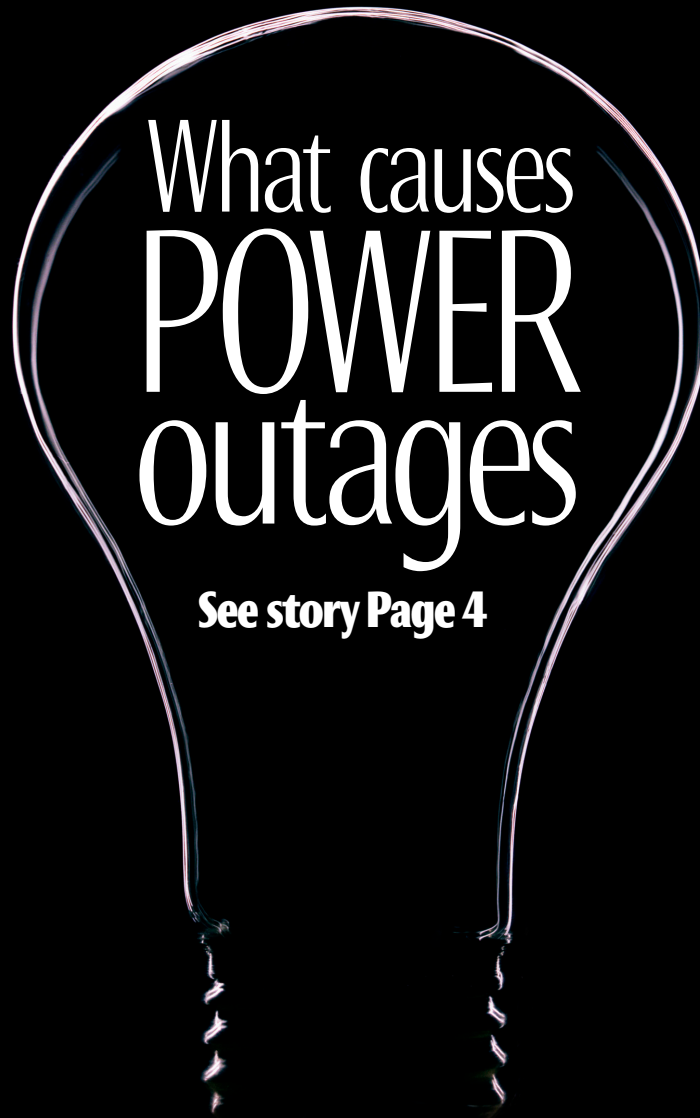


JULY 2017 | Vol. 40, No. 7

ENERGYLINES



A CONVERSATION WITH JOHN

Hoosier Energy Board
Director for 2 years.



HOOSIERENERGY

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ABOUT INITIATIVES NEWS CAREERS

POWERING COMMUNITY

Hoosier Energy is a generation and transmission cooperative serving 18 member electric cooperatives in central and southern Indiana and southeastern Illinois.

We work together to deliver electricity and services to power our homes and communities.

[LEARN MORE](#)
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WEBSITE REDESIGN

Hoosier Energy's website has a new look and offers new functionality

In 2016, the Hoosier Energy Communications team conducted a communications audit to identify strengths and areas for improvement for Hoosier Energy communications.

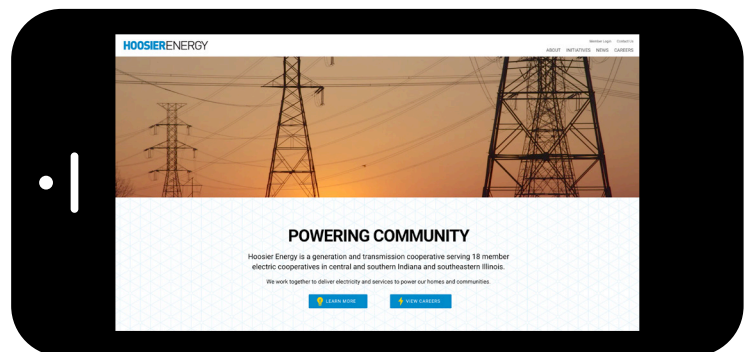
The audit validated the need for a refreshed website.

Based on the results of the audit, a key area identified for improvement was the Hoosier Energy website. We listened, took action, and have launched the new site hoosierenergy.com.

