

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Valley News

January | February 2013

Volume 70 | Issue 1



VREC SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS PROMISE OF 'BRIGHTER FUTURE'

PAGES 4-5

www.valleyrec.com

Stay warm, safely, this winter

WHEN USED PROPERLY and safely, electric blankets and other heating devices can help keep you toasty during cold winter months. But careless use or overuse could result in an injury, property damage or a lighter wallet. Here are some things to consider before hitting the “on” switch for that winter warm-up.

The Electrical Safety Foundation and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommend purchasing blankets and heating pads only if they have been approved by an independent testing facility, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). When you remove the new device from the packaging at home, before plugging it in, inspect all cords and connections for cracks and frayed edges, which are a huge fire and injury hazard.

Likewise, check your old blankets or heating pads for faulty cords. Discard your blanket or heating pad if you see dark or charred spots on the surface. Other safety points to consider are:

- Do not put another cover on top of an electric blanket unless the safety instructions included in the packaging specifically state it’s safe to do so. Some newer models protect against overheating.

- Once your electric blanket or heating pad is switched on, keep it laid flat — a folded device can cause a fire, as can a blanket that’s been tucked in (which can bend wires).

- Never use heated bedding while asleep — look for a model with a timer that switches off automatically.

If you choose to use a space heater to supplement your home’s heating system, some of the same guidelines apply, including purchasing a safety-certified model. Take a minute to think about where you’ll locate the heater. It should be kept three feet away from combustible materials—such as bedding, drapes, clothes, and rugs. Space heaters also have parts that can spark, so avoid using them in areas where you store flammable liquids like kerosene and gasoline.

It’s generally best to plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. If you use an extension cord, make sure it’s the correct type and boasts the right wire gauge size for your particular space heater. Otherwise, use a wall socket that can handle the load.

Bathrooms can be chilly on winter



Wayne F. Miller
President & Chief Executive Officer

mornings, but check your heater’s safety instructions before placing it too close to a water source.

If your children are like mine were growing up, they’re curious. So keep an eye on the kids when they’re around space heaters to prevent electrical shock and burns to exploring little fingers.

Though the calendar still says winter, we will see some warm days, like the 60-degree day already in early January. If your heater is not needed, unplug it and store it in a safe place.

One other thing to keep in mind with a space heater is the impact on your budget. Each winter members call us to report a bill that’s higher than normal. Often it’s from using a portable heater. For example, operating one 1,500-watt space heater for 24 hours will cost you \$3.44. To get an idea what you’ll pay for the extra warmth, visit valleyrec.com, click on the “Save Energy & Money” tab and then input your use into the space heater calculator. Stay warm wisely; spring is just around the corner.

Cooperatively yours,

Wayne F. Miller
President & CEO

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Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Photo by Doug Roles

On the cover ...

Forbes Road School District Guidance Counselor Megan Skillings reviews Brighter Future Scholarship materials. Valley Rural will award 25 \$1,000 scholarships again this year. See pages 4-5 for details.

Crisis heating aid program now accepting applications

By Doug Roles

Director of Member Services

Rising fuel and food costs and other household expenses can leave little left over for winter heating bills. One option for residents having a difficult time keeping the home fires burning is the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

For those who are eligible, LIHEAP offers a cash grant paid directly to the utility company for households in immediate danger of being without heat. The LIHEAP Regular Crisis Program opened Jan. 2, as part of the overall 2012-13 assistance program that opened Nov. 1.

The "Crisis" program is for households in emergency situations because of broken heating equipment or lack of fuel. It also applies to termination of utility service, an im-

pending shut-off or depletion of fuel.

"Everything remains the same basically from last year," Anne Bale, spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, said. "Funding is about the same as last year."

Bale said the time it takes to process an application varies depending on the number of applications received, saying a really cold winter drives up requests. Information on LIHEAP is available by contacting county assistance offices or by going online to www.dpw.state.pa.us and clicking the "For Adults" link and then scrolling to the "Home Heating Assistance/LIHEAP" link.

"Applying online can help speed the process, for us and for applicants," Bale said.

The web site provides a benefit amount



calculator. Visitors to the site can find information on benefit eligibility and amount by inputting their county of residence, heat source and family size into the calculator. Results are listed by income bracket. The LIHEAP hotline can be reached at 1-866-857-7095.

