

# one voice

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

## 40 Years of Service for Director William Meyer

William Meyer has been a director on the Richland-Grant Telephone Board of Directors for a total of 40 years. He served from 1967 to 1995 and then from 1998 to the present. By day, Bill is co-owner of Kickapoo Orchards. There, Bill enjoys making apple cider, pruning the trees, and assisting the many customers that visit each harvest season. Bill also has his own consulting business, "All About Apples," for folks with all types of apple questions, including grafting and appraising.



### Contact Us

202 N. East Street • PO Box 67  
Blue River, WI 53518-9901  
537-2461

**Customer Service & Repair**  
611 or 537-2461

**24/7 Internet Help Desk**  
536-HELP, 537-HELP, 538-HELP  
624-HELP, 735-HELP

**E-mail Us** Visit Us Online  
rgtc@mwt.net www.rgtc.coop  
Click on the "On-Line Directory" tab for valuable coupons and important information.

**Office Hours**  
Monday – Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm

### Holiday Closures

**Thanksgiving:**  
Thursday, November 25th and  
Friday, November 26th

**Christmas:**  
Friday, December 24th and  
Monday, December 27th

**New Year's Eve:**  
Friday, December 31st



## National Broadband Plan – What This Means for Rural America

What would happen if the federal government decided that city roads, bridges, and infrastructure should be better constructed and more efficient than the roads in rural America? What if policymakers determined that urban consumers should be able to get where they are going and get what they need faster than rural consumers? A new government plan intends to make that true of our nation's information superhighway — the Internet. And while it's not the highway we drive on, rural consumers should still be very concerned.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has crafted a plan to make broadband Internet access universally available. Reliable, high speed broadband has become the essential service of today, like electricity and telephone service were decades ago. Broadband can improve the lives of all consumers, but access is especially important for those of us living in rural America. The Internet enables farmers to monitor weather patterns and ranchers to buy and sell livestock in markets far from home. It also gives small businesses the opportunity to reach customers nationwide, offers local students the chance to take classes online, and allows doctors to remotely diagnose patients and even offer remote emergency care.

The many benefits of broadband are clear, and we applaud the government's



efforts to make affordable, reliable Internet connections a reality for all Americans. But the FCC's plan will make rural Americans second-class citizens in the new broadband world, because it establishes a speed goal for rural areas that is twenty-five times slower than for urban areas. Shouldn't rural communities have access to the same broadband services as our larger towns and cities?

Years ago, Congress established a universal service policy for telephone service. It required that those living in rural areas have access to communications services at prices that are affordable and reasonably comparable to those available in urban areas. Rather than support this same universal service philosophy for broadband, the FCC's plan offers faster, better service to some Americans while guaranteeing lesser service to others.

Don't let the FCC keep our rural community on the slow side of the broadband digital divide. **Contact your congressional representatives and urge them to support regulatory action that ensures equal access to broadband for all Americans.**

Our Congressional Representative, Ron Kind, wants to hear from you. Contact him regarding this issue at:

La Crosse • 205 Fifth Avenue S., Suite 400 • La Crosse, WI 54601  
8:30am to 5:00pm • PH: 1-888-442-8040 FX: (608) 782-4588 TTY: 1-888-880-9180

## Share The Holiday Spirit

### Donate to our Holiday Food Drive

Happy Holidays from our family to yours. Richland-Grant Telephone invites you to participate in our Holiday Food Drive and help feed the hungry in our community. Simply drop off non-perishable food items between November 1st and December 31st at our office, and they'll be given to the food pantry for distribution.

### Enjoy a free gift for your family

When you donate, you'll receive a free gift from us. Choose from either two FREE PPV movies **or** FREE installation and the first month FREE of Caller ID.\*

\*Free offers must be used by December 31, 2010.



## Richland-Grant's Video Has New Features

An upgrade on Richland Grant's video guide format has provided you with a couple of new helpful features! When you go to the guide (as seen in photo 1) anything showing a gold star in front of the program name means it is a new program, just airing and not a rerun. Another new option is, while viewing a program, if you press your remote's OK button, a box will appear on the screen with an option to highlight "Expanded Info." If you highlight this option and press OK again, you will get the complete information dialect regarding the program you have on (as seen in photo 2).



Editor Charley Preusser with a copy of the Crawford County Independent

## The Crawford County Independent Newspaper

*A welcome visitor in over 2,000 homes each week*

You can get a sense of what life is like in the Kickapoo River valley by reading the well-crafted stories and looking at the colorful photographs that grace the dozen or so pages in each issue.

The paper, now in its 105th year, has a small but dedicated staff. Charley Preusser has edited the publication for the past 4 ½ years. Bonnie Olson has been with the paper for 26 years. She handles the advertising accounts, but still manages to get a story or a picture here and there, making her an indispensable member of the team.

The "news" part of the newspaper business hasn't changed much in the past century, but the technology part has changed dramatically. Originally the text and headlines were created by assembling precast metal characters whose raised profile transferred ink from a rubber roller to paper. It was a time-consuming process to say the least. A major innovation came in the 1870s when a German clock maker invented a machine that used molten lead to form slugs that took the place of the movable type.

For many years pictures were produced by etching dot patterns into thin sheets of zinc which were carefully nailed to a block of wood. The raised pattern of dots recreated the photograph when the ink was transferred to paper. First, computerized type setting machines in the 1960s and then "Desktop Publishing" in the 1980s revolutionized the industry by making composition faster and cheaper.

In a process that is both art and science, *The Crawford County Independent* is composed in a computer program where the stories and pictures are manipulated into how they will look on the printed page. The pages are then sent to the printing plant over the Internet where they are converted to printing plates.

Many of the stories and photographs in *The Crawford County Independent* begin as e-mails sent over the Internet. With all of this reliance on the Internet, technical support becomes very important. "I needed help retrieving some e-mails over the Labor Day holiday weekend and I discovered that Richland-Grant's MWT helpline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week." Preusser told us, "They were very helpful. My problems don't happen during normal business hours, so them helping me when I needed it was just GREAT!"