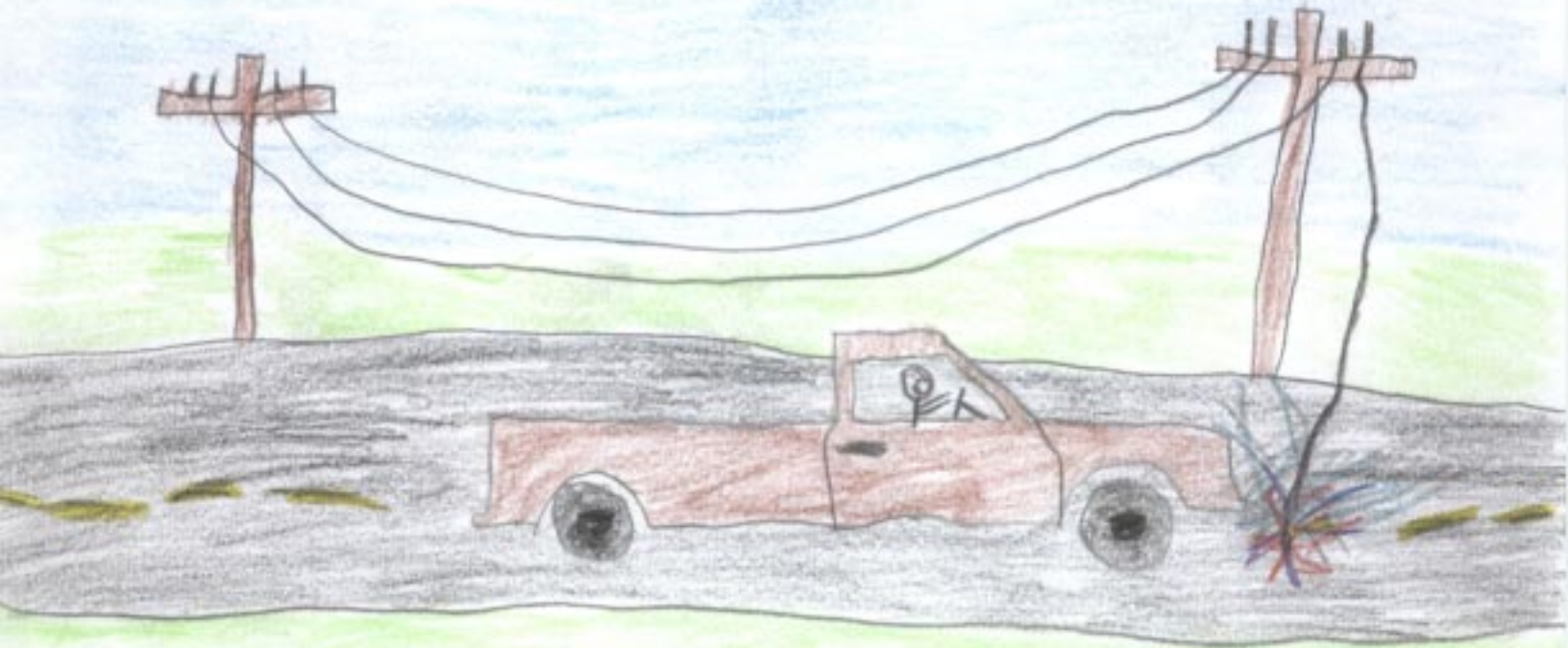


Rilee Robinson draws 2009 winning safety poster

See page 7 for more about our safety education program




Avoid downed power lines. Do not get out of your vehicle. Call 911 and report the downed line immediately.

Watt High Lights



**Jackson County Rural Electric
Membership Corporation**

Brownstown, Indiana

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

May 2009

Volume 63 - Number 11

Watt High Lights

Jackson County Rural Electric
Membership Corporation
274 E. Base Road (Venus Road)
P.O. Box K

Brownstown, IN 47220-0311

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Office Hours

7:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Monday through Friday

To report outages or emergencies

358-4458 (local) or

toll free 1-800-288-4458

day or night

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OUR COVER

Rilee Robinson, a third grade student at Brownstown Elementary School, helps us celebrate May as National Electrical Safety Month with her winning poster. See page 7 for more information about our poster contest and our back cover for our runner-up posters.

Watt High Lights - (USPS 669-580) is published monthly for \$3.00 per year (electric rates include subscription) by Jackson County Rural Electric Membership Corporation, a consumer owned utility, 274 E. Base Road, Brownstown, Indiana 47220. Periodicals postage paid at Brownstown, Indiana. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Watt High Lights, P.O. Box K, Brownstown, Indiana 47220.

