



# Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

RR 6, Box 502

Clarksburg, WV 26301-0502

**304-624-6365**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partners 

www.harrisonrea.com

## Safety tips that may save your life

I would like to share with you some safety tips that typically are stored away and usually forgotten about over the long, cold winter season. Of course, I am happy to say that last winter ended much nicer than many others we have had over the past few years.

The events of a mild winter have not made many of us much happier, though. The advent of higher prices at the gas pumps and higher-than-usual cost increases from our utility partners has made our budget very tight. These seemingly higher-than-normal rate increases have caused an almost swirling cascade of related consequences. Events such as these make us opt for alternatives within our personal lives.

It was not too many years ago that the resurgence of wood-burning stoves became more evident in our lives. People began purchasing wood burners,

kerosene heaters, pellet stoves and many other alternative heating systems for their homes. Not unlike times past, we are returning to those alternatives today. Consequently, these life-changing events can cause us to put safety aside. The specific savings that are realized by adding these older versions of home heating sources comes with a price. Along with this purported cost savings, come many added safety problems. Many of these safety factors need to be considered before making purchases of this nature.

A wood burner, of any kind, comes with extreme heat that needs to be tempered to the surroundings in which it is placed. Additionally, the combustion cycle of any fossil fuel heating system needs to be vented to the outside to prevent asphyxiation. If you are considering making purchases such as these for next winter, please remain cognizant of the unsafe conditions they may create, and be sure to have the new equipment installed by an authorized installer.

Because of the soaring prices of natural gas, propane and oil, electricity has made a huge resurgence as a great source for heating your home. The higher-rated efficiencies in heating performance for heat pumps, along with

### Manager's Corner

By  
Gary Jackson,  
CEO/General  
Manager



these higher rates for gas and oil, all make the clean electric systems a great alternative. Likewise, the level of safety in using electricity for heating is unequaled by any other alternative fuel source.

You never have to worry about an explosion, venting of carbon monoxide, sparks or the greasy walls that come with combustion-type fuels.

If you're still not convinced as to whether an all-electrically-heated home is for you, consider a Dual Fuel heating system that provides both electric and other types of fuel heating. The advantages are realized through the Dual Fuel alternative that two sources of heating provides, if one utility has an unusually higher fuel charge than the other.

In closing, with the possibility of another torrent storm season ahead of us, be aware that downed power lines that look safe and appear to not be burning, are NOT safe to touch. Please call us first before jeopardizing your and your family's lives.

### Board of Directors

C.B. Sharp, Dist. 1 .....President  
James Stuart, Dist. 4 .....Vice President  
Glenn Cox, Jr., Dist. 3.....Secy.-Treas.  
Greg Robertson .....Dist. 2  
Ron Watson.....Dist. 5  
James McMurtry.....Dist. 6  
Michael Cross .....Dist. 7

Gary L. Jackson, General Manager  
Terry Stout .....Office Manager  
Alan Cox .....Operations Manager  
Richard L. Fox.....Staking Engineer  
Nada McNemar .....Editor

Office Hours  
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mon. - Fri.

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS!

This month's birthday boy is Rob Davis. Rob is one of our linemen and has been with the Cooperative for 13 years. We'll tell you more about Rob in this month's Employee Spotlight. Happy birthday, Robbie and best wishes from all of us here at HREA!





## Employee Spotlight

This month's employee spotlight is about Robert Davis. Rob began working for Harrison Rural Electric in April 1993, as an apprentice lineman and has worked for your Cooperative for the last 13 years.

Although Rob already was a Class B lineman, he still had to complete the four-year Dennis Merchant course, as all of our linemen do, before qualifying to be a journeymen lineman for the Co-op. Robbie was partnered with senior lineman Paul Siders, and the majority of the time Paul is who he works with.

Rob graduated from Liberty High School where he lettered in football and wrestling. Always a sports enthusiast, Robbie actually met his wife, the former Betty Post, on the softball field. Rob and Betty have been married for 11 years and have two daughters — 9-year-old Sierra and Kaylee, age 6. They reside in Bassell Addition off of St. Rte. 25. Other members of the family living there are two beautiful golden retrievers, Sugar and Bella. Rob and his family attend Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksburg.

Robbie is a member of the Masons, and in his spare time he likes to snow ski, hunt, fish and play pool.

Robbie is a hard-worker and has proved to



*Robbie Davis*

be a great asset to your Cooperative. He has traveled to other states on more than one occasion to assist with storm damage repairs, most recently working in Louisiana after Hurricane Rita swept through.

