



**Jay County
REMC**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**484 S 200 W
P.O. Box 904, Portland, IN 47371**

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**

CO-OP NOTES

\$50 cash drawing winner

The \$50 drawing winner for the month of January was Billy Sipe of Portland. Read **Electric Consumer** for your chance to win \$50.

Can you dig it?

Diggy Piggy says, "It's that time of the year when people begin poking all kinds of holes in the ground. New trees, shrubs, fence posts, mailboxes; you name it. All require digging a hole from a foot to several feet deep.



"The problem is that you don't really know what you are going to dig into. It may only be a few earthworms or the ring you lost last year. Or it could be a buried utility line, like 240 volts or 7,200 volts (if it's primary) of electricity. Now, wouldn't that put a kink in your tail? Or you may chop right into the lines just as the children settle down to watch 'Charlotte's Web.' All of which could be downright dangerous.

"So, call the Jay County REMC at 800-835-7362 or Holey Moley at 811 before you start digging. Folks from the REMC help keep you safe and avoid the shocks by coming out and locating the underground lines. Then you can dig it."

co-opNews Information from your electric cooperative

**Jay County REMC
2009 Annual Meeting**
Saturday, March 28
Jay County High School Auditorium
Highway 67, Portland, next to the REMC

6-7 p.m.	Registration
6 p.m. to end of program	Kids' program in the commons and gym with games and food, chaperoned by Boy Scout Troop 202
6 p.m.	Member Business Expo
6:15 p.m.	Entertainment: Edwards Family
7 p.m.	Business meeting
	Board reports
	Attendance gifts: \$10 bill credit, bagel knife, and a compact fluorescent light bulb.
	Plus, door prizes, cash and more!!

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The power of human connections

Jay County REMC Member Business EXPO

The 2009 Jay County REMC annual meeting will spotlight Jay County REMC members who are business owners.

If you are interested in participating in the Member Business EXPO, fill out the application below. There is **no charge** for participating in the EXPO. The EXPO will be held March 28 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Member's name _____

Member's map location # _____

Business name _____

Electricity required? (Circle one) Yes No

Jay County REMC will provide signage, a table, table covering, and two chairs. Please return to the REMC, Attention: Cindy Denney, P.O. Box 904, Portland, IN 47371 or e-mail denneyc@jayremc.com by **March 12**.

Space is limited – so please hurry!

REMC sends crew to storm-damaged Kentucky

Jay County REMC linemen Jason Haggard and Ron Fields, along with several other Indiana cooperative line workers, joined forces with others from across the U.S. in restoration efforts for storm-damaged western Kentucky. Damage in Kentucky is described as catastrophic and more costly than the destruction seen in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. Linemen Ron Fields and Duane Monroe recently returned from assisting with the restoration efforts in southern Indiana.

Consumers in western Kentucky have been without power for weeks due to heavy layers of snow and ice on power lines and trees.

The roar of utility trucks and the thud of new poles being set into the ground by 57 Indiana line workers was a welcome sound. Trucks departing from the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives in Indianapolis met others gathered at WIN Energy in Vincennes before heading to western Kentucky. While there, crews worked between 12-16 hours per day depending on conditions and assignments.

The most important thing to remember following a storm is safety around downed power lines. Always assume a downed power line is energized. If you see a downed line, stay away and contact your electric utility. In addition, stay away from limbs or trees in contact with those lines as they can be conductors of electricity.



A convoy of utility trucks prepares to depart for hard-hit western Kentucky. A crew from Jay County REMC was part of the power restoration team.

Wire reels available

If you are interested in getting ready for spring, Jay County REMC has your answer for an inexpensive picnic table ... used wire reels.

The reels are available, free of charge, to any REMC member. These sturdy wooden reels come in a variety of sizes that will suit your needs. They won't last long at this price!

2009 board candidates

The following individuals are running for a seat on the Jay County REMC board of directors. The election for these board positions will take place at the annual meeting on March 28.

District 3



Richard Paxson

Richard Paxson is a lifelong resident of Jay County. He is a graduate of Pennville High School and holds degrees from Purdue and Michigan State universities. He attended the graduate school of banking at the University of Wisconsin.

Paxson taught agriculture for eight years in Maryland and in Michigan. He served in the National Guard for six years. He has been in the financial industry for over 20 years and is currently an investment representative for Edward Jones Investments in Montpelier.

He is a Kiwanian and a member of the Montpelier Chamber of Commerce.

Paxson and his family operate a 300-acre grain farm in Penn Township. The Paxsons are members of the Gilead Church in Balbec where he is a Sunday School teacher and a board director. He and his wife, Betty, have three children: Matthew, Michael and Brenda. They have eight grandchildren.

