

SEPTEMBER 2026

PENNLINES

The Guardians of Flight 93

For 25 Years, Locals
Have Kept Memories
of 9/11 Heroes Alive

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A common field one day. A field of honor forever.

PHOTO BY JEFF FETZER

The Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County, once the site of a strip mine, pays tribute to the brave actions of 40 men and women, now remembered as the heroes of 9/11.



ON THE COVER

Before a national memorial took shape in Somerset County, residents kept watch over the field where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed on 9/11. Twenty-five years later, the ambassadors remain, greeting visitors from around the world who come to pay their respects.

PHOTO BY JEFF FETZER

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A Field, a Community and a Promise

What 'Concern for Community' Actually Looks Like



STEVE BRAME

THERE ARE DAYS THAT BEGIN like any other and end as something the world will never forget.

Sept. 11, 2001, is one of them.

Like so many others, I remember where I was when the first reports came in, and the disbelief as the scope of the attacks became clear. I also remember learning that one of the four hijacked flights had crashed in Pennsylvania, in a field in Somerset County, an area served by one of our own electric cooperatives.

That is when the day stopped being a distant disaster and became something that hit much closer to home.

At the time I was working in and around two worlds that were suddenly connected to the same tragedy: Pennsylvania's electric cooperative community, and the Ridge Administration, my previous employer, which was managing the aftermath at the state level.

What has stayed with me, though, isn't the scale of the attacks. It's the way people responded.

In those first hours, there was no playbook for what had happened in Somerset County. There was simply work to be done.

When the plane crashed, it took out power for a group of Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) members, but with the site under federal control, normal restoration procedures were impossible. Co-op lineworkers — pros at troubleshooting — found another way to get the lights back on within hours, rather than weeks, by working with a private utility that had lines nearby.

Elsewhere, first responders needed support, so locals brought food and drinks. Grieving families and investigators arrived in Shanksville, and the community opened its arms and doors to them.

Weeks later, visitors started finding their way to the makeshift memorial overlooking the crash site, many of them carrying grief, confusion and questions. A group of residents, since known as Flight 93's "ambassadors," began arriving in shifts to help out-of-towners understand what they were seeing and to listen to the stories strangers needed to tell.

They kept showing up, and 25 years later, many still do. (This month's feature highlights them.)

We talk about "concern for community" as one of the seven cooperative principles, and rightly so. But a principle only means something if it shows up in what people actually do. In Somerset County, it did. In lineworkers finding a way to restore service when the usual path was closed. In neighbors looking after the families of the flight's heroes. In residents who understood that a terrible event had put an unexpected duty on their community, and they chose to embrace it.

Many of those ambassadors are Somerset REC members, and over the years they became the tragedy's story-bearers. Bearing a story is more than repeating it. It means taking responsibility for keeping it alive, for making sure the next generation understands that the people aboard Flight 93 are not merely names on a memorial. They were ordinary people who, in a moment none of them chose, decided to act for someone other than themselves.

None of the residents knew on Sept. 11 that they were starting a journey that would extend for decades. They only understood that something had happened in their community and they had a part in what came next.

That is what concern for community looks like. Most of the time it is just people seeing what needs to be done and doing it.

On Sept. 11, 2001, history came to Somerset County. The people there have been caring for it ever since. 📺

STEVE BRAME

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LOOKING UP TO JIM

I looked up to Jim Krut long before I got to know him. He was a tall man, so it was easy to do. But I soon learned his stature went well beyond his height.

James "Jim" Krut passed away this past August at the age of 80 (see page 7). For much of the 1980s, he was the editor of *Penn Lines*, setting a standard for reporting we still try to live up to today. He later led the communications team at Adams Electric Cooperative in Gettysburg, Pa., where he worked until his retirement in 2009.

Long after he retired, I enjoyed seeing Jim at an annual meeting or for the occasional lunch. Always encouraging and always with a smile, Jim was a fan of *Penn Lines* till the end. Most recently, he was excited to join our podcast to talk about the magazine's 60th anniversary, but his health issues prevented that from happening.



I got to know Jim while he was at Adams Electric, often while presenting him and his team awards for their impressive communications work year after year.

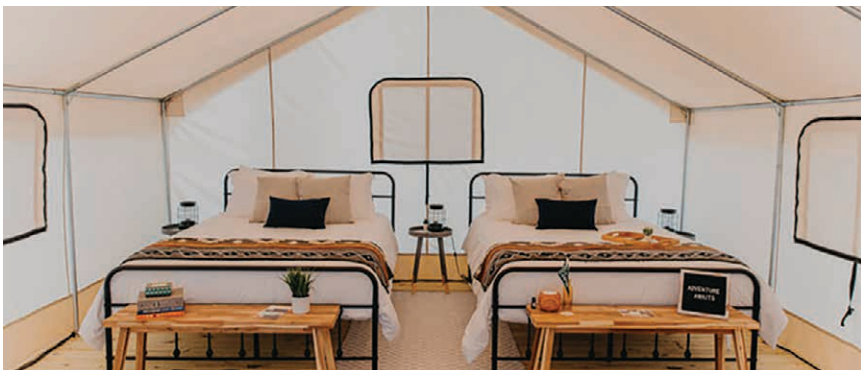
I once joked with him that we should lower the standard so others could win an award now and then. He answered seriously: "No, don't do that. Let people rise to the standard. They'll get there." He meant it, because he believed the best in people.

What impressed me most was the way Jim approached life. He was a decorated combat medic in Vietnam, an experience that undoubtedly shaped him but never hardened him. If anything, it deepened his appreciation for people. He asked questions and listened carefully because he genuinely wanted to know your story. That curiosity and generosity of spirit made him a good storyteller, a craft he brought to one of his great passions: acting.

Jim is most famous for his role in the 1978 cult classic "Dawn of the Dead," where his character has an unfortunate run-in with a helicopter. The scene earned him international recognition as the "Helicopter Zombie" among his many fans.

Jim's professional legacy is easy to measure; it's all there to see. But his greatest legacy was personal – in the family he loved, the people he encouraged and the heights he inspired others to reach. Here's looking up to you, Jim.

PETER A. FITZGERALD
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



FRENCHCREEKTLGLAMPING.COM

GET YOUR GLAMP ON: Camping – with beds and air conditioning? Yes, it's a thing, and you can give "glamping" a try at several state parks in Pennsylvania thanks to a partnership between the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Timberline Glamping. Nightly fees range from \$149 to \$199.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CAMPING

DCNR touts success of first glamping program

"Glamping" is in.

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) reports that the demand for glamorous camping sites has been high this year — the first year the state has offered outdoor, safari-style tents with modern comforts at a handful of parks.

Sites can be reserved at the following locations: Codorus State Park, York County; French Creek State Park, Chester County; Hickory Run State Park, Carbon County; Hills Creek State Park, Tioga County; Laurel Hill State Park, Somerset County; Promised Land State Park, Pike County; and Pymatuning State Park, Crawford County.

The accommodations feature beds, electricity, air conditioning and heat, fire pits, and even coffeemakers.

DCNR has a five-year agreement with Timberline Glamping, which operates the sites. The state also invested \$400,000 to improve the campgrounds, which included upgrading restrooms and adding utilities.

The glamping program is expected to expand to additional state parks in 2027. Rates range from \$149 to \$199 per night before taxes and fees. To reserve a site, visit timberlineglamping.com/locations#Pennsylvania.

HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Lyme disease cases in Pennsylvania down over previous years

Lyme disease cases are decreasing in Pennsylvania.

As of late July, the number of cases were down, dropping from 11,044 in July 2025 to 8,540 this summer. State officials noted that surveillance found fewer ticks this year, which most likely led to the decrease in reported cases.

Allegheny County led the state through the end of July this year with 1,044 cases, while Westmoreland County was next with 623. To the east, Chester County had 549 cases followed by Montgomery County with 384, Bucks County with 376 and Berks County with 365. In south-central Pennsylvania, York County had the most cases with 285, followed by Lancaster County (257), Cumberland County (142), Dauphin County (130), Lebanon County (84), Adams County (67) and Perry County (52).

SAY CHEESE!

Game Commission's Elk Cam is live until October

Since August, the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Elk Cam has been thrilling wildlife enthusiasts with the sights and sounds of bugling bulls and an array of other animals.

The camera, online until Oct. 3, is located in the heart of the Commonwealth's elk range, an area totaling more than 220,000 acres, including State Game Lands 311 and Elk State Forest. To watch the livestream, go to pa.gov/agencies/pgc/wildlife/wildlife-viewing/wildlife-cams.

In addition to elk, viewers can expect to see turkey, deer and other wildlife. The elk, however, take center stage, the commission says, noting they ramp up their mating activities in late summer and early fall. They can be seen mostly in the mornings and evenings.

IN MEMORIAM

Former *Penn Lines* editor passes away

Former *Penn Lines* editor James "Jim" Krut of Gettysburg passed away Sunday, Aug. 2. He was 80.

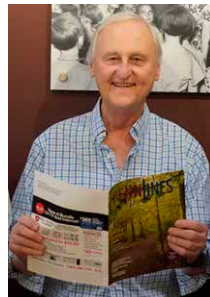
Following his tenure at the magazine, Krut established and led the communi-

cations department at Adams Electric Cooperative in Adams County until his retirement in 2009. A U.S. Army veteran, he also gained fame as the "Helicopter Zombie" in the 1978 horror classic, "Dawn of the Dead."

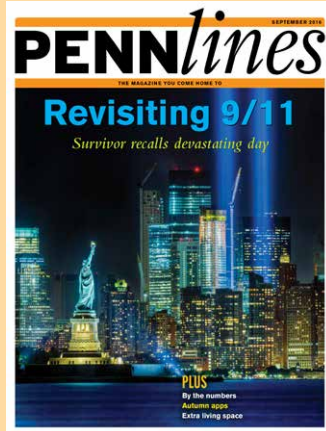
"Jim was an outstanding editor, but he was an even better human being," says Pete Fitzgerald, *Penn Lines* executive editor. "Jim helped shape *Penn Lines* into the magazine it is today, believing that the stories of Pennsylvania's co-ops and their members are worth telling — and telling well. It's a legacy we continue to hold onto today."

In a 2024 *Penn Lines* article, Krut said that while editor, he was especially proud of the magazine's reporting on the emergence of Lyme disease and radon poisoning. "As part of the co-op family," he said in the article, "we worked to solve rural problems, and we did much of that through *Penn Lines*."

A funeral service was held in August. 🕯️



TIME LINES



SEPTEMBER 2016

A decade ago, *Penn Lines* commemorated the 15-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks by telling the story of Reynoldsdale resident David Dovala, a member of Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative. Visiting New York City on vacation, Dovala had plans to tour the World Trade Center that day but ended up visiting the Statue of Liberty instead — a decision that saved his life. "There's not a day that goes by," he said at the time, "that I don't thank the dear Lord that I survived. I never see a low-flying plane that I don't think about what happened."

SEPTEMBER



GASSED UP

The Drake Well Museum and Park will be the setting for the 42nd Fall Gas Up on Sept. 12 in Titusville, Crawford County. Antique engines, farm and oil field equipment, tractors, models, and more will be displayed. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and \$5 for children ages 3 to 11. Learn more at drakewell.org.

GET WEIRD!

