



PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS

Local (260) 726-7121
Toll Free (800) 835-7362
Fax (260) 726-6240
E-mail remc@JayREMC.com
Web Site www.JayREMC.com

To report an outage or emergency

Call (260) 726-7121 or
(800) TEL-REMC (835-7362)

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Be ready to provide the following information:

1. Name under which the electric service is listed.
2. Map location number.
3. Your phone number in case we need to call you back.
4. The type of problem you are experiencing, e.g., flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.
5. Hang up when all information has been recorded — other members may be trying to contact the REMC, too.

Office hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Robbie's Rugs: Ray of hope, page 8N
- Sidelines, page 9N
- Board of director election petitions available, page 10N
- Co-op notes, page 10N

Christmas safety

by Cindy Denney

There are many things that make the holidays jolly: Family, good food and a wonderful present. There are many things that make the holidays not so jolly: Loved ones not being home for the holidays, finding the right Christmas present, preparations not going as smoothly as desired, or an accident can make holidays stressful.

This holiday season my son will be joining us in spirit once again. Last year he was in Japan, this year the Navy has sent him to the Persian Gulf. My Christmas wish for him is that he stays safe. The REMC Christmas wish is that all our members and their families stay safe. In the Christmas safety spirit we are bringing you a multitude of Christmas safety tips.

Tree safety

- A real tree should not lose green needles when you tap it on the ground.
- Cut 1 inch off the trunk to help absorb water.

- Leave the tree outside until ready to decorate.

- The stand should hold at least 1 gallon of water.

- A 6 foot tree will use 1 gallon of water every two days.

- Mix a commercial preservative with the water.

- Check the water level every day.

- Secure the tree with wire to keep it from tipping.

- Keep tree away from floor heaters, fire places, or other heat sources.

- Use only UL-listed lights, and no more than 3 strands linked together.

- Use miniature lights — which have cool-burning bulbs.

- Turn off the Christmas lights when you sleep, or if you leave your home for very long.

- Never use candles, even on artificial trees.

- Clean the tree stand to improve the trees water intake, use one capful of bleach to a cup of water.

- Dispose of the tree properly.

- **NEVER BURN A REAL TREE IN THE FIREPLACE.**

Home safety

- Install a smoke detector or new batteries in the one(s) you have and TEST it.

- Use only outdoor lights outside your home.

- Examine light strings each year; discard worn ones.

- Fasten the bulbs securely and point the sockets down to avoid moisture build up.

- Connect no more than three strands together.

- Never use indoor extension cords outside.

- Avoid overloading wall outlets and extension cords.



- Keep outdoor electrical connectors above ground and out of puddles and snow.

- Unplug light string before replacing a bulb.

- Review the original package to verify proper wattage and voltage.

- When connecting light strands, wrap a plastic bag around connections and tie ends with teflon tape.

- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree, use colored spot lights.

- Make sure trees hung with Christmas lights are not touching power lines.

- When using candles, place them a safe distance from combustibles.

- Place candles in sturdy containers. Remember, hot wax burns kids.

- Extinguish candles prior to going to bed.

- Dispose of fireplace ashes into a metal container until cold.

- After parties, check around and under sofa and chair cushions for smoldering cigarettes. (Provide lots of ash trays)

- Install at least one carbon monoxide detector in your home.

- Have an operable fire extinguisher readily available.

Safety gift ideas

Put together a gift basket containing one or more of the following items:

- Three smoke detectors and batteries.

- A quality fire extinguisher.

- A flashlight and batteries or light sticks.

- A first-aid kit.

- A carbon monoxide detector.

- A mobile phone.

- A second floor escape ladder.

- Emergency kit- energy bars, water, battery

- radio, flashlight/light sticks and a first-aid kit

- packed in a small travel bag.

continued on page 10N

Robbie's Rugs: Ray of hope

by Cindy Denney

Christmas is the season for hope and good will. Christmas is a time of giving. It is also a time of great stress trying to find the perfect gift for the special people in your life. Jay County REMC member, annual meeting exhibitor and TWN customer Robbie Ray of Robbie's Rugs is offering a ray of hope for those of us who like to give gifts that are out of the ordinary.

Robbie started making decorative rugs about five years ago. She saw the equipment in a magazine and decided that making the rugs would be something different that she could do at home and at the same time earn a little extra money.

Not only has making the rugs brought in some extra Christmas money, but it has also brought the family together. Her daughter Erin does the billing, son Tyler helps flip the rugs and husband Rob does all the maintenance on the tooling machine and anything else that is necessary to ensure that the rug is completed.

