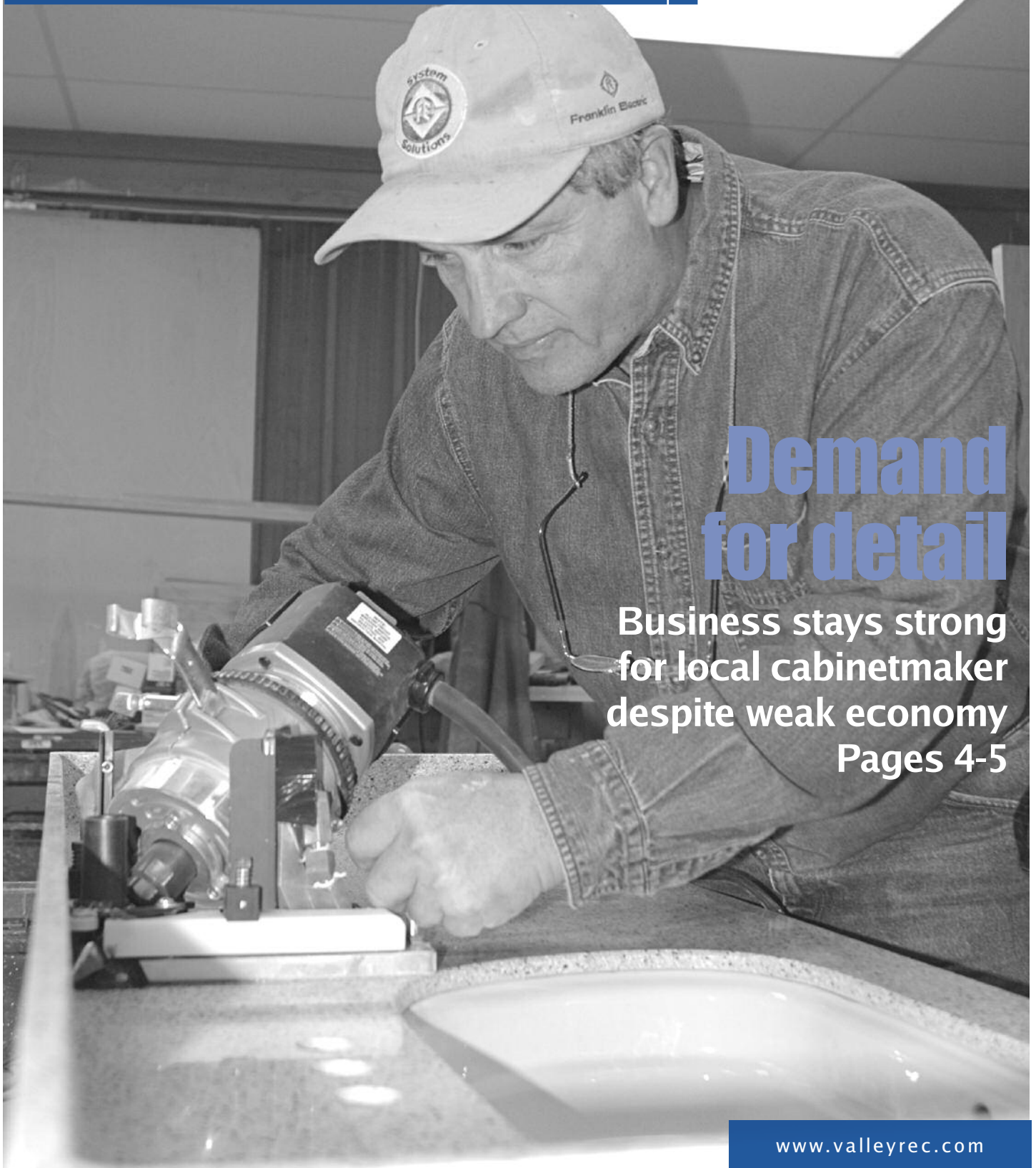


Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Valley News

January | February 2009

Volume 66 | Issue 1



Demand for detail

Business stays strong
for local cabinetmaker
despite weak economy

Pages 4-5

Climate change legislation is coming

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA recently introduced his energy team to our nation. His choices give us a good idea about the direction he wants the industry to take. For example, one thing we now know for certain: climate change legislation is coming soon.

