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Every Storm

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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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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
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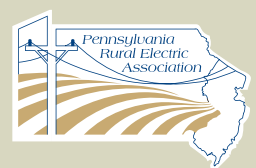
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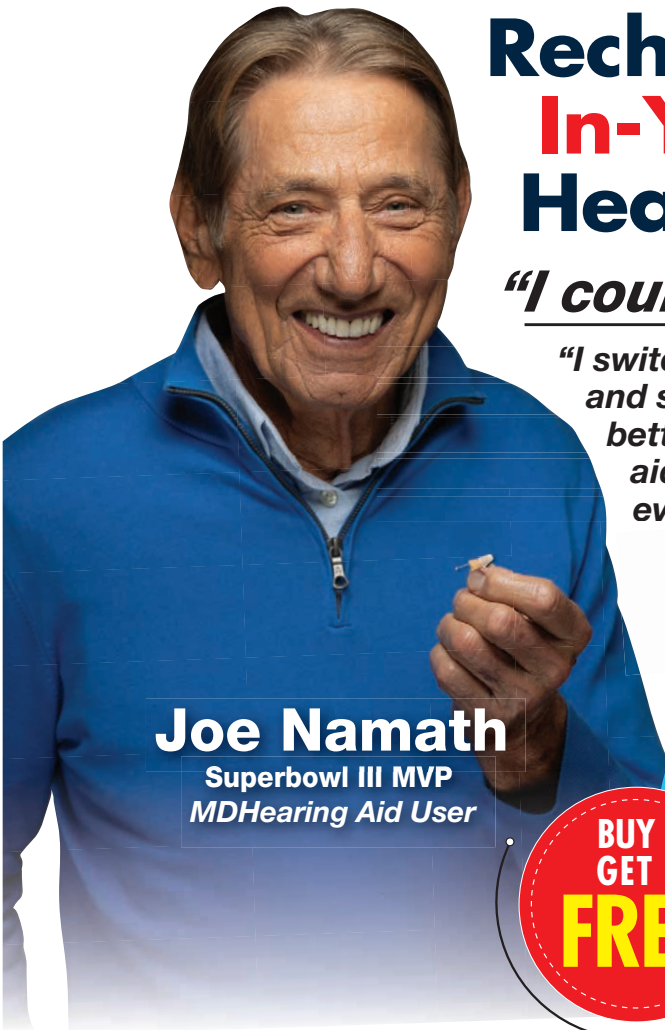
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THE COMFORT OF COMMUNITY

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

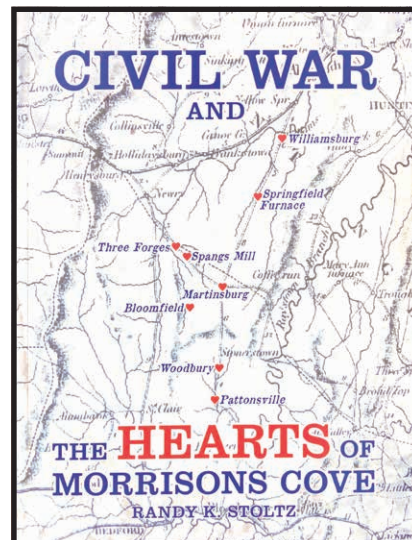
Morrison, who was hired to survey the region (originally called "the Great Cove") after the 1754 Albany Purchase. He later settled in the area.

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!

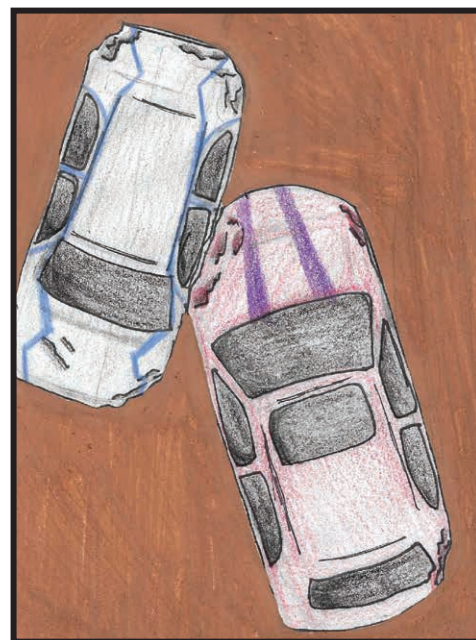
"I go to the Spartansburg County Fair in Spartansburg, Pa. Whenever I go, I watch the derby, especially when my brother participates. I was inspired by the 'Crash Course' article in *Penn Lines* [September 2024] to draw this, and someday, I hope to participate in a derby just like my brother."