User friendly

The redesigned website is user friendly with easy access to information about Hoosier Energy and our member cooperatives. The new site is responsive to optimize the user's browsing experience for the device that is accessing it.

Story continues on Page 8

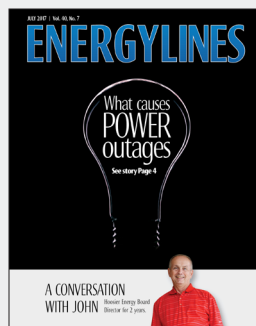


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EnergyLines is published monthly by Hoosier Energy's Communication Department for members, employees and retirees of Hoosier Energy.

ON THE COVER

Find out how power outages are tracked and solutions are identified by Hoosier Energy.



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BACK ISSUES

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Route selected for Duff-Coleman 345kV line


After extensive review and public input, Republic Transmission has selected a preferred route for the new 345-kilovolt transmission line being built in southern Indiana and northern Kentucky.

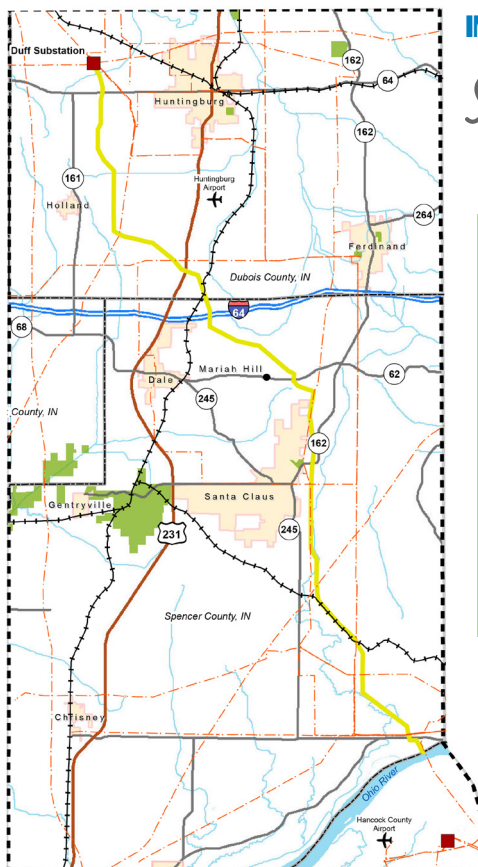
The approximately 31-mile line will run from the Duff substation near Huntingburg, Indiana to the Coleman substation east of Owensboro, Kentucky, crossing through the service territory of two member systems, Dubois REC and Southern Indiana Power.

In announcing the selected route, Republic invited about 85 affected landowners to attend an open house on July 18 in

Ferdinand. Attendees learned more about the process for project design, which includes securing right-of-entry agreements and right-of-way acquisitions.

Republic Transmission is a partnership between LS Power and Hoosier Energy. Hoosier Energy will provide operations and maintenance services on the line once it is placed into service. This new line will benefit cooperative members by decreasing transmission system congestion in the region as well as becoming a revenue source to offset other transmission charges.

The new power line is scheduled to be in service by June 1, 2020. 















INFO EXTRA



>> The selected route, project timeline and other materials are available on the project website, www.republictransmission.com.

Legend

-  Duff to Coleman Transmission Line
-  Study Area Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Managed Lands
-  Existing Substations
-  Existing Transmission Lines
-  Interstate
-  U.S. Highway
-  State Highway
-  Airports
-  Railroads

©Republic Transmission

COVER STORY



What causes outages and how they are tracked

Have you ever wondered what causes a power outage? Glance up to the sky and the answer likely lies above. Nine times out of 10 when those clear blue skies change, electric service is threatened.

How can you outguess Mother Nature? You can't. But that doesn't sway the Hoosier Energy Power Delivery team. It challenges them.

They are always monitoring the weather, and if a storm rolls in or lightning strikes, they are ready.

"We prepare and stay up on the weather as best we can," says Bob Hill, System Control Coordinator/EMS and Communications, a 17-year veteran of system operations. "If a line does go out of service, we are there as quickly as possible to determine the cause, isolate it safely and restore service."

The team's ground assault comes in different forms including technological controls that divert energy to nearby lines while crews work to fix the problem area.