Obama chose Carol Browner, a former aide to Vice President Al Gore, to serve as White House energy coordinator. His selection shows his intention to be personally involved in the effort to pass climate change legislation (rather than handing it over to either the secretary of energy or the Environmental Protection Agency administrator).

With close ties to Gore, Browner enters the position with a primary mission: enactment of climate change legislation. With her extensive experience in the Washington policy area, she should understand the importance of "political sustainability." She must recognize that the key to a workable energy policy is keeping electricity affordable for consumers.

The president also named Stephen Chu, a physicist and leading advocate of new technologies to curb carbon dioxide emissions, to serve as secretary of energy. The Nobel Prize winner is known for leading a national laboratory in the direction of renewable energy specialization, particularly in the field of new fuels for transportation. Chu's selection indicates that the department will push climate change to the top of the Department of Energy's agenda.

Now that the president's team is in place, electric cooperatives like Valley will work even harder to reinforce the central messages of the "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign. *(For more information, visit www.ourenergy.coop.)*

We are encouraged that the president has chosen an energy secretary who understands both the technological challenges and realistic timeline for research and development. And we are fortunate to have energy experts and political advocates at both the state and national levels who represent and speak on behalf of



Wayne F. Miller
President & Chief Executive Officer

our consumers. Some of these folks have already met with Obama's energy transition team and have underscored the need for realistic and least-cost approaches to climate change legislation.

For example, Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, recently told the new administration that reducing carbon emissions from the electricity sector over the next five decades will require new and improved technologies. He also noted that the government must assist in developing technologies that will allow for expanded base-load generation options.

Obama's energy team is one whose members have long been focused on tackling environmental issues. We believe they will move forcefully, but also pragmatically, to carry out the president's intention to push climate change legislation.

Cooperatively yours,

Wayne F. Miller
President & CEO

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Valley News (USPS 655-940) is published bimonthly by Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., 10700 Fairgrounds Road, PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477.

Periodicals postage paid at Huntingdon, PA 16652

Subscription Rate: \$3 per year

Statement of ownership, management and circulation as required by act of Oct. 23, 1963, Section 4369, Title 39

Postmaster: Please send address changes to: Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., 10700 Fairgrounds Road, PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477.

Advertising: The deadline for Trading Post ads is the 25th day of the month prior to the issue months. Acceptance of advertising does not imply co-op endorsement of any product or service.

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Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

On the cover ...



Valley Rural Electric member Steve Hollenshead has been selling cabinets since 1988. In spite of debilitating arthritis and the destruction of his wood shop by fire, he still makes a living doing what he loves. For his story, turn to Pages 4-5.

Electric bills to get a facelift

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO REVIEW the sample bill below. It reflects upcoming changes to the design of Valley's electric bills. The new bill format will go into effect in early spring. The changes will help the cooperative save on mailing and processing time, greatly increasing billing efficiencies.

0004265001

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 477
Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477

Phone 814/643-2650 or toll-free 800/432-0680
Federal ID: 23-1179011 www.valleyrec.com

11452 1 AV 0.324 4 11452
John Doe C-41 P-64
Jane Doe
555 Deer Crossing
Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477

John Doe 01

Billing Date	Account #	Member #
01/01/2009	0000000	0000000

- DO NOT PAY! -
Your account will be debited automatically for \$185.18 on 12/22/2008. If you have any questions, please call prior to 12/19/2008. Thank you for your participation in ElectraPay.

Previous balance	91.55
Balance at billing	91.55
GENERATION	
Energy 909 kWh @ \$0.06520	59.27
DISTRIBUTION	
Basic monthly charge	15.00
Energy 909 kWh @ \$0.02380	21.63
NON-BASIC CHARGES	
Purchased Power Adjustment	
909 kWh @ -\$0.02500	-2.27
SUBTOTAL	93.63
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	185.18

PRICE TO COMPARE: \$0.06520

This month your bill was estimated because we did not receive your meter reading before the 20th. Next month a co-op employee may have to read your meter. In order to avoid the \$20.00 fee for this service, please send your meter reading so that it reaches our office by the 20th of the month.

***** Electric Use Profile *****

Total yearly use for the past 12 months: 13057
Average monthly use for the past 12 months: 1088

Average Monthly kWh Use by Month

*** Meter Reading Information ***

Rate	Pres	Pre	Differ	Mult	kWh Used
GS	10227	9318	909	X 1	909

You may read your meter any time between the 5th and 15th of each month. However, you should have approximately 30 days between readings. The co-op must have your meter reading by January 20, 2009.