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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Guest Column

Your Power Explained: Distribution



STACY HILLIARD

LOCAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, like REA Energy, play a crucial role in providing reliable, affordable and equitable electricity to rural areas across the United States. REA Energy is an electric distribution cooperative, meaning we must purchase wholesale power from others to distribute it to our members.

The role of an electric distribution cooperative

The distribution phase is also known as the final stage of an electrical power system. The primary role of electric distribution is to carry electricity from the transmission lines to the end-user or member, delivering this electricity from our substations to homes, farms and businesses. The cooperative is also responsible for maintaining and upgrading infrastructure as needed to ensure the delivery of reliable service to our members.

Other ways your cooperative provides service and support to members is by handling outage restoration, monthly billing, and offering energy efficiency programs to help consumers optimize their electricity use.

To be able to maintain and pay for the services and support listed above, REA Energy has a structured rate system. As of March, your monthly bill now shows your usage with a breakdown of the rates for generation and transmission (G&T) and distribution. Let's explore the distribution rate.


Costs involved in electric distribution

REA Energy incurs various costs to ensure reliable power delivery to our members. These include:

- ▶ **Power purchase costs:** This is the expense of buying electricity from a G&T cooperative, or wholesale energy supplier. In our case, that supplier is Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., based in Harrisburg. Power purchase costs may vary based on energy market fluctuations and demand.
- ▶ **Infrastructure and maintenance costs:** These are the costs incurred when constructing and maintaining power lines, poles, transformers, and substations, along with upgrading aging infrastructure, to improve efficiency and reliability.
- ▶ **Operational costs:** These are our costs for facilities, vehicles, equipment, tools and staff.
- ▶ **Regulatory and compliance costs:** The cooperative incurs these costs to meet federal, state, and local energy regulations and safety standards.
- ▶ **Technology and modernization investments:** These costs are associated with implementing smart-grid technology and cybersecurity measures to protect infrastructure and customer data.

Many of the costs listed above will likely increase over the years, potentially requiring periodic rate increases. Electric cooperatives work to keep their rates low by delivering safe and reliable electricity to rural communities at a cost that families and businesses can afford.

A members-first approach

Electric distribution cooperatives play a crucial role in delivering electricity to rural communities. By managing the distribution network and maintaining a members-first approach, we provide reliable, affordable and community-driven energy solutions. Our commitment to service, sustainability and local engagement ensures that members receive high-quality electricity while having a direct impact on the cooperative's direction and policies. 

STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKAE
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER

On the Line: The Tough, Dangerous Job of Lineworkers

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 14

KAYLA KING, CCC, MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE lineworkers play a vital role in ensuring that homes and businesses in rural areas have electricity. This physically demanding and often dangerous job requires specialized skills and a deep commitment to community service. These lineworkers work hard to provide reliable power to rural communities, the very communities that they often live in themselves.

The role of a lineworker

Lineworkers are responsible for installing, fixing and maintaining the power lines that bring electricity to homes and businesses. They often work with high-voltage power lines, which can be dangerous, especially during storm outages and other emergencies. When there is an outage, lineworkers are called on to fix the problem, no matter the time

of day or night. They often work in harsh weather, including rain, snow and extreme heat.

In addition to technical skills, lineworkers need physical strength. They frequently climb utility poles or use bucket trucks to reach power lines. They must be able to troubleshoot electrical problems, use special tools and follow strict safety rules to avoid accidents.

A day in the life

A typical day for a lineworker starts with a safety meeting, where the crew goes over any potential dangers they may face on the job. Then, they head out to various locations, which may be in remote areas or small towns within the cooperative's service area.

If a job involves upgrading equipment or building new lines, lineworkers check power poles and transformers to make sure everything is working properly. If there is an outage, they assess the damage and work quickly to restore power, often enduring severe weather conditions. Effective communication is key because lineworkers often work in teams or need to interact with consumer-members when tackling outages and repairs.

A common task for lineworkers is climbing a utility pole to fix broken power lines. They wear protective gear like hard hats, harnesses and rubber sleeves to stay safe when working on powered electrical lines at heights up to 50 feet. The tools and gear they carry can weigh up to 50 pounds. While the job can be tiring and stressful, lineworkers feel proud knowing they are keeping an important service running for their communities.

