

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org



Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

CEMC Management and Staff

Jim Coode, General Manager

Randy Holt,

Operations Division Manager

Chris A. Davis,

Administrative Division Manager

Mark T. Cook,

Engineering Division Manager

Michael Batson,

Financial Services Manager

Annabelle Chester,

Human Resources Manager

Seth Roberts,

Member Services Manager

CEMC Co-op News Editor

Julie Wallace

P.O. Box 3300

Clarksville, TN 37043

Open Monday-Friday,

7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

800-987-2362

Ashland City office

Josh Gill,

District Operations Supervisor

Clarksville office

Kenny Davis,

District Operations Supervisor

Dover office

Terry Odom,

District Operations Supervisor

Gallatin office

Travis Akins,

District Operations Supervisor

Portland/White House offices

Todd Hesson,

District Operations Supervisor

Springfield office

Nicky Roberts,

District Operations Supervisor

CEMC Board of Directors

Tommy G. Whittaker,

Sumner Co., President

Wesley H. Aymett,

Cheatham Co., Vice President

Shela K. Williams,

At Large, Secretary-Treasurer

K. Jean Beauchamp, Robertson Co.,

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Stephen E. Douglass, Stewart Co.

Charles R. Hancock, Stewart Co.

Michael A. Mason, Robertson Co.

C. David Morgan, Montgomery Co.

Edward L. Oliver, Montgomery Co.

Joe H. Whitaker, Sumner Co.

Mission Statement

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to providing dependable, affordable electric service through the expertise and dedication of competent leadership and a well-trained and responsive workforce.

AS I SEE IT *Manager's Viewpoint*

Electricity still a great value

In today's world, you won't find many items that cost less than \$5. You can purchase a gallon of milk, a gallon of gas or a Big Mac meal from McDonald's. But did you know that an average day's worth of electricity costs less than \$5?

Even in our country's shifting energy climate, electricity is still a great value. In fact, electricity has the lowest cost per day of any of the items listed above. And not all of those items are necessary for daily life!

As general manager of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, I urge you to think about your daily necessities (food, electricity and gasoline, to name a few) and then think about the cost of the special treats we allow ourselves to purchase on a weekly or maybe even daily basis. We don't often question the cost of a Big Mac meal — it costs more than \$1 more to buy a Big Mac meal than it does to purchase a day's worth of power. And yet, we frequently become upset if our electricity rates rise.

It makes sense; we have become increasingly reliant upon electricity. Electricity has, for many of us, gone from a luxury commodity to a necessity and expectation. We expect the lights to come on when we flip the switch, and we expect our power to stay on during

the best and worst conditions. How else would we keep our food fresh and our homes cool in the summer or warm in the winter? It is easy to cut a Big Mac out of your spending routine here and there to save a few dollars. But we cannot simply cut electricity out of our budgets if times get tough or we decide that we want to scale back our spending in order to save.

Perhaps that is why it is so upsetting to us when our rates increase — even if only in small increments. It is nearly impossible for us to think about what our lives would be like if we didn't have electricity.

If at times it seems that electricity isn't affordable, remember that even as the demand for electricity grows, annual cost increases still remain low, especially when compared to other consumer goods such as medical care, education, gasoline and, yes, even Big Macs.

Electricity is still a great bargain. And also remember this: CEMC, your local electric cooperative, is committed to making sure that you and your family always have safe, reliable and affordable electric service in your home.

So the next time you crave a Big Mac, remember your electric bill, and think about what a great deal you're getting for your dollar!



*Jim Coode,
General Manager,
Cumberland
Electric Membership
Corporation*



Students rewarded for superior spelling

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation was a proud sponsor of the Cheatham County School System's Annual District-Wide Spelling Bee held Nov. 24 and 25 at Cheatham County Middle School in Ashland City. Two competitions were held, one for fourth-grade students and another for fifth- through eighth-graders. CEMC provided cash prizes for students who placed first, second and third in each competition. Pictured below are the participants and winners from each competition.



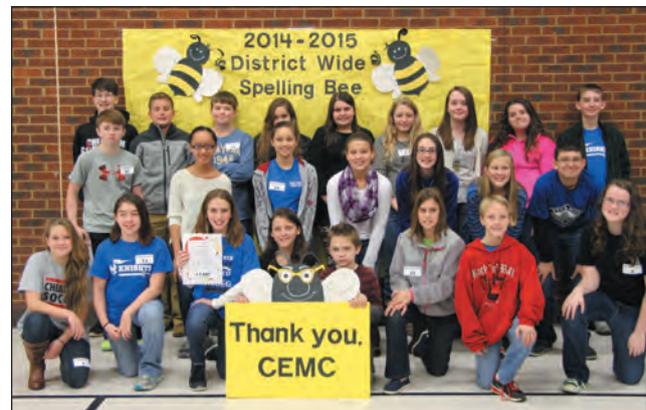
A total of 24 fourth-grade students from Ashland City Elementary, East Cheatham Elementary, Kingston Springs Elementary, Pegram Elementary, Pleasant View Elementary and West Cheatham Elementary Schools participated in the annual spelling bee on Nov. 24.



Taking top honors in the fourth-grade spelling competition are, from left, Frank Dean, Kingston Springs Elementary School, first place; Shyla Williams, Pegram Elementary School, second; and Grayson Cox, West Cheatham Elementary School, third.



Middle school spelling bee winners are, from left, Trish Nguyen, Harpeth Middle School, first place; Alex Barnhill, Sycamore Middle School, second; and Laney Corlew, Harpeth Middle School, third.



Some 24 fifth-, sixth- and seventh-grade students from Cheatham Middle, Sycamore Middle and Harpeth Middle Schools participated in the Nov. 25 spelling bee. CEMC congratulates the winners and all participants on a job well done!

Feb. 25 is deadline for WYT short stories, Senior Scholarship applications

ATTENTION: **High school juniors!** Have you written and submitted your short story for a chance to win an expense-paid trip as part of the 2015 the Washington Youth Tour? If not, mark your calendar for the Wednesday, Feb. 25, deadline, and start writing today!

Before you get started, here are a few things to remember:

1. Only juniors are eligible to participate.
2. Your short story must be titled: "Electric Cooperatives: Powering Potential."
3. Submissions must not exceed 900 words, and the exact word count must be included on your cover page. Entries must be typewritten and double-spaced.

For more information about the Washington Youth Tour, visit Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's website, www.cemc.org, or check out January's issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*.



A link to the 2015 Washington Youth Tour resource booklet is available on CEMC's website, www.cemc.org.



Are you a high school senior or the parent or guardian of a high school senior who is planning to attend college this fall? If so, you should know that Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will award 12 scholarships of \$1,000 each to graduating seniors in its service area in 2015.

Applications for CEMC's Senior Scholarship Program are available through the senior guidance counselors at each school and can be found on CEMC's website, www.cemc.org. All applications are due by Wednesday, Feb. 25. You don't want to miss this opportunity to earn \$1,000 toward your college degree!

Mark your calendars for CEMC's annual meeting

We hope you will begin now making plans to attend the 2015 annual membership meeting of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation on Saturday, Sept. 26, at White House Heritage High School in Robertson County.

Doors will open at 8 a.m. for registration, breakfast and voting in director elections. The business session, which begins at 10 a.m., will include a recap of CEMC's activities for the previous year and will highlight the co-op's financial report. Arrive early to ensure plenty of time to enjoy entertainment, pick up meeting favors and browse through the assortment of door prizes to be given away.

Watch for additional details to be announced in the coming months.





Trees of Giving bring warmth and holiday cheer

Thank you to everyone who helped fill the branches of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's annual Trees of Giving. Your generous donations surely made the holidays a little brighter for someone in need!

Hundreds of gloves, scarves, hats and other cold-weather clothing items, along with nonperishable food

products, were delivered to local community-assistance agencies to be distributed to individuals in time for Christmas.

This community-outreach program was powered by high school students involved in various clubs and organizations as well as CEMC employees and members throughout the service area.



Clarksville's Tree of Giving was decorated by Montgomery Central High School's HOSA Club.



Station Camp High School decorated Gallatin's Tree of Giving.



Portland High School's Social Studies Club decorated the Tree of Giving in the Portland office.



Dover's Tree of Giving was decorated by members of Stewart County High School's carpentry class.



Students from Greenbrier High School's Beta Club decorated Springfield's Tree of Giving.



Ashland City's Tree of Giving was decorated by Cheatham County Central High School's Art Club.



Geared up for safety

By: Abby Berry

Can you imagine working a job that requires you to lift heavy equipment and perform detailed tasks near deadly high voltage? Now imagine doing this 40 feet in the air and, sometimes, in extreme weather. This is the life of a lineman.

These brave men answer when called — and they do so to ensure that you are provided with safe, reliable electric service. But how do they stay safe when working in these conditions? Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation linemen are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times to keep them safe when on the job.

Let's take a look at a lineman's PPE:

Fire-resistant clothing. While our linemen do everything possible to prevent them, unexpected fires can happen. Fires typically occur with an arc flash — an explosion that results from a low-impedance connection to a ground phase in an electrical system. Fire-resistant clothing will self-extinguish, limiting burn injuries.

Insulated gloves. Linemen must wear insulated rubber gloves when working on any type of electrical line. These gloves provide protection against electrical shock and burn and are tested at 30,000 volts. Protective gloves, usually made of leather, are worn over the insulated gloves to protect the rubber from punctures and cuts.

Hard hat. No matter how tough or “hardheaded” our linemen are, they still need protection. Insulated hard hats are worn at all times to protect them from blows and falling objects.

Steel-toe boots. These heavy-duty boots are typically 16 inches tall and designed with extra support in mind. The height of the boot shields linemen from gouges, and serrated heels provide a better grip when climbing poles. The steel toes provide sturdier support and protect from objects that could potentially pierce the feet.

Safety goggles. Linemen must wear protective goggles or glasses whether working on electrical lines or clearing rights-of-way. This protects them from loose debris and other hazards.

These items make up a lineman's basic PPE. While working on electrical lines, linemen also

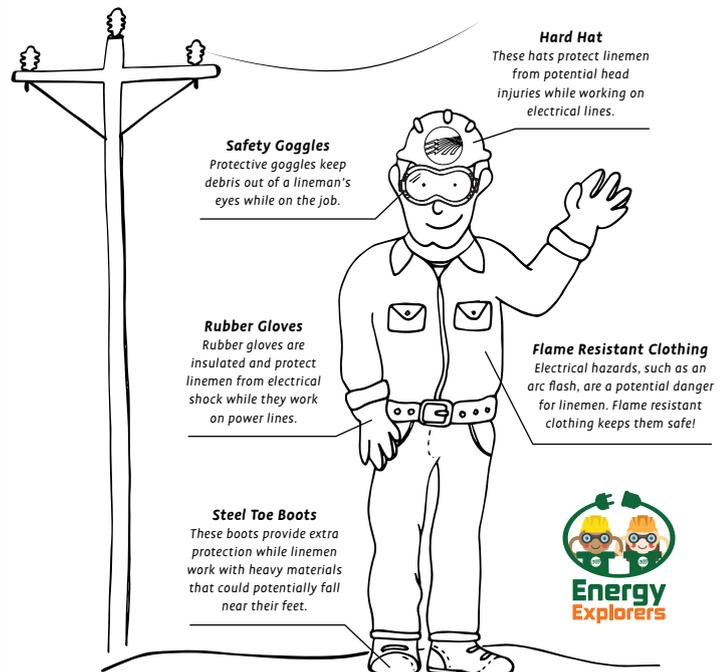
may be required to wear equipment belts, tool pouches, safety straps and other types of equipment. A lineman's gear usually weighs about 50 pounds — that's a lot of extra weight when working in hazardous conditions.

So, the next time you see a lineman, be sure to thank him for keeping the lights on. But more importantly, thank linemen for the hard — and oftentimes dangerous — work they do, day in and day out.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Linemen Gear Up For Safety

Did you know electric co-op linemen wear special safety gear to protect them on the job? Complete this coloring sheet and learn how they stay safe. Remember to always look up and practice safety when playing outdoors near power lines!





THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org





Caney Fork Electric Cooperative

Serving our members since 1940.

Management and staff

William S. Rogers,
General Manager

Donald L. McBee,
Director, Financial Services

Steve Johnson,
Director, Human Resources

John Chisam,
Director, Member Services

Danny Sutton,
Director, Operations

Leanne B. Fisher,
Administrative Assistant

Jason Cloyd,
District Manager

Office hours
Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Website
www.caneyforkec.com

McMinnville office/headquarters
Phone: 931-473-3116
888-505-3030

Sparta office
Phone: 931-836-3129

Smithville office
Phone: 615-597-5626

Spencer office
Phone: 931-946-7575

AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Democracy at the co-op

Democratic Member Control is critical to the operation of every cooperative

While the national elections of the past November may be fading from your memory, voting for politicians is not the only way we as co-op members can practice democracy.

Every co-op — whether it's Caney Fork Electric Cooperative, your credit union or a farm co-op — follows the basic principle of “one member, one vote.” Most often you are asked to vote and elect individuals who will represent you on the board of directors. These folks are your friends, neighbors and fellow residents of our community. Occasionally, you may be asked to vote on a policy such as a change to the bylaws (this is like the constitution for your co-op).

Every member in good standing of the co-op can run for the board. This is one of the key differences between a co-op member and a customer of an investor-owned utility (IOU). Most IOUs are not too interested in customers' opinions of how the company should be run.

Co-ops invite participation. In fact, it is critically important to the survival of the co-op. Most co-ops serve far fewer people than IOUs. Co-ops measure the number of members in the thousands, IOUs in the millions. If you are not actively involved with the co-op, we all suffer. As the electric utility industry evolves, having interested members who are willing to take an active role is critically important.

The CDS Consulting Co-op, a cooperative of consultants that serves co-ops, developed the following scenario to encourage member participation (a key component for a

healthy democracy) in consumer co-ops such as rural electric cooperatives. At Caney Fork Electric Cooperative, we believe in the “Own, Use, Serve and Belong” model.

Own — This refers to each member truly believing and feeling that he or she does indeed share in the ownership of the co-op. This can come from attending the annual meeting, voting or participating in other co-op events.

Use — For electric cooperatives, this means that you use the co-op's resources wisely (after all, you are an owner of those resources). You utilize the free energy audits that Caney

Fork Electric Cooperative offers. You use energy-efficient appliances, weather strip windows and doors and use light-emitting diodes or compact fluorescent lamps in lighting fixtures — and you turn them off when you leave the room. Share that one with the kids!

Serve — If we are successful with “Own” and “Use,” perhaps you will feel called to serve your co-op — maybe as a board member, volunteer, committee member or community contributor through the co-op.

Belong — We all seek to belong to something. In the early days when the co-op was just getting started, neighbors helped neighbors. While our lives seem busier and more electronically driven than ever, the need to connect and belong is necessary for us and our communities to thrive.

There is great power in the human connection, and at Caney Fork Electric Cooperative, we strive every day to connect with our member-owners.



Bill Rogers
General Manager,
Caney Fork Electric
Cooperative

CFEC is celebrating 75 years of electricity

'If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen!'

Former U.S. President Harry S. Truman liked to use the phrase, "If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen." And electric cooperatives know that electricity more than any other single factor has helped remove much of the heat and drudgery from the kitchen.

Before rural electrification, kitchens were not planned in anticipation of new electrical appliances. So members just found room for their new stoves, ovens, refrigerators and other lifechanging devices. No one complained then that the kitchen was not conveniently arranged. If you had been accustomed to cooking on a wood stove, just having the new appliance was convenient enough.

To promote new electric ranges, electric cooperatives used pictures of (mostly unidentified) satisfied members in printed letters that were mailed to other members. The campaigns



worked, and new electrical appliances soon filled homes across rural America.



As identified in CFEC record books: At left, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Drake of DeKalb County in the early years of the cooperative show by contrast the old and the new (that is, new at the time the picture was taken): the old wood-burning stove and the electric range. The heat from the stove made the kitchen almost unbearable in the summer, and trying to maintain a somewhat even temperature for cooking was nearly impossible. The cast-iron smoothing iron had been used for ironing clothes for many years. Scorching clothes was a problem. You would just begin to iron when the iron would cool down and had to be replaced with another. The electric iron was one of the electrical appliances that received early widespread acceptance.

New CFEC, TVA program helps homeowners improve energy efficiency

Caney Fork Electric Cooperative and the Tennessee Valley Authority are making it easier than ever for you to become energy-efficient while also saving money.

With eScore™, you can reduce your power use and receive cash rebates and financing assistance (with approved financing) for installing home-energy improvements.

eScore is a residential energy-efficiency program that gives a homeowner a clear path to make his or her home a 10 in energy efficiency. The program also increases home comfort and saves you money. eScore allows homeowners — at their own pace — to work toward a score of 10 for their homes, earning rebates on qualified energy-efficiency upgrades and re-engaging with the program as many times as needed to achieve the best possible energy performance.



- A customized list of recommended energy-efficiency upgrades that can be made over time to help a home become a 10
- A list of rebates for all qualified energy-efficiency upgrades

Financing is available for recommended eligible improvements, subject to credit approval. (If you are considering financing, you must first call Caney Fork Electric Cooperative at 931-473-3116 or 1-888-505-3030 for credit approval)

For additional information and program details and restrictions, please visit www.2eScore.com or call Caney Fork Electric Cooperative at 931-473-3116 or toll-free 888-505-3030.

See the table below for approved upgrades and available rebates.

Here's how it works:

- Homeowners will need to have an eScore evaluation performed on the home before upgrades are made. This service is free to all Caney Fork Electric Cooperative members.
- Sign up for an eScore evaluation by visiting www.2eScore.com or calling Caney Fork Electric Cooperative at 931-473-3116 or toll-free 888-505-3030.
- A certified CFEC energy advisor will visit and evaluate the home to provide an eScore report.
- Get an updated eScore evaluation of the home AND a quality-assurance inspection on the work performed by the Quality Contractor Network.

An eScore evaluation includes a detailed eScore report containing:

- An eScore card, which ranks the home from 1 to 10 (10 being the best)

**Caney Fork Electric
eScore Participant Rebate Schedule**

Upgrade	Homeowner Rebate (Matching 50%)	Financing
Attic Insulation **	\$250 / home **	Yes
Air Sealing **	\$200 / home **	Yes
Duct System (existing HVAC only) **	\$200 / system **	Yes
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$200 / unit	No
Window Replacement	\$25 / window (max \$500)	No
Storm Windows added to single-pane windows	\$12.50 / window (max \$250)	No
Exterior Door Replacement	\$50 / door (max \$300)	No
Heat Pump Replacement-ducted system, non-ducted system or w/ desuperheater *	\$250 / system *	Yes
Tune-up for existing central heat pump or air conditioning system	\$15 / unit per year	No
Central Air Conditioning Replacement	\$150 / system	No
Geothermal Heat Pump Replacement *	\$500 / system *	Yes
Dual Fuel Heat Pump Replacement *	\$250 / system *	Yes

* - Systems installed must be 14 SEER or higher to meet eligibility for financing

** - Weatherization loans will be a max of \$5000 for up to 5 years only

'Celebrating 75 years of Rural Electric Power'

CFEC Anniversary Quilt Contest

Caney Fork Electric Cooperative invites its members to participate in a special quilt-square contest. A select number of submitted squares will be chosen to create a CFEC quilt that will be displayed at the cooperative's annual meeting. The theme is "Celebrating 75 Years of Rural Electric Power" in honor of the cooperative's 75th anniversary in 2015.

To enter, interested members are asked to stitch a quilt square that depicts a connection between CFEC and their communities, homes, businesses, schools, etc., through the years. An official entry form is printed below, and here are the contest rules:



- Cloth square must measure 7 by 7 inches. It can be stitched, drawn, appliqued, etc.
- Only one entry per contest participant.
- The finished square must be placed in a gallon-size, zip-top bag and protected for travel. (CFEC is not responsible for lost/damaged entries.) An entry form must be enclosed in the bag with the square. If not, the entry will not be judged. (NO EXCEPTIONS)
- Submit your square to your local CFEC office by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2015.

Winners will be notified by mail following the conclusion of the contest.

Contact Communications Coordinator Angel Wood at 931-473-3116 if you have questions. You can also email awood@caneyforkec.com for more details.

CFEC ANNIVERSARY QUILT CONTEST

"Celebrating 75 Years of Rural Electric Power"

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Title of Entry: _____



Provide an explanation about what your square means by way of illustrating CFEC's 75th Anniversary theme: _____

Give yourself some credit

By Allison Goldberg

A credit score is a number that indicates a person's creditworthiness — the higher the number, the more likely it is a person will repay his or her debts. And the lower the score, the less likely a person is to repay those debts. These scores are used to evaluate the potential risk of doing business with a person. A low credit score can adversely impact your ability to secure a loan or line of credit or rent a home, or it could increase your insurance premiums, among other repercussions. It's important to understand how your credit score is determined and what steps you can take to ensure your score is as high as possible given your credit history so that, when you do need credit, you can obtain the best possible interest rates and insurance premiums.

The FICO score was introduced in 1989 by FICO (then called Fair, Isaac, and Company) and is now used by the majority of banks and credit grantors. An approximate breakdown of the FICO score — the exact formula is proprietary — is:

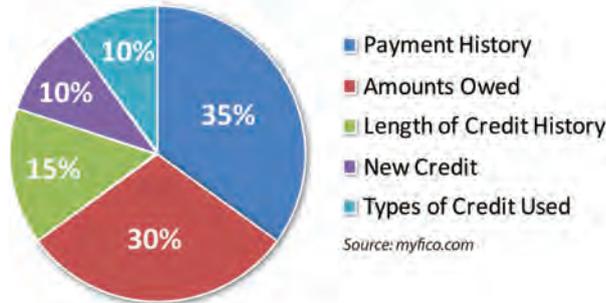
- Payment history: 35 percent
- Debt burden: 30 percent
- Length of credit history: 15 percent
- Types of credit used: 10 percent
- Recent searches for credit: 10 percent

So, in order to improve your score, it's essential that you make payments on time, pay down your debt, use not only revolving debt (e.g. credit cards, open lines of credit) but also installment debt (e.g. mortgage, student loans, car loans), when appropriate, and rarely apply for new credit. The length of your credit history can improve with time alone.

Thanks to the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions (FACT) Act of 2003, every legal U.S. resident is entitled to a free annual copy of his or her credit report from each of the three main credit reporting agencies — Experian, Equifax and TransUnion — using the website annualcreditreport.com or by phone at 877-FACT-ACT. While the reports won't contain your numerical credit score, you can buy the score from each agency for a fee of \$7.95, if you wish. Some banks and credit card issuers provide customers with their credit score for free; you

How a FICO Score Breaks Down

FICO Scores are calculated from a lot of different credit data in your credit report. This data can be grouped into five categories as outlined below. The percentages in the chart reflect how important each of the categories is in determining your FICO score.



may wish to contact your bank or credit card companies to inquire.

Review your credit reports for errors. Any errors may be lowering your credit score, and you should request an investigation of errors as soon as possible. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) provides detailed information on its consumer website, consumer.ftc.gov, about what you should and should not include in your letters to the

credit-reporting company and the creditor who reported the disputed information. Credit-reporting companies must investigate disputes within 30 days — unless they consider your request frivolous, so stick to the facts, provide copies of supporting documents (not originals) and include a copy of your credit report with the disputed items circled.

If the credit-reporting company finds that the information you challenged is incorrect, it must remove the mistake, and the creditor will have to notify the national crediting reporting companies, who will have to correct your credit file. Once they've investigated, the credit-reporting company must provide the results in writing to you, too, and a new copy of your credit report for free if the findings resulted in changes to your report. You can also ask that the credit-reporting agency send a corrected credit report to anyone who received a copy within the past six months and to anyone who received a copy within the past two years for employment purposes.

Just remember that accurate negative information can only be removed by the passage of time. Accurate negative information can remain on your credit report for seven years, and bankruptcy information can remain for 10 years.

For more resources on improving your credit score and other financial issues, you can visit the FTC's consumer.ftc.gov website for trustworthy information.

Allison Goldberg writes and edits employee benefits-related materials for the Insurance and Financial Services Department of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org

DREMC Management and Staff

Michael Watson, President/CEO
Blake Butler, Director of Engineering
Patrick Jordan, Director of Operations
Steve Oden, Director of Member Services
Shelia Orrell, Director of Financial Services
David Young, Director of District Services

DREMC Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Chapel Hill Office

Timmy Orrell, Area Manager
 Phone: 364-4700
 After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 364-4747

Columbia Office

Michael Trew, District Manager
 Phone: 388-3131
 After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 388-3482

Decherd Office

Patrick Hannah, District Manager
 Phone: 967-5578
 After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 967-5579

Lewisburg Office

Timmy Terry, District Manager
 Phone: 359-2536
 After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 359-2537

Lynchburg Office

Eugene Cartwright, Area Manager
 Phone: 759-7344
 After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 759-7371

Manchester Office

Michael Millraney, District Manager
 Phone: 728-7547
 After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 728-7548

Sewanee Office

Lee Wayne Pettes, Area Manager
 Phone: 598-5228
 After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 967-5579

Shelbyville Office

Mike Bayne, District Manager
 Phone: 684-4621
 After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 684-4623

DREMC Co-op News Editor

Connie Potts
 P.O. Box 89
 Shelbyville, TN 37162-0089
 Phone: 680-5881

DREMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brent Willis, Chairman
 Coffee, Warren counties
Buford Jennings, Vice Chairman
 Moore, Lincoln counties
Barry Cooper, Secretary
 Bedford, Rutherford counties
John Moses, Treasurer
 Marshall, Giles counties
Nelson Crouch, Franklin, Grundy, Marion counties
Bob Dubois, Maury, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Williamson counties
Phillip Duncan, Franklin, Grundy, Marion counties
Mike England, Coffee, Warren counties
Anthony Kimbrough, Maury, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Williamson counties
Kenneth Stacey, Marshall, Giles counties
Wayne Tucker, Bedford, Rutherford counties
Baxter White, Coffee, Warren counties
Laura L. Willis, University of the South

Website: www.dremc.com

Facebook: DuckRiverEMC

Twitter: DuckRiverEMC

AS I SEE IT

Michael's Viewpoint

'Member care' will carry DREMC into the future

As you read this column, the new Duck River EMC Chapel Hill service center will be open and — we expect — doing brisk business. Located on Highway 31-A in a growing community, the office and operations complex allows us to do a much better job of meeting the needs of co-op members in northern Marshall County.

Timmy Orrell is the new area manager for Chapel Hill. A veteran lineman and most recently DREMC's safety coordinator, Timmy has spent the past several months becoming familiar with the infrastructure for which he will be responsible, meeting folks in the community and getting ready to build a new home.

We've assembled a competent and experienced group to staff the service center — from the linemen and folks in the field to those who take payments and service applications across the counter or by telephone. Our goal is to provide the best member care possible.

You'll read and hear a lot about "member care" in the future as DREMC unfolds its new Strategy Map. We plan to roll out programs specifically aimed at adding value to the lives of those we serve with electricity.

In the past, rates and reliability were major determinants of how consumers judged their utilities. Increasingly, this relationship has involved other factors, some subtle but others evident enough

to be identified and measured.

For example, how easy — or not — are we to do business with? What is the perception of our commitment to community? Do we walk the walk or only talk the talk? Do you believe we are interested in what you think ... your opinions and attitudes? Are we perceived as a monolithic institution unreceptive to change or an innovative organization willing to embrace new concepts and technology?

Because we are member-owned, we should not take for granted answers to these preceding questions. In fact, recent surveys

(Continued on page 17)



Michael Watson
 Duck River EMC
 President/CEO

(Continued from page 16)

have shown us much more about the relationship between DREMC and its members than we thought existed. There are varied aspects of this survey data, but the bottom line is that, combined with work we've done on the Strategy Map, guideposts exist for achieving improvement.

Our product is service, not electricity. We don't generate the power; we ensure it reaches your homes, farms and businesses safely, reliably and affordably.

The Chapel Hill service center is an example of what DREMC members expect from us. They don't

want to deal with an impersonal call center staff based out of state or in a foreign country; they want answers when they ask questions; they want to have confidence that the employees of the co-op are experienced, knowledgeable and capable of solving their problems; they want to use technology to transact business if they find it more convenient; and they want choices.

It also helps if the folks at the local electric co-op office are friendly and committed to this concept called "member care." We hope this is what sets us apart, even if it makes us something of a "retro" utility in these modern times.

We prefer to call it the "Cooperative Difference."

Claire Sellers joins DREMC's Member Services staff

Duck River EMC welcomes Claire Sellers as the newest member of the member services team. She becomes the co-op's member service specialist, a position involving communication, marketing and member care.

A 2013 graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a bachelor's degree in mass communications and concentration in public relations, Claire comes to DREMC from Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative where she was the marketing coordinator for more than 18 months.

In 2012, she served as a communications intern at Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, conducting interviews and writing for the Tennessee Cooperator magazine.

She is pursuing her master's degree in corporate communications from Austin Peay State University and will take the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Certified Cooperative Communicator examination later this year.



Claire Sellers

"I loved my work at Meriwether Lewis, but the opportunity to join the staff at Duck River was very exciting," she said. "There are so many projects and programs here that will help me expand my experience and skill levels."

Claire's family is served by DREMC in the Columbia District, and she grew up wanting to pursue a career in the cooperative industry.

Member Services Director Steve Oden said the new position was created expressly to help improve member care through promotion of programs, assistance in the development of new member-focused projects and broadened awareness of

the benefits of electric cooperative membership.

"Claire Sellers will hit the ground running, as the old saying goes," Oden said. "She has energy, creativity and knowledge of electric co-ops. I think her addition will make us very effective in meeting the goals and objectives set forth for member care in the DREMC Strategy Map. I am delighted to welcome her to the Duck River family."

DREMC honors employees and directors for years of dedicated service to the cooperative

Thirty-four Duck River EMC employees were recognized in 2014 for their combined 605 years of service to the cooperative. Awards, presented, in five-year increments, were announced at recognition dinners held in each district office in December.



Service award recipients from the Headquarters, accompanied by area directors and staff, are, from left, Matt Adams, 10 years; Helen Blanton, 15 years; Buford Jennings, director representing Moore and Lincoln counties; Dawn Pope, 25 years; Wayne Tucker, director representing Bedford and Rutherford counties; Katie Guthrie, 20 years; George Johnson, 35 years; Marlene Cartwright, 30 years; Michael Watson, president/CEO; Teresa Sampson, five years; and Pat Garrett, 10 years. Not pictured is Dwight Rowe, 10 years.



Service award recipients from the Shelbyville/Lynchburg District, accompanied by area directors and staff, are, from left, Wayne Tucker, director representing Bedford and Rutherford counties, five years; Buford Jennings, director representing Moore and Lincoln counties; Brenda Horn, five years; Carol McGee, 15 years; Mike Bayne, Shelbyville district manager; and Michael Watson, president/CEO. Not pictured are Greg McGee and Wade Crick, 25 years each, and Marilou Barbeau, 40 years.



Service award recipients from the Columbia District, accompanied by area directors and staff, are, from left, Bob DuBois, director representing Maury, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis and Williamson counties; Michael Trew, Columbia district manager, 20 years; Stanley Scott, 35 years; Gloria Conway, 35 years; Anthony Kimbrough, director representing Maury, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis and Williamson counties; Michael Watson, president/CEO; and David Young, DREMC district services director.



Service award recipients from the Decherd/Sewanee District, accompanied by area directors and staff, are, from left, Philip Duncan, director representing Franklin, Grundy and Marion counties, 15 years; Joan Day, 15 years; Rob Mason, five years; Michael Watson, president/CEO; Adam Hoosier, 10 years; and Laura Willis, director representing The University of the South, 10 years. Not pictured is Nelson Crouch, five years.



Service award recipients from the Lewisburg District, accompanied by area directors and staff, are, from left, John Moses, director representing Marshall and Giles counties; Timmy Hopkins, 15 years; Timmy Terry, Lewisburg District manager, 40 years; Jody Nix, 35 years; Steven Jones, 15 years; and Kenneth Stacey, director representing Marshall and Giles counties.



Service award recipients from the Manchester District, accompanied by area directors and staff, are, from left, Dean Batey, 15 years; Cody Pittman, 15 years; Michael Watson, president/CEO; Brent Willis, director representing Coffee and Warren counties; Mike England, director representing Coffee and Warren counties, 10 years; Wes Durm, five years; and Kenneth Matlock, 20 years. Not pictured is Josh Sullivan, 10 years.

Over six decades of service recognized

Diane Flowers (Lewisburg) and Gloria Conway (Columbia) retire

After completing 28 years of service with the cooperative's Lewisburg District, Diane Flowers retired on Dec. 31.

Diane grew up in Marshall County where she graduated from Cornersville High School. She worked at First National Bank in Columbia until her three children were born. She began her career at Duck River EMC when her youngest started kindergarten.

Flowers started in the Columbia office as a part-time cashier in 1986, becoming a full-time employee shortly thereafter and transferring to the Lewisburg District after 12 years.

