

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2013



NineStar CONNECTION

VOLUME 2
ISSUE 1

ANNUAL MEETING

NineStar 60th annual event will include dinner, entertainment and the chance to vote for directors.

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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

NineStar Connect is looking for 15 talented students

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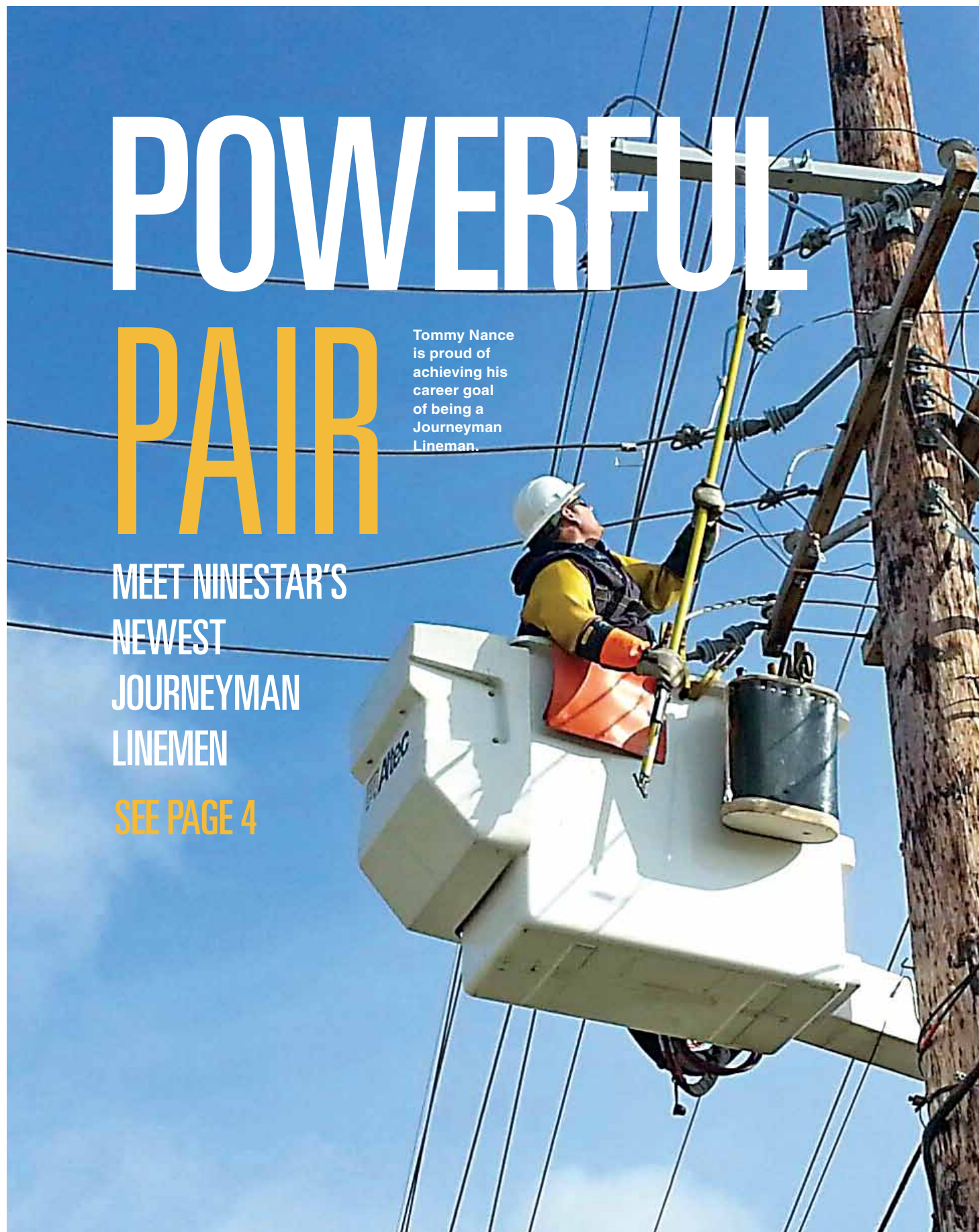
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POWERFUL PAIR

Tommy Nance
is proud of
achieving his
career goal
of being a
Journeyman
Lineman.

MEET NINESTAR'S
NEWEST
JOURNEYMAN
LINEMEN

SEE PAGE 4






OUR EMPLOYEES
MAKE THE
DIFFERENCE. HERE'S
A CUSTOMER
REVIEW FOR OUR
MULTIMEDIA
TECHNICIAN,
NICK.

"HIGHLY
RECOMMEND
NICK,
EXCELLENT."
- BEVERLY G.

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact David Spencer at
dspencer@ninstarconnect.com

MAKING THE JOURNEY	PAGES 4-5	SAFETY FIRST
NineStar Connect's latest Journeyman Linemen explain what it means to them to complete four years of career training .		
ANNUAL MEETING	PAGES 6-7	
NineStar in gearing up for its 60th annual meeting with a celebration of food and entertainment, as well as the business meeting and director elections.		
GETTING YOUR FIBER	PAGE 7	NineStar Connect shows its commitment to safety through presentations to area first responders as well as to local high schoolers.
NineStar Connect will conduct a meeting for McCordsville residents south of State Road 67 who now have a new service option.		
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The *NineStar Connection* is a publication of NineStar Connect servicing retail and residential customers. Nearly 15,000 families and businesses receive this newspaper as part of their membership. *NineStar Connection* provides news, information and features about people, places and issues related to readers.