Skills and training

To become an electrical lineworker, extensive training is required.

Many electric cooperatives offer apprenticeship programs lasting about four years. These programs offer a combination of on-the-job learning with classroom instruction. The training covers everything from how electricity works to how to use specialized tools and safety procedures. After completing the program, lineworkers become journeymen and can later train to become chief lineworkers with even more experience.

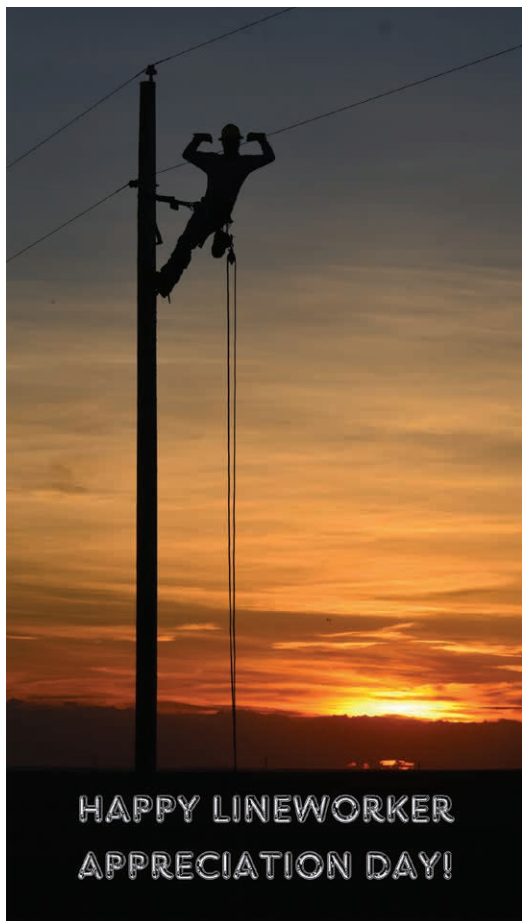
Serving the community

One unique aspect about working for an electric cooperative is the close connection to the community. Since cooperatives are owned by the people they serve, lineworkers often know the people they are helping, or the lineworkers themselves may even be members of the cooperative. This creates a sense of pride and purpose, as many lineworkers feel like they are directly serving their neighbors.

During emergencies like natural disasters, lineworkers are crucial in recovery efforts. They work closely with emergency responders to restore power. Even though these situations may involve long hours in difficult conditions, lineworkers are dedicated to making sure their communities have electricity when they need it most.

Being an electric cooperative lineworker is a tough, but rewarding job. Lineworkers are key to keeping the power on at homes and businesses, especially in rural areas. With their expertise, training, and commitment, they help make sure electricity is dependable and safe.

While the job can be challenging, the sense of purpose, pride and connection to the community makes it all worthwhile. Electric cooperatives like REA Energy are grateful for their hardworking lineworkers. 🛠️



Vines, Views and Flavor: What Makes Woody Lodge Winery in Ashville a Must-Visit

KAYLA KING, CCC, MARKETING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

TUCKED AWAY IN the peaceful hills of Ashville, Woody Lodge Winery is a cozy and charming spot for both wine lovers and nature enthusiasts. This locally owned and operated business is the perfect place to relax, enjoy a glass of wine, and absorb the beautiful scenery. Whether you are a seasoned wine connoisseur or just someone who appreciates the beauty of nature, Woody Lodge Winery is a welcoming place for all.

A dream come to life

The winery has been part of the Ashville community since 2013, when it was opened by Margie Keller to combine her loves of winemaking and the outdoors. Margie started as an amateur winemaker and won several contests with her signature wines. The judges of the American Wine Society suggested she open a winery, and she selected Ashville as the location because of family ties to the region.

“I was born and raised in Ashville on my parents’ 11 acres of land, where the winery now resides,” Margie says. “My son researched ways to cultivate the soil to produce the best grape results for the region.”

Her son, John Gailey Jr., became a co-owner in 2017. Her other children and their spouses also volunteer to tend to the grounds and grapes.

Margie has worked hard to create a warm, inviting place for visitors. Her dedication shines through in everything about the winery, from the quality of the wine to the care put into the land. The rustic design and homey vibe make the winery an inviting place.



Delicious wines for every taste

One of the biggest draws is the vast selection of wines, ranging from sweet to dry, which ensures something for every palate. The most popular wines include fruity reds, crisp whites and smooth rosés. Each wine is crafted with care using grapes from the family’s vineyards, which ensures freshness and quality.