A pawpaw festival, something called "Weird Fish, Fishing Weirs and Live Eels!," a guided nature hike and more will be part of the 2026 Wild & Uncommon Weekend, slated Sept. 17 to 20 across York County's Lower Susquehanna Riverlands. The full schedule is available at hornfarmcenter.org.



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GATHERING ALL BOWHUNTERS

Thousands of bowhunters and archery enthusiasts will be on hand in Forksville, Sullivan County, for the Pennsylvania Bowhunters Festival, the largest gathering of its kind in the world. Set Sept. 18 to 20 at the Sullivan County Fairgrounds along Route 154, the event will include entertainment, food, and, of course, shooting areas. Learn more at pabowhunters.com.

FALLING FOR AUTUMN

Celebrate a new season Oct. 3 as the Bedford Fall Foliage Festival kicks off in downtown Bedford, Bedford County. Arts, crafts and culture will be on display, and the free event is open to all ages. For more, visit bedfordfallfoliagefestival.com.



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NEVER FORGOTTEN: Today, Adam Shaffer is chief of interpretation and education for the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County. In 2001, however, the Shanksville native was among the original ambassadors to greet visitors at the crash site and share the stories of the flight's heroes. (Photos by Jeff Fetzer)

The Guardians OF FLIGHT 93

For 25 Years, Locals Have Kept
Memories of 9/11 Heroes Alive

JEFF FETZER

Penn Lines Contributor

LIKE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS, Roxanne Sullivan watched in disbelief as hijacked airliners struck New York City's World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Later that morning — Sept. 11, 2001 — while she was running errands with a friend in Latrobe, another bulletin came over the radio: An airplane had crashed on the edge of a strip mine in Somerset County, close to the tiny borough of Shanksville.

Roxanne's mind was racing. Her house, near Shanksville, also bordered a reclaimed strip mine, and her father-in-law lived next door.

She asked a store manager if she could use the telephone to make an emergency call to him.

"I dialed the number," she says, "and it said it was no longer in service."

She pauses, recalling her thought at the time: "I'm in trouble."

Hoping and praying

The pair rushed home and as Roxanne got closer, she was stopped by an emergency responder who asked where she was headed.

"I told him I live on Skyline," she says. "He said, 'That's where the jetliner fell.'"

Stopped from going farther, Roxanne turned her car around and took another route to her property, passing emergency vehicles and personnel at every road leading to the strip mine.

"There were cars on both sides of the road and people looking [toward the crash site], and then the smell hit me — the burnt diesel smell," she says.

Roxanne parked and began running through a field toward her house, praying it and her father-in-law's home were still standing.

Continued on page 10

"I said a prayer for their souls and vowed, 'I will take care of you until the day I die.'"

— Roxanne Sullivan

Continued from page 9

They were — but they weren't untouched.

Pictures that had adorned the walls were scattered on the floor, jarred from their hangers by the impact of a Boeing 757 — United Airlines Flight 93 — which had plunged into the ground less than a mile away.

"I had no electricity, no phone," the Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) member says, noting the plane had taken out the lines as it crashed. "I went back to the bedroom and laid on the bed and cried."

After regaining her composure, Roxanne ventured to her father-in-law's home. She found him unharmed, sitting in his recliner. He told Roxanne he was watching the "Today Show" when he heard the plane hurtling toward Earth.

"He said it sounded like a freight train," she recalls. "It got louder and louder and screechier. He got up from his recliner to look out the kitchen window. When it hit, it stepped him back."

'I will take care of you'

Seeing a massive cloud of smoke from the explosion, her father-in-law picked up the phone to report the crash, but the line was already dead. He went back to his recliner; there was nothing else he could do.

"I cried for three days straight," Roxanne says. "How do you handle a jetliner falling in your backyard? You don't."

Thirteen days after terrorists hijacked Flight 93 and crashed the plane into the Stonycreek Township strip mine, officials told Roxanne she could visit the site. Their ground investigation was done.

The next morning, in the pouring rain, she paid her respects. "I said a prayer for their souls and vowed, 'I will take care of you until the day I die.'"

Twenty-five years later, she has kept that promise, greeting visitors at the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville as one of its longest-serving volunteer ambassadors.

But Roxanne Sullivan wasn't the only community member who made a personal pledge to "never forget" the crew and passengers of Flight 93.

Within months of the crash, she and nearly 40 other Somerset County residents formed a volunteer team. Their mission was — and still is — to provide accurate information to the parade of visitors who travel to the crash site to remember the heroes of Flight 93.

Where it all began

United Airlines Flight 93 was one of four commercial airliners hijacked by al-Qaida terrorists on that life-changing September day. After learning about the attacks on New York and the Pentagon earlier that morning, the passengers and crew fought to retake the aircraft as it flew toward Washington, D.C. As the struggle ensued, the plane took a nose-dive near Shanksville.

The seven crew members and 33 passengers aboard perished, but their brave actions prevented the four hijackers from reaching their intended target, the U.S. Capitol. Today, their heroism is commemorated at the Flight 93 National Memorial.

Operated by the National Park Service, the site draws more than 350,000 visitors a year from around the globe. While there, visitors can hike the half-mile Trail of Remembrance to access the site where the first memorial — a temporary one — stood. This is where the story of the Flight 93 ambassadors began.

The temporary memorial, which opened Oct. 31, 2001, was little more than a pull-off spot on a dirt road. The gravel parking area overlooked the wide expanse of reclaimed mining land. A pair of abandoned drag lines, a handful of outbuildings, piles of scrap metal and several ponds were visible from the site, but little else was. There were no amenities — no shelter, no restrooms, no electricity or lighting, no informational displays, and no signs pointing to the impact site, which was 500 yards away and barely



A PROMISE KEPT: Ambassador Roxanne Sullivan, who lives less than a mile from the Flight 93 crash site in Somerset County, made a vow 25 years ago to keep the victims' memories alive. She is one of two original ambassadors who continue to volunteer today.



ONE OF THE STORY-BEARERS: Every Wednesday afternoon during the summer, Flight 93 Ambassador Roseanne Croyle gives a half-hour presentation about the flight's heroes. Here, she holds a photo of Flight Attendant CeeCee Ross Lyles, who called her husband before boarding the flight, telling him she anticipated an "easy day."

noticeable. There was, however, a 40-foot-long chain-link fence that held a 4-by-8-foot piece of plywood, painted white, where visitors could write messages and leave tributes to the Flight 93 victims.

"When the temporary memorial opened, the flood-gates of emotion opened," recalls Somerset REC member Donna Glessner, who helped spearhead the ambassador program. "There were people from all over the country, all over the world, the media, coming to Shanksville."

About 3 miles from the crash site, Shanksville is a borough of about 200 residents in a scenic, rural area of the Laurel Highlands. The village is home to a handful of businesses: a corner market, an automotive repair shop, and a hardware store owned by Donna's husband, Karl. There are no gas stations, no restaurants, no grocery stores, no lodging facilities.

"It was surreal to think that something of international importance happened in a place like Shanksville," Donna says. "But it made us all realize that there is no place so remote that it can't be affected by terrorism."

Donna, whose home is also near the crash site, jumped into action following the disaster, packaging and delivering food and drinks to emergency responders. She didn't return to the site again until a few months later when she decided to visit the temporary memorial for the first time.

"I hear people talking, and they are very confused," Donna recalls. "They wondered where the plane crashed."

She watched as several people took videos and photographs of the metal scrap yard that was visible from the memorial site, mistakenly thinking it was wreckage from

the plane.

"I went home feeling sick," she says. "I didn't want people taking the incorrect story back home with them."

Tears and tissues

A Shanksville native with a passion for local history and volunteerism, Donna decided to see if she could recruit members of the community to staff the temporary memorial site. That group has served as greeters at the Flight 93 memorial site ever since.

"We decided to call ourselves ambassadors," Donna explains, "because we wanted to, as a community, put our best foot forward and welcome visitors to this place."

By February 2002, about 40 volunteers had committed to staffing the temporary memorial site daily, year-round. Initially, the ambassadors worked hour-and-a-half to two-hour shifts, sometimes in pairs, sometimes alone, with no shelter from the weather and scant details about the Flight 93 crash.

"We didn't know a lot about the event at first," Donna says. "That unfolded over years. But we could show people where the plane crashed. We could tell them where they could find a gas station."

Mostly, though, they offered visitors a sympathetic ear.

"People wanted to tell us what they thought about 9/11 and where they were," she says. "We just listened a lot, and we handed out a lot of tissues."

Despite the heightened emotions, or maybe because of them, Roxanne Sullivan recalls those early shifts with fondness. "In the beginning, everyone was so united after

9/11," she says. "So many people were coming here, and they hadn't forgotten. It helped heal me."

Chuck Wagner, another original ambassador and Somerset REC member, remembers the somber mood at the temporary memorial. "It was quiet," he says. "It was like you stepped on holy ground."

Following the crash, Chuck volunteered to operate a skid steer loader to help with the recovery. That, accompanied by a heightened sense of patriotism, fueled his desire to do more.

For the next 22 years, he and his wife, Jayne, would work as ambassadors every Sunday afternoon. He stepped away from those duties three years ago for health reasons but hopes to return.

"It gives you a sense of fulfillment," Chuck says. "We were helping to fulfill the human need there at the site."

'We vowed never to forget'

As more information about the brave actions of the Flight 93 passengers and crew members became known, the ambassadors began telling those stories, which continue to be shared with visitors today. Every Wednesday afternoon during the summer, ambassador Roseanne Croyle gives a half-hour presentation at the Memorial Plaza about the flight's heroes.

On a recent bluebird day in June in front of dozens of visitors, Roseanne held up a photo of CeeCee Ross Lyles, 33, a mom and former police officer who began working as a United Airlines flight attendant in January 2001.

"When CeeCee was out, away from home, working, she would call her husband a number of times during the day just to check in and see how things were going," Roseanne told the group. "On that morning of Sept. 11, she had already talked to him twice before she ever even got to the airport.

"When she got there and got her assignment, she called him again and said, 'I'll be on Flight 93, but it's a light load. I've got an easy day.'"

Roseanne paused for a moment and then held up a photo of passenger Thomas Burnett. A 38-year-old married father of three, he was the chief operating officer of a company that makes heart pumps for those awaiting transplants.

"He had booked a later flight," she said, "but when he got to the airport early that morning, they said, 'We have lots of extra room on this earlier flight. If you want, you can board Flight 93, and you'll get home to your family an hour earlier.'"

According to the National Park Service website, Burnett made four calls to his wife while onboard Flight 93. Those



ALWAYS AN AMBASSADOR: One of two remaining original Flight 93 ambassadors, Sally Ware helps educate new generations of visitors at the memorial site in Somerset County. She's spoken to people from near and far, and from all walks of life. Here, she holds a note and a gift from a five-star general, a visitor to the site who thanked her for her "selfless service."

calls provided important details to the passengers and crew about the other hijackings that had taken place that morning. They also revealed that the people onboard were planning to take back the plane from the hijackers, which some consider the first battle in the War on Terror.

"The 40 heroes only had about 30 minutes," Roseanne says. "In that time, they gathered information, they took a vote, they formulated a plan, they called their loved ones, and then they attacked the cockpit in an attempt to take control of the plane. And because they took action, they no doubt saved an untold number of lives in Washington, D.C."

