

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

BEDFORD REC

P.O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522
814-623-5101

Email: support@bedfordrec.com
Website: www.bedfordrec.com

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Reliable Power for Today – and Tomorrow



BROOKS SHOEMAKER

AS I WRITE THIS, WE ARE barely a week into 2024. The new year always sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. It's a time to reflect on where we are, where we are going, and in some cases, where we have been. Regardless of the time frame, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and use new technologies to improve our services.

As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on for our members. As you may know, we do not generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our wholesale energy provider, Harrisburg-based Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., and then distribute it to your homes and businesses. Currently, our resource mix consists of approximately 60% carbon-free nuclear and hydro energy. The remaining 40% is purchased on the open market and contains a mix of energy products. We have long been a leader in reliable, carbon-free generation.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, we also use technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times. Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, enables communication between the co-op and its members. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps us save money with real-time data and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

Proactive right-of-way (ROW) tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Regular trimming cycles (every four years) keep power line corridors clear from dangerous trees and overgrown limbs. Over the years, our ROW program has clearly demonstrated benefits in reliability and savings to our members.

One of our best practices for improving our service to you is monitoring trends at cooperatives here in Pennsylvania and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition. As we focus on 2024, we continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve — for today and tomorrow.

'Blinks' can signal a properly working electrical system

"What causes my lights to blink?" Blinking lights are a result of momentary interruptions that occur when a disturbance occurs on the line. This could be

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A Cure for the Winter Blues: Local Company Has Tons to Offer

GARY DIEHL, MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

FEBRUARY IS HERE, AND THE DEAD of winter is upon us. While Valentine's Day and President's Day are the two significant holidays this month, a number of us have already started focusing our sights on the spring thaw and are looking forward to longer days and warmer weather. But as the adage goes, "Don't wish your life away." If you're sitting around like a couch potato looking for some fun and interesting winter activities, head to Everett, Pa., and visit the fine folks at Juniata Trading Company (JTC).

We're happy to say JTC has multiple accounts with Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative and has been a longtime member. And if you love the outdoors, there is not much the business doesn't offer. It has gifts galore, brand-name clothing, including Under Armour and Carhartt, firearms and all the accessories, reloading equipment and supplies, every type of fishing gear for the novice or experienced angler, knives, boots, and much more. If you are looking to outfit yourself or buy a gift for the outdoor enthusiast in your life, chances are you can find what you're looking for at JTC. It even has a dedicated Archery Center.

It was a pleasure to spend part of a morning with Blaine Smith, JTC president and co-owner, and Wade Williams,



READY TO HELP: Technician Jacob Calhoun, left, and Juniata Trading Company Archery Center Manager Wade Williams are always ready and willing to help all customers.

senior technician and manager of the Archery Center.

Blaine was born and raised in Montana, but lived in Blair County, Pa., for 29 years as a Valley REC member until he purchased the business in 2018 and settled in Osterburg. Wade, who lives in Everett, is a native of Bedford County and has been with JTC for 30 years since before Blaine took over. A personable pair, their knowledge of archery is unmatched. They may not come right out and say it, but after talking all things archery with Blaine and Wade for a couple hours, it's safe to say these guys are passionate about it. They happily answered the couple dozen questions I had and probably would have enthusiastically answered 100 more.

'Let's do it'

Shortly after taking the reins of JTC, Blaine saw an opportunity to act on a long-held desire. He recalls a conversation he had with Wade at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic: "I always wanted to start an archery shop, you always wanted to start an archery shop, let's do it."

Several years later, they have a very successful operation



ARCHERY PRACTICE: The Archery Center's 20-yard indoor paper range is connected to the retail portion of the store.



HIGH-TECH HUNTING: The business's indoor video TechnoHunt screen shows a large elk.

and are authorized dealers for all the top manufacturers. When it comes to compound bows, they carry Mathews, Hoyt, Bowtech, Elite, PSE and Bear. As far as crossbows, they stock TenPoint, Ravin, Excalibur and Mission. The shop also has a variety of traditional (recurve) bows as well as accessories and equipment for a complete setup.

On the retail side, if you want it, they most likely have it. On the service side, the equipment, including multiple bow presses, is all state of the art. Whether you are having a new bow set up or upgrading and servicing an existing one Wade Williams or Jesse Middle, Senior Technicians, or the newest addition to the Archery center, Technician Jacob Calhoun will take care of you.

