

Valley News

January | February 2012

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Pages 4-5

AFTER-HOURS EVENT ATTRACTS LARGE CROWD FROM BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Stop air flow, reduce energy bills

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, but, after a long day at work, I'm ready to go home and relax. Our homes should be an oasis where we can kick back and get comfortable.

But there's no oasis of comfort when a home is too cold in the winter or oppressively hot in the summer. That could be an indication that it's leaking air, plus wasting money.

The thermal protection of your home is vitally important, helping with its durability as well as its cost of operation and comfort.

Air infiltration is one of the main problems for most homes. It's healthy to have some air flow in and out of your home, but too much leads to discomfort and unnecessarily high heating/cooling bills. If you notice this problem with your home, one of the best things you can do is check your home's insulation.

If you have fiberglass insulation -- whether blown or rolled batts -- you'll need to ensure an air barrier by sealing all of the cracks and gaps between the heated/cooled living spaces and unconditioned areas. The most common way to seal these spaces is with inexpensive caulk and/or expanding foam.

Air leakage through cracks, voids and gaps is responsible for approximately one-third of an average home's heat loss.

Heat and comfort are also lost through convection, when drafty currents of air within the house, wall cavities or attics move heat to other locations. This is technically different from air leakage, when the heated air mass is actually expelled from the home. Good insulation provides a thermally efficient, cost-effective and comfortable solution.

Fiberglass insulation is one of today's top choices. Bales of pink and yellow fiberglass insulate more than 90 percent of new homes built in the United States.

But homeowners have many other good choices, too. Plastic foams, rock wool, cellulose and even cotton insulation are readily available.



Wayne F. Miller
President & Chief Executive Officer

Insulation materials come in many forms. They are sprayed, stapled, blown, nailed or simply laid in place.

The common standard by which insulation is measured is called R-value. R-value measures conductive resistance. That is the ability of a material to impede the flow of heat. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulating effectiveness.

Check out EnergySavers.gov to learn more about insulation. Or click the Save Energy link at www.valleyrec.com and use the Home Energy Calculator to get personalized, no-cost/low-cost recommendations for lowering your energy bills. You can also call the co-op at 800/432-0680 and ask to speak to our energy specialist regarding your home's insulation needs. By doing so, you'll be well on your way to a more comfortable home -- and lower electric bills.

Cooperatively yours,

Wayne F. Miller
President & CEO

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Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

On the cover ...



PHOTO BY BOB WAREHAM

During a co-op-hosted event Jan. 26, Huntingdon District Supervisor Dave Huntsman showed visitors what can happen when objects come into contact with energized lines. Turn to Pages 4-5 for more information.

Co-op to award 25 \$1,000 scholarships this year to eligible students who apply

VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC Cooperative will award up to 25 \$1,000 scholarships this year to deserving students who apply.

The money to fund this initiative, known as the Brighter Future Scholarship Program, comes from unclaimed capital credits refunds that previously had to be turned over to the state treasury. Thanks to the efforts of the cooperative's political advocates, those funds can be kept in our local communities.

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify, any prospective student applying for a scholarship must be:

- ▶ a Valley REC member or dependent of a member. (Valley REC directors and employees and their dependents are not eligible.)
- ▶ attending or planning to attend an accredited post-secondary institution.
- ▶ enrolled or planning to enroll full-time for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Previous Brighter Future Scholarship recipients are not eligible.

How to Apply

Applications are available by visiting the



Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

brighter future

Scholarship Program

co-op's web site at www.valleyrec.com. Follow the "Programs and Services" link to the "Scholarships" section.

There are two versions of the application: one for high school students and one for high school graduates.

Paper applications are also available at all Valley REC offices and in many school guidance offices, including the following public high schools:

Altoona Area High School
Central High School
Claysburg-Kimmel High School
Fannett-Metal High School
Forbes Road Junior/Senior High School
Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School
Huntingdon Area High School
Indian Valley High School
Juniata High School
Juniata Valley High School
Lewistown Area High School

McConnellsburg High School
Mount Union Area High School
Northern Bedford County High School
Southern Fulton Jr./Sr. High School
Southern Huntingdon Co. High School
Tussey Mountain High School
Tyrone Area High School
Williamsburg High School

Application Deadline

Applications and all required information must be mailed to Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and postmarked (or dropped off) by **April 15, 2012**.

