

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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Office Hours

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

From the General Manager



The power behind your power

By Brooks Shoemaker

AS APRIL arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce May flowers. It is also the beginning of the thunderstorm season that inherently includes power outages. Bedford Rural Electric always strives to provide reliable electricity to our members 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days per year. However, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather is the worst — our cooperative lineworkers here in Bedford, across Pennsylvania and throughout the country.

Braving winter and summer storms, along with many other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous

jobs in the United States, our linemen must perform detailed, manual tasks adjacent to high-voltage power lines.

To help keep them safe, linemen wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job much more complex, regardless of the weather.

In addition to the highly visible tasks we are all accustomed to seeing lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They have also become information experts who can

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Brandi Naugle keeps busy sharing her talent

By Linda Williams

COUNTRY music has been Brandi Naugle's love since she was a child. Now a mother of three and running a small day care, she is blossoming into a popular local singer.

A self-taught vocalist, she is originally from the Broad Top area. At the age of 9, following the death of her mother, she went to live with her grandparents, John and Sandy Duvall. John enjoyed country music and often had the radio or a CD playing as Brandi followed him about the house. Soon, she was singing along.

"He played all of the old favorites like Bing Crosby, Dolly Parton, and Loretta Lynn," Brandi says, recalling that Lynn was one of her favorites.

Brandi's grandparents were delighted when she started singing country along with the stars. The little girl was soon singing at churches and festivals. She also performed in musicals at Tussey Mountain High School.

An aunt took Brandi on a road trip to the Fan Fair in Tennessee. It was there she met her idol, Loretta Lynn, and collected a host of autographs including one from Dolly Parton.

After high school, Brandi thought about packing up and heading for Nashville, Tenn., much to the chagrin of her grandparents. Then, mother-



NAUGLE FAMILY: Brandi Naugle's family includes, from left: Justin, Cameryn (in the tree), Cable, Brady and Brandi. This was taken in front of her home church, Bedford United Methodist.

hood got in the way, so instead she chose cosmetology school. For five years, she worked as a hairdresser. During that time, she met her husband, Justin Naugle, got married, and had two more sons, Cameryn and Cable, little brothers to Brady.

"We bought a house, started remodeling, and singing was about the last thing on my mind," she recalls.

Then, a young couple from Everett, interested in starting a country group, happened upon a CD Brandi had made. They liked what they heard and asked her to join them. About the same time, Matthew Volbrecht started a Rising Star contest at what is now the Crossroads Bible Church. Brandi entered in season two and earned a fourth-place rating.

Matthew later took a group of the Rising Star finalists to the Green Room in Pittsburgh to cut a gospel CD.

Brandi was singing again.

From there, her singing career took off, at least on a local level. Brandi participates in the Community Day in Defiance and has sung for almost all of the churches in her old hometown area. A local man, Tom McGee, formed a gospel band she sang with known as Good Times Gospel Band that traveled all over Central Pennsylvania for a time.



MEETING AN IDOL: As a child, Brandi Naugle, right, loved Loretta Lynn, whom she met when her aunt took her to Nashville, Tenn.

As more folks heard of Brandi's talent, she got more bookings. This past winter, she was a soloist for the Chili Cook-off in Bedford. Her husband's uncle, Ben Kendall, holds a huge



A GUITARIST, TOO: In addition to singing, Brandi Naugle also accompanies herself on the guitar.

reunion each August, and Brandi is a scheduled performer. The Twisted Trout and Bedford Tavern have both featured her as live entertainment. She has performed at B&L Winery and the Grin Gallery at Blue Knob. She did a solo performance at the Spring House at Homewood on Valentine's Day and performs there regularly. This summer, she will be featured at the Gazebo in the square in Bedford on July 29 as a part of the Pennsylvania Consort.

In between keeping four children in her day care, looking after her family and practicing, she writes her own music. She has completed five numbers — her favorite is “Lora’s Song,” written in memory of her mom. She recently sang one of her originals at her home church, Bedford United Methodist.

This past summer while performing for a charity in the area, she met a group called “The Juniata River Boys,” who asked her to be a soloist. Another

group, “Traveling Troop,” organized by Charles McClanahan, also asked her to perform with them and a booking agent, Underground Entertainment, has gotten her a number of gigs. Because of her family responsibilities, she has declined offers to perform at more distant places.

As bookings have increased, Justin has become her sound man. She has added her own equipment with speakers, a modern soundboard and what she terms “a loop,” which allows her to harmonize with her own voice.