NineStar Connection, USPS

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NineStar Connection

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director District 1 Darrell H. Thomas (A) Thomas Kirby (B)	Director District 2 Doyle S. Baker (A) David G. Heller (B)	Director District 3 Stephen Vail (A) Joseph Paxton (B)	Director District 4 Don Shaw (A) Kim Cronk (B)
Director District 5 Richard C. Parker (A) Mark Evans (B)	Director District 6 Ronnie Mohr (A) Philip M. Hayes (B)	Director District 7 James E. Cherry (A) James Gillett (B)	District At-Large Robert Glazier

COMPANY, EMPLOYEES SUCCEED TOGETHER

Because I live and work in our service territory, when I am out and about, I have people constantly coming up to me and commenting on NineStar Connect's customer service. Almost every comment is positive praising a certain action by our many employees. Our customers are always referencing a positive interaction, ranging from our friendly customer care personnel when they call in, to our efficient installers when they visit their homes to install one of our many products, to our dedicated linemen who brave many circumstances to insure the lights remain on.

PRESIDENT & CEO




TIM
HILLS

As president of the company, I agree with them and truly believe what separates our company from the many choices you have is our people. However, this level of customer service isn't something that just happens. NineStar Connect takes the training and education of our employees very seriously. We believe that a well-educated employee makes for an employee who excels in the workplace and in interactions with our many customers.


To this end, I would like to recognize two individuals — Tommy Nance and Brian Potts. These two recently completed four years of apprenticeship, many hours of on the job training and constant review to become NineStar Connect's newest Journeyman Lineman. I offer hearty congratulations to them and their families. You can read more about their accomplishments in this edition's cover story.

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTOR DISTRICT 1



DARRELL H. THOMAS (A)



THOMAS KIRBY (B)

DIRECTOR DISTRICT 2



DOYLE S. BAKER (A)



DAVID G. HELLER (B)

DIRECTOR DISTRICT 3



STEPHEN VAIL (A)



JOSEPH PAXTON (B)

DIRECTOR DISTRICT 5




RICHARD C. PARKER (A)




MARK EVANS (B)

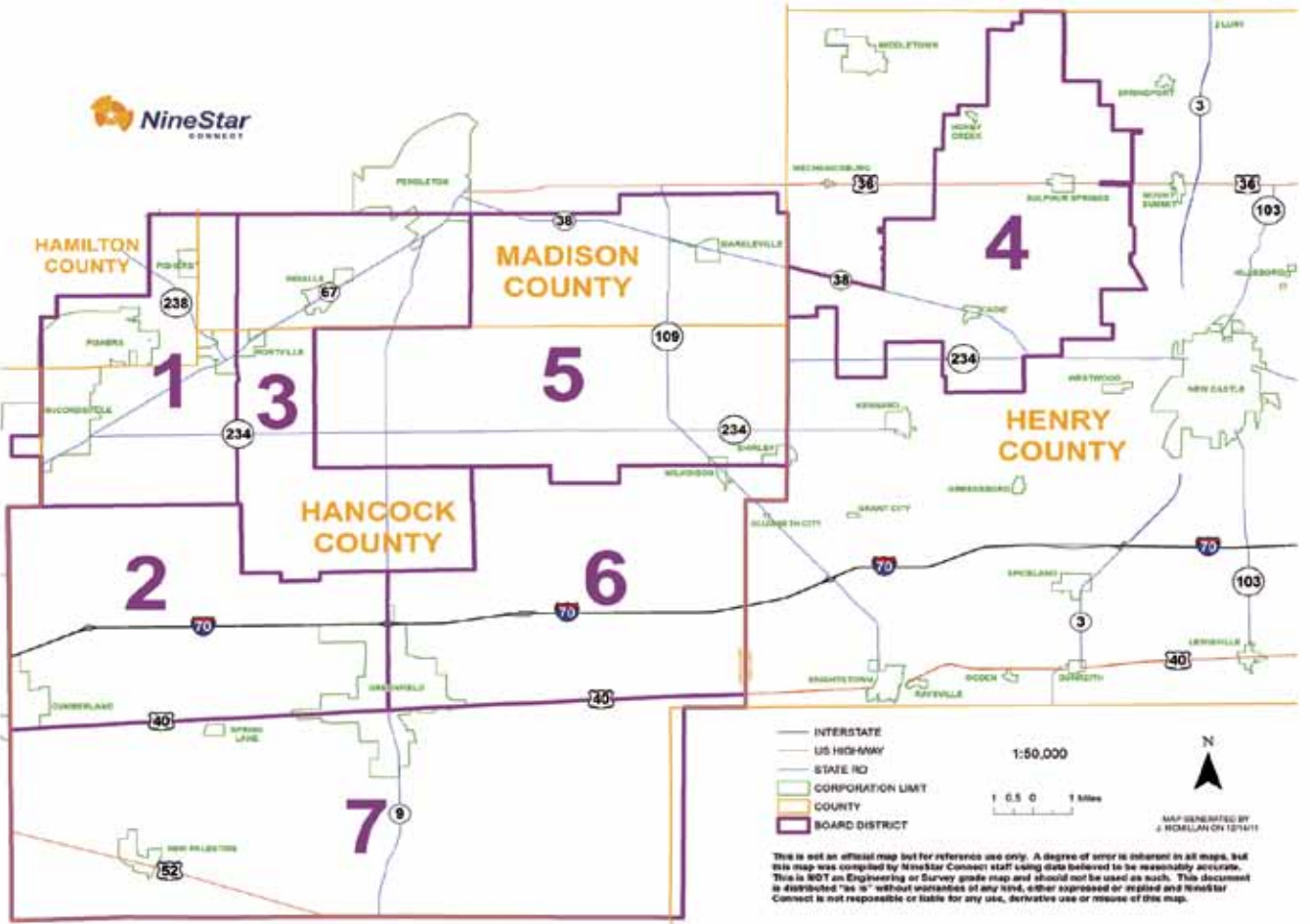
DIRECTOR DISTRICT 7



JAMES E. CHERRY (A)



JAMES GILLETT (B)



DIRECTOR DISTRICT 4



DON SHAW (A)



KIM CRONK (B)

DIRECTOR DISTRICT 6



RONNIE MOHR (A)



PHILIP M. HAYES (B)

DISTRICT AT-LARGE



ROBERT GLAZIER

CONNECTION

NINESTAR HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING

Join us at the 2013 Annual Meeting of NineStar Connect April 5, 2013, at Greenfield-Central High School located at 801 N. Broadway in Greenfield. Both dinner and registration begin at 5 p.m. for NineStar Connect and NineStar Communications customers.