When asked about the biggest changes she has seen in her DREMC career, Flowers responded, "The biggest change has been the way outages are posted. We used to write down everything to give to the servicemen; now you can post with the click of the mouse."

Plans for retirement include spending time with church family, her own family and friends. "I will be spending a lot of time at baseball and football games, watching the



grandchildren," says Flowers. Both Diane and husband Jerry love the mountains and hope to spend lots of time there. Although her husband and son operate dairy farms, Flowers plans on finding other things to occupy her time. With grandchildren ranging in age from 2 to 18, this shouldn't be hard.



With 35 years of service working at the cooperative's Columbia District, Gloria Conway retired last month.

Gloria grew up in Maury County where she graduated from Columbia Central High School. She then obtained her secretarial certificate from Columbia State Community College because she always wanted to have an "office job."

After working at First National Bank in Columbia prior to joining DREMC, she credits former District Manager Donald Cathey for encouraging her to join the DREMC team. "Donald allowed me to fulfill my career goals, and I am very appreciative of that — it is one of the best decisions I have made," stated Conway.

Conway began her career in the Columbia office as an assistant cashier in 1979, later becoming a cashier.

She has worked in all aspects of customer service but was heavily involved with the process of issuing permits and preparing reports for the state.

"I love to meet with contractors and members, and I get excited when I see new developments coming into the county," said Conway.

When asked about the biggest changes during her DREMC career, Conway responded: "The biggest change has been the way payments are posted. In the past, we hand-wrote all receipts and posted to a ledger." Another time-saving convenience, she stresses, was an upgraded phone system and the ability to utilize the intercom to connect callers with relevant co-op employees.

"We used to have to yell down the hall to transfer a call," laughed Conway.

"I have enjoyed talking to our members and helping them solve their problems," Conway added.

Plans for retirement include spending time with family, friends and church family and traveling.

"My husband is a pastor, and I plan on helping him in his ministry and aid in the building of a new church. Working at DREMC has given me lots of opportunities and good friends. I feel like I have been blessed."

DREMC appreciates the dedicated service of these two ladies.

Marilyn McKelvey promoted to new HR manager post

Marilyn McKelvey, executive assistant in Member Services, has taken the reins of the new Duck River EMC human resource (HR) unit, according to President and CEO Michael Watson.

“Marilyn brings a wealth of experience to the position,” said Watson in announcing the promotion. “She has many excellent ideas that will help us do our jobs as well as help our employees be happier and more productive. I am very excited to see her take the ball and run with it.”

HR will now be attached to Administration, with the new manager reporting directly to the CEO. The office is located in the Annex at the Shelbyville headquarters.

McKelvey started at DREMC in 2008. Her duties included benefits administration, staffing, employee



Marilyn McKelvey

programs, compliance and the co-op newsletter, The Quacking Duck. She also assisted with various Member Services projects and programs.

“I am excited to assume the responsibilities associated with the organization of a new human resources unit,” McKelvey said. “Duck River is already a great place to work, and we can make it even better.”

She is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. Before

coming to DREMC, she served as the HR manager at National Pen in Shelbyville. A founding member of the Shelbyville Human Resources Association, she also serves on the advisory board of the Tennessee College for Applied Technology.

Join the DREMC email army today and help General Alert defeat the Greedy Peak. The Greedy Peak is always looking for ways to waste electricity, and with your help, we can reduce energy use during peak times and keep our wholesale power bill low.

Approximately 14,000 members have already joined the Beat the Peak Email Army. After joining, you will receive

email or text alerts whenever a peak-demand event is forecast. By reducing electricity use during the hours of highest demand, you can help DREMC avoid paying the Tennessee Valley Authority up to \$9.50 per kilowatt-hour for wholesale electricity.

Beat the Peak enrollment is easy. Just go to www.dremc.com and click on “Join the Email Army.”

Stay connected

Duck River EMC makes it easier to stay connected with what’s happening at your local electric cooperative. Visit our social media outlets to get the latest information on energy tips, program updates, important community events and outage information:



twitter.com/DuckRiverEMC
facebook.com/DuckRiverEMC
youtube.com/DuckRiverEMC

Fayetteville Public Utilities Edition

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org



408 College St. W.
P.O. Box 120
Fayetteville, TN 37334

931-433-1522
Toll-free: 1-800-379-2534
Website: www.fpu-tn.com

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dispatch Hours:

Seven days a week
24-hour emergency
response

**To make doing business
with FPU more convenient,
we offer the following
services:**

energy right® Programs
Bank Draft
Budget Billing
Project Help
Delayed Payment
Medic Alert
Surge Protection
Security Lights
Electric and Natural Gas Grills
Natural Gas Space Heaters,
Logs and Mantels
Cable TV
High-Speed Internet
Digital Phone Service

Call the FPU
Customer Service
Department for details
at 931-433-1522.

Follow us on Twitter

www.twitter.com/FPUTN

Construction takes shape on new water treatment plant

Construction of Fayetteville Public Utilities' new water treatment plant is progressing through the winter months as foundations are poured, pipes are laid and the new plant begins to take shape.

The new water treatment plant has not only been a long-awaited vision for FPU but also is a necessity for the community.

In 2014, FPU awarded the construction bid for \$7.9 million. Funding for the plant mostly comes from the Rural Utilities Service loan under the umbrella of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Before construction of the plant facility itself began, FPU had to secure the membrane filtration system around which the new plant is being built. The new filtration system will improve water quality and availability for FPU customers and will serve projected growth of the community for the next several decades.

The photo at top is the raw water mixer and splitter box. As water is taken from the Elk River, it must first be pre-treated with coagulants and other chemicals to aid in the subsequent treatment processes. This structure contains a 16-inch static mixer and chemical feed equipment to accomplish this first step in the process. The new plant has redundant trains for the flocculation and sedimentation processes that allow for maintenance and cleaning without a plant shutdown. Each train consists of two flocculation basins followed by a sedimentation basin and finally an equalization basin. The splitter box uses large gates to allow operators to adjust

flows between the two trains as needed. The rebar in the foreground will support the walls of the flocculation basins, which, when complete, will be about 17 feet tall.

Next is a view of the membrane building floor under construction. This is a small representation of the extensive piping being placed underground and under the floor slab. The existing plant seen in the background continues to operate during the new plant construction.

The new water treatment plant will include a state-of-the-art SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system. Power and control wiring in the thousands of feet will be required to energize and control the membrane filters, pumps and instru-

ments. In addition to conventional copper wiring, fiber optic cable will also be used to provide secure and reliable connectivity.

The third photo shows the construction of the main water plant building, which will include the membrane filtration system, high service pumps, a laboratory, a secure area for chemical storage and offices. The high service pumps housed in this part of the plant will send the treated water from the plant to the FPU storage tanks and water distribution system.

FPU will keep you informed as the new water treatment plant construction progresses throughout the year.

We look forward to serving you better and raising the bar on water treatment as the plant nears completion by the end of 2015.





FPU celebrates employees' 360 years of service

At the end of 2014, Fayetteville Public Utilities honored 20 employees who reached milestones in their employment with the utility. Their years of service, totaling 360 years, were celebrated with applause from fellow employees as these dedicated workers received plaques of appreciation.

In the spotlight this year were Tommy Hampton, Jamie Rozar, Greg Wicks and Lewis Steelman, each of whom was recognized for 30 years of service to FPU. Others receiving service awards were Rose Mole, Mike Buntley and Troy Doud for 25 years of service; Mellea Bradford and Lee Smith, 20 years; Drew Cline, Teresa Gentry, Missy Neely, Stephen Reese and Jared Pierce, 15 years; LaDonna Thrasher, Jennifer Locker, Elmy Woods and A.J. Russell, 10 years; and Amy Sydnes and Tim Weir, five years.

"These employees have dedicated a total of 360 years to their jobs and also to the customers of FPU who live and work in this community," says FPU CEO and General Manager Britt Dye. "Most days at FPU are average, business-as-usual days, but when an emergency strikes, our employees respond quickly and work together to get the job done."

"We saw firsthand how our employees came together to restore utility services following the April tornadoes," he adds. "FPU employees are always willing to go above and beyond not only to serve the community while at work, but they also serve others by volunteering their time and talents to many civic organizations, charities, church groups, youth sports, children's activities and more. What they do for our community is to be commended, and that's why we honor them for their dedication to FPU and to our customers."



From left are FPU CEO and General Manager Britt Dye, Tommy Hampton, Jamie Rozar, Greg Wicks, Lewis Steelman and FPU Board of Directors Chairman Janine Wilson. Each of the four recipients was honored for his 30 years of service.



Other service award recipients are joined by Dye and Wilson. Clockwise from top right: Receiving awards for five years of service are Amy Sydnes and Tim Weir; LaDonna Thrasher, Jennifer Locker, Elmy Woods and A.J. Russell are awarded for 10 years of service; Drew Cline, Teresa Gentry, Missy Neely and Stephen Reese are awarded for 15 years of service; Mellea Bradford and Lee Smith receive awards for 20 years of service; and Rose Mole, Mike Buntley and Troy Doud receive awards for 25 years of service. Not pictured is Jared Pierce, 15 years of service.



FPU's youth board has 'hands-on' experience helping community

Fayetteville Public Utilities Student Utility Board (SUB) participated in community service projects by assisting with the Harvest of Hope Food Drive and visiting a local Head Start to help children with crafts and story time. The group also used donated funds to purchase Christmas gifts for needy children in our community.

"Community Service Day is a way of teaching the FPU Student Utility Board that it's important to give to those in our community who need extra help during the holidays," says FPU CEO and General Manager Britt Dye. "Being thankful for what we have and showing kindness to others are important when you have a role as a community servant like we do as a utility provider. Each day at FPU is about making sure utility services are available without interruption and that customers receive the help they need when they call or visit our office. Helping others is what we do year-round."

"The December SUB meeting is always enjoyable because our youth board meets face-to-face with the community we serve and offers their assistance," says Gina Warren, FPU public information specialist.

The SUB's next meetings will include visits with FPU's telecommunications, natural gas and electric departments to learn about routine operations and to visit utility work sites, weather permitting.



FPU and its student board deliver food donations to the Good Samaritan Association. From left are FPU's Gina Warren, Josey Smith, Seth Finch, Devon Balsama, Grady Wright, Taylor Bryan, Caleb Barnes, James Keith and Good Sam's Bruce Balsama.



Clockwise is SUB member Seth Finch assisting the students as they make popsicle stick snowflakes. Josey Smith and Caleb Barnes also lend a hand in gluing decorations on the snowflakes. Grady Wright reads a story to a classroom of Head Start children.



The Tennessee Magazine available online

Misplace the latest issue of The Tennessee Magazine? Can't find that new recipe or interesting article you meant to read? You're in luck.

Visit Fayetteville Public Utilities' website at www.fpu-tn.com and click on *The Tennessee Magazine's* link in the left menu bar of our home page. In the upper left corner, you will find the digital version of the entire magazine for the current month.

Also on this page, you'll find FPU's local news sections featured in *The Tennessee Magazine* archived from the

current month back to February 2007.

While you are visiting our website, you can learn about FPU's rates, services and policies. You can also view your FPU account online and make utility payments using our website.

Visit us today at www.fpu-tn.com.





eScore program assists with energy-efficiency improvements

The new eScore program offered by the Tennessee Valley Authority and its power distributors, including Fayetteville Public Utilities, provides homeowners with a simple way to make existing homes as energy-efficient as possible.

This new energy program replaces TVA's heat pump financing and In-Home Energy Evaluation programs to offer more incentives and more options for energy-efficient improvements.

The eScore represents the home's current level of energy efficiency and potential areas for savings. The initial report includes photos of the evaluated areas of your home and provides a participant with a clear path of additional energy upgrades that will help raise the home's eScore.

The eScore's professional energy adviser will evaluate your home as it is and will make recommendations on energy improvements. After you make the recommended

improvements, your home will receive a follow-up inspection to increase your eScore energy rating, which moves you further along the path toward a perfect eScore of 10.

You benefit in many ways as you participate in the program. eScore can:

- increase the value of a home
- help participants save money on their energy bills
- make the home more comfortable
- enhance indoor air quality
- contribute to greater durability and value appreciation for a home

You'll also receive home improvement rebates for items like replacement windows and doors, water heaters, lighting, attic insulation, duct systems, heat pumps and central air conditioning.

To begin the eScore evaluation of your home, simply register for an account online at www.2escore.com or call 855-2escore (855-237-2673).



Ready for winter weather?

Prepare. Plan. Stay informed.

Many of us have experienced that sinking feeling when the lights go out while we're working on the computer, playing a favorite video game or watching a television show. While these outages do not necessarily occur at "the worst possible time," they are inconvenient and disrupt our lives. Most power outages are caused by storms and can occur as easily during the summer thunderstorm season as they can during the winter.

Getting together a power outage emergency kit will go a long way in getting you through an outage more easily and safely. Keep the kit in an accessible spot that will be easy to reach even in the dark.

First, make sure you have flashlights and a battery-powered portable radio. Make sure they work and that you have extra batteries for each. A radio is an important source of weather and emergency information during a winter storm.

Have plenty of candles and matches on hand – just be careful where you place the candles inside your home.

Have an extra supply of canned foods that can be heated on a grill or wood stove as well as other foods that don't need heating. Also be sure you have a manual can opener.

Extra blankets and layers of clothing can help keep you warm if your central heating unit is out.

And listen to local radio stations WYTM 105.5 FM and WEKR 1240 AM when bad weather hits to stay informed about weather forecasts and FPU utility outage updates.

Once you have assembled your power outage emergency kit, you will be better prepared in case the lights go out during the next storm.



If your power goes out, please call FPU at 931-433-1522.

Someone is available 24 hours a day to answer your call and respond to your report of a utility outage or leak.

To assist the FPU dispatcher, please have available your name as it appears on your FPU account, your street address and your FPU account number.



Safeguard your water

March is Cross Connection Awareness Month

March is Cross Connection Awareness Month — a time during which FPU encourages you to take the necessary precautions to help us protect our drinking water from accidental contamination.

Do you ever stop to wonder if your drinking water is safe and not contaminated? Most of us never give it much thought ... but maybe we should.

Just what is a cross connection? It is the point at which a nondrinking-water substance can possibly come in contact with drinking water. Connections as seemingly innocent as sprinkler systems, hot tubs or ornamental ponds can easily enable contaminants to enter potable (drinking) water lines via backflow. Customers install potential cross connections like these and other water-using equipment every day, but they are often unaware of the potential dangers that lurk in the pipes as a result.

Backflow, caused by backsiphonage and/or backpressure, is another concern for public water users. This is the unwanted reverse flow of nonpotable water back into a water system, which can cause accidental contamination of your drinking water. This sometimes happens when there's a sudden change in water pressure like when a fire hydrant is turned on or when FPU crews repair a broken water main. This backflow or backsiphonage becomes dangerous when any water outlet or



garden hose along the water supply line is connected to harmful substances like pesticides in a sprayer attachment or when a hose is submerged in polluted or contaminated water — even an animal water trough.

Backflow can allow bacteria, chemicals or physical contaminants to enter the water system if cross connections are uncontrolled, and this is harmful to public health.

FPU's Water Department takes every precaution possible to prevent cross connection and backflow from entering our distribution system. Our cross connection control program ensures that customers eliminate cross connections whenever possible and control connections that can't be eliminated by installing backflow preventers.

Fayetteville Public Utilities urges you to properly install backflow- or backsiphonage-prevention devices on all threaded faucets. These protection devices can be among the best safeguards against water contamination. It is also necessary to install backflow-prevention devices on sprinkler or irrigation systems.

Backflow- and backsiphonage-prevention devices are inexpensive and can be found at most hardware and building supply stores.

If you have questions or concerns about backflow contamination, please call FPU at 931-433-1522.

Does FPU protect my utility account information?

Your privacy is a priority for Fayetteville Public Utilities. You can be assured that FPU does not sell or trade with other companies such as telemarketing firms any customer information we maintain at the utility. We are committed to protecting your privacy to help prevent identity theft and fraud.

FPU employees are permitted access to your account information only so they can perform their jobs on your behalf. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to protect personal and account information. As part of our identity-theft policy, we have established the Identity Theft Prevention Protection Policy, also called our Red Flag Rule, which outlines procedures and practices to ensure we maintain comprehensive safeguards to protect personal and account information. You can read about this policy in detail on our website at www.fpu-tn.com.

FPU maintains the strictest practices in protecting your account information, which, in addition to your name, address and phone number, may include credit card information, tax identification numbers, payment records, medical information

and other confidential customer information.

We also have secured third-party arrangements with vendors that provide FPU with expertise within our industry. For example, one of these companies maintains the utility's software that produces your utility bill each month. This company has access to customer account information necessary for it to perform its job-related duties. The company is required to safeguard your information and only use it for authorized purposes and within guidelines established by FPU for the protection of customer information.

We are committed to protecting you, as an FPU customer, from identity theft and fraud. By honoring this commitment, we do not release any information about your account to anyone other than to the FPU customer listed on the account if he or she provides proper identification to receive such information.

If you have any questions about FPU's identity theft policy and how it is implemented, please contact FPU's Customer Service Department at 931-433-1522.



Watch FPU's Channel 6 for hometown information and entertainment!



FPU's Channel 6 is one of the best ways to stay in touch with your community.

Get updates on community events, watch interviews with community leaders and event organizers and more. Each month, you can see the meetings of the Fayetteville Mayor and Board of Aldermen and the Lincoln County Commissioners *LIVE and on demand* on FPU's Channel 6!

And if you don't have access to FPU's cable TV service, simply visit the FPU web site at fpu-tn.com and stream the local programming to your computer.



A few of the programs and highlights you're likely to see on FPU's Channel 6 include:

- FPU utility updates*
- Local school events*
- Lincoln County Fair events*
- Fayetteville Christmas parade*
- Community fundraisers & events*
- Host of Christmas Past*



Forked Deer Electric Cooperative Edition

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org





Forked Deer Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 67
Halls, TN 38040

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Staff

Jeff Newman, General Manager
Judith Holland, Office Manager
Jay Burress, Operating Line Superintendent

E.W. Baggett, Apprentice Lineman
Johnny Biggs, Journeyman Lineman

Morgan Bowser, Groundman
Jimmy Buckner, Groundman
Kathy Cherry, Cashier/Receptionist
Kevin Fair, Work Order Clerk
Rosalind Green, General Clerk
Kenneth Hankins Jr., Groundman
Lucky Humphreys, Journeyman Lineman

Cody Hutchison, Apprentice Lineman

Robert Johnson Jr., Journeyman Lineman

Jeremy Jones, Apprentice Lineman
Kelly Mayo, Cashier/Receptionist
Ross Norrid, Equipment Operator
Chad Paris, Journeyman Lineman
Nelda Kay Ray, Accounting Clerk
Keven Reece, Groundman
Holly Saliba, General Clerk

Tyler Selph, Apprentice Lineman
Brad Stafford, Apprentice Lineman
Andrea Tims, Billing Clerk/Cashier/Receptionist

Brian Vaughn, ITT

Milton Waller, Groundman
Kim Weeks, Accounting Clerk
Chance Williams, Groundman
Donald Williams, Meter Tech/Collections

Board of Directors

Keith Warren, President
Lynn Burnett, Vice President
David Walker, Secretary-Treasurer

Wally Childress

Ronnie Fisher

Mike Harris

Ronnie Roberts

Joe Smith

Ron Weir

Mark D. Johnston, Attorney

AS I SEE IT *Manager's Viewpoint*

Democracy at the co-op

Democratic Member Control is critical to the operation of every cooperative

While the national elections of the past November may be fading from your memory, voting for politicians is not the only way we as co-op members can practice democracy.

Every co-op — whether it's Forked Deer Electric Cooperative, your credit union or a farm co-op — follows the basic principle of “one member, one vote.” Most often you are asked to vote and elect individuals who will represent you on the board of directors. These folks are your friends, neighbors and fellow residents of our community. Occasionally, you may be asked to vote on a policy such as a change to the bylaws (this is like the constitution for your co-op).

Every member in good standing of the co-op can run for the board. This is one of the key differences between a co-op member and a customer of an investor-owned utility (IOU). Most IOUs are not too interested in customers' opinions of how the company should be run.

Co-ops invite participation. In fact, it is critically important to the survival of the co-op. Most co-ops serve far fewer people than IOUs. Co-ops measure the number of members in the thousands, IOUs in the millions. If you are not actively involved with the co-op, we all suffer. As the electric utility industry evolves, having interested members who are willing to take an active role is critically important.

The CDS Consulting Co-op, a cooperative of consultants that serves co-ops, developed the following

scenario to encourage member participation (a key component for a healthy democracy) in consumer co-ops such as rural electric cooperatives. At

FDEC, we believe in the “Own, Use, Serve and Belong” model.

Own — This refers to each member truly believing and feeling that he or she does indeed share in the ownership of the co-op. This can come from attending the annual meeting, voting or participating in other co-op events.

Use — For electric cooperatives, this means that you use the co-op's

resources wisely (after all, you are an owner of those resources). You utilize the free energy audits that FDEC offers. You use energy-efficient appliances, weather strip windows and doors and use light-emitting diodes or compact fluorescent lamps in lighting fixtures — and you turn them off when you leave the room. Share that one with the kids!

Serve — If we are successful with “Own” and “Use,” perhaps you will feel called to serve your co-op — maybe as a board member, volunteer, committee member or community contributor through the co-op.

Belong — We all seek to belong to something. In the early days when the co-op was just getting started, neighbors helped neighbors. While our lives seem busier and more electronically driven than ever, the need to connect and belong is necessary for us and our communities to thrive.

There is great power in the human connection, and at FDEC, we strive every day to connect with our member-owners.



Jeff Newman
General Manager,
Forked Deer
Electric Cooperative



Geared up for safety

By: Abby Berry

Can you imagine working a job that requires you to lift heavy equipment and perform detailed tasks near deadly high voltage? Now imagine doing this 40 feet in the air and, sometimes, in extreme weather. This is the life of a lineman.

These brave men answer when called — and they do so to ensure that you are provided with safe, reliable electric service. But how do they stay safe when working in these conditions? Forked Deer Electric Cooperative linemen are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times to keep them safe when on the job.

Let's take a look at a lineman's PPE:

Fire-resistant clothing. While our linemen do everything possible to prevent them, unexpected fires can happen. Fires typically occur with an arc flash — an explosion that results from a low-impedance connection to a ground phase in an electrical system. Fire-resistant clothing will self-extinguish, limiting burn injuries.

Insulated gloves. Linemen must wear insulated rubber gloves when working on any type of electrical line. These gloves provide protection against electrical shock and burn and are tested at 30,000 volts. Protective gloves, usually made of leather, are worn over the insulated gloves to protect the rubber from punctures and cuts.

Hard hat. No matter how tough or “hardheaded” our linemen are, they still need protection. Insulated hard hats are worn at all times to protect them from blows and falling objects.

Steel-toe boots. These heavy-duty boots are typically 16 inches tall and designed with extra support in mind. The height of the boot shields linemen from gouges, and serrated heels provide a better grip when climbing poles. The steel toes provide sturdier support and protect from objects that could potentially pierce the feet.

Safety goggles. Linemen must wear protective goggles or glasses whether working on electrical lines or clearing rights of way. This protects them from loose debris and other hazards.

These items make up a lineman's basic PPE. While working on electrical lines, linemen also may be required to wear equipment belts, tool

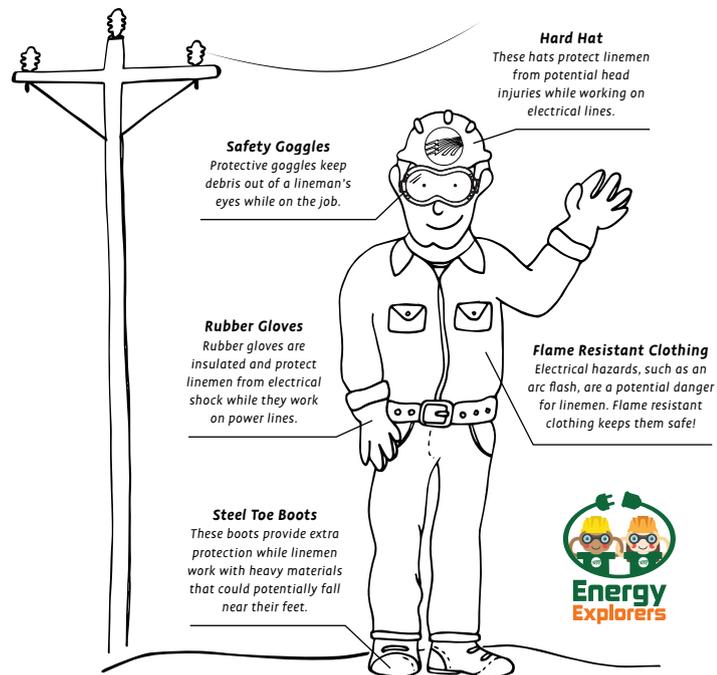
pouches, safety straps and other types of equipment. A lineman's gear usually weighs about 50 pounds — that's a lot of extra weight when working in hazardous conditions.

So, the next time you see a lineman, be sure to thank him for keeping the lights on. But more importantly, thank linemen for the hard — and oftentimes dangerous — work they do day in and day out.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Linemen Gear Up For Safety

Did you know electric co-op linemen wear special safety gear to protect them on the job? Complete this coloring sheet and learn how they stay safe. Remember to always look up and practice safety when playing outdoors near power lines!



Home heating:

Calculating the benefits of electricity vs. propane

By Anne Prince

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, heating and cooling account for nearly half of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most households. While few people enjoy spending money on home heating fuels, consumers are willing to pay for comfort in the form of heat.

In these colder months when the temperatures dip and the need to heat your home rises, it makes sense when trying to determine the most economical heating method to evaluate the cost per unit of heat. This is referred to as a British thermal unit (Btu).

Evaluating cost per unit of heat for propane and electricity

The Btu content per gallon of propane is 91,500 Btu. The Btu content for electricity is 3,413 Btu per kilowatt-hour (kWh). It takes 26.8 kWh to equal the Btu content of one gallon of propane.

Using the U.S. Energy Information Administration's table on residential propane and electricity rates for November 2014 — \$2.40 per gallon, excluding taxes, and 13.01 cents per kWh — we arrive at the following calculation:

$$26.8 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01\text{¢} = \$3.49$$

If we used only Btu content to determine the best energy source for home heating, it would appear that propane is less costly than electricity if the price for propane is below \$3.49 per gallon.

Comparing usable heat costs

While we may have determined the cost of the actual heat content, what matters even more is the cost of the usable heat (warmth). A low-efficiency propane furnace may have an efficiency rating of 80 percent, and a high-efficiency propane furnace may have an efficiency rating of 95 percent.

Let's assume we have a 90 percent efficient propane furnace. That means 10 percent is not converted to useable heat (warmth). Here is the math:

$$91,500 \text{ Btu} - 10\% \text{ Btu loss} = 82,350 \text{ Btu}$$

So now it only requires 24 kWh to equal the delivered Btu content of propane:

$$24 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01\text{¢} = \$3.12$$

Electric heat is 100-percent efficient

What may surprise most consumers is that the least efficient electric heating system delivers 100-percent efficient heat. Yes, electric resistance heat (i.e., space heaters, baseboard heating) is 100-percent energy-efficient. Every single Btu in a kilowatt-hour is delivered as usable heat. So if you are paying more than \$3.12 per gallon of propane for a 90-percent efficient propane furnace, it would be cheaper to use electric resistance heat.

IN COMPARISON TO OIL OR GAS FURNACES, ELECTRIC HEATING HAS MANY ADVANTAGES

Electric resistance heat

(i.e., energy-efficient space heaters, baseboard heating):



... is 100% efficient — every single Btu in a kilowatt-hour is delivered as usable heat.



... is quick to respond and can be very quiet.



... takes up less space in the house than other conventional systems (assuming space heaters are used).



... can warm select rooms, allowing you to keep your main thermostat down while ensuring continued comfort.

Electric heating systems are:



... generally less expensive to purchase and install.



... safe because there is no combustion process. There is no chance of flames starting a fire or having combustion products contaminate the air.

Are we recommending that you use electric resistance heat as your sole heating source? No. While we are proud to offer a reliable source of electricity, we don't want to empty your wallet. However, if your only choice is electric resistance heat, we are happy to share saving tips — visit www.energyright.com.

Pumping up efficiency

There are even more efficient electric heating systems called heat pumps. An air-source heat pump is at least 250 percent energy-efficient. How is it so efficient?

In the heating mode, heat pumps do not use electric energy to create heat; they use it to pump heat into your home through a reversal of the refrigeration process. If you have central air conditioning, you have already experienced this process in reverse when your unit pumps heat out of your home in the summer. If you have ever stood next to the outdoor components, you know the air-conditioning system is exhausting very hot air. In winter, it simply does the opposite, moving heat into your home. Air-source heat pumps are equipped with some type of auxiliary heat for those times when temperatures are near freezing or dip below. The typical backup is in the form of electric resistance heat strips, but there is also a dual-fuel propane option.

In calculating the Btu per kilowatt-hour for a heat pump, we use this formula:

$$3,413 \text{ Btu} \times 250\% = 8532 \text{ Btu.}$$

This means that it only takes 9.65 kilowatts using an air-source heat pump to deliver the same amount of warmth as a 90 percent efficient propane furnace.

$$9.65 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01 = \$1.25$$

The price of propane would need to drop to \$1.25 per gallon to break even with the cost of home heating using an air-source heat pump. Efficiency increases even more sharply when looking at the 350-plus percent efficiencies of a geothermal (water-source) heat pump. An additional advantage of geothermal systems is that they can be equipped to provide free water heating most of the year.

Providing reliable energy facts — regardless of fuel type

At Forked Deer Electric Cooperative, we believe it is our responsibility to provide members with reliable energy facts — regardless of fuel type — so you can get the most from your energy dollars. We are committed to helping you find the best energy solution for your budget and lifestyle and hope you will consult with your local co-op before making any big home-heating decisions.

Anne Prince writes on energy-efficiency issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Electricity's advantages for home heating and hot water

While most consumers are aware of the benefits of using propane or natural gas to heat their homes, many are not aware of the value of using electricity for home heating. Here are the numerous advantages of electricity-based home heating and hot water systems that may surprise even the most energy-savvy consumers:

In comparison to oil or gas furnaces, electric heating has many advantages.

- Electric heating systems are generally less expensive to purchase and install than other systems and, on the whole, enjoy fuel cost stability.
- Electric heat is quick to respond and can be very quiet.
- Electric heat can be added on a localized basis to heat specific areas of the home, and the temperature can be controlled easily by room or by zone.
- A portable, energy-efficient electric space heater or electric baseboard heater can warm select rooms, allowing you to keep your main thermostat down while ensuring continued comfort.
- Electric heat can take up less space in the home than other conventional systems (assuming space heaters are used).
- The electric heating system is safe because there is no combustion process. There is no chance of flames starting a fire or having combustion products contaminate the air.

Choices for electric heat include:

- Energy-efficient heat pumps
- Baseboard heaters
- Portable space heaters
- Decorative fireplaces

Heating contractors, electricians, home improvement stores and Forked Deer Electric Cooperative are good sources for information about heating with electricity. For additional information about how you can be more energy-efficient, visit the Tennessee Valley Authority's www.energyright.com website.

Powerful smartphone apps

By Tom Tate

The smartphone is enabling the world to take advantage of the “Internet of things” and the “connected home” unlike any other device that came before it. In case you are not familiar with these two phrases, they both boil down to this: More products and appliances are being sold ready to connect to the Internet. The goal of this connectivity is many-fold, including control, management, troubleshooting, comfort, convenience, security and entertainment.

Where does the smartphone enter this picture? According to several estimates, more than 50 percent of cell phones used in the United States qualify as smartphones. Because smartphone users almost never leave home without their devices and most keep them close at home, it has become the catalyst that makes the “Internet of things” and the “connected home” a reality. Through apps for smartphones, appliances and products can now be commanded, controlled and managed from a single device.

Let’s take a look at a selection of powerful smartphone apps. Since we are an electric cooperative, energy control and efficiency rank high on our list of priorities. Let’s start there. Nest (www.nest.com) cracked the smart thermostat market open a few years back. Its device connects directly to your Wi-Fi network. This connectivity allows access for temperature control and monitoring, plus simplifies software updates to fix bugs and add features. Since then, Nest has introduced a smoke and carbon monoxide detector as well as a video camera. And the company is working with others to allow their devices to work with Nests. Honeywell (lyric.honeywell.com) and Ecobee (www.ecobee.com) also offer their own lines of smart thermostats that are also controllable via apps.

Companies such as Belkin and Insteon have a wide range of products for home automation that include energy control features. Let’s look at Insteon (www.insteon.com) for a moment. It offers replacement receptacles and switches that can be controlled via its app. It also offers sensors and security devices so you can create your own home security system. Insteon’s products work with the app to send alerts, allow you to create schedules, monitor the devices and, of course, directly control them. Belkin’s entry falls under the name of WeMo (www.belkin.com/us/p/P-F7C030/) and offers similar functionality.

