

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# Valley News

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## ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

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[www.valleyrec.com](http://www.valleyrec.com)

# Balancing buzz with common sense

**MY KIDS OFTEN** get excited about the latest gadget to hit the market. It might cost a bit extra, but they simply have to have it. I never quite understood that excitement -- until now.

At Valley REC, we've read about and begun implementing aspects of the so-called "smart grid." As with any cutting-edge concept, it seems new smart grid bells and whistles are touted daily. While we've been careful not to get caught up in too much of the hype, I often have members ask me, "What's all the buzz about?"

The North American electric grid, the largest interconnected machine on earth, operates as a humming highway moving electricity from power plants to your home. About 3,000 utilities operate 10,000 power plants nationally. All of this power -- more than 1 million megawatts -- flows across 300,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines. And while the way we use electricity has changed drastically over the decades, most of the highway that delivers power to our homes was built 50 years ago.

As we talk about upgrading the nation's grid from a hands-on, mechanical system to a digital network, there's plenty of room for improvement (and potential miscalculations). While a smart grid can help utilities control costs, it can also be abused by big power companies and others to shift market risks onto consumers -- something your cooperative doesn't want to see happen.

That's why, with some help from Uncle Sam, not-for-profit, member-owned electric utilities are testing some of these technologies to see what makes sense. Thanks to partnerships between the federal government and electric cooperatives, public power districts and NRECA's Cooperative Research Network, more than \$600 million will be invested to deploy and study how digital smart grid technologies improve service for co-op members in 25 states (including Pennsylvania).

On top of this, many other co-ops are implementing smart grid upgrades consistent



**Wayne F. Miller**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

with long-range business plans to boost service reliability and operating efficiency.

Through all of these efforts, we will identify which technologies work best and weed out those that may not deliver promised benefits.

Any smart grid needs to be flexible -- some components don't make sense everywhere. Here at Valley, we believe automated meters and self-healing feeders will help reduce the number and duration of outages; in-home displays could increase member awareness of how much electricity they use; there are lots of possibilities. Rest assured that your management team will employ some hometown smarts of our own in how we approach the smart grid.

Our bottom line? We want to learn how to help you make wiser energy choices to keep your electric bill affordable.

Cooperatively yours,

Wayne F. Miller  
President & CEO

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**Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

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**On the cover ...**

Line personnel from all of Valley's districts sharpened their skills recently during an on-the-job training opportunity near the co-op's Miller Substation in northern Huntingdon County. Veteran linemen refreshed their knowledge while newer employees learned the ropes. For more details, turn to Page 4.

# Co-op awards 25 \$1,000 scholarships to local students

BY LUANNE H. ECKENRODE

Vice President,  
Consumer Services & Public Relations

**VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC** Cooperative recently awarded 25 \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors as well as students already enrolled in post-secondary institutions and returning adult students.

The co-op's Brighter Future Scholarship Program was established this year to assist eligible students who are cooperative members or their dependents. Selection criteria include academic achievement, financial need and community activities.

The money to finance this initiative comes from unclaimed capital credits refunds that previously had to be turned over to the state treasury. But now, thanks to the efforts of the cooperative's political advocates, these resources can be kept in co-op communities and used to assist consumers facing financial hardships and to fund educational scholarships.

The following 20 high school seniors were awarded scholarships from Valley REC:

**Bedford County:** Tussey Mountain High School – Erin Harshbarger, daughter of Lynn and Catherine Harshbarger of Cassville, attending DuBois Business College.