Return this portion with your payment

Billing Date	01/01/2009
Account #	0000000
Telephone #	555/555-5555
Meter #	Reading
0000000	10227

Pay before	01/20/2009	\$ 185.18
Pay after	01/20/2009	\$ 187.96

Enter payment amount \$ _____

VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC
PO BOX 477
HUNTINGDON PA 16652 01

400200004265001000018518000018796010120094

If not mailing payment, report your meter reading via the web at www.valleyrec.com or call 800/432-0680.

John Doe
Jane Doe
555 Deer Crossing
Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477

Check here if your address or telephone number has changed. Please put your new address on back.



Photo by Luanne H. Eckenrode

CAPITOL HILL: U.S. Sen. Robert Casey, Jr. (D-Pa.) speaks to 2008 Youth Tour students.

Spread your wings at 2009 Youth Tour

ARE YOU a high school junior or senior looking for adventure this summer? If so, the 2009 Rural Electric Youth Tour might be for you!

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative will sponsor students from throughout the cooperative's service territory on an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital June 14-19.

Youth Tour participants will visit historic sites, meet with federal legislators, learn about rural electric cooperatives ... and have fun!

More than 40,000 students from rural areas and small towns across America have participated in Youth Tour. Some Youth Tour alums have gone on to serve in the highest ranks of our government, including the U.S. Senate.

If you're interested in joining the Youth Tour delegation, here's what you need to know:

Any high school junior or senior whose parent or guardian is a member or employee of Valley REC is eligible to apply.

Students will be required to submit a transcript along with additional information to the co-op selection committee.

Selections will be based on academic achievement as well as participation in extracurricular activities and/or community service programs.

For more information, call 814/643-2650 or email memberservices@valleyrec.com.

Congratulations to photo award recipients

Valley REC members Shawn Nicewanger and Donna Stoner recently won \$75 prizes for their entries in the 2008 Rural Reflections photo contest sponsored by *Penn Lines* magazine. Shawn's picture of a wintry scene earned him the Most Artistic award. Donna's picture of daisies poking through boards was named Editor's Choice. Their photos are featured in the January edition of *Penn Lines*.

FINISH LINE: Steve Hollenshead sands a door for a set of kitchen cabinets. The Valley REC member opened a cabinetmaking business at his Harrisonville, Fulton County, residence more than two decades ago.

FINER THINGS

Country craftsman finds niche in custom cabinetry

BY SUSAN R. PENNING
Director of Member Services

DESPITE A SLOW ECONOMY, debilitating arthritis and a devastating fire, Valley Rural Electric member Steve Hollenshead still makes a living doing what he loves -- building cabinets.

Steve and his wife of nearly 29 years, Lee, decided to get into the woodworking business in 1987, after Steve got laid off from the local company where he was doing carpentry work.

"Lee told me I should go for it," Steve recalls. "She said not to worry; we would do whatever it took to make ends meet. She stood behind me and was my only helper for a while."

The Hollensheads used Steve's 26 weeks of unemployment time to build their first wood shop -- a small space above their garage -- then officially opened a full-time cabinetmaking business.