Digital fault recorders (DFRs), a tool Hoosier Energy technicians were instrumental in developing more than three decades ago, are invaluable in identifying the problem area within a very short distance of a fault.

"We restore all the load we can by SCADA (electronic) control and notify member co-ops involved. The DFRs give us a pretty good idea where the fault is, but we won't know exactly what is out or where to sectionalize the line until the switchmen get there," says Stan Elmore, System Control Coordinator, Operations and Training.

Equipment failure

Over time, the elements take their toll on the aging electrical infrastructure, contributing to

equipment failure. Nearly half the outages on the Hoosier Energy system are due to equipment failure or vegetation. High winds can upend trees, flinging them into a right-of-way in a matter of seconds while severe weather can cause the inner workings of the equipment to deteriorate.

Animals

Animals also cause outages. One recent Friday night, a raccoon snuck into the Sexton substation in the RushShelby Energy area, causing a 12-kilovolt regulator to fail, blowing a bank of fuses. As members slept, the co-op worked to seamlessly transfer energy flows and fix the problem, preventing a potential service disruption.

Accidents

Accidents involving automobiles, farm equipment and the recent, but rare, helicopter mishap, can take out poles or lines, causing damage to the system and cause potentially large-scale outages.

No matter the cause, every outage is recorded in an interruption report, charted and diagnosed to prevent a similar reoccurrence.

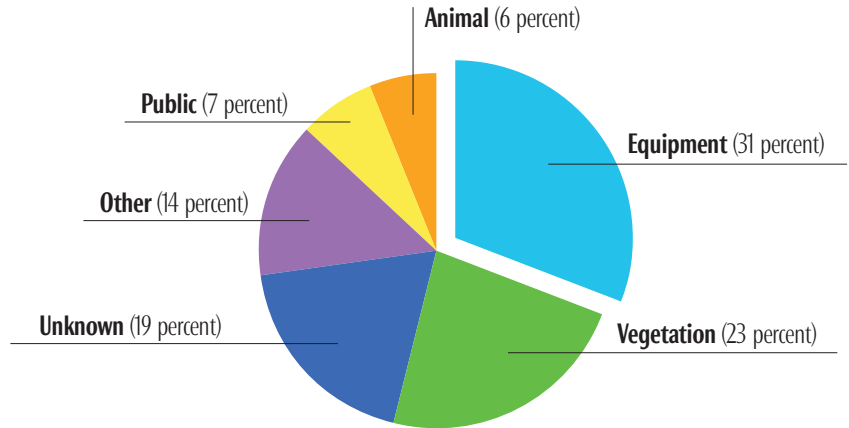
In his 36 years at Hoosier Energy, Elmore has seen most everything. But the biggest deterrent to an outage, he says, are the proactive measures the crews take to prevent one from occurring. Workers in the field perform routine checks of gauges, relays, switches and lines.

Two new mobile substations now help crews keep energy flowing while working on the equipment. Recently, a mobile substation was placed in service while crews repaired an interrupter failure, preventing an outage in the New Albany area, Elmore said.

“If we notice something is not quite right, we investigate it and fix it.” **EL**

Six classifications of power outages

Hoosier Energy has identified six classifications of power outages. A common cause is the result of equipment exposed to the elements. When it is difficult to determine the source of an outage it is labeled as “unknown.” These outages are often due to tree limbs blowing onto lines during storms. Outages labeled “other” are operational outages where Hoosier Energy system control takes a line out of service for safety reasons such as a pole fire.



Source: Hoosier Energy



HE photo

MOBILE RESCUE: Hoosier Energy’s mobile substation ensures continued service to member systems while field crews work on transmission equipment.

Out of the Board Room

JOHN EDWARDS

John Edwards walks out to greet two visitors with a big smile and a slight admonishment that he and his wife Deb really are not very interesting people.

Dexter, the couple's 7-year-old rescue dog, echoes the sentiment, then settles into the visit, parked between the two of them.

Dexter is as much a part of the Edwards family as the woodpeckers, hummingbirds, finches, turtle doves, squirrels, deer and occasional red fox that visit their backyard wooded retreat.

Quite the contrary, this endearing couple and their protective Schnauzer epitomize the cooperative way of life – always ready with a kind heart and helping hand.

