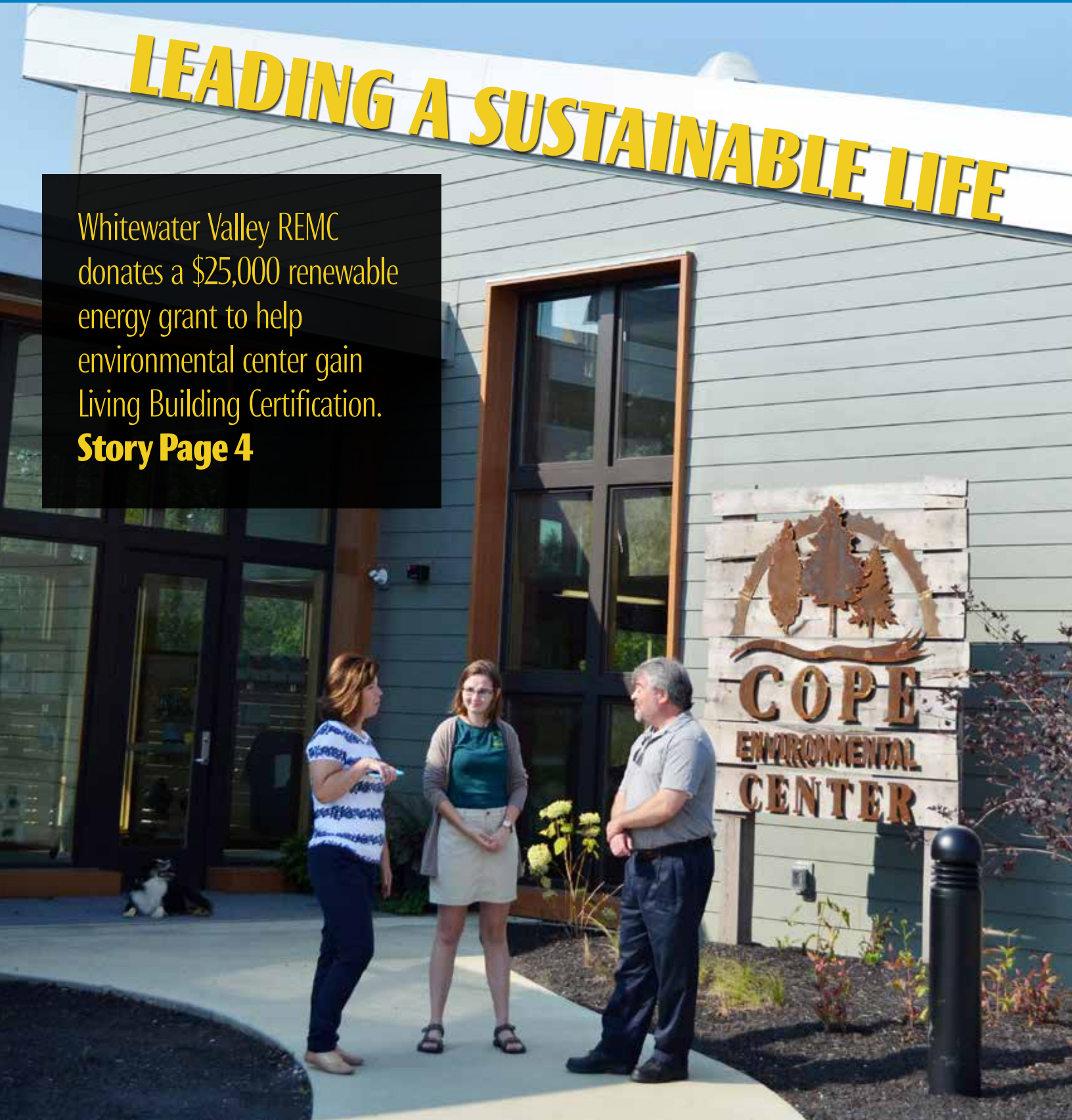


ENERGYLINES

LEADING A SUSTAINABLE LIFE

Whitewater Valley REMC donates a \$25,000 renewable energy grant to help environmental center gain Living Building Certification.
Story Page 4





Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC annual meeting

Meeting details

Attendance was high at Utilities District of Western Indiana's (UDWI) annual meeting held Saturday, April 8 at White River Valley High School in Switz City, Ind. This year's annual meeting included country music entertainment, a free health fair and seat cushions and thermometers as gifts.