- Join us for a free dinner, music and prizes!
- \$15,000 in scholarships will be drawn
- \$5,000 in cash prizes will be drawn
- (Must be present to win)

Save the Date

NineStarConnect.com





ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LINEMAN?

If so, please call NineStar Connect at 317-326-3131 and speak with Jamie Bell, Director of Operations.

POWERFUL PAIR

MEET NINESTAR'S NEWEST JOURNEYMAN LINEMEN

After four years of intense classes, logging 8,000 hours of on-the-job training, and enduring occupational evaluations every six months, Tommy Nance and Brian Potts are NineStar Connect's newest Journeyman Linemen.

“We're both really excited to get there,” said Potts, who came to NineStar after working for nine years at Hancock Telecom. “It has been a huge commitment, but we knew what we were getting into when we started the program. We knew that we weren't training for a job, but rather a career, and as linemen, we take a lot of pride in what we do.”

WRITTEN BY
JULIE
YOUNG

HOLDING ALL THE POWER

And what they do matters to us all. For those in the dark about a lineman's duties, allow us to shed a little bit of light on the job. Journeyman Linemen play an important part in providing, repairing and maintaining the power supply to area homes and businesses. On any given day, they might troubleshoot issues both above and below ground, build new power line poles and towers, trim trees and foliage that encroach on power lines, and work on components, such as transformers, regulators and the lines themselves.

Not only that, but it is a physically demanding career that consists of long days and frequent overtime late into the night. They

must be able to see well, be good climbers, and possess a lot of upper body strength in order to be able to carry the heavy equipment necessary to do the job well. In addition, Journeyman Linemen face a number of potential hazards while working on high voltage lines.

“We are the guys our customer's count on to respond quickly when the power is down, and it's important that we do our job well,” Potts said.

CHARGED FOR SUCCESS

In order to do that job well, a Journeyman Linemen must be well educated and well trained in order to insure the safety of themselves and others on the job. According to Jamie Bell,



NineStar Connect's Director of Operations, the program Nance and Potts completed is a long and arduous apprenticeship offered through Ivy Tech Community College in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship and Joint Apprenticeship Training Centers in the State of Indiana. It is a combination of coursework, private study and practical application that enables lineman candidates to “earn while they learn” under the watchful eye of a Journeyman and lead lineman who have already completed the program. In the end, not only are they named a Journeyman Lineman, but they have an associate's degree as well.

“Four years may seem like a long time, but it passes quickly when you consider that their job clas-

sification was changing every six months as they were allowed to do more,” Bell said. “Not only did the men have to juggle their personal lives with their professional ones, but they also had to learn to expect the unexpected, because in our line of work, you can't plan for anything.”

As an electrical engineering major in college, Nance spent his summers working with Greenfield Power & Light before segueing to NineStar and enrolling in the apprenticeship program. He said the program was not without its challenges. Between working a full-time job and pulling a lot of overtime, it wasn't always easy to keep up with his course work.

“I really had to learn to manage my time rather than putting everything off until Sunday night.

When a lot of your work is completed online, it's easy to procrastinate until the last minute,” he said. “However, it's all been worth it. Now I get to work in the bucket on the high voltage lines, and that was something I was really looking forward to. It gives you a sense of self-worth.”

Potts agreed that the program was demanding, not only mentally but physically and emotionally. Still, he said it was all worth it the day that he was able to get off the ground and touch the 7,200-volt line for the first time.

“That was a pretty big accomplishment,” he noted. “Now that I have graduated and I am starting to help the new guys coming along, I have the greatest appreciation for what they are going through because I have been there and I want to help them.”

HAVING POSITIVE SUPPORT

Both men said they could not have gotten through the program at all were it not for the love and support of family and friends. As Journeyman Linemen, they are on call and out the door at a moment's notice, which means they have to strike a unique balance between their personal and professional lives. Nance, who is about to become a father for the first time, said his wife has been very understanding and supportive of his new career, and Potts said he likes the example he is setting for his own son.

“I know my parents are proud of me and I have even heard my 9-year-old son talk about being a lineman, so that's pretty cool. I worry about him a little because I have to be away so much, but he understands that I have a job to do and that a lot of people are counting on me.”

“There are no limitations on them now, and that is the goal that they wanted to reach when they started the apprenticeship,” Bell said. “Our customers can be assured that with well-educated, well-groomed Linemen on board, the power will be back on in a timely fashion and the job will be done right.”

LEGISLATURE

NINESTAR INVITES STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN PAGE PROGRAM

The Indiana General Assembly offers students between 13 and 18 years of age the opportunity to serve as a page during each legislative session. This year, Indiana's electric cooperatives have teamed up with the Indiana House of Representatives Page Office to reserve all 42 openings for REMC Day on March 7. Students will be excused from school and take part in a day that features the legislature in action, a tour of the governor's office and Statehouse, and the chance to meet and have their picture taken with their state representative.

“This is an excellent opportunity for NineStar Connect to encourage our students to learn first-hand of the work our legislators do for us in Indianapolis. We are always excited to engage our community through our youth programs, and we are glad to promote such a quality experience for students,” said Tim Hills, president and CEO.

NineStar Connect hopes you will encourage your student to join others from Indiana's electric cooperatives in learning more about our state government and meeting the men and women who serve in the General Assembly. The decisions made by Indiana's lawmakers have a significant impact on our ability to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our members, and is a great way to promote the cooperative difference in the Statehouse.

To apply, students must be available on March 7 and have reliable transportation to and from the Indiana Statehouse that day.

Complete these six steps to submit an application:

- Go to District.IGA.IN.gov to find your state representative
- Head to www.IN.gov/Legislative and select House Republicans or House Democrats reflecting the party of your Representative.
- Select the “Student Services/ Opportunities” tab at the top of the page to begin the page application
- Make sure to select March 7, 2013 for BOTH the first and second choices of dates.
- Complete the application by inserting “REMC Day” into the “Special Arrangements/ Requirements” box.
- Submit your application.