Aside from automating your home, there are a lot of additional things your smartphone can do. For those who are “Star Trek” fans, think of Spock’s tricorder, that marvelous device that allowed him to perform science magic on alien planets. The smartphone is bringing a tricorder to everyone who has an interest. With small attachments, you can do amazing things. Camera buffs can use the Lumu Light



The Nest thermostat connects to your Wi-Fi network to give you remote access via your smartphone, allowing you to check energy use and make adjustments when you’re on the go.

Meter (lu.mu) to calculate light conditions for precise photography. Or you can simply download the LightMeter app from Whitegoods to measure foot-candle levels wherever you desire.

For a truly Spock-esque experience, delve into the Lapka (www.mylapka.com/pem) world of Personal Environment Monitoring. With these modules and the app, you can measure organic (bacteria) levels, radiation, electromagnetic fields and relative humidity. Or, if you want to know how much heat is leaking around your windows or if that manifold on the car is cool enough to touch, you can choose between the Seek (obtain.thermal.com/category-s/1818.htm) and Flir (flir.com/flirone/atHome.cfm) offerings. Of course, these allow you the opportunity to establish your own fledgling paranormal and Bigfoot investigation unit for a fraction of the price of larger infrared gear.

Other things that can be controlled by smartphones include padlocks, glucose monitors, door locks, lightbulbs, pet monitors and more health apps than you can shake a stick at. The list is practically endless!

As you may have already guessed, the proliferation of apps means a couple of things for smartphone users. One, they are going to need more memory, and two, at some point, there will be a need to consolidate their apps to provide convenient control and monitoring. In an homage to J.R.R. Tolkien, we will need one app to control them all. An enterprising firm, Wink (www.wink.com), is already at work to consolidate home control. In the meantime, grab your smartphone, download an app or two and see how you can shape your world.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Sent to you by Gibson EMC — Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org



Gibson Electric Membership Corporation

A message from your co-op's President and CEO

Democracy at the co-op

While the national elections of last November may be fading from your memory, voting for politicians is not the only way we as co-op members can practice democracy.

Every co-op — whether it's Gibson Electric Membership Corporation, your credit union or a farm co-op — follows the basic principle of "one member, one vote." Most often you are asked to vote and elect individuals who will represent you on



Dan Rodamaker
President and CEO
Gibson EMC

the board of trustees. These men and women are your friends, neighbors and fellow residents of your community. Occasionally, you also may be asked to vote on a policy, such as a bylaw change. The bylaws are like the constitution for your co-op.

Every member in good standing of the co-op can run for the board. This is one of the key differences between a co-op member and a customer of an investor-owned utility (IOU). Most IOUs are not too interested in customers' opinions of how the company should be run.

Gibson EMC is absolutely interested in your opinion. We exist for the sole purpose of serving you, and we sincerely want to serve you well. This is why we survey our membership regularly. We especially appreciate those of you who take time to answer our survey questions when you're contacted. Your answers provide us with important direction. They help us understand what you want and need, what we're doing well and where we need to make changes.

We're thankful that you gave us an American Customer Satisfaction Index rating of 91 in our last residential member survey. This rating — the highest of large Touchstone Energy Cooperatives across the nation — earned your co-op recognition at the recent Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting. We appreciate your continued support and pledge that it only motivates us to work even harder to serve you better in 2015.

Be prepared to vote

District 5 board position open

In March, Gibson Electric Membership Corporation members in District 5 will have an opportunity to elect a representative to fill the board seat left vacant by Mr. Mack Goode, who retired in 2014. Members interested in filling this position are encouraged to read the cooperative's bylaws, paying particular attention to pages 9-18. This publication is available at www.gibsonemc.com and in any Gibson EMC member service center. From the website's home page, select "myCo-op," "Member Communication" and "Bylaws." If you are interested in running for this position, please contact Kathy Bobbitt at 731-855-4740, ext. 1411.

The member elected to fill this position will serve for one year to finish out the current unexpired three-year term. If the position is contested in 2016, there will be another election for a three-year term.

Is your membership in your name?

To be eligible to vote for a Gibson EMC trustee, a person must have a membership in his/her name. If a husband's and wife's names are both on the membership, then either can vote. If you are the person responsible for the account but your name is not on the membership/account, we encourage you to make this change now. To do so, just stop by your local member service center. There is no charge, but you will need to bring either a power of attorney or death certificate and present proof of identity (a driver's license with photo or Social Security card.) This is required for your protection.

Learn About Co-ops

It's a Matter of PRINCIPLE

The Rochdale Principles

Co-ops deliver electricity, sell produce, provide loans, and arrange for housing, health care, and more. But despite these differences, they all have one thing in common—seven cooperative principles:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training, Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

Learn more at www.go.coop.

Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World

A message from America's Electric Cooperatives



Gibson EMC offers new LED outdoor light option

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation is now offering members an energy-efficient LED outdoor lighting option. Although more costly for Gibson EMC to purchase, the LED lights will consume less energy and are expected to be less costly to maintain than the high-pressure sodium and mercury vapor lights currently used in Gibson EMC's service area.



*Charles Phillips
VP of Engineering
and Information
Technology*

Gibson EMC has been proactively replacing the least-efficient mercury

vapor lights for several months now. Members whose fixtures have been replaced will see a \$1.65 reduction in their outdoor lighting charge.

"The LED outdoor light that Gibson EMC is installing uses 60 watts, while the mercury vapor option is a 175-watt light," says Gibson EMC Vice President of Engineering and Information Technology Charles Phillips. "The LED light uses about two-thirds less energy than the replaced mercury light."

Members requesting new outdoor lighting service can choose between the 100-watt high-pressure sodium light and the more efficient 60-watt LED light for the same installation and monthly charges.

"The reduced energy and maintenance costs are expected to offset the



LED lights, above right, have more of a white to blue hue, whereas high-pressure sodium lights, above left, have a yellowish-orange color.

higher purchase price of the light, leaving the same net charge to the member," says Phillips.

The most obvious advantage of LED lighting is its proven ability to portray surroundings in "true color," which is more aesthetically pleasing than the yellowish-orange output of a high-pressure sodium light. Of course, we all win from the fact that the LED lights use less energy!

For Gibson EMC outdoor lighting pricing, call your local member service center or visit gibsonemc.com.



GIBSON EMC ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING



FOOD



ENTERTAINMENT BY
KIMBERLIE HELTON &
ERIC WOOD



PRIZES

APRIL 9, 2015 • OBION COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL • 6 p.m.





Gibson Electric Membership Corporation



Tiptonville employees who recently earned a safety award are, from left, front row, Mark Perry, Angela Dean, Ashalee Young and David Work. Back row: Jimmy Leake, Teddy Ross, Jason Mills and Charles Lamb. Not pictured is Russell Hopper.

Tiptonville employees win safety award

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's Tiptonville Member Service Center employees have been recognized for completing a full year without a lost-time accident. Tiptonville has worked 47,471 hours accident-free. This means that none of Gibson EMC's employees from the Tiptonville office missed a day of work in 2014 due to a work-related accident.

"We are extremely proud of our Tiptonville employees for this impressive accomplishment," says President and CEO Dan Rodamaker. "We truly appreciate them and their dedication to safety."

Statement of nondiscrimination

The Gibson Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, this organization is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability.

The person responsible for coordinating this compliance effort is Gibson EMC President and CEO Dan Rodamaker.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or telecommunications device for the deaf).

Both U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Gibson Electric Membership Corporation are equal-opportunity providers and employers.

Complaints must be filed within 180 days of the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



Gibson EMC well represented at TECA meeting

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation was well represented at the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA) annual meeting held in Nashville this past November. In his role as TECA's Board President, Gibson Electric Membership Corporation President and CEO Dan Rodamaker partnered with TECA General Manager David Callis in facilitating the meeting of the state's 22 electric cooperative CEOs and board members. Gibson EMC board members Steve Sanders, Don Leathers, Keith Heglar, Bob McCurdy, Tony Bargery, Rana Buchanan, Keith Forrester, Larry Hicks and Joan Mouser and attorney Jim Ryal participated in this collective review of progress and planning for the future.

Speakers included U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, who talked about the current Congress and challenges facing our nation and state. Experts John Novak and John Myers from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Tennessee Valley Authority, respectively, explained the potential impacts of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan on our state's electric grid and on our members' electric bills. Specifically, they agreed that a major challenge will be allowing nuclear plants already under construction such as TVA's Watt's Bar Unit 2 to count toward achieving Tennessee's carbon-reduction targets.

Finally, one of our own, Crockett County High School student Sarah Terry, spoke to the group of co-op leaders about her experience as a participant on the Washington Rural Electric Youth Tour and her excitement at winning a \$1,000 TECA college scholarship.

At right, Gibson EMC Youth Tour winner Sarah Terry receives a \$1,000 scholarship from TECA Director of Member Relations Todd Blocker. With Sarah is her mother, Connie.



Above, Gibson EMC President and CEO Dan Rodamaker addresses attendees at the TECA annual meeting as TECA's Board President.



Gibson EMC Member Service Representative Angela Dean, left, presents The Tennessee Magazine's 2014 Best of Tennessee grand prize to Mary Ann Holt of Tiptonville. Mary won a four-night stay at any state resort park inn, \$250 to spend while enjoying her visit and a basket of local foods from Pick Tennessee Products.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air-drying or even line-drying to save even more household energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation

We gear our lineworkers up for safety

Can you imagine working a job that requires you to lift heavy equipment and perform detailed tasks near deadly high voltage? Now imagine doing this 40 feet in the air and, sometimes, in extreme weather. This is the life of a lineworker.

These brave men answer when called — and they do so to ensure you are provided with safe, reliable electric service. But how do they stay safe when working in these conditions? Gibson Electric Membership Corporation lineworkers are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times to keep them safe when on the job.

Fire-resistant clothing. While our lineworkers do everything possible to prevent them, unexpected fires can happen. Fires typically occur with an arc flash — an explosion that results from a low-impedance connection to a ground phase in an electrical system. Fire-resistant clothing will self-extinguish, limiting burn injuries.

Insulated gloves. Lineworkers must wear insulated rubber gloves when working on any type of electrical line. These gloves provide protection against electrical shock and burn and are tested at 30,000 volts. Protective gloves, usually made of leather, are worn over the insulated gloves to protect the rubber from punctures and cuts.

Hard hat. Insulated hard hats are worn at all times to protect our lineworkers from blows and falling objects.

Boots. These heavy-duty boots are typically 16 inches tall and designed with extra support in mind. The height of the boot shields lineworkers from gouges, and serrated heels provide a better grip when climbing poles.

Safety glasses. Lineworkers must wear protective glasses whether working on electrical lines or clearing the right of way. This protects them from loose debris and other hazards.

These items make up a lineworker's basic PPE. While working on electrical lines, they also may be required to wear equipment belts, tool pouches, safety straps and other types of equipment. A lineworker's gear usually weighs about 50 pounds — that's a lot of extra weight when working in hazardous conditions.

So, the next time you see our lineworkers, be sure to thank them for keeping the lights on. But more importantly, thank them for the hard and oftentimes dangerous work they do day in and day out.



Cluttered utility poles make it more difficult and dangerous for Gibson EMC's lineworkers to safely do their job.

You can help keep our lineworkers safe, too

As you drive through most neighborhoods or along most roads, you're likely to see fliers, signs and more attached to your cooperative's electric poles. Besides being unattractive, cluttered utility poles make it more difficult and dangerous for Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's lineworkers to do their job.

Lineworkers wear "hooks" that sink into the wood as they climb up and down the poles. These hooks are vital in giving lineworkers the solid hold they must have in order to safely work on the poles and lines that carry power to homes and businesses throughout the cooperative's service area.

Lineworkers must be able to secure their hooks easily into the pole, a feat that is difficult if they must navigate around metal tacks and staples. And if a lineworker should lose his hold on the pole, he could fall and be seriously injured or even killed.

Please don't attach fliers or signs, basketball goals, birdhouses or other objects to an electric pole, and don't landscape around the bottom of a pole.

Your cooperative's lineworkers already face serious hazards as they work to provide your electric service. Please do what you can to help keep them safe.

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org

Holston Electric Cooperative

Serving more than 30,000 customers in Hawkins and Hamblen counties.

1200 W. Main St.
P.O. Box 190
Rogersville, TN 37857

423-272-8821
423-272-6811

www.holstonelectric.com

Church Hill office

Highway 11-W and
South Central Avenue
Church Hill, TN 37642
423-357-6441

Russellville office

Highway 11-E
Russellville, TN 37860

General Manager

Larry Elkins

Board of Directors

President:

Gordell Ely

Vice President:

Jeff Ringley

Secretary-Treasurer:

Melvin Greene

Phil Barrett

Dr. David Britton

David Marshall

Lynn Parker

To report an outage or electrical emergency, call 423-272-8821 or 423-235-6811 day or night.

AS I SEE IT *Manager's Viewpoint*

Transition

Mission and members are still the focus

For nearly three-quarters of a century, Holston Electric Cooperative has been providing electric service to rural residents. July 11, 2015, will mark the 75th anniversary of the first meeting of the board of directors at Holston Electric Cooperative. Throughout the years, Holston has seen progress, growth and change.

During my tenure as general manager, the dollar value of the cooperative, also known as utility plant, has increased more than 500 percent to \$93 million. Member equity, the amount of the cooperative fully paid for, has seen a 600-percent increase to \$61 million.

Holston Electric Cooperative also boasted the lowest retail rates of all 50 cooperatives in the Tennessee Valley for fiscal year 2013. It is evident our mission to provide safe, dependable electric service to our member-owners at a reasonable cost has remained our first priority. I am proud to have served as general manager for the last 30 years.

Yet, many wonder why I am still writing articles since I announced my retirement in October at our annual meeting. As the cooperative is transitioning to new management, my actual retirement date will be the first of May. Intent on having a successor in place prior to my departure, the board of directors is busy at work for the member-owners.

In fact, the process of selecting a new manager is quite an undertaking. To ensure that due diligence is properly given to a decision of such importance

to our members, the board of directors hired an executive search team in 2014 to assist with the process.

The first step was for the search team to learn about Holston Electric's company culture, history and current business objectives. The team also formulated a job description based upon expectations of the new manager, the required skill set and necessary experience.

The second action was to identify the most qualified candidates. Applicants interested in the position were assessed and narrowed down to only a select few qualified candidates. These individuals are presently

undergoing further evaluation.

A detailed summary, background check and resumé of each finalist will be given to the board of directors at Holston Electric Cooperative. The selected applicants will then be presented for consideration via private interviews. Upon the board's selection of the most viable candidate, negotiations will be initiated.

Holston Electric Cooperative has been one of the strongest electric distributors in the country for many years and it is our responsibility to our members to continue this tradition. Selection of the best candidate for a new general manager is just as important today as it was 75 years ago. The board of directors wants to ensure the integration of new management is seamless with each year forward, continuing to provide safe, dependable and affordable electric service to our members.



General Manager
Larry Elkins,
Holston Electric
Cooperative

Join Project Help

Help keep a neighbor warm

Times are tough in today's economy, and they are even more challenging for those who are already struggling due to circumstances beyond their control. No one ever really plans to be laid off from work or suffer a medical emergency, but these things happen. With so many battling financial woes, cold weather and high heating bills only make matters worse.

"November brought record lows, December officially rang in winter and January is always the hardest month for members, especially the elderly, disabled and other vulnerable customers," says Holston Electric Cooperative General Manager Larry Elkins. "We informed Holston EC members of our neighbors in need of our support in the November magazine. While thankful for the generosity of those who have contributed, we have fallen short of our goal for pledges this year. Our neighbors need our support more than ever. Anyone can help by simply signing up to add \$1 or more to his or her monthly bills to aid Project Help."

Project Help is administered by the Upper East Tennessee Human Development Agency in Hawkins County and by Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority in Hamblen County. The program provides one-time emergency energy assistance in the amount of \$100 to those who qualify. Applicants in economic crises must

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air-drying or even line-drying to save even more household energy.

meet one or more of the following requirements to be eligible: age 60 years or older, households with children under age 16 or an expectant mother, members who are temporarily or permanently handicapped to the extent they are not economically self-sufficient and those who have no other obvious resources for assistance.

"It is nearly impossible for some folks to make it through the winter without emergency assistance," Elkins added. "No one should have to make a choice between basic necessities such as food, medications, shelter and heat. Through generous contributions to Project Help, our neighbors in crisis are able to keep warm when it counts, and these donations matter to those in need."

You can sign up for Project Help quickly and easily by filling out the form below and returning it to any Holston Electric office or by simply calling 423-272-8821. The need is great, and by working together, Holston Electric Cooperative members can make a difference.

<hr/> Holston Electric Cooperative Account Number		<p>Please add the following amount to my monthly electric bill for Project Help.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 DOLLAR</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MORE THAN 1 DOLLAR</p> <p>(Please specify amount _____.)</p> <p>Project Help – Neighbors helping Neighbors</p>
<hr/> Name (as it appears on your electric bill – please print)		
<hr/> Address		
<hr/> Telephone Number		
<hr/> Signature	<hr/> Date	

Home heating:

Calculating the benefits of electricity vs. propane

By Anne Prince

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, heating and cooling account for nearly half of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most households. While few people enjoy spending money on home heating fuels, consumers are willing to pay for comfort in the form of heat.

In these colder months when the temperatures dip and the need to heat your home rises, it makes sense when trying to determine the most economical heating method to evaluate the cost per unit of heat. This is referred to as a British thermal unit (Btu).

Evaluating cost per unit of heat for propane and electricity

The Btu content per gallon of propane is 91,500 Btu. The Btu content for electricity is 3,413 Btu per kilowatt-hour (kWh). It takes 26.8 kWh to equal the Btu content of one gallon of propane.

Using the U.S. Energy Information Administration's table on residential propane and electricity rates for November 2014 — \$2.40 per gallon, excluding taxes, and 13.01 cents per kWh — we arrive at the following calculation:

$$26.8 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01\text{¢} = \$3.49$$

If we used only Btu content to determine the best energy source for home heating, it would appear that propane is less costly than electricity if the price for propane is below \$3.49 per gallon.

Comparing usable heat costs

While we may have determined the cost of the actual heat content, what matters even more is the cost of the usable heat (warmth). A low-efficiency propane furnace may have an efficiency rating of 80 percent, and a high-efficiency propane furnace may have an efficiency rating of 95 percent.

Let's assume we have a 90-percent efficient propane furnace. That means 10 percent is not converted to useable heat (warmth). Here is the math:

$$91,500 \text{ Btu} - 10\% \text{ Btu loss} = 82,350 \text{ Btu}$$

So now it only requires 24 kWh to equal the delivered Btu content of propane:

$$24 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01\text{¢} = \$3.12$$

Electric heat is 100-percent efficient

What may surprise most consumers is that the least efficient electric heating system delivers 100-percent efficient heat. Yes, electric resistance heat (i.e., space heaters, baseboard heating) is 100-percent energy-efficient. Every single Btu in a kilowatt-hour is delivered as usable heat. So if you are paying more than \$3.12 per gallon of propane for a 90-percent efficient propane furnace, it would be cheaper to use electric resistance heat.

IN COMPARISON TO OIL OR GAS FURNACES, ELECTRIC HEATING HAS MANY ADVANTAGES

Electric resistance heat

(i.e., energy-efficient space heaters, baseboard heating):



... is 100% efficient — every single Btu in a kilowatt-hour is delivered as usable heat.



... is quick to respond and can be very quiet.



... takes up less space in the house than other conventional systems (assuming space heaters are used).



... can warm select rooms, allowing you to keep your main thermostat down while ensuring continued comfort.

Electric heating systems are:



... generally less expensive to purchase and install.



... safe because there is no combustion process. There is no chance of flames starting a fire or having combustion products contaminate the air.

Are we recommending that you use electric resistance heat as your sole heating source? No. While we are proud to offer a reliable source of electricity, we don't want to empty your wallet. However, if your only choice is electric resistance heat, we are happy to share savings tips – visit our website, www.holstonelectric.com.

Pumping up efficiency

There are even more efficient electric heating systems called heat pumps. An air-source heat pump is at least 250 percent energy-efficient. How is it so efficient?

In the heating mode, heat pumps do not use electric energy to create heat; they use it to pump heat into your home through a reversal of the refrigeration process. If you have central air conditioning, you have already experienced this process in reverse when your unit pumps heat out of your home in the summer. If you have ever stood next to the outdoor components, you know the air-conditioning system is exhausting very hot air. In winter, it simply does the opposite, moving heat into your home. Air-source heat pumps are equipped with some type of auxiliary heat for those times when temperatures are near or dip below freezing. The typical backup is in the form of electric resistance heat strips, but there is also a dual-fuel propane option.

In calculating the Btu per kilowatt hour rate for a heat pump, we use this formula:

$$3,413 \text{ Btu} \times 250\% = 8532 \text{ Btu.}$$

This means that it only takes 9.65 kilowatts using an air-source heat pump to deliver the same amount of warmth as a 90-percent-efficient propane furnace.

$$9.65 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01 = \$1.25$$

The price of propane would need to drop to \$1.25 per gallon to break even with the cost of home heating using an air-source heat pump. Efficiency increases even more sharply when looking at the 350-plus percent efficiencies of a geothermal (water-source) heat pump. An additional advantage of geothermal systems is that they can be equipped to provide free water heating most of the year.

Providing reliable energy facts — regardless of fuel type

At Holston Electric Cooperative, we believe it is our responsibility to provide members with reliable energy facts — regardless of fuel type — so you can get the most from your energy dollars. We are committed to helping you find the best energy solution for your budget and lifestyle and hope you will consult with your local co-op before making any big home-heating decisions.

Electricity's advantages for home heating and hot water

While most consumers are aware of the benefits of using propane or natural gas to heat their homes, many are not aware of the value of using electricity for home heating. Here are the numerous advantages of electricity-based home heating and hot water systems that may surprise even the most energy-savvy consumers:

In comparison to oil or gas furnaces, electric heating has many advantages.

- Electric heating systems are generally less expensive to purchase and install than other systems and, on the whole, enjoy fuel cost stability.
- Electric heat is quick to respond and can be very quiet.
- Electric heat can be added on a localized basis to heat specific areas of the home, and the temperature can be controlled easily by room or by zone.
- A portable, energy-efficient electric space heater or electric baseboard heater can warm select rooms, allowing you to keep your main thermostat down while ensuring continued comfort.
- Electric heat can take up less space in the home than other conventional systems (assuming space heaters are used).
- The electric heating system is safe because there is no combustion process. There is no chance of flames starting a fire or having combustion products contaminate the air.

Choices for electric heat include:

- Energy-efficient heat pumps
- Baseboard heaters
- Portable space heaters
- Decorative fireplaces



Telephone numbers are essential

During an electrical emergency or outage, you quickly pick up your phone to call Holston Electric Cooperative. Uncertain if the outage is widespread or isolated to only your home, you want to make sure Holston is aware of the issue. While you patiently await restoration of service, you can rest assured our employees are hard at work during these types of events. Yet, there is a simple way you can help us help you.



Having any and all current telephone numbers in our system is essential. When you call in to report a power outage, our computer system will link the phone number you are calling from to the corresponding address on file to locate outages more quickly. When multiple calls come in from the same area, the system will aid Holston Electric personnel in gauging the magnitude of the outage — important information that determines the manpower and equipment to be dispatched. If Holston Electric does not have your correct phone number in our system, you will be required to enter your Holston Electric account number.

Phone numbers change often, and informing your utility distributors is often forgotten. Therefore, a cell

phone number may be linked to the account of a member who held the number years prior. In that case, the outage report for your home may not be indicated properly — possibly extending the amount of time required to restore your service.

In an effort to collect telephone numbers from all members, Holston Electric Cooperative will give away an account credit in April. To enter your name in the drawing, all you need to do is complete the form below and return it to any Holston Electric Cooperative office before March 30.

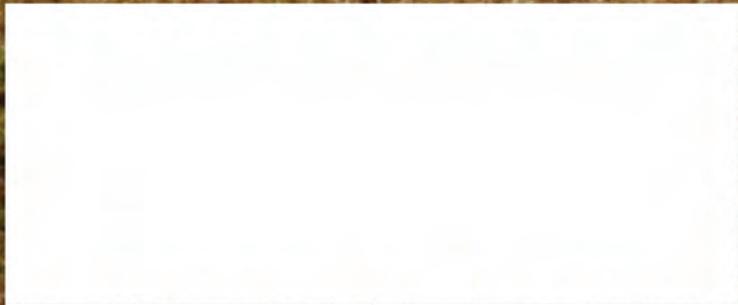
_____	_____
Holston Electric Cooperative Account Number	Cell Phone Number #1
_____	_____
Name (as it appears on your electric bill – please print)	Cell Phone Number #2
_____	_____
Address	Cell Phone Number #3
_____	_____
Home Telephone Number	Cell Phone Number #4



Mountain Electric Cooperative Edition

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org

Mountain Electric Cooperative

604 S. Church St.
Mountain City, TN 37683
423-727-1800
www.mountain.coop

Newland, N.C., office

1373 Elk Park Highway
Newland, NC 28657
828-733-0159

Roan Mountain, Tenn., office

8477 Highway 19E
Roan Mountain, TN 37687
423-772-3521

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

General Manager

Joe Thacker

Board of Directors

President —

R. Bruce Lacey (District 5)

Vice President —

George Lowe (District 2)

Secretary/Treasurer —

Joe Atwood (District 1)

Ross Dowell (District 3)

Harry Smith (District 4)

Ronnie Townson (District 6)

W.O. Hampton (District 7)

David Ellis (District 8)

AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Democratic Member Control is critical to the operation of every co-op

While the national elections of the past November may be fading from your memory, voting for politicians is not the only way we as co-op members can practice democracy.

Every co-op — whether it's Mountain Electric Cooperative, your credit union or a farm co-op — follows the basic principle of “one member, one vote.” Most often you are asked to vote and elect individuals who will represent you on the board of trustees. These folks are your friends, neighbors and fellow residents of our community. Occasionally, you may be asked to vote on a policy, such as a change to the bylaws (this is like the constitution for your co-op).

Any co-op member in good standing can run for the board. This is one of the key differences between a co-op member and a customer of an investor-owned utility (IOU). Most IOUs are not too interested in customers' opinions of how the company should be run.

Cooperatives invite participation. It's important that the interests of the members are the co-op's first and foremost obligation. Your co-op's directors and employees are local people and are concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them, too. They welcome and need your feedback to stay on top of any issues that impact you. As the electric utility industry evolves, having interested members who are willing to take an active role is critically important.

At MEC, we believe in the “Own, Use, Serve and Belong” model:

Own — This refers to each member truly believing and feeling that he or she does indeed share in the ownership of the co-op. This can come from attending the annual meeting, voting in director elections or participating in co-op programs.

Use — For electric cooperatives, this means you use the co-op's resources wisely (after all, you are an owner of those resources). You utilize one or more of MEC's programs that promote energy conservation and efficiency.

You use energy-efficient appliances, weather strip windows and doors and use compact fluorescent lamps or light-emitting diode bulbs — and you turn them off when you leave the room. Share that one with the kids!

Serve — If we are successful with “Own” and “Use,” perhaps you will feel called to serve your co-op and community — maybe as a board member, volunteer, committee member or community contributor through the co-op's Operation Pocket Change program.

Belong — We all seek to belong to something. In the early days when the co-op was just getting started, neighbors helped neighbors. While our lives seem busier and more electronically driven than ever, the need to connect and belong is necessary for us and our communities to thrive.

There is great power in the human connection, and at MEC, we strive every day to connect with our member-owners.



Joe Thacker
General Manager,
Mountain Electric
Cooperative



Prepay gives you the power to control your electric bill

As times and needs change, Mountain Electric Cooperative offers its members new technologies and choices that allow them to maximize their energy dollars and manage their electric use.

Prepay allows members to:

- Say goodbye to deposits
- Customize a payment schedule
- Buy electricity when convenient
- Monitor consumption

Prepay members:

- Never pay late fees
- Never receive paper bills

Frequently asked questions

How do I make prepay work for me?

Prepay works best for people who want to take control of their electric account and energy use.

By monitoring your consumption on a regular basis, you will begin to notice patterns in your daily use.

As you monitor your use, you will begin to see when you are using more energy and find ways to lower your electric bill. Studies have shown that participating households generally use 12 percent less electricity than they did before signing up for a prepay account.

You can make convenient payments at Mountain Electric Cooperative's office, by calling your local MEC office or online with a debit or credit card or e-check.

To find out if Prepay is right for you, call us or visit www.mountainelectric.com.

Will I receive a low-balance notification or pending disconnect notification prior to disconnection?

Yes. You will receive daily account balance notifications via text message or email. You will then be responsible for monitoring your own account balance. Electric service will be subject to disconnection, including on weekends and holidays, once the fund balance of the account reaches \$0.

How can I make a payment on my account?

Payments can be made at any MEC office during regular business hours, over the phone, or online at

www.mountainelectric.com. These payments will be reflected on your account within one hour.

Once I have replenished my fund balance, how long will it take to restore power?

If a lapse in funds occurs, please allow at least one hour for your power to be restored. If the power is not restored within two hours, please call your local office.

What fees are associated with a Prepay account?

Once the initial \$5 membership fee and \$25 connect fee have been paid to open the account, a recurring \$6 monthly administration fee will be applied to the account for participating in the Prepay program. Prepay accounts are not charged late fees or collection fees; however, normal reconnection fees do apply.

Do I have to pay a deposit?

No deposit is required to open a Prepay account. Any deposit previously paid by the member will be applied to the member's traditional account. Once all outstanding debt has been paid in full, any remaining credit will be applied to the member's Prepay account balance.

New or existing residential members can sign up at any MEC office (requires 200 amp service or smaller). A minimum of \$75 for existing members or \$108 for new members (includes \$5 membership, \$25 connection fee and \$3 credit assessment check) is required to participate. Members participating in the Energy Right Heat Pump Loan program, levelized billing or automatic bank draft are not eligible to participate.

Will I receive monthly statements?

No. Participating members will access their account information online at www.mountainelectric.com and receive daily text messages and/or emails.

How often is my account use updated?

The cooperative will bill you for your use the two days prior and deduct the bill amount from the credit on your account once daily.



Geared up for safety

By: Abby Berry

Can you imagine working a job that requires you to lift heavy equipment and perform detailed tasks near deadly high voltage? Now imagine doing this 40 feet in the air and, sometimes, in extreme weather. This is the life of a lineman.

These brave men answer when called — and they do so to ensure that you are provided with safe, reliable electric service. But how do they stay safe when working in these conditions? Mountain Electric Cooperative linemen are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times to keep them safe when on the job.

Let's take a look at a lineman's PPE:

Fire-resistant clothing. While our linemen do everything possible to prevent them, unexpected fires can happen. Fires typically occur with an arc flash — an explosion that results from a low-impedance connection to a ground phase in an electrical system. Fire-resistant clothing will self-extinguish, limiting burn injuries.

Insulated gloves. Linemen must wear insulated rubber gloves when working on any type of electrical line. These gloves provide protection against electrical shock and burn and are tested at 30,000 volts. Protective gloves, usually made of leather, are worn over the insulated gloves to protect the rubber from punctures and cuts.

Hard hat. No matter how tough or “hardheaded” our linemen are, they still need protection. Insulated hard hats are worn at all times to protect them from blows and falling objects.

Steel-toe boots. These heavy-duty boots are typically 16 inches tall and designed with extra support in mind. The height of the boot shields linemen from gouges, and serrated heels provide a better grip when climbing poles. The steel toes provide sturdier support and protect from objects that could potentially pierce the feet.

Safety goggles. Linemen must wear protective goggles or glasses whether working on electrical lines or clearing rights-of-way. This protects them from loose debris and other hazards.

These items make up a lineman's basic PPE. While working on electrical lines, linemen also may be required to wear equipment belts, tool pouches, safety straps and other types of

equipment. A lineman's gear usually weighs about 50 pounds — that's a lot of extra weight when working in hazardous conditions.

