from "cute to brute" after being released in the wild and later discovered in the waters off Erie County's Presque Isle State Park.

The discovery was recently reported on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Facebook page. The agency said experts spotted and retrieved a "megalodon" goldfish during a recent electrofishing survey, a process that stuns fish for easy capture.

"Goldfish grow massive in the wild, where they can turn lakes and waterways into murky messes, steal food from native fish and wreck water quality," the agency wrote. "If you can't keep your fish, re-home it. Just don't let it loose."

According to the agency's website, a single goldfish — without a tank to limit its size — can grow up to 4 pounds and 16 inches long. Goldfish also multiply quickly in the wild, creating what the agency called "an invasive problem that can last decades."

WANTED: NEW NURSES

Proposed state program would cover tuition for nursing students

Among the proposals in Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro's 2025-2026 budget is a plan that would train nurses to increase the Commonwealth's health care workforce.

The governor's proposed spending plan includes \$5 million to create the Nurse Shortage Assistance Program, which would provide funding to hospitals that partner with nursing schools. The program would cover tuition costs for students who commit to work at a Pennsylvania hospital for three years after graduation. This initiative hopes to boost retention, limit turnover, and help maintain a skilled health care workforce in the state.

"We need to take action now to address Pennsylvania's nursing shortage," Shapiro said. "We know this model of tuition assistance works, and for the first time ever, we are proposing to help nursing students with an investment of state dollars that not only gives them peace of mind but creates a pipeline of new, highly trained nurses for our communities."

HELP FOR AN ICON

Leaking Fallingwater undergoes \$7 million in renovations

In an ironic twist, Fallingwater, the iconic Fayette County home designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1935, is being damaged by the very element it celebrates.

The building, poised on the edge of a waterfall in the forest along Bear Run, is nearing the end of a \$7 million renovation project that started in October 2024. The flat-roofed home, which originally cost \$155,000 to build, has had several major leaks from rain, snow and its proximity to the waterfall and stream.

Contractors are replacing the waterproofing assemblies on the roofs and terraces, conserving steel,



FALLINGWATER

and repairing deteriorated reinforced concrete, officials said. Fallingwater turns 90 this year, and the project is expected to preserve it for another 20 to 25 years.

STOCKED AND READY

State expects to release almost 3.2 million trout this spring

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has posted its adult trout-stocking schedule at fishandboat.com.

Searchable by county, the schedule lists stocked waterways in alphabetical order along with the dates and the species that will be released at each location. This year, the opening day of trout season is Saturday, April 5.

The PFBC will stock approximately 3.2 million adult trout in 691 streams and 130 lakes open to public angling. These figures include approximately 2.4 million rainbow trout, 693,000 brown trout and 125,000 brook trout. The average length of trout produced for stocking is 11 inches and the average weight is .58 pounds.

The commission also plans to stock approximately 72,000 trophy-sized brood fish, measuring 14 to 20 inches long. 🐟

TIME LINES



APRIL 2015

A decade ago, *Penn Lines* was celebrating the Commonwealth's rich farming history with a feature on its Bicentennial Farms. At the time, 165 had been in the same family for 200 years or more. Three farms, located in Bedford, Bradford and Juniata counties, were highlighted in the article. The state also recognizes the owners of Century and Tricentennial Farms. These programs date back to 1977, and since then, more than 2,340 Century and Bicentennial Farms and two Tricentennial Farms have earned the distinction.



MOVE MORE!

Looking for an excuse to get active? Well, you're in luck. April is National Move More Month. Created by the American Heart Association, the celebration is aimed at getting more Americans to hit 10,000 steps every day or, even better, do 20 minutes of aerobic exercise. For more ideas, visit heart.org and choose "Healthy Living."

HISTORY MEETS THE ARTS

See the works of up to 75 artists at the annual History Meets the Arts Show and Sale, April 11 and 12, at the Gettysburg Fire Company. The free event will feature original paintings, signed prints, powder horns, sculpture, folk art, hand-forged knives, canvas floor cloths, books and more. Learn more at historymeetsthearts.com.



HISTORYMEETSTHEARTS.COM



HONOR THE EARTH

Earth Day is April 22. Celebrate by participating in community clean-ups, planting trees, and reducing waste. Educate others about environmental issues, support eco-friendly businesses, and adopt sustainable practices like recycling and conserving energy. Be sure to search online for local activities and learn more at earthday.org.

RIVERFRONT FUN

Bradford County is the place to be May 3 and 4 when Sayre hosts the best of local arts at Valley Arts4All at Riverfront Park. More than 100 juried artists will be featured, along with live music and performances, food, and hands-on art activities for kids. Admission and parking are free. Find out more at valleyarts4all.com.



VALLEYARTS4ALL.COM

THE VETERANS: When Hurricane Helene hit, Lisa Jablunovsky and the other "line wives" at REA Energy Cooperative in Indiana, Pa., closed ranks to support each other while their husbands were away. She is shown here with her lineworker husband AJ and sons, Landon and Bennett.





‘THE LINE WIVES’

Meet the Women Who Keep Their Families Grounded Through Every Storm

PAULA PIATT

Penn Lines Contributor

Editor’s note: *This is the second of a two-part series about the power behind our power, Pennsylvania’s lineworkers. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, we spotlight three “line wives,” who have their own unspoken code of honor, one that embodies strength, pride and a deep commitment to doing the right thing — for their families and their communities.*

PACKING HIS BAGS less than 48 hours after his wedding last September, Scott Rockwell didn’t want to forget anything. As is the case many times when you travel, you just don’t know what you’ll need and you only have so much room.

When he pulled into West Jefferson, N.C., he was pretty sure he had brought the essentials — everything, that is, except his new bride.

Jena Rockwell was back in Wyalusing, Pa., while Scott, a journeyman lineman for Wysox-based Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), was part of a crew helping Blue Ridge Energy restore power to some 80,000 consumers

after a catastrophic hurricane caused the worst damage the cooperative had ever seen.

Scott wouldn’t see his wife for another two weeks.

“It was pretty wild,” he says. “We had just gotten married on Saturday, and then on Sunday, we were home opening and reading through everybody’s cards when I got the call.

“My crew chief was asking if I was willing to go on storm duty,” he recalls, “and I said, ‘Well, geez, John, I’m always willing, but I don’t know if this is the best time.’”

So many unknowns

As the couple prepared for their big day, they knew a major hurricane was brewing. Guests had canceled trips to Pennsylvania to deal with flooding after Helene made landfall Sept. 26 as a Category 4 storm at Florida’s Big Bend. But the storm’s continuing path of destruction — into Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina — had eluded them.

“I was in the kitchen, and I heard him say, ‘I’m going to have to talk to my wife and get back to you,’” Jena says. “I knew right then what the call was about. As much as

"As much as I didn't want him to go, I knew it was what they needed. They needed him way more than I did." - *Jena Rockwell*

KENNETH DURRANT/REFLECTIONS MEDIA



THE NEWLYWEDS: Scott and Jena Rockwell pose on their wedding day last September. What they didn't know is that Scott would be called the next day to help restore power in North Carolina after Hurricane Helene. The couple wouldn't be reunited until two weeks later.

I didn't want him to go, I knew it was what they needed. They needed him way more than I did."

Minutes later, Scott was back on the phone, and hours later, he was in his truck, heading south.

"I'm an emotional person to begin with and then to have all the emotions from the wedding ... you don't process it all while it's happening," Jena says. "The next day, you finally wind down and sit and start to think about it, and it all just hit me. Then the call came."

Jena threw herself into her work as a teacher at Wyalusing Area School District in Bradford County. The couple were planning to take their honeymoon during the school's December break, so she was back in the classroom the Tuesday after her wedding.

"I'm very routine-oriented, so having my job, honestly, kept me sane," she says. "Scott and I are both very independent people, but you don't realize how big someone's presence is until they're not there."

And, this time around, there were just so many unknowns.

"Typically, when he goes on storm [duty], I know he's four hours away and he'll be gone for three days, but knowing [North Carolina was] completely wrecked, I didn't know if I could talk to him ... I didn't know where he would be located," Jena says. "There was no end time — even when he was there, there was never an end time. It was so much harder."