She has made rugs for industries, restaurants, and homes. Yet, the rug she is most proud of is hanging in a rural Jay County church. The rug is 8 + feet tall and 5 feet wide and depicts the reason for the season...Jesus.

Robbie's rugs not only cover walls in Jay

County; they are displayed all over the country with California being the farthest away. The rugs Robbie creates reflect the customer's personality or special interest. Floral designs are Robbie's favorites. Robbie's rugs are not your typical rectangular shaped rugs that lie on the floors. These decorative rugs vary in size and shape. Rectangular rugs are easier to make because they can be sewn on the machine. If a customer requests a rug that has a unique shaped outline Robbie has to sew the edges by hand.

Rugs vary in price depending on the cost of the carpet, amount of hours in drawing the rug, and amount of time making the rug. Rug terminology includes backing, binding and grippers. Other terms used when speaking of Robbie's rugs would be unique, beautiful, and exquisite. Giving one of Robbie Ray's original creations as a Christmas gift would be wise.

A special Christmas offer is being extended to Jay County REMC members. Mention this article when you order your rug at 260-731-4231 or robbiesrugs@bright.net and receive a 10 percent discount. Offer expires Dec. 31. TWN and Jay County REMC also offer a ray of long



Robbie Ray works on a rug for Hanlin Drilling.

distance hope during the holiday season. Keep in touch with friends and family during the holidays and save money on your long distance bill. 6.5 cents a minute anytime, anywhere, and no monthly service charge, call 888-610-4529 to sign up. Happy Holidays

Cindy Denney is director of marketing and customer services for Jay County REMC.



*Robbie Ray of Robbie's Rugs says,
Jay County REMC Long Distance
has you covered!*

With long distance from Jay County REMC

there are no time of day restrictions and no fees - call who you want, when you want, without any worries, without any hidden costs. You get peace of mind knowing you're saving on all your calls, across the Continental U.S., and around the world.

With our long distance program you will receive:

- 6.5¢* PER MINUTE for BOTH IN-STATE & OUT-OF-STATE CALLS!
- Personal 800 number with a rate of 6.5¢ PER MINUTE
- Calling Card benefits for ONLY 9.5¢ PER MINUTE!
- NO monthly fees. NO monthly minimums. NO cost to join!
- Cost saving rates for all international calls around the world!
- NO NEED TO BE A JAY COUNTY REMC MEMBER TO SIGN UP!

Call **1-888-610-4529** to sign up!

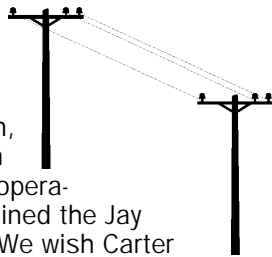


*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. †US calling excludes Alaska & Hawaii. Certain restrictions may apply. Please call for details. In partnership with TransWorld Network.

SIDE LINES

Good luck

Carter Johnson, lineman, has accepted a position with a fellow electric cooperative in Arizona. Carter joined the Jay County REMC in 1991. We wish Carter and his family the best in their new warmer surroundings. WE MISS YOU!



Good luck Carter from all of the ladies at Jay County REMC.

Gym City Gymnastics Booster Club fundraiser

Dec. 1-31 switch to TWN to receive a jolly good rate on long distance and help future gymnastic medallist — 6.5 cents a minute, anytime, anywhere and no monthly service charge. Mention Gym City and the REMC will donate \$5 to the Gym City Booster Club.

Courtesy of Jay County Tourism Bureau

Dec. 5, 6, 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. — Crying Baby Productions will be performing the radio production of "Merry Christmas Mr. Bailey" based on the classic Christmas story "It's a Wonderful Life" at the Jay County Courthouse Auditorium. This event, featuring several Jay County REMC members is being sponsored in part by Jay County REMC, A Touchstone Energy Cooperative. Tickets will be available at Financial Institutions. HO-HO-HOPE you get a chance to see this wonderful production.

Dec. 6 — Holiday Home Tour. Visit five beautifully decorated homes from noon to 5 p.m., including the home of Jay County REMC members Mike and Judy Rockwell. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at all Jay County financial institutions.

Dec. 6 — Bryant Craft Show, Bryant Community Building, 9 a.m. – p.m. Information: Sandy Towell, 260-726-6347.

Dec. 13 — Boots and Spurs Sway Meet, Jay County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information: Ronnie Rudrow, 260-726-6433.