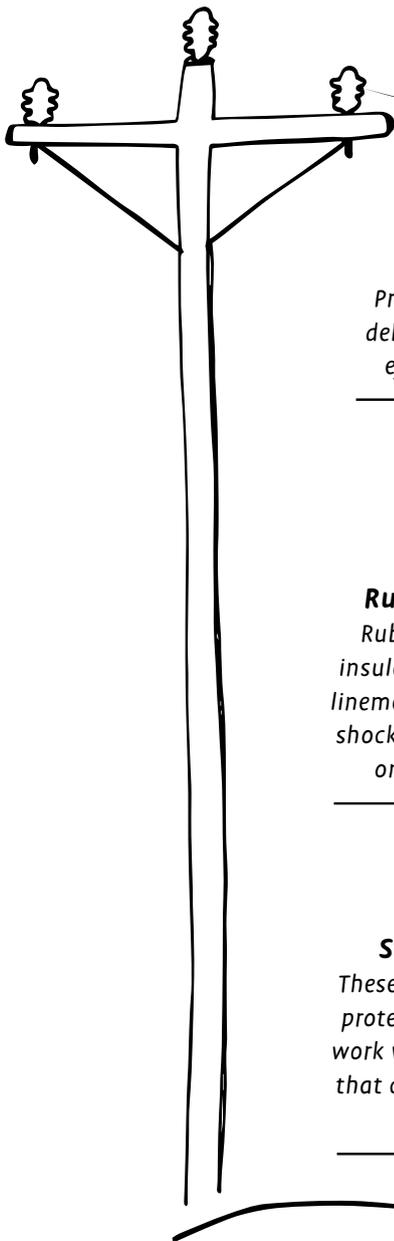
So, the next time you see a lineman, be sure to thank him for keeping the lights on. But more importantly, thank linemen for the hard — and oftentimes dangerous — work they do, day in and day out.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops.



Linemen Gear Up For Safety

Did you know electric co-op linemen wear special safety gear to protect them on the job? Complete this coloring sheet and learn how they stay safe. Remember to always look up and practice safety when playing outdoors near power lines!



Hard Hat

These hats protect linemen from potential head injuries while working on electrical lines.

Safety Goggles

Protective goggles keep debris out of a lineman's eyes while on the job.

Rubber Gloves

Rubber gloves are insulated and protect linemen from electrical shock while they work on power lines.

Flame Resistant Clothing

Electrical hazards, such as an arc flash, are a potential danger for linemen. Flame resistant clothing keeps them safe!

Steel Toe Boots

These boots provide extra protection while linemen work with heavy materials that could potentially fall near their feet.



Operation Pocket Change

It's time to apply for Operation Pocket Change Scholarships for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year. Please see your guidance counselor or pick up an application at your local Mountain Electric Cooperative office. The deadline is Tuesday, April 21.

Calendar of Events

Mountain City, Tenn.

Heritage Hall Theatre

Feb. 21 • **United Way Winter Jam Benefit Concert.**

Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. • **"Anne of Green Gables."** Tickets are \$5 per person.

For more information, call 423-727-7444.

Beech Mountain, N.C.

Beech Mountain Resort

Feb. 20-22 • **Totally '80s Retro Ski Weekend**

Feb. 28 • **Wreckless Rail Jam**

For more information, call 828-387-2011.

Sugar Mountain, N.C.

Sugar Mountain Resort

Feb. 21-22 • **United States Ski and Snowboard Association/Southern Alpine Racing Association U16-U21 and Masters Championships**

For more information, call 800-784-2768.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air-drying or even line-drying to save even more household energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Electricity's advantages for home heating and hot water

While most consumers are aware of the benefits of using propane or natural gas to heat their homes, many are not aware of the value of using electricity for home heating. Here are the numerous advantages of electricity-based home heating and hot water systems that may surprise even the most energy-savvy consumers:

In comparison to oil or gas furnaces, electric heating has many advantages.

- Electric heating systems are generally less expensive to purchase and install than other systems and, on the whole, enjoy fuel cost stability.
- Electric heat is quick to respond and can be very quiet.
- Electric heat can be added on a localized basis to heat specific areas of the home, and the temperature can be controlled easily by room or by zone.
- A portable, energy-efficient electric space heater or electric baseboard heater can warm select rooms, allowing you to keep your main thermostat down while ensuring continued comfort.
- Electric heat can take up less space in the home than other conventional systems (assuming space heaters are used).
- The electric heating system is safe because there is no combustion process. There is no chance of flames starting a fire or having combustion products contaminate the air.

Choices for electric heat include:

- Energy-efficient heat pumps
- Baseboard heaters
- Portable space heaters
- Decorative fireplaces

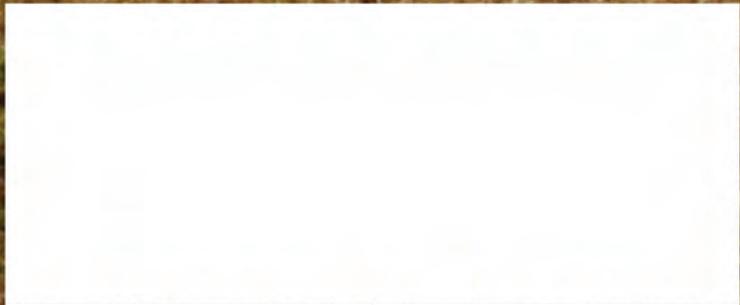
Heating contractors, electricians, home improvement stores and Mountain Electric Cooperative are good sources for information about heating with electricity. For additional information about how you can be more energy-efficient, visit our website at mountainelectric.com.



Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative — Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org



Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative

Hal Womble, President and CEO

MLEC Office Hours —
Monday through Friday,
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Hickman Office

Dwight Bates, District Manager

Phone: 931-729-3558
After Hours, Holidays, Weekends:
1-800-482-6553 (including Dyer Road)

Houston Office

Jeff Rye, District Manager

Phone: 931-289-3311
After Hours, Holidays, Weekends:
1-800-650-6814

Humphreys Office

Carl Brazzle, District Manager

Phone: 931-296-2581
After Hours, Holidays, Weekends:
1-800-893-8273

Lewis Office

Jason Graves, District Manager

Phone: 931-796-3116
After Hours, Holidays, Weekends:
1-800-256-2807

Perry Office

Derle Hill, District Manager

Phone: 931-589-2151
After Hours, Holidays, Weekends:
1-800-316-2342 (including Pleasantville)

**Featured
this month on
mlec.com**

- Geared up for safety
- Powerful smartphone apps

facebook

twitter

**Pay the easy way!
Bankdraft saves
time and money!**

AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Built to last

In the Middle Ages, two rival families agreed to a competition to build a tower in the center of their city. The family that completed its tower first would rule the city.

One clan rushed to construct its tower as rapidly as possible; the other took a more patient, methodical pace. In a short time, the first family put the finishing touches on its tower, and the members of the second family were forced to accept that their rivals had won the prize.

However, during the ceremony naming the first family rulers of the city, their tower collapsed because of its shoddy construction. When the rubble was cleared away, the city reconsidered its decision and gave authority to the family whose tower was still standing because they had built it to last.

The moral of the story could be that slow and steady gets the prize. Yet, for my purposes today, I'd say that it is to think long-term.

Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative is coming out of a year when we celebrated 75 years of service. But, hey, that doesn't mean we get a free pass from here on out. It was a cool milestone to reach, but a new day is here and looking for its own place in the history books.

Building something solid — something lasting — takes time and is often down a road with bumps, bruises, defeats, draws and victories.

Consider for a moment the two teams that will play in this year's Super Bowl. It's too early at press time to know who they are, but they would tell you that being successful starts with a goal, a game plan and the ability to rebound when setbacks happen.

Each team in the National Football League started training long before the season with dreams of reaching the Super Bowl. It actually probably started before the Seattle Seahawks were crowned champs last year.

Each season, each year, puts everyone on "fresh turf," so to speak, and requires a determination to improve and grow. Like the ultimately successful family in the little anecdote, goals, planning, evaluation and experience pay off in the long run, regardless of your arena, stadium or country road.

MLEC knows this, and it is this knowledge that keeps our eye on the horizon and the planning ongoing. Otherwise, we would not be able to meet our members' needs in terms of service, reliability and growth.

I'd like to think that we do a pretty good job on a day-to-day basis. But a substation can't be "whipped up" overnight, so we better be ready long before it is needed. Likewise, we have to be strategic in our planning to have the finances ready when investments in our distribution system are needed or new program opportunities come along for our members.

As 2015 progresses, watch for MLEC news in this publication, in your local media and on Facebook and Twitter. We aren't looking to be Super Bowl champions or rulers of a city. We are, however, looking ahead, planning for what's to come and building something that lasts for those we serve.

Good day!



Hal Womble
*President and CEO,
Meriwether Lewis
Electric Cooperative*

Hal Womble

STORMS

MLEC is prepared when storms roll through the service area

Providing electricity to Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative's 33,500 members is an around-the-clock job. MLEC employees are dedicated to lighting your lives.

We take pride in our distribution system and are continually upgrading and improving equipment to ensure safe, reliable power. However, even with advanced planning, circumstances beyond our control (such as ice, snow and thunderstorms) can sometimes cause power outages. When an unplanned outage occurs, MLEC goes into action.

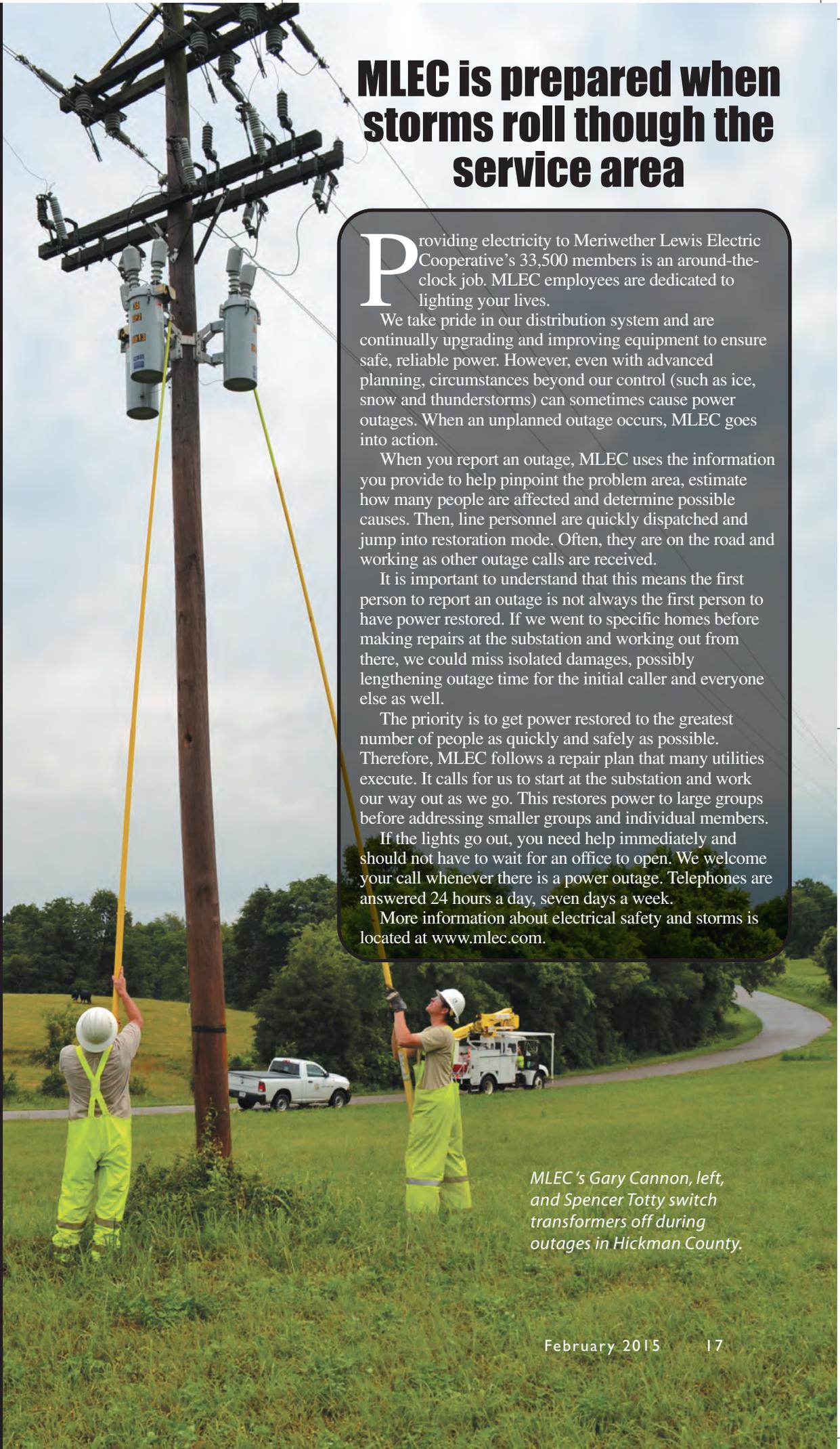
When you report an outage, MLEC uses the information you provide to help pinpoint the problem area, estimate how many people are affected and determine possible causes. Then, line personnel are quickly dispatched and jump into restoration mode. Often, they are on the road and working as other outage calls are received.

It is important to understand that this means the first person to report an outage is not always the first person to have power restored. If we went to specific homes before making repairs at the substation and working out from there, we could miss isolated damages, possibly lengthening outage time for the initial caller and everyone else as well.

The priority is to get power restored to the greatest number of people as quickly and safely as possible. Therefore, MLEC follows a repair plan that many utilities execute. It calls for us to start at the substation and work our way out as we go. This restores power to large groups before addressing smaller groups and individual members.

If the lights go out, you need help immediately and should not have to wait for an office to open. We welcome your call whenever there is a power outage. Telephones are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

More information about electrical safety and storms is located at www.mlec.com.



MLEC's Gary Cannon, left, and Spencer Totty switch transformers off during outages in Hickman County.

\$1,000 scholarship? Free trip to D.C.? Juniors: Enter MLEC's contest and win!

If you're a high school junior in the Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative service area, you could earn a spot on the 2015 Washington Youth Tour!

Interested? Write a short story titled "Electric Cooperatives: Powering Potential." The story should illustrate how electric cooperatives work to help communities and members reach their potential. Entries are due Monday, March 2, and compete only against those from their school for the trip.* The student receiving the highest score at each school will win an expense-paid spot on the 2015 Washington Youth Tour.

Wait! MLEC also awards a \$1,000 scholarship to the top boy and girl at each high school in the counties that it serves.* Additionally, MLEC's overall winner receives a \$2,000 scholarship and a chance to win up to \$3,000 more in the statewide competition.

Writing the short story is easy. All you need is some creativity and information about MLEC. Contest materials were given to students through their junior English classes and are available from MLEC.



2014 Washington Youth Tour Winners enjoy the Lincoln Memorial. From left are students Colton Singleton, Jacob Tinin, Megan Loveless and Morgan McKissack; teacher Darrell Battles; students Brittany Hatley and Hannah McGee; MLEC's Dawn Orton; and student Trey Cook.

* Each scholarship winner must reside with an MLEC member. Home-schooled students are eligible and will be grouped with the schools they would attend if enrolled in public school.

Meet your MLEC board

Second in a series

Houston County members are represented on the Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative board by Sam Fussell and Cass Rye. Combined, they have 37 years of service under their belts and deep roots in the county, a desire to serve their neighbors, and a strong tie to their families.

First elected to the MLEC board in 1993, Fussell is a farmer and building contractor. He and wife Judy make their home in Erin. They have two children and five grandchildren.

"Being on the MLEC board and helping our local members are very important

to me," says Fussell. "When they have questions and come to me, it feels good to be able to help."

It was 1998 when Rye was elected to the MLEC board. He and wife Jenny also live in Erin, where he works for

Rye Engineering. He enjoys raising cattle, spending time with his three sons and keeping his six grandchildren.

"Trying to help our members is my main goal," says Rye about his position on the MLEC board. "As a group, we work for the employees and the members."



Houston County board members Cass Rye, left, and Sam Fussell

Ornament Contest Winners

A banquet was held Dec. 12, to honor Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative's annual ornament contest winners and their families.

In the annual contest, students use their creativity to design and make Christmas ornaments. Then, a committee of MLEC employees judges the ornaments and selects winners. A first-place winner for three grade divisions is recognized in each county served by MLEC, and each receives a \$50 gift card. Then, a drawing is held at the banquet for one family to receive a family entertainment package that includes a video game console and games, board games, movies and a personal DVD player. This year's winner was Tristan Whitlatch of Hickman County.



2014 Ornament Contest winners are, from left, front row, Anna Tomlinson, Eve Duncan, Casen Himes and Tristan Whitlatch. Middle: Ethan Tomlinson, Sierra Scantlin, Alyvia Breece, Miah Rochelle and Karly Martin. Back: Jayden DePriest, Cheyenne Morris, Adria Hicks, Ashley Gordo, and Hannah Edwards.

K-2 Grade Winners:

Tristan Whitlatch, Hickman County
 Anna Tomlinson, Houston County
 Sierra Scantlin, Humphreys County
 Casen Himes, Lewis County
 Eve Duncan, Perry County

3-5 Grade Winners:

Karly Martin, Hickman County
 Ethan Tomlinson, Houston County
 Miah Rochelle, Humphreys County
 Alyvia Breece, Lewis County
 Jayden DePriest, Perry County

6-8 Grade Winners:

Ashley Gordon, Hickman County
 Hannah Edwards, Houston County
 Adria Hicks, Humphreys County
 Cheyenne Morris, Perry County

Co-op Connections

Are you a business owner in Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lewis or Perry County? We want YOU to join our Co-op Connections Card program, which allows Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative members to obtain discounts from local businesses. MLEC, in turn, will advertise your business in *The Tennessee Magazine* and on our Facebook page and website. To see a complete list of Co-op Connections businesses, check out mlec.com or email power@mlec.com for details!



MyUSAGE.COM

Powers Awareness



Why wait for a monthly statement? Track your use daily! Interested? It's FREE! Visit mlec.com for details.

Ole Timers Water Heater Contest winner

In the June 2014 issue of *The Tennessean Magazine*, Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative announced the Ole Timers Water Heater Contest in honor of its 75th birthday to give a brand new heat pump water heater to the member who owned the oldest water heater meeting contest guidelines. Members from across the five-county service territory submitted contest forms.

Sanders James, an MLEC member from McEwen, was chosen as the winner of MLEC's Ole Timers Water Heater Contest with his 38-year-old water heater.

"Mr. James didn't have the oldest water heater in the service area, but he did have the oldest one meeting all the contest criteria for replacement with the heat pump water heater," said MLEC Energy Specialist Gene Hale.

"The basement or garage is the recommended place for these units," said Hale. "Mr. James has his water heater in the basement of his home, so it was a good candidate for the replacement program."

As far as energy efficiency goes, the new water heater is saving James money on his electric bills. MLEC recorded use by James' old unit before installing the new heat pump water heater. Then, we tracked use on the new unit for a comparison.

Heat pump water heaters use heat from the outside to heat water and are much more energy-efficient than their older counterparts. While they won't work in every application, they are worth a closer look when you need to replace your water heater. They are more expensive on the purchase end, but you recover the extra cost in lower monthly energy dollars spent on water heating.

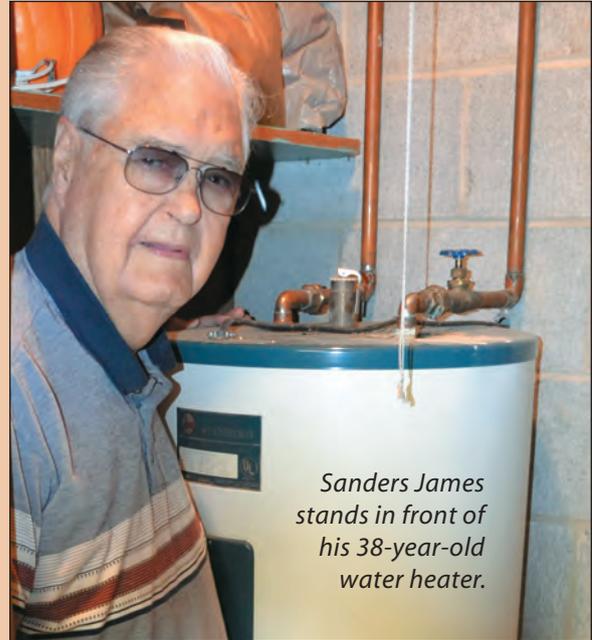
"Gene was easy to work with and one of the finest men I've met," says James. "He kept me up-to-date and informed throughout the whole process."

Visit www.mlec.com for more information about MLEC's energy programs.

**Water heater energy savings:
\$5 a month — \$60 a year**

Old water heater:
\$13 per month

New water heater:
\$8 per month



Sanders James stands in front of his 38-year-old water heater.



Sanders James is all smiles as he stands in front of the new water heater he won from MLEC.



The Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation — Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org



AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Educating the membership

As an electric cooperative, we want you to know who we are, what we do and why we do it. Just as importantly, we want you to know who you are as a member. You are not merely a customer ... you are part of the cooperative.

That's why education is a fundamentally important part of who we are. There are seven cooperative principles we abide by, and the fifth says we will "provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. Co-ops inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation."

We seek to live out Cooperative Principle No. 5 through our various school programs and community involvement ... and through communications channels like *The Tennessee Magazine*.

We've always been proud of our efforts in local schools. We proactively engage with schools to educate students on the importance of electricity, electrical safety, and the do's and don'ts of planting trees and vegetation around power lines. We participate in career and reality fairs at a number of schools. These experiences aim to provide students with options for how they might earn a living, how to budget and how financial decisions affect everyday life. We also educate students about how their governments operate and how a cooperative works.

In the pages of this month's magazine, you'll read more about some of our education programs as well as get to meet our community relations coordinator, Cathy Mitchell. Her commitment to the



Chris Jones
President,
Middle Tennessee
Electric
Membership
Corporation

students and communities across the Middle Tennessee EMC service territory is unmatched.

While these education plans in the schools are vital to our future members' understanding of the benefits of a cooperative, we also take steps to keep our current membership informed on ways to conserve energy and ultimately save money.

As a quick final note in the spirit of education (and saving energy and money) ... last month, with help from the Tennessee Valley Authority, we launched a new energy evaluation program called eScore. This project improves the previous In-Home Energy Evaluation and contains a number of savings opportunities for members. Be sure to check out our website, www.mtemc.com, and click on the eScore link. Or call us for details.



Community help agencies

Middle Tennessee Electric cares about the communities it serves and, through Customers Care Inc., has partnered with local agencies to offer assistance in times of need.

Here is a list of agencies in each county offering services through the program:

■ **Williamson County:** Graceworks Ministries; 104 S.E. Parkway, Franklin, TN 37064; 615-794-9055.

■ **Rutherford County:** Community Helpers of Rutherford County; 1020 N. Highland, Murfreesboro, TN 37129; 615-898-0617.

■ **Wilson County:** Wilson County Community Help Center; 203 W. High St., Lebanon, TN 37087; 615-449-1856.

■ **Cannon County:** Cannon County Senior Citizens Center; 609 Lehman St., Woodbury, TN 37190; 615-563-5304.

For more information on Customers Care, log on to www.mtemc.com.

'Tis the season for ...

Holiday Photo Contest winners

Middle Tennessee Electric held its second Holiday Photo Contest on the co-op's Facebook page in December. The submitted 44 entries received a combined 702 votes cast by visitors to the page. Participants submitting the winning pictures received gift cards to Amazon: \$50 for first, \$30 for second and \$20 for third.

For more contests, visit our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MiddleTennesseeElectric.



The first-place winner of the 2014 MTEMC Holiday Photo Contest was Bonita McWhorter, who received 158 votes for her photo: "My favorite memory with all my siblings at Christmas!"



ABOVE: The second-place winner was Cody McLaughlin's "Guitar Christmas Spectacular," which received 129 votes. RIGHT: Third place went to Teresa Lutton's "Decoration of the Tree" photo with 106 votes.



MTEMC steps into



MTEMC's Jenny Taylor, left, and Brad Walker, right, receive some help from Grant Taylor and Ashtyn Walker during a safety presentation at Eagleville Elementary.



MTEMC's Travis Sharber and Daniel Riggs explain to a group of students from Bradley Academy in Murfreesboro some of the safety precautions linemen take.

Career Days are presented to kindergarten through high school students to introduce them to career opportunities at Middle Tennessee EMC. Through presentations and hands-on activities, the goal is to get students engaged in what it takes to learn a skill, education requirements, and the role of teamwork.

Career Days

The presentations are particularly useful for the students' understanding of the relevance of their studies as

they learn about the practical applications at the cooperative.

Students are typically surprised to learn about the variety of different career paths available at the cooperative as well as all of the education requirements ranging from a high school diploma to advanced degrees.



MTEMC Community Relations Coordinator Cathy Mitchell teaches the Tree Wise program at a local elementary school.



Tree Wise is an education effort for elementary students on vegetation management near power lines and the importance of trees to the environment. This opportunity aims to teach students why it's important to never plant trees near power lines, which can disrupt service and lead to possible tree removal. It also talks about safety risks of climbing trees under or near the lines.

Classroom activities and discussions on how to transport, plant and care for trees are provided along with a sapling for each student to take home. It's the hope of MTEMC that the program will teach students why it's so important to plant trees in the right place.

classrooms to educate

Reality Fairs

Middle Tennessee EMC participates in reality fairs aimed at teaching fourth- and fifth-grade students to budget income for their life expenses. The program mimics real-life household expenditures and encourages students to become financially aware of their decisions.

MTEMC provides electric bills for the residences “purchased” by students during the simulation and advises them on energy conservation and billing options. After the exercise, students typically comment on just how hard it is to make ends meet and how they have a new attitude about what their parents do in providing for their families.



MTEMC Community Relations Coordinator Cathy Mitchell interacts with a student during a reality fair.

Cathy Mitchell:

Your community relations coordinator

What is the role of the community relations coordinator at MTEMC?

Positive community impact is a fundamental goal of Middle Tennessee Electric. As the community relations coordinator, my focus is seeing that goal realized.

Why is it important to be involved in our schools?

Thanks to the wonderful teachers in our community, I get a chance to

make a positive impact on our youth. Through demonstrations and activities, I can introduce ways to help students apply what they have learned and encourage them to continue the learning process. Through these programs, I am able to ensure MTEMC is a part of their life experiences.

What is the most important thing you convey to students?

I tell students all the time to believe in themselves, and they'll be

able to accomplish anything. I want them to know there are people who care about them at home, school and in the community, and we are committed to helping them succeed.

What is the biggest measure of success in your programs?

The success of these programs is measured by the impact they have on the life of a member. Whether the information they learn during a safety demonstration saves a life or energy-saving tips lower their bill, making a difference is success.

What is the one story that sticks out the most?

Without taking away from the amazing stories I've been blessed to be a part of, one stands out as a success of our programs.

A valedictorian at a high school was interviewed by the local paper and asked what she believed to be her best high school experience. She replied that being a part of the group on the Washington Youth Tour allowed her to see outside the walls of her school.

Stories like that demonstrate we are on the right track with our programs.



MTEMC Community Relations Coordinator Cathy Mitchell speaks to Elijah Robotham during a Career Day at Centennial High School.

Mercy Healthcare receives \$10,000 donation

Middle Tennessee Electric's Customers Care has donated \$10,000 of its Operation Round Up funds to Mercy Community Healthcare.

"Thank you to our neighbors who contribute to MTE Customers Care for this very generous gift to Mercy," said CEO David Winningham. "This gift will provide medical care for dozens of families in Williamson County who might otherwise go without."

Mercy Community Healthcare is a comprehensive medical practice serving families in the MTEMC service area and other counties in Tennessee with basic primary care, chronic disease management and mental health services regardless of their socio-economic status; no one is turned away for their inability to pay.

In 2014, Customers Care gave \$804,393 to 120 organizations across MTEMC's four-county service area. The receiving organizations used the funds to assist MTEMC members and their families in their times of need.

These grants are administered through the Customers Care board, which tracks incoming contributions from Operation Round Up, an initiative that rounds up members' bills to the next highest dollar. Since 2003, Operation Round Up has dis-



From left are Mercy Community Healthcare CEO David Winningham, CFO Rhonda Sizemore, Chief Care Coordination Officer Dorothy Bullard, Chief Behavioral Health Officer Jonathan Boye and Marketing and Development Coordinator Tracie Dycus.

tributed more than \$7.5 million to 545 organizations across the region.

For more information on Operation Round Up, visit our website at www.mtemc.com/customerscare



December 2014 grants

The following organizations received grants from the MTE Customers Care Foundation in December:

Jesus Helping Hands — Rutherford — \$10,000

Special Kids — Rutherford — \$5,000

Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee — Multidistrict — \$5,000

The Family Center — Rutherford — \$5,000

YMCA/ABC Program — Rutherford — \$5,000

Uncle Dave Macon Days — Rutherford — \$5,000

21st Drug Court — Williamson — \$10,000

Mercy Community Healthcare — Williamson — \$10,000

Gentry Education Foundation — Williamson — \$10,000

SCV — Sam Davis Camp — Williamson — \$2,500

Wilson County Civic League — Wilson — \$700

Country K-9 Rescue Inc. — Wilson — \$5,600

Prospect Inc. — Wilson — \$8,000
Total — \$81,800.00

Middle Tennessee Electric Customers Care Statement of Finances

	ROUND UP	Rutherford	Williamson	Wilson	Cannon	Total
	Beginning balance	\$42,021.89	\$44,079.86	\$106,185.52	\$8,154.38	\$200,441.65
	Donations (incoming)					
	November 2014	\$21,973.06	\$29,933.53	\$19,284.05	\$2,298.65	\$73,489.29
	November funds available	\$63,994.95	\$74,013.39	\$125,469.57	\$10,453.03	\$273,930.94
	Grants (outgoing)					
	December 2014	\$35,000.00	\$32,500.00	\$14,300.00	\$0	\$81,800.00
	*Ending balance	\$28,994.95	\$41,513.39	\$111,169.57	\$10,453.03	\$192,130.94

*Ending balance is awaiting future grant applications.

Pickwick Electric Cooperative Edition

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org

*Pickwick Electric
Cooperative*



*Serving members
in all of McNairy County
and portions of Chester,
Hardeman and Hardin
counties in Tennessee and
Alcorn and Tishomingo
counties in Mississippi*



**672 Highway 142
P.O. Box 49
Selmer, TN 38375**

Phone Numbers:
731-645-3411
731-632-3333
1-800-372-8258
Outage Hotline:
1-866-260-4025

Website:
www.pickwickec.com

**These five pages
contain local news
and information
for members of
Pickwick Electric
Cooperative.**

AS I SEE IT

President's Viewpoint

Cold weather drives up bills

As I am writing this, it is the middle of December, and I am trying to anticipate what February will bring. The holidays will be over, and we will have returned to our normal, everyday lives. For most of us, we will be looking at our bank accounts and credit card bills as we try to recover from all of the extra spending the holidays bring.

Don't get me wrong; we wouldn't change that for anything.

This doesn't sound like the best time to have our highest electric bills of the year, does it? The problem is, Mother Nature seldom cooperates. January and February bills are often the highest of the year. The cold weather we see during this time of year tends to drive bills higher.

In January 2014, the average residential use was 1,948 kilowatt-hours. That is more than twice the average use from May 2014.

As you open your bills for January and February, take a look at the

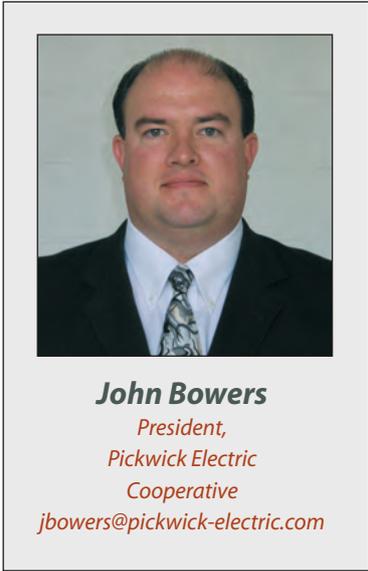
"Compare Your Usage" section in the lower right corner. In this area, you can compare your current use with your use from the same month last year.

If your current bill seems out of line, give us a call. We'll be happy to

look at it for you. We can also discuss ways to help you reduce your use.

This is a service we offer to all of our members.

As always, it is our goal to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.



John Bowers

*President,
Pickwick Electric
Cooperative
jbowers@pickwick-electric.com*

Holiday Closing

PEC will be closed on Monday, Feb. 16, in observance of Presidents Day. Standby crews are available should you have an emergency. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

New technologies will make electric grid faster, better, smarter

You might not notice when you plug in your toaster or your iron, but the nation's electric grid is undergoing a revolution — a digital revolution. Recent advances in technology are transforming how we make and move electricity, and over time, these changes will greatly improve the efficiency and reliability of electric power.

Rural electric co-ops have been helping lay the groundwork for this transformation with a \$68 million “smart grid” research project funded in part by the Department of Energy. A group of 23 co-ops in 12 states deployed an array of new technologies and installed more than 270,000 pieces of equipment.

Four years later, we have a better understanding of how we can move forward to modernize our electric system. Despite the relatively small size of most electric co-ops, we are adopting these new technologies at a faster rate than the larger utilities — in part because we stand to gain more.

Serving rural areas brings special challenges. Co-op service territories cover 75 percent of the nation's landmass, and co-ops serve some of the country's most rugged and remote regions. New automation software, however, can minimize these difficulties by enabling utilities to manage parts of their systems remotely, saving the co-ops — and their members — a lot of money.

Here are some of the benefits these upgrades will offer our member-owners:

Reliability. New digital meters can send information about outages back to a co-op's operations center. Armed with this information, linemen won't have to spend nearly as much time looking for the cause of an outage, and restoration times will decrease.