Paxson has been on the co-op board for 23 years and presently serves the board as a member of its finance committee.

District 5



Michael Ninde

Michael Ninde is a lifelong resident of Jay County.

He is a graduate of Bryant High School and holds a master's degree from Ball State University. Ninde taught for 23 years in Adams and Jay counties. His career with the school system was in the industrial arts and special education departments. Following his retirement from the school system, he has devoted his full-time efforts to grain farming.

Ninde is an active member of the Westchester United Methodist Church where he is a trustee.

He and his wife, Lana, have three children: Jim, Michele and Dan. They have seven grandchildren.

Ninde has been on the co-op board for 10 years and currently chairs its finance committee. He also represents the REMC on the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives board.

District 6



Harold Smith

Harold Smith has resided in Delaware County's Niles Township since 1962 with his wife, Peggy. He is retired from Jay County School Corporation after 25 years of teaching service.

Smith is also retired from farming and is a World War II veteran.

Harold graduated from Dunkirk High School and holds a bachelor of science degree in science and a master of arts degree in chemistry and math from Ball State University.

He is a member of the Union Chapel Ministries of Muncie and is a past master of the Masonic Lodge F & AM 175 of Dunkirk and past president of the Jay Classroom Teachers Association. Smith and his wife have five children and 17 grandchildren.

He has been a board member of the co-op for 26 years and currently serves on the membership and public relations committee. He also represents the board as the Wabash Valley Power Association director.

District 7



Tom Zimmerman

Tom Zimmerman has been a resident of Jay County since 1950.

He is a graduate of Fort Recovery High School and a former member of the National Guard. He currently operates his own construction business, Tom's Building Service.

Zimmerman and his wife, Doris, attend the First Church of Christ in Fort Recovery. For the past 23 years, he has been a member of the Jay County Fair Board and has served as its president for the past 11 years.

The Zimmermans are the parents of four daughters: Brenda, Lea Ann, Koresa, and Cindy. They have six grandchildren.

He has been on the co-op board for 15 years and is currently the board's president.



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Join us at the Jay County REMC Annual Meeting on March 28 for entertainment provided by the Edwards Family Gospel Singers!

It was 1947. A brother and a sister from Randolph County, Ind., were asked to sing at a public revival meeting held at a new building that was to be used as a "sale barn." The place was Lem Ford's sale barn on 700 North in North Central Randolph County. The brother and sister were Wilfred and Vera Edwards.

That was the beginning of a very active gospel singing ministry which would continue and expand for many years. Following Wilfred's marriage to Rachel Enyart in 1958, he and his wife, along with his sister, Vera, continued singing and playing for nearly 10 years and became known as the Edwards Trio.

During that time period, several record albums were recorded and they traveled extensively across the Midwest, singing and playing in churches. In 1967, Vera married a pastor from Ohio and no longer traveled actively with the group.

By this time, however, Wilfred had three children who were becoming a part of the sing-

ing ministry. Later, a fourth child was born and the group continued singing and traveling extensively for the next 25 years as the Edwards Family Gospel Singers.

In 1992, Wilfred passed away but each of his four children went on to become involved with their spouses in individual singing and pastoral ministries of their own. The four children are Elizabeth Bell, along with her husband, Jerry, of Milroy, Ind.; Jonathan Edwards, along with his wife, LuRhe, and family of Ridgeville, Ind.; Esther Dotson, along with her family of Ridgeville, Ind.; and Daniel Edwards, along with his wife, Angela, and family of Ridgeville, Ind.

It is a joy for the family to have the opportunity to be reunited and sing together as a group. Though schedules do not permit this to happen often, it is always a great honor and privilege for them to be together as one big family, and sing and play together as the Edwards Family Gospel Singers.

We're sure you will be delighted with their performance at this year's annual meeting!

\$50 monthly drawing

NAME: _____

ACCOUNT NO.: _____

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.



Make plans today to attend the Fiber Fest & Spin-In Jay County Fairgrounds March 12-14 See the "Sidelines" section on this page and page 11N for more details!

The event is made possible, in part, with support from Arts Place, Inc., the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

SIDELINES

Courtesy of Jay County Chamber of Commerce, Bearcreek Farms and Jay County Tourism Bureau.

March 12-14: Fiber Fest & Spin-In. Jay County Fairgrounds. March 12, classes by registration. March 13, Educational Day and Chili Supper to benefit Helping Hands Food Bank. 4-7:30 p.m. March 14, open to the public. For information about the event and classes, or to register for classes, contact Gyneth Ausberger or Jennifer Nixon at the Jay County Visitor and Tourism Bureau at 260-726-3366 or 877-726-4481 or go to www.visitjaycounty.com or e-mail info@visitjaycounty.com.