Bale said residents who do not meet LIHEAP income guidelines can still contact their county assistance office for information on other programs. She recommended the web site www.energy.savers.gov for information on ways to cut utility costs. The "Save Energy" link at the top of the Valley homepage (www.valleyrec.com) also provides information on using energy wisely.



Huntingdon Area High School sophomore Lane Baker (center) talks to Huntingdon District Manager Randy Boonie (right) and lineman Stephen Gutshall. Baker visited the Piney Ridge substation near Huntingdon during the high school's Nov. 14, 2012 job shadowing. He also shadowed Valley crews in 2011.

"I really want to do this as a career," Baker, who is also considering enlisting in the military, said. "You're outside a lot. And I'm taking electrician classes at vo-tech."

It takes a minimum of five years to advance from apprentice lineman to journeyman. "At that point you're considered a professional lineman," said Boonie. "There are a lot of training classes that we have through PREA (Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association), including a two-week climbing school."

While at the substation, Baker observed crews (at right) working to install a new 24,900-volt line to replace an older, lower-voltage line. The new line will allow rerouting of power during outages or when maintenance is performed in the area. The installation project is set to be completed by the end of January.

A glimpse into the future



Photos by Doug Roles

Financial planning, choosing the right career are keys to furthering education

Valley REC accepting applications for Brighter Future scholarships

By Doug Roles

Director of Member Services

TWO BIG QUESTIONS for students considering post secondary education are which career path to choose and how to pay for the education to get started in that dream job. While many students will change majors in the course of their education, the need for a solid financial plan will not change.

Finding and applying for scholarships, such as the Brighter Future Scholarship offered by Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (see information below), can be a key part of the financial planning process that students should begin now for fall.

Megan Skillings, guidance counselor at Forbes Road School District, said each year she looks for new ways to help students search for scholarships and tries to make students understand there are organizations willing to help fund education through scholarships.

"I'm constantly saying it on the announcements and putting information on scholarships on the whiteboard by my office," she said. "I want the kids to take what they can because I know how much of a deterrent costs can be to going to school."

Skillings, a Roaring Spring resident, also hosts a financial aid night to help students and parents learn about the the starting point of applying for student aid, completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. By the time students at Forbes Road begin filling out the FAFSA, they have completed an interest inventory, job shadowed and researched schools.

"In ninth grade we start a career portfolio project," Skillings said. "I think the biggest thing to recommend to students is to find a job that you love, so you'll never have to work a day in your life, I want them to find what their interests are."

It's not just high school seniors who need to work now to solidify plans for the fall start of school. Returning adult students often have to juggle the added concerns of childcare and household budgets when putting together a plan for furthering their education.

Valley member Katrina Kidd of McVeytown worked as a waitress "for many years" after high school before deciding to pursue a career in health care. A 2010 Brighter Future Scholarship recipient, she will graduate in May from Penn State Altoona's registered nurse program.

"It felt like the right occupation for me," she said.

Kidd advised those thinking about starting school to make sure their choice of occupation is one that will be in demand.

"Then just do it. Don't sit around and think about if you should do it. God will take care of it and it will happen," she said.

Kidd said she has done some part-time work, in tax preparation, while a student and also had times when she did not work at all to focus totally on her course load.

She found out about Valley's scholarship through *Penn Lines* magazine.

"It went straight toward tuition," Kidd said.

Tuition costs are among the top reasons students do not complete a degree. A National Survey of Student Engagement report in November found that most students surveyed worry about paying for college. As many as one in three respondents often opted to not purchase academic materials because

of cost, the NSSE report stated. That's all the more reason to search for scholarships.

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
brighter future
Scholarship Program

BRIGHTER FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP

For the fourth consecutive year, Valley will award up to 25 \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students who apply. The money to fund this initiative 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

To be eligible, 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. The applying student must be attending or planning to attend an accredited post-secondary institution. The applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll as a full-time student for the 2013-2014 academic year. Previous Brighter Future Scholarship recipients are not eligible.

How to Apply

Applications are available by visiting the co-op's

Megan Skillings (above), guidance counselor at Forbes Road High School, reviews Brighter Future scholarship information. Skillings says students planning on starting college need to pick a career that interests them while also putting together a sound financial plan. Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (at left) is one of the first steps. Students can complete the form online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.