In addition, new “smart feeder switching” can enable co-ops to reroute power during certain outages,



thereby minimizing the number of members who lose power.

Efficiency. Digital meters can provide consumers with new data about their energy use. Consumers have discovered broken appliances, safety hazards and other problems using data supplied by their meters. More frequently, however, the data gives consumers a better idea of how they are using electricity — and how they can lower their bills.

Digital meters can send electric use data to the co-op, eliminating the need for meter reading, which saves money and also improves consistency and accuracy in billing. New technologies can help the co-op reduce the amount of electricity lost in transmission.

In the longer term, smart grid technology will change how we use electricity. Armed with more information, consumers will have more control. They will be able to generate and store their own electricity and use that electricity more efficiently!

So in the future, when you use your phone to see if you remembered to turn off your iron, remember that your electric co-op helped bring about the revolution that made this feat possible.

Geared up for safety

By Abby Berry

Can you imagine working a job that requires you to lift heavy equipment and perform detailed tasks near deadly high voltage? Now imagine doing this 40 feet in the air and, sometimes, in extreme weather. This is the life of a lineman.

These brave men answer when called — and they do so to ensure that you are provided with safe, reliable electric service. But how do they stay safe when working in these conditions? Pickwick Electric Cooperative linemen are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times to keep them safe when on the job.

Let's take a look at a lineman's PPE:

Fire-resistant clothing. While our linemen do everything possible to prevent them, unexpected fires can happen. Fires typically occur with an arc flash — an explosion that results from a low-impedance connection to a ground phase in an electrical system. Fire-resistant clothing will self-extinguish, limiting burn injuries.

Insulated gloves. Linemen must wear insulated rubber gloves when working on any type of electrical line. These gloves provide protection against electrical shock and burn and are tested at 30,000 volts. Protective gloves, usually made of leather, are worn over the insulated gloves to protect the rubber from punctures and cuts.

Hard hat. No matter how tough or “hardheaded” our linemen are, they still need protection. Insulated hard hats are worn at all times to protect them from blows and falling objects.

Lineman boots. These heavy-duty boots are typically 16 inches tall and designed with extra support in mind. The height of the boot shields linemen from gouges, and serrated heels provide a better grip when climbing poles.



Meet the Pickwick Electric Cooperative line crew. Above, from left are linemen Tim Jones, Logan Doyle, Tony Smith, Justin Shirley and David Tacker. Below, from left are apprentice linemen Keith Wilson, Jordan Hurley, Wes Dotson, Chase Gunn, Michael Graber, Joseph Reed and Kyle McMahan.



Safety goggles. Linemen must wear protective goggles or glasses whether working on electrical lines or clearing rights-of-way. This protects them from loose debris and other hazards.

These items make up a lineman's basic PPE. While working on electrical lines, linemen also may be required to wear equipment belts, tool pouches, safety straps and other types of equipment. A lineman's gear usually weighs about 50 pounds — that's a lot of extra weight when working in hazardous conditions.

So, the next time you see a lineman, be sure to thank him for keeping the lights on. But more importantly, thank linemen for the hard — and oftentimes dangerous — work they do, day in and day out.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Cossey and Nixon assume new positions

Matthew Cossey and Ronny Nixon, each of whom joined Pickwick Electric Cooperative in February 2014 as laborers, recently earned new titles and job responsibilities. Following recent promotions, each is now a right-of-way man.

Matthew, a Hardin County High School graduate, attended Jackson State Community College. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and playing music.

Ronny graduated from McNairy Central High School and also attended Jackson State Community College. His favorite activities include hunting, fishing and “all types of sports.” Ronny and his wife, Amber, live in Selmer.



Matthew Cossey



Ronny Nixon

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month



Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air-drying or even line-drying to save even more household energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Cooperative appreciates cards

Pickwick Electric Cooperative would like to express sincere thanks for the wonderful holiday greeting cards from these cooperative members and friends.

Carl and Virginia Crabb	Middle Tennessee Electric	Lands' End
City of Michie mayor,	Membership Corporation	Don and Novella Smith
aldermen and employees	ProTech Systems Group Inc.	Younger Associates
Alcorn County Electric Power	Fisher Arnold Inc.	Florida Transformer Inc.
Association	Mountain Electric Cooperative	Humboldt Utilities
Desoto Treated Materials Inc.	Cumberland Electric	Gerald and Barbara Sanders
Gibson Electric Membership	Membership Corporation	United Utility Supply
Corporation	Plateau Electric Cooperative	James and Jean Martin
Upper Cumberland Electric	Mitchell McNut & Sams	The Bedfords
Membership Corporation	Ty W. Hanell	Smith Bail Bonds
Better Source Supply	Fort Loudoun Electric	Frankie Smith
Southwest Tennessee Electric	Cooperative	McNairy Regional Alliance
Membership Corporation	Powell Valley Electric	Jimmy and Mildred Churchwell
Tennessee Valley Electric	Cooperative	Ann Page Harrison
Cooperative	Volunteer Energy Cooperative	Sherry Williams
Milner Technologies Inc.	Caney Fork Electric Cooperative	Kreyma Newell
Patterson & Dewar	Duck River Electric Membership	Tennessee Electric Cooperative
Engineers Inc.	Corporation	Association
Thida Whirley	Meriwether Lewis Electric	G & K Services
Willoughby Inc.	Cooperative	Mary Beth Akin
Zona McAfee	Jane Taylor	Hattie Baker
Pennyrile Electric	Jeannie Sloan	Shawn Smith
Tri-County Electric	David Hatch	Karl Dudley
National Rural Electric	MidSouth Utility Consultants LLC	Federated Rural Electric
Cooperative Association	Office Interiors	Insurance Exchange
Service Electric Company	Hollingsworth Locksmith Service	Ernest and Dianne Clark
Middle Tennessee Natural Gas	Long Lewis Ford Lincoln of	Eddie Rowland
Lexington Electric System	Corinth Inc.	Clark and Elacey Massengill
Ruffin and Associates	TLM Associates	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Babiec
The youth and staff of	Frankie Henry	Terry and Anne Abernathy
Youth Town	Farmers Electric Cooperative	Holston Electric Cooperative Inc.
Delarise Mullins	Walter Haynes	Irving Meek Jr. Library
Chickasaw Electric Cooperative	Cooperative Response Center Inc.	Stan and Delana O'Neal
Doug Fiero and family	Jackson Energy Authority	CoBank
Torco Testing Services Inc.	EPB Chattanooga	4-Way Electric Services LLC
Allen & Hoshall	IBEW Local 474	Mr. and Mrs. Harold Huggins

Plateau Electric Cooperative Edition

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org



Plateau Electric Cooperative

16200 Scott Highway
P.O. Box 4669
Oneida, TN 37841

CEO/General Manager
Dave Cross

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Oneida Office
Phone: 569-8591

Wartburg Office
Phone: 346-3699

Board of Directors
Jim Litton, President

Tim Freels, Vice President

Bill Hall, Secretary

Mark Kline, Treasurer

Lee Armstrong, Scott County

Brian Boyatt, Scott County

Vic Davis, Morgan County

Harry Gosnell, Morgan County

Steve Lambert, Scott County

**To report an outage
or electrical emergency, call:**

Scott County: 569-8591
Morgan County: 346-3699



AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Life can change quickly

In January 2002, my family and a handful of neighborhood boys built the largest snowman I've ever been personally associated with. Upon its completion, my family and I posed for a really nice photograph with the snowman in the background. The children were all younger then and all smiles that day, so the photograph reminds me of a simpler time in my family's journey together. However, that photograph also reminds me of one of the most difficult episodes my wife, Cheryl, and I have ever experienced.



Dave Cross
CEO,
Plateau Electric
Cooperative

Later that evening, after we'd all had an opportunity to come in and put on some dry clothes, Cheryl prepared a kettle of her great potato soup. In preparing the soup, she used a fairly new paring knife that I had found at a "deal" of only 3 or 4 bucks. Just a few minutes after supper, our son Benjamin, who had only turned 2 in September, apparently picked up the razor-sharp paring knife from among the utensils in the dishwasher and proceeded to run through the house circling through the kitchen, dining room and living room and back into the kitchen again.

You're probably already cringing, thinking of what might happen next, and probably also thinking what kind of parents would let their child be so unsupervised. But with six children, I'd be less than honest if I didn't confess that there was a lot of activity in our house back in those days, and it was difficult to keep up with all of it. Let's just say that it wasn't the first time that one of the kids ran in the house, and, honestly, Ben wasn't really that fast.

After about the second lap, apparently Benjamin decided to end his race by running into a leather recliner that was in the living room. Unfortunately, he did so while holding the paring knife with the blade turned toward his abdomen.

I think I was sitting in the living room when I heard Cheryl scream. From the kitchen, she had heard Ben cry out as he raised his shirt, and running to his side, she saw first the wound to his stomach and then the knife on the floor. The knife had a blade that was only about 3 inches long, but at 2 years old, Ben was only about 4

inches thick. It had entered his upper abdomen, and my first thoughts as I quickly examined the wound was that it had likely pierced his liver and that he might bleed to death within a matter of minutes.

The next few minutes were almost like a dream as we quickly had to calm the kids and load Benjamin into my little Mazda four-wheel-drive pickup truck. We had called 911 and had made arrangements to meet an ambulance on Highway 27 in the Robbins area. With roughly 6 inches of snow on the ground, I tried to drive carefully but quickly from up on the Ridge Road down to Robbins. We were escorted by a Scott County Sheriff's cruiser manned by Donnie Phillips, now Scott County's circuit court clerk, and by Garrett Litton, who was the 2nd District constable. I had left home with less than \$10 in my pocket, but Donnie and Garrett tossed \$120 into the cab of my pickup without my saying anything.

We handed little Benjamin over to the Scott County Ambulance Service,

who already had a Lifestar helicopter en route to the Scott County Hospital, and Cheryl and I raced to University of Tennessee Medical Center. The trip toward Knoxville was terrible. We didn't know when we left Scott County if we would ever see Benjamin alive again. We talked just a bit, and we prayed fervently for our son the entire trip.



To make a long story short, after performing emergency exploratory surgery, the surgeons discovered that the knife had "miraculously" done no internal damage. Our prayers were answered, and Ben carries a scar on his stomach to remind us of that day's events.

What started out as a great family day quickly changed to a near-nightmare situation. I'd like to say that I've been the model dad ever since that day and that I've fully appreciated the blessings of God on my family since that day, but you'd know better.

I can tell you this, however: Enjoy your family, enjoy your children and grandchildren. But don't take today's blessings for granted.

— Dave

Technology college announces new preapprentice program

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Oneida/Huntsville is pleased to announce the start of the Power Line Construction & Maintenance program. The eight-month class will be taught at the Oneida Extension campus at 180 Eli Lane by Marvin Carlton, a journeyman lineman who began his career in Fort Wayne, Ind., in 1970 and since 1978 has worked at the K-25 Complex in Oak Ridge.

Anyone interested in enrolling in this program needs to enjoy working outside and in all weather conditions. Being a lineman opens job opportunities for individuals not only in Scott, Morgan and Fentress counties but also throughout the country.

This program will help prepare an individual for an apprenticeship program in the power line industry. Anyone interested in enrolling should contact Student Services Coordinator Tim Smith at 423-669-4900 or visit the website www.tcatoneida.edu.

Report from the boardroom

We hope you find this report on recent discussions and decisions from Plateau Electric Cooperative's board of directors both informative and helpful in your better understanding the operation of your cooperative.

At the November regular board meeting, PEC CEO Dave Cross gave the board an update on the search for a site for the relocation of the Morgan County pole yard. A committee of directors had met with management on two occasions to review potential locations. Cross and engineer Joel McCartt presented to the board a proposed policy, "Interconnection Procedures for Distributed Generation," that had been jointly developed by the management staff, consulting engineers Patterson & Dewar and attorney Sid Seals. The proposed policy was adopted by the board. The audit of Operation Pocket Change was presented and discussed with the board. There were no findings. It was discussed that good progress was being made on the digitized mapping project.

At a special December board meeting, the board authorized Cross to submit a bid on the purchase of a 3.7-acre tract of land belonging to the city of Wartburg for the

purpose of relocating the cooperative's existing Morgan County pole yard. It was discussed that this would not only be a safer location than the current site adjacent to the Wartburg substation but that the proposed site would also provide much-needed space for the Morgan County district office.

At the December regular board meeting, Joel McCartt and Jonathan Orick discussed the status of the digitized mapping project, reporting that approximately 14 percent of the project had now been completed. Cross reported on the results of the Dec. 15 bid opening for the 3.7-acre tract of land that had been identified as the best site for the relocation of the Morgan County pole yard. Cross gave an update on the Tennessee Valley Authority's revision of the Service Practice Standards, discussing that the management staff would be presenting proposed revisions to several of the cooperative's policies as a result of TVA's new requirements. Cross informed the board that Ryan Keeton had been hired as the cooperative's new chief financial officer and that he would begin his employment on Jan. 5.

Nondiscrimination statement

Plateau Electric Cooperative is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and, where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) People with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.

Excerpts from Article IV of the cooperative's bylaws regarding the qualification, nomination and election of the board of directors

“Directors shall be so nominated and elected that one director from Oneida, one from the remainder of Scott County and one from Morgan County shall be elected for three (3) year terms at each annual Directors' Election. At each annual election, directors shall be elected to succeed those directors whose terms shall have expired or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified, subject to the provisions of these bylaws with respect to the removal of directors.

“No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the cooperative who is a close relative in a degree in kinship closer than third degree, as defined in Section 4.10 of these Bylaws, to an incumbent director or employee of the Cooperative. (Section 4.10 excerpt: ‘As used in these Bylaws, “close relative” means a person who, by blood or in law, including step-, half- and adoptive kin, is either a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew, niece, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law or daughter-in-law of the principal’).

“No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative who is not a member of the Cooperative and receiving service therefrom at his primary residential abode; or who is not at least eighteen

(18) years of age or in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise, or a business selling electric energy.

“Additionally, no person shall be eligible to become a director of the Cooperative who has not been a member of the Cooperative at his primary residential abode for a period of at least one (1) year.

“The election of directors as prescribed by Article IV, Section 4.01, hereof shall be conducted so that the directors to be chosen from Morgan County shall be voted upon and elected by members residing in Morgan County only; in like manner, directors to be chosen from the Town of Oneida and Scott County shall be voted upon and elected by members residing in Scott County, Tenn., generally. The eligibility of a member to vote for a director from a given area shall be determined by a member's residence. A member may have only one residence, which shall be construed to mean that place which he lives and is domiciled within the meaning of the law.

“The election as hereinbefore provided and as hereinafter provided shall be held on the third Saturday in May of each year and shall be conducted by secret ballot. A membership name may be placed upon the official ballot by a qualifying petition containing the names of at least ten (10) members in good standing of the Cooperative residing in the area from which the di-

rector is to be selected. Said petition shall be filed with the Secretary of the incumbent Board of Directors on or before 4 p.m. local time the fourth Friday in April of each year preceding the annual May election; PROVIDED that should the board of directors fix a different date for the annual meeting and adjourned session (Directors' Election), the deadline that the petition shall be filed shall likewise be adjusted to an earlier or later date, the same number of days as the annual meeting date; AND PROVIDED FURTHER, should the deadline be so adjusted it shall be publicized in all local newspapers in the cooperative's service area at least fourteen (14) days prior to the new deadline. The petition shall be generally in the following form:

“We, the undersigned members of Plateau Electric Cooperative residing in _____, nominate _____ for election to the board of directors from _____.

The names of all persons who have qualified shall be included in or with the members' notice of annual meeting provided that said qualification is effected in sufficient time to permit the name or names to be included.”

NOTE: Complete copies of the bylaws are available at either of the cooperative's offices. All candidates or potential candidates are strongly urged to pick up a complete copy of the bylaws.

Smooth things out with EPay

Are you tired of not knowing how to plan your expenses for the upcoming year? Make your life a little simpler with Plateau Electric Cooperative's Equal Payment Plan, called EPay, and know how much you are paying before your bill arrives. To be eligible for EPay, you must have a current account with at least 12 months of use history.

Sign-up is easy: Stop by your local PEC office and inform one of our customer service clerks that you are interested in EPay. Or complete the form below and mail it to PEC before Friday, March 27.

EPay Application

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

PEC Account No. _____ Meter No. _____

Your account has had service for at least 12 months.
 Your account is current.

Plateau Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 4669
Oneida, TN 37841

Be prepared for when severe storms strike

It is never too early to plan for an emergency situation. Storms can come up at any time throughout the year. Whether it is a winter snow or summer thunderstorms, always be prepared.

Plateau Electric Cooperative has been very fortunate when it comes to bad weather. "We have not had a bad storm in more than 10 years on our system," says Jeff Watson, PEC director of operations. "The last major event we had was a 1998 ice storm that left outages for several days."

In the event of an extended outage, everyone needs to have an emergency plan. Be sure to have a backup supply of food and water and an alternative heat source. If you or someone you know has a generator for times like this, it is best to verify that it is installed properly and cannot back-feed on the PEC system. Also, make arrangements to check on elderly family and neighbors who may not be able to properly care for themselves during an outage.

Our linemen have been on several storm jobs in neighboring areas where the power has been off for several days at a time. We hope and pray that we do not have any natural disasters in our area that will impact us to this extent. The odds are that we will have another storm, so be prepared and know that PEC is ready to react to any situation.

Win a trip to D.C.

It's time once again for the Washington Youth Tour Short Story contest. Each year, Plateau Electric Cooperative takes the student who writes the winning short story from each high school in our service territory on an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. This year's topic is "Electric Cooperatives: Powering Potential." This once-in-a-lifetime trip will take place June 12-18.

To learn more about this life-changing experience, contact Jacob Billingsley at 423-569-8591 or email jbillingsley@plateauelectric.com.

From left, Hannah Cross, Destiny Jones, Christien Hughett and Brandi Vespie visit the White House during last year's Youth Tour.



Plateau Electric presents service awards

Plateau Electric Cooperative is pleased to recognize several employees for their dedication and years of service to the co-op. The knowledge and experience these individuals possess translate into quality service for you, the member.



*Jack Gunter,
10 years*

Congratulations to these employees for their dedication:

- 35 years Bill Miller
- 30 years Michele Murley and Randy Byrd
- 10 years Jack Gunter
- Five years Amber Pemberton and Jacob Billingsley



Employees recognized in 2014 for service-year anniversaries are, from left, Amber Pemberton, five years; Bill Miller, 35 years; Michele Murley and Randy Byrd, 30 years; and Jacob Billingsley, five years.

Duncan retires, Keeton named new CFO

Bill Duncan, Plateau Electric Cooperative's chief financial officer for the last six years, retired Jan. 9. Bill came to work at PEC after a long career with the Scott County Hospital as the finance director.



Bill Duncan

"I have a much greater appreciation for the work that is involved in keeping the lights on," he says.

"We are going to miss Bill," says PEC CEO Dave Cross. "He has been a great asset to this organization."

Replacing Bill is Ryan Keeton. A graduate of Scott High School, Ryan earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from East Tennessee State University, a master's from the University of the Cumberlands and an educational specialist degree from Tennessee Technological University. He was most recently employed by the Scott County School System as the assistant director/director of federal programs and prior to that was employed as a financial adviser. Ryan and wife Miranda have three daughters: Madison, 14, Caroline, 12, and Abigail, 10).

"I am truly excited about the opportunity to work for PEC," Ryan says. "The cooperative provides an invaluable



Plateau Electric Cooperative's new CFO, Ryan Keeton, with wife Miranda and daughters, from left, Caroline, Madison and Abigail.

service to our community, and I am honored to be a part of the team."



Powell Valley Electric Cooperative Edition

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org





Powell Valley Electric Cooperative

Serving all of Hancock County and portions of Claiborne, Grainger, Union and Hawkins counties in Tennessee and portions of Lee, Scott and Wise counties in Virginia.

Randell W. Meyers,
General Manager/CEO

JoAnn Dillingham,
Director of Accounting and Finance

Gary Hatfield,
Director of Special Projects

Charles "Bo" Goodin,
Assistant General Manager

Ronnie Williams,
Tazewell Area Supervisor

Jason Stapleton,
Jonesville Area Supervisor

Joey Southern,
Sneedville Area Supervisor

PVEC office hours
Monday through Friday,
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Tazewell office:
Service requests: 423-626-0707
Billing inquiries: 423-626-0706
Outages/trouble: 423-626-5204
Other inquiries: 423-626-5204

Jonesville office:
Service requests: 276-346-6003
Billing inquiries: 276-346-6003
Outages: 276-346-6065
Other inquiries: 276-346-6016

Sneedville office:
All inquiries: 423-733-2207

Calls to all PVEC locations will be answered by emergency operators after office hours and on weekends and holidays.
Visit us at www.pve.coop.
You also can contact us via email: info@pve.coop

PVEC Board of Directors
Roger Ball, President
David T. Kindle, Vice President
Judith Robertson, Secretary-Treasurer
Gary Russell
Mikel Sharp
Dale McNiel
Allen Parkey
Michael Shockley
Dr. John Short

AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Co-op membership: What's in it for me?

Exploring the unique benefits of cooperative membership

You set up your electric service account with Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, and you think to yourself, "That's done. Now I just have to pay my monthly bill." But the truth is we're more than just a utility provider you pay each month for electricity. We have more to offer — and we want you, our members, to know about these benefits.

There are more than 900 electric cooperatives in the U.S. that serve 42 million members. Powell Valley Electric, your local electric cooperative, serves 31,043 members with lines stretching across 3,506 miles. So what makes being a member of an electric cooperative unique?

We're all in this together.

You are a member of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative — not a customer. And that means you have a voice when it comes to the way we do business. Each September, an annual meeting of members is held in one of the cooperative's three districts, and members' voices are heard as reports on the condition of the co-op are presented and voted on, directors are elected and the year's events are reviewed.

We're local.

It's likely that you know an employee of Powell Valley Electric. Our employees

— your friends and neighbors — share the same concerns for our community that you do. Not only do we participate in various activities that benefit our community, we also provide services to our members. Heat pump financing, convenient payment methods and energy audits are just a few services that can benefit you.



Randell W. Meyers
General Manager/CEO
Powell Valley
Electric Cooperative

We're not-for-profit.

Powell Valley Electric doesn't offer profits to investors — we only collect enough money from our members to pay for electricity from the Tennessee Valley Authority and cover our operating costs. Any excess money is reinvested in system improvements to ensure you receive the best possible service.

We're here for you.

Our mission is to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. We care about our members' quality of life, which is why our employees are continuously finding innovative ways to improve our service.

These are just a few facts about electric cooperatives that make us unique. For more information about the services we offer, contact your local PVEC office. Remember: We're here for you!

— Randell W. Meyers



The era of Mr. Ralph B. Miner

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Mr. Ralph B. Miner, former general manager and a longtime friend and advocate of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative.

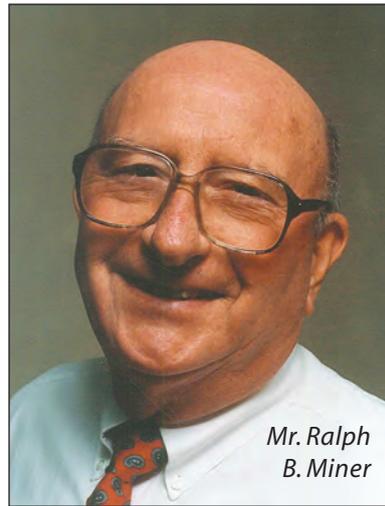
Mr. Miner served the cooperative for 43 years, beginning his career at age 18 as a lineman. From Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's beginning in 1938 until 1962, only three people had served as the cooperative's general manager. In 1962, at the young age of 31, Mr. Miner became the fourth general manager of Powell Valley Electric and served in that position for 31 years until his retirement in 1993. Those 31 years encompassed much of the cooperative's formative years. Significant growth occurred throughout the cooperative during his era as general manager. For instance, when he became manager, the cooperative's membership consisted of 9,000 customers. That number had grown to 22,000 at the time of his retirement.

During those years, Mr. Miner served on numerous boards and was awarded many tributes, including serving as a member of the Mountain Empire Community College Foundation Board where he championed the important cause of providing higher education to everyone. His interest in his fellow man was perhaps best reflected in one of his favorite activities: seeking out and writing the stories of the hundreds of people who were introduced monthly to the readers of *The Tennessee Magazine* and *Cooperative Living Magazine*. Several of those articles have been reprinted in nationally known publications. He loved to tell a good story!

Mr. Miner served his community in numerous capacities, but his proudest achievements were being a founding

director of the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission and his role in the creation of the Duffield Industrial Park in Duffield, Va. The benefits of the industrial park can be seen in the many industries and jobs that exist there today, including the business of his son-in-law, Paul, and grandson, Ryan.

Mr. Miner loved this area and was an active and dedicated community leader. He enjoyed promoting civic endeavors and seemed in his element with the resulting accomplishments. He loved the cooperative and personified the cooperative spirit. We appreciate his service, his commitment and his dedication to the cooperative. We pause at this time to honor him and express our thanks for all his efforts on behalf of the



Mr. Ralph B. Miner

cooperative, its members and this area that he loved.

Mr. Miner was committed to his faith and spent many years in service to the church. He sang and played gospel music on the air and at church events throughout his lifetime. His interment service was held on Christmas Eve, and it seems in keeping with his faith that he was "Home" in time for Christmas.

What is eScore?



eScore allows homeowners to work toward a score of 10 for their home at their own pace, earning rebates on qualified energy-efficiency upgrades and re-engaging with the program as many times as needed to achieve their home's best possible energy performance. eScore includes expert

recommendations, inspections of work performed and now rebates.

For more information about eScore, call your local Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air-drying or even line-drying to save even more household energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Years-of-service awards

Cooperative employees were recently recognized and presented years-of-service awards in the company of their co-workers. Employees receive awards beginning with their

fifth year of employment and at five-year intervals thereafter. Pictured are cooperative employees with PVEC General Manager/CEO Randell Meyers as he presents their service awards.



Charles Goodin, left, presents Randell Meyers with his 50-year service award.



Ronnie Williams — 40 years of service



Frankie Garrett — 40 years of service



Tami Ledford — 25 years of service



Larry Mullins — 25 years of service



Bobby Johnson — 20 years of service



Tony Mallicoat — 15 years of service



Travis Tolliver — 10 years of service

Attention: high school juniors

You are eligible to compete for a free trip to Washington, D.C.

High School juniors whose parents are members of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative are encouraged to participate in the Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest. Students writing the top four short stories will win spots on a weeklong trip of a lifetime as part of the annual Washington Youth Tour.

Presentations have already been conducted at each of the local high schools regarding rules and objectives of the contest. The expense-paid trip will take place June 12-18. The deadline for submitting your short story is Monday, Feb. 16. If you would like to know more about the contest, please call Jessica Smith at 423-626-0723.

2015 Electric Cooperative Scholarships deadline approaches

The deadline for submitting an application for the 2015 Electric Cooperative Educational Scholarship is Wednesday, Feb. 11. All supporting documents must be postmarked no later than midnight on the deadline date.

Any high school or home-schooled senior graduating in 2015 whose parents or guardians are consumer-members of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative and whose pri-

mary residence is served by the cooperative is eligible to apply. This scholarship will be awarded by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives' (VMDAEC) Educational Scholarship Foundation Board. For more information, visit www.vmdaec.com or www.co-opliving.com/community/scholarship.htm or contact Pam Johnson, statewide training coordinator, at pjohnson@odec.com or 804-968-7153

New technologies will make electric grid faster, better, smarter

You might not notice when you plug in your toaster or iron, but the nation's electric grid is undergoing a revolution — a digital revolution. Recent advances in technology are transform-

ing how we make and move electricity, and over time, these changes will greatly improve the efficiency and reliability of electric power.

Rural electric co-ops have been helping lay the groundwork for this transformation with a \$68 million "smart grid" research project funded in part by the Department of Energy. A group of 23 co-ops in 12 states deployed an array of new technologies and installed more than 270,000 pieces of equipment.

Four years later, we have a better understanding of how we can move forward to modernize our electric system. Despite the relatively small size of most electric co-ops, we are adopting these new technologies at a faster rate than the larger utilities — in part because we stand to gain more.

Serving rural areas brings special challenges. Co-op service territories cover 75 percent of the nation's land-mass, and co-ops serve some of the country's most rugged and remote regions. New automation software, however, can minimize these difficulties by enabling utilities to manage parts of their systems remotely, saving the co-ops — and their members — a lot of money.

Here are some of the benefits these upgrades will offer our member-owners:

Reliability. New digital meters can send information about outages back to a co-op's operations center. Armed with this information, linemen won't have to spend nearly as much time looking for the cause of an outage, and

restoration times will decrease.

In addition, new "smart feeder switching" can enable co-ops to reroute power during certain outages, thereby minimizing the number of members who lose power.

Efficiency. Digital meters can provide consumers with new data about their energy use. Consumers have discovered broken appliances, safety hazards and other problems using data supplied by their meters. More frequently, however, the data gives consumers a better idea of how they are using electricity — and how they can lower their bills.

Digital meters can send electric use data to the co-op, eliminating the need for meter reading, which saves money and also improves consistency and accuracy in billing. New technologies can help the co-op reduce the amount of electricity lost in transmission.

In the longer term, smart grid technology will change how we use electricity. Armed with more information, consumers will have more control. They will be able to generate and store their own electricity and use that electricity more efficiently!

So in the future, when you use your phone to see if you remembered to turn off your iron, remember that your electric co-op helped bring about the revolution that made this feat possible.





Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation — Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org



Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation

1009 E. Main St.
Brownsville, TN 38012
stemc.com

President
Kevin Murphy
kmurphy@stemc.com

Vice President of Operations
Phillip Mullins
pmullins@stemc.com

Vice President of Engineering
William Gordon
wgordon@stemc.com

Vice President of Finance
and Accounting
Scott Sims
ssims@stemc.com

Vice President of Human
Resources
Mark Only
monly@stemc.com

Vice President of Purchasing
and Fleet
Trent Hall
thall@stemc.com

Brownsville District
Phone: 731-772-1322
Phillip Mullins, VP of Operations
pmullins@stemc.com

Covington District
Phone: 901-476-9839
Ricky Mathis, District Manager
rmathis@stemc.com

Atoka Office
Phone: 731-989-2236
Ricky Mathis, District Manager
rmathis@stemc.com

Henderson District
Phone: 731-989-2236
Lynn Helton, District Manager
lhelton@stemc.com

Jackson District
Phone: 731-427-3311
Bob Armstrong, District Manager
barmstrong@stemc.com

STEMC Board of Directors
Chairman
Hugh Harvey — Jackson
Vice Chairman
James Allan Ferguson — Whiteville
Secretary/Treasurer
Audrey Blue — Brownsville
Allen King — Brownsville
Claire Marshall — Mason
David McDaniel — Brighton
V. B. McKinnon — Henderson
James Rose — Burlison
Norma Turner — Covington
Robert Kendrick — Brownsville
Attorney
Patrick H. Mann — Brownsville

Connect with us at
stemc.com or on



Don't forget your Valentine

The story of St. Valentine

Do you know why we celebrate Valentine's Day? In America, 62 percent of us celebrate the special day by

giving chocolate, flowers or jewelry. But according to one legend, St.

Valentine's Day is meant to remind people of a brave man, a martyr whose name was Valentine.

According to legend, the Roman Emperor Claudius II was fighting many wars. He wanted a strong army, but many men did not want to be soldiers. Claudius thought the men wanted to stay home to be with their wives and children instead of leaving to fight wars.

Claudius thought of an awful solution to his problem. He decided to cancel all marriages! No one in all of Rome could get married. Claudius thought that if the men couldn't get married, they would ignore the women and want to become soldiers.

Valentine, who was a priest, believed that people needed to get married. He thought that if people were not married, they would be tempted to sin by living together. So Valentine secretly and illegally married couples anyway, performing weddings in secret places so Roman soldiers would not find out.

But they did find out. Valentine was arrested and brought before the emperor. The emperor, thinking Valentine was a well spoken and wise young man, encouraged him to stop being a Christian and become a loyal Roman. Valentine would not deny his beliefs and was sent to prison until he could be executed. While in prison, he

sent letters to his friends asking to be prayed for by writing "Remember your Valentine."

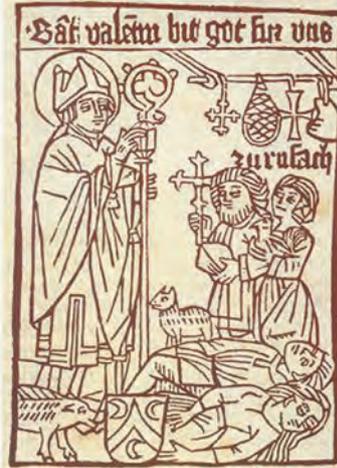
Valentine was killed on the 14th or 24th of February in the year 269 or 270. And today we celebrate Valentine's Day on Feb. 14 in honor of St. Valentine.