Scholarship selections will be made in May. Award recipients will be notified by the end of June.

Applicants should direct questions to memberservices@valleyrec.com or call the co-op's member services department at 800/432-0680.

Shop co-op!

The United Nations has designated 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives.

Valley Rural Electric is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives in America. But we're just one type of cooperative. More than 29,200 operate in our country, including a large segment in the agriculture industry. From dairy to oranges, and almonds to cotton, our nation's farmers know the value of the cooperative business model.

The next time you're at the grocery store, see how many items you can purchase that were produced by a co-op.

In the produce section, pick up some Ocean Spray cranberries or Sunkist oranges, tangerines, grapes or grapefruit.

Cruise on over to the refrigerated cases and take a look at the eggs -- 95 percent of America's eggs are produced and marketed by co-ops. Then pick up some Florida Natural orange juice, Land O'Lakes butter, Cabot or Tillamook Cheese and Organic Valley milk.

Need a warm drink? Try Equal Exchange coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

Finally, head to the baking aisle and drop some Blue Diamond almonds in your cart -- a perfect pick-me-up for that 3 p.m. slump.

After grocery shopping, make your way to Ace Hardware or True Value to

get supplies for your weekend projects. Or visit a local shopping mall to replace your blue jeans with a new pair from GAP, Banana Republic or Guess. All three get their cotton from Plains Cotton Growers Co-op's Denimatrix.

Before shopping, make sure you visit your credit union -- another cooperative -- to make a deposit to cover all your purchases.

The cooperative business model promotes self-sustainment and local economic growth. Support our nation's cooperatives as we work together to build a better world.

Find a co-op near you at www.go.coop.
Information from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



PHOTO BY BOB WAREHAM

SPARKING INTEREST

Visitors get dinner, light show during co-op-hosted chamber of commerce event

BY SUSAN R. PENNING
Director of Member Services

THE PARKING LOT AT Valley Rural Electric Cooperative's Huntingdon district quickly filled to the maximum on the evening of Jan. 26 as visitors from throughout the region poured into the facility to get a behind-the-scenes look at the consumer-owned electric utility.

At the request of the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce, personnel from Valley Rural Electric planned and hosted the after-hours event, which drew a

crowd of about 75 people, including many local business leaders and legislators. The goal of the event was to illustrate the cooperative business model and to explain what it takes to deliver safe, dependable electricity to nearly 21,000 consumers in an eight-county territory.

The evening began at 5:30 p.m. with a welcome from Valley Rural Electric Cooperative President and CEO Wayne Miller.

Visitors enjoyed pulled pork sandwiches and wood-fired pizza catered by Doan's Bones Barbecue, a Valley REC-served business. The cooperative also offered

cake for dessert in celebration of the International Year of Cooperatives: 2012.

Guests then had the opportunity to take a guided tour of the facility, which is located at the corner of Fairgrounds and Station roads near Huntingdon.

The tour included a walk through the co-op's warehousing and materials area and an in-depth look at a utility bucket truck.

The highlight of the evening was a narrated, high-voltage safety demonstration, which showed the arcing, sparking and damage that occurs when objects come

LEFT: During a chamber of commerce after-hours event held Jan. 26 at Valley REC's Huntingdon district, District Supervisor Dave Huntsman demonstrates to visitors the arcing and sparking that occurs when objects come into contact with energized power lines.

RIGHT: Huntingdon District Secretary Gina Norris (left) and Corporate Executive Secretary Kim Kane offer cake at the event to celebrate the International Year of Co-ops: 2012.

into contact with live wires.