The Page Office will confirm applications on a first-come, first-served basis. We anticipate these openings will fill up quickly, so encourage your student to apply today!

MEET AND GREET

NINESTAR HOSTS MILESTONE 60TH ANNUAL MEETING

On April 5, 2013, at Greenfield-Central High School, NineStar Connect will be celebrating its 60th annual meeting and celebration. We hope you can join us that night and partake in the festivities. Once again, a delicious meal will be served and entertainment will be provided. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with the official meeting starting at 7 p.m. The meeting will include the business meeting along with director elections. Profiles and candidate statements are included in this newsletter. In the following weeks please be on the lookout for the official notice in the mail.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



WILLIAM PAXTON

District: 3
Joseph William Paxton

Background: Joe Paxton has been a cooperative member since 1974. Paxton attended Greenfield-Central High School and attended a Purdue Agriculture Short Course in 1972. He is a self-employed farmer and owner of Paxton Enterprises. With addition to farming and managing 2,000 acres, Joe is a member and past trustee of Eden United Methodist Church, former member and past president of Green Township Fire Department, and currently is a member and on the board of directors for Farm Bureau Insurance and NineStar Connect. Joe and his wife, Patty, have a daughter and a son.

Candidate Statement: Over the past seven years, I have had the great pleasure to represent District 3 as a director. The knowledge and understanding I have acquired through being a director and member for 39 years has given me a great appreciation on how a superior cooperative should be run. I have experienced the importance the directors have in developing

growth through new technologies. Recently, I had a role in a successful merge with Central Indiana Power cooperative creating Ninestar, which is one of the first cooperatives of its kind combining power and communications. I have truly enjoyed my role as a director and look forward in serving the next three years to lead an even more exceptional cooperative.



MARK EVANS

District: 5
Mark Evans

Background: Mark Evans has been a cooperative member since August of 2000. He and his wife, Laura, have two children, Andrew and Gabrielle. He currently is the Manager of Ameriana Bank in Middletown and is the Clerk/Treasurer for the Town of Markleville. He previously worked at Regions Bank also as the Bank Manager. Mark attended Ball State University and received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and attended Mid-America College of Funeral Service where he received his associate's degree in Applied Science in Funeral Service. He is a member of Pendleton

Christian Church and a member of Markleville F&AM Lodge No. 629. Mark has also volunteered for the 500 Festival Education Day and is a volunteer coach for Pendleton Youth Basketball and Football.

Candidate Statement: I take pride in representing my local community by serving as Director for NineStar Connect. Having started my director position under the former Hancock Telecom name, I have an understanding from one point of view how the current organization operates, reasons the consolidation occurred and direction the company is looking. I believe the education on both the telecommunications and electric Industries I have received have given me a great opportunity to serve my community. I believe that my background in finance gives me a good understanding of the company's financial well-being. NineStar Connect is a great organization and it is a great opportunity to continue to educate myself on the industries to be able to represent the community and educate the members as we have changes in technology or offering of new products/services.



RONNIE MOHR

District: 6
Ronnie Mohr

Background: Ronnie Mohr has been a cooperative member since 1969. He and his wife, Sarah, have one daughter and two sons. He has been a farmer since 1962 but also served his country in Vietnam in 1968-1969. Ronnie attended Hancock Central and a short course at Purdue University. He has been a Green

Township volunteer firefighter and served on Hancock County Sheriff's Merit Board, Hancock County Drainage Board and Hancock County Community Foundation. He has had experience on other boards and realizes how they should work, and asking questions has always been something he has done. At the present time, Ronnie is serving on Land O Lakes board as First Vice Chairman and was a past director of Ag One and Country Mark Coop.

Candidate Statement: It has always meant a lot to me to give back to my community, people in need and my country. NineStar was a great coming together of two strong coops. We will continue to strive to be a better coop. On the electric side, it has always bothered me that too often we act as a monopoly. I really get upset when the words are said we cannot do things our members want or need. For the past 10-plus years, I have been the coop's director on Wabash Valley Power Association. That is where NineStar purchases 100 percent of its power. Power cost is right at 70 percent of your total electric bill. With that said, I really work hard at understanding, asking questions about our cost of electricity.



RICHARD WALKER

District: 6
Richard Walker

Background: Richard Walker has been a cooperative member since 1966. He is a farmer in Charlottesville, Ind. He graduated from Charlottesville High School and has lived in Jackson Township all his life. Richard has been on the Sheriff Department Reserves for 25 years and worked security for 26 years at Hancock Memorial Hospital. He is a current member of Wilkinson Church of Christ. Richard's hobbies include restoring Farmall tractors and equipment.

Candidate Statement: I have lived in Jackson Township all my life and have been a member

of REMC since the late 1960s. I have been very impressed and intrigued with the recent merger to NineStar and the difference it is making in my area (District 6). I recently was able to take advantage of these services. I have been very pleased to have a phone that works when and after a rain as well as affordable Internet and cable all in one. This is a very much needed service for a rural area like District 6. As a director for NineStar, I would like to help expand the services to more people in my district so that they can experience the benefits I have been lucky enough to acquire. I know that getting expanded into all available areas that it will benefit both NineStar and local residents.



PHILIP M. HAYES

District: 6
Philip M. Hayes

Background: Phil Hayes has been a cooperative member since 1976. He and his wife, Pamela, live in Wilkinson, Ind. They have one married son, Brandon (Becky), and two granddaughters. Phil is a retired Business Manager of Manufacturing and Depot Operations from Raytheon Technical Services and previously worked for Naval Air Warfare Center as a Program Manager. He graduated from Greenfield High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management at Purdue University.