Although it is not known whether this legend is true, it is a good story anyway. It is nice to think of someone who believed in marriage and was willing to risk death to do what he believed was right.

Americans probably began exchanging handmade Valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Ester A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced Valentines in America. Today, an estimated 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year. Women purchase approximately 85 percent of all Valentines.

Guys, there's a book titled "2002 Ways to Say I Love You" on Amazon for as little as \$4 to help you with ideas.

"Age does not protect from love. But love, to some extent, protects you from age." — Anais Nin



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The outdoor porch light, one of the most used light fixtures in a home, is the perfect place to install ENERGY STAR-qualified lighting products. Many compact fluorescent lightbulbs will fit easily into existing porch lights.



New eScore energy-efficiency program offered to members

Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation has partnered with the Tennessee Valley Authority to offer you a fantastic new and improved home energy-efficiency opportunity! Our former In-Home Energy Evaluation has transitioned to a new program called eScore that began Jan. 1. With the eScore program, your home will be scored between a 1 and 10 based on its energy efficiency. You will receive a report — accessible through an online customer portal — on specific upgrades you can make to increase your home's rating. Best yet, you can continue to participate in this program and may be eligible for multiple rebates!

If you are a member of Southwest Tennessee EMC and own a single family residence, you must register for eScore online at www.2escore.com. If you choose to have an evaluation



See how easy it can be to **live comfortably.**

Whatever the weather brings, you'll be ready. Make your home the best it can be. Visit 2escore.com to find out how energy efficient your home is and what you can do to improve it. With a high eScore you can afford to live comfortably.

energyright
solutions

performed on your home, there is a nonrefundable \$100 fee.

Or you can register for eScore online at www.2escore.com, then use the portal to find a contractor through the Quality Contractor Network to schedule the work to be performed. No fee is required for this service.

Once the eScore has been performed, you will receive:

- An eScore card that ranks your home from 1 to 10 (10 being most efficient)
- An eScore report with photos
- A list of installer rebates for qualified improvements

To be eligible for qualified cash incentives, the improvements must be made by one or more of our certified Weatherization Quality

Contractors. For more information, call your local Southwest Tennessee EMC member service center or 1-800-772-0472.

Electricity's advantages for home heating and hot water

While most consumers are aware of the benefits of using propane or natural gas to heat their homes, many are not aware of the value of using electricity for home heating. Here are the numerous advantages of electricity-based home heating and hot water systems that may surprise even the most energy-savvy consumers.

In comparison to oil or gas furnaces, electric heating has many advantages.

- Electric heating systems are generally less expensive to purchase and install than other systems and, on the whole, enjoy fuel cost stability.
- Electric heat is quick to respond and can be very quiet.
- Electric heat can be added on a localized basis to heat specific areas of the home, and the temperature can be controlled easily by room or by zone.
- A portable, energy-efficient electric space heater or electric baseboard heater can warm select rooms,

allowing you to keep your main thermostat down while ensuring continued comfort.

- Electric heat can take up less space in the home than other conventional systems (assuming space heaters are used).
- The electric heating system is safe because there is no combustion process. There is no chance of flames starting a fire or having combustion products contaminate the air.

Choices for electric heat include:

- Energy-efficient heat pumps
- Baseboard heaters
- Portable space heaters
- Decorative fireplaces

Heating contractors, electricians, home improvement stores and Southwest Tennessee EMC are good sources for information about heating with electricity. For additional information about how you can be more energy-efficient, visit our website at www.stemc.com.



Home heating: Calculating the benefits of electricity vs. propane

by Anne Prince

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, heating and cooling account for nearly half of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most households. While few people enjoy spending money on home heating fuels, consumers are willing to pay for comfort in the form of heat.

In these colder months when the temperatures dip and the need to heat your home rises, it makes sense when trying to determine the most economical heating method to evaluate the cost per unit of heat. This is referred to as a British thermal unit (Btu).

Evaluating cost per unit of heat

The Btu content per gallon of propane is 91,500 Btu. The Btu content for electricity is 3,413 Btu per kilowatt-hour (kWh). It takes 26.8 kWh to equal the Btu content of one gallon of propane.

Using the U.S. Energy Information Administration's table on residential propane and electricity rates for November 2014 — \$2.40 per gallon, excluding taxes, and 13.01 cents per kWh — we arrive at the following calculation:

$$26.8 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01\text{¢} = \$3.49$$

If we used only Btu content to determine the best energy source for home heating, it would appear that propane is less costly than electricity if the price for propane is below \$3.49 per gallon.

Comparing usable heat costs

While we may have determined the cost of the actual heat content, what matters even more is the cost of the usable heat (warmth). A low-efficiency propane furnace may have an efficiency rating of 80 percent, and a high-efficiency propane furnace may have an efficiency rating of 95 percent. Let's assume we have a 90-percent efficient propane furnace. That means 10 percent is not converted to useable heat (warmth). Here is the math:

$$91,500 \text{ Btu} - 10\% \text{ Btu loss} = 82,350 \text{ Btu}$$

So now it only requires 24 kWh to equal the delivered Btu content of propane:

$$24 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01\text{¢} = \$3.12$$

Electric heat is 100-percent efficient

What may surprise most consumers is that the least-efficient electric heating system delivers 100-percent

efficient heat. Yes, electric resistance heat (i.e., space heaters, baseboard heating) is 100-percent energy-efficient. Every single Btu in a kilowatt-hour is delivered as usable heat. So if you are paying more than \$3.12 per gallon of propane for a 90-percent efficient propane furnace, it would be cheaper to use electric resistance heat.

Are we recommending that you use electric resistance heat as your sole heating source? No. While we are proud to offer a reliable source of electricity, we don't want to empty your wallet. However, if your only choice is electric resistance heat, we are happy to share saving tips — visit www.stemc.com.

Pumping up efficiency

There are even more efficient electric heating systems called heat pumps. An air-source heat pump is at least 250 percent energy-efficient. How is it so efficient?

In the heating mode, heat pumps do not use electric energy to create heat; they use it to pump heat into your home through a reversal of the refrigeration process. If you have central air conditioning, you have already experienced this process in reverse when your unit pumps heat out of your home in the summer. If you have ever stood next to the outdoor components, you know the air-conditioning system is exhausting very hot air. In winter, it simply does the opposite, moving heat into your home. Air-source heat pumps are equipped with some type of auxiliary heat for those times when temperatures are near or dip below freezing. The typical backup is in the form of electric resistance heat strips, but there is also a dual-fuel propane option.

In calculating the Btu per kilowatt-hour for a heat pump, we use this formula:

$$3,413 \text{ Btu} \times 250\% = 8532 \text{ Btu.}$$

This means that it only takes 9.65 kilowatts using an air-source heat pump to deliver the same amount of warmth as a 90-percent efficient propane furnace.

$$9.65 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01\text{¢} = \$1.25$$

The price of propane would need to drop to \$1.25 per gallon to break even with the cost of home heating using an air-source heat pump. Efficiency increases even more sharply when looking at the 350-plus percent efficiencies of a geothermal (water-source) heat pump. An additional advantage of geothermal systems is that they can be equipped to provide free water heating most of the year.

Providing reliable energy facts — regardless of fuel type

At Southwest Tennessee EMC, we believe it is our responsibility to provide members with reliable energy facts — regardless of fuel type — so you can get the most from your energy dollars. We are committed to helping you find the best energy solution for your budget and

lifestyle and hope you will consult with your local co-op before making any big home-heating decisions.

Anne Prince writes on energy-efficiency issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Celebrating Black History Month

Local tells stories through artwork

By Marilyn Means

Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. In this issue, we are pleased to highlight a local artist to honor February as Black History Month.

Floyd Mask is an artist who specializes in black heritage, both past and present. He loves to tell stories through his pictures of family and friends. Early in his childhood, Mask would cut out shapes of animals and objects from paper and boxes. He would paint on them and use them as toys. Mask had a fifth-grade teacher who would ask him to stay in the classroom after school and draw and paint for him. This was a request that in turn became an encouragement for Mask.



“My mother would tell me to stay with my talent and keep drawing and painting. It is a gift from God,” Mask said. “I like to use different elements in my paintings. You will see charcoal, ink and paint in most of my creations.”

Mask, who describes himself as self-taught artist, has a great eye for details when it comes to using black-and-white shadowing and shows this quality in his portraits. He enjoys sharing his work with family and friends. When he has created a painting of



friends, family members or acquaintances, his work is highly praised.

Among his most respected and recognized accomplishments are the entries he’s submitted to national publications. After many attempts, Mask managed to get his work featured in a nationally published magazine.

“I would like to get my work placed somewhere in Brownsville where it can be displayed proudly,” said Mask.

“I get so involved in my painting and drawings that when I finish with a project, I just stand back and look at it and say, ‘How did I do that?’ Then I will remember what my mother always told me: ‘It is a gift from God.’”

Mask gives credit to God and his parents for their encouragement through the years to keep painting.

Mask says he would love to have his own studio one day, but until then, he will continue to be creative. He is thankful for his gift and the people who have helped him realize his talent.



New technologies will make electric grid faster, better, smarter

You might not notice when you plug in your toaster or your iron, but the nation's electric grid is undergoing a revolution — a digital revolution. Recent advances in technology are transforming how we make and move electricity, and over time, these changes will greatly improve the efficiency and reliability of electric power.

Rural electric co-ops have been helping lay the groundwork for this transformation with a \$68 million “smart grid” research project funded in part by the Department of Energy. A group of 23 co-ops in 12 states deployed an array of new technologies and installed more than 270,000 pieces of equipment.

Four years later, we have a better understanding of how we can move forward to modernize our electric system. Despite the relatively small size of most electric co-ops, we are adopting these new technologies at a faster rate than the larger utilities — in part because we stand to gain more.

Serving rural areas brings special challenges. Co-op service territories cover 75 percent of the nation's landmass, and co-ops serve some of the country's most rugged and remote regions. New automation software, however, can minimize these difficulties by enabling utilities to manage parts of their systems remotely, saving the co-ops — and their members — a lot of money.

Here are some of the benefits these upgrades will offer our member-owners:

Reliability. New digital meters can send information about outages back to a co-op's operations center. Armed



with this information, linemen won't have to spend nearly as much time looking for the cause of an outage, and restoration times will decrease.

In addition, new “smart feeder switching” can enable co-ops to reroute power during certain outages, thereby minimizing the number of members who lose power.

Efficiency. Digital meters can provide consumers with new data about their energy use. Consumers have discovered broken appliances, safety hazards and other problems using data supplied by their meters. More frequently, however, the data gives consumers a better idea of how they are using electricity — and how they can lower their bills.

Digital meters can send electric use data to the co-op, eliminating the need for meter reading, which saves money and also improves consistency and accuracy in billing. New technologies can help the co-op reduce the amount of electricity lost in transmission.

In the longer term, smart grid technology will change how we use electricity. Armed with more information, consumers will have more control. They will be able to generate and store their own electricity and use that electricity more efficiently!

So in the future, when you use your phone to see if you remembered to turn off your iron, remember that your electric co-op helped bring about the revolution that made this feat possible.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air-drying or even line-drying to save even more household energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org



Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative

Serving all or portions of Bledsoe, Grundy, Marion, Sequatchie, Coffee, Hamilton, Rhea and Van Buren counties.

Service Centers:

512 S. Cedar Ave.; P.O. Box 31, South Pittsburg, TN 37380
Telephone — 423-837-8605
Toll-free — 800-923-2203

97 Resource Road; P.O. Box 518, Dunlap, TN 37327
Telephone — 423-949-2198

3396 Main St.; P.O. Box 441, Pikeville, TN 37367
Telephone — 423-447-2131

14002 Highway 41; P.O. Box 100, Tracy City, TN 37387
Telephone — 931-592-2511

14087 Highway 28, Whitwell, TN 37397
Monday/Wednesday/Friday
Telephone — 423-658-7832

SV Propane
1-877-521-3055 (toll-free)
931-592-5126

After hours: 888-421-7832
www.svalleyec.com

 Like SVEC on Facebook at www.facebook.com/svalleyec.

 Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/svalleyec.



Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air-drying or even line-drying to save even more household energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Safety is our goal every day

For more than 75 years the mission of Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative has been to supply our member-owners with safe, affordable, reliable electricity.

Notice that the word “safe” heads the list. The safety of our members and employees is our first priority as we go about the business of supplying electricity to our members.

Keeping the lights on and electricity affordable are very high priorities, but they fall behind the value we place on the lives of our employees and the people we serve.

Unlike our first members who had lived without electricity and who were somewhat wary of this powerful new form of energy, most of us tend to take electricity for granted — until it goes out. We are so accustomed to plugging in the appliances, flipping the switches, pushing the buttons that bring comfort, convenience, communication and entertainment to our lives that we rarely think about the danger of mishandling the energy that powers them.

For many years, SVEC has had a formal safety program for our staff featuring monthly safety meetings for our operations employees and regular safety training for our “inside” workers. To strengthen the program, SVEC began preparation in September 2002 to take part in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program (RESAP). We received our first Certificate of Safety Accreditation by the group in 2003. This safety assessment, now called the Electric Safety Achievement Program, is conducted every three

years, and SVEC has been recertified upon each assessment.

The evaluation is a three-part process. It involves an on-site safety observation, an application notebook of written documentation covering the past three years and a review of the observation forms and application materials by the RESAP committee. The process is a very comprehensive look at the efforts SVEC has taken to keep its employees and members safe.

The goal of the Safety Achievement program is to preserve life and prevent injuries, establish safety and loss-control standards, recognize co-op employees who work every day to maintain a safe work environment, complement the co-op’s mission of reliable electrical service for our members and cultivate a culture of safety for the whole organization.

Following proper safety procedures EVERY day on EVERY job and keeping employees and the public safe are what the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program is all about.

In order to bring this “culture of safety” to our members, SVEC will begin this month in *The Tennessee Magazine* a year-long focus on electrical safety. Our safety training and education must go beyond our employees if we are to meet our goals.

We will also continue our electric safety programs for the public. We’ll bring messages from Louie the Lightning Bug and our linemen to our youngest members and our new high-voltage demonstration trailer to schools, business and civic organizations and community events.

Here’s to a SAFE and happy 2015!



Mike Partin
SVEC President/CEO



Powering Safely in 2015



If you use a backup generator during an electrical outage, make sure you read and follow all the manufacturer's safety rules.

SVEC's goal is to keep our members and employees safe 24/7, 365 days a year. We urge our members to help us continue to meet this goal!

Keep your family and SVEC's linemen safe during an outage — follow the generator safety rules.

Generating safely during an outage

One of the great things about the modern American electric grid is that power almost always flows when we need it. Given our dependence on electricity, it's understandable why portable generators are popular when the power goes out and stays out for a while.

But generators can cause more harm than good if not used properly. Here are a few safety tips to protect yourself and our linemen who are working to restore your power.

- ❑ Generators **must go outside** in a dry area, which might mean you'll need to rig a canopy to protect your generator from precipitation.
- ❑ Locate the generator at a safe distance from your home's windows, doors and vents. How far is a safe distance? Even 15 feet can be too close. Portable generators create carbon monoxide, the odorless, colorless gas that can quickly become deadly if not properly exhausted. An attached garage with an open door doesn't count — the carbon monoxide can still seep indoors and poison inhabitants.
- ❑ Dry your hands before touching the generator
- ❑ **Never**, ever plug a portable generator directly into one of your home's outlets — unless you have had a licensed electrician install a transfer switch in your home. If you don't have a transfer switch, power provided by the generator can "backfeed" along power lines, which can electrocute a lineman working on those lines.
- ❑ Plug appliances directly into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords, but don't overload the generator. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maximum load.
- ❑ Shut off the generator before refueling, or a fire could start — and it's a good idea to have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby, just in case.
- ❑ Always store fuel outside of living areas and in properly labeled, nonglass containers away from any fuel-burning appliance.

President/CEO Bob Matheny retires Jan. 2 from SVEC

After more than 40 years in the electric utility industry, the last 16 here at Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative, President/CEO Bob Matheny recently retired.

Matheny began his career at SVEC in July 1998 after the passing of the previous manager, Bob Pickering. Matheny had prior electric utility experience in member and energy services with the Tennessee Valley Authority and two cooperatives in Florida. He also served as general manager for an electric co-op in Michigan for almost 15 years.

During Matheny's tenure, the cooperative has grown in membership and miles of line and has advanced in technology, improving reliability for members and helping the cooperative operate more efficiently.

While at SVEC, Matheny served as a director on several industry-related boards such as those of the Cooperative Response Center and Southeastern Data Cooperative. Matheny was also a member of the South Pittsburg Rotary Club.

"I have enjoyed a long career and worked with many dedicated people over the past 40 years," Matheny said. "Thank you for your support. I am very proud of the accomplishments we made at SVEC."

Matheny's last day at SVEC was Jan. 2. He and his wife, Joyce, plan on retiring to Florida and spending more time with family.

Upon Matheny's retirement, the SVEC board of directors named longtime SVEC employee and Chief Operating Officer Mike Partin the new president/CEO.



*Retired SVEC President/CEO
Bob Matheny*

Simplify bill payment! Earn \$5!



With SVEC Autopay

- Your bill is automatically paid on due date.
- Use your checking account or credit or debit card.
- Earn a one-time \$5 credit on your next bill.

Visit www.svalleyec.com for details.
\$5 bill credit good through March 31.



Grundy County's Danny Henley retires

Danny Henley rang in *this* new year without an alarm clock. The Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative serviceman for Grundy County has retired after nearly 42 years of service.

Henley began his career with SVEC in June of 1973 as a grounds man. He then entered the apprentice lineman program, completing it as a journeyman lineman in 1977. For the past 30 years, he has held the position of serviceman. Running the service truck, he was the first person called to respond to outages during working hours.

Henley has been a dedicated employee, taking very seriously his responsibility to “keep the lights on” for the people of Grundy County. As a lineman, the work meant he sometimes missed dinners with his family or worked all night in the rain and/or cold. He even missed his granddaughter’s first Christmas — all because he knew that the members of SVEC relied on him to help get the power back on.

In the nearly 42 years of his career with SVEC, Henley has seen great changes. Among the most significant were the addition of the Pelham and Summerfield substations and the decommissioning of the old subs in Monteagle and Tracy City. These upgrades to the system have increased reliability and improved service to our members.

There have been big changes in the equipment used to do the job as well. “When I started as a serviceman, there was not a bucket truck for that position, so I had to do a lot of climbing when responding to outages,” he said.

“SVEC employees are some of the most dedicated people I know. On the first day I started work, I was trained to work safely and, when the electricity went out, to get it back on as soon as possible. After more than 41 years, to me this is still our top priority. Working with electricity is a very dangerous job. I was confident someone always ‘had my back.’ My heartfelt thanks go out to all my co-workers.”



Danny Henley

While Henley looks forward to spending more time with his family — wife Janie, sons Jason (Amy) and David (Mary), and his very special granddaughter, Camryn — he says he will miss the folks at SVEC.

All at SVEC send best wishes and congratulations to Danny on his retirement.

SVEC welcomes new lineman to Tracy City service center

Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative recently hired Tracy City native Nick Gipson as a lineman for the Grundy County service area. He fills a vacancy on the operations staff left by the retirement of Danny Henley, whose last day of work was Jan. 1.

Gipson, a graduate of Grundy County High School, worked briefly at Coalmont Elementary as a teacher’s assistant and with a landscaping company before entering the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers’ Southeastern Electric Line Construction Apprentice Training program in October of 2011. Gipson went to work for Service

Electric Company upon completion of the training course and worked as a contract lineman at a number of different utilities, gaining valuable experience. With this experience, he will soon top out as a journeyman lineman.

“I am happy to be working here at home now,” Gipson stated. “I’ve been traveling way too long.”

Gipson and his wife of seven years, DeAnna, live in Tracy City with their two sons, Jaden, 6, and Brentlee, 2. In his free time, Gipson enjoys spending time with his family and taking his boys hunting. The family attends Tracy City Church of Christ.



Nick Gipson



SVEC directors receive certification

Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative directors Bobby Gravitt of Jasper and Richard Barnes of Kimball were recognized during the recent Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting in Nashville for completion of director training programs provided by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Gravitt attained Credentialed Cooperative Director certification, and Barnes completed the Board Leadership Program.

“Our industry is a large and complex business,” said Mike Partin, SVEC president/CEO. “This training helps our directors understand the fundamentals of the electric cooperative business and the duties and responsibilities of being a director.”

To complete the training, the directors took five one- or two-day courses and passed exams on course content.

“Director training is not just a one-time thing,” said Partin. “With the rising cost of energy and the importance of keeping it available and affordable for our rural members, it is essential that directors, as representatives of the members and trustees of the cooperative, understand the big picture and keep updated on the changing electric industry business. This requires ongoing training.”



During a recent board meeting, SVEC Board Chairman Mike Jordan, center, presents SVEC director Bobby Gravitt, left, with a certificate in recognition of completion of the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Directors Program and director Richard Barnes with his Board Leadership Program certificate.

Feeling a little ‘Frosty?’



931-592-5126 or 1-877-521-3055
1436 Altamont St.
Tracy City

For all your propane needs

Call the people you know and trust, and enjoy winter in comfort.



Brought to you by Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org





Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative

590 Florence Road
Savannah, TN 38372
731-925-4916
866-925-4916
www.tvec.com

District office

123 N. High St.
Waynesboro, TN 38485
931-722-5441

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Board of Directors

Wilbur Storey (District 2)

— President

Haskel Jerrolds (District 3)

— Secretary-Treasurer

William Howard III

(District 5)

Paul Jaggars (District 2)

Judy May (District 1)

Kevin Robertson

(District 6)

Kevin Staggs (District 4)

George G. Gray —

Attorney

General Manager

Gerald Taylor

Director of Finance and Accounting

Bob Laden

Director of Operations, Savannah

Ronnie Wilkerson

Director of Operations, Waynesboro

Eddie Berry

Director of Member Services and Safety

Don Doran

Purchasing Agent

Tony Polk

AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Democracy at the co-op

Democratic Member Control is critical to the operation of every cooperative

While the national elections of the past November may be fading from your memory, voting for politicians is not the only way we as co-op members can practice democracy.

Every co-op — whether it's Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative, your credit union or a farm co-op — follows the basic principle of “one member, one vote.” Most often you are asked to vote and elect individuals who will represent you on the board of directors. These folks are your friends, neighbors and fellow residents of our community. Occasionally, you may be asked to vote on a policy, such as a change to the bylaws (this is like the constitution for your co-op).

Any co-op member in good standing can run for the board. This is one of the key differences between a co-op member and a customer of an investor-owned utility (IOU). Most IOUs are not too interested in customers' opinions of how the company should be run.

Co-ops invite participation. In fact, it is critically important to the survival of the co-op. Most co-ops serve far fewer people than IOUs. Co-ops measure the number of members in the thousands, IOUs in the millions. If you are not actively involved with the co-op, we all suffer. As the electric utility industry evolves, having interested members who are willing to take an active role is critically important.

At TVEC, we believe in the “Own, Use, Serve and Belong” model.

Own — This refers to each member truly believing and feeling that he or she does indeed share in the ownership of the co-op. This can come from attending the annual meeting, voting or participating in other co-op events.

Use — For electric cooperatives, this means you use the co-op's resources wisely (after all, you are an owner of those resources). You utilize the low-cost energy audits that

TVEC offers. You use energy-efficient appliances, weather strip windows and doors and use light-emitting diodes or compact fluorescent lamps — and you turn them off when you leave a room. Share that one with the kids!

Serve — If we are successful with “Own” and “Use,” perhaps you will feel called to serve your co-op — maybe as a board member, volunteer, committee member or community contributor through the co-op.

Belong — We all seek to belong to something. In the early days when the co-op was just getting started, neighbors helped neighbors. While our lives seem busier and more electronically driven than ever, the need to connect and belong is necessary for us and our communities to thrive.

There is great power in the human connection, and at TVEC, we strive every day to connect with our members.



Gerald Taylor
General Manager,
Tennessee Valley
Electric Cooperative



Crusade Against Cancer 5K

Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m.
Waynesboro City Park,
Waynesboro

All proceeds go to support the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life as the highly regarded organization continues to search for a cure. The race is the idea of Sharon Bromley, a breast cancer survivor who wanted to do something to help raise money and awareness of the need for cancer research. Last year, in spite of a rainy day, more than 200 runners registered for the inaugural race, and more than \$8,000 was raised for the American Cancer Society.



Medals awarded for overall male/female, masters male/female and by age classes.

Registration fee: \$20 (includes T-shirt and lunch after the race)

Discount for groups of five or more: only \$15 per runner.

Timing by Solid Rock Race Timing

Crusade Against Cancer,
122 Mindy Drive, Waynesboro, TN 38485
crusadeagainstcancer5k@gmail.com
Visit us at [facebook.com/Crusade5k](https://www.facebook.com/Crusade5k) for a registration form,
register online at crusadeagainstcancer5k.itsyourrace.com
or contact Chris Dixon at 256-762-3641 for more information.





What is eScore™?

eScore is a residential energy efficiency program that provides homeowners with a clear path to make their home a 10 – its most energy efficient. The program also increases home comfort and saves you money.

eScore allows homeowners to work toward a score of 10 for their home at their own pace, earning rebates on qualified energy efficiency upgrades and re-engaging with the program as many times as needed to achieve their home's best possible energy performance.

Here's How It Works:

STEP 1 – Homeowner registers online or over the phone.

Simply visit www.2eScore.com or call 1-855-2eScore (1-855-237-2673) to get started.

STEP 2 – Homeowner contacts a Quality Contractor Network (QCN) member to get started on the work the homeowner wants done.

If the homeowner doesn't know a QCN member, a list specific to their area is available on the eScore website or through the contact center (www.2eScore.com or 1-855-2eScore). A QCN contractor can discuss options, rebates, and program details with the homeowner.

STEP 3 – Get a FREE eScore evaluation of the home AND a quality assurance inspection on the work performed by the QCN member.

A certified energy advisor will visit and evaluate the home to provide an eScore and a customized list of upgrades and rebates available and install instant savings measures.

An eScore evaluation includes a detailed eScore report, containing:

- An eScore card, which ranks the home from 1 to 10 (10 being the best)
- A customized list of recommended energy efficiency upgrades that can be made over time to help a home become a 10
- A list of rebates for all qualified energy efficiency upgrades
- Photos of the areas evaluated
- Instant saving measures installed at the time of home evaluation visit (CFLs and low-flow shower heads)¹

Note: Homeowners may have an eScore evaluation performed on the home before upgrades are made for a non-refundable fee of \$75. Sign up for an eScore evaluation by visiting www.2eScore.com or calling 1-855-2eScore (1-855-237-2673).

For additional information and program details and restrictions, please visit www.2eScore.com or call 1-855-2eScore (1-855-237-2673).



¹ Energy saving fixtures are distributed to eScore participants at the discretion of the local power company and may not be available in your area.



Access to Rebates
+
Expert Advice
+
Home Improvement
+
**Path to Make Your Home
More Energy Efficient**



=

LIVE COMFORTABLY!



Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative and TVA are excited to help you find out what your home's score is starting now.

Go to www.2eScore.com for more information or

Call Steven Turnbow at 925-4916 in Savannah Or 722-5441 Waynesboro

WHAT'S YOUR SCORE?





Pigg is TVEC's newest employee

Westley Pigg has been hired as the custodian in Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative's Waynesboro office. The lifelong resident of Wayne County is a recent graduate of Collinwood High School who enjoys deer and turkey hunting along with working on the family farm.

"I really enjoy getting to spend time with my dad," he said. "We have about 30 cows, and we spend a lot of good time together."

"I feel very blessed to have a job at TVEC," Wesley said. "I started as a part-time employee in the summer and really enjoyed being around all the employees. This is a close-knit group of people, and I look forward to getting to know all of them better."



Holt joins TVEC right-of-way crew



Jon Holt is a new laborer in Tennessee Valley electric Cooperative's Waynesboro area and will be working on right-of-way crew. He worked for the Wayne County Highway Department before coming to TVEC.

"I feel very blessed to get a job at TVEC and look forward to a long future here," Jon said.

Jon and his wife, Jana, are the proud parents of a 5-month-old son, Macklin. They live in the First Butler Creek area where Jon spends his off time as a cattle farmer. He also enjoys working on his antique tractor and especially likes spending time with his family.

Wayne County events

Feb. 13 • Love Your Chamber Open House, Wayne County Courthouse, Room 301, Waynesboro. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hosted by members of the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce.

Hardin County events

Feb. 7 • Carl Perkins Dancing with the Stars, Pickwick Landing State Park

Feb. 14 • Friends of Pickwick Landing State Park Wine Tasting

Feb. 17 • Pickwick Rotary Club Mardi Gras

March 7 • Ultimate Good Time Variety Show, Savannah Theater





THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Pointing to a Champion



Trending Tiny Homes

History for Kids:
General Andrews

Toasting Breakfast

February 2015 www.tnmagazine.org





Get comfortable with using less energy at home.

Turn your house into the sanctuary it should be. Visit 2eScore.com to find out how energy efficient your home is and what you can do to improve it. With a high eScore and lower energy costs, you'll be able to live comfortably.



CONTENTS

DEPARTMENTS

4 Tennessee Today

One of the challenges electric cooperatives face is educating the membership on industry issues so you can take an active role in your co-op. *by David Callis*

5 Letters to the Editor

The Tennessee Magazine responds to readers.

6 Viewpoint

Meet some of the new legislators who recently took seats in the Tennessee General Assembly. *by Mike Knotts*

16 Co-op News

News and information from your electric cooperative or electric membership corporation.

21 Home Energy Q&A

Zone heating and cooling uses ductwork dampers to give homeowners customized control over how specific rooms are heated and cooled. *by James Dulle* (not included in the DREMC edition)

22 Tennessee History for Kids

Nashville native and hero Gen. Frank Maxwell Andrews is often overlooked in our state's history. *by Bill Carey*

24 Tennessee Almanac

This event listing tells what's happening across the state.

26 A Taste of Tennessee

Leftover bread doesn't mean stale toast with breakfast. Try these sweet French toast treats.

32 Community Corner

Check out Artist's Palette, our art contest for young people, and see our Find the Flag winners.

34 Your Antiques and Treasures

Readers' antiques and flea-market finds are appraised. *by Connie Sue Davenport*

FEATURES

8 Trial by Briar

The Ames Plantation in Grand Junction hosts its 100th running of the National Bird Dog Field Trials. Skilled four-legged hopefuls will exhibit endurance and innate enthusiasm in braving miles of backcountry obstacles. *by Trent Scott*

12 Tiny Homes, Big Savings

Across the country, a movement is taking hold where people shun the "bigger is better" belief and instead downsize to tiny dwellings to reap energy savings and enjoy a more efficient lifestyle. *by Thomas Kirk*

ABOUT THE COVER

Randy Anderson and Utah's Red Rock Express head to the start of the morning brace on the eighth day of the 2014 National Field Trial Championship at the Ames Plantation on Feb. 19. See page 8 to learn more about the trials, which this year begin Feb. 9. Photograph by Trent Scott

This page: *Tennessee Tiny Homes* (www.tinyhappyhomes.com) of Collierville specializes in quality tiny homes — on wheels. Owners Joe and Kristen Everson began the company in 2011 after discovering a movement in the West of people interested in these homes. See page 12 to learn more about the nationwide "tiny home" revolution. Photograph by Kristen Everson

The Tennessee Magazine

Communication for
Electric Cooperative Consumers
Volume 58, No. 2
ISSN 0492-746x

Official publication of the
Tennessee Electric
Cooperative Association.
Executive, editorial and
advertising offices:
2964 Sidco Drive, P.O. Box 100912
Nashville, TN 37204
Phone: 615-367-9284
Email: thetennmag@tnelectric.org

General Manager

David Callis
dcallis@tnelectric.org

Editor

Robin Conover
rconover@tnelectric.org

Associate Editor

Chris Kirk
ckirk@tnelectric.org

Director of Corporate Strategy

Trent Scott
tscott@tnelectric.org

Advertising Manager

Susan Pilgreen
spilgreen@tnelectric.org

Advertising Sales Manager

Lauren Foster
lfoster@tnelectric.org

Contributing Writer

Trish Milburn

Designer

Ron Bell
rbell@tnelectric.org

The Tennessee Magazine, Vol. 58, No. 2 (ISSN 0492-746x) is published and distributed monthly to communicate electrical use and safety, economic development and educational and community interests of more than 1 million Tennessee families and businesses who own, operate and control the tax-paying, business-managed, locally owned electrical distribution and service systems of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, 2964 Sidco Drive, Nashville, TN 37204-3715 (executive and editorial offices). Copyright 2014. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, Tenn., and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER:

Please send address corrections to
The Tennessee Magazine,
P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224.



Subscriber Services: To order a subscription or change your address, write to *The Tennessee Magazine*, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224. Cost of subscription for members of participating electric cooperatives is \$2.82 per year (23.5 cents per month), plus periodicals postage paid from equity accruing to the member. For nonmembers, a subscription is \$12 per year or \$30 for three years. Single copy, \$2.50.