The Juniata Trading Archery Center also features an indoor, 20-yard paper range with six lanes, where you can practice until perfect. You can rent the range for 30 minutes or by the hour. Go solo or in groups and create your own fun competition.

The Archery Center also has an indoor TechnoHUNT video hunting experience. If you have never seen this, it is very cool. You use your own equipment with only a special tip added to your arrow so the sensors can track and record the accuracy of your shot. Animals show up on a large screen, and you can shoot all types of game with varying levels of difficulty. For instance, a large elk, standing broadside with no visible obstructions, may be your target. Alternatively, the computer may choose a small animal to be your target, like a chipmunk obstructed by tree limbs or branches that make a high-scoring, perfect shot much more difficult. Your score, or value, is dictated by how accurate the shot is, as recorded by the computer and all

the sensors. A complete miss yields a zero, and the score values increase as you get closer to the vitals.

The TechnoHUNT video range has leagues that begin and end during various parts of the year. The winter/spring league started the second week of January. This league normally has 12 to 14 teams, each made up of five shooters. It's great practice, and the competition gets pretty fierce between competing teams and even between team members themselves. The standings and scoring sheets are the first thing shooters look at when they walk through the door. The participants take the competition seriously but have a great deal of fun while honing their shooting skills at the same time. And at the end of each league cycle, prizes, such as a new bow, have been awarded to teams and individual high scorers.

February brings Valentine's Day, and nothing says I love you more than a gift of some range time for your significant other from the Juniata Trading Archery Center. The staff is top notch when it comes to knowledge and service. And some time spent fine-tuning your shooting skills or getting into archery for the first time will help cure the doldrums of winter. If you want to stop by, the business is open Monday through Saturday. You can also learn more at juniatatrading.com.



BIG SELECTION: Just some of the many products the Archery Center has to offer.

**FROM THE GENERAL
MANAGER & CEO**

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a lightning strike, an automobile striking a pole, a squirrel, snake or tree branch contacting an energized power line.

When lights blink, it is an indication that the cooperative's equipment is operating properly. If a fault or short circuit happens on a power line, a device called an "oil circuit recloser" (OCR) opens to stop it, then quickly closes back in. Although the process is quick — and usually temporary — it causes your lights to blink, making it necessary to reset digital clocks and appliances with digital displays.

The OCR allows power to continue flowing through the line with only a brief interruption of service. If the short circuit continues, the OCR will operate or "trip" three times before eventually stopping the flow of electricity and causing an outage. This process protects the lines from damage, cutting off power to the affected section of the line and safely isolating the problem until it can be repaired. Without OCRs, every blink would result in an outage lasting until a crew arrived and evaluated the situation.

Although the weather and nature's creatures are beyond our control, you can lessen the inconvenience of "blinks" by purchasing small appliances and digital clocks with battery backup. You may also consider installing meter-based surge protection for major appliances and surge protection with built-in uninterrupted power supply (UPS) for your computer and other electronic devices whose "memory" would be lost with a power interruption. 📞

BROOKS SHOEMAKER
GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will award four \$1,500 scholarships to non-traditional students whose primary residence is served by the cooperative.

For an application, click on "Scholarship Info" under the "Member Services" tab at bedfordrec.com. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be postmarked by March 1, 2024.

**Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric
Cooperative
P. O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522**

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will award four \$1,500 scholarships to seniors whose parents' or guardians' primary residence is served by the cooperative.

For an application, click on "Scholarship Info" under the "Member Services" tab at bedfordrec.com. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be postmarked by March 1, 2024.

**Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric
Cooperative
P. O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522**

OUTAGE REPORTING

In case of an outage...

- 1** Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- 2** Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- 3** Call the 24-hour number, 814-623-7568, OR call 800-808-2732* during office hours.

**(Please help us save money – only use this number if toll charges apply.)*

Please give the person receiving the call your name as it appears on your bill, your telephone number and your map number, if known. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

**To report an outage call:
814-623-7568**

During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures. You may receive a busy signal, or in certain cases, your call may go unanswered. This occurs in after-hours outages when the office is not fully staffed. Please be patient and try again in a few minutes.