He is a member of Willow Branch United Methodist Church where he serves as Chairman of the Pastor Parish and Finance committees and Vice-Chairman Administrative Board, Auditor and Sunday School teacher. He is a member of Prospect Lodge No. 714 F&AM, a life member of Purdue Alumni Association and finally, a former Treasurer of Prevent Child Abuse of Hancock County. He currently is Vice-Chairman of NineStar Connect and serves on NineStar Connect's Executive and Finance committees. Phil also serves on the NTCA Industry Committee,



which is instrumental in establishing Federal regulatory and policy guidance for over 500 rural telecommunications companies across the United States.

Candidate Statement: I see NineStar as a pioneer, not only in deploying state-of-the-art IP enabled networks, smart meters, broadband services and IP video, but also in recognizing and developing the opportunities that arise by consolidating the technologies and staffs of two great cooperatives. NineStar will face challenges in the near future, from the potential cost of wholesale electricity to the FCC's reform of Universal Service and Inter-Carrier Compensation. I believe NineStar's future success will depend upon deploying new services, strategies and technologies that utilize our networks in ways not previously contemplated while maintaining our core value; putting our members first. I hope my business skills and critical thinking as a director not only contributed to previous successes, but are equally applicable to the challenges ahead. I am proud of what we have accomplished and I welcome the opportunity to continue representing the members of NineStar Connect.



JAMES BATKA, PMP

District: 7
James Batka, PMP

Background: James Batka has been a cooperative member since 2003. He lives in Greenfield and is a Product Consultant for Siemens. He previously worked at SDRC and SAIC. James has a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from The Ohio State University and a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Wright State University. His experience entails project management, customer support, product data management, business processes consultant; maintenance, repair and overhaul background. He also has an IT background in computer networking. He has worked as a consultant for Harley Davidson, Briggs & Stratton, Proctor & Gamble, GM, Ford, General Dynamics, Caterpillar,

Motorola, the U.S. Air Force and Rolls Royce Aircraft Engines, among many others. James's current area of consulting covers maintenance, repair and overhaul (and the management of the information surrounding these activities) of the Ford Class of nuclear aircraft carriers for Newport News Shipyards. James has volunteered for Kid's Play and as a USA Swimming official. James and his wife, Elizabeth, have three daughters and one son.

Candidate Statement: I wish to serve on the board so that I can use my experience and background to improve the NineStar community. My experience with computers and computer networks (both hardware and software) should serve NineStar in its endeavors to provide fiber optic Internet services to the region. My engineering background, both educational and professional, provides me with the ability to rapidly learn and understand industry technical terminology. My project management experience provides me with a thorough understanding of budgets, financials, reporting and metrics. It also provides me with an understanding of how requirements, risk schedule, subcontracting and human resources can influence these.



DENNIS M. DECAPUA

District: 7
Dennis M. DeCapua

Background: Dennis DeCapua has been a cooperative member since 1994. DeCapua attended Purdue University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering; he went on to receive his Master of Science from Washington University. He is currently pursuing an Executive MBA degree from Indiana Wesleyan University. DeCapua has held the positions of Engineering Director at Stant Manufacturing Inc., and Senior Engineer at McDonnell Douglas. DeCapua currently holds the position as Assistant Chief Engineer at Cummins, Inc. He is a certified Six Sigma Green Belt and Design for Six Sigma.

Dennis is also Council Chairman at St. Michael's Parish, went on a summer mission trip with St. Michael's Youth Group and helps to coach the St. Michael's CYO Track Team. Dennis has two daughters and resides in Greenfield.

Candidate Statement: I would like to join the board to help ensure that NineStar Connect remains a profitable business while continuing to deliver high quality and low cost supply of services to its members. I would also like to help NineStar Connect expand its services to other nearby areas in an effort to grow its member base (for example: voice, broadband and video are not offered in my neighborhood). Additionally, I am interested in utilizing my skills to help NineStar Connect achieve its business goals and at the same time have the opportunity to develop additional/new skills of my own. Finally, now that my kids are getting older and more self-sufficient, I have some free time that I would like to use in the local community. I have lived in Greenfield for 19 years, but have always worked far away, and hence I have not had much opportunity to get involved locally.



JAMES GILLETT

District: 7
James A. Gillett

Background: Jim Gillett has been a cooperative member since 1976. He is retired from the Bell System after 38 years. He worked in the design, development and manufacturing of telephone products. He has an associate's degree in Tool and Mechanical Design. For the past nine years, Jim has been a small business owner of a Mechanical Design & Consulting Service. Jim is the incumbent Director of Region 7 currently serving as the vice-chairman of Central Indiana Communications, Inc. and is a credentialed cooperative director through the NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association). Jim served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He is a Member of Society of the 1st

Infantry Division, Veteran of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. Jim and his wife Pam have two sons and three grandchildren.

Candidate Statement: Continue to oversee the implantation of Smart Meters, countywide deployment of fiber optics and broadband internet while being sensitive of the cost to the membership. Work with other NineStar Directors to make NineStar Connect an efficient cooperative both for our customer and employees.



ROBERT L. MATT

District: 7
Robert L. Matt

Background: Rob Matt has been a cooperative member since 1995. Rob attended Indiana University where he received both his Bachelor of Science degree and his Master's Degree. He is currently a Vice President of Hancock Regional Hospital. Previously, Rob worked as the Plant Manager/General Manager at Avery Dennison Corporation (Greenfield) and was the CEO at Bosma Industries. Prior to his employment with the hospital, he resided on the board. He also has held many profit and non-profit leadership positions such as United Way chairperson, secretary/board member at Hancock Hope House and current board member of Hancock Community Education Alliance. For four years, Rob has been an adjunct professor at Indiana University. He and Marsha proudly attend Brandywine Community Church. He and Marsha have been residents of Hancock County for 19 years and have two daughters, Allyson and Emily.

Candidate Statement: I enjoy learning about new industries and using my past/present skills and experience to help one of the most exciting entities in our community. I enjoy participating in the strategic direction setting and support of exciting business/community assets. I would like to be a part of the next generation of growth for NineStar that will benefit the organization, its customers and our community.