During the demo, Valley REC Vice President of Consumer Services and Public Relations Luanne Eckenrode explained how some of the co-op's equipment operates and stressed the co-op's commitment to the safety of its workers and the general public. She talked about the specialized tools used by line personnel and mentioned the extensive training that linemen receive prior to working on energized lines.

Curious guests on the tour were able to get answers to questions like, "How does a bird land on a wire without getting electrocuted?" and "What causes blinking lights?"

In addition to good food, a facility tour and a high-voltage demonstration, visitors perused exhibits that showed the co-op's digital mapping software, power line tools and other energy-related programs and services.

Also, guests who brought with them a spent compact fluorescent lightbulb (CFL) were able to exchange it for one free replacement CFL courtesy of Valley REC.

The chamber offered a 50/50 raffle and



PHOTO BY SUSAN PENNING

the co-op offered door prizes.

Co-op leaders were grateful for the chance to open the doors and give members of the community an in-depth look at the electric utility industry.

"We welcome the opportunity to showcase the co-op business model and demonstrate our commitment to providing great electric service," said the co-op's president and CEO.

The Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce considered the event to be a huge success as well.

"This was one of the best-attended busi-

ness after-hours events in many months," said Zac Waite, office manager at the chamber.

"We're so thankful for everything (the co-op) did to make the evening wonderful," said Mike Balchin, chamber membership director.

In addition to hosting functions like the after-hours event, Valley REC offers free educational programs to civic groups and organizations. For more information, email memberservices@valleyrec.com or call 800/432-0680.



PHOTO BY BOB WAREHAM

"We welcome the opportunity to showcase the co-op business model and demonstrate our commitment to providing great electric service."

- Wayne F. Miller
Valley REC President & CEO

INDUSTRY ON DISPLAY: Dave Huntsman (left) exhibits some of his power line tools while answering energy-related questions from visitors at the after-hours event.

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. The co-op also reserves the right to edit material for content and/or space as necessary.

Real Estate

Cabin for sale - Aughwick Rd., 3 miles from Cowan's Gap State Park, "Three Mile Lodge." 2 BR, sits on leased ground (\$200/yr.), \$55,000 negotiable. 717/762-5672.

Juniata County, Tuscarora Township. 1,600 sq. ft. raised ranch home on 10+ acres, 2.5 acres open, 7.5 acres wooded. 3 BR, 2 BA, full basement, appliances included. Beautiful view, hunting on property, state game lands nearby. Standard septic & well, exc. cond. 717/806-7157.

450 sq. ft. commercial unit in the Ardenheim Business Center avail. for rent. Property located along busy Route 22, which has over 12,000 vehicles passing by each day. Part of this business complex is occupied by HONEY 106 radio & is just 500 yds. east of Huston Ford. Call Decker Electric, Inc. for details at 814/599-0835 or 643-3775.

Free

10'x30' trailer w/ metal roof. No title, near Weaver Falls Boat Launch, Saxton. 717/597-0078.

AKC Golden Retriever, male. Dark red beauty, exc. temperament, needs fence, no cats. To good home only. 717/348-2981.

Autos/Trucks

1996 International Cabover truck.

Detroit motor, new tires & brakes, 10-speed, \$6,500 OBO. Call 717/348-1636.

1999 Dodge pickup. 4x4, extended cab, needs some work, \$700. 814/643-5609.

1964 Chrysler Newport. 2-dr., all original w/ some body damage, 383 motor. Parked since the '80s. \$5,000 or possible trade for 1928-1930 Ford ½ or 1-ton truck. Call 814/685-3457 for details.

1969 Chevelle SS frame off restoration. 355 small block, 350 turbo. Everything new - wheels, tires, paint (black on black), interior. Florida car, \$22,500. 814/832-2238.

1997 Dodge Caravan Mark III. Good cond., 145,000 miles, \$1,500 OBO. Call 814/482-1023 for more information.

Recreational

1979 CJ7 Jeep. Fiberglass body, tilt front end, new tires & gauges, bikini top, \$5,000 OBO. 814/832-2238.

2005 Suzuki GS500F. Blue, 9,800 miles. Will consider a payment plan for purchase, \$2,700. Call 814/693-5907 or email WantImpact@aol.com for a photo.