March 14: NCGLNAC Lecture Series. Jay County Historical Society. 5 p.m. Speaker will be Ron Kennedy. For more information, contact Sue Templin at 765-289-2696.

March 14: Annual March Dinner. Bryant Community Center. 4-7 p.m. Freewill donation. Money raised will help building maintenance.

March 19-April 5: "Wizard of Oz." Bearcreek Farms. For information, call 260-997-6822.

March 31: Workplace Violence Seminar. Holiday Inn Express, Portland. Instructors: Doug Koogler, CSHM, OHST, IHT, INSafe consultant. Two sessions: 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. \$15 per person for Jay County Safety Council members. \$25 per person for non-Jay County Safety Council members. Break service included. Registration deadline is March 20. For information or to register for seminar, call 260-726-4481.

Courtesy of Berne Chamber of Commerce

March 18: Third Tuesday Luncheon for Chamber. DRG on Parr Road. Program: Tour of publication. For information, call 260-589-8080.

Courtesy of Randolph County Chamber of Commerce

March 3: Randolph County Extension Homemakers Lesson "Semi-Homemade Cookery." Program: Using convenience food to create your own dishes. 1 p.m. at Extension Office. For information, call 765-584-2271.

March 7: Winchester Lions Club Pancake & Sausage Breakfast. Main Street Christian Church. For information, call 765-584-8801.

March 9: Blood Draw. Location: Crown Pointe. 3-7 p.m. For information, contact John Schmidt at 765-964-4653.

March 12-April 8: 2009 Art Show. Professional and amateur categories in all mediums. The show is open to current and former residents within 75 miles. Prizes in different categories. Exhibit open for local schools for art education. For information, call 765-964-7227.

March 18: Mini Health Fair sponsored by St. Vincent Randolph Hospital. 4-H Fairgrounds. 6-10 a.m. For information, contact Kathy Beumer at 765-584-0004.

March 18-19: Randolph County Ag Day. Husted Hall. Wednesday activities: 50 cent Farmer Share Breakfast, 8-10 a.m.; Lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday activities will start at 8 a.m. with lunch served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. For information, contact Dan Kirtley from the Extension Office at 765-584-2271.

March 18: Ag Day Broasted Chicken. Sponsored by Saratoga Lions Club. Husted Hall. 4:30-7 p.m. For information, contact Rick Fisher at 765-584-8122.

March 20-21: Pollution Solution. Sponsored by Randolph County Solid Waste Management District, 2115 E. State Road 32. Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon. For information, contact Lynn at 765-584-9816.

Employee completes apprenticeship program

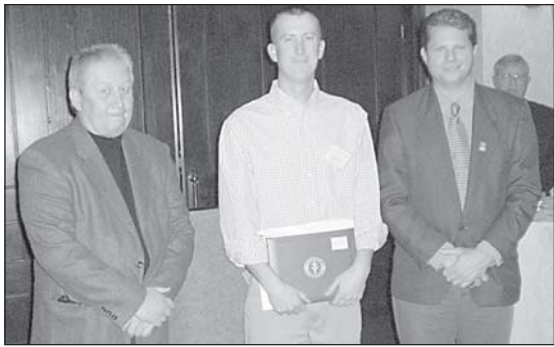
The Rural Electric Apprenticeship Program (REAP) graduation was held Jan. 31 in downtown Indianapolis. Among the graduates was Jay County REMC's Nathan Myers.

Myers completed 600 hours of classroom instruction, 8,000 hours of on-the-job training, attended REAP classes pertaining to metering, basic and advanced climbing schools, substation, hot line, URD, staking, material/bucket, regulator, rubber gloving and correspondence homework during a four-year period.

The certificates from the Department of Labor and Bureau of Apprenticeship Training were presented by Terry Adkins, senior loss control/risk management specialist and REAP instructor for the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, and Gayvin Strantz, manager of job training, safety and loss control for Indiana Statewide.

Each graduate also earned an associate of applied science degree in apprenticeship technology—electrical line technician from Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana. Diplomas were presented by Nick Varkonyi of Ivy Tech.

Congratulations, Nathan! You da lineman!



Nathan Myers, center, receives congratulations from Gayvin Strantz, left, Indiana Statewide, and Nick Varkonyi, right, Ivy Tech, for completing the REAP program and earning an associate's degree.



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- **Tell your friends and family** - you don't have to be a Jay County REMC member to sign up!

