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**November Food Pantry
 You Give-We Give**

During the month of November, both cooperatives will sponsor a food drive to assist local food pantries. When you donate a non-perishable food item at one of our collection locations, LaValle and Richland-Grant will donate one, too. Let's see how much we can help our neighbors by working together - "co-operating"!!

Donating also entitles you to free hookup/installation for any available calling features AND High-Speed Internet during the month of November. Call your local office to get FREE activation of features such as Caller ID, Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, 3-way Conferencing, or Voice Mail. LaValle customers may take their non-perishable items to the LaValle Telephone office. Richland-Grant will accept donations at the office in Blue River, at the Boaz Community Building in Boaz, at Peoples State Bank in Soldiers Grove, and at Royal Bank of Gays Mills.

Look for the Food Pantry reminder on your November bill in the bill message box.

**Go Green this Fall:
 Electronic Billing
 Now Available**

Convenient for you and good for the environment, both co-ops NOW have electronic billing available. Your account can be viewed online, you can choose to go "paperless" so that you only receive your bill online, and you can pay by check or credit card online. Strict Web site security and an account password make your information safe. To sign-up for LaValle's e-bill go to www.ltc.coop or <https://ebill.ltc.coop>. For Richland-Grant's sign-up visit www.rgtc.coop. Call your cooperative office at 611 if you have questions.

**The DTV Transition is
 February 17, 2009**

Choose our Coop Video service and you'll be ready. Call our office for details on how to get ready or visit www.dtv2009.gov.



Your Telephone Cooperative

Cooperatives, such as RGTC & LTC, are unique because they are member owned and lead by a board of nine directors nominated and elected from the customer base. They vote on when and where the cooperatives invest in new technology, such as the recent fiber to the home projects in Soldiers Grove and LaValle; interview management candidates, and are involved in other decisions, such as when to borrow capital or adjust rates.

During their three year term, directors attend monthly meetings at their cooperative's office location, additional meetings for critical projects, and their respective annual meetings. Board members attend regional and national

is Not Just an Ordinary Business

telecommunications conventions and meetings, keeping them abreast of advances in technology, allowing them to follow trends in management, such as human resource issues, and educating them concerning the extensive and always changing regulations in this industry.

The directors are also called upon to help the staff at events such as the recent customer appreciation picnic or open houses hosted by the cooperatives. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our board members for their time and their service to the cooperatives.



RGTC Board of Directors: (front row, left to right) Vice President, **Keith Chamberlain**, a journalist and marketing/account manager, has represented the Sabin exchange since 1992. "Through the use of a "Total Team Effort" including sound management, a dedicated staff and loyal members, the future of Richland-Grant Telephone Co-op looks bright indeed." Secretary/Treasurer, **Byron Hillberry**, a retired Richland-Grant employee and farmer, has represented the Blue River exchange since 1989. "Richland-Grant is a great cooperative because it is well managed, has dedicated employees and does business with good members." President, **Larry Jewell**, employed in manufacturing, has represented the Boaz exchange since 1991. "Our cooperative is great because it is a very progressive company. The people own it and get returns, both in quality and rebates." General Manager, **Brad Welp**, has headed both Richland-Grant and LaValle Telephone Cooperatives since April 2008. (back row, left to right) **Darrel Clark**, a dairy producer, has represented the Sabin exchange since 2002. "The advantage to having a small cooperative is tremendous. It would be difficult to put a value on being able to make decisions locally." **Donald L. Olson**, a retired business owner/plumber, has represented the Soldiers Grove exchange since 2000. "I wanted to be a director in order to serve the community and help Richland-Grant grow." **Robert Olson**, an electric lineman for Scenic Rivers, has represented the Gays Mills exchange since 2002. "I enjoy being a director because I enjoy talking with our members and hearing their concerns for our cooperative." **Greg Kinney**, a farmer, has represented the Blue River exchange since 1996. "Being on the board has taught me how quickly technology changes in this industry. It makes our job very interesting." **Mark Lester**, a retiree, has represented the Gays Mills exchange since 1995. "Our cooperative is great because it provides a full line of communication tools and video for our customers at minimal cost." **William P Meyer**, an orchard owner, has represented the Soldiers Grove exchange from 1967 to 1995 and then since 1998. "Since becoming a cooperative director, I have learned the value of working together to accomplish the difficult."