Communication was spotty, too; long workdays and a compromised cellular grid made connecting a challenge.

"Depending on where he was, he could or couldn't check in. I could see his location sometimes (on her cell-phone) and know that he moved that day," says Jena, who would usually get a quick call at night when Scott returned to his room after an 18-hour shift. "I go to bed early, and he'd call a couple hours into my sleep, but I had to answer. It was the only time I got to talk to him."

Family, friends and a life of service

Next door in Susquehanna County, Rockwell wedding guests Dave Gardner and Faythe Caines also said their goodbyes that Sunday as Dave, another Claverack line-worker, left for Georgia. Faythe and baby Eleanor settled in for the long haul.

"He's never been away for that long. He'll work a storm around here and he usually comes home at night for a

couple of hours, but this was definitely different,” Faythe says. “Missing him was a challenge, and then I was doing the things that he would be doing if he was home.”

The early October chill in the air meant the woodstove would need to be tended, and the usual household chores wouldn’t wait. “I had all of those things, as well as the baby,” she says.

Little Eleanor was 7 months old at the time, and for the next 10 days, family and friends, including Dave’s Claverack co-workers, gathered around to help Faythe and their daughter.

“Throughout the time that Dave was away with the other Claverack linemen, some of their wives and girlfriends ... we’d all message each other and talk about missing them and just made sure that we were all OK,” Faythe says, adding she was grateful for the understanding and camaraderie.

A similar group chat over in Indiana County provided the same support when cooperative lineworkers there were also sent to North Carolina to help after the hurricane.

“We would message each other; it let us know that we were there for each other,” Lisa Jablunovsky says of her fellow “line wives,” whose husbands work for REA Energy Cooperative in Indiana, Pa.

A veteran “line wife” herself, Lisa says family support helped her navigate her husband AJ’s absence. With a full-time job and two boys, Lisa knew she would be juggling a lot — and she didn’t know for how long. Ultimately, AJ spent 15 days with Blue Ridge Energy in Sparta, N.C.

“Once our parents reassured us [they could help],” Lisa says, “we felt a lot better knowing we would make it work.”

That family support meant Bennett, 10, would get to football practice on time; his brother, Landon, 13, would get to his dirt bike races; and Lisa, a nurse at Indiana Regional Medical



THE NEW PARENTS: When Dave Gardner, also a lineworker for Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative, went to Georgia to help with power restoration, family and friends gathered to support his partner, Faythe Caines, and then-7-month-old daughter, Eleanor.

“I wish I could have gone and been there right beside him, just to help with the rescue efforts.” - Lisa Jablunovsky



TOGETHER AGAIN: AJ and Lisa Jablunovsky and their sons, Landon and Bennett, spend time together after AJ's return from North Carolina, which was devastated by a Category 4 hurricane last fall. AJ was among hundreds of lineworkers to help rebuild the grid in the South.

Center, could answer after-hours calls. With her medical background, Lisa knew what AJ's presence meant in North Carolina.

"It would be hard to turn [the request] down. That's how I feel in my line of work, too. You don't ever want to tell anybody 'no' when it comes to something like this, especially something this drastic," she says. "They need you. I wish I could have gone and been there right beside him, just to help with the rescue efforts."

'What is he going into?'

Like the other wives, Lisa knew this trip was different — far from the usual thunderstorm clean-up. When AJ would send photos, he told his wife they didn't capture the scope of the damage: the homes, landscapes, roads and bridges that were destroyed. And when she logged onto the internet to see for herself, Lisa quickly found the scope of the situation overwhelming.

"I got on the (Blue Ridge Energy) Facebook page to see

the updates," she says. "It was nice to see them restoring power, but I found myself watching too many videos of houses washing away and all the devastation, so I stopped doing that for a little bit. When he first left, I thought, 'What is he going into?'"

Ironically, at other times, that same technology provided comfort for the family.

"It was reassuring that we could talk to him each night — that helped ... just being able to hear his voice," says Lisa, who would have to wait until the end of AJ's 18-hour shift to make contact. "We did share each other's location (on their smartphones). I would have an idea of the general area where he was traveling, and if he couldn't call me, I would know that he was still moving around."

"But he's great at what he does," she adds. "All the guys he went with are great at what they do, and they had a great [North Carolina] crew they were working with. I knew they'd be OK."

When they realized it would be a while before AJ

returned home, the Jablunovskys settled into a routine.

"We've had him go out for several days locally, so the first few days, it really didn't affect us. But then, after a while, we're like, OK, we're really missing Dad now," Lisa says, with son Bennett adding that even the dogs' moods changed the longer AJ was gone.

The couple give their sons a lot of credit for helping to keep things together during AJ's absences. "When they were little, it was just me," Lisa says. "I had to do it all, but now I have helping hands."

That, says AJ, is what allows him to do what he does: Leave home at all hours of the day and night to help others.

"If they weren't supportive," he adds, "I don't know how I would do this."

Remembering North Carolina

Although AJ is back home, North Carolina has stayed with the family. AJ often thinks about the people he encountered — those who lost everything and likely still

don't have power, and those who appreciated every act of kindness.

Emotions still bubble up when he remembers the woman who broke down in tears when the REA Energy crew pulled into her driveway. "She just hugged her husband," AJ says. "She knew we were there to help."

"Just knowing that their dad and my husband was one of the ones out there helping was super rewarding for us," Lisa adds. "We're just so proud."

In all, 11 cooperatives from Pennsylvania and New Jersey were able to send crews to Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina to help restore power after Hurricane Helene. Each of those lineworkers had family back home — loved ones like Lisa, Bennett, Landon, Jena, Faythe and little Eleanor — who stood behind them, insisting that they go and do all they could and telling them not to worry, everything would be fine at home. Because that's the co-op way. 🇺🇸

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What's in a Name?

Typically, a cove is a small, sheltered inlet or a bay along the coast of an ocean, river, or lake. At least that's how it's portrayed in movies or described in tales set by the sea. So what, then, is Bedford County's Morrisons Cove? And who the heck is Morrison?

Without getting too technical, this cove is an eroded anticline, an arch-shaped layer of rock in a region served by New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative. But perhaps the area's geology isn't relevant to its name at all; maybe, in this case, cove is short for "covert," a shelter or hiding place.

In fact, there is a legend that the cove used to be where a man named Morris, a notorious horse-thief, would stash the stolen animals. But why immortalize a horse thief?

Blair County native Randy Stoltz, author of "Civil War and the Hearts of Morrisons Cove," suggests the cove's namesake actually was James

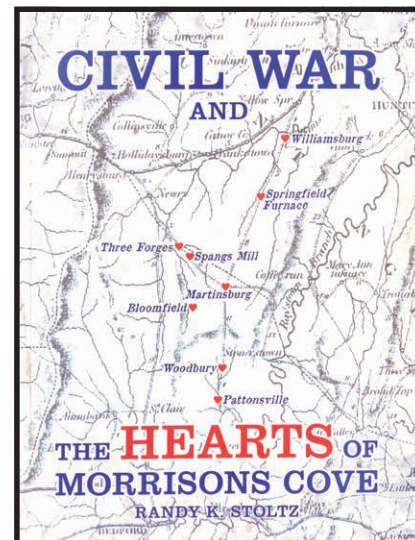
Morrison, who was hired to survey the region (originally called "the Great Cove") after the 1754 Albany Purchase. He later settled in the area.

In "Historical Sketches of Morrisons Cove," a biographical collection of the region's earliest settlers, it's noted that the first pioneers — largely Swiss, Scottish and German immigrants — came "armed with that trinity of the American pioneer: the rifle, the axe and the Bible." These deeply religious individuals lived off the land, building their homes from local trees and feeding their families with local game. They worked together to build vibrant communities, much like rural electric cooperatives do today.



Main Office: New Enterprise, Pa.
Consumer-members served: 3,784
Website: newenterpriserec.com

Whoever Morrison was, he — or possibly, she — would be proud of the cove and the people drawn to it. What's the story behind your hometown? Let us know at communitycorner@prea.com.



LOOKING BACK: The cover of "Civil War and the Hearts of Morrisons Cove" shows an 1839 Pennsylvania map, which uses red hearts to indicate the towns — as their names were during the Civil War — in the region of Morrisons Cove, Bedford County.