"At the time, I had an order for one

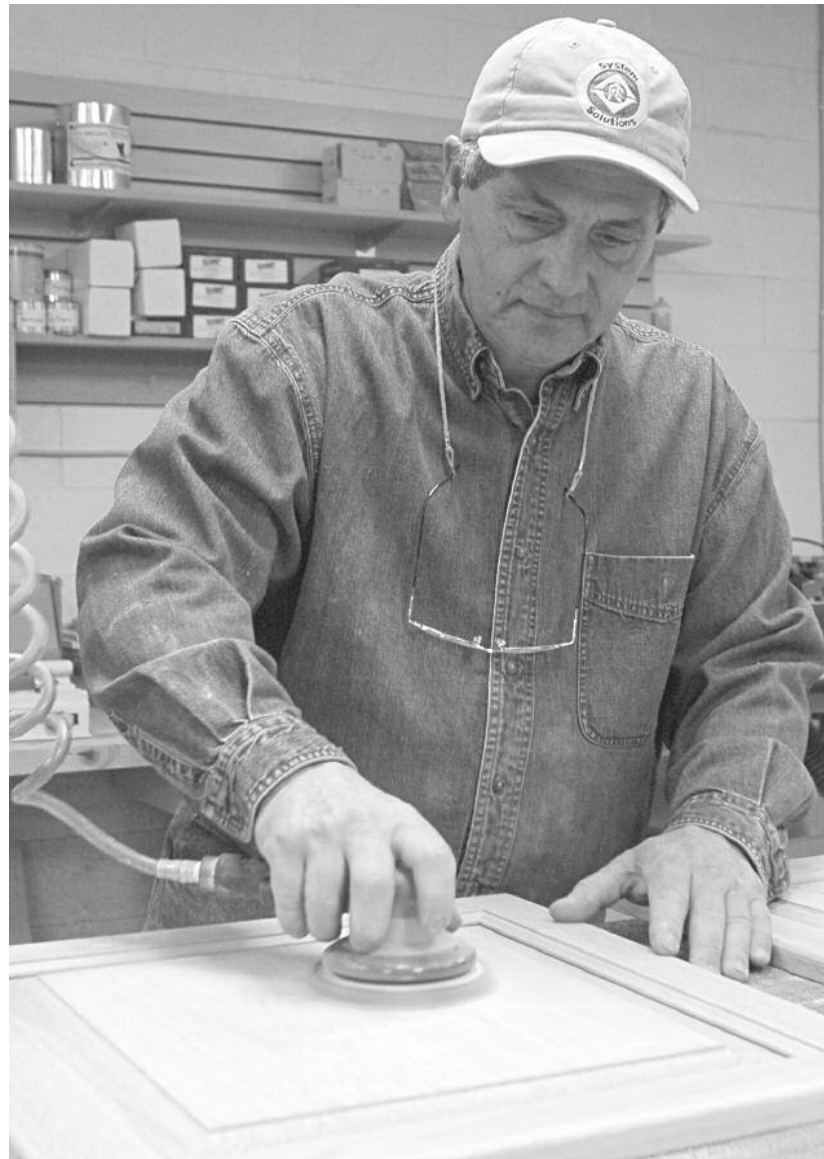
kitchen," Steve says. "Then, I got another ... they just kept coming in."

"I still remember how hard it was to maneuver those cabinets out the door and down the garage stairs," Lee chuckles.

SETBACKS

Getting cabinets out of a second floor space hasn't been the Hollenshead's only obstacle throughout their two decades in business.

"I have arthritis in my spine, ribs & hips," Steve admits. "There was a time when the back pain was so bad that I thought I wouldn't be able to continue making cabinets. Fortunately, I had a good doctor who informed me that the arthritis would eventually cause my spine to fuse and then the pain would lessen. So I let it run its course and continued to work through it."



The arthritis left Steve with a slight curve in his back and limited movement in his neck. But he's now virtually pain-free.

In 1993, the Hollensheads suffered another setback when their wood shop was destroyed by fire. Although most people would consider the loss to be unfortunate, Steve says it actually turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

"We took the knowledge we had gained over the years and designed a shop that worked even better for us than the old one," he points out.

GROWING UP

The Hollenshead's rebuilt shop, which is nearly twice the size of the old one, now includes some impressive "bells and whistles," such as a large machinery room that houses an industrial planer and sander and a "finishing room" used exclusively for



LEFT: Steve's son, Anthony, works full-time at the business. The father/son team can finish a set of typical kitchen cabinets in about three to four weeks.

ABOVE: Steve and his wife, Lee, show off their country kitchen. Steve custom-built all of the cabinetry in the space. He often uses his kitchen as a showroom for his woodworking abilities.

"I give people exactly what they want ... Each piece is custom built to customers' specifications."

spraying varnish and paint.

They have more help now, too. The couple's son, Anthony, works alongside Steve as his apprentice.

"I believe Anthony will be well-equipped to take over the family business when the time comes for me to retire," Steve predicts.

Although he has the facility, tools and machinery to churn out a lot of cabinets, Steve hasn't lost his attention to detail. In fact, it's his penchant for the finer points that has kept him in business for more than 20 years.

"I give people exactly what they want," Steve says. "Each piece is custom built to customers' specifications."

KEEPING UP

Steve uses mostly local wood and has his own drying kiln at the shop. He even has his own band saw. So, if customers want to use wood taken from their own property, he can accommodate their requests.

Steve and Anthony enjoy working with all different types of wood; they don't have one favorite. However, Steve explains, "Pine is a little more difficult to work with because it's so sticky."