Advertising carried in this magazine does not necessarily reflect the beliefs, opinions or attitudes of *The Tennessee Magazine* or your local rural electric system and does not imply product or service endorsement. *The Tennessee Magazine* reserves the right to refuse advertising. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

National advertising representative: National Country Market; 611 S. Congress Ave., Suite 504, Austin, TX 78704. Phone: 800-626-1181. Website: www.nationalcountrymarket.com.

TENNESSEE TODAY *Manager's Viewpoint*

Energy education

“**E**ducation is learning what you didn’t even know you didn’t know.” This quote from historian

Daniel Boorstin sums up a challenge we face in the electric utility industry.

As we get older, we (hopefully) become fairly well educated and consider ourselves to have a wider breadth and depth of knowledge. We tend to have reasonably good knowledge of our jobs and perhaps a few other areas. But it’s a big world, and it’s difficult to be an expert in every field.

I have — at best — a cursory knowledge of farming. In fact, if we were dependent on my farming skills to feed us, there’s a good chance we’d all go hungry. Recently, a friend and colleague of mine told me about an innovation he was using at his farm. He began using large grain bags as temporary corn storage. He tells me that this technique is used in other countries but isn’t common in the United States. His farm uses specialized equipment that attaches to a tractor to provide the power source for an auger that fills the bags. Each plastic bag is 10 feet wide by 300 feet long, holds 12,000 to 13,000 bushels and is not reusable. He described them as “Hefty bags on steroids.”

The point of the story is that this is something I never knew existed, but this temporary storage can help make the difference in his farming operation being successful and grain being available when needed. That’s important. I now know something that I didn’t know I didn’t know.

Everyone knows how to use electricity — you flip a switch or plug in an appliance. Even a child learns early on how to turn the lights on and off. However, it takes caring parents and adults to educate that

child on how to use caution around electricity. Until they’re educated about safety, they didn’t know what they didn’t know.

As an adult, you know (or should know) how to safely use electricity. However, you might not be aware of how that electricity is made and delivered to your home or business.

That’s where we come in. Our task is to educate you on the challenges we face in keeping the electricity flowing. Tennessee’s co-ops deliver electricity generated by the Tennessee Valley Authority. For more than 80 years, this regional partnership has electrified the Southeast.

TVA and your local electric cooperative are dedicated to

delivering power to you at the lowest possible cost. That’s the duty imposed on TVA by Congress, and it’s our promise to you.

By its very nature, electricity is charged — positively or negatively. Unfortunately, energy policy has become politically charged. That’s not something of our choosing, but it’s the reality we face. That hasn’t always been the case, but it has certainly taken center stage over the past few years.

The challenge for us is to cooperate with our regulatory agencies as we operate and maintain the grid and to keep you informed about the decisions we make. We have a variety of choices when it comes to power sources: renewable energy, hydro power, nuclear power and coal-fired generation. As I’ve stated previously, each has its benefits and shortcomings. We have to make decisions that allow us to continue to provide power to you — now and into the future.

Our pledge to you is to provide you with facts — not opinions. We want you to know what you don’t know you don’t know. ■



David Callis
General Manager,
Tennessee Electric
Cooperative
Association



LETTERS to the EDITOR

Reader feedback

It's Just Stuff

In the July issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*, you showed the picture of the little sofa with wonderful information. This was a donation to Paws and Claws, a resale store that benefits the Avery County Animal Rescue.



You were the best advertisement we have ever had. People came to the store from all over to shop, and we truly appreciate it. The little sofa sold immediately for a reasonable amount. This would not have happened without you.

Thank you again for your help.
— Mickie Price, Newland, N.C.

Feathered Friends

Thank you for your gorgeous picture of the barred owl. The barred owl is one of the most fascinating of the owls because he is so gregarious.

I have never seen one around here so white. Bird feathers can change within very short localities. May I ask where this fellow on your cover resides?

Barred owls have been very plentiful in my area in the past, but recently I have not seen or heard them. I live in the Owl Creek area near Beech Creek Road in Williamson County. There cannot be many around anymore because the doves have returned.

But I do dearly miss Hootie. Hootie had a close relationship with one of my dogs, LouLou. When LouLou died, I was fortunate that he took up with me, albeit I was a most inadequate replacement. When I became ill he eventually left. When I recovered nearly a year later, he was gone.

Thank you again for the picture.
I remain respectfully yours,
— Laura Sarratt, Middle Tenn. EMC

Editor's note:

This curious owl was photographed at Radnor Lake State Natural Area in Nashville.



History for Kids

I was greatly entertained by Bill Carey's "Nine things about Tennessee geography that may surprise you." It reminds me of a couple more geographic "oddities." Johnson City is farther east than Asheville, N.C. An even more surprising fact is that the northeast corner of Tennessee is closer to parts of Canada than Memphis. I didn't believe it until I got out a map and a string.

— Don Good, Mountain EC

Corrections

This month I dug into the "Nine things about Tennessee ..." However, I noticed that on number two that South Fulton is noted to be in Weakley County. South Fulton is on the border of northwest Tennessee and is actually in Obion County.

Thank you again for *The Tennessee Magazine!*

— Tenna Bynum

Hi. The caption under the picture on Page 12 of *The Tennessee Magazine*, reads "At Fort Pillow State Park in Tip-ton County." Fort Pillow State Park is in Lauderdale County. Thanks.

— Don Connell

Editor's note:

Thank you to our savvy readers for catching the errors in the History for Kids January article.

Subscriptions

Is there a magazine I can have a sample of without getting inundated

with a thousand other offers? A friend is moving to your state, and I'd like to put together a little basket of Tennessee items including a magazine that centers on your state. They are looking at Memphis, the Smoky Mountains and Nashville. That's all I know. If you have any 2015 free brochures or current travel magazines, would it be possible to help me? It would be much appreciated.

If there is a more appropriate website to pursue, would you send it along, please? Thank you.

— Jan Reardon, Escanaba, Mich.

Editor's Note:

We will be glad to send you a sample of the magazine and promise not to add you to extemporaneous mailing lists.

OUTsideIN

I LOVE the OUTsideIN story!! And I had no idea that your previous Blue Monarch story in *The Tennessee Magazine* inspired LeEllen.

So now, hopefully, someone else will be inspired by the OUTsideIN story, and on this will go.

— Emily Sullivan, Gibson EMC

Let's hear from you

We enjoy your letters, emails and phone calls. Here is a quick reference:

Event listings: events@tnmagazine.org

Letters to the Editor:
letters@tnmagazine.org

Story ideas: storyidea@tnmagazine.org

Find the Flag: flag@tnmagazine.org

Subscriptions: subscriptions@tnmagazine.org

General info: thetennmag@tnmagazine.org

FEEDBACK request

We need your help to find some extraordinary, inspirational Tennesseans.

Let us know, in about 100 words, who inspires you. Please include your contact information and possibly a photograph of the individual. Our staff will contact you prior to any publication. Your stories may be shared in future issues of *The*

Tennessee Magazine, on social media and on our website.

Email nominees to:
storyideas@tnmagazine.org
Put "Inspirations" in the subject line.

Mail nominees to:
The Tennessee Magazine
Inspirations
2964 Sidco Drive
Nashville, TN 37204





CO-OP CONCERNS *Viewpoint*

“... this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”
— *Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln, Nov. 19, 1863*

Like you, I first read the Gettysburg Address in grade school. Over the years, I have so often associated it with optimism and determination because of the strength and power of its final phrase. Its brevity leads us to examine each and every word. And what richness of meaning these words provide. I wish I had memorized it like my father did; to this day, he can still recite its entire text.

So it's sometimes hard to fathom that this immortal speech was given at what was most certainly a very solemn affair: the dedication of a cemetery. It was given, too, at a time when the future of the United States of America was very much in doubt. The souls interred to their resting places had endured awful carnage at the hands of their fellow Americans. No one knew how the Civil War might end. But I believe this last phrase of the speech stands today as a stark reminder of what defines our country's very special place in this world.

Given that we live in a country that is governed “by the people, for the people,” I thought I would introduce you to just a few of your fellow Tennesseans who have just begun their first days at the Capitol in Nashville. There are 23 of these newly elected state senators and representatives, many of whom will significantly impact your life and the future of rural and suburban Tennessee.

Senator Paul Bailey — While Sen. Bailey may not be new to the legislature (he was a one-year appointed member of the House while he completed the term of longtime co-op friend Charles Curtiss), he is new to the Senate. The owner of small trucking company based in Sparta, Sen. Bailey has already brought attention and new ideas to the problem of how to pay for highway projects during a time of declining federal funding for road work. He frequently speaks on issues important to rural Tennessee.

Senator Ed Jackson — Living in the town that shares his last name, Sen. Jackson will quickly become a key player in the politics of rural West Tennessee. His district stretches from the crossroads of Jackson all the way to the Missouri border in Lake County.

Senator Kerry Roberts — Members of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation were previously represented by Sen. Roberts, a certified public accountant and farmer, but after the effects of the 2010 census altered the district, he was elected again and now makes his return

to Nashville. His new district now includes the northern portions of Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative's service area.



Mike Knotts
Director of
Government Affairs

Senator Jeff Yarbrow — The phrase “big shoes to fill” certainly applies in this case. Senator Yarbrow is replacing Douglas Henry, who first served in the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1954 and was known as a consummate gentleman and legislative powerhouse during his many years of service. Senator Yarbrow is an attorney from Nashville. His abilities to advocate will quickly be put to the test, as he is already the second-ranking Democrat in the Senate; however, Democrats hold only five of 33 total seats, a historic low.

Representative David “Coach” Byrd — A well-known basketball coach and high school principal from Wayne County, Coach Byrd

will ensure the House of Representatives continues to have a Republican member with the moniker of “Coach” (Dennis “Coach” Roach was defeated in a close primary last fall). Perhaps he will retain his whistle and detention roster when he arrives to the sometimes unruly goings-on of the Legislature?

Representative Kevin Dunlap — Representative Dunlap will quickly become a go-to member of the Legislature on education issues because, in addition to being a fifth-generation farmer, he will be the only member of the General Assembly who is a current and active school teacher.

Representative Dan Howell — Known by many in the Chattanooga area because of his former career as a television broadcaster, Rep. Howell had more recently served as deputy to the Bradley County mayor.

Representative Sabi (Doc) Kumar — Over the past several years, the ranks of the state Senate have swelled to include as many doctors and pharmacists as lawyers. Not to be outdone, Dr. Kumar (a surgeon from Springfield) joins the House representing a district that is largely rural. His experience as a practicing physician, inventor, business owner and staple (and sometimes stapler!) of the community should be unique among his peers.

Representative Leigh Wilburn — At 31, Rep. Wilburn may be the youngest member of the General Assembly, but the same drive that pushed her to earn two graduate degrees and start her own real estate law practice makes her one to watch. Her southwest Tennessee district grows cotton and is home to the best named town in America — Finger. ■



CONNECT WITH US



STORIES

EVENTS

RECIPES

PHOTOS



LIKE US
[FACEBOOK.COM/TNMAG](https://www.facebook.com/TNMAG)



FOLLOW US
[TWITTER.COM/TENNESSEEMAG](https://twitter.com/TENNESSEEMAG)



PINTEREST
[PINTEREST.COM/TNMAGAZINE](https://www.pinterest.com/TNMAGAZINE)



EMAIL NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBE AT TNMAGAZINE.ORG

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE



109TH

TENNESSEE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY APP

CONNECT WITH TENNESSEE LEGISLATORS
ANYTIME. ANYWHERE.



PROVIDED BY

BASS BERRY SIMS

TECA Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association

SEARCH TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IN YOUR MOBILE DEVICE'S APP STORE



Available on the iPhone
App Store

ANDROID APP ON
Google play

TRIAL by



Ames
Plantation
hosts 100th
running
of the
National
Bird Dog
Field Trials

Story by Trent Scott

BRIAR

Forty highly skilled professional athletes from around the world come to Tennessee each winter to compete for their sport's most prestigious title. For 11 days in February, these competitors are pushed to the limit of endurance and skill, and it is a truly magnificent experience to witness them perform in person.

But you had best come prepared. You won't find this competition at FedEx Forum, LP Field or Neyland Stadium. You'll need boots and a good horse to see this event. The 116th running of the National Bird Dog Field Trial Championship begins on Monday, Feb. 9.

The championship started in 1896 in West Point, Miss., and was held there for a couple of years before a smallpox outbreak forced its move. After a few years bouncing around north Mississippi and West Tennessee, it was held in 1905 in Grand Junction at the invitation of Hobart Ames.

The Ames family made their fortune in tool manufacturing — you can still buy Ames gardening tools today. Hobart Ames came to West Tennessee's Grand Junction in 1901 and purchased a manor home and about 1,000 acres of land. He contin-

ued to buy land for the next several years until the plantation covered more than 25,000 acres in Fayette and Hardeman counties.

The championship was held on the plantation two more times from 1905 to 1914 and has been held there continuously for the last 100 years.

Ames had an English setter named Allen Bomb who qualified to run the first year Ames hosted the event in 1905, and his dog won. "When your dog wins on your ground, everybody immediately thought there was a little bit of 'home cooking' involved," says Dr. Rick Carlisle, director of the plantation. "It infuriated Mr. Ames, and he commented that so long as the event was held on Ames Plantation, he would not compete should he have another dog qualify." Mr. Ames was true to his word despite his dogs earning invitations many times in the following years.

You'll need boots and a good horse to see this event.

Shadow Oak Bo, winner of the 2013 and 2014 National Field Trials Championships, is the first English setter to win back-to-back titles since 1902. Photograph by Jamie Evans, Ames Plantation.



Above, Happy Jack and Snowatch at the breakaway of day two of the 2013 National Bird Dog Field Trials. Photograph by Jamie Evans, Ames Plantation. Below, Caladen's Rail Hawk gets a lift to the stables in a steady rain following an afternoon brace in 2014. Photograph by Vera Courtney.

The plantation has two field trial courses: a morning course and an evening course, each 11.5 miles in length. It takes about three hours to complete each course.



“Judges and gallery ride,” says Carlisle. “But the dog competing runs somewhere between 22 and 25 miles in the three-hour time period.”

“Judges are looking for a dog who completes the three-hour course with the same speed, enthusiasm and energy as he started with,” says Carlisle, a judge for the 2014 and 2015 championships. “They have to be in perfect physical condition, and they have to pace themselves.”

However, it takes more than training and experience. Dogs competing at the national championships are born with a unique desire and talent to hunt.

“You can teach a dog to obey. You can teach a dog to run,” says Carlisle. “But you can’t teach a dog to smell. Our winners have a God-given ability and instinct.”

There are some 80 qualifying events in the United States and Canada, most of which are one-hour heats. A dog must have two first-place wins in his lifetime to be eligible to compete in the National Championship.

At right, Handler Nick Thompson with Connor's EZ Button prepare for the morning breakaway on Feb. 19, 2014. Below, the gallery follows the action on horseback. Photographs by Trent Scott.

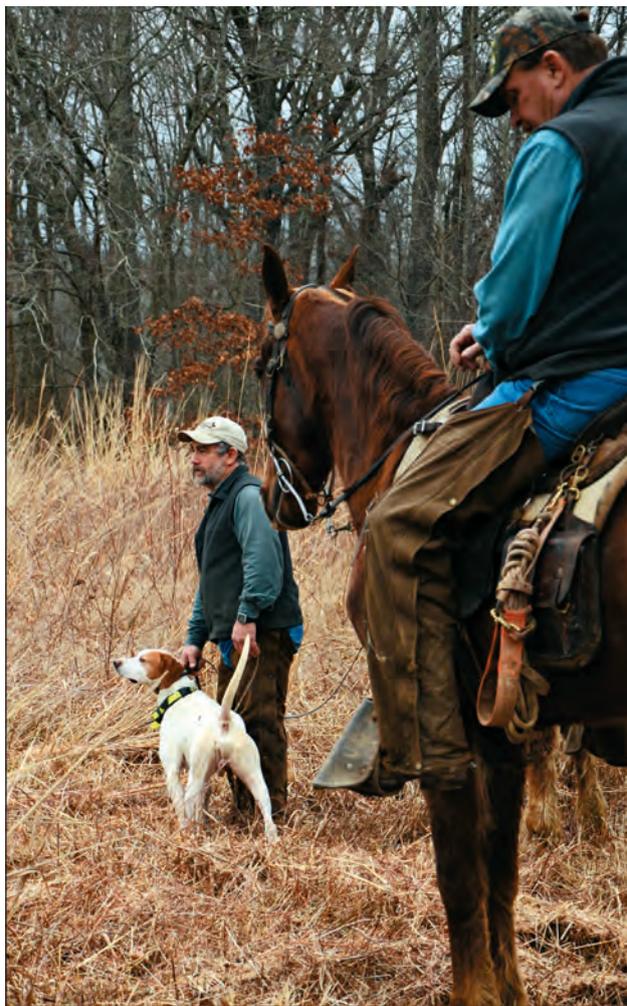
“A dog may get his first win when he is 3 years old, and he may not get his second until he is 4 or 5,” says Carlisle. “But once he gets the second win, he is qualified to compete.” Dogs can requalify in subsequent years with a placement in any qualifying event. The winner of the national championship is automatically qualified for the next year’s trials.

A majority of competitors — but not all — come from the United States and Canada. “We have had dogs from Japan, China and Korea,” says Carlisle. “It is an international competition.”

An English setter named Shadow Oak Bo claimed the title in 2013 and 2014. He was the first English setter to win since 1970 and the first of his breed to win back-to-back competitions since 1901 and 1902.

“Setters dominated field trials from their beginnings in the late 1880s through the 1910s,” says Carlisle. “Then it was almost a complete reversal in the 1930s when pointers began to win every year. It was really neat to see a setter win in 2013, and then to come back and do it again — that’s quite a feat. It was fun to watch.”

Mr. Ames passed away in 1945, leaving the plantation to his wife. Prior to her death in 1950, she created the Hobart Ames Foundation to own and operate the Ames Plantation for the benefit of the University of Tennessee. The plantation is the only privately held and privately funded agricultural research station in the UT system. The plantation manages 13,000 acres of timber and the associated wildlife, including deer, duck and turkey. The plantation is also home to the third-oldest registered Aberdeen-Angus herd in the nation, started by Mr. Ames in 1913. There is also a 2,500-acre row-crop operation that includes soybeans, corn, cotton, wheat and grain sorghum.



“We operate as a research and education center,” says Carlisle. “We like to have people come in and view the grounds and the manor house. We love to show it off.”

The public is invited to ride in the gallery when the 2015 National Field Trial Championships begin on Feb. 9. You can bring your own horse — documentation of a negative coggins test is required — or rent one at the plantation.

Comfort is not guaranteed for those viewing the event — cold weather and snow are not uncommon, and there is a good chance you will get some mud on your boots. However, the reward is one of the most incredible displays of sport you will ever witness. ■

For more information:

Visit amesplantation.org or call 901-878-1067.

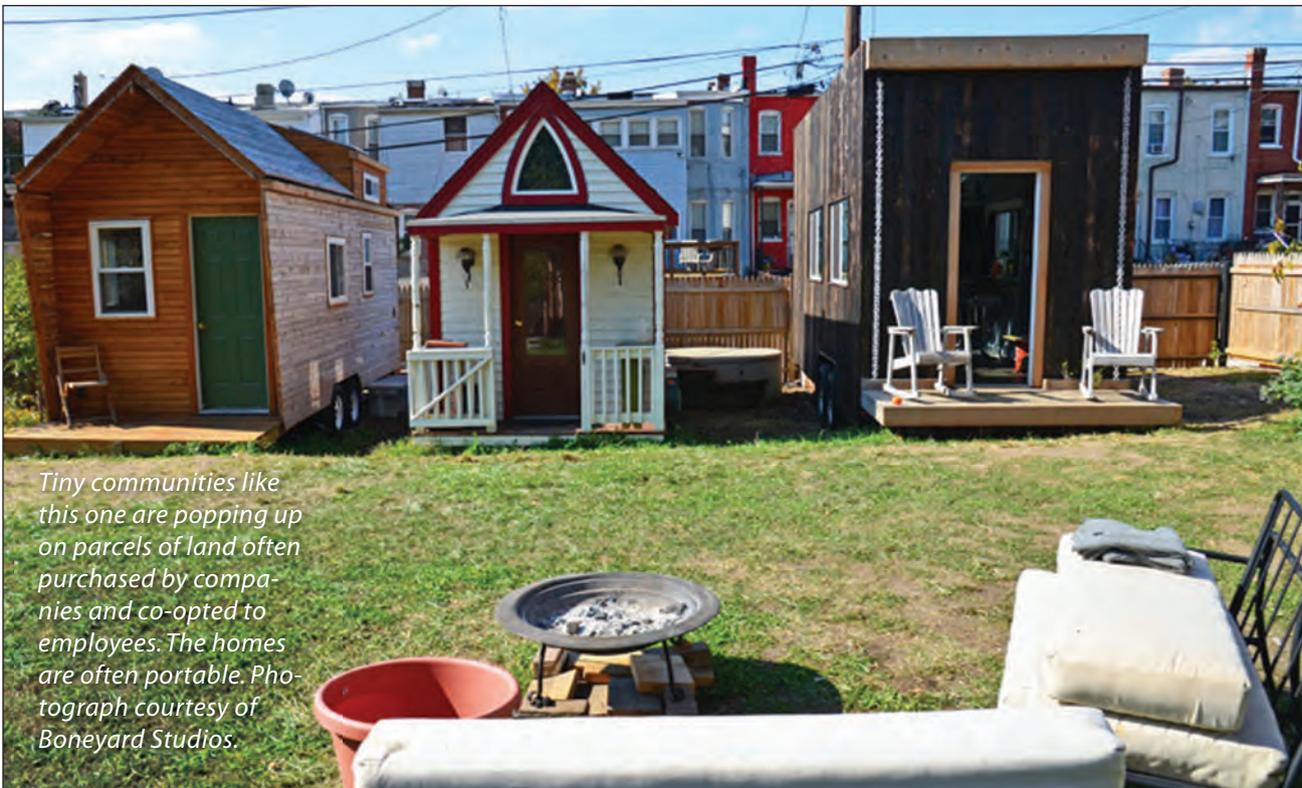


Story by
Thomas Kirk
Photographs by
Kristen Everson

tiny HOMES BIG SAVINGS

Modern movement shuns 'bigger is better,' embraces 'less is more'

The “tiny house movement” has gained attention nationally as a reaction to the increased construction of larger homes. Popularized by the documentary “Tiny,” a television show and other media coverage, these homes are typically smaller than 1,000 square feet — a far cry from the typical American home. In 1973, the average U.S. home measured 1,660 square feet. Since then, homes in this country have grown by more than 60 percent to reach an average size of 2,598 square feet in 2013 — despite a slight dip from 2008 through 2010. The trend forces several questions. Do bigger homes with bigger payments equal more happiness? Is the lure to simplify and declutter your life worth sacrificing the square footage? Do smaller homes actually use less energy, and what factors determine how much energy a house consumes?



Tiny communities like this one are popping up on parcels of land often purchased by companies and co-opted to employees. The homes are often portable. Photograph courtesy of Boneyard Studios.

At right are exterior and interior looks at a Tennessee Tiny Home built in Collierville. This home is classified as a recreational vehicle and is built on a tandem axle.

To each his own, as the saying goes, as to how much square footage you really need to live comfortably and keep all the belongings you treasure. Your mortgage and the electric bill are two other factors

In general, as the size of homes increases, so do the energy demands on it. There's additional space to be heated or cooled, more lighting is required and it's likely that the number of appliances will increase as well. Examining only a home's size will show a strong positive correlation between the square footage of a home and its energy consumption. To look at an extreme case, homes that measure more than 6,400 square feet (the top 1 percent of homes) use two and a half times as much electricity as those sized at 1,600 square feet. But this isn't the whole story.

Other factors such as the age of the home, climate, income and behavior influence energy consumption as well. Energy Information Administration data shows that homes built after the year 2000 use only 2 percent more energy than homes built before 2000



even though the newer homes are, on average, 30 percent larger and contain more electronic appliances.

There are several reasons for this equilibrium in energy use despite the greater building size. First, homes are becoming more energy-efficient. They are lit with compact fluorescent lamps and light-emitting diodes instead of incandescents and use more efficient appliances. For example, an older refrigerator can use about twice as much energy as a newer model of similar capacity. Second, homes are being built with more energy-efficient features. These include better building shells, modern windows and more insulation. Larger homes in particular are more likely to include these types of energy-saving features. These changes are due not just to technological advances but policy changes that tightened building codes and raised the minimum energy-efficiency standards for appliances.

Joe Everson, owner of Tennessee Tiny Homes, began building homes three years ago. Keeping up with the demand of this popular housing trend has allowed the business to grow to 10 full-time employees.



Programs such as EnergyStar have helped to educate consumers about the efficiency and cost-savings of their products. Lastly, more Americans are moving south to more moderate climates. This means that less energy is used on space heating, and although the southern migration has resulted in a 56-percent in-

Do you enjoy compact living?

If you've downsized your living quarters or already have a tiny home, let us know. We are compiling local and regional interest for further articles and features on the subject, and we'd love to talk with you.

What impact has it made in your life? Has it affected your bottom line? Has it freed you up to do things you perhaps weren't able to do before such as travel or invest? Email us at storyideas@tnelectric.org and include "Tiny Home Feedback" in the subject line.

crease in energy used for air conditioning, it's not enough to offset the space-heating reduction.

What this ultimately means is that the amount of energy a home uses is not predetermined by its size. While moving into a tiny home may not be practical or possible (they are often not allowed under current zoning regulations and only make up around 1 percent of homes), realize that large and small homes alike have the potential to be efficient or inefficient.

Rather than moving into a tiny home to save energy, consider looking into energy-efficient retrofits. Contact your local electric cooperative for ways to save. ■

Thomas Kirk is a technical research analyst specializing in energy efficiency and renewable energy for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Tennessee Tiny Homes come in many styles, colors and designs depending on the owner's needs. Each is self-contained and mobile. See more designs at www.tennesseetinyhomes.com.



**SOME WOUNDS
LEAVE NO SCARS.**

One in five Iraq and Afghanistan veterans suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or major depression. Learn more or find out how you can help at woundedwarriorproject.org.



© 2011 Wounded Warrior Project® All Rights Reserved

TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

SUBSCRIPTION OR GIFT

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ 1 year | \$12 3 years | \$30

Clip this form and mail with check or money order to:
The Tennessee Magazine, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224

NEVER PAINT YOUR HOME AGAIN!

**Throw away that paintbrush
and Call **RHINO SHIELD** today!**
We're more affordable than you think!

- * Rhino Shield looks like paint but lasts a whole lot longer.
- * Guaranteed for 25 years never to crack, flake, chip or peel.
- * Perfect for wood, brick, block, stucco and cement fiber board.
- * Thousands of color options to choose from.
- * Water proofs and resists mold & mildew.
- * Wood Repair and prep work included.
- * Financing Available! (with approved credit through Enerbank USA)

**CLIP THIS COUPON AND
SAVE
20%**
* Offer expires April 29

FCBC **BASF** **RhinoShield Georgia Coatings** **10** **LEAD-SAFE**
Celebrating 10 years of success **CEPA**
As seen on **HCTV**
Curb Appeal.

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE EVALUATION.
877.678.2054 • www.RHINOSHIELDGA.com

Eye Doctor Helps Tennessee Legally Blind To See

High Technology For Low Vision Patients Allows Many To Drive Again



For many patients with macular degeneration and other vision-related conditions, the loss of central visual detail also signals the end to one of the last

bastion of independence: driving. A Lebanon optometrist, Dr. John Pino, is using miniaturized telescopes that are mounted in glasses to help people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and other eye conditions.

“Some of my patients consider me the last stop for people who have vision loss,” said Dr. Pino, one of only a few doctors in the world who specialize in fitting bioptic telescopes to help those who have lost vision due to macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and other debilitating eye diseases.

Imagine a pair of glasses that can improve your vision enough to change your life. If you’re a low vision patient, you’ve probably not only imagined them, but have been searching for them. Bioptic telescopes may be the breakthrough in optical technology that will give you the independence you’ve been looking for. Patients with vision in the 20/200 range can many times be improved to 20/50 or better.

Macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness and vision loss in people over 50. Despite this, most adults

are not familiar with the condition. As many as 25% of those over the age of 50 have some degree of macular degeneration. The macula is only one small part of the retina; however, it is the most sensitive and gives us sharp central vision. When it degenerates, macular degeneration leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision, making it difficult or impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver’s vision test.

Nine out of 10 people who have macular degeneration have the dry form. New research suggests vitamins can help. The British medical journal BMC Ophthalmology recently reported that



A scene as it might be viewed by a person with age-related macular degeneration.

56% of patients treated with a high-dose combination of vitamins experienced improved vision after six months. TOZAL Comprehensive Eye Health Formula is now available by prescription from eye doctors.

While age is the most significant risk factor for developing the disease, heredity, smoking, cardiovascular disease, and high blood pressure have also been identified as risk factors. Macular degeneration accounts for 90% of new legal blindness in the U.S. While there is currently no cure, promising research is being done on many fronts. “My job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person

functioning, especially driving,” says Dr. Pino.

When Elaine, 57, of Kingsport, TN, came to see Dr. Pino she wanted to keep her Tennessee driver’s license and was prescribed bioptic telescopic glasses to read signs and see traffic lights farther away. Dr. Pino also prescribed microscope glasses for reading newspapers and menus in restaurants.

As Elaine puts it, “My regular glasses didn’t help too much – it was like looking through a fog. These new telescopic glasses not only allow me to read signs from a farther distance, but make driving much easier. I’ve also used them to watch television so I don’t have to sit so close. I don’t know why I waited to do this; I should have come sooner.”

“Bioptic telescopes can cost over \$2,000,” said Dr. Pino, “especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass.”

“The major benefit of the bioptic telescope is that the lens automatically focuses on whatever you’re looking at,” said Dr. Pino. “It’s like a self-focusing camera, but much more precise.”

To learn more about bioptic telescopes or to schedule a consultation with Dr. Pino, give us a call at 1-855-405-8800. You can also visit our website at:

www.lowvisiontn.com

For more information and a FREE telephone consultation, call us today:
1-855-405-8800

Offices located in Lebanon,
Knoxville and Columbia.

John M. Pino, O.D., Ph.D.





Her cook

Her personal assistant

Her housekeeper

Her nurse

Her daughter

Caring for a loved one requires playing many roles you never expected. But you're not alone.



Connect with experts and other caregivers

aarp.org/caregiving
1.877.333.5885



Geared up for safety

By Abby Berry

Can you imagine working a job that requires you to lift heavy equipment and perform detailed tasks near deadly high voltage? Now imagine doing this 40 feet in the air and, sometimes, in extreme weather. This is the life of a lineman.

These brave men answer when called — and they do so to ensure that you are provided with safe, reliable electric service. But how do they stay safe when working in these conditions? Your local electric cooperative linemen are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times to keep them safe when on the job.

Let's take a look at a lineman's PPE:

Fire-resistant clothing. While our linemen do everything possible to prevent them, unexpected fires can happen. Fires typically occur with an arc flash — an explosion that results from a low-impedance connection to a ground phase in an electrical system. Fire-resistant clothing will self-extinguish, limiting burn injuries.

Insulated gloves. Linemen must wear insulated rubber gloves when working on any type of electrical line. These gloves provide protection against electrical shock and burn and are tested at 30,000 volts. Protective gloves, usually made of leather, are worn over the insulated gloves to protect the rubber from punctures and cuts.

Hard hat. No matter how tough or “hardheaded” co-op linemen are, they still need protection. Insulated hard hats are worn at all times to protect them from blows and falling objects.

Steel-toe boots. These heavy-duty boots are typically 16 inches tall and designed with extra support in mind. The height of the boot shields linemen from gouges, and serrated heels provide a better grip when climbing poles. The steel toes provide sturdier support and protect from objects that could potentially pierce the feet.

Safety goggles. Linemen must wear protective goggles or glasses whether working on electrical lines or clearing rights of way. This protects them from loose debris and other hazards.