Roseanne, 82, joined the ambassador team in 2010 after retiring as a home health nurse. Fifteen years later, she says she plans to continue serving as an ambassador as long as she is able. "It's the most rewarding thing I have done in my life," she says. "It's such an honor to be allowed to work here.



"We've got to keep their memory alive. Everybody needs to know what happened here."
– Sally Ware

When you think of these 40 people and what they did, this is such a minor little thing that I do — not to repay them, but to honor them. We vowed never to forget."

Forever connected

Like Roseanne, Somerset REC member Connie Stevanus became an ambassador after retiring. In fact, she says, her late husband, Sam, encouraged her to retire early so she could join him as a volunteer. That was in 2006.

Connie, who has lived at Indian Lake — about three miles from the crash site — for 38 years, says that on 9/11, she came home from work to find her husband holding a bag and picking up pieces of charred debris from the crash that had settled in their yard.

That forever connected the couple to the tragedy.

Connie and Sam visited the crash site less than a week after the on-site investigation ended. They noticed the impact site had been backfilled with soil, but little else pointed to the fact that an international tragedy had happened there.

"There was nobody here," she recalls. "There was no flag, no people talking. All I remember is the sound of the birds and the rustling of the high grass. It will be etched in my mind forever."

When Connie begins her weekly shift at the Memorial Plaza, she's often reminded of that day.

"When I start here at 9 o'clock, there is usually nobody here," she says. "I just stand here and hear the birds and the wind blowing through the trees, and I just think, 'What a beautiful place to have been laid to rest.'"

Of the thousands of interactions she has had while greeting visitors over the past two decades, Stevanus says one in particular stands out. A man approached her, saying he was a college roommate and lifelong friend of passenger Joseph DeLuca, who was on his way to Napa Valley with his girlfriend, Linda Gronlund.

"He told me that Joe was the best man in his wedding, and that Joe had told him he was going to propose to Linda on this trip and had the diamond ring with him," Connie says. "I don't know if the ring was ever recovered."

The story-bearers

Adam Shaffer, chief of interpretation and education for the Flight 93 National Memorial, says the buildings, exhibits and monuments at the site tell the story of Flight 93; the ambassadors, however, give that story a human voice.

And he would know. The Shanksville native has been involved with the Flight 93 memorial from Day 1. In addition to being one of the original ambassadors, he interned at the National Memorial while in college and was a park ranger and volunteer coordinator there for 14 years. Today, he oversees visitor services at the site.

"The volunteer ambassadors are absolutely integral to the visitor experience here," Adam says, noting many share their personal memories of 9/11 and the Flight 93 crash, the impacts on the community, and how the memorial site has evolved from a roadside pull-off to a 2,200-acre national park.

"The ambassadors have been witness to the transformation of the site from the very beginning," he adds. "They are intertwined with the site's history forever. They truly have been the story-bearers for 25 years."

Today, only two of the original volunteers remain on the schedule: Roxanne Sullivan and Sally Ware.

Like many of her fellow volunteers, Sally says the events of the day hit close to home. Her daughter, a flight attendant for American Airlines, was scheduled to fly out of Washington, D.C., at 1:30 p.m. on 9/11.

"Thank God she was safe," Sally says. "She lost her job for a year, but she's still working as a flight attendant today."

Sally says she never imagined that the commitment she made in 2002 would still be part of her life nearly a quarter-century later.

"I was 57 then. Now, I'm 82, and I can't walk. It's still a wonderful experience. I love talking to people. I love meeting people."

Every Wednesday afternoon, she rolls her wheelchair into position so she can greet another generation of visitors at the Memorial Plaza.

"It's become part of my life," Sally says. "When you're here, you forget your problems. You forget your aches and pains when you think of those 40 people and what they went through."

She smiles: "We've got to keep their memory alive. Everybody needs to know what happened here." 🇺🇸

Learn These Energy Buzz Words

MICHAEL T. CRAWFORD, SENIOR TECHNICAL EDITOR

AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY was greeted by a heatwave, putting utilities and grid operators on high alert to make sure there was enough electricity to meet demand.

Until recently, electricity demand had flat-lined, with most investments going toward efficiency upgrades, infrastructure improvements and storm resilience, among other things. Now, however, hyperscale data centers that power artificial intelligence (AI) have increased demand beyond what current resources can handle. In response, experts are calling for more dispatchable generation before a lack of capacity drives electricity prices even higher.

If you're new to this conversation or left scratching your head when talk around power turns technical, here are some key words to know:

Data centers resemble warehouses containing rows upon rows of computer processors, powering everything from email to video streaming. Facilities powering AI can consume as much electricity as millions of homes and often

operate 24/7, driving up demand for electricity.

Demand refers to the amount of electricity needed at any given moment. Demand (or load) must be matched, not exceeded, by generation sources, such as nuclear or hydroelectric plants, to avoid brownouts or blackouts.

Demand-response programs reduce the demand on the system, which has the same balancing effect as increasing generation, making such programs economical alternatives to building new generation resources. Programs such as Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s (Allegheny) Coordinated Load Management System lets cooperatives partner with their consumer-members to voluntarily reduce electric use during demand peaks when the cost of electricity is highest.

Generation resources are the natural materials, fuels, and energy flows that produce electricity, primarily categorized into fossil fuels (natural gas, coal, petroleum), nuclear energy, and renewable energy (wind, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal).

Capacity measures how much energy a resource could generate if operating at full power. Like lanes on a highway, capacity goes unused most of the time, but it is critical to maintaining grid stability under extreme conditions. The more generation resources on the grid — and the faster these resources can maximize their output — the more capacity the grid has.

Baseload generation refers to electricity that can be produced around the clock and is traditionally supplied by large, steady sources, such as nuclear, natural gas and coal-fired plants, and some hydroelectric plants. They support the grid by producing a reliable flow of energy.

Dispatchable generation refers to electricity that can be produced on demand by such sources as natural gas plants and battery storage facilities. They support the grid by adjusting energy to match minute-to-minute changes in demand.

Intermittent generation refers to electricity that can't be produced on demand, such as solar or wind energy. Their output changes based on the weather.

Want to know more about where your electricity comes from? Visit alleghenyelectriccoop.com to learn how Allegheny provides electricity at the lowest cost possible for consumer-members through a mix of resources. 

ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., based in Harrisburg, Pa., is the wholesale power 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.



WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?: The folks at your rural electric cooperative have their own lingo. They'll toss around words like "demand," "capacity" and "generation," but what does it all mean? This month's Energy Matters column takes some of the guesswork out of the conversation.



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Local Lore

Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative

Untouchable

Who would have ever predicted that Coudersport in Potter County, served by Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, could be the home of one of the most well-known special agents of the 20th century?

Eliot Ness became famous for leading *The Untouchables*, a small team of federal investigators in Chicago who were picked for their ability to thwart corruption. Ness and his colleagues ultimately brought down notorious gangster Al Capone for tax evasion in 1931.

While that history is widely known due to the success of Ness's book, "The Untouchables" — as well as films and TV series of the same



CALLING COUDERSPORT HOME: Eliot Ness, a famous crimefighter and member of *The Untouchables*, spent the final months of his life in Coudersport, Potter County.

name — what might be forgotten is that he spent his final months in Coudersport. Indeed, at the age of 54 — and shortly after approving the

final draft of his book — Ness died there of a heart attack in May 1957.

Proud of its connection to Ness, the borough is home to the Eliot Ness Museum, and last month, the community celebrated Eliot Ness Day in honor of the 100th anniversary of his first day on the job with the U.S. Treasury Department.

This is all to say, despite his brief time in Coudersport, Ness and his legacy continue to live on in this small Pennsylvania borough. 📍



Main Office: Mansfield, Pa.
Consumer-members served: 19,684
Website: tri-countyrec.com



Bearing witness

This month's artwork comes from McKenzie Burgon, 10, granddaughter of Rodney and Debra Wahl, who are members of Sullivan County Rural Electric Cooperative. McKenzie drew a bear because she loves to go to her Pop and Grammie's house, where she sees many of them. One afternoon, she says, she watched as a mama bear scooted her baby up a tree. Thank you, McKenzie, for sharing your artwork with us!

McKenzie Burgon, age 10, Sullivan County 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 seen on their travels or read in *Penn Lines*. Paints, pencils, crayons, clay, sand — any physical medium is OK! You may send digital photos of the creation to CommunityCorner@prea.com, but please: no digital artwork.

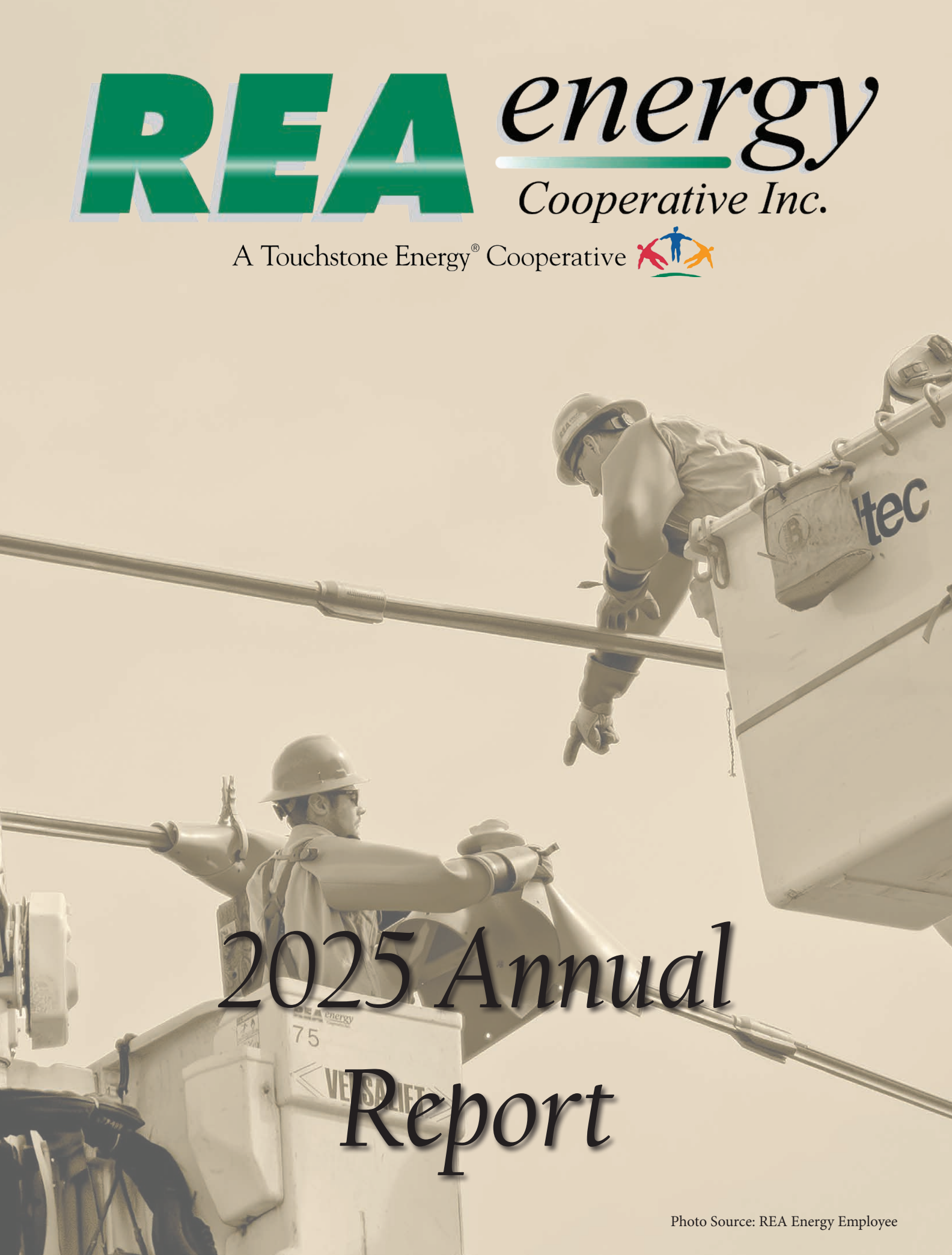
Please include the artist's name, age and electric cooperative, plus a 25- to 50-word description of the art.