Smashing!

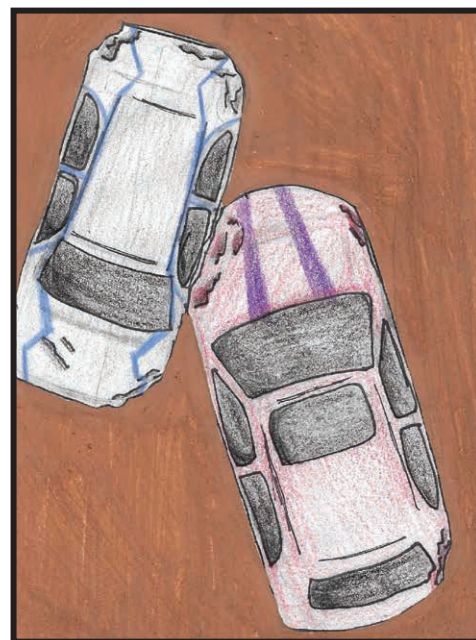
"I go to the Spartansburg County Fair in Spartansburg, Pa. Whenever I go, I watch the derby, especially when my brother participates. I was inspired by the 'Crash Course' article in *Penn Lines* [September 2024] to draw this, and someday, I hope to participate in a derby just like my brother."

Emily Smith, age 14; Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative

CALLING ALL KIDS, ages 5 to 17:
Show off your artistic skills!

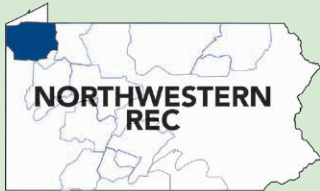
Each month, we'll feature the artwork of our young readers (or our readers' youngsters), inspired by something they've read in *Penn Lines*. Paints, pencils, crayons, clay, sand — any physical medium is okay! You may send digital photos of the creation to CommunityCorner@prea.com, but please: no digital artwork.

Please include the artist's name, age and electric cooperative, plus a 25- to 50-word description of the art.



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Emily Sonntag, Editor

The Crews Behind Your Power



RYAN MELLER

APRIL IS DEDICATED TO HONORING the hard work of line personnel. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has designated the second Monday in April as Lineworker Appreciation Day. This year, that falls on April 14. It's hard to believe that one day is all we have to recognize the tireless efforts, dedication, and sacrifices these men and women make daily.

At Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), we are proud to have 27 lineworkers, all of whom are deeply committed to their work and their community. For them, April 14 is just another day because recognition isn't something they expect.

However, the truth is, they deserve far more than just one day of acknowledgement. Their job is often difficult, but the rewards and the satisfaction of serving our valued members make it all worthwhile.

Much of the work lineworkers do goes unnoticed. You might occasionally spot their trucks or pass a work zone, but the risks they face only become apparent when the power goes out. Every day, they face danger, though it's not in the forefront of our minds until we need them. Our crews venture into storms, working relentlessly to restore power.

A lineworker's job is dangerous enough on its own, but when you add challenging terrains and unpredictable weather, it takes on a whole new level of risk. Even when the weather is calm, they face other dangers, such as traffic, slips, trips, and falls, as well as ticks and wildlife.

This profession also has a significant impact on their families. When you thank a lineworker for their hard work, remember the sacrifices their loved ones have made as well. Every lineworker has given up precious family time and special moments to ensure power is restored to our community. They do this without complaint because it's the job they've chosen, and they take immense pride in it.

At Northwestern REC, safety is always our top priority — for our members, our community and our crews. As CEO, my goal is to make sure all of our employees return home safely — just as they left that morning.

Join me this month in thanking our line personnel and their families: Jay, Joe, Aaron, Dustin, Justin, Eric, Wesley, Michael, Chad, John H., Brandon, Derrek, Nevin, Cole, Alvey, Gary, John M., Matt, Ryan, Camden, Trevor, Chris, Blaze, Jordan, Dylan, Ross and Mitch.

Without them, we would be unable to illuminate our members' lives and communities. 

Cooperatively yours,

RYAN MELLER
PRESIDENT & CEO

Lineworkers are Wired for Service

EMILY SONNTAG, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING SPECIALIST

WHILE MANY OF US ARE still warm in our beds in the quiet hours before dawn breaks, lineworkers are already starting their day, often dressed in flame-resistant clothing, safety glasses, rubber gloves and heavy boots.

These individuals embody the true meaning of dedication to service. Celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14 offers a crucial opportunity to reflect on the vital role they play in our lives.

Lineworkers show strength far beyond the physical. Whether they're braving harsh weather, solving technical issues, or scaling dangerous heights, they display resilience and quiet determination to keep our lights on, homes comfortable, and communities connected.

At Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), our crews cover more than 2,650 miles of line, working across our service area to build, maintain and repair parts of our local power system. Their exceptional skills ensure our homes stay connected to the grid, businesses remain operational and emergency services are always accessible.

When the lights go out, and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers' swift action brings stability and reassurance in uncertain times. Whether it's repairing storm-damaged power lines or maintaining service

during emergencies, their unwavering commitment lights the way when we need it the most.

Northwestern REC lineworkers also extend their help beyond our own service area. When widespread outages occur, our crews will travel to assist fellow cooperatives near and far. The principle of "cooperation among cooperatives" is central to our mission, and lineworkers exemplify this value in the truest sense.

This was evident last fall when Hurricane Helene devastated parts of the South. Our lineworkers didn't hesitate to answer the call for mutual aid. On Sept. 26, two of our crews headed to Coweta-Fayette Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) in Palmetto, Ga. The next day, a two-person crew left for North Carolina to assist Energy United EMC, and on Oct. 2, a third crew journeyed to Broad River Electric Cooperative in South Carolina. While we were fortunate not to be directly affected by Hurricane Helene, we felt the devastation and were eager to lend a hand.

Our lineworkers left their families in Pennsylvania to support others, not knowing when they would return. Yet, this never discouraged them. The strength of mutual aid is boundless, with 900 cooperatives across the United States

working together. Cooperation and mutual aid are essential elements that make the cooperative model truly unique.

One of our lineworkers' daughters wrote a touching letter about her father's role in providing mutual aid during Hurricane Helene.

"I remember the pride I still feel to this day, knowing my dad is the one who goes out when everyone else is running in," she wrote. "My dad is the one who helps restore the world, and my dad is my hero."

Her heartfelt words highlight the powerful impact of the work lineworkers do — not only in the communities they serve, but also within their families. As she expressed, each lineworker is a hero, day in and day out.

This month, as we celebrate the incredible men and women who ensure we have safe, reliable electricity, let's take a moment to honor their unwavering commitment to the communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, remember those who make it possible: the lineworkers who are truly wired for service and devoted to illuminating our lives. 🌟



Keeping the Lights On: The Grit and Glory of Lineworkers

EMILY SONNTAG, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING SPECIALIST

THIS MONTH, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY to sit down with one of our seasoned lineworkers in honor of Lineworker Appreciation Day. Mike Frazier has been an integral part of our cooperative family for 28 years. During our conversation, I was deeply impressed by his dedication to and pride in his work.

During his time at Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), Mike has taken on various roles. When he first started, he was a service technician. Today, he is a group leader and chief lineman. I asked him what inspired him to become a lineworker.

"I honestly didn't know what a lineman was until I started working here," he told me. "It looked interesting and challenging to me, and I was eager for that challenge."

Becoming a lineworker requires serious training and adherence to procedures. Mike emphasized that his education through the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, our statewide member service organization, was vital; however, the mentorship he received from seasoned lineworkers truly shaped his journey.

"If it weren't for them," he says, "I wouldn't be the lineman I am today."

Mentors and friends

This reflection highlights how these men and women come together, with a shared goal of keeping the lights on in our communities.

I then asked Mike why he chose to work at a cooperative. He admitted he didn't even know what a cooperative was when he first joined Northwestern REC. But once he saw the close-knit community that cooperatives foster, he knew he didn't want to work anywhere else.

"We may be smaller than investor-owned utilities, but we have something they don't: a sense of community and pride in our history," Mike explains. "Your co-workers become mentors and friends. Northwestern REC played a big part in who I am today."