Kitchens are the Hollenshead's specialty, and they estimate that they've built more than 250 so far. They've also built bathroom cabinets and specialty items like entertainment center units. Recently, they've begun installing solid surface counter tops as well.

"We notice the trends and try to keep up," Steve notes. "Eight out of 10 customers want solid surface counters now,



so it just makes sense."

He says there are wood fads, too.

"A few years ago, everyone wanted a red oak kitchen. I thought I'd never see the end," Steve muses. "Then cherry was hot; now it's the light woods, like maple and hickory. And painted cabinets are coming back in style."

Despite a weak economy, the family has enough work to keep them going.

"We've definitely seen things slow down," Steve says. "But I have five kitchens on order right now, so it hasn't been enough of a downturn to run us out of business."

Steve says his greatest enjoyment is seeing the finished product. And he likes being his own boss, although it's not as glamorous as it seems.

"People say, 'Wow, you can work whenever you want, take a week off whenever you want ...' The truth is, I'm putting in at least 40 hours every week -- usually more -- just like everybody else. But it's worth it to do what you love."

For more information on Hollenshead Cabinet Making, call 717/485-3780.

STICKY STUFF: Steve glues and clamps together wood pieces for a cabinet.

THE
**Trading
Post**

Classified Advertising



Co-op members may submit ads via e-mail at valleynewsads@valleyrec.com; by phone at 800/432-0680; by fax at 814/643-1678; or by mail at Valley REC, PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477. There is no charge for this service. If consumers wish to continue running particular ads, they are required to resubmit the information on a bimonthly basis. The deadline for submission is the 25th day of the month prior to the issue months. Submissions are viewable on the co-op's website at www.valleyrec.com. Items published are printed at the request of our members. The co-op does not endorse, recommend or assume any responsibility for the products or services advertised.

Real Estate

For lease - 1,296 sq. ft. office/warehouse rental, 10722 Fairgrounds Rd. next to Valley Rural Electric. Ideal for small business, contractor, etc. NO RETAIL. Located in the Keystone economic zone. Great location, access to city conveniences, but nice country setting. 903/842-3936.

New 27'x24' 2-story log cabin on 10 wooded acres. Deck, dormer, double-pane windows, wood heat, small pond, fruit trees, perked. Secluded, private drive, great hunting, \$145,000. Taking offers for a short time. Juniata Co. 717/734-3730.

McConnellsburg - 79 acres w/ stream & 2 wells. 4 BR, 2 bath raised ranch home (approx. 2,824 sq. ft.) w/ pastoral & mtn. views, clean & green. 2 large outbuildings, in quiet area, \$599,900. Call Della Rae at 888/725-6836.

Wanted

Collector looking for old gas, oil & auto-related advertising items, signs, thermometers, clocks, pumps, globes, neon, showroom & dealer items, etc. Call 814/695-5712 or email munion@atlanticbb.net.

Marlin 22 bolt-action w/ clip. Call 814/599-4494.

Single-bottom plow for category #1 3-pt. hitch, preferably a 12" or 14"; also a 5-6' disc small enough for a 21 hp tractor. Call 717/938-8056.

Buying used guns. Must be complete & in good working cond. 717/734-3730.

House cleaning. 814/259-3634.

Any information on the Garfield School in Cass Twp., Smith Valley. Also nearby farms, names of students, teachers & property owners in the area, no detail too small. Doing research, hopefully for a book. 814/542-8785.

Metal spare tire cover to fit 15" tire. 717/734-3051.

Aluminum ladder stand for hunting, Spruce model manufactured by Warren & Sweat. 814/695-5912.

Autos/Trucks

Winter treads, like new, 2 P215 75R15 M/S for 1976 Caddy, mounted & balanced, \$75 OBO. 814/667-3444.

1976 Cadillac Coupe DeVille, low miles, interior like new, red w/ white vinyl top. The last of the big engines, \$3,000 OBO. 814/667-3444.

2005 Dodge Daytona hemi magnum, 5-speed auto. 4x4, single cab, go-mango, all options, 1,300 miles. Sticker \$37,740, asking \$24,000. 717/734-3730.

1979 Ford F150 Lariat 351M 4-speed 4x4, low mileage. Body rough, parts only. Must take whole truck, \$400. 717/734-3730.

Service

For the Lamb Christian Recording Studio - Would you like to record your church choir or ensemble? Or are you a small *a capella* or acoustic group? I also sell Christian music. Visit www.forthelambstudio.com or call 717/899-5717.