Proposed legislation could raise bills \$50.00 per month

General Manager Jed Wheatley

Both the new Obama administration and the new congress are moving quickly to address energy and climate change issues. Each has recently proposed major legislation that could easily raise a typical electric bill by \$50.00 per month.

In its proposed budget, the administration proposed a "cap and trade" scheme with carbon allowances to be auctioned to the highest bidder. Of course, no one knows what the high bid will be at an auction, particularly an auction that is open to speculative traders as this one is designed.

"It's classic 'robbing Peter to pay Paul,' and our consumers get to be Peter."

President Obama's budget predicts that the winning bids will average \$20.00 per ton of CO₂, pouring \$646 billion collected from higher electric bills into the federal treasury between 2012 and 2019. Staff admitted that the CO₂ auction price could turn out to be \$40.00 or \$60.00 per ton, possibly creating a federal windfall of \$2 trillion.

Only four dollars per ton is targeted for energy research and development, leaving the balance to be used for other federal programs and general tax relief. However, it's only "relief" for those who receive more than they pay out!

Citizens in Indiana, who are dependent upon coal for their power generation, would pay far more into the treasury than they would receive in tax relief. Citizens on the east and west coasts, where there is little coal generation, should come out fine.

As explained by Steve Smith, the CEO of Hoosier Energy: "It's classic 'robbing Peter to pay Paul,' and our consumers get to be Peter."

A legislative decision that is reasonable and affordable is needed, and it is needed soon. With the current uncertainty, base load generating plants are not being built. Reliability will begin to suffer.

If you are concerned about how your electric bill might be impacted, let your voice be heard. Contact Senator Bayh, Senator Lugar, and Congressman Baron Hill, and ask them to help keep electricity reliable and affordable. Even if you've contacted them before, I would recommend doing it again so they know you're still concerned.

*For assistance in contacting your elected officials,
you may visit www.ourenergy.coop.*

Nominating committees appointed for 2009 election

Directors to represent Districts Two, Five and Eight to be elected at Annual Meeting on July 23 at the Jackson County Fairgrounds

Nominating committees were appointed at the April 13 meeting of the board of directors. The following committee members will be responsible for selecting slates of director candidates for their districts for the election of directors at the 2009 Jackson County REMC Annual Meeting on July 23:

District Two: Includes the REMC's service area in Lawrence and Monroe Counties. Committee members are Jeff Anderson, Jerome Clampitt and Gary Faubion.

District Five: Includes the REMC's service area in Scott and Jefferson Counties. Committee members are James (Jim) Broady, Terry Jones and Billy M. Coomer.

District Eight: Includes the REMC's service area in Hamilton and Owen Townships and the part of Brownstown Township lying north of the White River, all in Jackson County. Committee members are Louis Fleetwood, Gary Wischmeier and Steve Wray.

The qualifications for director candidates were included in last months' issue of "Watt High Lights" and are included in the REMC's Member Handbook. Both of these

publications are posted on the REMC's website (www.jacksonremc.com), and hard copies will be made available upon request.

Nomination process

The bylaws of Jackson County REMC require that a nominating committee made up of member-consumers from each of the districts involved in the election prepare a slate of director candidates for nomination.

Nominations may also be made by petition of at least 15 members from within the district involved, with said petition to be delivered to the general manager of the REMC at least 40 days prior to the Annual Meeting on July 23, 2009. This year's petition deadline is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 12, 2009.

The REMC's bylaws prohibit nominations made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Please contact the REMC by phone (800-288-4458 or 812-358-4458), by e-mail (info@jacksonremc.com) or in person if you have any questions about the 2009 nomination or election processes.

2009 energy efficiency incentives for Jackson County REMC Members

In an effort to lower the total system demand of electricity for Jackson County REMC and to delay the need of new generating capacity for our wholesale power supplier, Hoosier Energy, we are offering energy efficiency incentives for water heaters, heat pumps, central air conditioners and geothermal units that meet or exceed our program's requirements.

Incentives apply to equipment installed and operating in the 2009 calendar year in homes or structures connected to Jackson County REMC lines.

Interpretation of qualifying equipment and installations are at the sole discretion of Jackson County REMC.

Jackson County REMC reserves the right to modify or discontinue the incentives at any time without notice.