REA *energy*

Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



2025 Annual Report

Photo Source: REA Energy Employee

2025 Executive Report

We are pleased to report to you, our consumer-members, on the continued strength and stability of your cooperative. This past year was challenging. We faced significant increases in wholesale power costs, driven by the market as well as equipment inflation pressures that affected utilities across the region. Through careful financial planning, proactive cost management, and a necessary wholesale rate adjustment, the cooperative maintained financial stability while continuing to invest in system reliability and member service.

The following are just some of our 2025 accomplishments:

Finance

Revenue increased by 15% in 2025 due to a wholesale rate adjustment to accommodate the market increase. In addition, there was a modest 2.5% increase in member energy use. Operating expenses increased 15% in 2025, while the cooperative's total cost of purchased power was \$33.3 million.

The cooperative received a non-cash patronage capital allocation of approximately \$1.1 million from our wholesale power provider. Combined with operating results, this enabled the cooperative to achieve total cash and non-cash margins of \$5.4 million. These margins strengthen the cooperative's equity position, support ongoing infrastructure investments and ensure continued compliance with lender financial requirements.

Detailed financial statements can be found on subsequent pages of this issue of *Penn Lines*. The cooperative's records were audited by an independent accounting firm, which issued a clean audit opinion.

Member services

REA Energy Cooperative continued to expand member services in 2025.

The cooperative held an in-person and virtual annual meeting, and nearly 400 members attended. We also held a Member Appreciation Month in October in conjunction with National Cooperative Month.

Additionally, REA Energy did the following:

- ▶ Provided safety demonstrations with our tabletop, high-voltage display.
- ▶ Increased the use of mobile devices in field vehicles for up-to-date information flow.
- ▶ Educated and communicated with members via regular posts on the cooperative's social media pages, *Penn Lines* articles, and printed materials.
- ▶ Promoted Touchstone Energy, a national cooperative that provides our members with benefits.
- ▶ Sent 14 students on Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.
- ▶ Promoted and enhanced the "Members Sharing with Members" fund to help consumers in need due to unemployment or financial hardship.
- ▶ Encouraged large commercial members, known as key accounts, to expand on our system, which can help reduce costs for all members.
- ▶ Adhered to our core principles, enhanced existing programs and offered new technology to better serve members.

REA Energy Services

REA Energy Services, our for-profit subsidiary, continued to be successful due to an increase in commercial consumers. The subsidiary had solid sales in all four business lines, including heating, ventilation and air-conditioning products (HVAC), electrical contracting, generators, and tree trimming.

REA Energy Services installs most types of HVAC systems, such as electric boilers, and three major heat pumps, including ductless, air-source, and geothermal systems. Through education and emphasizing the cost-saving benefits of these products, we continue to install many of these systems.

We anticipate future interest from members due to the difference between volatile fossil fuel prices and low REA Energy electricity rates. Because profits from REA Energy Services go back to the cooperative, its success helps keep rates low.

Most of the subsidiary's products provide direct profits to the cooperative and increase electric sales, which also help keep rates low. The subsidiary not only benefits the cooperative, but it also benefits members who may purchase high-efficiency products to save money on monthly energy bills.

Our electrical contracting business line continues to provide safe electrical upgrades to our residential consumers and provides solutions for commercial consumers. Our load technicians play a pivotal role in increasing electric sales by providing services at a competitive price. This makes it easier for commercial and industrial accounts to relocate to cooperative lines, which increases sales.

REA Energy Services recorded approximately \$1,199,294 in revenue for 2025 due to great customer service, honesty and exceptional value, making the subsidiary the company of choice for many people.

REA Energy Services will continue offering more convenient and energy-efficient products and services in the future. We encourage members to think of our subsidiary for any future contracting jobs and tell a friend about its excellent products and services.

Rights of way

REA Energy constantly monitors the reliability of our power system. Each year, an outage summary report identifies areas that need attention and where outages are historically likely to occur. Tree-related outages accounted for 87,841 outage hours in 2025, resulting in 5.9% of the total outage hours for the year.

Last year, the cooperative spent more than \$4.5 million on cutting trees in rights of way for line extensions to serve new members, as well as on regular cutting and herbicide treatments for existing rights of way. Contributions for rights of way were made by various companies and members in 2025.

Substations we focused on in 2025 were:

- ▶ **Fairview** — cut 66 miles
- ▶ **Georgeville** — cut 118 miles

- **Latimer** — cut 27 miles
- **Laurel** — cut 132 miles
- **Livermore** — cut 108 miles

Maintaining rights of way remains a time-consuming and labor-intensive task. If you notice trees that present an immediate threat to the cooperative's power lines, contact us so we can investigate.

Reliability/system improvements

REA Energy strives to provide reliable electric service to its members. This year, the cooperative focused on its four-year work plan by replacing more than 800 poles across the system. REA Energy also replaced and upgraded more than 17 miles of line.

Rebuilding, relocation and upgrading electric lines included:

Overhead — 17 miles

Clyde Substation

- Bethel Cemetery Road — 0.65 miles
- Horse Thief Road — 0.70 miles

Livermore Substation

- Laughlin Farm Road — 1.1 miles
- Cunkelman Road — 2.3 miles
- Yankee Hill Road — 0.8 miles
- Matt Dale's Road — 1.45 miles
- Newport Road — 1.28 miles

Parkwood Substation

- Craig Road — 0.87 miles
- Wertz Road — 0.46 miles

Strongstown Substation

- Highway 259 South — 2 miles

Uniontown Substation

- Fir Road — 0.3 miles
- Mumau Road — 0.43 miles
- Lentz Road — 0.77 miles
- Snyder Road — 0.84 miles
- Gipsy Road — 0.77 miles
- Vanderbilt Road — 0.35 miles
- Valley Road — 0.48 miles
- Donahey Road — 0.78 miles
- Spruce Road — 0.74 miles

Substation/metering points

REA Energy is in the second year of its four-year work plan and the final year of its 10-year work plan. The four-year work plan runs through 2028 and includes about 10 to 15 miles of reconductoring projects each year. The cooperative completed the following projects.

- **Georgeville:** Updated voltage regulator control for the Trade City circuit.
- **Georgeville/Washington:**

Replaced the failed supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA)-controlled tie switch.

► Indiana North/Shadowood:

Replaced the failed SCADA-controlled tie switch.

► Livermore Substation:

Completed the substation rebuild.

► Parkwood Substation:

Installed voltage regulators on the Shadowood circuit.

► Smithport Substation:

Updated voltage regulator control on the Smithport circuit.

► St. Augustine Substation:

Updated voltage regulator control on the Fallen Timber circuit.

2025 outages

REA Energy had 1,489,048 total member outage hours for 2025, compared with 239,859 in 2024. REA experienced seven major-event storms in 2025, accounting for 1,302,285 total member outage hours, compared with no major-event storms in 2024. Outages on the transmission system owned by investor-owned utility FirstEnergy accounted for 35,338 member hours in 2025, compared with 68,457 member hours in 2024. FirstEnergy is the cooperative's power transmission supplier.

Continued on page 14H



Michael J. Bertolino,
Chairman, CCD, BLC, Gold



Chad Carrick, MBA, CFPC
President & CEO

Board of Directors

Wayne Farabaugh, Vice Chairman, PREA Director, CCD, BLC, Gold

Robert Neese, Secretary/Treasurer, Allegheny Director, CCD, BLC, Gold

Thomas Aurandt, CCD

Tom Beresnyak, CCD, BLC

Sandra Dill, CCD, BLC

Anthony Enciso, CCD, BLC, Gold

John R. Learn, CCD, BLC, Gold

Rick Shope, CCD, BLC

Headquarters Office

Indiana, Pa.

Physical Location: 75 Airport Road
Address: P.O. Box 70,
Indiana, PA 15701-0070
724-349-4800 or 800-211-5667

Office Hours - Monday-Friday
7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Staff

Barry Baker, Indiana Operations Manager

Erin Bauer, SHRM-CP, Manager of Consumer & Employee Services

Shane Cribbs, CISSP, Network & Systems Manager

Dave Daugherty, CSP, Safety & Right of Way Manager

Steve Malesky, Ebensburg Operations Supervisor

Lisa Gardill, CFPC, Director of Finance & Accounting Services

Nick Hartman, Manager of Engineering

Stacy Hilliard, CCC, CKA, Communications & Marketing Manager, Local Pages Editor

Chris Weller, Load Management Supervisor

District Office

Ebensburg, Pa.

Physical Location: 127 Municipal Road
Address: P.O. Box 273,
Ebensburg, PA 15931-0273
814-472-8570

Office Hours - Monday, Wednesday, Friday
7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Closed Tuesday and Thursday

Emergencies/Outages - 844-920-3395 or 800-332-7273

Email - reaenergy@reaenergy.com

Website - reaenergy.com

2025 Statistics

Number of Services - 24,639

Miles of Electric Line - 2,798

System Peak (January) - 92,770 kilowatts

Kilowatt-Hours Sold - 389,546,578

Net Plant Value - \$122,941,460

Est. Gross Load Mgmt. Savings - \$633,525.32

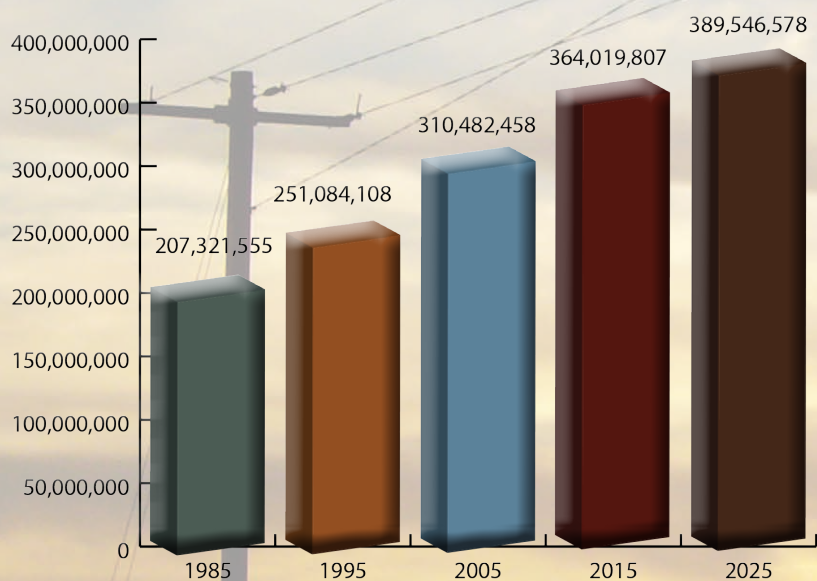
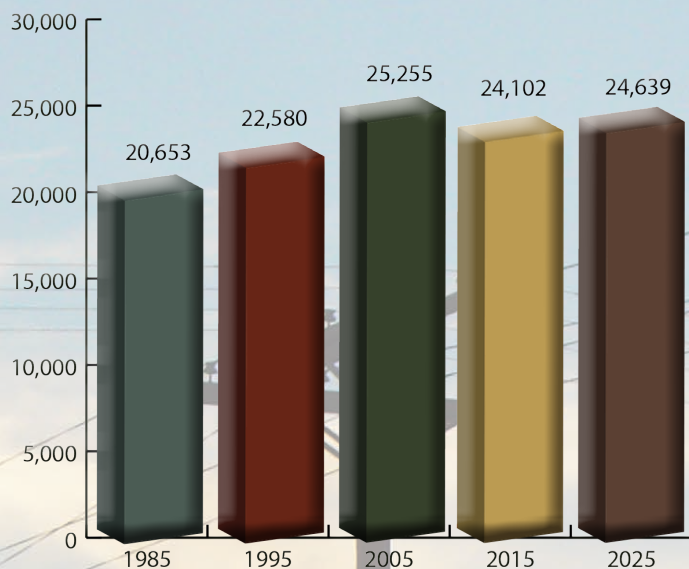
Water Heaters Controlled - 6,414