The relationships built within a cooperative are truly special, and Mike's words emphasize that friendships and camaraderie make even the toughest days worthwhile.

Mike enjoys the daily challenges of being a lineman and the variety each day brings.

"Every day is different," he says, whether it's the job itself or the location. "The harder jobs require everyone to put their heads together to complete them."

His statement underscores the importance of teamwork and collaboration in this line of work. Mike is quick to point out how much he relies on his journeymen and

apprentices.

"They are everything really, and without them," he says, "I wouldn't be able to do my job."

In line work, every role is crucial; each member of the team contributes to completing the job efficiently. A deep trust in one another's abilities is essential.

Communication is another key factor in completing daily tasks like setting poles, stringing wire and ensuring safety on-site. Mike explained that everyone — from the crew to the engineers and field service representatives — needs to be on the same page because electricity is dangerous enough without added complications.

Answering the call for help

At the end of September, Mike, along with many other lineworkers, loaded up their trucks and headed south to assist with mutual aid in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. There was no hesitation when another cooperative called for help. Mike and his team were ready to assist in any way they could. They found themselves working in an unfamiliar area, facing constant obstacles.

For a month, Mike lived in a tent and showered and ate in less-than-ideal conditions. He only got about four to five hours of sleep a night on a small cot (Mike is over 6 feet tall) while working 16 to 20 hours each day. Despite the challenges, Mike never complained or made it about himself. For him, it was all about helping others.

"You think you're mentally prepared to be away from your loved ones, but after a while, it starts to take its toll," he says. The warm hospitality and gratitude of the people down South helped with the homesickness, making the experience a bit more bearable.

To wrap up my interview with Mike, I asked him one final question: "What would you say to your younger self today?"

After a moment, he said, "When I first started here, all the older linemen kept telling me, 'Time is going to fly by. Try to slow down and enjoy things.' Looking back, time really did fly by."

I thought about Mike's 28 years of service at the cooperative. The co-op I know today owes much to Mike and past lineworkers. This month, I encourage you to thank a lineworker for their hard work, dedication and sacrifices in keeping our lights on. I know I am incredibly grateful for each of our lineworkers. 📢



Tree Trimming Improves Reliability for All

EMILY SONNTAG, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING SPECIALIST

One of the things I love best about our community is its natural beauty. We're lucky to be surrounded by so many trees that provide not only beauty and shade but also a habitat for birds and wildlife. We know many of you appreciate our community for the same reasons.

At Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), we work to balance preserving the beauty of our surroundings while ensuring a reliable power supply. This is achieved by maintaining the area around our power lines.

While we recognize and cherish the beauty trees bring, tree trimming in rights of way serves three primary purposes. A right of way is the land set aside to accommodate our infrastructure. It's where we construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. In these areas, we're vigilant about clearing trees and other obstructions that could interfere with the installation, maintenance or operation of the power lines. Rights of way are often located on public lands or near homes and businesses. Regardless, Northwestern REC must maintain the power lines above and below the right of way. Our overall goal with vegetation management is to provide reliable power while preserving the beauty of our community. Here's how proactive vegetation management benefits our members:

Safety

First and foremost, we care deeply about the safety of our members and our lineworkers. Overgrown vegetation and trees near power lines pose significant risks. For example, trees touching power lines in yards can create a dangerous situation for families, especially children who might climb them. Electricity can arc or jump from a power line to nearby objects like trees. A proactive approach helps reduce the risk of fallen branches or trees during storms, which could make it more challenging and hazardous for lineworkers to restore power.

Reliability

Reliability is one of the most significant benefits of an effective vegetation management program. Strategic tree trimming helps reduce the frequency of downed lines and power outages. Generally, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines avoid problems. Proactive trimming ensures that power lines stay clear, boosting the overall reliability of our system.

Affordability

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Northwestern REC is committed to keeping costs low and maintaining affordable rates for our members. This extends to our


vegetation management approach. If trees grow too close to power lines, the risk of expensive repairs increases. By effectively managing tree growth and vegetation, we can keep maintenance costs down, which benefits everyone.

Our community is truly a special place. We value what trees add, but we also recognize the importance of providing reliable energy to everyone. Through effective vegetation management, we can keep power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and ensure the continued reliability of our grid. 🌳

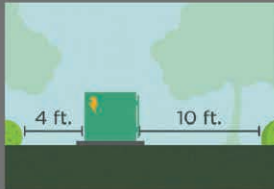
3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them. Here's how you can help:


1. Plant trees in the right place. Trees that will be less than 40 feet tall should be planted at least 25 feet away from power. Those taller than 40 feet should be at least 50 feet away.



2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 feet away from transformer doors and 4 feet from transformer sides.



3. Report dangerous branches. If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let the cooperative know.





Make your home workshop safe.

With so many power tools in one place, it is smart to take steps toward preventing electrical shocks and other hazards:

- Choose electrical outlets equipped with **ground fault circuit interrupters** (GFCIs).
- Make sure metal **workbenches are grounded**. Have a professional do that work.
- Check for **damaged cords, plugs**, and signs of wear before using equipment.
- **Replace** old, worn power tools.
- Use **heavy-duty extension cords** rated for the tools you plan to use.
- Make sure the area is **clean and dry** before undertaking any project.
- Store flammable liquids and materials **away from the workbench**, and where spark-producing tools like grinders and cutters are used.

Always stay focused when working with power tools. If you are tired or distracted, wait until another time so you can give the project full concentration and **work safely**.

Learn more at  **Safe
Electricity.org**

Electrification Trends

JENNAH DENNEY

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES HAVE A rich history of improving the quality of life for their members. Since the early 20th century, “electrification” had been transforming daily life and boosting local economies in rural communities.

Today, the modern electrification movement continues this legacy by providing significant cost savings and empowering smarter, more informed co-op members.

The concept of beneficial electrification focuses on replacing direct fossil fuel use with electricity in ways

that reduce overall costs. By adopting electric technologies, members may see financial savings. Here are some of the key ways electrification can lead to cost savings:

- **Heat pumps:** Replacing traditional heating systems with electric heat pumps can improve energy efficiency and lower home heating bills. Heat pumps use electricity to transfer heat rather than generate it, making them more cost effective in the long run.
- **Energy-efficient appliances:** Upgrading to energy-efficient appliances can reduce electricity consumption and save money on utility bills. Modern appliances are designed to use less energy while providing the same level of performance.
- **Smart-home technologies:** Using smart thermostats and home energy-management systems can optimize energy use and reduce waste. Smart devices allow you to monitor and control your energy consumption, leading to more efficient use of electricity and lower energy bills.
- **Electric vehicles (EVs):** Transitioning from gasoline-powered cars to EVs can reduce fuel costs. Electricity is generally cheaper than gasoline, and EVs often have lower maintenance costs due to fewer moving parts.

Beyond financial savings, electrification has been a cornerstone of improving the quality of life in cooperative communities by providing access to modern conveniences and fostering economic growth.

Today, the benefits of electrification continue to enhance daily life in several ways. Electric technologies, such as heat pumps and smart-home

devices, offer greater comfort and convenience. Consumers can enjoy consistent heating and cooling, as well as the ability to control their home’s energy systems remotely.

Additionally, electrification can improve indoor air quality and reduce health risks associated with burning fossil fuels. Electric stoves, for example, eliminate the need for open flames and reduce the emission of harmful pollutants. Smart technologies also empower consumers to make informed decisions about their energy use. Access to real-time data and insights provide a better understanding of energy consumption patterns and identify more opportunities for savings.

Electric cooperatives have a long history of empowering their consumer-members through electrification, and beneficial electrification is a powerful strategy for creating a sustainable and cost-effective energy landscape.

From the early days of bringing electricity to rural areas to today’s modern electrification movement, electric co-ops continue to play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life. As co-op members embrace electric technologies, they can enjoy immediate benefits while contributing to a smarter energy future. 🌱

About the author: JENNAH DENNEY writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

About Allegheny: ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., based in Harrisburg, Pa., is the wholesale energy provider for the 14 rural electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The cooperative has a proud history of investing in sustainable energy solutions to benefit the communities it serves while providing reliable energy at an affordable price.