(Continued from Page 4)

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:

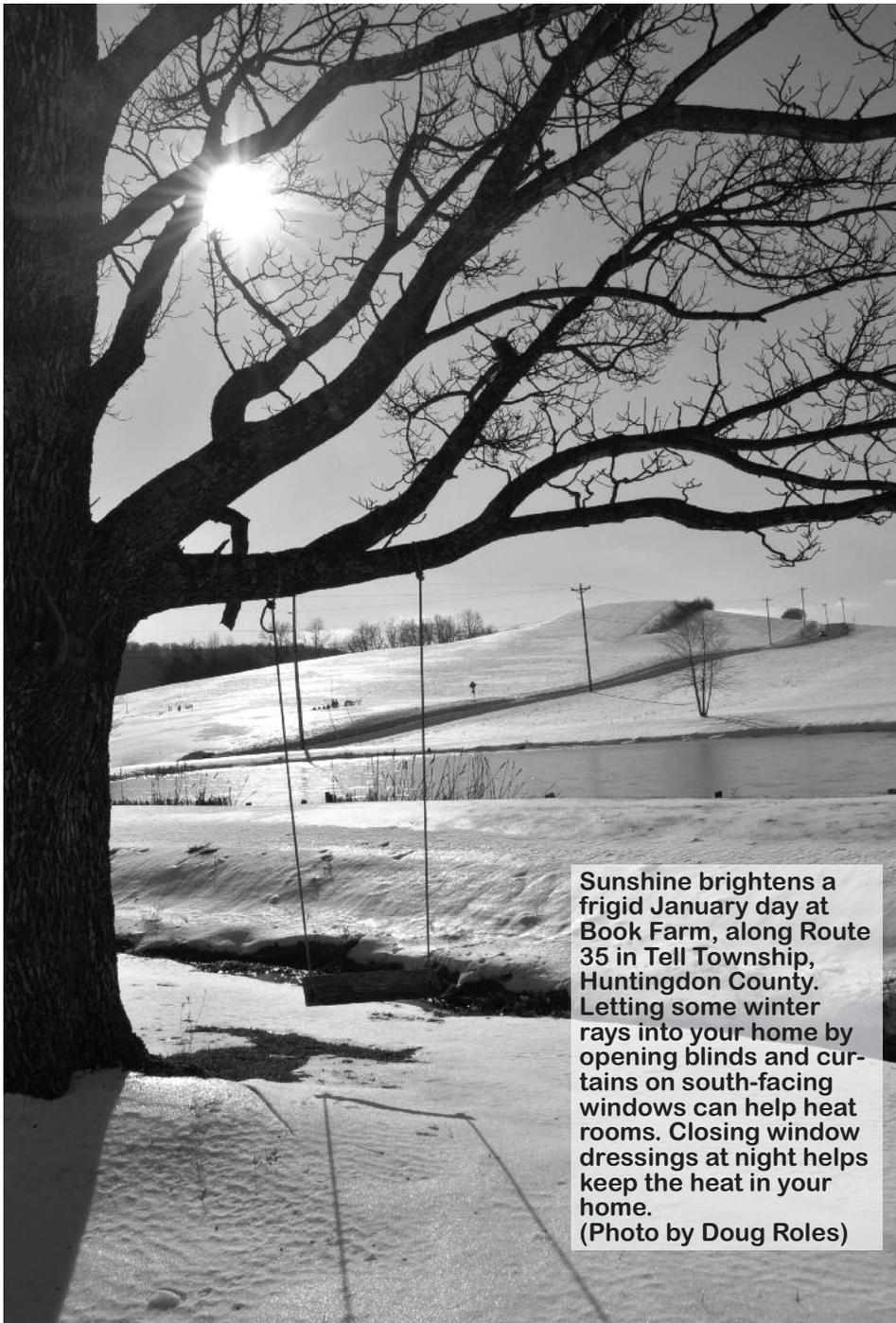
Altoona Area High School
Central High School

Claysburg-Kimmel High School
Fannett-Metal High School
Forbes Road Junior/Senior High School
Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School
Huntingdon Area High School
Juniata High School
Juniata Valley High School
McConnellsburg High School
Mifflin County 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, 2013. 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 member services department at 800/432-0680.