Water Heaters Issued to Date - 5,353

Round-Up Participants - 1,796

Full-Time Employees - 70

Number of Accounts



kWh Sold

Net Utility Plant

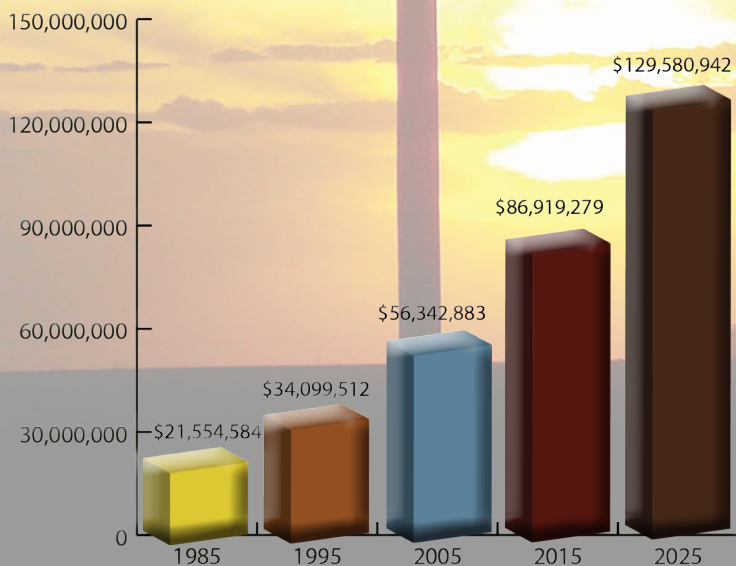
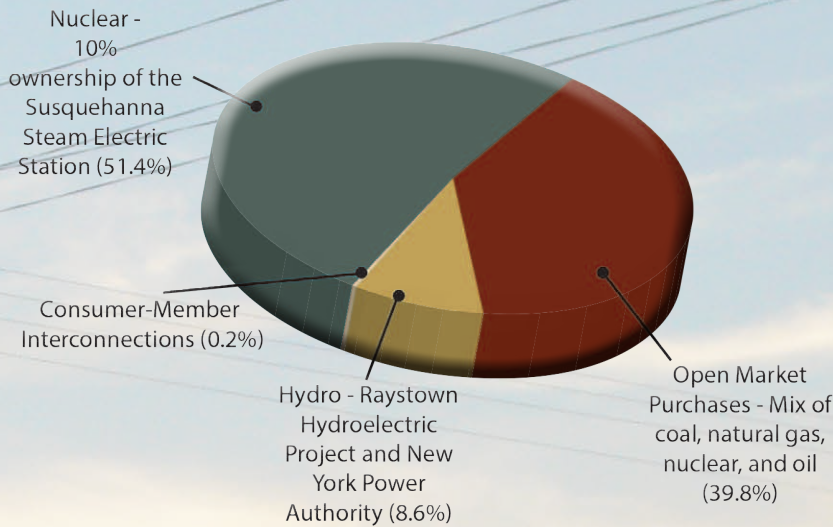
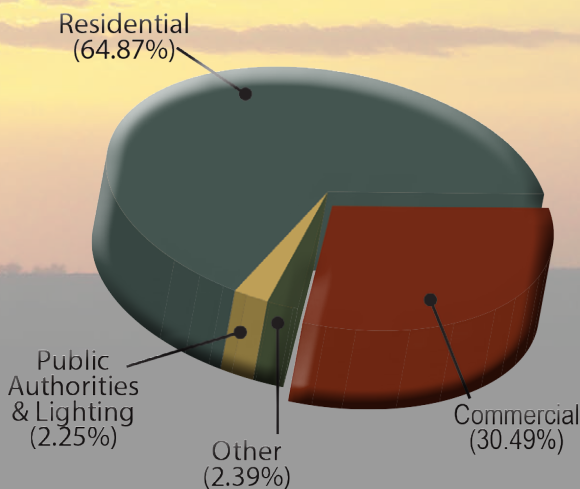
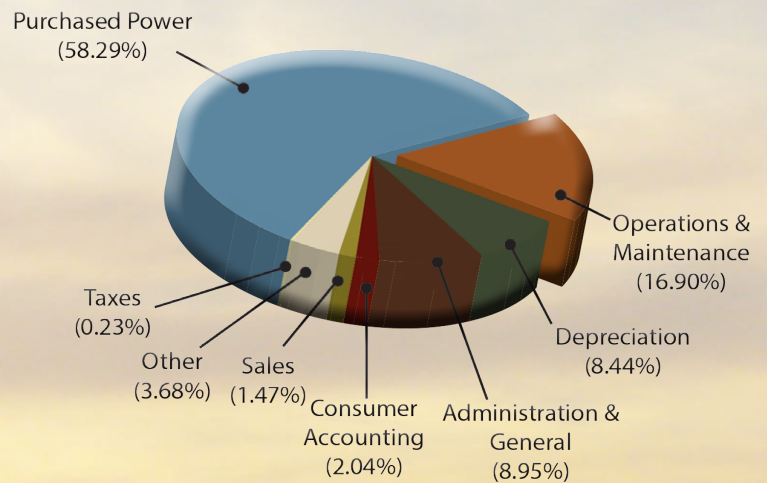


Photo Source: Cooperative.com



Wholesale Power Supply Sources

How the Cooperative's Dollar Was Used



Sources of the Cooperative's Dollar

2025 Financial Report

Balance Sheets*

<u>Assets</u>	December 31,	
	2024	2025
<u>Electric Plant</u>		
In Service and Construction in Progress	161,315,362	170,088,273
Less: Accumulated Provisions for Depreciation	<u>38,373,902</u>	<u>39,328,929</u>
TOTAL ELECTRIC PLANT	<u>122,941,460</u>	<u>130,759,344</u>
Investments in Associated Organizations	<u>24,480,089</u>	<u>24,712,140</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash	2,133,697	2,229,369
Temporary Investments	3,017,009	434,726
Accounts Receivable (less reserves)	2,699,486	2,693,202
Accrued Utility Revenues	4,038,349	5,099,121
Materials and Supplies (at average cost)	2,985,257	3,525,621
Other Assets and Deferred Charges	<u>459,609</u>	<u>578,174</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>15,333,407</u>	<u>14,560,213</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>162,754,956</u>	<u>170,031,697</u>
<u>Equities and Liabilities</u>		
<u>Equities</u>		
Memberships	93,725	93,230
Patronage Capital	86,728,453	92,176,938
Other Equities	<u>157,680</u>	<u>160,443</u>
TOTAL EQUITIES	<u>86,979,858</u>	<u>92,430,611</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Long-Term Debt:		
RUS Mortgage Notes (Less Current Maturities)	59,833,477	57,570,745
CFC Mortgage Notes (Less Current Maturities)	910,083	403,108
Other	1,061,487	1,267,275
Accumulated Post-Retirement Benefit Obligation	615,964	743,980
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	3,761,345	3,052,837
Line of Credit	0	5,669,752
Accounts Payable:		
Purchased Power	2,480,260	3,144,732
Other	1,421,528	705,066
Consumer Deposits and Prepayments	100,501	141,376
Other Liabilities and Deferred Credits	<u>5,590,453</u>	<u>4,902,275</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>75,775,098</u>	<u>77,601,086</u>
TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES	<u>162,754,956</u>	<u>170,031,697</u>

Statements of Revenue and Patronage Capital*

	December 31,	
	2024	2025
<u>Operating Revenue</u>	<u>55,265,519</u>	<u>63,248,289</u>
<u>Operating Expenses</u>		
Cost of Power	28,367,522	33,313,002
Distribution - Operations	2,082,354	2,316,408
Distribution - Maintenance	6,370,237	7,339,555
Consumer Accounts	1,120,594	1,167,789
Sales	806,173	840,808
Administrative and General	4,947,459	5,116,982
Depreciation	4,439,054	4,820,772
Other Operating Costs	1,622,827	1,912,851
Taxes	129,832	132,434
Interest - Other	<u>33,978</u>	<u>186,968</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>49,920,030</u>	<u>57,147,569</u>
<u>Fixed Charges</u>		
Interest on Long-Term Debt	<u>2,029,056</u>	<u>2,089,511</u>
<u>G & T and Other Capital Credits</u>	<u>2,079,106</u>	<u>1,269,402</u>
NET OPERATING MARGINS	<u>5,395,539</u>	<u>5,280,611</u>
<u>Non-Operating Margins</u>		
Interest Income	352,998	130,808
Other Non-Operating Income (Expenses)	<u>134,053</u>	<u>94,173</u>
TOTAL NON-OPERATING MARGINS	<u>487,051</u>	<u>224,981</u>
Provisions for Taxes on Income	(54,911)	(57,107)
NET MARGINS	<u>5,827,679</u>	<u>5,448,485</u>
<u>Patronage Capital</u> at Beginning of Year	82,237,088	86,728,453
Less: Retirement of Capital Credits	(1,336,314)	(0)
Other Adjustment	(0)	(0)
<u>Patronage Capital, at End of Year</u>	<u>86,728,453</u>	<u>92,176,938</u>

Note: The capital credits from Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., and other cooperatives, represent patronage capital credits allocated to us, but not paid.

The accounts of our cooperative for 2024 and 2025 have been audited by Fiore Fedeli Snyder Carothers, LLP (FFSC). The auditors' complete report is on file in the office of the cooperative and is available for inspection by members of the cooperative.