**Blair County:** Central High School – Alyssa Kennedy, daughter of Kenneth and Christine Wyant of Martinsburg and Keith Kennedy of Williamsburg, attending Bloomsburg University; Claysburg-Kimmel High School – Kelsa Harten, daughter of Thomas Harten and Penny Harten of Claysburg, attending La Roche College; and Jordan Smith, son of Ed and Gail Smith of Claysburg, attending Penn State Altoona; Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School – Emily Burkhard, daughter of Gary and Teresa Burkhard of Duncansville, attending Penn State Altoona; and Michael Figart, son of Michael and Patricia Figart of Hollidays-

burg, attending Juniata College; Williamsburg High School – Jordan Baker, son of Ronald and Melissa Baker of Williamsburg, attending Penn State Altoona; and Courtney Kensinger, daughter of Stanley and Patty Kensinger of Williamsburg, attending Shippensburg University.

In addition, Kelley McCaa, daughter of Francis and Betty McCaa of Williamsburg, a graduate of Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School who will

attend Slippery Rock University, received a Brighter Future scholarship.

**Huntingdon County:** Huntingdon Area High School – Chelsie Beck, daughter of Gregory and Amy Beck of Huntingdon, attending Penn State Altoona; and Daniele Riley, daughter of Donald and Denise Riley of James Creek, attending Wilson College; Juniata Valley High School – John Hawn, son of John and Melanie Hawn of Petersburg, attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania; and Jenna Morgan, daughter of Spike and Katy Miller and the late Jack Morgan, attending Lycoming College; Mount Union Area High School – Daniel McKeehan, son of Daniel and Lisa McKeehan of Mount Union, attending Penn State; and Catherine Myers, daughter of Douglas and Deborah Myers of Shirleysburg, attending Juniata College; Southern Huntingdon County High School – Elaina Hummel, daughter of David and Cheryl Hummel of Huntingdon, attending Frostburg State University; and Courtney Oswald, daughter of Perry and Sue Oswald of Todd, attending Westmoreland County Community College.

In addition, Tiffany Putt, daughter of Richard and Cheri Putt of Huntingdon, a graduate of Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf who will attend Gallaudet University, received a Brighter Future Scholarship.

**Fulton County:** McConnellsburg High School – Ryan Strait, son of Travis and Sandy Strait of Harrisonville, attending Millersville University; Southern Fulton High School – Lucas Mellott, son of Mark and Connie Mellott of Warfordsburg, attending Juniata College.

Four students currently enrolled in post-secondary institutions were also awarded scholarships from Valley REC for the 2010-11 academic year. They include:

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

brighter **future**  
Scholarship Program

**Kleda Evans**, daughter of Kenneth and Donna Evans of Huntingdon, a 2007 graduate of Huntingdon Area High School attending Shippensburg University; **Jenna Farkus**, daughter of Jerome and Christine Farkus of Roaring Spring, a 2009 graduate of Central High School attending Shippensburg University; **James Hawn**, son of William and Lisa Hawn of Petersburg, a 2009 graduate of Juniata Valley High School attending Penn State; and **Jacob Smith**, son of Michael and Sandra Smith of Hollidaysburg, a 2009 graduate of Bishop Guilfoyle High School attending Saint Francis University.

In addition, one returning adult student received a scholarship from Valley REC. She is **Katrina Kidd**, wife of Heath Knable of McVeytown, a 2003 graduate of Lewistown High School attending Penn State.

For more information about Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's Brighter Future Scholarship Program, call 800/432-0680 or visit [www.valleyrec.com](http://www.valleyrec.com) and follow the Programs and Services link to the Scholarships section.



# ON-THE-JOB TRAINING: Line crews sharpen skills, improve service

BY SUSAN R. PENNING  
*Director of Member Services*

**LINE PERSONNEL** from all three Valley Rural Electric Cooperative districts honed their skills Sept. 14-15 during on-the-job training near the co-op's Miller Substation in northern Huntingdon County.

During this particular training opportunity, crews learned to replace underground electric lines using a piece of machinery called a Duct Dawg, an underground puller with hydraulic-driven twin capstan bullwheels used primarily to draw wire through conduit.

Somerset Crew Chief Dean Gindlesperger delivered the Duct Dawg and stayed for both days to help assist Valley crews with operating the machine.

In addition, Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association Safety Instructor Bill Succowich was on hand to guide the men through the proper (and safest) steps for completing the project.