Dec. 14 — Jay County's 17th Annual Farm Toy Show, Jay County Fairgrounds. Over 80 dealers, admission charge, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information: Ronnie Rudrow, 260-726-6433.

Courtesy of Randolph County Chamber

November through December — Holiday Gift Gallery 6th Annual Show. An opportunity for artists and creative crafters to showcase their work. Information: 765-964-7227.

Dec. 4 — Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Christmas Festival: Downtown area. Entertainment, artisans, craftsman, prizes, refreshments provided by merchants. Information: Vicki Phenix, 765-584-3731

Dec. 7 — Annual Christmas Candlelight Home Tour, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Minivan available to drive participants, sponsored by Preservation Society of Union City. Tickets available at The Antique Mall in Union City. Information: 765-857-1300.

Dec. 14 — Christmas Turkey Shoot, 1 p.m. Location Circle X Ranch. Information: 765-874-1169

Congratulations

The Jay County REMC team won Corporate Challenge sponsored by Jay Community Center. The events included bowling, basketball, golf, ping-pong, and softball, to name a few. This year was especially exciting because

high school aged children were allowed to participate. We thank our employees, their spouses and their children for joining us in supporting a great cause. And a special thanks to the City of Portland, Portland Forge Employees Federal Credit Union and Comprehensive Mental Health Services for being our partners.

Calendars available

The 2004 Cooperative Calendar of Student Art is available in the REMC office. Please stop in and pick up a copy of this beautiful calendar.



Answers to the Thanksgiving and Turtle Quiz

What year did the pilgrims have their first Thanksgiving? **Answer:** 1621

The expected Turtle completion date is? **Answer:** 2005

The Horn of Cornucopia, which, symbolizes abundance, originated in what country? **Answer:** Greece

The Turtle System is a proven solution for: all of the above

In 1677, a day of thanksgiving was proclaimed to take place during what month? **Answer:** June.

Winners

Congratulations, Tina Huntsman of Portland, winner of the four tickets to see the Harlem Ambassadors play the Double Dribblers.

Nancy Armstrong of Geneva won the DVD player given during the National Cooperative Month celebration. Samantha Shiers, daughter of Cindy Roberts of Bryant, won the bicycle.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from the directors and employees of Jay County REMC

Seasons Greetings Merry Christmas
 Carla J Libery Rose Gregory Allen Hulbert
 Merry Christmas Richard Nixon Jason Haggard
 Cindy O'Leary Michael C Ninde Duane Monroe
 Happy Holiday Steven J. Appleby Ho Ho Ho
 Missy May Have a Blessed Holiday Vicki Leonard
 Lynne Pinkerton
 Richard W. Foxson Duane Mullenkamp
 Paul P. Cowan Jesus Hill Tom Zimmerman
 Wm Harold Smith Diane Antrom
 Happy Holidays! Ron Field
 Chilly Barty Lon Laup Mark Arnold
 Kelly Nettles Steve Ritchie Ronald Smithson
 Phillip Strait

CHRISTMAS SAFETY

continued from page 7N

Christmas safety for dogs

Angel hair: This is made from spun glass, it can irritate the skin, cause cuts and damage the eyes. If eaten it can cause intestinal blockage.

Artificial snow, flocking: These are possibly poisonous, can cause digestive upset or be a respiratory irritant if inhaled. Spray only the upper corners of high windows.

Candles: Flame or dripping wax can burn dogs and cats or singe their whiskers or hair. Also, they are a fire hazard if the pet knocks them over. Save candles for the dining room table, and don't burn them near an unattended pet.

Electric cable: Dogs and cats can be shocked, burned or electrocuted by chewing on cable. It is safer to run cables through PVC piping, cover with rugs, or secure to the floor by placing behind or beneath heavy furniture.

Decorations: Glue, rubber bands, staples, string, tacks and tape can cause mild pain, serious complications, or death if swallowed. Store them in a secure place. Discard used items when decorations are removed.

Fire/fireplaces, including ashes, popping wood: These can cause bronchial irritation, burns, skin irritation and digestive distress. Keep a fire screen in front of a fireplace while in use.

Food: Bones can cause choking, internal punctures, possibly death.

Chocolate can cause theobromine poisoning, which is an over stimulation of the nervous system, and may be fatal. Chocolate also causes vomiting, diarrhea, tremors, hyperactivity and seizures. Fatty, spicy, or sweet foods lead to gastric upset, dehydration and pancreatitis. Burns and mouth or throat ulcerations can result from hot food. Do not share your holiday goodies with your pets. If you can resist give a healthy treat. Keep your dog out of the dining area and feed it its regular dinner while you eat. Do not leave cooking food unattended or set hot dishes near edge of stove or counter. Do not leave sweets or other snacks where your dog can reach them.