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Kids and Phones Create a Digital Dilemma

ABIGAIL ZIEGER

EVERYONE'S GOT A SMARTPHONE THESE DAYS, and kids are no exception. Some children get a phone as early as kindergarten. By the time children get to middle school or junior high, the phoneless kid is a rare exception.

Having a cellphone certainly has its advantages. However, as a teacher and a parent of four kids, I can't help the nagging feeling that I don't like what personal devices are doing to our children. If I'm honest, I don't even like what they are doing to *me*. Our eyes glaze over as we play yet another game or scroll for another 5, 10, or 30 minutes. People seem listless without their phones. We don't seem to know how to focus, how to talk to each other or how to be bored.

If smartphones are this addictive for adults, can you imagine how difficult it might be for a young person to practice self-control? What about all the content available on smartphones that our children may not be emotionally or developmentally ready to handle? How else might smartphone use be affecting young brains?

It turns out we don't have to wonder. The research is out, and there has been an alarming shift in our children's mental health and well-being since the advent of the smartphone in the early 2010s. According to Jonathan Haidt, author of "The Anxious Generation," the shift from an analog, "play-based" childhood to a virtual, "phone-based" childhood has had significant negative impacts on social and neurological development. Since kids started growing up on smartphones and social media, rates of childhood depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicide have risen dramatically.

It's no surprise. Growing up is hard enough without the constant comparisons of social media. Bullying is painful in person but it can become absolutely devastating when rumors and embarrassing photos can be spread widely with the touch of a button. The internet is a wonderful tool when used well, but can also be a cesspool of garbage, misinformation, and even scammers and predators. Add to that the fact that smartphones feed attention fragmentation, sleep

deprivation, and anxiety, and it's no wonder that our kids are suffering.

What's a parent to do in a world where every kid has a phone and it seems there is no going back?

In our family, we've chosen to hold off on smartphones and social media for our children until they are much older. They currently have kids' smartwatches that allow them to call or text us when they need to. The watches, however, don't provide access to the internet or social media. We chose this path because it helps our children be more present. They are free from the drama of social media and can focus better without near-constant notifications in their pocket. Yes, they definitely have screen time like normal

kids — but it's in our living room where we can keep tabs on what's happening, instead of in the bedroom, the bathroom, the bus — or anywhere.

That said, every family is different. Some families might opt for a limited smartphone with excellent parental controls or even a traditional flip phone. If families aren't ready to go smartphone-free, parents can always promote

healthy boundaries by creating phone use limits. Having your child keep their phone in their locker, put it away during homework time, or keeping it in a central location at night instead of in the bedroom are all limits that can help promote healthy development, social skills and well-being.

As we reduce our kids' dependence on smartphones, we also can create more freedom and responsibility for them in the real world. This will help them practice social skills, build independence and grow in confidence. Navigating our tech-saturated world isn't easy for any parent. However, with careful consideration and firm, loving boundaries, we can help to create a healthier childhood for our kids. 📱



ABIGAIL ZIEGER is a music teacher and singer by trade, but also enjoys capturing life experiences through writing. When not singing, teaching or typing, she can be found working in her kitchen, helping her kids with school or consuming copious amounts of coffee. A member of Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative, Abigail lives with her husband and four children in northeast Pennsylvania.

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Prep Now for Summer Savings

MIRANDA BOUTELLE

DEAR MIRANDA: How can I prepare my home for lower energy bills this summer?

A: Spring is in the air, and there are many ways you can get a jump-start on preventing high summertime bills and energy waste.

Add your cooling equipment to the spring-cleaning checklist. An annual tune-up by a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) professional should include refrigerant charge, airflow adjustment and condenser and evaporator fan coil cleaning. This helps maximize your system's efficiency and the lifespan of your equipment, reducing wasted energy and costs.

Some HVAC companies offer dis-

counts for cleaning equipment during the months when they are less busy. Once high temperatures hit, they are more likely to be swamped with calls to repair or replace broken equipment. Signing up for an annual maintenance plan may provide additional savings.

A dirty furnace filter can waste energy by causing your system to work harder. Make sure you have a stack of replacement filters ready to go so you are more likely to replace them as needed. Filters tend to be less expensive if you buy them in bulk. When I recently shopped for filters for my home, the per-filter price was about half as much for a 12-pack as it was for a two-pack.

Ductless heat pumps, also known as mini-splits, have a filter in the indoor unit, or head, which should be cleaned. If you clean the indoor filter yourself, be sure to turn the unit off before removing the filter and let it dry completely before putting it back.


As we transition from cool to

warm weather, keep an eye on your thermostat settings. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting cooling temperatures to 78 degrees when you are home and higher when you are away. You can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for eight hours a day.

Also, a fan can make a warm room feel cooler without having to adjust the thermostat. Remember: Fans cool people, not rooms. Turn fans off in unoccupied rooms.

If your ceiling fan has a reverse function, flip the switch to blow air down into the living space. The reverse function helps circulate warm air in the winter, and you can maximize the comfort benefit of a fan by switching the flow of air seasonally.

Another consideration before summer hits is your home's impact on peak load — when demand for electricity is highest. This typically occurs in the morning when people are getting ready for work and school, and in the evening when they return home. Your electric cooperative must manage the energy use of all its consumers, which can be a challenge. Consider starting the dishwasher before you go to sleep or starting a load of laundry outside of your utility's peak times.

Incorporate these tips into your summer prep to save energy and lower your bills. 

MIRANDA BOUTELLE is the chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company. She has more than 20 years of experience helping people save energy at home, and she writes on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

MARK GILLILAND, PIONEER UTILITY RESOURCES



THAT'S COOL: Using a fan can make a warmer room more comfortable without adjusting the thermostat. Fans cool people (and pets), not rooms. Turn fans off in unoccupied rooms.

Celebrate National **LINEWORKER** Appreciation Day

April 14, 2025

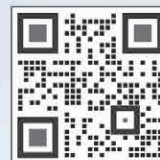


❧ SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE ❧

The Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA) Scholarship Trust Fund offers a range of educational scholarships and is accepting applications for the 2025-26 college year.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:

The Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association Scholarship Trust Fund in Memory of **William F. Matson** is offering scholarships to high school seniors whose parents/guardians are members or employees of Pennsylvania and New Jersey electric cooperatives. Scan this QR code for more information about the scholarship and the application.



ATTENTION FORMER YOUTH TOUR STUDENTS:

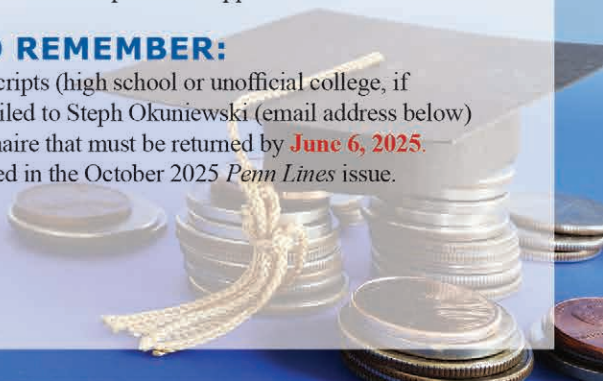
The **Jody Loudenslager Scholarship** is available to any college-bound or current college student who was selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association Youth Tour program. Scan this QR code for more information about the scholarship and the application.

REQUIREMENTS & DATES TO REMEMBER:

Applicants are required to furnish necessary aptitude test scores, transcripts (high school or unofficial college, if applicable). All applications and required documentation must be emailed to Steph Okuniewski (email address below) no later than **May 5, 2025**. Finalists will be sent a follow-up questionnaire that must be returned by **June 6, 2025**. Scholarship recipients will be notified in July 2025, and will be featured in the October 2025 *Penn Lines* issue.

QUESTIONS:

Steph Okuniewski, *Member Engagement Specialist*
Stephanie_Okuniewski@prea.com ♦ 717.982.1455



Build a Potluck Community

ANNE M. KIRCHNER

THE CHURCH POTLUCK IS A place where I first learned about fellowship and hospitality. Everyone brought something to the table — a handshake, a hug or a smile. Each person also brought a dish to share. The potluck setting introduced me to simple recipes and fundamental flavors. Those recipes gave me confidence as I learned to cook.