***Visit our website:
www.jacksonremc.com,
or contact our Member
Services Department
for program details.***

Crowning Achievement

Childhood dream comes true for a Jackson County REMC girl and Indiana's first Miss America

article by Emily Schilling, editor, *Electric Consumer*
photos by Richard Biever, senior editor, *Electric Consumer*

Editor's note: The following article is a portion of the original that appeared in the April 2009 issue of the Electric Consumer, a publication of Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc. The article was written by editor Emily Schilling and the photographs were taken by senior editor Richard Biever. To read the full article and view additional photos, visit www.electricconsumer.org.

From the age of 3, Katie Stam had a dream. Some would have called it an impossible dream. But, of course, anything is possible at an age when imagination is limitless, when pageant sashes can be fashioned from Christmas



Photo courtesy of missamerica.org

Jackson County's Katie Stam fulfilled a childhood dream when she was crowned Miss American for 2009 in January.

ribbon, and coveted tiaras can be created from empty cereal boxes and glitter.

Like millions of little girls, Katie Stam wanted to be Miss America. "She was the ultimate icon for me," Katie said last month. "She was my role model. Miss America was my 'American Idol.'"

During playtime, Katie and her cousin, Janelle Thompson, a year older than Katie, staged make-believe pageants in the basement of her family's home in rural Seymour. As the only contestants, both had their turns at becoming pageant royalty, even if only pretending.

Nineteen years after donning a cardboard crown and a ribbon sash hand lettered with the misspelled "Mis America," Katie's dream came true. On January 24, the University of Indianapolis communications major was crowned Miss America 2009 — the first Hoosier ever to win the title in the 88-year history of the scholarship pageant. Along with the crown and sash she'd always dreamed of, she received a \$50,000 scholarship and instant celebrity status.

Katie's achievement — in her first year of competing in the Miss America Scholarship Program, no less — proves that fairy tales can come true, that hard work pays off, that small town girls' big dreams can become a reality, and that great things do happen to good people.

Hard work pays off

"She worked on (winning Miss America) a long time," said her father, Keith Stam, a Seymour High School



Miss America 2009, Katie Stam of Seymour, returned to her hometown for a brief visit in March.

vocal music teacher. Katie laid the foundation for her goals while she was still a child, years before she ever competed in a pageant.

The youngest of four children, Katie made her stage debut as part of the Stam Family Singers, a locally-known singing group consisting of her father, her older sisters Heather and Heidi, and her brother, Eric. The group, Keith said, disbanded over a decade ago when Eric, who is three years older than Katie, got involved in sports in the sixth grade.

The Stam kids, who were active in the Jackson County 4-H program through the years, showcased their award-winning talents in 4-H creative dramatics competitions (similar to the 4-H Share the Fun programs) each summer.

Katie honed her speaking skills early on. "We always knew she could talk," Keith recalled while sitting at the kitchen table in the family's 100-year-old farmhouse. "From here to [Katie's] kindergarten is about a 15 minute trip. From the time she would get in the car, she would talk. And when her grandmother would pick her up, she would talk all the way back. So she's always had the gift of conversation."

From the time she was little, Katie was

focused on getting good grades in school. "She was a straight 'A' student because she knew she had to have good grades to pursue this [the Miss America crown]," Keith said. "She developed her leadership skills because she knew she had to do that."

Though the Miss America crown was, as Katie said, "something I was dreaming of and pursuing my entire life," her mother, Tracy Stam, encouraged Katie to wait until she was a teenager before participating in pageants. At age 15, Katie won her first pageant, the 2001 Teen Jackson County Pageant, a preliminary for the Kentuckiana Teen Pageant.

From there, Katie was unstoppable. In June 2002, she won the Kentuckiana Teen title. As Kentuckiana Teen, Katie advanced to the America's Southern Teen Pageant the following month, where she claimed the Southern Teen crown. While America's Southern Teen, Katie traveled to seven different states averaging 1,000 miles each month.

Two years later, in August 2004, the doe-eyed beauty captured the Jackson County Junior Miss title. At the Indiana Junior Miss Pageant six months later, the then-high school senior won awards for interview, talent, fitness, gown and the state crown. That summer, at the America's Junior Miss Pageant held in Mobile, Ala., Katie not only won awards for talent, fitness, gown and for best recipe, she was named second runner-up. Katie's quest for the title was also documented in a "Dateline NBC" broadcast following the pageant.

After the Junior Miss in Alabama, it would be another three years before Katie would compete in a pageant again ... and the long wait was as she said, "the best decision I've ever made." Katie knew before she could finally reach for her ultimate goal — she had to be truly ready for it.