Guests: They add to the noise, confusion and stress for your pet who will be put out of its routine. Pets can be stepped on, or unsupervised children can injure them. Pets can escape when visitors come and go. Guests are more likely to feed your pets and "just a little bite" adds up to quite a lot of food. Always advise your guests not to feed your pets. If your guests are uncomfortable around your dogs and cats, or if extra activity causes your pet anxiety, board it for the holidays. Your cat and dog should sleep in a regular spot. If it is where it will be distressed, move the pet to a quiet place where it will be comfortable.

Decorative lights: Cats and dogs can become tangled in the strands, leading to burns and cuts. They can create the same hazards as electric cables. Costumes and dressing

up: Never dress up cats and dogs as costumes can cause choking and strangulation. Plants, holly, ivy, mistletoe and poinsettia: These plants range from mildly upsetting to extremely toxic. If eaten they can cause gastrointestinal irritation, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, drooling, coma, central nervous system or cardiac problems or even death.

Gift wrapping: Ribbon, trim polystyrene foam packaging, wrapping foil and paper are dangerous if eaten by your pet. Always wrap packages in an area away from your pet. Collect and discard all the waste. Any wrapping paper and supplies you are not using, put away. If you have any gifts for your dog, use plain brown paper, wrap loosely and supervise unwrapping.

Live trees: Place the tree in a room away from the cat or dog. To stop the tree from falling over, place a hook in the ceiling and use some nylon yarn. Tie the top of the tree with the nylon and then secure this to the ceiling. By using this

system the tree cannot fall over. — *The pet safety tips are brought to you by Dave the Dog Man.*

The best tip I can give any family is to reduce the stress level of your wife or mother. This will guarantee a happy holiday. And the REMC is bringing one lucky member a Christmas Stress Relief present. This special stress relief present includes a ham from Jay County REMC members John and Janice Fisher of Fisher Packing; a massage from Jay County REMC member Jan Miller of the Massage Therapy Center; manicure, pedicure and styling from Jay County REMC member Sheila Snyder of A Cut Above; plus a smoke detector from Jay County REMC members Hugh and Alice Strohl of Strohl Appliances. Not only will mom be relaxed while making the Christmas ham and the entire family will be alerted if the ham was cooking too long.

Have a Happy Holiday!

Sign up to win a Christmas Stress Relief package

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ACCOUNT NO.: _____ PHONE NO.: () _____

Mail entry to: Jay County REMC, PO Box 904, Portland, IN 47371.

Drawing will be held on Dec. 19 at 4:30 p.m.

Board of director election petitions available

The 2004 annual meeting is scheduled for April 17. There are three directors' seats up for re-election. Those seats are District 2, District 6, and District 9. Richard Nixon represents district 2. Nixon's district covers those areas in Greene, Jefferson, Richland, Wayne and Pike townships in Jay County bounded on the east by S.R. 27, on the south by the Jay-Randolph County line, on the west by S.R. 1, on the north by S.R. 26.

Ron Smithson represents district 6. Smithson's district encompasses the entire Randolph County area.

Diane Antrim represents district 9. District 9 is all of the area that the Jay County REMC serves in Adams County east of U.S. 27. This area is bounded on the west by U.S. 27, on the east by the Indiana-Ohio state line, on the north by Adams County Road 450 N. and on the south by the Jay-Adams County line.

Interested parties need to pick up a petition at the Jay County REMC after Dec. 1, and return the petition by Jan. 12, 2004. Any qualified member of the Jay County REMC may run for a seat on the board of directors by getting 15 Jay County REMC members to sign a petition of support.

To qualify you must take electric service at your primary residence in the district that is being contested in order to be an eligible candidate. The member who signs the petition does not have to live in the district up for election.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the REMC at 1-800-835-7263 or 260-726-7121.

CO-OP NOTES

Important dates

Electric bills due, Dec. 5. Read meter, Dec. 20.

Important dates: Office closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1



\$50 cash drawing winner

The \$50 cash drawing winner for the month of October was Terry D. Jones of Decatur. Congratulations from Jay County REMC.

\$50 monthly drawing for bills dated Dec. 20 and paid by Dec. 29

NAME: _____

ACCOUNT NO.: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO.: _____

Note: To be eligible for the drawing, your coupon and payment must be in the office by 4:30 p.m. on the last working day of the month.