Call Today!
1-888-610-4529



*Rates and other regulatory charges not included. Certain restrictions and early termination fees may apply. Rates subject to change. Please call for details. In partnership with TransWorld Network.

Be safe when a tornado strikes

If Dorothy had listened to Auntie Em, the story of the "Wizard of Oz" would have been pretty boring. However, Dorothy would have been safe and would not have experienced such a dangerous journey. Tornadoes are extremely dangerous and, unlike Dorothy, instead of going into the storm we should seek shelter.

Each year about 1,000 tornadoes touch down in the US. Only a small percentage actually strike occupied buildings, but every year a number of people are killed or injured. The chances a tornado will strike a building you are in are very small, however you can greatly reduce the chance of injury by doing a few simple things.

One of the most important things you can do to prevent being injured in a tornado is to be **ALERT** to the onset of severe weather. Most deaths and injuries happen to people who are unaware and uninformed. Stay aware, and you will stay alive!

If you don't regularly watch or listen to the weather report, but strange clouds start moving in and the weather begins to look stormy, turn to the local radio or television station to get the weather forecast.

If a tornado "**watch**" is issued for your area, it means that a tornado is "possible."

If a tornado "**warning**" is issued, it means that a tornado has actually been spotted, or is strongly indicated on radar, and it is time to go to a safe shelter immediately.

Be alert to what is happening outside as well. Here are some of the things that people describe when they tell about a tornado experience:

- A sickly greenish or greenish black color to the sky.
- If there is a watch or warning posted, then the fall of hail should be considered as a real danger sign. Hail can be common in some areas, however, and usually has no tornadic activity along with it.
- A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after the thunderstorm.
- Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of the sky.
- A sound a little like a waterfall or rushing air at first, but turning into a roar as it comes closer. The sound of a tornado has been likened to that of both railroad trains and jets.
- Debris dropping from the sky.
- An obvious "funnel-shaped" cloud that is rotating, or debris such as branches or leaves being pulled upwards, even if no funnel cloud is visible.

If you see a tornado and it is not moving to the right or to the left relative to trees or power poles in the distance, it may be moving towards you! Remember that although tornadoes usually move from southwest to northeast, they also move towards the east, the southeast, the north, and even northwest.

Encourage your family members to plan for their own safety in many different locations. It is important to make decisions about the safest places well BEFORE you ever have to go to them.

In homes or other small buildings:

The best places are:

- In a storm shelter specifically designed for that use – within the basement or outside the home entirely. Some companies manufacture pre-fab shelters that you drop into a hole in the ground, and that blends in with home.

- In a basement, away from the west and south walls. Hiding under a heavy worktable or under the stairs will protect the family from crumbling walls, chimneys, and large airborne debris falling into the cellar. Old blankets, quilts and an unused mattress will protect against flying debris, but they should be stored in the shelter area. Precious time can be lost by trying to find these items at the last minute.

- In a small, windowless, first floor, an interior room, like a closet or bathroom. The bathtub and commode are anchored directly into the ground, and sometimes are the only thing left in place after the tornado. Getting into the bathtub with a couch cushion over you gives you protection on all sides, as well as an extra anchor to the foundation. Plumbing pipes may or may not help hold the walls together, but all the extra framing that it takes to put a bathroom together may make a big difference. If there is no downstairs bathroom and the closets are all packed with "stuff," a hall may be the best shelter. Put as many walls as you can between yourself and the tornado.

- Wherever it is, the shelter should be well known by each member of the family. If you and your family will conduct annual emergency drills (fire, tornado, etc.), everyone will remember what to do and where to go when a tornado is approaching. Choose a friend or family member in another part of town or elsewhere to be a "contact person" who will be called by everyone should the family members become separated.

The American Red Cross suggests that you assemble a "disaster supplies kit" to keep in your shelter area. It should contain:

- A first aid kit with essential medication in addition to the usual items.
- A battery powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Canned and other non-perishable food and a hand operated can opener.
- Bottled water.
- Sturdy shoes and work gloves.
- Whistle.
- Written instructions on how to turn off your home's utilities.

According to Ralph Frazee, director of Jay County Emergency Management, a function of Homeland Security, National Severe Weather Preparedness Week is March 15-21. On March 18 between 10 and 10:30 a.m., the tornado sirens will be sounded statewide for everyone to practice a tornado drill. The sirens will also be sounded at 7 and 7:30 p.m. for a second opportunity to practice your tornado drill at home.

Perhaps if Dorothy had practiced a tornado drill she would have sought shelter. Learn from Dorothy's mistake: there is no place like a tornado shelter, there is no place like a tornado shelter, there is no place like a tornado shelter. Stay safe.