



Harrison Rural Electrification Association, Inc.

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Projects keep HREA busy through summer 2015

IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS, we have several projects we hope to complete. With the energizing of the new Chiefton 12.47 transformer, we will complete our load shifting off of Jarvisville and Erie. The advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) project should be completed this month as we change out all of the meters served by Dola and anything left on Erie that we did not get done in June. The geographic information system (GIS) project should be to the point where we are able to begin building further on that foundation with outage management, automatic vehicle location and work management systems. The Erie line upgrade is basically completed and in use, and our annual pole-inspection program is complete. Some projects in the works are the Cunningham Run line upgrade, installation of electronic breakers at Dola and between the Charles Pointe and

Chiefton 138-kV substations, and making further progress on the vegetation management program.

Some additional information on the vegetation management is that for this year, we planned to clear 160 miles of right-of-way, which encompasses the majority of the line miles currently fed from the Jarvisville substation. The south feed is being manually cut while the north feed is using a combination of aerial and manual cutting. This section is serving as a test to determine if aerial cutting is a true benefit to the membership. While the helicopter got off to a relatively rough start, a change in personnel has improved their effectiveness as of late. At this time, the north feed has already completed around 30 miles of side trimming in just four weeks of flying. The importance of that comes from the fact that the majority of blinks are caused by side growth along the various rights-of-way.

We are excited that the GIS program is progressing as well as it is. Field employees are anxious to put this technology to work. We have been testing several in-truck solutions that will bring this technology to the field and provide employees with more up-to-date and reliable information than they have ever had before. The biggest offspring to the GIS will be the outage management system that will use both the GIS and

Manager's Corner

by Terry Stout,
CEO/General Manager



AMI to enable office and field personnel the tools necessary to better analyze and solve outage situations. We have also been able to tie pole-inspection data to GIS data to help determine areas, such as Cunningham Run, where we need to focus on maintenance issues. We will use this data in developing the upcoming work-plan.

Finally, we say goodbye and good luck to one of our employees as he moves into retirement. William "BJ" Curran is retiring after serving the membership for nearly 29 years. During his employment, he has been involved in just about every job at the cooperative, from office reception to lineman to meter technician. Bill has been an active participant in community service and served Doddridge County as a member of its school board for several years. Bill is a farmer and an avid hunter, and he has spent much time in pursuit of various wildlife species. Bill is always smiling, in a good mood, a little mischievous and, most assuredly, always has a story to tell. Join us in saying thank you for his service and good luck in all his future endeavors.

Have a safe, happy summer. ☺

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HREA family welcomes 5 new baby girls

BY BRITTANY GROVER

...with 1 more on the way

Harrison REA congratulates and welcomes all of the new bundles of joy brought into the family over the past year.

Duffelmeyer baby spreads love in the family, especially to older brother

Apprentice lineman Joe Duffelmeyer and his wife, Angie, have been enjoying their second child, a beautiful baby girl named Elona Reese. She was born on July 2, 2014, and weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce. Their son, Hagen, who is now 6 years old, absolutely adores his baby sister. She's one protected little girl with a big brother on hand!

Satterfield welcomes first granddaughter and prepares for second grandchild

Operations Manager Sam Satterfield and his wife, Janet, welcomed their first granddaughter, Hartley Marie, on Oct. 23, 2014. She is the daughter of Sam's oldest son, Jerod, and his wife, Kelley, and was born in Ardmore, Okla., where their little family resides. Sam is also gearing up for his second grandchild from his son, Derek, and his wife, Ashley Beth, who is due July 13. Good luck and congratulations!

Wyckoff grandbaby weighs in at 7 pounds, 11 ounces

Line Supervisor Scott Wyckoff and his wife, Susan, welcomed their second granddaughter, Kylie Renee, on Nov. 4, 2014. Kylie weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces. Scott and Susan's daughter Heather has tremendous help from her 6-year-old daughter, Caitlyn, who loves helping mom with baby Kylie.