"This particular training experience benefitted Valley in a number of ways,"

says Gary Atherton, Valley's operations manager.

"With this project, we were able to minimize any safety risks. We also saved time and money while replacing worn-out underground wires in the area. Plus our crews got good training, maximized their efficiency and ultimately improved members' service. It was a win-win situation all around."

**ABOVE:** Shade Gap linemen Ken Sipes (left) and Boyd Gelvin remove from the cable new primary underground wire that was installed using a wire puller called a Duct Dawg. Valley crews trained Sept. 14-15 on how to use the machine while completing a work plan project in the Miller Substation area.

**BELOW:** Somerset Rural Electric Co-op Crew Chief Dean Gindlesperger (far right) shows Valley linemen how to use the Duct Dawg.



# EXTENSION CORD SAFETY: Make smart connections

**FAMILIES OFTEN** string together extension cords without a second thought (particularly during the holiday season). Unfortunately, not all cords are created equal.

Just because an extension cord can reach an outlet across a room doesn't mean it's the right one for the task at hand. If a tool, appliance or decorative display draws more current than an extension cord can carry, it may cause the cord (and whatever is connected to it) to overheat and start a fire.

Cords come in many lengths and are marked with a size or gauge. The gauge is based on the American Wire Gauge (AWG) System, which indicates that the larger the size of the wire, the smaller the designated AWG number.

For example, a 12-gauge wire would be bigger and capable of powering larger-wattage appliances than a 14-gauge wire. A cord, based on its gauge, can power appliances of a certain wattage only at specific distances. As the cord gets longer, the current-carrying capacity of the cord drops.

Using the right cord for the job is only the first step in using extension cords safely. The following tips will help ensure safe use of



COURTESY PHOTO

cords and allow you to make smart connection decisions:

Look for the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) symbol. The UL mark means that samples of the cord have been tested for safety hazards.

Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors; it could result in electric shock or trigger a fire. Extension cords that can be used outdoors will be clearly marked "Suitable for use with outdoor appliances."

Extension cords should not be placed underneath rugs or other heavy furniture, tacked in place to a wall or taped down, or

used while coiled or bent. Match the length of the cord to your needs.

Store all cords indoors when not in use. Outdoor conditions can deteriorate a cord over time.

Unplug extension cords when not in use. The cord will continue conducting electricity until unplugged.

On cords with more than one outlet, use the covers provided for unused openings. Children and pets face serious injury if they chew on unused outlets or stick sharp metal objects into the openings.

Do not use extension cords that are cut or damaged. Touching even a single exposed strand of wire can result in an electric shock or burn.

Never file or cut the plug blades or grounding pin of an extension cord or appliance to plug it into an old outlet.

As an added safety feature, extension cords and most appliances boast polarized plugs (one blade wider than the other). These special plugs are designed to prevent electric shock by properly aligning circuit conductors. If a plug does not fit, have a qualified electrician install a new outlet.

*Source: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.*

## OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

What does it mean to be a cooperative MEMBER?

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*\*(Seven, to be exact)*

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### Real Estate

10 acres in Blair Co., Juniata Twp., Lilly Rd. A stone's throw from game lands. Mostly wooded, very scenic. \$49,000. Call for particulars. 814/696-9006.

Office/retail rental - Rt. 22 Ardenheim, fronting hwy., 450 sq. ft. of office space w/ restroom, \$285 per month plus electric. 814/643-3775 or 599-4284.

Move in Ready!!! 7101 Path Valley Road, Fort Loudon, Pa. 1,200 sq. ft. ranch-style home w/ 3 BR & 1 newly remodeled full BA, LR w/ fireplace. Newly remodeled BRs, new flooring throughout house. Min. from Cowan's Gap State Park. Stocked trout stream right across the street. Motivated sellers, \$115,900 OBO. E-mail jd\_odean@yahoo.com or call Linda at 717/729-7949.