As testimony to Rob's qualifications and work ethic, former CEO George Carter, upon his departure, told Rob that if he ever needed a job, he would hire him "in a heartbeat."

One thing for sure, Robbie is and will continue to be dedicated to his job here at the Cooperative and to you — our member/owners.

## Mountain Heritage Arts and Crafts Festival

This nationally-acclaimed Mountain Heritage Arts and Crafts Festival is held yearly near Harper's Ferry. The Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce cordially invites all to come and enjoy the festival in the country where visitors can unwind and relax as they stroll among the colorful tents.

Approximately 200 crafters selected for the high quality of their products will be selling and demonstrating their wares. Some of the crafts offered are baskets, clothing, folk art, dolls, dried flowers, herbs, furniture, leather goods, pottery and quilts, to name just a few. Many varieties of foods are available along with the best in live

bluegrass music. The Patent Pending Band will perform at this year's festival on June 10 and 11.

The entrance fee includes parking and entertainment. Adult admission is \$6, children ages 6 to 17 are admitted for \$3 and children under 6 are free.

The festival is open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

For more information, contact the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-624-0577, or go to [www.jeffersoncounty.com](http://www.jeffersoncounty.com) where you can print out an online coupon for \$1 off regular admission price.

This event sounds like the perfect place to spend quality time with family and friends.

---

### JUNE 9-11

---

# HREA team bowls for Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of North Central West Virginia, Inc. serves Preston, Harrison, Monongalia, Lewis, Marion and Upshur counties and considers itself the nation's preeminent youth-service organization. Its service is based on volunteers, and it has proven success in creating and nurturing positive relationships that benefit, not only the volunteer, but also the child, the child's family and the community in general.

The mission of Big Brothers/Big Sisters is to serve children living in single-parent families by providing one-to-one friendship with caring adult volunteers.

On April 22, State Farm agent Bob Burdette hosted "Bowl for Kids' Sake" at Suburban Lanes in Morgantown benefiting Big Brothers/Big Sisters of North Central WV. Pizza, soft drinks, t-shirts and door prizes were provided at this fun event. Since Big Brothers/Big Sisters receives no government subsidies and is a nonprofit organization, it relies solely on foundations, individual donations and corporate sponsors in order to fulfill its mission.

When HREA was invited to participate in this worthwhile event, several employees of your Cooperative volunteered to form a bowling team and take part in the festivities. Each employee had to raise a minimum of \$25.

Those employees who donated their time that Saturday were CEO Gary Jackson and his wife, Judy, Billing Clerk Missie Stephenson, Receptionist April Greathouse and Bookkeeper Debbie Yerkey. Their team was affectionately named the "Gutterball Crew."

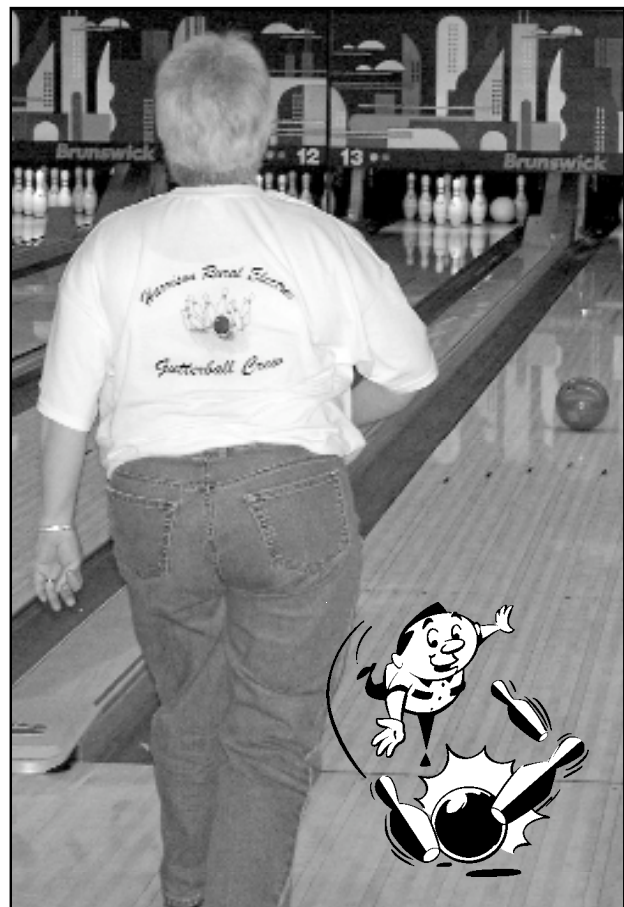
Gary and Missie bowled a fairly decent game, but April's, Debbie's and Judy's scores were just a little on the low side. On the plus side, however, these Gutterball dynamos managed to keep their bowling balls in their own lane, did not drop the ball on anyone's foot and caused no injury to those in nearby lanes. Most importantly, however, everyone had a good time and helped out a worthwhile organization in the process.