Ewing's third grandbaby arrives in February

Katrina Ewing, HREA's billing clerk, has been enjoying every minute of her third grandbaby, Mia Danielle. Mia was born Feb. 10 and weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces. This new little bundle of joy is Casey and Larry Jarrett's second little girl. Katrina's oldest granddaughter, Kylie, who is 2-and-a-half years old, loves every minute being Mia's big sister. Katrina also has her hands full with her handsome 2-year-old grandson, Izac, who is the child of her son, Tyler, and his wife, Nikki.

Manear's 8-year-old son looks out for new baby sister

Lineman Jason Manear and his wife, Jennifer, have welcomed their second child, a beautiful little girl named Luella Rene. Luella was born Feb. 12 and weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces. Jason and Jennifer also have a son, Riley, who is 8 years old and already looking out for his little sister.

Wow! What a year of beautiful baby girls. Congratulations to all, and we wish you the best of luck with your growing families.



Caitlyn and baby sister Kylie, daughters of Line Supervisor Scott Wyckoff



Riley and baby sister Luella, children of Lineman Jason Manear



Hartley, granddaughter of Operations Manager Sam Satterfield



Kylie and baby sister Mia, granddaughters of Billing Clerk Katrina Ewing

Cutting the cable is a real possibility: Part 2

BY LLOYD MASON

LAST MONTH, WE INTRODUCED the idea of “cutting the cable,” a trend currently gaining popularity among Americans. In fact, an estimated 7.6 million U.S. households have left pay television behind, according to Experian Marketing Services.

From last month’s article, you received the tools to understand what you are being charged for each month and what streaming speed you need from your Internet service provider (ISP). Now it’s time to talk about the devices and services you need to complete the mission and go entirely cable free.

First, you need to know about devices — the ones required to stream Internet content for playback. These days there are plenty to choose from.

Apple TV, Chromecast and Roku

To name just a few, these types of devices are becoming standard and are now affordable, small and easy to operate. They have HDMI connectors that fit any TV, and they use wireless Internet or a network cable from your router to stream content from apps installed on the device directly to the TV. No other software is needed.

Many companies are hopping on this bandwagon as a way to get around the cable monopoly. These devices stay connected and will update themselves automatically, some even publishing new content in the form of apps.

Net-connected DVD

This is a solution that makes sense for most folks. DVD needs no explanation; however, new models are available with a network card that has built-in Wi-Fi. When you turn on the device, you can watch a DVD or choose from a collection of apps. Depending on the device, these apps are even upgraded or replaced by the manufacturer via Internet to ensure continuity of access to the newest services.

Smart TVs

Smart TVs are newer on the scene and have a network card with Wi-Fi built in. Plus, most of the units can now play content from sources on your home network, such as a single computer connected to the same Wi-Fi.

PC

The PC doesn’t need an introduction because most homes already have one. A PC could be considered the equivalent of a TV on steroids, and you can

even connect your PC to your TV, turning your TV into a monitor to watch videos from your computer.

However, it’s important to note that when signing up for streaming services, you need to go to the vendor site on your PC and activate your streaming device.

Tablets

When streaming to a tablet, you’ll be restricted to its screen size. Tablets have become a popular solution because they are simpler than a PC and are also very light and portable. These devices have taken a big chunk of the computer market and are compatible with most streaming services. A real plus with tablets is that they are quickly gaining the capability to control all the streaming devices in your home, sort of like a giant smart remote with Internet access.

Modems and routers

Modems provide Internet access, and routers allow devices to connect to your network. You need both to successfully maintain Internet access and Wi-Fi.

A high-quality modem will usually be provided by your ISP for a small rental fee and will be properly suited for the speed of your service. However, purchasing a network router is typically the customer’s responsibility. Routers are a dime a dozen, but they aren’t all created equally. When purchasing a router for your home, plan to situate it in a central location, which will allow the Wi-Fi signal the best chance to extend to all your rooms.