NINESTAR TITLE SPONSOR OF COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

NineStar Connect was proud to once again be the title sponsor of the Hancock County Basketball Tournament. Mt. Vernon men's and women's teams won both games on their way to winning their championships. Assisting with the presentation of medals for the men's and women's all-tournament team, as well as presentation of the championship trophy that night, were NineStar employees Jamie Bell and John Splater. Jamie is currently the Director of Operations and has been with NineStar for 19 years. He is also the uncle to Greenfield-Central women's basketball player Brooke Bell. John is currently a Design Technician and has been with NineStar for 18 years. He is also the father of Eastern Hancock basketball player Logan Splater. NineStar joins Jamie and John in congratulating the Mt. Vernon Marauders on their county championships!

NEW CHIEF

HENDERSON ELECTED PRESIDENT OF 4H ELECTRIC COMMITTEE

The state committee that oversees the standards and guidelines of Indiana's 4H electric program recently elected NineStar Connect's Brad Henderson as its new President.



BRAD HENDERSON

The state 4H electric committee is composed of utility representatives, electrical contractor representatives and contractor association representatives from around Indiana. The committee works with representatives of the Purdue University Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering in overseeing the 4H electric program, developing curriculum, establishing project criteria, training judges and so forth.

SAFETY FIRST



NINESTAR PRESENTS LIVE LINE DEMO PROGRAM

It doesn't happen often, but fallen power lines and bare wires can be a dangerous situation when you are placed in harm's way. Automobile accidents or simply cleaning the gutters around your house can quickly escalate when electricity is involved. Not knowing what to do or how to act around power lines when confronted with them can be a life-or-death situation, especially if you don't have the proper knowledge. Because education is the key to staying safe, in November, NineStar Connect was proud to present Kyle Finley and his Live Line Demo presentation. Over two days, Kyle made a presentation to area first responders and high schoolers. Kyle, who

owns and operates the program, is from Alvin, Ill. and travels the nation educating. His demonstrations capture the interest of his crowds because the program teaches real world experiences. Kyle, a former lineman, worked for Eastern Illinois Electric Coop.

On Nov. 29, Kyle presented his program to employees of NineStar Connect, and later that evening, he presented it to area fire departments and law enforcement agencies. Those fire departments included Buck Creek, Fortville, Green Township, Greenfield, Knightstown, Sugar Creek and Wilkinson. Law enforcement agencies in attendance included

the Hancock County Sheriff's Department, Indiana State Police and Hancock County Emergency Management. These attendees learned lessons that will allow them to perform their jobs and respond both quickly and safely to emergency situations.

On Nov. 30, Kyle presented the program to Pendleton Heights and Greenfield-Central high schools. In both assemblies, he demonstrated the dangers of electricity and how texting and driving can be a dangerous — and even deadly — combination. During the session, Kyle selected multiple students from the audience to help reinforce the dangers of downed power lines.

MCCORDSVILLE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

NineStar Connect will conduct an informational meeting Feb. 16 for McCordsville residents south of State Road 67 regarding deployment of fiber optics in their area. This "Donuts and Coffee" meeting will take place at McCordsville Elementary School and will provide NineStar employees from several departments the opportunity to explain the process from beginning to end concerning the installation of fiber. These departments include engineering, installation and repair, marketing and customer service, who share information regarding packages that will soon be available. Residents in the area known as McCordsville South should have received an invitation in the mail and will need to secure their place at the meeting by RSVP'ing by Feb. 13 at 326-3131. McCordsville residents who live north of S.R. 67 already have access to state-of-the-art fiber to the home technology. Please call our offices today to learn more about NineStar products and services.

PROGRAMS INFO

MEMBER SERVICES MEETINGS

NineStar Connect will be conducting a series of meetings in 2013 to provide information and education about the various products and services available to our members. There will be one meeting each quarter. The first quarterly meeting will take place from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Saturday, March 9, 2013 in NineStar Connect's conference center at 2243 E. Main St., Greenfield. Please join us for coffee and donuts beginning at 8 a.m.

- Topics will include:
- Power Guard Lease Program
 - Marathon Water Heater Lease Program
 - Furnace Filter Program
 - Energy Advisor Program
 - Additional programs that are currently under development

Come meet Manager of Education and Member Services Brad Henderson and Energy Advisor Darrin Couch. Brad and Darrin will be able to answer your questions about the Member Services department and the various products and services available to NineStar Connect members. RSVP to Brad Henderson at 317-323-2714 or bhenderson@ninestarconnect.com before Feb. 28, 2013 to let us know how many members of your household or business will be joining us on March 9, 2013.

SAVE MONEY

CONGRESS EXTENDS ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES TAX CREDIT

RESNET has achieved its No. 1 one legislative priority when Congress extended the \$2,000 tax credit for builders who build energy efficient homes by a bipartisan vote (89-8 in the Senate and 257-167 in the House). The legislation changed the base of the tax credit from the 2003 to the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code.

The extension was part of the compromise legislation aimed at averting the fiscal cliff. The legislation extends the credit from Jan. 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 and retroactively to Jan. 1, 2012. The credit had previously expired on December 31, 2011. The extension of the energy efficient tax credit is contained in Section 408 of the legislation. To download the legislation, go to American Taxpayer Act.

The legislation also extended the tax credit for homeowners to purchase qualified products to improve the energy efficiency of their existing homes. President Obama announced that he would sign this legislation.

This is a significant achievement considering the political stalemate that has existed in Washington. It also demonstrates that there is wide bipartisan policy support for high performance homes.

RESNET wants to express its appreciation to its Washington team, its strategic allies and the RESNET members that reached out to their Congressional delegations. Special recognition goes to Jim Petersen of the Pulte Group and John Johnson of Tacoma Energy for their outreach to the leadership of the House Ways and Means Committee.

A CAPITOL IDEA

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS CAN APPLY FOR NINESTAR CONNECT SPONSORED YOUTH TOUR



High School juniors have a chance to visit and tour Washington, D.C. as part of the Indiana Electric Cooperative Youth Tour this summer. NineStar Connect will be a part of sponsoring this event and applications are now available.

