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| Rawls Springs Utility DistrictVolume 4, Issue 2 | C:\Documents and Settings\Myrtle\My Documents\My Pictures\Microsoft Clip Organizer\MC900297983[1].wmf |
| ***Office Number: 601-268-2248******Board of Directors****Allen Haralson – President**Diane Zachary* *Jimmie Kirkham**Robbie Parish**Anthony Bowens****Office Manager****Linda Bray****Maintenance****Luke Ellis**Allen West****Operator****David Draughn*◊◊◊◊◊◊***Rawls Springs Utility******District is a member******of the Mississippi Rural Water Association***◊◊◊◊◊◊*Rawls Springs Utility District is dedicated to providing safe drinking water that meets or exceeds all of the State and Federal Government Standards. In addition, the system maintains a sewage system that disposes of wastes in an effective and efficient manner.*  | We Have a New Website**rawlsspringsutility.ruralwaterusa.com** |
| We are so excited about our new website and we think you will be too when you have had a chance to check it out. You will find all sorts of information not only about Rawls Springs Utility District, be we also have links to other sites that you will find helpful. There is a link that allows you to sign up for alert notices through your email and text. Why is this something you should do? Simple, when there is a boil water notice, you will be promptly notified and also when the notice is lifted. We will also notify  | you of any other important actions taken by RSUD. Want to know when we are flushing lines in your area? Check the website. Want to know who is on the board? Check the website. Missed past newsletters? Guess where you can find them. In short, just about anything you want to know will be on our website. Along with the new website, we now have a Facebook page. You will find information there as well as being able to post questions. These are just additional methods that we are utilizing to better serve  | the Rawls Springs area. If you have a question you would like answered, an event covered, or suggestions on how we can better serve our customers, please let us know. If you would like to single out a staff member or board member for praise, now you have a forum. We always look forward to hearing from our customers and now you have additional ways to let your voice be heard. The website does have a rather long address, so, please check us out. |
| Be Prepared |
| We have been really fortunate this year as far as the hurricane season goes, but natural disasters can still happen. Are you prepared? During and after a disaster, the water supply to your home can become contaminated and unfit to drink. To ensure your household has a safe and adequate water supply, take these steps. Store enough water for each  | family member and pet inclean, tightly covered containers in a dark, cool location. Collect water in bathtubs for non-drinking purposes. A boil water notice may be issued after the disaster because water has become unsafe to drink due to pipes breaking. You will need to purify water by either boiling or adding unscented liquid bleach.  |  The percentage of chlorine available should be 5.25%. Add 8 drops to a gallon of water and let stand for at least 30 minutes. If the water has a strong chlorine smell after 30 minutes, pour back and forth between two clean jugs or containers. We will have water service re-stored as soon as safely possible. |
| What Does Rural Mean? |
| Is Rawls Springs a rural area? The US Government says yes, and no. According to the National Rural Water Association, there are at least 15 official govern-ment definitions of the word “rural,” and each one is different. One program defines “rural” as any place with fewer than 50,000 residents. But another definition is only an area smaller than 2,500 residents. There are 11 definitions within the US Department of Agriculture. These definitions matter because they are used to parcel out $37 billion-plus  | in federal money for “rural development.” Some governmental official definitions of “rural” include one written in 1936, another written in 1949. By Washington’s strictest definition of rural – any place with fewer than 2,500 residents – there are 59 million rural Americans. Rural America has been, and continues to be, a vital part of the nation. Today, rural America is comprised of 2,288 counties. It contains 83 percent of the nation’s land and is home to 21 percent (51 million) of its people. Rural counties  | supply 18 percent of the nation’s jobs and generate 14 percent of its earnings. Rural people and communities are engaged in a wide range of economic activities – from manufacturing to mining, from recreational services to agriculture and everything in between. What do you think? You have chosen to live here, do you consider yourself living in a rural area? If so, what do you see as benefits? What do you see as drawbacks? Go to our Facebook page and let us know.  |
| Saving Water at Home – Part 1 |
| Saving water saves money, we use a lot of water every day. According to Donnie Garris of Mississippi Rural Water Association, every American uses an average of 100 gallons a day. That is enough to fill two bathtubs! While Rawls Springs Utility strives to keep your water costs as low as possible, it still makes sense to take a few steps, such as fixing leaks and taking shorter showers, to reduce your water usage. But that is only half the story. That is because you actually pay twice for some of the water used. Once for the cost of the water itself, and once for the cost of | heating the water. To-gether those bills add up. Taking shorter showers is a good start but there are other ways to save water in the bathroom. Accord-ing to Garris, toilets alone account for 30% of indoor water use in the average home. Did you know that a leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day? You may not hear or see your leaky toilet. Here’s an easy way to find out if your toilet is leaking. Remove the lid from the back of the toilet. Place a drop of food coloring in the tank. Wait at least 15 minutes without flushing. If the color shows up in the toilet bowl, you have a  | leak. A bath uses about 70 gallons of water, but a 5 minute shower only uses 10 to 25 gallons. Install low-flow shower heads, they use a third less water than regular shower heads. Install low flow aerators on faucets (the aerator is the screw on top of the faucet). If the fixtures in your home were installed before 1992, there’s a good chance you could save water by replacing them. An easy way to find out, if it takes less than 20 seconds to fill a gallon bucket under a shower head turned on full pressure. Remember, one drop per second wastes more than 3,000 gallons of water a year. |