Katie was a college junior and a multi-award-winning student broadcast journalist when she competed in her first

Miss America local pageant, the Miss Central Indiana Pageant, in the fall of 2007. She was named first runner-up. Shortly after, in November 2007, she entered the Miss Duneland Pageant in Michigan City and swept the talent, swimsuit and interview preliminaries on her way to the Miss Duneland title and a spot in the 2008 Miss Indiana competition.

At the highly competitive Miss Indiana Pageant, held in June 2008, Katie won one of two interview awards before reaching the second stage of her lifelong goal: the Miss Indiana title. She was crowned by Nicole Rash, whose own very successful year as Miss Indiana culminated in a second place finish at the 2008 Miss America Pageant.

Small town girl

Katie is proud of her rural Indiana roots. "The Jackson County community made me everything I am," she said. "Who you are before your success is why you have the success."

A farm girl at heart, Katie helped take care of her family's four dairy cows (one of them was recently re-dubbed "Miss America") and as a child she enjoyed sitting on her dad's lap when he drove the tractor.

A 10-year member of 4-H, "I know what

it's like to get my hands dirty," she said. Since the Jackson County 4-H Fair is a huge part of the Stams' life, they spend quite a bit of time around the dairy barn. Keith laughs that some friends have been commenting "last year, we were scrubbing a cow next to Miss America!"

Though as Miss America, Katie's can't return to her farmhouse or spend as much time with her family as she'd like, Keith and Tracy are supporting her from the sidelines every step of the way. Their pride is undeniable as they watch their youngest shine in the national spotlight. "We get to stand back and watch, and she can tell us about it," Keith said. "It's like watching your son play basketball and him making the winning shot in the state championship. Everyone is lifting her up."

Making a difference

As Miss America, Katie's mission is to make a difference in others' lives. "Your number one priority is to be able to connect with people because if you can't connect with them, you can't reach them."

During the next year, Katie will serve as the National Goodwill Ambassador for Children's Miracle Network. Keith believes Katie is perfect for that role. "Little kids cling to her, and she to them."

Continued on page 6

Keith and Tracy Stam, parents of Miss America 2009 Katie Stam, pause in front of the century-old farmhouse where Katie and her siblings grew up. The Stams are long-time members of Jackson County REMC.



Let's talk about it

Who needs a GFCI?

You do, if you use electrical appliances in your bathroom, garage, kitchen, at an outdoor outlet or anywhere else where there could be water or moisture

A plugged-in appliance or device, even though it is turned off, can still deliver a shock if it comes in contact with water. However, a GFCI (short for ground fault circuit interrupter) reacts to the smallest electric current leak by shutting off the flow of electricity.

GFCIs are generally installed where electrical circuits within appliances may accidentally come into contact with water. They are most often found in kitchens, bath and laundry rooms, or even out-of-doors or in the garage where electric power tools might be used.

How does a GFCI work?

In a normal 120-volt outlet in the United States, there are two vertical slots and a round hole between them. The longer slot is called "neutral," while the shorter slot is

"hot." The hole between is called the "ground." The GFCI will "sense" the difference in the amount of electricity flowing into the circuit to that flowing out, even in amounts of current as small as 4 or 5 milliamps. And, if working properly, it will react quickly (less than one-tenth of a second) to trip or shut off the circuit.

What are the types of GFCIs?

There are three types of GFCIs. The most often used is the "receptacle-type" GFCI. Similar to a common wall outlet, it is the type with which most consumers are familiar. Additionally, circuit breaker GFCIs are often used as replacements for standard circuit breakers and provide GFCI protection to all receptacles on that individual circuit. Temporary or "plug-in" GFCIs are frequently used in construction and in outdoor settings with electric tools,



mowers, trimmers, and similar devices. They should not be used as a permanent alternative to a regular GFCI.

GFCIs should be tested

GFCIs are electronic devices that can be damaged or wear out, but many consumers don't check their GFCIs to verify they are working. GFCIs should be tested monthly to ensure they are in working condition. The electrical receptacle in a GFCI may continue to function, even if the GFCI circuit no longer works. If this is the case, have a qualified electrician replace the GFCI as soon as possible.

A portable GFCI should be used out-of-doors with various electrical power tools (i.e., drills, mowers, trimmers) and should be tested before each use.