For more information about Big Brothers/Big Sisters of North Central WV, direct correspondence

to: 500 Mylan Park Lane, Suite 2, Morgantown, WV 26501, or call 304-983-2283. Kurt Schmidt is executive director, and his extension is 104; and Kendra Evans is case manager, and her extension is 103.



*Gary Jackson, Judy Jackson and Debbie Yerkey*



*Debbie Yerkey keeps ball out of gutter.*

## West Virginia became a state on June 20, 1863 but it wasn't easy....

Right from the start, eastern and western Virginia were divided in many ways. This division became more pronounced through the years until the single entity became two separate states.

To begin with, the Virginia State Constitution, adopted in 1776, reflected the interest of eastern Virginia and discriminated against the emerging class of small land owners in western Virginia, because only white males owning at least 25 acres of improved or 50 acres of unimproved land were permitted to vote. Many western Virginians did not own the land on which they lived — therefore, they were not permitted to vote. The constitution also delegated a disproportionate representation in the state General Assembly by allowing only two delegates per county, regardless of population. On the other side of the coin, the apportionment of the Senate was based on total population, including slaves. The large slave population of eastern Virginia and the general absence of slaves in western Virginia created representation that favored the East. The Virginia General Assembly did pass a number of acts in an attempt to benefit western Virginia, but these failed to produce any long-term answers.

In response to a referendum, a convention gathered in Richmond attended by such prominent Virginians as James Madison, James Monroe and John Tyler. They attempted to develop a new constitution, but eastern Virginian conservatives defeated virtually every major reform. Calls for secession began im-

mediately and continued for the next 20 years, even though western Virginia was finally granted greater representation with the organization of 19 new counties.

In 1831, the issue of African-Americans came to the forefront. A national organized movement called abolitionism began in an effort to end slavery. Many prominent western Virginia political leaders supported abolitionism because they felt slaves were performing jobs which white laborers should be paid to do.

In 1861, when Virginia voted to secede from the Union, western delegates led by Clarksburg's John S. Carlisle marched out of the secession convention and vowed to form a state government loyal to the Union. On October 24, 1861, residents of 39 counties in western Virginia approved the formation of a new Unionist state.

At the Constitutional Convention held in Wheeling, delegates selected counties for inclusion in the new state of West Virginia. In the end, 50 counties were selected (all of present-day West Virginia's counties except Mineral, Grant, Lincoln, Summers and Mingo, which were formed after statehood).

The mountain range west of the Blue Ridge became the eastern border of West Virginia to provide a defense against Confederate invasion. The Baltimore and Ohio railroad ran through the eastern panhandle and was extremely important for the economy and troop movements. Inclusion of these counties removed all of the railroad from the Confederacy.

On March 26, 1863, the citizens of the original 50 counties approved the statehood bill, and on June 20, 1863, the state of West Virginia officially was created.

*For more information about our beautiful state, visit [www.wvculture.org/history](http://www.wvculture.org/history)*

### Happy Fathers' Day to all of the HREA dads!

Gary Jackson, father of Keith; Rick Fox, father of H.R., Stephen and Troy; Harold Gains, father of Jamie; Terry Stout, father of Alaina, Ben and Jocelyn; Alan Cox, father of Angie and Melanie; John Holt, father of Alicia; Paul Siders, father of Stuart and Tiffany; Ron Yerkey, father of Kayla and Justin; Scott Wyckoff, father of Heather; Rob Davis, father of Sierra and Kaylee; Jon Paul McAllister, father of Ryan, Allison and Abigail; Sean Bailey, father of Eli; Chris Davisson, father of Emily; and Bill Curran, father of B.J. and Carla.



## Still confused about Medicare, Part D?

Are you a senior citizen with Medicare coverage and still have not selected the prescription drug coverage that's right for you? Does the whole thing confuse you until you just don't want to bother with it?

Well, you are entitled to this coverage, and with rising prescription costs, most seniors could use a little help. Fortunately, there is an organization that can help you choose the drug coverage that will be most cost effective for your individual needs.

Contact Libby or Tammy at the Harrison County Senior Center located at 500 West Main Street in Clarksburg. The phone number is 623-6795. These ladies can answer any questions you may have and actually can enroll you right there at the center with whatever company you choose to go with.