Hamburger Bean Casserole is an elevated baked bean recipe. Broccoli Cauliflower Salad is a popular side dish with many variations. Consider substituting different fruits and gelatin flavors in the Tropical Orange Salad. What recipes have you collected from your potluck community? 🍽️

ANNE M. KIRCHNER focuses her writing on human connections, travel and culinary arts, researching food origins, exploring cooking techniques, and creating new recipes.

PHOTOS BY ANNE M. KIRCHNER



HAMBURGER BEAN CASSEROLE

- 1 pound ground beef
- ½ small onion, diced
- 2 (15-ounce) cans pork and beans
- 2 teaspoons yellow mustard
- ½ cup ketchup
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 4 strips bacon, diced & cooked
- ¼ cup brown sugar

Brown the ground beef in a skillet on medium heat; drain the grease. Add the onion and cook until softened. Add the pork and beans, mustard, ketchup, and cinnamon. Mix the ingredients well and place in a greased 9-by-9-inch baking pan. Sprinkle the cooked bacon and brown sugar on top. Bake the casserole uncovered at 350 degrees for 45 to 60 minutes. *Makes 6 to 8 servings.*



BROCCOLI CAULIFLOWER SALAD

- 3 cups broccoli pieces
- 3 cups cauliflower pieces
- ½ cup red onion, diced
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- ½ cup sunflower seeds
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper

Place the broccoli and cauliflower pieces in a large serving bowl. Add the red onion, dried cranberries and sunflower seeds. In a small bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise, maple syrup, white vinegar, salt and pepper. Pour the dressing over the vegetables and refrigerate the salad for 2 or 3 hours. *Makes 10 to 12 servings.*



TROPICAL ORANGE SALAD

- 1 container (24 ounces) cottage cheese
- 1 container (8 ounces) whipped topping
- 1 package (6 ounces) orange gelatin
- 1 can (15 ounces) mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 can (20 ounces) pineapple tidbits, drained

In a large serving bowl, combine the cottage cheese and whipped topping. Add the orange gelatin and mix well. Add the *drained* mandarin oranges and *drained* pineapple tidbits. Stir until well blended. Refrigerate the salad for 3 to 4 hours before serving. *Makes 12 to 15 servings.*

"Muscle Trees": Strong Choices to Weather Those Bad Storms

GEORGE WEIGEL

SURVEY THE LANDSCAPE IN THE aftermath of a bad storm, and you'll usually find that some species dropped limbs or cracked apart while others came away unscathed under the same conditions.

The reason is that some trees are just naturally stronger storm survivors than others.

Separating the strong from the weak is an increasingly worthy trait to consider at tree-selection time, given the number of extreme storms Pennsylvania has had in recent years.

Storm damage to trees not only ruins valuable assets and takes decades to replace, but falling limbs are also a leading cause of people injuries, house damage, and power outages during severe weather.

Digging into the research

The University of Illinois has done some excellent research into what causes trees to fail in storms. Differing growth habits explain much of it.

The researchers found, for instance, that species with broad crowns and long branches (i.e. elm, hackberry, ash, and honeylocust) are much more likely to crack under ice load than more pyramidal trees with shorter, stockier branches (i.e. ginkgo, stewartia, black walnut, Kentucky coffee tree, and most evergreens).

Trees, such as sweetgum and tulip poplar, which start out more upright, become more prone to breaking as they age and elongate.

The Illinois researchers also found that some trees have much stronger branch attachments than others. Flowering pears (now banned for sale in Pennsylvania), white pines, red maples, and white birch are among the first species to drop limbs

in storms, while strongly attached branchers, such as crabapples, dogwoods, hornbeams, and sweetgums, come out of most storms intact.

A third key trait is speed of growth. Fast-growing species, such as poplars, willows, silver maples, Leyland cypress, and arborvitae, tend to produce less dense wood and, therefore, are more prone to breakage. Slower growers generally produce denser, harder-to-break wood.

Unfortunately, many tree-buyers specifically seek out the fastest growers they can find under the motto of, "I want to see it amount to something in my lifetime."

Arborists add that some tree owners over-fertilize their trees as well, which only encourages faster, weaker and leggier growth.

Finally, Illinois researchers point out that some species have more "flexible" wood than others. River birch, beech, bald cypress, Norway spruce, hemlock, and most firs are pretty good about bending but not breaking in a storm, while brittle-wooded brethren (often those same fast growers) will break under the same wind pressure.

The so-called "limber pine" is an example of a super-flexible-wooded species whose branches can almost be looped into a circle without breaking.

When the wind blows ...

There is a limit, of course, to what any tree will take. The harder the wind blows, the more likely it is that more species will join the limb-dropping scenario.

The University of Georgia School of Forestry says medium-sized limbs start to break when wind speeds reach 47 to 54 mph, increasing damage occurs in the 55- to 72-mph range, and wide-

5 GOOD 'MUSCLE TREES' TO CONSIDER

- ▶ **White oak** (*Quercus alba*). Large, slow-growing native deciduous shade tree with deep-red fall foliage; 60 to 80 feet tall and wide.
- ▶ **Blackgum** (*Nyssa sylvatica*). Large native deciduous shade tree with brilliant scarlet fall foliage; 40 to 50 feet tall, 20 to 30 feet wide.
- ▶ **American hornbeam** (*Carpinus caroliniana*). Mid-sized native deciduous tree with serrated leaves that turn yellow-orange in fall; 20 to 30 feet tall and wide.
- ▶ **Dogwood** (*Cornus florida* and *cornus kousa*). Slow-growing ornamental tree with white or pink late-spring flowers and red-orange fall fruits; 25 feet tall, 18 feet wide.
- ▶ **Crabapple** (*Malus*). Small ornamental tree with white, pink or rose spring flowers and red or orange fall fruits; 16 to 18 feet tall and wide.

spread tree damage starts happening when winds reach hurricane-force levels (73 mph and up).

The care a tree gets is a final factor in storm havoc.

Trees that have been pruned to eliminate double leaders (V-shaped trunks), pruned to balance lop-sided growth, and thinned to reduce the "sail effect" from crowded leaf canopies are more likely to withstand damage.

Even more important is scouting trees often enough to notice any dead, dying or already-cracked limbs and safely removing them before they blow out in a storm.

Good care and good selection together won't stop all storm-related tree loss, but it'll at least reduce the odds of trouble in your yard. 🌳

GEORGE WEIGEL is a retired horticulturist, author of two books about gardening in Pennsylvania, and garden columnist for The Patriot-News/PennLive.com in Harrisburg. His website is georgeweigel.net.

ISSUE MONTH AD DEADLINE

June 2025	April 15
July 2025	May 15
August 2025	June 16

Please note ads must be received by the due date to be included in requested issue month; ads received after the due date will run in next issue. Written notice of changes/cancellations must be received 30 days prior to issue month.

No ads accepted by phone/email. For more information, please call 717-233-5704.

CLASSIFIED AD SUBMISSION/RATES:

ELECTRIC CO-OP MEMBERS:

\$20 per month for 30 words or less, plus 50¢ for each additional word.

NON-MEMBERS:

\$70 per month for 30 words or less, plus \$1.50 for each additional word.

SPECIAL HEADINGS:

\$5 for co-op members, \$10 for non-members. The special heading fee applies to any heading not listed under "FREE HEADINGS," even if the heading is already appearing in *Penn Lines*. For ads running a special heading in consecutive months, the fee is a one-time fee of either \$5 (members) or \$10 (non-members) for all consecutive insertions.

PAYMENT:

Please make CHECK/MONEY ORDER payable to: PREA/Penn Lines. Insertion of classified ad serves as proof of publication; no proofs supplied.

SEND COMPLETED AD COPY AND PAYMENT TO:

Penn Lines Classifieds
P.O. Box 1266
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266

PLEASE SUBMIT A CLEARLY WRITTEN OR TYPED SHEET WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED INFORMATION:

- ☐ Cooperative members should please submit the mailing label from *Penn Lines* as proof of membership.
- ☐ Non-members should submit name, address, phone number, and email address, if applicable.
- ☐ Month(s) in which the ad is to run.
- ☐ Ad copy as it is to appear in the publication.
- ☐ Heading ad should appear under, or name of special heading (additional fee). See below for FREE heading options.