R&T Insulation - Blown insulation in walls & attics, free estimates. Call 814/259-3605.

Timber - Mark A. Kane, consulting forester. Timber sales, management & appraisals. Over 40 yrs. experience. PSU B.S. Forestry 1964. 814/667-2282.

Whitsel's Tax Service - Doing personal, farm & small business tax prep., low fees. Daniel Whitsel. 814/542-8511.

Buck Hollow Taxidermy - Orbisonia area. Professional taxidermy since 1990. Call Mike at 814/447-3744 or visit www.buckhollowtaxidermy.com

Love Shine Rentals - Your affordable rental company for tents, chairs, tables & all the items you need for that special event or wedding. We also now offer catering items for events. Call 717/734-3335 to request information or visit www.loveshinerentals.com

Rubano Remodeling & Construction - Additions, bathrooms, kitchens & all types of remodeling. Fully-insured. 814/667-2407.

Antique clock repair & restoration. Call Richard Port. 814/643-1582.

Whew! The hectic holiday season is over! Allow yourself the luxury of shopping for you & receive a 10% discount off your first order as well as a free gift w/ any order of \$50 or more. Tanya's Avon. 814/330-8877.

ES Ministries Thrift Shop is located in the Mooresville United Methodist Church, 5468 Charter Oak Rd., Mooresville. Open Thursdays & Fridays 9 a.m.-6 p.m. & Saturdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Selling clothing, household goods & toys.

Bat, bird & squirrel droppings in your attic can be a health hazard. With my specialized industrial vacuum machine, I can safely dispose of the problem. Call Darrin Fillman, wildlife specialist, 717/436-9391. We can also handle all of your other nuisance wildlife concerns. We remove bats, skunks, groundhogs, squirrels, birds, snakes, raccoons, flying squirrels, etc. If it's a problem, we can solve it. Licensed & insured.

Allow us to transport your precious horse anywhere in the U.S. except Alaska & Hawaii. Call 814/696-9001 for free estimate.

Tom's Tree Service - 7 days a week, no job too big or small. Tree trimming & removal, stump grinding, bucket truck & chipper, storm damage clean-up, brush mowing, land clearing. Free est., fully insured. 814/627-0550 or 448-3052. Backed by the Better Business Bureau.

Recreational

1996 Chaparral boat model 2335SS, Cuddie Cabin, Mercruiser 5.7 V-8, Bravo 3 out-drive, lots of options, 1 owner. Includes a dual-axle trailer. Boat has been used in Raystown Lake exclusively. Everything is in exc. cond. Asking \$11,900. I can send pictures via email. Call 717/766-9411 or 877-4450 after 5 p.m.

Snowmobiles - 1979 Arctic Cat w/ cover, 1980 Arctic Cat w/ cover, trailer for hauling both, \$2,000. 814/359-2191.

16' by 6'-wide jon boat, G3 1652 w/ 25 hp Honda engine. Boat & trailer are only 2 seasons old. Engine was used for only 3 seasons & the last 2 of these only 2 tanks of gas were used each season. Navigation lights, 2 sliding seats, 28-lb. electric trolling motor. Everything is in great shape, \$3,995. Email srdubsco@msn.com

1999 Arctic Cat JAG 340 snowmobile, \$1,500. Less than 100 hrs. used, kept near Petersburg. 215/292-6589.

Vacation Rentals

Would you like to get away but prefer not to drive too far? Check out Wildwood Chalet and Cottage. Two rustically beautiful vacation homes nestled in a peaceful wooded valley, minutes from Raystown Lake. Each home sleeps 10 and is within walking distance of the other. Perfect for a romantic getaway for 2, retreats, family gatherings, you name it! For more information, visit www.wildlodge.net or call 814/571-8799.

Livestock/Pets

Stud service, ACA shih-tzu, black & white. Call 814/542-9595 after 5:30 p.m. or leave message.

Alpacas and alpaca products for sale at Terrace Mtn. Alpacas near Calvin. Come visit our friendly, huggable alpacas. Store hours: Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or call 814/643-2854 any other day. Visit www.terracemountainalpacas.com

2-yr.-old black male Czech shepherd dog, excellent pedigree, sell or stud, \$200. Selling due to owner's health. 717/734-3730.

