

VTCI • Caller

Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. FALL 2008

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MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

What can I do on the Internet?

Hello everyone - I hope our newsletter finds you recovered from Hurricane Dolly. VTCI made it through in good shape with very little

destruction - only commercial power failures when back-up batteries ran down. We were, for the most part, back in service within hours of the storm's end.

In the next issues of our company newsletter I will answer a question that I hear over and over from our members, "What can I do on the Internet?" or "The Internet is primarily about email, right?" Not so! The Internet can be a fascinating source of information and fun if you know where to go, and we will help with that. In the upcoming editions of the newsletter I will write about **Using the Internet:**

- **To get news, sports, entertainment guides and medical information**
- **To listen to and "download" music**
- **To watch videos, movies and TV shows**
- **To plan travel; check weather, select driving routes and make travel reservations with airlines, hotels and other hospitality providers**
- **For financial planning, banking, and investment management**
- **And finally to go... SHOPPING!**

In this issue, I will focus on the first topic - Getting information from the Internet:

For up to the minute news, you can get a constant update of world wide, national and state news from the major TV network websites as well as magazine websites. Examples are www.abc.com, www.nbc.com, www.cbs.com, www.foxnews.com and www.cnn.com. If you have satellite TV, you probably already know about CNN and Fox News Network, but if you don't, you are in for a news treat. You can also check out magazine web sites like www.time.com, www.usnews.com and www.newsweek.com and www.businessweek.com. If you already subscribe to these magazines, they have additional information that they don't print in their periodicals.

For sports, you can check out www.espn.go.com and look at every sport imaginable. You can also see sports information in the above news sites in their sports sections. If you're into wrestling, go to www.wwe.com; if you're into tennis, try www.tennis.com. It goes on from there.

For entertainment guides, go to tv.yahoo.com for all the latest TV listings. If you like articles about all facets of entertainment, you'll enjoy www.tvguide.com. For movie guides, go to www.moviephone.com for movies listings nearest your home area, and www.rottentomatoes.com for rankings and ratings on current and not-so-current movie releases.

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Join us for the upcoming Fall 2008 Festivals in our community!

NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE RANCH, NATURE PARK OR OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2009 VTCI CALENDAR



Tell us what locations you want to see in the upcoming calendar! Just give us a call or send us an email. You may submit a photo. Please provide the name of the location, an address and your reason why this unique place should make it in our calendar by Friday, September 26. Please email lsalinas@vtci.net or call 956.642.1110.



For medical information, check out www.webmd.com to read up on how to stay healthy and recognize early symptoms of various illnesses and conditions. You might also want to try www.drlists.com and www.mayoclinic.com to name a few.

These are only a few examples of web sites in these categories. For more choices, you can use something

called a “search” program to find more. Go to www.google.com and enter what you’re looking for, and you will be amazed at how much you will find. It will keep you busy for hours!

In the next issue, we’ll talk about using the Internet for music, movies and TV shows. As always – please drop in and say “hi” when you’re in Raymondville.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to our members for their patience and cooperation during Hurricane Dolly. Thank you to all of our friends around the state who called to show their support. Thank you for your will to help. Thank you to our employees who worked tirelessly to restore service.



**2nd annual
Port Mansfield Lady and Her Tramp
“Most Spots” Fishing Tournament**
More than 100 contestants!

**34th annual
Port Mansfield Fishing Tournament**
More than 180 contestants!



Congratulations

Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is a strong believer and is dedicated to investing in our youth's future. VTCI is pleased to announce the 2008 scholarship recipients.



Andrea Cobb



Kelsi Gulick



Courtney Lee



Alyssa Luna



Vianni Ricano



David Rodriguez, Jr.



Emily Rodriguez



Cassandra Swanberg



Debra Villarreal



Kelsey Weeks

2008 VTCI Scholarship Recipients



MEET OUR CONSTRUCTION CREW MEMBERS

Lupe Espinoza

31 years of service

As a cable locator, Lupe works closely with contractors, so they don't disturb our cable when they have to dig the ground. He spends his free time working at his 50 acre ranch and he is a member of "Rocking T," a cooking team widely known for their delicious fajita plates. "What I most enjoy about my job is meeting and talking to people," said Lupe. "Sometimes all it takes to get the job done is a phone call; other times I will go and meet with contractors personally. I have been able to meet many people. I've seen this company grow throughout the years. I remember we started at an office in an alley behind Scarlocks Store."