Meeting highlights

The focus of the CEO's message was on UDWI's initiatives to improve reliability and lower costs. The measures include but are not limited to reviewing board member compensation, term limits, mail-in voting, delaying capital expenditures and extending vehicle replacements by one year, rebidding underground work, reducing corporate giving beyond the 65 percent reduction in 2016, introducing voluntary time-of-use rates, offering portable solar panels and foregoing salary increases for senior staff members.

Election of directors

David Burger defeated Jack Knust
 Todd Carpenter defeated Jim Weimer
 John Royal defeated David Stone



HE photos

TOP: UDWI members wait in line to vote at the annual meeting at White River Valley Junior/Senior High School in Switz City.

MIDDLE: Workers prepare to help UDWI members with health-related screenings.

BOTTOM: A band performed for members before the meeting begins.

ENERGYLINES

EnergyLines is published monthly by Hoosier Energy's Communication Department for members, employees and retirees of Hoosier Energy.

ON THE COVER

Whitewater Valley REMC is helping environmental center reach "Living Building Challenge" requirements.



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BACK ISSUES

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FAMILY FARM: Head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt toured Mike Starkey Farms, a no-till, family-run farm operation near Brownsburg, Indiana. Gov. Eric Holcomb (left) and Pruitt with Mike Starkey (right) and his nephew, Jeff Starkey (second from left).

EPA chief continues state action tour

Scott Pruitt, the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, met with Indiana officials earlier this month as he continued his "state action tour" to discuss federal air and water policy with state officials, including EPA's recent decision to begin redefining the definition of "Water of the United States" (WOTUS).


During his visit – the sixth state Pruitt has visited in three weeks - the top EPA administrator, along with Gov. Eric Holcomb and U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN, 8th District) visited the White Stallion Liberty Mine near Booneville, Indiana.

The Liberty Mine is a surface coal operation that produces about 1.5 million tons per year with a wash plant and rail or truckload out. The "truck and shovel" operation utilizes unit operations, drill, blast, cast and load coal for transport to the wash plant.

Representatives from Duke, AES-IP&L, Southern Illinois Power

Cooperative, Alcoa and Hoosier Energy accompanied Pruitt on the plant tour, hosted by White Stallion owner Steven Chancellor. A question and answer session with the utility representatives followed with concerns raised over conflicting regulations and timelines while ensuring compliance with federal regulations. Coal Combustion Residual rules, New Source Review and beneficial use of fly ash without hindering those opportunities were also discussed.

The tour concluded with Pruitt addressing approximately 100 miners and staff about safeguarding mining jobs and utilizing domestic resources to become energy independent.

"The war on coal is over," Pruitt told the gathering. "This administration brings common sense approach to regulation. We need coal-fired electricity to secure and stabilize the grid." 

Detour directions to Hoosier Energy headquarters

The intersection at Tapp Road and IN-37 is closed until May 2018 for roadwork on IN-37. Plan an alternative way to access headquarters.

From the East

- Take IN-46 west
- South on IN-446/Knightbridge Road
- Right (west) on E. Moores Pike
- Left (south) on S. Smith Road and then through the roundabout west onto E. Rogers Road
- E. Rogers Road becomes E. Winslow Road, Country Club Drive and then Tapp Road
- The entrance to Hoosier Energy is on Deborah Drive

From the North

- Take IN-37 to IN-45
- Head east on IN-45 (Bloomfield Road)
- Take Bloomfield Road to S. Patterson Drive
- Turn right (south) onto S. Rogers Street
- Turn right (west) onto W. Country Club Drive
- Continue west to Deborah Drive and the entrance to Hoosier Energy headquarters