In the summer, when she is asked to sing at churches all over the county, her boys go along.

“If they are good, they know they will get a treat on the way home,” Brandi says with a laugh.

Social media has been a big asset in getting her music out to the public. She has a YouTube account called “Music with Brandi Naugle.” A recent recording received about 400 views.

“Not really a lot,” she says, “but it’s a way to get your name out there.”

At her recent Valentine’s Day performance at Spring House, Brandi added a few original poems to her repertoire.

She and her family live just off Route 220 South. For contacts, check her Facebook pages at either “Brandi Naugle” or “Music with Brandi Naugle.” 🎵



VALENTINE PERFORMANCE: Brandi Naugle sings at Homewood Spring House on Valentine’s Day.



BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week’s supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

From the General Manager

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pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews now use their laptops and cellphones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. Our linemen are responsible for keeping 1,300 miles of lines across Bedford County (and small pieces of Somerset and Fulton counties) operating efficiently, so we can deliver power to your home and our local community every minute of every day, regardless of the weather, holidays, or personal considerations.

Many of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, and technology has become a major part of the job. However, the dedication to the job and the cooperative has not changed. Being a lineman is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous work, requiring them to work near energized lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. During hurricanes, ice storms, snow storms, thunderstorms, in sub-zero winds, our crews often work around the clock to repair the damage done by Mother Nature and restore power.

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9. So during April, if you see one of our hardworking linemen, please pause to say “Thank you” to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate their sacrifices and hard work that keeps the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

Energy efficiency tip of the month

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight for maximum energy efficiency. Test the seal by closing the door over a piece of paper (so that it's half in and half out). If you can easily pull the piece of paper out, your seal may need to be replaced or the latch may need to be adjusted.


Interesting tidbits

- ▶ Remember that time when your mother would yell at you for keeping

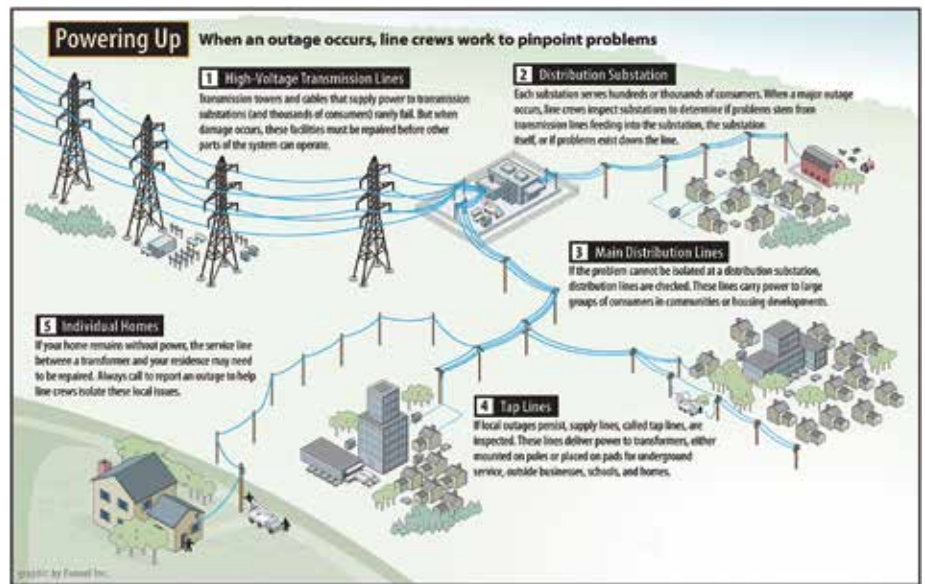
the fridge door open for too long? Well, she had a reason — a very good one indeed! Every time you open the fridge door, approximately 30 percent of the cold air escapes, resulting in increased power consumption and higher electricity bills.

- ▶ K-12 schools in the United States spend more than \$6 billion on energy use, or more than they spend on textbooks and computers combined. Some researchers suggest that if developers had to prepay 50 years' worth of utility bills, they would construct commercial buildings differently.
- ▶ Hospitals in the United States rank

as some of the highest energy consumers in the entire world.

- ▶ Inefficient appliances, drafty windows and doors, poor insulation, and other fixable energy wasters cost U.S. consumers an estimated \$300 billion a year — that is more than the U.S. military budget! 

OFFICE CLOSING
Bedford REC's office will close at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, for our annual meeting.



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, 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.