Jaime Lopez

8 years of service

Jaime, like the rest of the Construction team, works hard day in and day out to serve each of our members, no matter the time, rain or shine. Jaime is sometimes assigned to stay at the office and other times he is out in the field. His team is responsible for digging the ground to install the cable or make repairs. They do whatever it takes to keep services up and running. "Everyday is different, you come in not knowing what to expect. One day we will be in Lasara and another day we can be over 100 miles away in Mirando City," said Jaime.

Our Construction Department has buried about 45 miles of cable to date this year!

Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Update

The Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF), an assessment imposed on firms that sell telecommunications services to end users, was repealed by the 80th legislature. Accordingly, revenue from sales of telecommunications services occurring after August 31, 2008 will not be subject to TIF. Information source: Window on State Government Susan Combs, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/tif/>

INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE PARK in Dilley, Texas



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<http://www.vtci.net>

Dave Osborn, General Manager

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Lydia E. Salinas, Editor

Business Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed Saturday & Sunday

Internet Support Hours

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
(800) 687-4202

Repairs

Monday-Sunday: (800) 292-7596

Fall 2008 Festivals

HARGILL ANNUAL COOK OFF

Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008

All day event

10 miles N. 281 and 7 miles E. 490 of Edinburg

Awards & Categories

- 1st Place \$100 and Trophy
- 2nd and 3rd Place Trophy
- Most Original Camp Trophy

- Fajitas
- Chili
- Beans
- Pan de Campo
- Carne Guisada
- Beef Ribs



For more information call
Ray McClaugherty 330-7245
Jorge Garza 467-8009
Marcos Davila 569-4476

*Join us for great food and fun!
 Games • Music • Booths
 Silent & Live Auction*

WILD IN WILLACY

October 24-26, 2008

Raymondville's Wild in Willacy Boot Fest
A Nature & Heritage Festival



Willacy County Livestock Show Grounds
Business 77, 1/2 Mile South FM 490, Raymondville, TX

Photography Children's Program:
Photography Contest and Poster Contest!

Ranch Tours: See the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl! Tour San Miguelito, Salt Lakes, and Hunke Ranch, to name a few!

Cook Off on Saturday: Wild Game Fajita, Pan de Campo and Ribs!

Ranch rodeo on Sunday!

Arts and crafts, food vendors and entertainment!

For more information visit www.wildinwillacy.com or contact the Raymondville Chamber of Commerce at (956) 689-3171.



7TH ANNUAL CACTUS COUNTRY FESTIVAL

Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008

El Sauz, Texas

Join us for Cook-Off, Trail Ride, and Motorcycle Run!
Live entertainment, Folklorico & Dancing Horses!

All Cooking Teams are welcome!

Over \$3,000 cash give-a-way
 Open Category: must contain edible Cactus in dish.
 Entry fee \$200.00 for all categories or \$35 for each,
 but not less than two entries.

- Fajitas
- Frijoles
- Pan de Campo
- Chili
- Carne Guisada
- Pork Ribs

10-mile Trail Ride! Starts at 8 a.m. from FM 649 & FM 2686. Fee of \$15.00 per adult & \$10.00 per child. Refreshments along the ride.

Motorcycle 98 Mile Run!

Starting at the HARLEY-DAVIDSON on Bentson Road in McAllen. Registration at 11:00 a.m. Fee of \$25.00 includes 6 tokens for cards.

For more information please call 956.486.2406, 956.486.2295 or 956.500.3205.



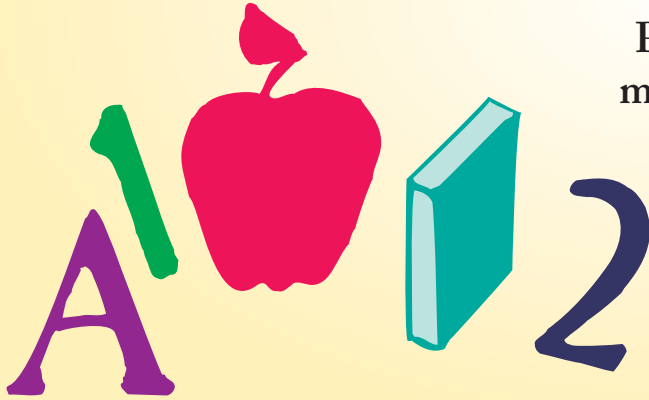


Take advantage of Back to School Savings on your Internet service!

DSL New Rates: Faster speeds at a lower price!

Please contact VTCI Customer Service for more information about our new DSL rates.

1-800-446-2031



Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 103
Raymondville, TX

480 South 6th Street • Raymondville, TX 78580