*Consolidated Financial Statements

Causes of Outages in 2025

CAUSES OF OUTAGES	TOTAL OUTAGE HOURS (Hours out multiplied by the number of consumers affected)	PERCENTAGE OF ALL OUTAGE HOURS
Trees or Limbs	87,841.82	5.9%
Power/Transmission Supplier	35,338.02	2.4%
Distribution Line Equipment	8,150.67	0.5%
Customer Caused	15,733.78	1.1%
Pre-Arranged	15,051.05	1.0%
Unknown	14,292.98	1.0%
Animals	3,693.62	0.2%
Lightning-/Weather-Related	6,660.63	0.4%
Major Event	1,302,285.58	87.5%
TOTALS	1,489,048.15	100.0%

Photo Source: REA Energy Employee

Important Annual Meeting News!



The annual meeting of the members of REA Energy Cooperative, Inc., will be held Tuesday, Sept. 22, online only. The business meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m.

To register for the virtual meeting, visit reaenergy.com and click on the "Annual Meeting Registration" button.

Please register by noon Sept. 22.

Registration admits you to the virtual annual meeting and gives members a chance to win a door prize. Members who participate in the online meeting for the entire time will receive a \$15 bill credit.

REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting Sept. 22, 2026

5:30 p.m.

- Statement of a Quorum
- Reading of Notices
- Action on 2025 Minutes
- Election Results (District 7, 8 and 9)
- Chairman's Report
- President and CEO's Report
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment
- Awarding of Prizes

Photo Source: REA Energy Employee

Management and staff continue to focus on system improvements and work closely with our transmission and wholesale power suppliers to improve reliability.

Annual meeting

REA Energy's virtual annual meeting is scheduled Tuesday, Sept. 22, and will be streamed live from the cooperative's headquarters in Indiana, Pa. The business meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m.

To register to view the meeting, go to reaenergy.com and click on the "Annual Meeting Registration" button before noon Sept. 22. This will admit you to the virtual annual meeting and allow eligible members to win a door prize. Also, members who attend will receive a \$15 bill credit.

October is National Cooperative Month

Being part of a cooperative means being part of something special. REA Energy will celebrate National Cooperative Month in October, along with more than 40,000 other cooperative businesses serving more than 140 million people nationwide.

This year, REA Energy will be holding a Member Appreciation Event throughout October and November. Members who were not able to participate in the online annual meeting will need to present their Annual Meeting Member Card (the bottom portion of their Annual Meeting Notice) to receive a gift packet. This will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Only one gift packet per membership will be given while quantities last. ***If you received the \$15 bill credit for participating in the online meeting, you will not be eligible to receive a gift packet.**

For more information, visit reaenergy.com or call 724-349-4800 or 800-211-5667.



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Right-of-Way Management/Facility Construction News

REA Energy contractors will be completing tree-trimming work in the following areas in September: Contractor crews from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way of the Smithport and Locust substations, in addition to emergency maintenance areas.

Members in the areas affected will be notified. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All contractor employees will carry identification. If you have any questions, call 724-349-4800 or view the specifications at reaenergy.com.

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CHECK THE WEATHER

BEFORE YOU GO

From 2006 through 2024, 492 people were struck and killed by lightning in the U.S. Nearly two-thirds of the deaths happened while people were enjoying outdoor leisure activities such as fishing, camping and running.

June, July and August are the peak months for lightning across the U.S. More than 72% of lightning deaths occurred in these months, with Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays having slightly more deaths than any other day of the week.

Lightning often strikes away from heavy rain; it can happen up to 10 miles away from rainfall. To prevent lightning-related tragedies, when thunder roars, go indoors.

Source: National Lightning Safety Council

**More Than 72% of Lightning
Fatalities Occur From June
Through August**



Safely Install Efficient Recessed Light Fixtures in Insulated Ceilings

JAMES DULLEY

DEAR JIM: I like recessed lights, but I hear they are leaky and inefficient. Are there new types that are more efficient? How do I install one properly in an insulated ceiling?
— *Drew H.*

DEAR DREW: Recessed lights have been popular for decades and are still the lighting fixture of choice for overhead lighting. As with any

product, some recessed fixtures are more energy efficient than others. Some similar looking efficient ones can use 80% less electricity than inefficient ones.

From a conservation standpoint, air leakage is not an issue when installed in the first-floor ceiling of a two-story house. However, if they are installed in an insulated ceiling under an attic, a hole is created from the living area to the attic.

There are newer designs of energy-efficient recessed light fixtures that meet EnergyStar® standards. These fixtures are airtight and use LED light sources to reduce electricity consumption. The inside surface of the new fixtures is more reflective to reduce the amount of light energy that gets trapped inside the fixture, avoiding light loss and heat buildup.

There are two types of recessed light fixtures — insulation-contact-rated (ICR) and non-ICR. ICR fixtures are typically a can-within-a-can design that seals against the ceiling. Insulation can be placed against the ICR fixture without creating excessive heat buildup and a potential fire hazard. As a safety note, if you have non-ICR recessed lighting fixtures under an attic, the best option is to find airtight, ICR replacements.

It is not difficult to install recessed light fixtures yourself. The key to an attractive, efficient installation is to cut the mounting holes to the exact size as recommended by the manufacturer. This makes it much easier to create a good seal between the fixture and the ceiling. Before cutting holes, make sure the fixture layout clears all floor joists.

First, determine your lighting goals. To brighten an entire room, downlighting is effective. Typical 6-inch-diameter vertical fixtures work well for this. In a normal-height ceiling, spacing the fixtures 4 feet apart provides an even lighting pattern at floor level.

Approximately 20 lumens per square foot provides adequate ambient brightness for most rooms. If not listed on the packaging, the recessed floodlight beam angle for a typical parabolic aluminized reflector-type bulb is about 45 degrees and a bulged reflector (BR)-type is about 55 degrees. For a 10-by-15-foot room, using BR-type bulbs requires three less fixtures for even room lighting.

For task lighting, a single vertical fixture directly over the work area is effective. Wall-wash recessed lighting can be used to accent a painting or some other wall hanging. An eyeball recessed light works well because the light path can be adjusted. For a sloped cathedral ceiling, install an angular, recessed ICR fixture.

An integrated, LED-recessed fixture is ideal for task lighting and easy to install. One should last decades at three hours/day. The light quality options range from warm (2,700 K) to white daylight (5,000 K). Smaller 3- or 4-inch-diameter fixtures, which use a replaceable LED bulb with a two-prong GU10 base, just snap into the hole in the ceiling. 🛠️



ACUITY BRANDS

EFFICIENT FIXTURES: Angular, recessed lights fit a sloped ceiling for downlighting to highlight a home's architectural design features.

HAVE A QUESTION FOR JIM? Send inquiries to James Dulley, Penn Lines, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit dulley.com.

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Found Something Weird, Thought of You

MITCHELL KYD

WHEN I LAST VISITED WOODCARVER Gay Foltz, a little pile of sticks and broken branches lay within her reach, not blocks of pine or beautiful butternut. She was busy at her workbench, adding finishing touches to her latest project: the sawed-off stump of last year's Christmas tree. Nearby, a semi-circle of tree fungus was beginning to reveal what she saw in it — the masked faces of a mama raccoon and her baby.

When I asked if she did her own foraging for materials, she grinned. "Friends bring me things all the time," she said. "Usually, it's like: 'I found something weird and thought of you.'"

We all know people who have that special vision to see beyond "something weird" and recognize what it can become. My son is like that, but he's not an artist. He's a pragmatist and has earned a storied reputation for creative problem-solving and making do with the materials at hand.

One of his favorite stories about maneuvers in the California desert was the day his sergeant brought him a scavenged two-by-four. As the legend goes, Sarge said something like: "Mitchell! Found this. Don't know where it came from but figured you could use it." With a few nails pulled from a skid and a little assembly magic my son calls "FITHO" (Figure It the Heck Out), he constructed a weapons rack big enough for the whole platoon, making it easier to comply with Army regulations about securing weapons.

Worn out horseshoes and discarded plumbing parts become lamps and coat racks in the hands of people who are delighted by the weird things friends bring them. Antique, people-powered lawn mowers become perches for rustic birdhouses. Broken pottery and glassware get smashed into smaller shards to be reassembled as a mosaic walkway.

Gears from broken watches, old costume jewelry, and even unused catheter tubing are all idea generators for Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative member, artist, and businessman James Barefoot. The unexpected is integral for his designs as he overlays an interpretative twist — and a little bling — on the masterpieces nature has already

created. His resin butterflies and dragonflies are labeled and exhibited in specimen cases as the real thing, but look closer. You might find a wee, metal smiley face or colored pencil hidden in the construction.

The shift to repurposing found things became a hallmark for a young woman I hired to paint a scene on my daughter's bedroom wall years ago. As her true talent emerged, her art has earned top honors from the National Wild Turkey Federation. She is best known now for her exquisite depictions of wild turkeys, painted in meticulous detail on turkey feathers.

Designers at a family-owned jewelry store turned a drywall screw into wearable art, only one of many unusual pieces they've transformed at customers' requests. The customer who commissioned it had fought a long and hard battle to remove the screw after others had failed. Not exactly a sword-in-the-stone story, but it's certainly a reminder for her of one of life's little victories and the power of overcoming a challenge.

All sorts of extraordinary reimaginings will be on display soon as September launches the annual string of harvest arts and crafts shows and jumpstarts holiday shopping. Shows and bazaars hosted by churches, fire companies and service organizations will be dotting calendars everywhere. They not only support the work of our local artists, friends, and neighbors, but they also funnel proceeds back into

our small towns and communities.

As you're thinking about your gift-giving lists in the weeks ahead, be sure to keep these events on your radar. You'll find beautiful, handcrafted items that chain stores and online retailers don't offer while reinvesting more of your dollars in services for our local communities. You might even discover a gift that comes complete with a story — a weird thing found and reinvented by a visionary. 🍷

YVONNE BUTTS-MITCHELL celebrates the joys and poignant moments of rural living under the pen name Mitchell Kyd. Her stories from the Path Valley Hotel were hatched by encounters with contractors, critters and creepy crawlies while rehabbing the family cabin after its 17-year stint as a giant closet.

MITCHELL KYD



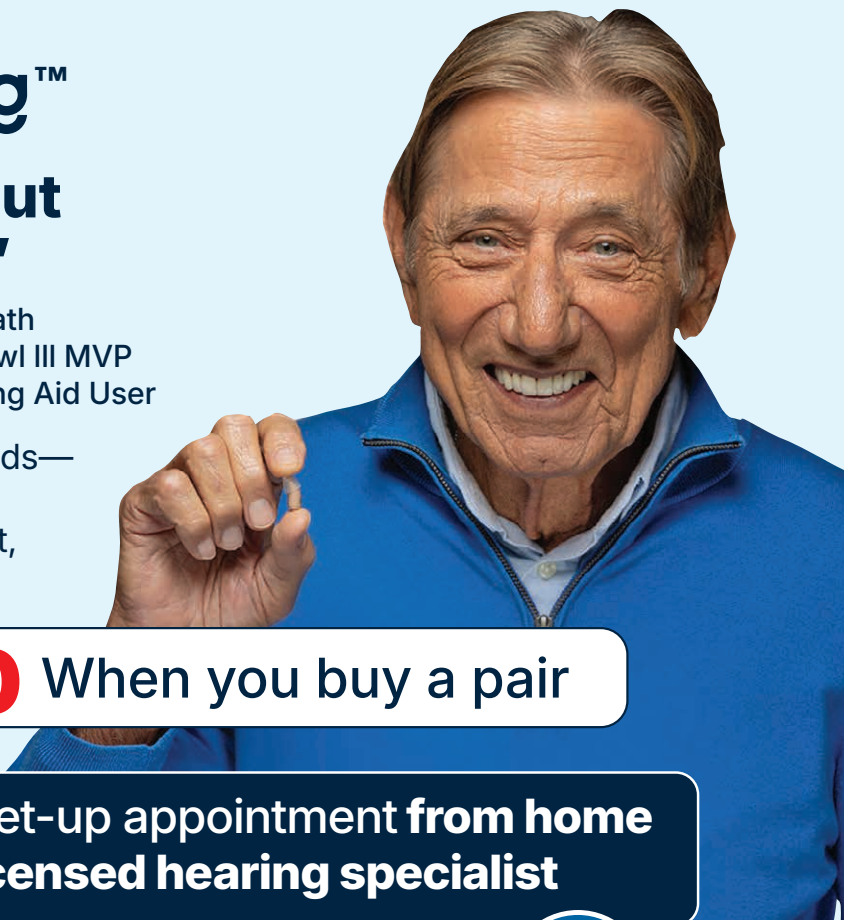
MECHANIX PULCHRA: A paintbrush becomes a butterfly thanks to Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative member James Barefoot and his ability to see something wonderful in something weird.