John and Deb love their church, helping friends, family and neighbors – she with home-cooked meals for friends and he with handyman skills when needed.

"In small communities, you tend to know people. It's not like living in big places where people don't want to know each other really," explains John. The retired claims specialist for Farm Bureau Insurance is quick to help neighbors or family on any project, big or small. "I love building; I love doing," he says. "If I can help somebody with their projects, I enjoy that."

The middle child of three boys, John grew up on



RELAXED: John Edwards, a director for Daviess-Martin County REMC and a Hoosier Energy Board member, enjoys quiet time at home. *HE photo*

Daviess-Martin County REMC lines on his grandfather's 25-acre farm in Lawrence County just six miles from his current home in Mitchell. The third generation gentleman farmer and all-around country boy kept the grounds of his boyhood home meticulous – like a golf course, he says.

"This has always been my community," says the Daviess-Martin Counties REMC director who has represented the co-op on the Hoosier Energy board since 2016.

Eventually the homestead was becoming more than the two wanted to handle, so John and Deb decided to downsize. John had built their first two homes with the help and expertise of his father and father-in-law. "My dad was a carpenter, so I grew up with a hammer and saw as toys. I was fortunate enough to have learned many of his skills. Dad was good!"

Deb grew up near Spring Mill Park and was an Orange County REMC member. Both remember going to co-op annual meetings. One year, she and her family sang at the annual meeting. "I don't know how much entertainment we were," she says rolling her eyes. She still loves to sing, passing along her passion for music to hundreds of students during her 30-plus year career as a music teacher at Orleans Community Schools in Orange County.

Their shared musical talent brought them together, in a roundabout sort of way. The couple, now married 33 years, both laugh as they recall their first meeting. Both were asked to sing at a wedding. When they met to rehearse, the



HE photo

FAMILY TIME: Deb and John Edwards relax at home, with Dexter, their 7-year-old rescue dog always by their side. Dexter is as much a part of the Edwards family as the woodpeckers, hummingbirds, finches, turtle doves, squirrels, deer and occasional red fox that visit their backyard wooded retreat.

About the series

This is a series featuring Hoosier Energy Board of Directors "Out of the Board Room." These personal stories are intended to build stronger relationships among us.

bride played matchmaker. A year later, John and Deb were the ones walking down the aisle.

"I tell people I knew the honeymoon was over before it ever began," Deb says with a wry smile. "He courted me on a Honda Gold Wing and then as soon as we got engaged he sold it and got a tractor."

"Priorities change," John counters with

a twinkle in his eye.

With faith a strong part of his upbringing, the only time John wanted to leave the area was to study at a small Christian college in Michigan, finishing his degree in education at another small Christian college in Arkansas.

He fully intended to teach, but the job market was slim for the mid-year graduate, so he ended up in several community service roles before settling on insurance.

Contemplative by nature, some might say stubborn, he's not one to be easily swayed by one fad or another. Quite the contrary, learning from others, especially his elders, inspires him, he says.

John likes to fly, but the desire took >>

“What can you name that’s better than electricity? If you want to really start thinking about it, take this away, what would life be like? Without it, we don’t cook. We don’t have heat. Those things have become not luxuries but necessities. I wouldn’t want to try to live without electricity.”

John Edwards

a long time to nurture.

Years ago, he was a passenger in a small twin-engine plane when suddenly a door flew open on takeoff. The unnerving experience left him leery of flying for quite some time until his wife and a family friend and pilot talked him into going up one day. He finally conquered his fear of flying – when his friend sat him in the co-pilot’s seat.

Soon he obtained his pilot’s license and now the couple participates in the annual Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture Oshkosh, a weeklong fly-in that attracts more than 10,000 airplanes and their passionate enthusiasts from around the world. If it flies, you will see it at Oshkosh and the Edwards will be there with John now in his 10th year as a judge of experimental aircraft.

This self-effacing man attributes his life’s events as more happenstance guided by providence. Take his current role as an REMC director.

He became a member of the Daviess-Martin County REMC board in 1997 after another director resigned. When the vacancy occurred,

he and several others felt strongly that Lawrence County should be represented on the board. At the urging of other members, John in his quiet, understated way, stepped up and into the role.