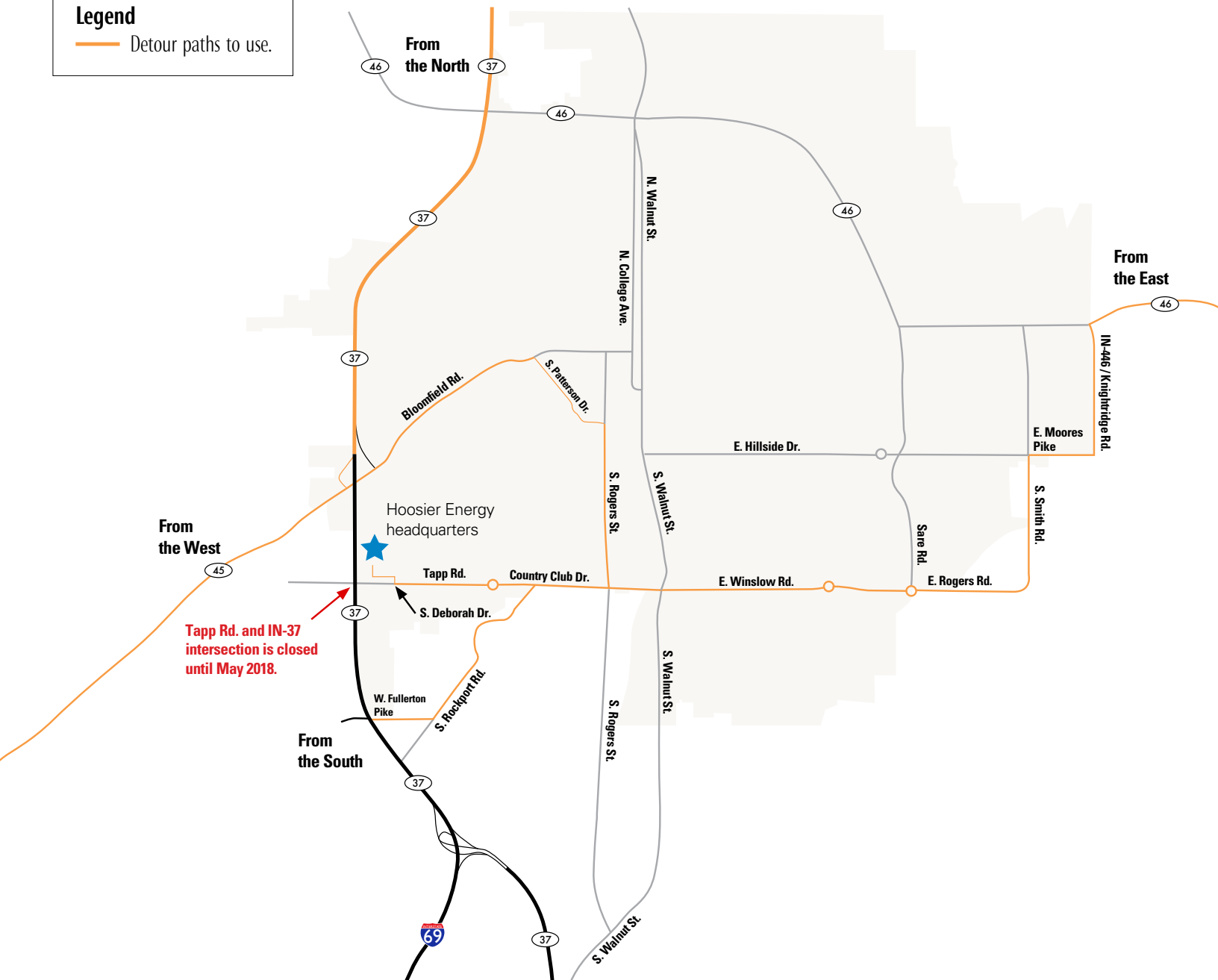
From the West

- Take IN-45 east to (Bloomfield Road)
- Take Bloomfield Road to S. Patterson Drive
- Turn right (south) on to S. Rogers Street
- Turn right (west) onto Country Club Drive
- Continue west to Deborah Drive and the entrance to Hoosier Energy headquarters

From the South

- Take W. Fullerton Pike exit. Head east
- Turn left onto S. Rockport Road
- At the stop sign, turn left onto Country Club Drive
- Continue to Deborah Drive and the entrance to Hoosier Energy headquarters

Legend
— Detour paths to use.



COVER STORY



HE photos

UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

Environmental center on its way to meet Living Building Challenge requirements

Surrounded by farm fields and lush grasslands outside of Centerville, Indiana sits a new facility that is being built for a purpose – to teach others how to live a sustainable life.

Open to the public this year, the Cope Environmental Center (CEC) was designed and built on a small section of 130 acres using local labor and resources.

The intent for this environmentally-sustainable facility is to meet the Living Building Challenge requirements and Whitewater Valley REMC is helping them get there through a renewable energy grant.

How a co-op helped

Whitewater Valley REMC, a Hoosier Energy member cooperative, has partnered with CEC over the years to make energy efficiency improvements to another building at this location – now called the Sustainable Living Demonstration Home.

Recently, the cooperative has provided a



“The facility was built into a habitat, which shows options on how to enhance the natural space with beautiful views, big windows and wildlife around you.”

Nathan Smallwood,
Cope Executive Director

\$25,000 renewable energy grant to help with the cost of the solar array for the new facility.

The solar array, with 85 panels, averaged 2.66 MWh in July. This is energy that the facility is using to power electrical components of the center.