Sunshine brightens a frigid January day at Book Farm, along Route 35 in Tell Township, Huntingdon County. Letting some winter rays into your home by opening blinds and curtains on south-facing windows can help heat rooms. Closing window dressings at night helps keep the heat in your home.
(Photo by Doug Roles)

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

Huntingdon Area High School

7 p.m. Friday, April 12, 2013

**Elections
Districts 7, 8 & 9**

**Entertainment
'A Tribute to Patsy Cline'
by Joanne Stiffler**

Big-screen movie and dairy presentation for the kids

**Door prizes
One \$250 and three \$100 gift certificates**

More details in the mail soon. All who attend will receive a \$15 bill credit!

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

1 BR w/office in quiet country setting in N. Fulton Co., washer/dryer hookup, appliances included. No pets. Mowing/snow removal provided. \$550 + utilities & SD. 717/658-7918.

1987 Champion mobile home. 12'x70', 2 BD, 1 BA. Must be moved from current location. Asking \$3,500. Call 814/386-2255.

Wauchula, Fla. 12'x60' mobile home w/8'x12' shed on Lot #11. 100'x80.' Also, Lot #14, 100'x80.' Joining back to back. 814/542-4167.

Autos/Trucks

1968 Chevy truck, 3/4 ton, 4 WD, 350, 4 speed, 33's on wagon wheels. \$1,200 OBO. Call 717/385-5290 to leave message.

440 Dodge truck engine. New Jasper re-build. \$800 firm. 717/658-7918.

1997 Ford F-150 XLT 1/2 ton truck, 3 dr. ext. cab, 4.6 ltr. v-8

motor, auto, tow pkg., bed liner, step sides, mud flaps, new tires, new insp. Runs great, exc. cond. Garage kept, no rust, "NICE" \$6,500. Approx. 104,000 miles. 814/627-6891 or 814/599-9367.

1994 XLT Ford Ranger 4x4 single cab, short bed, really good shape, works great, no rust, bed liner, mud flaps, rain guards, inspected until 9/2013. 3.0 ltr. v-6 motor w/ 5-speed manual o/d, approx. 143,500 miles. 814/627-6891 or 814/599-9367.

1977 CJ5 Jeep. 304 v-8. Runs great. Needs frame work. \$1,800. 717/899-5242.

1988 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme Classic. Original cond. w/78,400 miles. \$5,700 OBO. 814/695-9772.

Bull Bar for '09 Dodge 1500. Everything included to install. \$150. 814/695-9326.

Recreational

1974 Lastrada tag-along camper. 24' long, AC, refrigerator works well. 2 extra new wheels. Really good condition. \$1,700. 814/239-5992.

2008 Summerland 2600TB 28' travel trailer w/queen bed & bunks. Sleeps up to 9 people. City water hookup. Fresh water, gray water, & black water holding tanks. 13.5 BTU roof-mounted AC, gas/electric double-door refrigerator, direct ignition propane gas furnace & hot water heater. Tub & shower w/surround. Two LP gas cylinders. Spare tire w/cover. One owner. Very well maintained. Approx. two yrs. remaining on comprehensive extended warranty. \$8,750. 814/644-1631.

Vacation Rentals

South Myrtle Beach year-round vacation rental. 2 BR, 2 BA condo at an ocean-front resort. Fully furnished including linens, towels, cable w/HBO, wireless internet, AC, 6 pools including a lazy river, lighted tennis courts, saunas, jacuzzis & more. \$425-\$1,000 weekly. Monthly rates available. Phone 717/263-2717.

Lake Raystown house rental. Sleeps 11. Lg. great room w/fireplace, 4 BDs, dining table for 12, central AC, 2 satellite TVs, 2 full BAs, 2 half BAs, large recre-

ation room, fully equipped kitchen & laundry rooms, screened-in porch. One mile from lake (Snyders Run boat launch), lg. parking area. Think Thanksgiving, Christmas or a long weekend getaway. Linens & towels provided. For more info. see www.laurelwoodsretreat.com or call Dianne at 814/931-6562.