Stepping up and helping others is as natural to this contemplative man as training bird dogs or learning to fly – both passions he’s enjoyed doing and learning about through the years. The trait comes in handy for an REMC director, he adds. “It’s been fascinating work. It’s far more complicated than what I could ever have imagined and what most people think.”

When asked his thoughts on the greatest invention of the 20th century, he pauses, thinks for a moment, and returns the question.

“What can you name that’s better than electricity? If you want to really start thinking about it, take this away, what would life be like?” he asks.

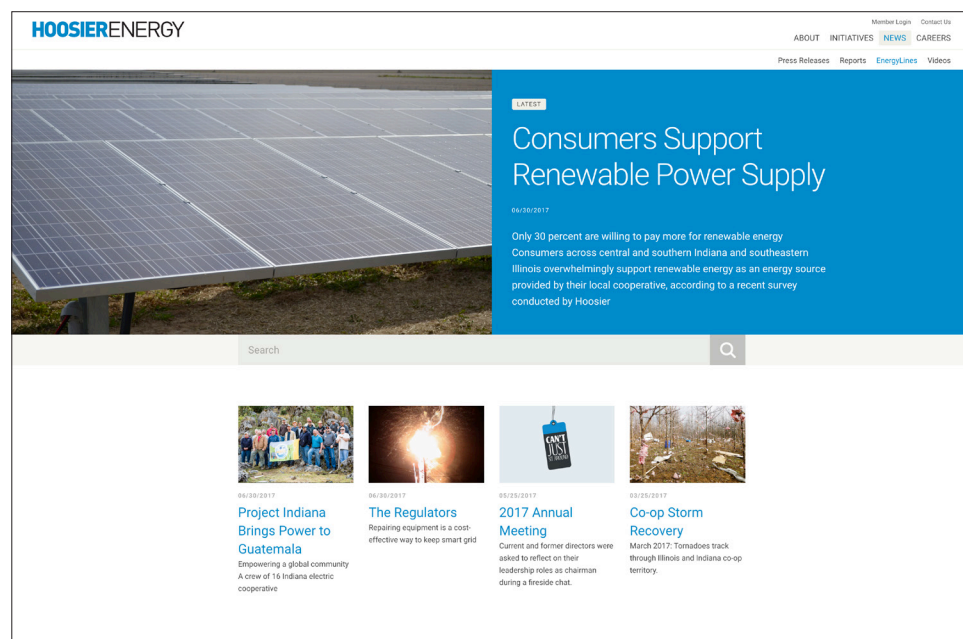
He continues to emphasize the importance of the topic. “Without it, we don’t cook. We don’t have heat. Those things have become not luxuries but necessities. I wouldn’t want to try to live without electricity.” **EL**



HE photo

HELPING HAND: Edwards enjoys woodworking, a skill he learned from his father. He built two homes and enjoys helping friends and neighbors with projects, big or small.