Whether you have a receptacle-type, circuit breaker-type, or portable type of GFCI, pushing the **TEST** button should turn off the power to the circuit. For the receptacle-type and portable-type GFCI, pushing the **TEST** button should cause the **RESET** button to pop up. You then push the **RESET** button to re-establish power and protection. For the circuit breaker-type GFCI, pushing the **TEST** button should cause the handle to move to the tripped position. Remember to reset the handle to re-establish power and protection.

If you don't already have GFCI protected receptacles in the above mentioned locations, install them. If you do have GFCIs in place, test them monthly. It's better to be safe, than sorry.

source: safeelectricity.org

Miss America Katie Stam

Continued from page 5

Katie is also the official spokesperson for Zerosmoke, a smoking cessation program. Her personal platform, "Passion for Service: Promoting Community Service and Involvement," is another focus.

By achieving her life's goal at age 22, she realizes, "Now I need to dream even bigger! Right now my plans are unlimited because you just never know what kind of opportunities will lie at the end of your year as Miss America." Her first goal, though, is to finish her final semester at the University of Indianapolis and obtain her bachelor's degree, then begin her career as a broadcast

journalist. Though the world is definitely her oyster, Katie knows exactly where she wants to be when her year as Miss America comes to a close next January.

"I'm a Hoosier at heart, and I will always be a Hoosier, so hopefully I can come back to Indiana to live," she said. "Indiana's a great, great place to live, and it's a great place to raise a family."

And Katie Stam, small town girl who's living her big time dreams, will undoubtedly continue to impact those around her even without the tiara.

10th annual poster contest

Rilee Robinson draws winning safety poster

Youngsters learn about electrical safety, then share what they've learned

National Electrical Safety Month is here, and we're celebrating by announcing the winners of our 10th annual safety poster contest.

Our first-place artist is Rilee Robinson, a third grade student of Jessica Fritz at Brownstown Elementary School. She is the daughter of Tim and Amy Robinson of Brownstown. Rilee's poster has been used as the front cover of this month's "Watt High Lights," and she was awarded a \$100 US Savings Bond by the REMC for her effort.

Winning \$50 US Savings Bonds for their posters were Stephanie Clifton and Allison Binkley.

Stephanie's poster was selected as the second place entry. She is a student of Linda Hume at Redding Elementary School in Seymour and is the daughter of Andrea & Harold McQueen of Seymour.

Allison's poster placed third in the contest. She is the daughter of Roy & Lara Binkley of Scottsburg. She is a student of Julia Lucas at Vienna-Finley

Elementary School in Scott County.

The posters made by Stephanie and Allison appear on the back page of this issue of "Watt High Lights."

Our judges looked at more than 300 posters submitted by third grade students who took part in our safety education program. The artists were among nearly 700 students at 11 schools in five counties who learned about electrical safety through our program this year.

Member Services Assistant Betty Baute again served as presenter for the program. She was assisted at the various schools by REMC employees Travis Mull, Kelly Pifer and Brad Pritchett.

The three winning posters, as well as those selected as honorable mention entries, are on display in our office during the month of May.

And, most importantly, all of our poster artists remind us to be safe with electricity at work, school, home and play!

Rilee Robinson displays her winning safety poster during an awards presentation at Brownstown Elementary School on May 1. Pictured with Rilee are her parents, Tim and Amy Robinson, and her teacher, Jessica Fritz.



Poster Contest Honor Roll

First Place

Rilee Robinson

Brownstown Elementary School

Second Place

Stephanie Clifton

Seymour / Redding Elementary School

Third Place

Allison Binkley

Vienna-Finley Elementary School

Honorable Mention

Victoria Snook

St. Ambrose Catholic School

Bri Little

Bradie Shrum Upper Elementary School

Ian Martin

Freetown Elementary School

Alexis Miranda

Hayden Elementary School

Chance Jean

Heltonville Elementary School

Kamy McCulley

Seymour / Brown Elementary School

Cora Miller

West Washington Elementary School

Next Issue . . .

Slow cooker specialties

Our recipe pages will take a break until the August issue. We'll return with some slow cooker recipes that will help save you time and money in the kitchen.