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Giving Blood in the Adirondacks

STEVE PIATT

PAULA AND I PADDLED OUR WAY into the St. Regis Canoe Area of the Adirondacks more than 30 years ago, launching a lifetime of wilderness adventures that took us into many more remote areas, some of them well above the Arctic Circle.

We were looking for solitude on this maiden voyage but had plenty of company on that paddle-and-portage outing: millions of blackflies, those biting insects of Northwoods fame.

We should have known to expect them based on the mid-June timing of our trip. But this was before our eventual move to the 'Dacks, where we would become well accustomed to the annual bloodletting arrival of the swarm of tiny insects.

But back then, our singular focus was plunging into the wilderness so Paula could count loons and their chicks for the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. It didn't seem like wilderness at all, initially, as we drove through the Saranac Inn golf course en route to our launching point on Hoel Pond. We'd paddle through Hoel and into Turtle, Slang, and Long ponds, with only short walks between each.

The blackflies accompanied us every step of the way.

For all the route planning, gear selection, meal prep and paddling practice, we were not prepared — beyond the standard insect repellent — for the Adirondacks' version of the Welcome Wagon.

We raced between waters as best we could. I shouldered our lightweight-Kevlar canoe while Paula toted a backpack, and we then hustled back for a second load, blinking and choking our way through the swarm that seemed to block the sunlight.



BLOODLETTING: *Prosimulium hirtipes* – a common variety of blackfly widespread in eastern North America – have a nasty habit of biting so hard they draw blood, but it's a small price to pay for a trip through the Adirondacks.

Our only escape was getting back on the water, where a light breeze eased the assault. Once settled back into the paddling, we enjoyed encounters with loons on each pond, including one that escorted us to our next portage, gliding under our canoe in the crystal-clear water. I took time out to make a few casts, landing some scrappy smallmouth bass while Paula recorded loon sightings and nest locations.

Back at our campsites each evening, blackflies became a condiment as we downed our dinners in haste and retreated to our tent. A campfire was out of the question.

As darkness approached, however, we noticed the blackfly invasion would subside. Instead, mosquitoes would report for duty. It was a shift change of sorts: the blackflies punching out and the mosquitoes clocking in for the night. We hunkered down in the tent, swatting what blackflies had entered while listening to the humming of the mosquitoes outside.

We rationed our insect repellent over the three-day outing and sought refuge from the attacks with refreshing dips in the ponds as we grew more at home. The blackflies, once overwhelming, just became

part of the overall experience. It was the mosquitoes that left more of a mark: itching that lasted for weeks compared with simple blood loss from the blackflies.

The memories, though, lasted longer than the blackflies' onslaught. I recall my tan-colored flannel shirt turning a distinct gray, covered with the insects as we ended our day on the water and prepared a quick meal. We laughed as we scooped them out of our morning coffee and spit, snorted, and blinked our way through each portage.

In the many trips that followed — to Ontario's Algonquin and Quetico provincial parks, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of northern Minnesota, and northern Ontario's Temagami wilderness — we were prepared, mentally and physically, for the blackflies.

We found solitude, and so much more, even though we were often surrounded by millions of creatures. Moose. Bears. Wolves. Bass. Trout.

It was worth forfeiting a little blood. 🩸

STEVE PIATT is a veteran newspaper editor and outdoor writer who along with his wife, Paula, has hunted and fished across North America. He is most at home on the water and in the fields of the Keystone State. He lives in Bradford County.

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What's for Breakfast?

ANNE M. KIRCHNER

PHOTOS BY ANNE M. KIRCHNER



IN THE EARLY 1950s, the Cereal Institute established September as “Better Breakfast Month.” The Chicago-based trade association wanted to increase cereal sales and promote healthier eating. Indeed, breakfast is the most important meal of the day. A well-balanced breakfast boosts metabolism, which increases energy and concentration levels.

What's your daily breakfast routine? Granola made with rolled oats, maple syrup and dried fruit is a great start. Serve this crunchy treat with milk or Greek yogurt. If you're preparing breakfast for a large group, try a sausage and gravy breakfast casserole. On relaxed days, serve pancakes made with shredded apple and apple cider. 🍎

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

DRIED FRUIT & NUT GRANOLA

- 4 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1 cup pumpkin seeds
- ½ cup sunflower seeds
- 1 cup almonds, slivered, or hazelnuts, chopped
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- ½ cup maple syrup
- 2 cups dried fruit medley

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, combine oats, seeds and nuts. Stir in olive oil and maple syrup. Spread mixture on a parchment-lined cookie sheet. Bake for 15 minutes. Stir the granola and bake for an additional 15 minutes or until oats are lightly golden. Cool granola completely, then add dried fruit medley. Store granola in an airtight container for up to two weeks. *Makes 6 to 8 servings.*



SAUSAGE & GRAVY BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

- 1 pound ground pork sausage
- 2 green onions, finely sliced
- ¼ cup butter
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups whole milk
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 (8-count) container refrigerated biscuit dough
- 6 large eggs
- ¼ cup heavy cream
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a skillet over medium heat, brown sausage. Add green onions; cook until tender. Remove from heat, drain grease and set aside. In a saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Add flour and whisk until a paste forms. Add milk and pepper and whisk slowly. Simmer until gravy thickens, whisking often. Stir in 1 cup sausage and reduce heat to low. Cut biscuits into quarters. In a greased 9-by-13-inch pan, place biscuits in a single layer. Top biscuits with remaining sausage and 1 cup cheese. In a separate bowl, whisk eggs and cream. Pour egg mixture over pan ingredients. Top with gravy and 1 cup cheese. Bake for 30 minutes. *Makes 6 to 8 servings.*



APPLE CIDER PANCAKES

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup whole wheat flour
- 4 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon cardamon
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 medium apple, shredded
- ½ cup pecans, chopped
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk
- ¾ cup apple cider
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

In a large mixing bowl, combine flours, sugar, cardamon, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add apple and pecans to flour mixture; toss to coat then set aside. In a separate bowl, whisk together eggs, buttermilk, apple cider, olive oil and vanilla. Add mixture to dry ingredients and whisk together until lumpy batter forms. Using a ¼-cup scoop, pour batter onto hot griddle and cook until bubbles appear on pancake's surface. Flip pancakes and cook until bottoms brown. *Makes 6 to 8 servings.*

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LISTEN NOW





A Sweet Start



Recipe Column Serves Up Six Decades of Reader Favorites

KATHY HACKLEMAN

Penn Lines Contributor

A WELL-KNOWN AND WELL-LOVED PENNSYLVANIA ingredient — Hershey's Chocolate — has the honor of being featured in the first recipe column in *Penn Lines* history.

The magazine's first issue — way back in October 1966 — didn't feature any recipes, but the second issue a month later included some from the iconic company founded by Pennsylvanian Milton S. Hershey. That started a tradition that continues today.

Lots of cooks in the kitchen

Throughout its 60-year history, *Penn Lines* has worked to stay relevant to its readers. That means some things have changed dramatically, while others have retained similarities to their original look. A trip through the archives reveals "Cooperative Kitchen," the magazine's monthly recipe column, falls somewhere in the middle.

Early columns were often provided by Penn State Extension or state Department of Agriculture sources, and many recipes focused on the specific interests of rural readers, such as the best ways to cook wild game. There were recipes of general interest, too, including ones to create tasty, homemade Christmas gifts.

In 1972, "Recipes" began to be listed in the *Penn Lines*' table of contents, signaling they were going to be a regular monthly feature moving forward. In 1975 and for several years afterward, recipes were included in a section known as "Woman to Woman." In possible recognition that

men also cooked, the name was eventually changed to "Country Kitchen" (sometimes spelled Kountry Kitchen). When the magazine was redesigned in 2022, the name changed to "Cooperative Kitchen."

In the mid-1980s, recipes were reprinted from cookbooks published by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA), the statewide advocate for cooperatives. Anita Leitzel Stambaugh, now retired from PREA, was one of the earliest staffers to coordinate the column, selecting recipes and writing the accompanying text. She still finds humor in those responsibilities, she says, because she's the last person who would claim to be a "cook." The duties then shifted to staff members David Scardena and John Drexler, who wrote the column throughout most of the 1990s.

In a move away from staff-driven recipe columnists, the magazine started bringing on a series of long-term contributors, including the late Linda Allison-Lewis, a restaurant critic and author of several cookbooks; Kitty Halke-Staley, who billed herself as a "cooking professional"; and Janette Hess, a freelance writer and Master Food Volunteer who led food classes and judged fair entries through the cooperative extension.

Hess continued to contribute her original recipes to *Penn Lines* before retiring in 2020. "I never met a recipe I didn't mess with," she says.

Today, Anne Kirchner whips up the "Cooperative Kitchen" column for *Penn Lines* by leaning into her two

professional interests: cooking and writing. She wrote a cookbook, owned a restaurant, managed a demonstration kitchen and taught cooking classes before becoming a *Penn Lines* contributor.

Kirchner enjoys experimenting with flavors and considers cooking to be an art that extends to how it's plated. She finds inspiration in old family recipes and cookbooks and is open to reader suggestions, which can be emailed to editor@prea.com.

Winning the popularity contest

Still a regular reader of "Cooperative Kitchen," Leitzel Stambaugh says she has noticed a greater focus on nutrition and healthy cooking.

"Early recipes would often use lard, which you seldom see anymore," she says. "More of the earlier recipes also used wild game, such as venison, and we had some that used bear meat and even had one for squirrel potpie."

One thing that has not changed is reader interest in the column. *Penn Lines* Editor Jill Ercolino says that in reader surveys, the column has traditionally been — and continues to be — one of the most-read sections of the magazine.

"Readers may skip the feature story," she says, "but nobody skips dessert."

As proof of that, here are two of the Hershey's Chocolate recipes that appeared in the November 1966 issue of *Penn Lines*:

CHOCOLATE MEDALLION CAKE

- ¼ cup butter or margarine
- ¼ cup vegetable shortening
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs, unbeaten
- 2 cups cake flour, sifted
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup Hershey's Cocoa
- ¾ cup boiling water
- 1½ teaspoons baking soda
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Grease and flour either two 9-inch layer cake pans or one 13-by-9-by-2-inch pan.