Wanted

Ford pickup truck. Mid '80s to 1996. 1/2 or 3/4 ton. 4x4 w/manual transmission. Snowplow would be a plus. Call 301/293-2269 or 240/675-1956.

Military collector seeks U.S. military items. World War I, World War II & Korea. 240/367-6667 or 814/448-9977.

Tools/Equipment

Homemade wood splitter. 2-cylinder Wisconsin engine mounted on axle. Can be towed. Call 814/542-9595.

Jet pump. 110V or 230V. Works fine. \$100. 814/695-9326.

8N belt pulley. \$40. 18" exhaust fan. \$75. Call after 6 p.m. 717/987-3619.

Animals & Animal Equipment

Trio of young chickens. Rooster & 2 part Silky pullets. 814/684-2425.

Miscellaneous

Mid to late 1930s model GE refrigerator. Good shape, works well. Mid to late '30s model Home Comfort cook stove. Good grates, good operating cond. Will sell separately or together. Call 814/404-9404.

Two electric, adjustable, extra long twin beds w/remotes. Mattresses included. Both beds, \$1,500 OBO. One bed, \$800 OBO. 814/239-8047.

Bow Flex Extreme II. \$800. 717/899-5242.

Fraco-Belge wood & coal hot water boiler w/circulator. \$300. 27" Hunter coal & wood furnace w/blower & rebuilt kidney. \$600. 814/669-9332.

White cookstove. \$400. Four 8" I-beam columns, 8' long. \$40 ea. Used tin. 8 sheets, 2'x7'-10," \$75 & 27 sheets. 2'x9,' \$200. Call after 6 p.m. 717/987-3619.

"History of Pa. Railroad," Jacobs, 1995. Many early photos, fine dust jacket. \$18. Plus free list of other Pa. books. Can mail. 814/643-3197.

Services

Dublin Electric, LLC. Wiring solutions for your bright ideas! Providing a wide variety of electrical services to Fort Littleton & surrounding areas. Fully insured & free estimates. Please call Jeff Croft at 717/491-0676. PA.Reg. #075050

"Fulton County Picker" here at your service. Got Clutter??? Unwanted items??? Left over yard sale items??? Appliances??? Used furniture??? Big or small, I'll rid you of all!!! NO CHARGE to you for my service. My team & I will come to you at your convenience - the only finger you need to lift is your pointer to show us what to get. Available 7 days a week. Give me a call to schedule your pick up. Mark, 717/377-1940

Classified Ads

(Leave msg.) God Bless.

Buying all types of recyclables, such as batteries, copper, insulated copper, aluminum, stainless, etc. We also sell carports & garages. R&D Recycling, 27438 Great Cove Road, McConnellsburg, Pa. 717/987-3884.

Cresswell Heating & Air Conditioning. We install & service all types of heating & air conditioning equipment. Specializing in geothermal & solar hot water systems. For free estimates or service, phone 814/448-3654 or 814/644-9913.

The Valley Picker. Need to get rid of stuff? I will come out, see what you have & pay you cash on the spot & haul it away. You pay nothing. Nothing too big or small to haul. Call Kathy at 814/542-3191 today & make an appt.

Vintage Art Glass is welcoming the New Year, 2013, with a "Special Valley Friends" sale. Bring in your Valley News (this ad) and receive 15% off. (Offer expires Feb. 28, 2013). We offer custom stained glass & wonderful gifts in a magical shopping environment. Complimentary engraving/personalization & hand-painted gift bags. Come & enjoy. 508 Penn Street, Huntingdon. 814/251-4408.

Kenneth W. Reigh Carpentry & Masonry. Decks, landscaping blocks, siding, additions, kitchens & baths, screened-in porches, natural stone, brick, block & concrete. Fully insured, 35 yrs. exp. For estimates, call 814/658-9998.

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

Bee Unique Hair Boutique offering the best in hair care at a price you can afford. Located at 17759 Beavertown Road, Todd, Pa. 814/448-4914. "Your hair will thank you" with a beautiful hair clip from Lilla Rose now available

at Bee Unique. The hair clip that not only looks beautiful in your hair but can also be used as a stylish accessory. Check out my website at www.lillarose.biz/Bee-Unique

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 sales & 50-cent sales.

Monthly bag sale. Donations accepted during store hours. Call 814/667-3141.

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