Send recipes, topic ideas, cooking questions & suggestions to:

Watt High Lights

Jackson County REMC

PO Box K

Brownstown IN 47220-0311

fax: 812-358-5719

e-mail: bbaute@jacksonremc.com

Don't just serve crackers with your cheeseballs

What do you serve with a cheeseball? Just about anything your imagination can think of. Instead of just crackers, try serving one or more of the following with your next cheeseball:

- ❖ Seasoned breadsticks
- ❖ Mini rice cakes
- ❖ Pita chips
- ❖ Cocktail wheat or rye bread
- ❖ Vegetable chips
- ❖ Melba toast
- ❖ Fresh fruit slices
- ❖ Fresh vegetables
- ❖ Toasted breads
- ❖ Baked tortilla chips

Party cheeseballs

by Betty Baute, Member Services Assistant

May is a month full of celebrations, with high school and college graduations, weddings and bridal showers to enjoy. Some of the easiest treats to make for a gathering are cheese balls. They can be savory and served as an appetizer or sweet to serve as a dessert.



This month's cheeseball recipes were contributed by some of our REMC ladies --- Barb Garland, Teresa Noelker and Peg Robison. We hope one will become a favorite with your party guests.

Barb's cheeseball

2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
1 can (8 ounces) crushed pineapple in juice, drained
2 green onions, finely chopped
chopped nuts

Beat together cream cheese, pineapple and green onions until thoroughly combined. Roll mixture into a ball. Chill well. Roll ball in nuts before serving with assorted crackers.

Teresa's chocolate chip cheeseball

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened (*no substitutes*)
1/4 teaspoon vanilla
3/4 cup powdered sugar
2 tablespoons brown sugar
3/4 cup chocolate chips
3/4 cup finely chopped pecans (optional)

Beat together cream cheese, butter and vanilla until fluffy. Beat in sugars. Stir in chocolate chips. Refrigerate until it can be formed into a ball. Roll in chopped pecans (if desired) before serving. Serve with graham crackers or sweet breads.

Peggy's easy ranch cheeseball

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 packet ranch-style salad dressing mix
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Beat together cream cheese, cheddar cheese and dressing mix until thoroughly combined. Roll mixture into a ball. Chill well. Roll ball in pecans before serving with assorted crackers.

Peggy's nutty cheddar cheese log

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 tablespoon butter or margarine | 3 ounces cream cheese, softened |
| 1/3 cup pecans | 2 tablespoons milk |
| 1/4 teaspoon seasoned salt | 1 teaspoon Dijon style mustard |
| 2 teaspoons parsley flakes | 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce |
| 8 ounces sharp cheddar cheese
shredded (2 cups) | 1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce |

Melt butter in skillet until bubbly. Stir in pecans and saute over low heat until crispy, about 5 minutes. Cool, then chop fine. Stir in seasoned salt and parsley; set aside. Beat together remaining ingredients, then chill this mixture about 1 hour. Use moist hands to shape into a log. Roll log in pecan mixture. Wrap airtight and chill until firm. Serve with crackers and fruit.



ENERGY SAVER TIP OF THE MONTH

Use your microwave oven whenever possible. A microwave uses less energy and requires less cooking time than a conventional oven. Microwaves also have the additional advantage in the summertime of producing less heat in the kitchen.

Tips for making & serving cheeseballs

Use the food processor -

Cheeseballs are not only budget-friendly and impressive appetizers, they are also super simple to make. Save yourself time and effort by mixing your cheeseballs in a food processor.

Buy quality cheese -

The most important component of your cheeseballs is a good cheese. The classic-style cheeseballs are typically composed of cream cheese and cheddar cheese. However, updated cheeseballs can be made from any kind of cheese from brie to mozzarella. Experiment with all types and see what tastes best to you.

Add a natural sweetness -

Fresh or dried fruit or chutneys are excellent when mixed with a good cheese.

Give a nutty crunch -

The crust for a cheeseball has typically been nuts, such as walnuts, almonds or pecans. It's nice to keep the crunchy crust, but give it a new twist by using crushed wasabi peas, pistachios, hazelnuts or anything delectably crunchy.

Try a new crust -

Create a flavorful crust with chopped dried fruits like cranberries or raisins or fresh herbs, such as parsley, basil, thyme or sage.

Downsize -

Instead of making one large cheeseball to share, make mini cheeseballs for individual servings.

Community Calendar

To have your non-profit group's event listed in our "Community Calendar," please contact us by letter, phone or e-mail (bbaute@jacksonremc.com) at least six weeks before your event date. Include a phone number we can call to verify your information.

Jackson County

May 18 through July 18 – The Jackson County Public Library's *Be Creative @ Your Library* Summer Reading Program at the Seymour, Crothersville and Medora libraries and on the Discovery Bus. For more information call the Seymour Library's Kidz Korner at 812-522-3412 option 1.