Cream butter or margarine and shortening together, then add sugar gradually, creaming until light and fluffy.

Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.

Sift flour and salt together; set aside.

Make a smooth paste of the cocoa and boiling water; cool slightly.

Stir baking soda into buttermilk and add,

alternately, with the sifted flour mixture to the creamed mixture, beginning and ending with the flour mixture.

Add cocoa mixture and blend thoroughly. Blend in vanilla.

Pour batter into prepared pans or pan.

Bake about 40 minutes for a 13-by-9-inch pan and about 35 minutes for layer pans.

Cool then frost with Fluffy Cocoa Frosting.

FLUFFY COCOA FROSTING

- ¾ cup Hershey's Cocoa
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ½ cup evaporated milk, divided

Mix cocoa and sugar together. Cream part of the cocoa-sugar mixture with the butter or margarine. Blend in vanilla and half the milk.

Add the remaining cocoa-sugar mixture and blend well. Add remaining milk and beat to desired spreading consistency; additional milk may be added if required.

Yield: Frosting for two 9-inch layers. 🍫



ISSUE MONTH AD DEADLINE

November	September 14
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- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Around the House | ☐ Motor Vehicles & Boats |
| ☐ Business Opportunities | ☐ Nursery & Garden |
| ☐ Employment Opportunities | ☐ Real Estate |
| ☐ Events | ☐ Recipes & Food |
| ☐ Gifts & Collectibles | ☐ Tools & Equipment |
| ☐ Livestock & Pets | ☐ Travel & Tourism |
| ☐ Miscellaneous | ☐ 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.

NEEDED: WOOD FURNITURE REFINISHER near Bedford REC, eight pieces, including desk, dinette set, etc. Please call 301-652-1414.

ON SALE! – CO-OP COOKBOOK GIFT PACK FOR \$12, includes shipping. "Country Cooking" and "Recipes Remembered" are collections of recipes from electric co-op members 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 in 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.

CONSULTING FORESTRY SERVICES

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.

ELECTRIC/GENERATORS

GARY & SONS, INC. OFFERS ELECTRICAL SERVICES to homes within a 45-mile radius of Falls Creek, Pa. We install Generac® generators and do generator maintenance using only American-made Amsoil® synthetic oil. We also install new panels, EV-charging stations, outlets and light fixtures, and do electrical repairs. We have flexible scheduling and experienced electricians. Mention this ad to receive \$500 off a new generator installation. Call 814-204-2633 or go online to garysinc.com. PA192811.

EVENTS

NICHOLSON BRIDGE DAY, SUN., SEPT. 13, 9 A.M. – 4 P.M. Main Street, Nicholson, Pa. 111th anniversary celebration of the bridge with 70+ vendors offering quality products and food. Live music, vintage fashion and car shows, chicken BBQ, childrens' games. 570-942-6747 for questions.

GIFTS & COLLECTIBLES

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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

GARY & SONS, INC. HEATING AND COOLING – Save money on fuel oil, propane, or your electric bill without sacrificing comfort – add a heat pump! Contact Gary & Sons, Inc. of Falls Creek, Pa., for a FREE estimate: 814-204-2633 or garysinc.com. A Lennox® Premier Dealer and Mitsubishi® Diamond Elite Contractor, Gary & Sons installs and services heating and cooling equipment and hot water tanks, and cleans ducts and dryer vents. PA192811.

MEATS

ANGUS FREEZER BEEF. \$3.75/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.

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.

FOR SALE: SEA CONTAINERS for storage, 20' and 40', used or new. One-trip use, also with side doors. Delivery available! Bedford County. Cove Container Sales, 717-475-1190.

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.

PLUMBING/WATER SYSTEMS

WATER ISSUES? IT'S TREATABLE! GARY & SONS, INC. can install a HALO® Water System to solve chlorine or hard water problems. All natural and environmentally safe, HALO systems do not require mountains of salt and allow healthy minerals to remain in place. Installed by our experienced plumbers, call 814-204-2633 for details or go online to garysinc.com. We now offer residential plumbing services within a 45-mile radius of Falls Creek, Pa. PA192811.

REAL ESTATE

VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE. Fishermen and beach lovers' paradise. Access the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean within minutes. Waterside Village 3/4-acre (+/-) homesites near marina from \$22,900 with beautiful common areas. Waterfront homesites in Clearview on scenic cove just minutes to the bay. \$150,000 and \$199,900 with dock. View properties on 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.

NEW LISTING! CLEARFIELD COUNTY – 46 acres, 2,023 sq. ft., three-bedroom, two-bathroom home, barn. Very private mountain living, \$499,000. Fifty acres, cabin, utilities, timber, OGMs, \$339,000. Bedford County – 8.1 acres, pavilion, \$89,000. Cambria County – 18.2 acres, gas well, \$99,000. www.timberlandrealty.net. Ron Westover: 724-422-5525, 716-962-9935.

CAMP/COTTAGE. Four-and-a-half acres, 4 Mile Road, Emporium, Pa. 1500 square feet, completely renovated, well furnished, turnkey sale, two great rooms, wood stove, two sleeper sofas, two bedrooms, two bathrooms. Septic, well, propane heat, front/back covered porches, cedar siding, two-story barn, spring-fed pond, tree house. Call 717-497-8254.

RECIPES & FOOD

ON SALE! – CO-OP COOKBOOK GIFT PACK FOR \$12, includes shipping. "Country Cooking" and "Recipes Remembered" are collections of recipes from electric co-op members of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Payable to: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Write Attention: Cookbooks.

SPECIAL TRACTORS

FOR SALE – TWO FARMALL® TRACTORS. Super C, new tires, mounted mower. Farmall H, good condition – a favorite ride. If interested, call 717-573-2386. Best time to call: 5 to 8 p.m.

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.

TRACTOR PARTS – REPAIR/RESTORATION

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.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

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.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

EAGLES WATCH CAMPGROUND – 12-site seasonal campground located on the Raystown branch of the Juniata River. Short drive to Lake Raystown. H&BT Rail Trail located nearby. Approximately 300 feet of river frontage. Sewer, water and electricity included in our seasonal rate. Each site has 50- and 30-amp electricity. Call 814-212-8470.

HILTON HEAD ISLAND LIFE AWAITS! Two-bedroom, two-bath condo! Economical getaway! Complex amenities: private beach access, pools, hot tub, tennis, pickleball, golf! Beach walks. Summer! Fall! Snowbird discount! Call 814-431-5540.

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUE 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.

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

COLLECTORS BUYING PRE-WAR AND POST-WAR Lionel® trains, accessories, Plasticville® buildings, Transformers®, etc. Buying pieces to entire collections. Call Mick, 814-656-1634, or John, 814-937-9052.

CASH FOR GOLD JEWELRY: Rings, wedding rings, bracelets, necklaces, chains, earrings, etc. Also buying sterling silver jewelry. I even buy broken jewelry! I will come to your location to buy. Call: 717-891-6493, leave message. York, Pa.

FARM SAFETY

POWER SOURCES

Make sure EVERYONE is trained on safe practices around power transmission. This includes you, your employees, seasonal workers, family members, and anyone else accessing your farm. Keep in mind:

- Bigger equipment allows farmers to cover more ground in less time; however, this can be a hazard when electrical infrastructures are nearby.
- Inexperienced, fatigued or distracted operators are more likely to come in contact with a power line or pole.
- Sources of electricity include power lines, electrical boxes, and damaged (non-grounded) guy wires.

If your equipment does hit a power line, pole, or guy wire, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.



Safe Electricity.org

Fix Bayonets

JOHN KASUN

ALTHOUGH I SPENT THREE YEARS of my early life in the U.S. Army and followed many different orders, I was very fortunate to never hear the phrase “fix bayonets.” That command would indicate an imminent hand-to-hand, life-or-death battle, which is guaranteed to be much worse than passing a kidney stone.

However, as a married civilian, I get that order about once a year at my house, and it happened just the other day.

My wife and I live on a couple of acres, surrounded by small wood lots and fields. These spaces are home to birds, squirrels and rabbits with whom we are on a first name basis. We see deer and turkey regularly and an occasional fox. Although not common, even bears have periodically wandered through.

We once had a bear on our patio standing up to full height looking through the sliding glass doors of our family room. With both of its front paws firmly planted on the glass while we were seated inside, I told my wife the bear was checking to see if we were watching the Outdoor Channel on TV. She thought that was funny. Perhaps, then, you’ll be just as perplexed as I was by the creature that set off the recent, dreaded alarm.

I was trimming shrubs in the back of the house when I heard her shout my name. I suspected it was “fix-bayonet” time. Suddenly, my wife appeared with a shovel raised overhead declaring, “There is a snake in my flowers, and I want you to kill it!”

This woman is a successful gun and bow hunter and breaks clay birds with a shotgun with ease. She was a state muzzleloading champion, national archery champion,

and has thrown knives and tomahawks in competition. Honestly, if our home is ever broken into, my plan is to follow closely behind, carrying her extra ammunition.

She is fearless in most situations, and even once had a serious face-to-face disagreement with a bear that

attempted to climb up the tree where she was bow hunting. Neither she nor the bear were harmed, except possibly the bear’s feelings as he backed down the tree. But when it comes to snakes, she draws the line. I don’t think she is afraid of snakes; she just does not like them. (Thank goodness she still likes me. I think.)

I stepped carefully through the flowers searching for the elusive intruder, all the while hoping I would not find it. My wife was following close behind, shovel raised. I was not sure what she intended to do: protect me or hit me if I stepped on one of her flowers.

Owing to my detailed and purposely slow search, the snake had enough time to escape unseen — thank goodness. I imagine it rushed off to warn other snakes about a crazy woman with a shovel. Since we have lived at this location, I’ve only ever seen simple, harmless garter snakes, but my wife remains unmoved by that explanation, always

replying, “I don’t like snakes!”

In any event, I think it is safe to put my bayonet back in its sheath until my wife sounds the next alarm. 🐍



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.

Leaf-ing Summer Behind

September marks the end of summer, leaving behind memories of warmth, the outdoors and perhaps some quality time munching on a leaf or two. With the arrival of autumn, it won't be long before the leaves change color and find their way from tree branches to the ground, setting the stage for a brand-new set of scenes ready to close out the year.

Have some scenes you'd like to share? Submit your photos to our Rural Reflections contest. The best photos in each of five categories (animal, artistic, human, landscape and editor's choice) will be featured in the January 2027 issue and receive a \$75 cash prize. Runners-up will appear in the February 2027 issue and receive \$25. 🍂



VALARIE HUNTSINGER • VALLEY REC



KARIN GUELLY • CLAVERRACK REC



LINDA SOUDER • TRI-COUNTY REC



AMY SMITH • WARREN ELECTRIC

How to enter

TO SUBMIT ENTRIES, email your photos (no more than five digital images per person, per year) to photos@prea.com or send prints to Penn Lines Photos, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA, 17108-1266. With your entries, be sure to include your name, address, daytime phone number and the name of the rural electric cooperative that serves your residence, business or seasonal home.

Remember, our publication deadlines require that we work ahead, so send your seasonal photos to us early. *Please note:* Hard-copy, physical photos mailed to our office will not be returned. Therefore, if you mail a photo, please make sure it's a print, not an original.

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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dish