2003 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail. Big boar kit, windshield, engine guards, leather bags, heated hand

grips, 2,700 miles, \$12,500. 814/832-2238.

Vacation Rentals

South Myrtle Beach year-round vacation rental. 2 BR, 2 BA condo at ocean-front resort. Fully furnished including linens, towels, cable w/ HBO, wireless internet, AC, 6 pools including lazy river, lighted tennis courts, saunas, jacuzzis & more. \$400-\$1,000 weekly. Monthly rates avail. Call 717/263-2717.

Blue Knob Resort condo. 2 BR, 2BA, full kitchen w/ pots, plates, utensils, etc. Includes dishwasher, fireplace & sleeper sofa. Resort has hot tubs, sauna, indoor & outdoor pools, bike trails, golfing, tennis courts & the longest skiable slopes in Pa. Call 814/943-1284 or visit our website at blueknoblodging.com

Wanted

Rock n' Roll 45 records from the '60s, '70s, '80s & '90s. 814/832-3177.

Military shoulder patches & uniforms from WWII for private overseas museum. Also, any police uniform patches for private hobbyist. 814/414-5475.

Four people to share w/ owner 65 acres of ridge hunting ground. Rough camping, rifle range. \$25/month each, near game lands & fishing. 814/447-3698.

Will take any unwanted items; don't have to be working. Furniture, clothes, metal items, etc. Will clean out attics, basements, rooms, sheds, barns, move-outs, rental units, storage units, after-yard-sale items. No charge to you at all. 717/377-1940.

Metal military bunk beds for hunting camp. Call 610/488-6184 or e-mail imlrlong@netzero.net

Carpool riders. Port Royal/Thompsonstown/Millerstown/Newport to Capitol Complex. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Pick up at any exit along Rt. 322. Parking at Chestnut St. garage. Contact Juli, home 717/527-0217, work 783-2551 or jbachman@pa.gov

Tools/Equipment

48" Bolens snow blower w/ motor-operated chute. Fits an FMC20 Bolens tractor, \$800. 814/447-3698.

Mill Creek compact manure spreader. Like new, adjustable hitch jack, poly. floor, ground drive, steel construction, 28 cu. ft., \$1,800. 814/685-3747.

3-pt. hitch 2-14" trip-back plow, \$400. 3-pt. hitch belt-driven cut-off saw frame, \$30. 30" cut-off saw blade, \$50. Ford 8N belt pulley, \$40. Call after 6 p.m. 717/987-3619.

Livestock

Horses & mules for sale. Horse & mule training. Approx. 50 head of quarters, paints, saddle & driving mules. Weanlings to 15 yrs. old. Lots of good broke trail, western pleasure & gaming horses. Several roans. Blue, bay, red & gray. Also, we do outside training. If you want to finish your own, I have several 3 & 4-yr. olds w/ good ground work, some under saddle, just need time if you want to save money. Standing for 2012 season: A King-bred blue roan quarter horse & a chestnut/white paint. Both exc. disposition. Call now for bookings for the 2012 breeding. We have lots of trails. Ride until satisfied. Call Danny at 814/977-3616 or visit www.delbinfarms.com

Miscellaneous

Hot blast wood or coal furnace. 2 circular fans & pipes, Model #1537M, \$900. Heavy-duty garage door opener, \$500. 717/436-6702.

Mapex V-Series professional drum set. 5-piece w/ hi-hat, 2 crash & 1 Ride B8PRO Sabian cymbals. Remo heads, like new, asking \$660. Call 814/448-4914 if interested. Located in Todd, 5 mins. from Cassville.

100,000 BTU coal boiler, self-feeding. Has domestic water heater. Weighs 1,100 lbs. dry wt., \$500 OBO. 814/644-8785.