May 21 & June 4 - Help for Tough times: Getting a Job 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Jackson County Public Library in Seymour. Registration preferred one week before each program by calling 812-522-3412 ext. 243.

May 23 - Annual Sparksville Heritage Days Picnic at 12:00 noon at the Sparksville Park. Bring a covered dish to share, drinks, table service, lawn chairs and a trash bag. You may also donate items for a "white elephant" sale to help fund upkeep of the park and old photos or other memorabilia. Contact Edith Boling (812-966-2272) for more information.

June 3 - Charity's Heart booktalk at 2:00 p.m. at the Jackson County Public Library. Learn how a local author wrote a successful Christian romance book series. Call the library at 812-522-3412 ext. 243 for more information.

June 6 - Porkburger Fry from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the corner of US Highway 50 and Cross Street in Brownstown. Sponsored by the Brownstown Chamber of Commerce. Contact Janet at the Chamber office (812-358-2930) for more information.

June 11 - Brownstown Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Dinner 7:00 p.m. at Pewter Hall in Brownstown. Social hour begins at 6:30. Contact Bob Gillespie (812-358-4140) or Janet at the Chamber office (812-358-2930) for more information.

June 13, July 11 & August 8 - "Second Saturday Fish Fry" to benefit restoration of the Joe Jackson Hotel in Vallonia. Fish dinners and sandwiches sold from 11:00 a.m.

to 2:00 p.m. at the Whistle Stop Cafe. For more information call Sally Waldkoetter (812-358-5801).

June 18, 19 & 20 - 43rd Annual Grassy Fork VFD Truck & Tractor Pull and Fish Fry - June 18 - antique tractors (1958 and older) and kiddie pedal pull beginning at 6:30 p.m.; June 19 - pure farm, super farm & pro stock tractors beginning at 7:00 p.m.; June 20 - pure farm, pro stock & "hot farm" tractors plus street stock diesel trucks beginning at 7:00 p.m. For more information contact Phil Teipen (812-522-0305), Tracy Wehmiller (812-522-6686) or Brian Tape (812-358-5566).

June 23 - Help for Tough times: Garden training for midsummer at 6:30 p.m. at the Jackson County Public Library in Seymour. Registration preferred by June 16 by calling 812-522-3412 ext. 243.

June 24 - *Midsummer Night's Dream*, a Kentucky Shakespeare Festival touring program will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Crothersville Senior Citizens building and at 2:00 p.m. at Girls, Inc. in Seymour. Free tickets are available at the Seymour, Crothersville and Medora libraries and on the Discovery Bus starting May 18. For more information call the Seymour Library's Kidz Korner at 812-522-3412 option 1.

July 23—Juggler Tom Sparough, The Space Painter, will perform at 2:00 p.m. at the Crothersville Library and at 7: p.m. at Girls, Inc. in Seymour. Free tickets are available at the Seymour, Crothersville and Medora Libraries and on the Discovery Bus starting May 18. For more information, call the Seymour Library's Kidz Korner at 812-522-3412 option 1.

Jennings County

June 13 - Hayden June Fest - 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Bluegrass and gospel music at the museum pavilion; old gas station, blacksmith shop, pottery shop and museum open all day. Call 812-346-8212 for more information.

Scott County

May 16 - 5th Annual Springfest from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Scott County Heritage Center & Museum. Car show, baking contest, food, music and more. Spring Basket Silent Auction ends at 4:00 p.m. Free admission. For more information call the museum at 812-752-1050.

May 18 - Scott County Historical Society Dinner featuring "*Show and Tell: Family Treasurers*." Event begins at 6:00 p.m.; cost is \$6.00 per person. For more information call the museum at 812-752-1050.

May 20 – Brown Bag Lunch program at 12:00 noon at the Scott County Heritage Center & Museum. Featured will be *Down Memory Lane* presented by Dorothy Rice. Bring your own lunch. Desserts and drinks will be furnished. For more information call the museum at 812-752-1050.

June 13 - Benefit Auction at 12:00 noon at the Scott Lodge 120 F&AM on US Highway 31 in Austin. Lunch will be available. Contact Dave Gray (812-866-2093) for more information.

June 17 & 18 - ArchiCamp at the Scott County Heritage Center & Museum - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Architecture and history day camp for kids ages 8 to 12. Cost is \$30.00 per child. For more information or to enroll your child call the museum at 812-752-1050.

June 20 - Scott County Church Tour from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Scott County Heritage Center & Museum. Cost is \$10.00 per person. For more information or to enroll your child call the museum at 812-752-1050.