Immaculate 4 BR, 1.5 BA ranch home on 14.5 acres. 2-car attached garage and separate 2-car garage/shop. Gorgeous property and views. Close to game lands and trout stream. Shirley Twp., Huntingdon Co. (Germany Valley). \$240,000 OBO. 814/644-8402 or 542-4965.

### Wanted

Will do yard work. Doug Wilson, 23662 Wilson Lane, Shade Gap. 814/259-3634.

### Free

Upright Carlisle piano. Unsure of the age, needs some work done to it. 570/436-2046.

### Autos/Trucks

1976 Cadillac DeVille. Last of the big caddys. 210 hp 500 V-8. 54K original miles, runs, some body work needed. Claret w/ white vinyl top, pristine claret interior. All the bells & whistles including 8-track player. Best offer over \$5,000. 814/667-3444.

1980 Chevrolet Monza, 4 cyl. AT, overhauled, repainted, 80K miles, like new tires, needs good home, \$1,500. Call 717/734-3606 evenings.

1992 Ford E-350 w/ 15' box, 7.3 diesel, 146K miles, 10,700 GVW. Many new repairs & tires. Hollidaysburg. Call 814/695-8916.

1990 Fox body Mustang hood, white. Fits 79-93 models, good cond., \$60. 4 Sumitomo tires P305/45R22 HTR sport H/P mounted on chrome wheels, very good cond. 3 tires have about 7,500 mi. & 1 tire is new. 5 lug. Pix avail. upon request, \$885. 4 stock Mustang cobra wheels, \$95. 814/643-4728 or e-mail deenie47@hotmail.com

Truck cap, exc. cond. From late model Toyota. Best offer. 814/865-4799 or 466-2224.

Two 283 motors & two 305 motors. One 283 block, crank, rods, pistons & heads. One 283 truck block, crank & heads. One 305 complete w/out carb & exhaust manifolds, motor had water in the oil. One 305 block, crank, rods, pistons. \$150 for all. 814/643-5107.

2 tires. Size 205-60-R16. M&S. Like new, \$60 OBO. Call 814/658-3151.

### Recreational

Boat. Medium-sized. 814/447-3735.

19' Ebbtide Cuddy Cabin w/ inboard/outboard 350 engine, \$2,800. 814/855-2010, 717/496-3735 or 404-1329.

2003 Yamaha Banshee 350 twin. Very good cond. Extra studded racing tires. Lots of extras. Ready to race, \$3,000. 1999 Max IV 6-wheeler. Heated, enclosed cab. Removable rack. Very good cond., low hours, \$3,000. 2001 Gulf Stream Amerilite camper. 24' w/ one slide-out. Used very little, good cond., \$5,500. 814/635-0508.

2001 Yamaha Raptor ATV. 200cc, exc. cond., \$1,100. Call 410/507-2565.

2005 Suzuki GSF 500. Blue, 9,700 mi. Needs inspected, \$2,800 OBO. Call 814/693-5907 or 761-7514 or e-mail ap50212@aol.com for more information.

2002 Prowler trailer on permanent site at Saunders Campground. Bought camper new & parked on lot. Asking price for camper is \$26,000. Lot number 92A. Camper is like new. 2 slide-outs, hardly ever used, well taken care of. Very nice deck. Lot is well-maintained. Has elec., sewer & water hook-up. If interested, call 800/678-5918, 717/573-2401 or 573-4375 & ask for Jim or Dee Ann Spade.

## Vacation Rentals

Spacious house rental at Lake Raystown, sleeps 11. Large great room w/ fireplace, dining table for 12, 2 Dish TVs, 2 full BAs, 2 half BAs, large rec. room, fully equipped kitchen & laundry rooms, screened-in porch. Half mile from lake. Boat parking. PSU football weekend or anytime. 35 minutes from Beaver Stadium. Think family gathering at Thanksgiving. See at [www.laurel-woodsretreat.com](http://www.laurel-woodsretreat.com). Call 814/931-6562.