Golden Retriever pups, AKC, vetted, 1st shots, wormed, imported champion blood lines, light-colored. Male, \$450. Female, \$500. 717/527-4575.

Tools/Equipment

New Porter cable router in case, never used, \$100. Makita reciprocating saw w/ case, \$75. Ridgid 13" planer on stand, bought new in December '07, used once, \$250. 814/667-3519.

Delta 32" uni-fence for table saw. Rebel router table. Tool stand w/ mobile base. Call 814/696-0191.

Classified Ads

Saw dust blower, 18" Cornell, like new, 6" intake, 6" square exhaust. Dry 15 kva transformer, converts 3-phase to 1-phase. 814/542-4779.

Miscellaneous

Recliner lift chair w/ battery back-up, maroon, used 4 mos. Orig. \$900, asking \$550 OBO. Call 814/684-3373.

2 antique wormy chestnut exterior doors, orig. black hardware, one solid door 30"x 72-1/2", one 1/2 Dutch door 30"x72-3/4", handmade in the 1940s, good cond. 1 curved-design maple & wrought iron queen-sized head & bottom bed board, steel frame, good cond. Best offers. 814/643-5396 before 8 p.m.

Beautiful Samik mahogany piano, purchased new in 1990. 42-3/4" console w/ bench, beautiful sound, exc. cond., \$1,500 firm. Call Beth at 814/934-1103 for more information.

Gibson chest-type freezer, exc. cond. Electric lift chair, exc. cond. Downsizing. Call 814/658-3988 or 658-3727.

Color printer, Canon Pixma 3-in-1 photo printer, MP240, easy PhotoPrint EX software w/ enhanced auto photo fix, \$25. 814/695-3298.

Baldwin organ C630, church suitable, 32 pedals, some repairs needed, \$1,000. Drafting desk, 72"x 44", \$75. Light table, 60"x 37", \$500. Trailer (formerly camper), \$50. Survey level Sokkia C41 w/ tripod & range pole, new, \$500. Snow thrower, 46" John Deere, good cond., \$600. Printer & fax machine. Computer table. Call 717/349-2107.

Good used Home Interiors products. 814/259-3634.

3 solid cherry, natural-finished end/night tables, exc. cond., \$30 each or all for \$75. 6 120/240-volt electric baseboard heaters, \$25 each or all 6 for \$120. 2 cherry-finished ladder back/wicker seat chairs, \$20 each or \$35 for both, exc. cond. 814/667-3519.

Bimonthly publication of
Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 477, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0477

Lumber - 200 lin. ft. walnut moulding, colonial. 74 lin. ft. chestnut moulding, colonial. 400 board ft. 4/4xR.W. wormy red oak, nice, air-dried. 350 board ft. 4/4xR.W. hard maple, air-dried. 200 board ft. 4/4xR.W. cherry, air-dried. 814/542-4779.

Solid hardwood flooring, unfinished/pre-finished oak, cherry, walnut & hard maple. 814/643-3644.

2 very old brass & porcelain table lamps. 5'x7' air mattress, 8" thick. New roll of barbed wire. 814/658-2235.

4-person hot tub, exc. cond., kept inside, can see running. Electrical box & lid included, \$2,500. Call 717/597-8423 after 5 p.m.

Collection of antique cap pistols, ranging from 1895-1970. 814/542-4252.

Old-fashioned green Kalamazoo kitchen cook stove, 36" long, workable, all pipes included, reasonable price. 814/239-2570.

Homemade quilts for sale. 814/627-5299.

Aluminum diamond-plated toolbox, fits small-sized pickup, asking \$100. 814/832-3180.

3-wheeled handicap scooter by Pride, 450-lb. capacity, extra-wide seat, front & rear baskets, turn signals, charger, used 10 hrs. Was \$4,500, selling for \$850. 814/695-1788.

4-drawer dresser, dark walnut stain, good cond. 717/485-3281.

1,000 board ft. kiln-dried white pine, clear & #1, \$1,250. Other woods avail. 814/447-3630 or email galleryofwood@innernet.net

Blankets, comforters & bedspreads, new to vintage & unique. Several wood stoves, \$75-200. Select Comfort queen dual-control air bed, \$500. 22 magnum bolt-action rifle. New 15 hp phase converter. 814/447-3630 or email galleryofwood@innernet.net

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In accordance with federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

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