FREE HEADINGS:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Around the House | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicles & Boats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery & Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Recipes & Food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gifts & Collectibles | <input type="checkbox"/> Tools & Equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock & Pets | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel & Tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous | <input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to Buy |

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

AA ROOFING

EXPERTS IN HARD-TO-FIND LEAKS! Roof repairs – all types. House, barn roofs painted. Slate work, chimney repairs. Southwestern Pa. for over 40 years. Speedyservice! 814-445-4400.

AROUND THE HOUSE

CLOCK REPAIR: If you have an antique grandfather clock, mantel clock or old pocket watch that needs restored, we can fix any timepiece. Macks Clock Repair: 814-421-7992.

MARK'S TREE SERVICE. Licensed, insured. Removals, trimming, stump grinding. Serving: York, Hanover, Southern York, Northern Baltimore County. Since 1980. Free estimates. Mark Eric Fix, 717-891-2735.

B&L TREE SERVICE. Topping, removals, pruning, stump grinding, land clearing. Licensed and insured. Please give us a call or text 814-494-1578.

SPECIAL OFFER – BOTH COOKBOOKS FOR \$12. "Country Cooking" – \$5, including postage. "Recipes Remembered" – \$7, including postage. Both cookbooks are a collection of recipes from men and women of the electric co-ops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Payable to: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Write Attention: Cookbooks.

BUILDING SUPPLIES

STEEL ROOFING AND SIDING. Over 30 years in business. Several profiles cut to length. 29- and 26-gauge best quality residential roofing – 40-year warranty. Also, seconds, heavy gauges, accessories, etc. Installation available. Located northwestern Pennsylvania. 814-398-4052.

FACTORY SECONDS of insulation, 4 x 8 sheets, foil back. R-value 6.5 per inch. Great for pole buildings, garages, etc. Many thicknesses available. Also blue board insulation sheets. 814-442-6032.

BURIAL LOT

FOUR-SPACE BURIAL LOT, Alto-Reste Park, Altoona, Pa. Located in Garden of Prayer, section K, lot 138B. Spaces can be bought individually or in groups. Asking \$850 per space. 814-327-4584.

COINS & BULLION

KEYSTONE COIN & BULLION is buying and selling gold, silver, U.S. coins and currency. Collections, estates, gold and silver jewelry, sterling silver flatware, etc. We pay in CASH. Call us today! Christine or Matt at 814-631-6914. Visit us online or follow us on Facebook! www.keystonecoinbullion.com.

CONCRETE REPAIR

WE REPAIR CONCRETE! Concrete resurfacing, patching, sealing and expansion joint caulking. We travel within a two-hour radius of Shippensburg, Pa. Morgan Concrete Services, 717-372-6644.

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RAYSTOWN FORESTRY CONSULTING. Timber sales, appraisals, wildlife habitat management. Dedicated to sustainable harvests for present and future generations to enjoy. 45 years experience. 814-448-0040 or 814-448-2405.

DUMPSTER RENTAL

ROLL-OFF DUMPSTER RENTAL SERVICE available in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, and Fulton counties, Pa., and beyond. Contact us for pricing and scheduling. 717-860-6274 or heckconstruction33853@gmail.com. Heck Construction, based in Orrstown, PA 17244.

GIFTS & COLLECTIBLES

SPECIAL OFFER – BOTH COOKBOOKS FOR \$12. "Country Cooking" – \$5, including postage. "Recipes Remembered" – \$7, including postage. Both cookbooks are a collection of recipes from men and women of the electric co-ops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Payable to: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Write Attention: Cookbooks.

HEALTH INSURANCE

DO YOU HAVE THE BLUES regarding your health insurance? We cater to rural America's health insurance needs. For more information, call 800-628-7804. Call us regarding Medicare supplements, too.

HEATING & COOLING - GEOTHERMAL

SAVE UP TO 70% IN HEATING, COOLING AND HOT WATER COSTS with a geothermal comfort system from WaterFurnace. Benefits include energy savings, comfort, quiet, safety, reliability, and long life. Find out if geothermal is right for you at waterfurnace.com/Concierge or call 1-800-GEO-SAVE.

KNIFE & TOOL SHARPENING

SHARP AGAIN – BLADE SHARPENING & REPAIR. Whether it's kitchen knives, scissors, or tools, we provide expert sharpening services that restore precision and performance. Fast & affordable. Trust us to bring your tools back to life! We service Adams County and the surrounding area. Visit www.sharpagain.us for more information. Call or text 833-242-6046 to schedule a sharpening today. Get Sharp Again now!

MEATS

ANGUS FREEZER BEEF. \$3.00/LB. HANGING WEIGHT, plus processing. No antibiotics or hormones, grass-fed, grain-finished, excellent marbling. By the quarter, half or whole – discount for halves and multiple quarters. Allison Farmz, Alexandria, Pa. 814-669-4014.

FREEZER PORK. NO HORMONES, NO ANTIBIOTICS. All hogs born and finished on our farm. \$3.00 a pound hanging weight plus butchering. Drenkhahn Family Farms LLC, Rural Valley, Pa. 724-354-3677. drenkhahn-familyfarms@gmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: BUCKETS, FORKS, THUMBS, grapple buckets and pallet forks for skid loaders, backhoes, and excavators. Tires for backhoes, rubber tire loaders and excavators also. Call 814-329-0118.

NURSERY & GARDEN

TREES AND SHRUBS for all your landscaping needs. Rare, unusual, amazing. Bloomfield Nursery, 167 Sproul Mountain Road, Roaring Spring, PA 16673. 814-224-4508.

POWDER COATING

ALMOST ANYTHING METAL can be powder coated: auto parts, lawn furniture, wheels, etc. Restores, protects, preserves. 1,200-degree manifold coating. Arthurs Powder Coating, 263 Sexton Road, Indiana, PA 15701. 724-349-3770.

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VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE. Fishermen and beach lover's paradise. Access Chesapeake Bay or Atlantic Ocean within minutes. Waterside Village 3/4-acre homesites Near Marina from \$21,900 with fenced and locked RV/camper storage available. Beach access nearby. Waterfront Sites available on bayside and seaside starting at \$115,000. Many free boat ramps within minutes. Low, low taxes. Kirkwoodontheshore.com. 757-678-7631.

LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL? Timberland Realty specializes in land, sporting properties, camps, cabins, farms, waterfront, exquisite second homes and timberland since 1987. Call our office at 716-962-9935 or agents by region – Western Pa.: Ron Westover, 724-422-5525. Central Pa.: John Rudy, 717-319-0082. Northern Pa.: Dave Anderson, 585-808-5696. Brian Bullard, Managing Broker, 716-499-5608. www.timberlandrealty.net.

REAL ESTATE

CAMBRIA COUNTY – 18.2 ACRES, mostly fields, gas well, with option to purchase gas rights, \$109,000; Clearfield County – 502 acres, wooded, two streams, wilderness land, \$1,499,000; www.timberlandrealty.net. Ron Westover: 724-422-5525, 716-962-9935.

RENT THREE-SEASON ONE-ROOM CABIN. Endless Mountains, Pa. No solicitors. Please call 856-589-4925.

RECIPES & FOOD

SPECIAL OFFER – BOTH COOKBOOKS FOR \$12. "Country Cooking" – \$5, including postage. "Recipes Remembered" – \$7, including postage. Both cookbooks are a collection of recipes from men and women of the electric co-ops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Payable to: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Write Attention: Cookbooks.

SPORTING GOODS

FISHING RODS, RODS WITH REELS, spin cast, closed faced, level wind. Also reels, new, used. Abu Garcia, Daiwa, Shimano, Zebco, fair prices. From quality to kids. Bass, bluegill, crappie, catfish, trout, ocean. 717-781-4897.

TIMESHARE CANCELLATION

STOP BEING A TIMESHARE VICTIM! TimeShareBeGone will get your timeshare legally cancelled. 100% money-back guarantee. A+ BBB rating, 17 years in business. Low payment plans. Call 800-214-4460, timesharebegone.com.