Additionally, Whitewater Valley REMC's partnership with the Cope Environmental Center helps to provide the average homeowner with ways to make their homes and lifestyles more environmentally friendly.

Co-op members can learn about a range of topics including lighting efficiency and rain chains.

Visitors can see how the facility is using daylight combined with Light Emitting Diodes to illuminate spaces and reduce electric use.

Outside, visitors can see how rain chains help the facility capture rainwater to be used for other purposes – reducing the need for “treated” water.

Commitment to community

The center was built to educate the community through interactive, hands-on sustainability and nature-based programming for schools and other groups in the community. The nature hall, patio, large gathering space, and three-sided outdoor shelter offer additional opportunities for the community to learn the principles of sustainability. [E1](#)

ONLINEEXTRA



Production data of the solar array can be viewed on the Environmental Center's website at copeenvironmental.org. From the top navigation bar select: About us > tour > new sustainable education center



HE photo

Features of the environmental center

The Cope Environmental Center has many notable features to aid in its mission to promote the sustainable use of the Earth's resources through education, demonstration and research.

“We brought the outdoors to the indoors with many hardwood features,” said Kaitlyn Blansett, Community Outreach Coordinator for Cope.

The Living Building Challenge encourages the center to continually think about how to bring the outdoors indoors. Many of the wood features throughout the building have educational pieces to them that aid children in their learning experience.

Cope Environmental Center certificates sought

Zero Energy Certification

This certification requires projects to generate all energy on site without combustion, using as many renewable resources as possible.

Living Building Certification

This certification requires the facility to be fully operational for 12 months prior to certification by a third party.

Petal Certification

This certification requires seven “petals” in order to receive full certification: must be net zero water, net zero energy and non-toxic materials. In addition, the facility must meet four other requirements – the site must be environmentally friendly, aesthetically pleasing, equitable to the environment and foster a healthy environment.

Indiana Electric Cooperatives honors student art winners

With a little inspiration and a lot of imagination students across Indiana's cooperative network entered more than 2,700 pieces of artwork in the Indiana Electric Cooperative's 20th annual cooperative calendar student art contest.

A reception for first place and honorable mention winners, parents and art instructors was held at the Hoosier Salon at the State Museum in downtown Indianapolis in July.

As the young artists and their guests mingled among their work now on exhibit at the Salon, a gallery visitor looked intently, photographing each piece. Justin Vining was there not to critique, he said, but to be inspired.

In a short speech at the reception, Vining recalled his journey from a three-generation farm kid in Warsaw, Indiana to



HE photo

PATRIOTIC PASSION: Mary Batz from Williams, Indiana stands by her entry "Flag Day." The sixth grader from UDWI won honorable mention in the 2018 contest.

full-time professional painter. "Seeing your work in the hallway is super inspiring to me," he told the kids. The artist described his journey from grade school art teacher

The calendar

The IEC 2018 wall calendar will be available at the offices of participating Indiana electric cooperatives in early autumn.

to lawyer to full-time artist as one of pleasant discovery.

"Art was not on my radar," he said. "But a high school art class, a few sales in graduate school and working with youngsters as an art teacher changed his mind – and career path - forever. "From high school on, I knew art was going to be a very big part of my life."

Electric Consumer, the statewide electric co-op magazine, coordinates and sponsors the contest with participating REMCs/RECs each year. [EL](#)

ONLINE EXTRA

For more information on the K-12 Young Artists' Exhibit, visit <https://hoosiersalon.org/portfolio/k-12-artists-page/>

To learn more about the annual calendar art contest, visit electricconsumer.org/art-gallery/

HOLLINGSWORTH MEETS WITH COOPERATIVE



HE photo

COOPERATIVE HISTORY: Hoosier Energy CEO Steve Smith, U.S. Rep. Trey Hollingsworth and Randy Haymaker talk about Hoosier Energy's heritage at headquarters in Boomington.

U.S. Rep. Trey Hollingsworth visited Hoosier Energy on Aug. 11.

Hollingsworth met with the Hoosier Energy Economic Development team – recognized as among the best in the U.S., especially in rural areas.

Hollingsworth is working to improve the economy of his district, one that has the largest number of co-op-served consumers in Indiana. He wants to learn how he and his office can work together with Hoosier Energy.



Ratts Station reclamation progress

With approval from the Hoosier Energy board in 2016, the Ratts Generation Station was decommissioned. The process of reclaiming the land is underway. The photo shows where the boiler house, offices and the stacks once stood. Safety was paramount during the project and there were no injuries during the process.