LTC Board of Directors (from left to right): **Bob Roloff** – District #1 since 2002. A retired high school principal, Bob enjoys being a director because of his contact with people whose common goal is keeping current in a very dynamic industry. **Paul Bodendien** – District #3 since 2000 – Board Vice President. A farmer in the Ironton/LaValle area, Paul enjoys working with the community to bring needed services to our rural area. **Tim Novy** – District #8 since 2007. Tim works in the construction industry. **Don Douglas** – District #4 since 1986. Don is a self employed carpenter and beef farmer. **Jim Klang** – District #7 since 1997. Jim is a salesman at Hartje Lumber and says the most important thing he's learned as a director is that technology changes almost daily. Being a director keeps him in touch with the community. **Sarah Wheeler** – District #9 since 2005. Sarah is retired and thinks our cooperative is great because of the good services and latest technology we provide to our customers. **Richard Sheahan** – District #5 since 1994 – Board President. Richard is a dairy farmer and says the most important thing he's learned since becoming a director is how to work together with fellow directors in finding solutions for making our cooperative viable for years to come. **Vincent Duren** – District #6 since 1980. Vincent is a retired Postmaster who says our cooperative is great because it follows through with the belief that the main purpose of a business is to provide good and reliable service to its patrons. **Rodney Henke** – District #5 since 1994 – Board Secretary/Treasurer. Rodney owns/operates a sign business in LaValle and believes our cooperative is great because it is small enough to give personal care to our patrons and large enough to compete with other telecommunication providers.

Your local area weather, community and advertising channel



Let us show you how easy it is to put your event on TV !!! \$5 screen set up, + \$1 per day, + \$10 extra for picture/clipart on screen.

Single screen, TEXT ONLY

Big Yard Sale
111 Sale St.
9 am to 9 pm

\$ 6.00 1 Day
\$ 9.00 4 Days
\$12.00 7 Days
\$35.00 30 Days

Single screen TEXT/PICTURE



\$16.00 1 Day
\$19.00 4 Days
\$22.00 7 Days
\$45.00 30 Days

Free advertising of local events and happenings on the Community Events Pages for non-profit organizations.

Coop Month Word Find

Complete our Coop Month Word Find and you will be entered into a drawing to receive a \$10 credit on your next phone bill.

Just drop your completed puzzle in the mail or by our office. Each coop will hold a drawing from entries received by the first week of November.

A	E	R	L	I	C	A	L	L	E	R	I	D	Cable	Call
V	O	I	C	E	A	A	K	F	D	W	M	I	Caller ID	Code
G	R	A	N	T	B	S	L	L	I	N	K	A	Cooperative	Data
V	I	D	E	O	L	E	D	L	W	B	M	L	Dial	DSL
J	C	O	O	P	E	R	A	T	I	V	E	K	Fiber	Grant
P	H	O	N	E	W	V	T	H	R	I	M	R	Install	Internet
U	L	R	H	W	L	I	A	P	E	T	B	T	Jack	LaValle
P	A	I	O	J	A	C	K	M	M	A	E	O	Line	Link
A	N	N	L	Y	V	E	S	S	O	L	R	L	Local	Members
G	D	G	D	Y	A	O	R	E	T	D	S	L	Modem	On Hold
I	N	S	T	A	L	L	I	N	E	W	E	T	Paging	Phone
N	L	O	C	A	L	K	O	C	O	D	E	M	Remote	Richland
G	I	I	N	T	E	R	N	E	T	B	L	B	Ring	Service
													Toll	Video
													Vital	Voice
													Web	Wire

Find the words horizontally, vertically or diagonally from left to right.