The trip is scheduled for June 12 through June 20 and will include 75 students from across the state. NineStar Connect will select two lucky people to attend this summer. Once in Washington, D.C.,

Hoosier students will join approximately 1,600 students, representing 44 states, for the Rural Electric Youth Tour Rally sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

To begin, the Indiana delegation will meet in Indianapolis on Wednesday, June 12, when they will enjoy a kick-off dinner at the Indiana Statehouse. This will give the students a chance to visit and get acquainted with their peers who



are also attending the tour. While traveling, the student group and chaperones will visit places such as the 9/11 Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Pa., tour battlefield sites of the Civil War, visit the new Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, enjoy a night cruise on the Potomac River and take a trip back in history at the Medieval Times. Finally, they will visit Capitol Hill and participate in exclusive meetings with Indiana's congressional and legislative staff. Students will also have the opportunity to win a \$1,000 scholarship and a spot on the Youth Leadership Council.

Since 1960, electric cooperatives such as NineStar Connect have helped host the event. It has provided young Hoosiers the opportunity to visit our nation's capital, learn about the federal government and the cooperative utility industry. Most importantly, students will enhance their leadership skills, make lifelong friendships and gain many great memories.

To be eligible for the Youth Tour, applicants must be currently juniors in high school and their parents must be NineStar Connect cooperative members. For more information, please contact Christa Riggs, Marketing Coordinator, at 317-323-2132 or email at criggs@ninestarconnect.com. You can also go online to ninestarconnect.com for more details and/or to obtain an application.

Deadline for completed applications is Feb. 22, 2013.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR TOUCHSTONE ENERGY CAMP

In the past 11 years, Touchstone Energy® Camp has helped to keep close to 1,000 sixth-grade students safe around electricity, while also enjoying outdoor camp activities. Once again, NineStar Connect will continue this time-honored tradition and sponsor two students to attend the 11th Anniversary Touchstone Energy® Camp to be held June 5-8 at Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, Ind.

Sixth-grade students eligible to attend should fill out an application and return to NineStar Connect by Feb. 28. Two students will be selected to participate in the three-day program. Students will enjoy traditional outdoor camp activities, such as horseback riding, zip lining and swimming, while also receiving a lesson in safe electricity, a live line safety demonstration and bucket truck rides.

“This is a fun and exciting way for students to learn about electric safety and the role of electric cooperatives in their community. On top of that, they get to experience all the fun of camp,” said Tim Hills, President & CEO of

NineStar Connect. Applications can be found at www.ninestarconnect.com under the “Our Community” tab or by visiting any of NineStar Connect’s four convenient locations. If you have any questions about the Touchstone Energy Camp, please contact Christa Riggs by email at criggs@ninestarconnect.com or by phone at (317) 323-2132.

The Touchstone Energy® Camp program was developed by a committee of electric cooperative employees from around the state of Indiana. It is funded in part by Hoosier Energy, Wabash Valley Power Association, Indiana’s Rural Electric Cooperatives, Indiana Statewide Association of REC’s and local sponsors.

HISTORY
ARTIFACTS FROM THE PAST

NineStar customer Dan Vail recently brought in several items related to the company’s past. While going through some items that belonged to his father, Don, who recently passed away, he came across several old telephone directories. Also included in the items was an annual meeting booklet from the fourth annual meeting of Hancock Rural Telephone Corp in 1957. We appreciate Dan saving these items and donating them to the company’s archives. If you have any old items related to the past history of the company, we would be interested in them.



GIVING OF SELF



A FINE EXAMPLE
MEG SCHLETER RECEIVES YOUTH HOPE AND POWER AWARD

Indiana Statewide Association, of which NineStar Connect is a member, recently honored the winners of its annual Youth Power and Hope Awards Contest. The contest is open to Indiana fifth through eighth graders residing in the service territory of an electric cooperative of the Association. The award emphasizes the important role young Hoosiers play in their communities.

To apply for this award, each entrant had to complete an entry form, submit an essay regarding community service, provide examples of his/her

community involvement, and include a letter of reference. A panel of judges then selected five award winners with Greenfield’s Meg Schleter being

one of them. Meg is an eighth grader at Mt. Vernon Middle School and is the daughter of NineStar members Kurt and Peggy Schleter.

Her community service activities have included helping to organize a skate night to raise money for Riley Hospital for Children and partnering with two friends to help win a grant that funded 20 backpacks full of healthy food for needy families. Schleter’s passion, though, is helping to find a cure for diabetes. Last year, she raised more than \$2,000 to fight the disease. Schleter and her mom, who is diabetic, were chosen as the “faces of diabetes” by the American Diabetes Association and helped to promote the state of Indiana’s “We Can.....Stop Diabetes” license plate.

The winners were honored at the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives’ Annual Meeting in Indianapolis on Dec. 4. NineStar Connect President Tim Hills, and Purple Heart recipient and community spokesperson for the Indianapolis Colts, Josh Bleill, were on hand to congratulate and honor Meg’s achievement.

Meg said she feels like community service is a challenge but one that is exciting and rewarding. She sets an example for people, young and old, to get out of their comfort zone and promote a cause that is dear to them.

NineStar Connect is an advocate for community service and is delighted that someone like Meg is striving to help make our community a greater place.

Contact NineStar Connect at 326-3131 for more information.

ABOUT MEG SCHLETER

- Eighth Grade
- Mt. Vernon Middle School
- Her family’s home is served electrically by NineStar Connect
- Her service includes:
 - Advocate for a cure for diabetes as an avid fundraiser and promoter of the “Find a Cure”, plate;
 - Partnered with two friends to help win a grant that filled 20 backpacks full of healthy food for needy families in their school district from December 2011 to May 2012;
 - Helped organize a skate night to raise money for Riley Hospital for Children

DID YOU KNOW



NINESTAR TO INSTALL CRITTER GUARDS

In an effort to reduce the number of outages caused by animals, NineStar has discovered a new product, the “Critter Guard,,” to defend against one of our most common outages, “the Squirrel.” NineStar has reviewed outage data that captures the highest number of outages caused by the common squirrel on our system and will deploy the “Critter Guards” according to those numbers on targeted overhead services.