June 25 - National Wild Turkey Federation banquet from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Lake lola Shelterhouse in Scottsburg. Family fun, food, auction to help preserve hunting

Continued on next page

Community Calendar continued

heritage. Contact Debra Hendricks (812-752-6706) for ticket information.

Washington County

June 13 - Safari Bike Ride in Pekin. Several tours ranging 8 to 60 miles. Entry fee is \$20.00 before May 23, \$30.00 after May 23. Kids under 10 are free. More information and registration forms can be found at safari-bikeride.com. Sponsored by the Pekin Community Betterment Organization.

June 13 & 14 - 28th Annual Salem Quilt Show hosted by the Washington County Piecemakers Quilt Guild. \$3.00 admission fee. The show will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday at the Stevens Memorial Museum, 309 E. Market Street in Salem. Entries will be accepted on Tuesday, June 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the museum. Contact Elizabeth Burns (812-883-7400; email at ronliz@netzero.com) for more information.

June 13 - Chicken Barbecue & Yard Sale from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church on Becks Mill Road. For more information contact Tonya Courtney (812-883-3025).

June 13 - Yard Sale at the Fredericksburg United Methodist Church starting at 8:00 a.m. Proceeds to benefit the church youth group. For more information contact Tonya Courtney (812-883-3025).

Weekends now through November 29 - The restored Beck's Mill will be operating and open for tours. The nonprofit group Friends of Beck's Mill, Inc., will greet visitors from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sundays. Contact Lowell DePoy (812-472-3749) for more information or to schedule special group tours.

Check our website
for more Community
Calendar events.
www.jacksonremc.com

Dollars & Sense

Get your home in shape for summer

Cooling information from Energy Star

The weather is getting warmer, making now a good time to get your house in shape for the summer cooling season. While air conditioning is critical to the comfort of you and your family, there are steps you can take to conserve energy and improve the efficiency of your home and your air conditioning system. By following these steps, your house will be in better shape to handle those hot, humid days without putting an extra burden on your energy bill.

◆ Set your thermostat to a higher temperature in the summer. Consider installing a programmable thermostat. This is an excellent way to match the cooling needs of your home to your personal schedule. They typically offer savings of 10%–15% without compromising personal comfort.

◆ Replace filters on your air conditioner. For homes with central air conditioners or heat pumps, it is important to change the filter before the start of the cooling season and on a monthly basis thereafter. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer and work harder, increasing energy use.

◆ Plug air leaks in your home. Weather strip and caulk any leaky doors and windows and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers.

◆ Check insulation levels. If necessary, add insulation in attics and crawl spaces. This will not only help to conserve energy, but also will improve household comfort.

◆ Use energy-efficient landscaping. Leafy trees and shrubs properly placed

on the south and west side of your home can provide shade during the peak daytime heat. You can also reduce heat buildup by keeping blinds and curtains closed on windows facing the sun.

◆ Consider cooling alternatives for your home. Fans and dehumidifiers use less energy than air conditioners and can help to increase comfort by reducing humidity levels and maintaining steady airflow.

◆ When replacing air conditioners or other cooling equipment, choose energy-efficient models. These may cost a little more, but they can pay for themselves through lower energy usage over the lifetime of the equipment.

See the Energy Star website for more information about energy efficient cooling equipment.

Reducing your energy use is good for the environment

Reducing home energy use can provide homeowners with significant long-term financial benefits. After all, the typical U.S. household spends \$1,000–\$2,000 per year on energy bills. In addition to saving you money, taking steps to lower energy consumption can also help to protect the environment. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the residential sector makes up about 18% of total greenhouse gas emissions, most of which is related to home energy use.

For more energy savings information visit www.energystar.gov.

When calling or writing please give the name and account number shown on your label or billcard.

TELEPHONE (812) 358-4458
TOLL FREE (800) 288-4458

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May is National Electrical Safety Month!

The REMC celebrates National Electrical Safety Month by announcing the winners of its 10th annual youth safety poster contest. The first place poster drawn by Rilee Robinson appears on our front cover. The posters below were drawn by our two runners-up. See page seven for more about the contest and our youth safety program.



Second Place - Stephanie Clifton
Daughter of Andrea & Harold McQueen
Third grade student of Linda Hume
Redding Elementary School



Third Place - Allison Binkley
Daughter of Roy & Lara Binkley
Third grade student of Julia Lucas
Vienna-Finley Elementary School