Directory Update:

Richland-Grant's October 2008 directory has been mailed. If you did not receive one or need an extra copy, directories are available at Peoples State Bank in Soldiers Grove, Royal Bank in Gays Mills, Community First Bank in Blue River, or at the Richland-Grant office. Unfortunately, due to the high cost of postage, there will be a fee to cover postage if you request that an additional book be mailed.

Lori Freymiller, Richland-Grant's Records Coordinator, was the talented photographer who took the beautiful flower photo on the RGTC cover. Thanks, Lori, for letting us all enjoy it.

The deadline for additions and changes to LaValle's directory is December 1, 2008. Please contact the LaValle office with any information changes by then.

Co-opportunities!

To celebrate Cooperative Month, we are offering you this Co-opportunity for **FREE** hookup/installation of all calling features AND High-speed Internet during the month of October!!

Call now to get free activation of great features such as:

- Caller ID
- Call Forwarding
- Voice Mail
- Call Waiting
- 3-way Conferencing
- High-speed Internet

Remember, our video installation is always **FREE** when you sign a six-month contract. A \$35 programming fee will apply. Call our office today to sign up!

Fresh Apple Cake

We're lucky to have a wonderful apple harvest in our area. We hope you enjoy our locally tested recipe. It's easy to make and great "a la mode".

This moist, delicious apple cake is made in a large Tube/Bundt pan.

- 1 Cup Brown Sugar
- 1 Cup White Sugar
- 1 1/3 Cup Vegetable Oil
- 2 Tbs Vanilla
- 2 Eggs
- 1 tsp Salt
- Juice of 1/2 Lemon
- 3 Cups Flour
- 1 1/4 tsp Baking Soda
- 1 Tbs Cinnamon
- 1 Tbs Ginger
- 3 Cups Apples
- 1 1/2 Cups Pecans



Grease and flour the pan. Mix sugars, oil, vanilla, eggs, salt and lemon juice – beat well. Sift flour, baking soda, cinnamon and ginger together and add gradually to the first mixture. The batter will be somewhat stiff before apples and pecans are added. Add apples and pecans and mix well. Bake in 325 degrees oven for 1 1/2 hours. Test with toothpick. Cool a few minutes, then loosen sides with a knife if they are sticking a bit, and invert from pan. When cool, add a drizzle of caramel topping or a dusting of powdered sugar or enjoy as is!

Cooperatives – Opportunities for Real People

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Cooperatives have a proud history of creating opportunities to meet the real needs of real people. When for-profit businesses were not interested in serving rural areas, people banded together and formed cooperatives to deliver electricity, provide insurance, and make farm supplies and other goods more affordable. In urban areas, cooperatives have long provided affordable housing and credit to those in need and helped workers form cooperatives to deliver home and health care services. Cooperatives provide people with a unique opportunity to meet today's challenges, too. In areas like rural health insurance, bioenergy, and telecommunications, the time tested cooperative model continues to prove its worth.

But that isn't all. Cooperatives are partners in their communities, creating opportunities by investing in economic development and human involvement that will keep hometowns and rural areas thriving for years to come. By working together, cooperative members are creating opportunities they could have never devised on their own.

Regardless of the new technologies cooperatives are able to bring to their members and the new services developed to meet those members' needs, it is still the same pride, principles, and practices that make today's cooperatives a part of the community.



PSC Visits La Valle Telephone

La Valle Telephone Cooperative showed off some post flood reconstruction efforts to a contingent from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission during an August 21 visit. Commissioner Judy Klug and members of the PSC staff spent a couple of hours hearing about the effects of the early June flooding and measures that have been taken to avoid a repeat. Touring the central office are left to right, Judy Klug, Anne Waymouth, Chris Larsen, La Valle Operations Manager John Bartz and Chong Moua.