We hope to continue to reduce the number of outages caused by animals

of any kind. The guards will hopefully help stop those squirrels that are climbing from your neighbor’s bird feeder onto your NineStar Electric service lines. We often forget that when we feed animals, that it can also attract other animals, which-can cause a major power outage.

NineStar will continue to investigate and use technology to remove such outage causing elements as a tree or an animal. Any questions, please call the Operations Department at 317-326-3131.

LOCAL SCHOOLS TEST PURDUE SCIENCE CURRICULUM

A new science curriculum developed by Purdue University in conjunction with the Indiana state 4-H electric committee is being field-tested in two Hancock County schools before being released for general use throughout the state. Thanks to the efforts of NineStar Connect Manager of Education and Member Services Brad Henderson, fourth-grade students at St. Michaels and Brandywine elementary schools will be the first in the state to try out the new “Basic Electricity” curriculum. Teachers at these two schools have agreed to include this new education program in their science classes and to provide program developers at Purdue and the

state 4-H electric committee with their suggestions and opinions regarding all aspects of the program, especially its effectiveness as an education tool.

The curriculum is written to be used primarily with fourth- or fifth-grade students, and is based on a self-directed learning model, where students participate in hands-on exploration of electricity, using the provided experimenter circuit boards in conjunction with computer-based learning activities. The program also includes a detailed teacher’s guide to help facilitate the self-directed learning activities for students. The primary goal of the hands-on activities using the experimenter boards is to

allow students the opportunity to discover the types of circuits that can be created to cause one or more light bulbs to illuminate (or not illuminate). Students will have the opportunity to discover what constitutes a series circuit and a parallel circuit as well as the characteristics of each. They will also learn about both “short” and “open” circuits and how they affect overall circuit behavior.

The plan is that once the field tests are complete this semester, final changes will be made to the curriculum based on teacher recommendations and observations, and the program will be made available to the rest of the state’s elementary schools in the fall of this year.

NEWS

NINESTAR TO OFFER 2013 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR 15 STUDENTS

The 2013 Scholarship program provides \$1,000 scholarships to 15 children of NineStar members and customers. As of Feb. 1, 2013, the student’s principle address must be with said student’s parent or legal guardian who is a member or customer in good standing of NineStar Connect or NineStar Communications.

- The student must be a 2013 graduating high school senior
- The student must have a seven-semester minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent at the time of application
- Application forms must be submitted to NineStar Connect by 3 p.m. March 8, 2013
- Application forms are available at ninestarconnect.com under “Our Community” and at all local high school guidance offices. They may also be picked up at any NineStar Connect business office.

NineStar Connect North Campus 2331 E. 600N Greenfield	NineStar Connect South Campus 2243 E. Main St. Greenfield
McCordsville Office 5925 West Broadway McCordsville	Knightstown Office 37 E. Main St. Knightstown

For more information, call (317) 326-3131 or (765) 533-4303.

And he sun, like a orange moon,
Beamed on it through the waving trees
With a golden chain,
For my love laughed in a crimson gleam,
And hid in the leaves in wait for me.
The night he came to sing
His love through the lavender hours,
And his eyes, as a
Night brought his palace down
But my love bowed in a mockery,
And hid in the leaves in wait for me.

the hummingbird, like a courtier gay,
He turned on the feathered
came
at rare.

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came
at rare.

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for me.
dim

And I married
my, but lay

SPRING 2013

The Riley Spring Concert Series

Join us for an enjoyable expression of music and renaissance of the arts.

JENNIE DEVOE
Saturday, April 6, 2013
8:00 pm



HOOSIER CROSBY, STILLS & NASH
Saturday, April 27, 2013
8:00 pm



CATHY MORRIS
Saturday, May 18, 2013
8:00 pm



Jennie DeVoe's voice is smoked honey on a sultry summer evening... smooth, sweet and warm, steeped in the kettle of blues/R&B - but with a rare and wonderful flavor all her own.

A group of Indiana's finest musicians will pay tribute to Crosby, Stills & Nash. Tim Grimm, noted actor and award-winning singer-songwriter, is behind the band's creative force.

Electric violinist Cathy Morris, combines contemporary jazz with latin rhythms, funk grooves, fusion, rock, blues and even cajun fun! Cathy calls her distinctive sound as "Party Jazz".

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 pm. ALL SHOWS START AT 8:00 pm.
Ricks Centre for the Arts • 122 West Main Street • Greenfield, IN

GENERAL SEATING

For tickets: **317-477-SONG**

Visit rileyconcert.com or scan the QR code.

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www.HancockCountyArts.com

FORMER HANCOCK REMC GENERAL MANAGER PASSES AWAY

Arthur E. "Gene" Ruesch, 81, Franklin, Ind., passed away peacefully at St. Vincent Hospice on Jan. 17, 2013. He was born Oct. 5, 1931 in Indianapolis to the late William and Chrystal Ruesch. Gene graduated from Arsenal Tech High school in

1948 and later enlisted in the naval reserves. He enlisted as a naval reservist from October 1950 to December 1957, serving his country for two terms. Gene had various careers in business management. He was proud to work for Herff Jones and the State of Indiana. He retired as general manager of Hancock County Rural Electric Co. (REMC). At the time of retirement, Gene was enjoying life in his Indiana Masonic home in Franklin. Gene is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joyce Ruesch (Cox) and their son, Bill Ruesch. Services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Feb. 9, 2013 with friends and family gathering from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Kresge Chapel-Masonic Home in Franklin.

SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes.

See ninestarconnect.com Facebook page for last edition's solution.

			7	4				9
9			6	8				3
	8							4
	1	7		3	6			
8			5				9	1
4				7	1	6		
	5					2	4	7
6	7	8	4					5
3		2				9		

Level: Beginner

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NINE STAR CONNECTION