## Livestock/Pets

Boer goat kids, bucks & does, full-bloods & percentages, about 5 months old. Also a few dairy kids, bucks & does about 5 months old. 717/734-3606 evenings.

Alpacas & unique alpaca products. Visit us at [www.terracemountainalpacas.com](http://www.terracemountainalpacas.com) or call 814/643-2854. Near Calvin. Free farm tours. Also, Terrace Mtn. Alpaca Annual Open House is Nov. 6-7 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days. Light refreshments will be served. Come visit w/ our hug-gable investments & check out our cheap pkg. deals. We also have a farm store full of new products. Alpaca feed, stall dry for sale. Starting soon: 4-H Alpaca Club. Don't have to own an alpaca to join.

## Tools/Equipment

Vermont-American dovetail jig, fixture model #23460. Includes instruction manual w/ all templates. Used only two times. Exc. cond. Asking \$40 OBO. Call 814/931-1467.

60" rock rack, \$300. 814/695-9586.

DR chipper, 3-pt. hitch required, hp 19-65 fits category 1 3-pt. hitch. Comes w/ an extra set of blades. Used only twice. Asking \$2,000. 814/224-4326 or 414/381-9047. If no answer, please leave a message.

Farmall cub tractor w/ sickle-bar mower, belly-deck mower, snow plow, 2-bottom plow, disk & harrow, PTO, paint & decals, \$3,000. 814/239-2416.

Craftsman pipe threading tool w/ die sets. 1", 3/4", 1/2", 3/8", 1/4". 4 metal drawer slides, \$75 & \$30 respectively. 814/695-9556.

Metal trailer. Can be hauled behind truck. 814/447-3735.

## Miscellaneous

Two Georgetown Indian dolls w/ glass cases, \$70 ea. One Gorham doll w/ rocker & case, \$70. One Ashton Drake-Nicholas "The Water Baby," \$40. All dolls have a certificate of authenticity. 2 swivel office desk chairs w/ new ball casters, leather & solid wood, \$175 ea. Mat for under office chair, \$30. Cash only. 814/627-1496.

Two pallets (shrink-wrapped) of fuel wood pellets, \$164/ton. One pallet of loose 40-lb. bags. 814/658-3430.

New cultured marble vanity top, white. 31" wide x 19" deep, \$30. 814/643-5609.

Proform quiet electric treadmill & ab lounge ultra, 10-yr. warranty, 300-lb. capacity, air tech. plus cushioning, power incline, 8 weight loss & personal training workouts. Burn 500 calories per day. Both in new cond. \$500 OBO for both. 814/941-9979.

Kero-Sun kerosene heater, \$20. 814/643-4728 or e-mail [deenie47@hotmail.com](mailto:deenie47@hotmail.com)

Clawfoot tub, good cond., best offer. 814/865-4799 or 466-2224.

Four sections of man holes, 48" in diameter, 4' long. Each section has a lip so you can connect. Were used for creek crossing, \$500 ea. 814/695-7763.

Vermont downdrafter wood stove. Burns 22" logs & holds fire overnight. May be seen in the Duncansville area, \$550. Phone 814/696-3210.

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Decker Electric - Complete electrical contracting service for commercial, residential, farm & light manufacturing facilities. Free estimates for any & all electrical needs. 814/599-0835.

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Full/part-time jobs in direct selling. Lia Sophia jewelry. Become an advisor. No out-of-pocket money. Thelma Kaizen, 733 Fair Valley Road, Martinsburg. 814/793-3596.

TLC Powerwash - Residential or commercial. 814/644-1173 or 643-4367.

Vintage Art Glass - Visit this charming gift shop on the corner of 5th & Washington streets in downtown Huntingdon. We can design and build any stained glass piece large or small. In addition to unique gifts, we offer complimentary engraving & our own hand-painted gift bags. Open 6 days a week. 814/251-4408. Watch for our new location in January 2011.

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