Woody Lodge’s signature and all-time best-selling wine is the Niagara, a sweet white wine that tastes like a freshly picked grape. For semi-sweet red lovers, Red Dog Road is a must. For those who enjoy an invigorating rosé, the Queen of Hearts is a perfectly balanced wine. The winery also offers wine slushies and Tipzy Cow Wine ice cream, making each visit a unique experience.

A picture-perfect location

Situated on a hill, the winery offers stunning panoramic views of the countryside. Visitors can relax on the deck, enjoy the peaceful surroundings and sip wine while soaking in the scenery. It’s the perfect escape.

The winery also has a satellite location at 679 Philadelphia St. in Indiana, Pa. Also, a new location is set to open soon at the new Center City Market in the historic McCrory’s building in Altoona.

Fun events all year round

The winery hosts many events throughout the year. Visitors can enjoy live music, trivia nights, food trucks, book clubs and wine-tasting parties. The winery also sets up booths at many local events and festivals. To learn more, check out woodylodgewinery.com/festival-events or look for announcements on its Facebook page.

The winery offers private event spaces for weddings, birthdays, bridal showers and other occasions. With its beautiful setting and delicious wines, it’s no wonder that many people choose Woody Lodge as the backdrop for their celebrations.

Plan your visit

Located at 1301 Colonel Drake Highway, Ashville, the winery is a perfect destination for anyone who wants to enjoy great wine, beautiful views and a relaxing atmosphere. Whether you’re there to sample wine, take in the stunning landscape or attend a special event, the winery offers something for everyone. With its rich selection of wines, welcoming atmosphere and commitment to quality, Woody Lodge Winery is truly a hidden gem in the heart of Pennsylvania. 🍷



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Possible Mailing Delays of Members' Monthly Electric Bills

We want to keep our members informed that some may experience delays in receiving their electric cooperative bills due to recent changes in USPS operations under the "Delivering for America" plan. These nationwide postal adjustments may slow delivery times, affecting when your bill arrives.

You can access your bill any time by signing up for SmartHub at reaenergy.com, or downloading the MyREAenergy app.

With SmartHub you can:

- Sign up for e-billing to receive your statement instantly via email.
- Use our online or mobile payment options.
- View your electric bill and usage.

Please call 724-349-4800 if you have questions or need help with your account. During this time, we will be extending the net payment period based on when the bills are mailed.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work together through these changes.

Thank you for being a valued member of REA Energy Cooperative!

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Right-of-Way Management News

REA Energy contractors from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way near the Livermore substation area and emergency maintenance areas in April.

Members in the affected areas will be notified. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All contractors will carry employee identification cards, and their vehicles will display their company name. If you have any questions, call 724-349-4800 or view the specifications at reaenergy.com.

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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. 🌿

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.

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.

Celebrate National **LINEWORKER** Appreciation Day

April 14, 2025

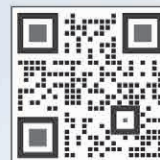


🌀 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE 🌀

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:

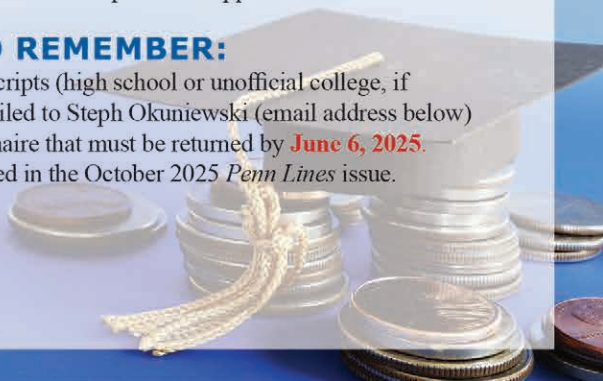
The **Jody Loudenslager Scholarship** is available to any college-bound or current college student who was selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association Youth Tour program. Scan this QR code for more information about the scholarship and the application.

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.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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:

- Around the House
- Business Opportunities
- Employment Opportunities
- Events
- Gifts & Collectibles
- Livestock & Pets
- Miscellaneous
- Motor Vehicles & Boats
- Nursery & Garden
- Real Estate
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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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@aaahh###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.



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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:

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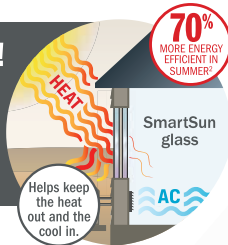


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