Visit www.consumerreports.org/cro/wireless-routers/buying-guide.htm to help you make the right selection when deciding on a router to purchase.

There are numerous options when choosing a device to stream online content. Do your research, and pick the ones that are right for your family’s needs.

Next time in the Tech Corner, we will tackle streaming providers and how to select one.

Til next time @TECH CORNER. ☞

LLOYD MASON is the manager of information technology at Harrison Rural Electric Association. He writes monthly on technology issues affecting our cooperative and members.

What would happen if ... ?

Ask yourself these important questions during summer road trips

BY SAM SATTERFIELD

As we all know, July is a great month to hit the road for vacation.

No one expects to lose a loved one in a car crash while traveling. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says for those aged 5-34 in the U.S., motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death, claiming the lives of about 18,266 Americans each year. Some of these types of deaths could be prevented if folks would have asked themselves a simple question: "What would happen if ... ?"

What would happen if I were talking on the phone or texting while driving?

In most states, both are against the law and considered a primary offense. The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute found that texting creates a crash risk 23 times worse than driving while not distracted. Talking on hands-free devices is a better alternative, but drivers still need to use good judgment.

What would happen if I didn't wear a seatbelt or require my passengers to wear one?

Seat belt use is the best form of protection and the most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries in crashes. Yet millions of adults don't wear them on every trip. Seat belts reduce serious crash-related injuries and deaths by about half, according to the CDC – but you have to wear them for them to work. Children in particular need a car seat that fits them and is installed properly in the vehicle. Require all your passengers to buckle up, even those in the backseat.

What would happen if I drive impaired?

Driving impaired not only means driving under

the influence of alcohol, but it could also mean driving under the influence of prescription, over-the-counter or illegal drugs. Any of one of those is a deadly proposition for you and for others on the road. The majority of states also penalize for child endangerment or abuse if intoxicated drivers have children in the vehicle.

What would happen if I didn't pay attention to work zone signs?

This time of year, work zone signs are up everywhere. Even if nothing seems to be going on, drivers still need to use caution to keep workers safe. After all, just because workers aren't visible doesn't mean they aren't there. Also, fines for speeding are doubled in work zone areas to further discourage unsafe driving.

What would happen if I didn't drive defensively?

Smart, defensive driving is key to avoiding accidents. In fact, chances are your Department of Motor Vehicles or Department of Public Safety offers defensive driving courses, which reduce the risk of collisions by teaching drivers how to anticipate dangerous situations, despite adverse conditions or the mistakes of others. These courses can earn a car insurance discount, help avoid higher insurance premiums and can sometimes remove points from your driving record or dismiss a traffic ticket.

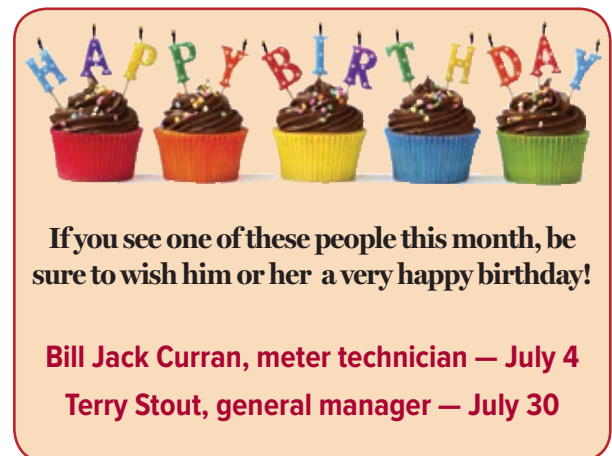
SAM SATTERFIELD is the operations manager at Harrison Rural Electric Association. He writes monthly on technology issues affecting our cooperative and members.



The office is closed
Friday, July 3,
in celebration of
Independence Day.

Have a safe and happy
holiday!

Emergency service is available at
800-540-HREA.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

If you see one of these people this month, be sure to wish him or her a very happy birthday!

Bill Jack Curran, meter technician — July 4
Terry Stout, general manager — July 30