Story continued from Page 1

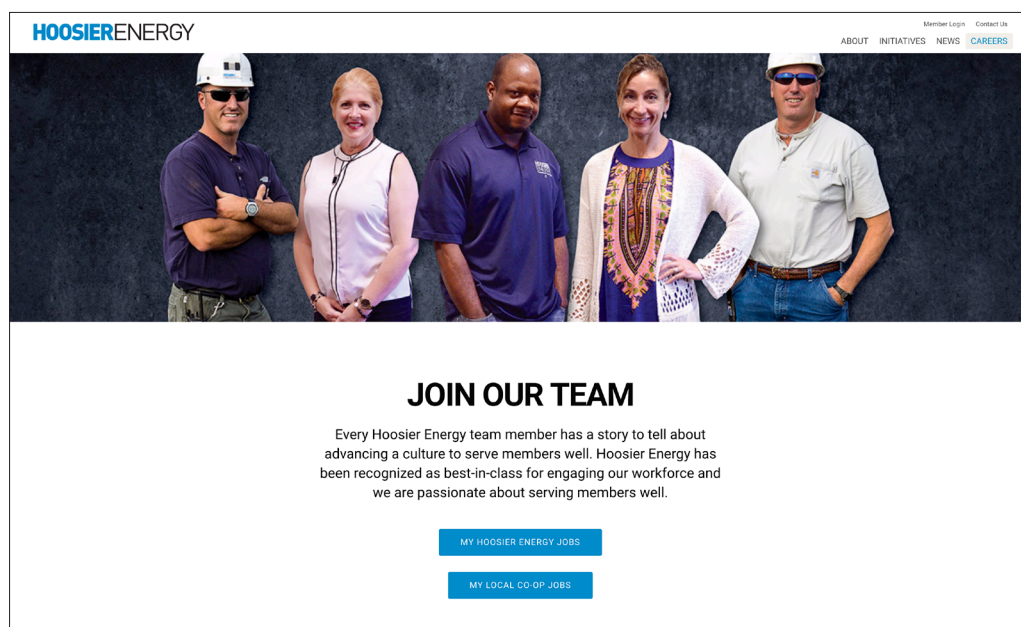


Enhanced features

The site offers an enhanced news page with a variety of articles, reports and videos. Visitors can search for content within the news pages and share them on social media. The site also provides the communications team new tools to tell stories online that have visual impact and layered content including video.

Career focused

The new site provides a link to career opportunities from the home page, as job postings are the most popular link visited. Job postings from both Hoosier Energy and our 18 member cooperatives are accessible from the site. Maps showcase the variety of locations where Hoosier Energy operates.



The benefit package for cooperative employees is often one of the most attractive elements to a career in the electric cooperative industry. A brief summary of the benefits offered at Hoosier Energy can be found on the Career page of the site. Another key element to being employed at an electric cooperative is the value of our cooperative principles – why we do what we do. You can find those seven cooperative principles under the benefit information as well.

Co-op annual meeting highlights



The Cooperative Difference

Henry County REMC annual meeting

Henry County REMC held their 80th annual meeting in April at the First Baptist Church in New Castle, Ind.

Highlights:

The CEO of Indiana Electric Cooperatives Tom Van Paris spoke to those in attendance. Van Paris described how Henry County and other local cooperatives connect statewide as well as nationally.

Board recognition awards were presented to Wayne Jackson, who served 2007-2016, and Ron Thompson, who retired after 32 years of service. The Richard Bromagem Lineman Appreciation Award was given to Lance Koontz for outstanding service to the cooperative. The co-op awarded six \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors.

Henry County REMC Chairman Wayne Jester's report focused on the co-ops new facility, the multi-year replacement of an outdated metering system, retirement of more than \$1 million in capital credits in 2016 and receipt of the New Castle Chamber of Commerce Award for Business of the Year.

Henry County REMC's CEO Shannon Thom highlighted the rollback of the Clean Power Plan, reliability of the grid and growth of .7 percent from 2011 to 2016.

Director elections:

Bud Shelton and Don Sloan were unopposed. Incumbent Larry Brayton was defeated by Jamey Markum.

TOP: The Walker County band performed at the annual meeting. The family band is from Sulphur Springs, IN.

MIDDLE: Administrative Assistant Anita Irvin speaks with a member during the meeting.

BOTTOM: CEO Shannon Thom addresses members during the meeting. Thom's message included the growth that the co-op has seen from 2011 to 2016.

HE photo

Co-op annual meeting highlights



*Our Challenges, the Opportunities,
Your Value*

Johnson County REMC annual meeting

Johnson County REMC's annual meeting took place at Franklin Community High School in April. The meeting had record attendance with more than 800 registrations. The theme of the meeting was "Our Challenges, the Opportunities, Your Value."



Highlights:

Johnson County Chief Executive Officer Chet Aubin spoke to members about the evolution of renewable energy and the challenges of distributed generation. Real-time metering and prepaid options are helping provide members with opportunities to control and reduce their consumption of energy, he said. Aubin noted that the co-op is in a good financial situation and the Board approved a \$2.2 million capital credit retirement with checks to be distributed in November.

The cooperative awarded two \$2,000 scholarships to high school seniors.



HE photo

TOP: Johnson County REMC employees help register members.

MIDDLE: The co-op's meeting had 800 registrations.

BOTTOM: CEO Chet Aubin spoke to members about the evolution of renewable energy.

Director elections:

Glenn McAlpin and Jamie Meredith were unopposed and re-elected for new terms.



Working for the best shot!

Hoosier Energy Sr. Video Production Specialist Chris Johnson records video of a wind turbine blade installation at the Meadow Lake Wind Farm in White County, Ind. Johnson was in the field of corn to capture a blade being lifted into place by a crane.