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COMMERCIAL-GRADE GRACO LINE STRIPER, trailer and stencils, \$6,500 or best offer. Infrared asphalt recycler KM 4-48, 6-ft. x 8-ft. long, \$7,200 or best offer. Call or text 814-329-4088.

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ARTHURS TRACTORS. Specializing in vintage Ford tractors, 30 years' experience, online parts catalog/ prices, Indiana, PA 15701. Contact us at 877-254-FORD (3673) or www.arthurstractors.com.

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NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA, oceanfront condo rental. Two-bedroom, two-bath, deck overlooking beach and pool. \$995/week or \$3,600/month. No pets. Not available Jan. - Mar. Call 814-635-4332 or 814-979-8058.

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15-PASSENGER VANS TO MINI-VANS to car rentals. Call Rent-A-Wreck in Erie. Locally owned for the last 37 years. Rent-A-Wreck, 814-833-9941.

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUATE AND CLASSIC American and foreign cars, motorcycles, trucks, Broncos, Blazers and Scouts. Any condition. Will buy entire car collections. krmiller1965@yahoo.com. 717-577-8206.

ANTIQUATE AND CLASSIC motorcycles wanted. All makes and sizes. BSA, Norton, Triumph, Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki, Kawasaki, etc. krmiller1965@yahoo.com. 717-577-8206.

ESTATE LIQUIDATOR LOOKING TO BUY quality antiques, old guns, knives, ammunition. Unique kitchen, household, barn and farm items. Plus, any old and unusual items. Call 814-438-2407. Email richc101.5@gmail.com.

IT'S CONTEST TIME!

Penn Lines has a big birthday coming up, and we want you to be a part of our 60th anniversary celebration. Before the confetti flies in 2026, though, we're kicking off a handful of photo contests this year; enter one — or all three.

CONTEST NO. 1 – OLDEST ISSUE OF PENN LINES! If you have an oldie but a goodie around the house, take a photo of it with you. Please make sure the publication date is visible.

CONTEST NO. 2 – MOST WELL-TRAVELED PENN LINES! Take your favorite copy of *Penn Lines* beyond the borders of the Commonwealth. Send us a photo of you holding the magazine at your destination in front of a recognizable landmark or a sign that tells where you are. Also include a 50- to 100-word essay about where you were and why you brought that issue.

CONTEST NO. 3 – A DATE WITH PENN LINES! We'll be honest: We like it when we get to go to some place nice. Take your favorite issue of *Penn Lines* to a special place in your community and take a photo of yourself with it.

FOR ALL CONTESTS, WE WILL NEED: your name, address, daytime telephone number, the month and year of the magazine, and the name of the cooperative that serves your home, business, or seasonal residence.

PRIZES: \$50 gift card for each contest winner; the winning photos will be featured in a 2026 *Penn Lines* issue.

DEADLINE: Friday, Oct. 31

SEND ENTRIES TO: PennLines@prea.com (put "60 Years of PL" in the subject line) or *Penn Lines* Editor/60 Years of PL, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266



Halt! What's the Password?

JOHN KASUN

YEARS AGO, PASSWORDS WERE SOMETHING out of a World War II movie, used only when an enemy soldier tried to sneak across the line and a sentry would yell: "Halt! Who goes there? What's the password?"

Today, passwords have crept into everyday life. They used to be simple, normally just a short word or phrase that kept visiting grandkids from using your home computer. The funny part is, before the age of computers, that "private stuff" was simply on the kitchen counter in a plain folder next to the canister set.

Originally, passwords were no more than your birth date or the name of your pet — essentially, nothing too complicated but easy to remember. That, however, has slowly changed.

The change was triggered when people with too much time on their hands decided to "hack" into various private computers just to look around, kind of like electronic Peeping Toms. I could never figure out why the people who were smart enough to do that sort of thing just didn't get a good job instead of being a crook. In any case, those same people were soon hacking into bank accounts and large company records, and we were all told that our passwords were no longer "safe."

Suddenly, I needed a password consisting of some special number I made up, my pet's name and/or my first-grade teacher's name spelled backward. Not only is that password safe from hackers, but it is also safe from me because half the time I can't remember it. I also think it is funny that the kids or grandkids we tried to protect our "private stuff" from are now the first ones we turn to for help when we can't remember our password.

Remembering one password is bad enough, but today we have multiples because the experts warn that using the same password is dangerous. However, this has actually made everything worse. For example, my bank has added

security questions to my password. Even if I type in the correct password, the bank wants to make sure I am who I say I am. I then have a list of additional questions to answer, like the high school I attended or my maternal grandfather's name or the name of my first pet. I am beginning to believe that if you never had a pet, you are not allowed to have a password.

In addition to passwords, experts stress the need for high-quality antivirus programs to detect hackers. Recently, I purchased a new computer system with anti-virus everything. The program spends every minute of

every day sneaking around my computer, looking into all the nooks and crannies for bad guys. It even checks on itself for problems. In many ways, it reminds me of Peter Sellers in the "The Pink Panther." He played the bumbling detective, Inspector Clouseau, who suspects everyone and is constantly peeking through keyholes.

Occasionally, my antivirus program sends messages, urging me to set up password protection. It wants me to store all my passwords in a secret file that it personally guards. In the event I ever need to retrieve a password I have forgotten, all I have to do

is open the file and it will be there. Guess what, though? To protect all of my passwords, I needed to establish another password. A@aaahhh###1!

I often worry that when I pass from this world — and hopefully find myself in a long line winding through the clouds — a very familiar message will make its way through the masses. "There will be an extended delay getting into Heaven today," we'll be told. "Some idiot up ahead can't remember his password." 🙄

JOHN KASUN, a lifelong Pennsylvanian with more than 30 years of writing experience, looks for the humor in everyday life and then tells a story from that perspective. He is a member of Huntingdon-based Valley Rural Electric Cooperative.





WILLIAM RICE • REA ENERGY



CASEY MALONEY • NORTHWESTERN REC



MAREENA KIZIS • TRI-COUNTY REC

Live and Love

The Beatles theorized that “all you need is love.” Whether that love is for your world, your labor, your hobbies or for someone special, we hope you find it in abundance. And when you feel the love, we hope you’ll capture it on camera and submit it to the 2025 Rural Reflections contest. See the entry information below. 📷

LISE C. MILLER • ADAMS ELECTRIC



How to enter

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS are encouraged to send photos for the 2025 Rural Reflections contest (no digital files) to: *Penn Lines Photos*, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266. On the back of each photo, include your name, address, phone number and the name of the electric cooperative that serves your home, business or seasonal residence.

Remember: Our publication deadlines require us to work in advance, so send your seasonal photos in early. Photos that do not reflect any specific season may be sent at any time. Photos will be returned one year after receipt if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

For change of address, please contact your local electric cooperative. For cooperative contact information, please visit www.prea.com/member-cooperatives

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Minimum purchase of 4

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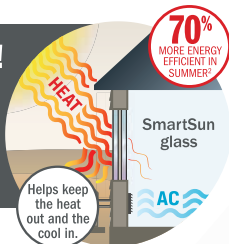
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¹**DETAILS OF OFFER:** Offer expires 5/31/2025. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get 20% off your entire purchase and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 4/12/2025 and 5/31/2025. Additional \$100 off your purchase, minimum purchase of four (4), taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 5/31/2025. Subject to credit approval. 12-month Promo Period: while no payments are due, interest accrues but is waived if the loan is paid in full before the Promo Period expires. Any unpaid balance owed after the Promo Period, plus accrued interest, will be paid in installments based on the terms disclosed in the customer's loan agreement. Financing is provided by various financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License numbers available at renewalbyandersen.com/license. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. ²Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading national full-service window replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com. ³It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details. ⁴Values are based on comparison of Renewal by Andersen® double-hung window U-Factor to the U-Factor for clear dual-pane glass nonmetal frame default values from the 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018 International Energy Conservation Code "Glazed Fenestration" Default Tables. ⁵Based on testing of 10 double-hung units per ASTM E2068 20 years after installation. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. © 2025 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA14201

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