White cookstove, \$425. 3-8" I-beam columns, \$40 ea. Used tin, 3'x15", 10 sheets, all for \$75. Old hay, barn kept, dry, \$1/bale. Call after 6 p.m. 717/987-3619.

Top-of-the-line fitness equipment - Pro-Form 3001 STX programmable resistance stepper, used very little. New \$600, asking \$150 OBO. 814/239-2645.

Service

Dry firewood for home heating & campfires. Full cord, cut, split & delivered. For more info. or to order, call 814/448-9392.

Charter Oak Forestry - Working w/ forestland owners to achieve the highest sale value for your timber & focused on regenerating future forest. Timber sales, appraisals, trespass values & wildlife enhancement. Call PSU Forestry graduate Galen Baney at 814/667-2018 or email charteroakforestry@yahoo.com

A Spiritual Outlet sells jewelry, metaphysical items, home decor & gift items. We also take consignments on related items. Visit www.ASpiritualOutlet.com for more information.

Kenneth W. Reigh Carpentry & Masonry - Kitchens & baths, laminate, hardwood, ceramic tile flooring. Fully insured, 35 yrs. exp. For estimates, call 814/658-9998.

Classified Ads

January Special at Bee Unique Hair Boutique - \$5 off perm, hair color or highlight. Mention this ad. Where you get great service at a great price. Located at 17759 Beavertown Road, Todd. Call to schedule appt. 814/448-4914.

Moore Hair - Where looking good is still affordable. 814/667-2221 for appt.

Moms: Looking to work from home? I am looking to expand my team of moms working from home. If you are a motivated mom looking for a way to earn an income from home, give me a call at 814/599-1554 or visit www.momsloveworkingathome.com to get free details.

Decker Electric, Inc. - We do all types of electrical contracting work in accordance w/ current electrical codes. Our rates are very competitive w/ all work guaranteed. We are fully insured. Call 814/599-0835 or 643-4338 for all your electrical needs.

Book Construction - Excavation, clearing, roads, snowplowing, anti-skid, ponds, septic systems, foundations, prep. sites for bldg. Check our prices. Fully insured, free estimates. 814/448-0186 or 599-6262.

ES Ministries Thrift Shop - 5468 Charter Oak Rd., Petersburg at Mooresville U.M. Faith Center. Open Thurs. & Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. & Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Clothing, household, books, toys, etc. Always items for current holidays. New merchandise weekly. Daily 50% off & 50-cent sales. Donations accepted during store hours. Call 814/667-3141.

Sipes Fence LLC - All types of agricultural fence installed. Post driving avail. Free 1-year maintenance check on all fencing installed. Call Scot Sipes at 717/491-7539.

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Valley member wins prize in Penn Lines photo contest

JUNE FRAIN, a Valley REC member from Mill Creek, Huntingdon County, was recently selected as a prizewinner in the 2011 Rural Reflections photo contest sponsored by *Penn Lines* magazine.

For the contest, June submitted a photo of her smiling great granddaughter, Hannah Grace, holding a handful of dandelions, with one tucked behind her ear. June affectionately calls the photo “Dandelion Time.”

June’s photograph took first place honors in the “best human subject” category of the contest. The photo was first published in the May 2011 edition of *Penn*

Lines and appeared again as a contest winner in the January 2012 issue.

A panel of judges from the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, the statewide organization for the cooperatives and publisher of the magazine, chooses annual award winners from among hundreds of submitted photos. Contest entries are judged on the basis of several criteria, including composition, technical quality and appropriateness of subject. Favorites are selected in five categories: best animal, best human subject, best landscape, most artistic and editor’s choice.

Penn Lines magazine is read by rural electric cooperative members in more than 140,000 households throughout Pennsylvania. In addition to having their photographs published, the contest winners received a \$75 prize for their efforts.

The board of directors and employees at Valley Rural Electric send June and Hannah Grace their sincere congratulations. By participating in the competition, co-op consumers exhibit their talent and creativity as well as their love for the beauty of rural Pennsylvania and their support for the cooperative way of life.

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