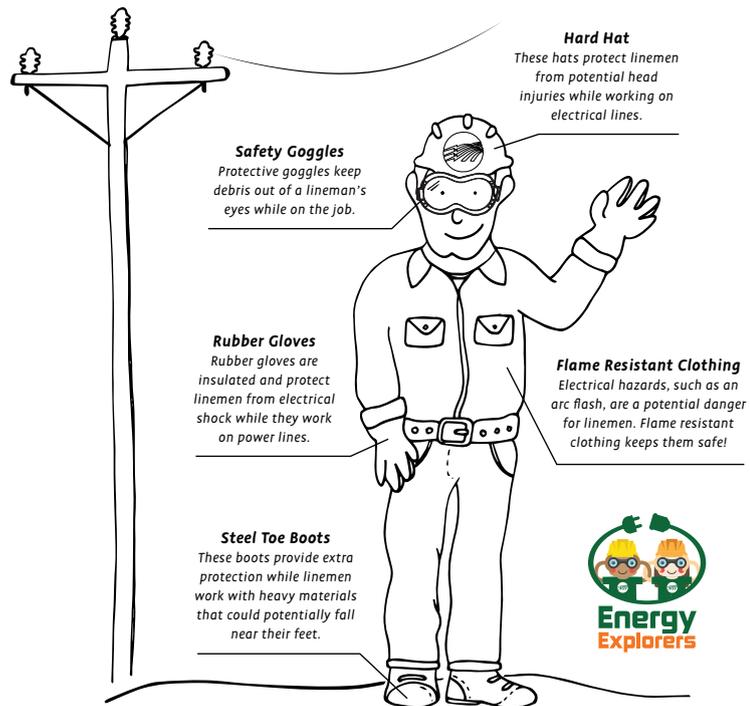
These items make up a lineman's basic PPE. While working on electrical lines, linemen also may be required to wear equipment belts, tool pouches, safety straps and other types of equipment. A lineman's gear usually weighs about 50 pounds — that's a lot of extra weight when working in hazardous conditions.

So, the next time you see a lineman, be sure to thank him for keeping the lights on. But more importantly, thank linemen for the hard — and oftentimes dangerous — work they do day in and day out.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops.

Linemen Gear Up For Safety

Did you know electric co-op linemen wear special safety gear to protect them on the job? Complete this coloring sheet and learn how they stay safe. Remember to always look up and practice safety when playing outdoors near power lines!



New technologies will make electric grid faster, better, smarter

You might not notice when you plug in your toaster or your iron, but the nation's electric grid is undergoing a revolution — a digital revolution. Recent advances in technology are transforming how we make and move electricity, and over time, these changes will greatly improve the efficiency and reliability of electric power.

Rural electric co-ops have been helping lay the groundwork for this transformation with a \$68 million “smart grid” research project funded in part by the Department of Energy. A group of 23 co-ops in 12 states deployed an array of new technologies and installed more than 270,000 pieces of equipment.

Four years later, we have a better understanding of how we can move forward to modernize our electric system. Despite the relatively small size of most electric co-ops, we are adopting these new technologies at a faster rate than the larger utilities — in part because we stand to gain more.

Serving rural areas brings special challenges. Co-op service territories cover 75 percent of the nation's landmass, and co-ops serve some of the country's most rugged and remote regions. New automation software, however, can minimize these difficulties by enabling utilities to manage parts of their systems remotely, saving the co-ops — and their members — a lot of money.

Here are some of the benefits these upgrades will offer our member-owners:

Reliability. New digital meters can send information about outages back to a co-op's operations center. Armed



with this information, linemen won't have to spend nearly as much time looking for the cause of an outage, and restoration times will decrease.

In addition, new “smart feeder switching” can enable co-ops to reroute power during certain outages, thereby minimizing the number of members who lose power.

Efficiency. Digital meters can provide consumers with new data about their energy use. Consumers have discovered broken appliances, safety hazards and other problems using data supplied by their meters. More frequently, however, the data gives consumers a better idea of how they are using electricity — and how they can lower their bills.

Digital meters can send electric use data to the co-op, eliminating the need for meter reading, which saves money and also improves consistency and accuracy in billing. New technologies can help the co-op reduce the amount of electricity lost in transmission.

In the longer term, smart grid technology will change how we use electricity. Armed with more information, consumers will have more control. They will be able to generate and store their own electricity and use that electricity more efficiently!

So in the future, when you use your phone to see if you remembered to turn off your iron, remember that your electric co-op helped bring about the revolution that made this feat possible.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air-drying or even line-drying to save even more household energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Home heating:

Calculating the benefits of electricity vs. propane

By Anne Prince

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, heating and cooling account for nearly half of the energy use in a typical U.S. home, making it the largest energy expense for most households. While few people enjoy spending money on home heating fuels, consumers are willing to pay for comfort in the form of heat.

In these colder months when the temperatures dip and the need to heat your home rises, it makes sense when trying to determine the most economical heating method to evaluate the cost per unit of heat. This is referred to as a British thermal unit (Btu).

Evaluating cost per unit of heat for propane and electricity

The Btu content per gallon of propane is 91,500 Btu. The Btu content for electricity is 3,413 Btu per kilowatt-hour (kWh). It takes 26.8 kWh to equal the Btu content of one gallon of propane.

Using the U.S. Energy Information Administration's table on residential propane and electricity rates for November 2014 — \$2.40 per gallon, excluding taxes, and 13.01 cents per kWh — we arrive at the following calculation:

$$26.8 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01\text{¢} = \$3.49$$

If we used only Btu content to determine the best energy source for home heating, it would appear that propane is less costly than electricity if the price for propane is below \$3.49 per gallon.

Comparing usable heat costs

While we may have determined the cost of the actual heat content, what matters even more is the cost of the usable heat (warmth). A low-efficiency propane furnace may have an efficiency rating of 80 percent, and a high-efficiency propane furnace may have an efficiency rating of 95 percent.

Let's assume we have a 90-percent efficient propane furnace. That means 10 percent is not converted to useable heat (warmth). Here is the math:

$$91,500 \text{ Btu} - 10\% \text{ Btu loss} = 82,350 \text{ Btu}$$

So now it only requires 24 kWh to equal the delivered Btu content of propane:

$$24 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01\text{¢} = \$3.12$$

Electric heat is 100-percent efficient

What may surprise most consumers is that the least efficient electric heating system delivers 100-percent efficient heat. Yes, electric resistance heat (i.e., space heaters, baseboard heating) is 100-percent energy-efficient. Every single Btu in a kilowatt-hour is delivered as usable heat. So if you are paying more than \$3.12 per gallon of propane for a 90-percent efficient propane furnace, it would be cheaper to use electric resistance heat.

IN COMPARISON TO OIL OR GAS FURNACES, ELECTRIC HEATING HAS MANY ADVANTAGES

Electric resistance heat

(i.e., energy-efficient space heaters, baseboard heating):



... is 100% efficient — every single Btu in a kilowatt-hour is delivered as usable heat.



... is quick to respond and can be very quiet.



... takes up less space in the house than other conventional systems (assuming space heaters are used).



... can warm select rooms, allowing you to keep your main thermostat down while ensuring continued comfort.

Electric heating systems are:



... generally less expensive to purchase and install.



... safe because there is no combustion process. There is no chance of flames starting a fire or having combustion products contaminate the air.

Are electric cooperatives recommending that you use electric resistance heat as your sole heating source? No. While co-ops are proud to offer a reliable source of electricity, they don't want to empty your wallet. If your only choice is electric resistance heat, see the energy-saving tips at www.energyright.com.

Pumping up efficiency

There are even more efficient electric heating systems called heat pumps. An air-source heat pump is at least 250 percent energy-efficient. How is it so efficient?

In the heating mode, heat pumps do not use electric energy to create heat; they use it to pump heat into your home through a reversal of the refrigeration process. If you have central air conditioning, you have already experienced this process in reverse when your unit pumps heat out of your home in the summer. If you have ever stood next to the outdoor components, you know the air-conditioning system is exhausting very hot air. In winter, it simply does the opposite, moving heat into your home. Air-source heat pumps are equipped with some type of auxiliary heat for those times when temperatures are near freezing or dip below. The typical backup is in the form of electric resistance heat strips, but there is also a dual-fuel propane option.

In calculating the Btu per kilowatt-hour for a heat pump, we use this formula:

$$3,413 \text{ Btu} \times 250\% = 8532 \text{ Btu.}$$

This means that it only takes 9.65 kilowatts using an air-source heat pump to deliver the same amount of warmth as a 90-percent efficient propane furnace.

$$9.65 \text{ kWh} \times 13.01 = \$1.25$$

The price of propane would need to drop to \$1.25 per gallon to break even with the cost of home heating using an air-source heat pump. Efficiency increases even more sharply when looking at the 350-plus percent efficiencies of a geothermal (water-source) heat pump. An additional advantage of geothermal systems is that they can be equipped to provide free water heating most of the year.

Providing reliable energy facts — regardless of fuel type

The folks at your local electric cooperative believe it is their responsibility to provide members with reliable energy facts — regardless of fuel type — so you can get the most from your energy dollars. Your co-op is committed to helping you find the best energy solution for your budget and lifestyle and hopes you will consult with the cooperative before making any big home-heating decisions.

Anne Prince writes on energy-efficiency issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Electricity's advantages for home heating and hot water

While most consumers are aware of the benefits of using propane or natural gas to heat their homes, many are not aware of the value of using electricity for home heating. Here are the numerous advantages of electricity-based home heating and hot water systems that may surprise even the most energy-savvy consumers:

In comparison to oil or gas furnaces, electric heating has many advantages.

- Electric heating systems are generally less expensive to purchase and install than other systems and, on the whole, enjoy fuel cost stability.
- Electric heat is quick to respond and can be very quiet.
- Electric heat can be added on a localized basis to heat specific areas of the home, and the temperature can be controlled easily by room or by zone.
- A portable, energy-efficient electric space heater or electric baseboard heater can warm select rooms, allowing you to keep your main thermostat down while ensuring continued comfort.
- Electric heat can take up less space in the home than other conventional systems (assuming space heaters are used).
- The electric heating system is safe because there is no combustion process. There is no chance of flames starting a fire or having combustion products contaminate the air.

Choices for electric heat include:

- Energy-efficient heat pumps
- Baseboard heaters
- Portable space heaters
- Decorative fireplaces

Heating contractors, electricians, home improvement stores and your local electric cooperative are good sources for information about heating with electricity. For additional information about how you can be more energy-efficient, visit the Tennessee Valley Authority's www.energyright.com website.

Powerful smartphone apps

By Tom Tate

The smartphone is enabling the world to take advantage of the “Internet of things” and the “connected home” unlike any other device that came before it. In case you are not familiar with these two phrases, they both boil down to this: More products and appliances are being sold ready to connect to the Internet. The goal of this connectivity is many-fold, including control, management, troubleshooting, comfort, convenience, security and entertainment.

Where does the smartphone enter this picture? According to several estimates, more than 50 percent of cell phones used in the United States qualify as smartphones. Because smartphone users almost never leave home without their devices and most keep them close at home, it has become the catalyst that makes the “Internet of things” and the “connected home” a reality. Through apps for smartphones, appliances and products can now be commanded, controlled and managed from a single device.

Let’s take a look at a selection of powerful smartphone apps. Energy control and efficiency rank high on your local electric cooperative’s list of priorities. Let’s start there. Nest (www.nest.com) cracked the smart thermostat market open a few years back. Its device connects directly to your Wi-Fi network. This connectivity allows access for temperature control and monitoring, plus simplifies software updates to fix bugs and add features. Since then, Nest has introduced a smoke and carbon monoxide detector as well as a video camera. And the company is working with others to allow their devices to work with Nests. Honeywell (lyric.honeywell.com) and Ecobee (www.ecobee.com) also offer their own lines of smart thermostats that are also controllable via apps.

Companies such as Belkin and Insteon have a wide range of products for home automation that include energy control features. Let’s look at Insteon (www.insteon.com) for a moment. It offers replacement receptacles and switches that can be controlled via its app. It also offers sensors and security devices so you can create your own home security system. Insteon’s products work with the app to send alerts, allow you to create schedules, monitor the devices and, of course, directly control them. Belkin’s entry falls under the name of WeMo (www.belkin.com/us/p/P-F7C030/) and offers similar functionality.

Aside from automating your home, there are a lot of additional things your smartphone can do. For those who are “Star Trek” fans, think of Spock’s tricorder, that marvelous device that allowed him to perform science magic on alien planets. The smartphone is bringing a tricorder to everyone who has an interest. With small attachments, you can do amazing things. Camera buffs can use the Lumu Light



The Nest thermostat connects to your Wi-Fi network to give you remote access via your smartphone, allowing you to check energy use and make adjustments when you’re on the go.

Meter (lu.mu) to calculate light conditions for precise photography. Or you can simply download the LightMeter app from Whitegoods to measure foot-candle levels wherever you desire.

For a truly Spock-esque experience, delve into the Lapka (www.mylapka.com/pem) world of Personal Environment Monitoring. With these modules and the app, you can measure organic (bacteria) levels, radiation, electromagnetic fields and relative humidity. Or, if you want to know how much heat is leaking around your windows or if that manifold on the car is cool enough to touch, you can choose between the Seek (obtain.thermal.com/category-s/1818.htm) and Flir (flir.com/flirone/atHome.cfm) offerings. Of course, these allow you the opportunity to establish your own fledgling paranormal and Bigfoot investigation unit for a fraction of the price of larger infrared gear.

Other things that can be controlled by smartphones include padlocks, glucose monitors, door locks, lightbulbs, pet monitors and more health apps than you can shake a stick at. The list is practically endless!

As you may have already guessed, the proliferation of apps means a couple of things for smartphone users. One, they are going to need more memory, and two, at some point, there will be a need to consolidate their apps to provide convenient control and monitoring. In an homage to J.R.R. Tolkien, we will need one app to control them all. An enterprising firm, Wink (www.wink.com), is already at work to consolidate home control. In the meantime, grab your smartphone, download an app or two and see how you can shape your world.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

HOME ENERGY Q&A

Energy expert James Dulley answers your questions

Use zone heating and cooling to efficiently even room temperatures

Dear Jim: Some rooms in our house are too hot or cold, and someone is always complaining. What can we do to even out the room temperatures to keep everyone happy? Will doing this lower our utility bills? — Sean H.

Dear Sean: It's likely there's not a single home in the entire country that has even temperatures throughout all the rooms. There are many factors such as the length of ductwork, bends, orientation to the sun and the number of windows and exterior walls that impact the room air temperature. The items you keep in a room also affect the air temperature. For example, if you have a large TV in a small room, it can raise the temperature.

Actually, it is not desirable to have all the rooms at the same temperature. Depending on your activity level in various rooms, a range of temperatures may be more comfortable for you and your family. Also, some people simply prefer to have it warmer or cooler.

Many homes contain a single furnace or heat pump. Setting the thermostat to keep the chilliest room warm results in many of the other rooms becoming too warm. A warmer house loses more heat, forcing the heating system to work harder. According to the Department of Energy, for each degree the thermostat is set lower for an eight-hour period, heating bills can be reduced by up to 1 percent.

Installing an automatic zone control system is the best and most energy-efficient method to control individual room temperatures. A zone control system adjusts special duct dampers based on the actual room temperatures and the desired temperatures.

Many homes have access to only main ducts, which later branch out to the individual rooms. In this case, the zone control system will control the temperatures in each room grouping such as all the bedrooms, kitchen/dining areas and the living room. Although it is optimal to control each room independently, having just three or four zones is adequate for comfort and energy savings.

A programmable thermostat is mounted in each room or zone grouping to control the motorized duct damper leading to it. If the room is too warm during winter, the damper in the duct leading to that room partially closes. For example, a zone thermostat may continuously readjust the damper position as the intensity of the sun shining through a window changes throughout the day.



This programmable zone control thermostat has a large digital readout with information about the temperature/comfort conditions in the zone. Photo credit — Zonex

The majority of the energy savings with an automatic zoning system is realized because each room temperature can be varied throughout the day. There is no need to keep the bedrooms toasty warm during the daytime or the living room warm overnight. The programmable thermostats are designed to bring room temperatures back up without having the backup resistance elements come on.

There are various designs of zoning dampers — from a simple flat damper to bladders that inflate with air to close off the ducts. They all function equally well. With the many new thermostats and use-control electronics, adding a zoning system requires professional installation. Talk to a qualified technician to design a system that works best for your home.

These companies offer zoning systems: Aprilaire, 800-334-6011, www.aprilaire.com; Arzel Zoning Technology, 800-611-8312, www.arzel.com; Durodyne, 800-899-3876, www.durodyne.com; EWC Controls, 800-446-3110, www.ewccontrols.com; and Zonex Systems, 800-228-2966, www.zonexsystems.com. ■

Have a question for Jim?

Send inquiries to James Dulley, *The Tennessee Magazine*, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244, or visit www.dulley.com.



HISTORY LESSON *by Bill Carey, the Tennessee History Guy*

World War II general may be Tennessee's most-overlooked military hero

I talk to many knowledgeable people about Tennessee history. Perhaps no fact astonishes them more than the following:

Joint Base Andrews (formerly known as Andrews Air Force Base) — the base used by the president of the United States — was named for a famous U.S. Army general from Nashville.

Frank Maxwell Andrews is considered one of the founders of the U.S. Air Force. For a time, he was commander of all U.S. troops in the European Theater of Operations during World War II. Had he not been killed in a plane crash, he might have been head of the Normandy invasion instead of Dwight Eisenhower.

Andrews was distantly related to two Tennessee governors (John C. Brown and Neill S. Brown). Born in Nashville in 1884, he grew up in the South Nashville neighborhood known as Waverly Place.

Today, Waverly Place is in the inner-city, but not so in the 1890s. “There were cows and chickens (in our yard),” his sister, Josephine Sykes, recalled years later. “We sold milk and eggs, and the boys delivered them in our neighborhood.”

When he graduated from Montgomery Bell Academy, Andrews applied to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and made the waiting list as a “second alternate.”

Many years later, his sister remembered great excitement in the household when they received a phone call saying that her brother’s spot at West Point was secured.

“Daddy was very happy and pleased,” she wrote. “Mother was in tears. She knew what it would mean — being away from home.”



General Frank Maxwell Andrews, left, meets British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, right, at Casablanca in January 1943. (Photograph courtesy of the Andrews family)



Andrews graduated 42nd in his class and became a junior officer in 1906. For the first several years of his Army career, he was in the cavalry. In 1917, he was shifted to the U.S. Army's new aviation section and became a flyer. Andrews stayed in the aviation side for the rest of his career, working his way up through the ranks with assignments such as chief of the Army Air Corps' Training and Operations Division.

Regardless of his rank, he never strayed far from the cockpit, and in August 1935, he broke three speed records that had formerly been held by Charles Lindbergh.

In 1935, the U.S. Army consolidated all of its Air Corps tactical units into a single command. General Douglas MacArthur promoted Andrews to the rank of brigadier general and made him commander of this new unit. "A one-time cavalryman, Col. Andrews is tough, fiftyish, handsome," reported Time magazine. "Army wives call him the best-looking man in service and like to remember the romantic thrill he gave them in 1914 by taking his bride on a horseback honeymoon in Virginia."

As an important leader within Army policy circles, Andrews advocated the Army's purchase of heavy, four-engine B-17 bombers instead of smaller and cheaper bombers such as the B-18. When, at first, the U.S. Army leaned toward the B-18, it appeared to end his career. "To many, it appeared that the Army was punishing Andrews for advocating the B-17 so forcefully," the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force says in an online biography.

However, Gen. George Marshall believed in Andrews and named him one of his senior staff members in 1940.

At different times during World War II, Gen. Andrews was commander of the Caribbean Defense Command and commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East.

At the Casablanca Conference in January 1943, Lt. Gen. Andrews was named commander of all U.S. forces in Europe, replacing Dwight Eisenhower. At this time, the American effort in Europe was focused on long-range bombing and planning for a mainland invasion.

Unfortunately, Andrews' tenure as commander of all U.S. forces in Europe was not a long one. On May 3, 1943, during an inspection tour, Andrews was killed when his B-24 crashed while trying to land in Iceland. Fourteen people were killed in the tragedy. At that time, Andrews was the highest-ranking allied officer to die in the line of duty in the war.

After his death, many people recalled something that Andrews once said when asked about the amount of time he spent



*Gen. Frank Maxwell Andrews
(U.S. Army photograph)*

flying. "I don't want to be one of those generals who die in bed," he said.

For several decades, Andrews Air Force Base (now Joint Base Andrews) has been well-known as the base from which the president of the United States flies. However, to the best of my knowledge, there are no places named for Frank Maxwell Andrews in his native state of Tennessee — not even a bridge, highway or small airfield!

Some World War II historians have speculated that, had he still been alive, Gen. Frank Andrews would have been chosen by Gen. Marshall to be head of the Normandy invasion. Had he done so, it is interesting to wonder how this might have changed the invasion.

"Andrews might, for instance, have been more inclined to direct resources to his old friend Patton as he pushed toward Metz, Nancy and the German border in August 1944," E.

Thomas Wood wrote in "The Man Who Would Be Ike," an article in the May/June 2010 issue of *World War II*. "He might have let the Sixth Army Group cross the Rhine River after reaching it in late November, rather than halting the advance as Eisenhower did." That decision could have brought the war to an earlier end, saving thousands of lives.

Of course, we will never know. What we do know is what some of his colleagues said about him. "He was a great man, of great breadth of concept, and he would have been one of the truly great leaders if he had survived," said Gen. James Doolittle. ■





TENNESSEE ALMANAC

Events and happenings around the state

West Tennessee

Now-Feb. 28 • Reelfoot Lake Eagle Tours, Reelfoot Lake State Park, Tiptonville. 731-253-9652 or tnstateparks.com/parks/about/reelfoot-lake

Now-April 19 • Animal Grossology Exhibit, Pink Palace Museum, Memphis. 901-636-2362 or memphismuseums.org

Now-Nov. 13 • “Hidden Universe 3D,” CTI 3D Giant Theater, Memphis. 901-636-2362 or memphismuseums.org

Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22 • Privet Pull, Lichterman Nature Center, Memphis. 901-636-2211 or memphismuseums.org

Feb. 7 • Chocolate Tour, downtown square, Covington. 901-476-9727

Feb. 14 • Golden Circle Opry, South Jackson Community Center, Jackson. 731-425-8614 or southjacksoncenter@cityofjackson.net

March 7 • Spring Sting Arts and Crafts Show, Medina Middle School, Medina. 731-225-2988 or gcssd.org/mms

March 14 • Josh and Ashley Franks Hometown Sing, Southern Gospel, Hardin County High School, Savannah. 731-607-1948 or joshandashleyfranks.com

March 14 • 43rd Annual Andrew Jackson Marathon, Union University, Jackson. 731-668-4000 or andrewjacksonmarathon.com

March 19-22 • Jackson, Tenn., Dog Fanciers All-Breed Dog Show, Jackson Fairgrounds Park, Jackson. jtdfa.org

Middle Tennessee

Now-March 8 • Wedding Dresses Through the Decades Exhibit, Oakland Historic House Museum, Murfreesboro. 615-893-0022 or oaklandsmuseum.org

Now-March 24 (Tuesdays) • 2015 Master Gardener Volunteer Training Course, Lane Agri-Park Community Center, Murfreesboro. 615-898-7710 or mastergardeners-rc.org

Now-May 31 • “Tanya Tucker: Strong Enough to Bend,” Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville. 615-416-2001 or countrymusichalloffame.org

Now-June 14 • “Kenny Rogers: Through the Years,” Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville. 615-416-2001 or countrymusichalloffame.org

Jan. 31-Feb. 1 • Ninth Annual Southern Motorsports Indoor Tractor/Truck Pull, Tennessee Miller Coliseum, Murfreesboro. 615-406-0382 or southernmotorsports.net

Feb. 1 • 27th Annual Stones River Region Antique Automobile Club of America Car Show and Swap Meet, Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Nashville. 615-452-2927 or stonesrivercarclub.com

Feb. 5, 12 and 19 • Master Gardeners of Rutherford County Garden Basics Course, Lane Agri-Park Community Center, Murfreesboro. 615-898-7710 or mastergardeners-rc.org

Feb. 6 • A Chocolate Affair Fund-raiser for the 15th Judicial District Child Advocacy Center, Capitol Theatre, Lebanon. 615-449-7975

Feb. 6 and 20 • Millersville Bluegrass Show and Jam, Millersville Community Center, Millersville. 615-429-6831 or millersvillebluegrass.com

Feb. 6-Aug. 31 • “Ronnie Milsap: A Legend in My Time,” Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville. 615-416-2001 or countrymusichalloffame.org

Feb. 7 • Chocolate Affair, Wilma Rudolph Event Center, Clarksville. 931-645-7476 or cityofclarksville.com

Feb. 7 • Stewart County Bazaar, Dover Visitor Center, Dover. 931-232-7706

Feb. 11-12 • “Precious Preservation: Saving Your History,” Oakland Historic House Museum, Murfreesboro. 615-893-0022 or oaklandsmuseum.org

Feb. 12-14 • Clay Harris Theater production of “Love Me,” Hickman County Fairgrounds, Centerville. 931-729-5130

Feb. 13-15 • Fog Festival, throughout Monteagle. 931-924-5353 or mmtchamber@blomand.net

Feb. 13-14, 20-21, 27-28 and March 1 • “Sabrina Fair,” Springhouse Worship and Arts Center, Smyrna. 615-852-8499 or springhousetheatre.com

Now-March 8 • Wedding Dresses Through the Decades Exhibit, Oakland Historic House Museum, Murfreesboro. 615-893-0022 or oaklandsmuseum.org



Step back to yesterday and see the common threads that weave together the lives of women through the decades and centuries. More than 50 wedding dresses dating from 1860 through 2014 will be on display in Maney Hall.

Admission to the exhibit is \$8 per person. Special evening openings of the elegant and fashionable wedding dresses will take place Feb. 6 and 20 and March 6.

For more information, call 615-893-0022 or email mb@oaklandsmuseum.org.

Photograph courtesy of Ken Robinson





Feb. 14 • Sweetheart Dance and Silent Auction, Smyrna Town Centre, Smyrna. 407-913-3104 or stevefalk@bellsouth.net

Feb. 14 and March 7 • Second Saturday in Fiddlers Grove, James E. Ward Agriculture Center, Lebanon. 615-443-2626 or fiddlersgrove.org

Feb. 15 • Music at Grace Concert Series: Mardi Gras, Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville. 931-647-6750 or office@glctn.org

Feb. 15 • Mid-Tenn Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America Fifth Annual Winter Swap Meet, Wilson County Fairgrounds, Lebanon. 615-556-8160 or midtennaaca.org

Feb. 20-21 • Basket Weaving Workshop, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville. 423-881-5708

Feb. 20-22 • Southern Equine Expo, Tennessee Miller Coliseum, Murfreesboro. 615-494-8961 or southernequineexpo.com

Feb. 20-22 and 27-28 • “Duck Hunter Shoots Angel,” Houston County Community Theater, Erin. 931-289-2787

Feb. 20-22 and Feb. 27-March 1 • “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum,” Manchester Arts Center, Manchester. 931-570-4489 or millenniumrep.org

Feb. 21 • Surrender of Clarksville, Fort Defiance Interpretive Center, Clarksville. 931-472-3351 or fortdefianceclarksville.com

Feb. 21 • Safety Slam Jam Basketball Game, Mt. Juliet Middle School, Mt. Juliet. 615-754-4357 or mjhc@tds.net

Feb. 26 • Battle of the Quartets, Mt. Pleasant Middle School, Mt. Pleasant. 731-607-1948 or joshandashleyfranks.com

Feb. 28 • The Primitive Quartet in Concert, Palace Theatre, Crossville. 931-484-6133 or palacetheatre-crossville.com

March 1 • Wynnewood State Historic Site Season Opening, 210 Old Highway 25, Castalian Springs. 615-452-5463 or historicwynnewood.org

March 5-8 • Country Music Cluster Dog Shows, Williamson County Agricultural Exposition Park, Franklin. 615-429-3225

March 5-8 • Nashville Lawn and Garden Show, Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Nashville. 615-876-7680 or nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com

March 6-7 • WOWLM Ladies Conference, Estill Springs Community Center, Estill Springs. 931-308-3802

March 7 • Grand Ole Opry star Jeannie Seely in concert, Palace Theatre, Crossville. 931-484-6133 or palacetheatre-crossville.com

March 7 • Flapjack Breakfast, Sam Davis Masonic Lodge, Smyrna. 615-459-4576 or samdavislodge@comcast.net

March 7 • Spring Craft Show, Longview Recreation Center, Spring Hill. 615-302-0971, ext. 2210, or wcparksandrec.com

March 7 • Fall Creek Falls Thaw 15km Run and Weekend Excursion, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville. 423-881-5708 or tennesseerunningtour.com

March 8 • Orpheus Vocal Competition Final Concert, Wright Music Building, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro. 615-898-2493 or mtsumusic.com

March 13-15 • Upper Cumberland Home and Garden Show, W. Clyde Hyder-Tommy Burks Agricultural Pavilion, Cookeville. 931-528-7472 or uchba.com

March 14 • Wearin’ of the Green Irish Day Celebration, downtown Erin. 931-289-5100 or houstoncochamber.com

March 14-15 • Nashville Philatelic Society Stamp Show 2015, Fifty Forward Madison Station, Madison. 615-833-5161 or nashvillephilatelic.org

March 17-18 and April 23-24 • Bugs and Beds, Oaklands Historic House Museum, Murfreesboro. 615-893-0022 or www.oaklandsmuseum.org

March 20-21 • Putnam and Jackson County Homeschoolers Inc. presents “Cinderella’s Glass Slipper,” Cookeville Performing Arts Center, Cookeville. 931-528-1313 or pajch.org/theater

March 20-21 • The TLC Players present “Hello Dolly!” Woodmont Hills Family of God Church, Nashville. 615-295-1660 or teen.learning@gmail.com

March 20-22 • Mid-America Orchid Congress Show and Sale, Franklin Marriott, Franklin. orchidsinrhythm.org

March 21 • Spring into Spring Craft and Vendor Event, 27804 State Route 108, Gruetli-Laager. 931-779-6694

(Continued on page 28)

List your events in our Almanac

The *Tennessee Magazine* publishes event listings as space allows, giving preference to events of regional or statewide interest and those that are annual or one-time happenings. The magazine does not publish recurring events such as those held weekly.

The magazine assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of information submitted for publication and advises calling or emailing ahead to confirm dates, locations, times and possible admission fees.

To be included in the calendar, visit our website, www.tnmagazine.org, and fill out the submission form. You can also email listings to events@tnelectric.org or send them to Tennessee Almanac, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224.

Please include the name of the event, where it will be held (both town and physical location), a phone number readers can call for more information and an email or website address, if applicable, where readers can find more information. Event listings must be received at least two months in advance and will be accepted up to a year in advance.



TWIST ON TOAST

French toast is a hearty breakfast favorite that's been around since the Romans. It's time for a makeover.

**Orange-Glazed
French Toast**

*Photograph by
Robin Conover*

*Recipes compiled by
Tammy Algood*

The French twist is back. Toast again? You won't hear that when you serve one of these recipes that are "ooh la la!" Repurpose leftover breads when making French toast. And remember, the drier the bread, the more it soaks up the rich, delectable ingredients that set this apart from ordinary pancakes and waffles. French toast is oh so easy, but you don't have to kiss and tell.

Eggnog French Toast

Yield: 6 servings

12 thick day-old French bread slices cut on the diagonal
 2½ cups eggnog
 ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
 Pinch of ground cinnamon
 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
 Powdered sugar
 Maple syrup

Arrange the bread slices in a lightly greased 13-by-9-inch baking dish. In a mixing bowl, whisk together the eggnog, nutmeg and cinnamon. Pour over the bread. Cover and refrigerate for 6 hours or overnight.

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Grease a large jellyroll pan. Using a spatula, transfer the bread slices to the baking sheet. Brush with the butter. Bake for 10 minutes in the center of the oven. Turn and bake until golden-brown but still soft inside, around 5 minutes longer. Watch carefully so it doesn't burn. Serve with a generous dusting of powdered sugar and maple syrup.

Orange-Glazed French Toast

Yield: 4 servings

8 thick bread slices
 2 cups half-and-half
 4 egg yolks
 3 tablespoons light brown sugar
 1 tablespoon plus ½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract, divided
 ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

Pick Tennessee Products is a promotion of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture developed to help consumers recognize and choose foods grown or processed in Tennessee. As Pick Tennessee Products spokesperson, Tammy Algood develops recipes featuring Tennessee food products. To learn more about our state's food products and find more recipes, go to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Market Development website at www.PickTnProducts.org or contact Algood at 615-837-5160 or tammy.algood@tn.gov.

3 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided
 ½ cup sour cream
 1 tablespoon white sugar
 ⅓ cup orange marmalade

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Place the bread slices on an ungreased baking sheet and place in the center of the oven. Bake about 8 minutes on each side until the slices are dry and very lightly browned. Watch carefully so they do not overbrown. Remove from the oven and reduce temperature to 200 degrees.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the half-and-half, egg yolks, brown sugar, 1 tablespoon of the extract and cinnamon. Pour into a 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Add the bread slices and soak them 4 minutes on each side. Remove to a large platter.

Meanwhile, place a large skillet over medium-low heat and add 1 tablespoon of the butter. When melted, add enough bread to fit in a single layer. Cook until the slices are golden-brown and crisp on both sides, about 4 minutes per side. Remove to a baking sheet and place in the warm oven. Repeat, adding more butter to the pan as needed.

In a small bowl, stir together the sour cream, white sugar and the remaining extract. When ready to serve, smear a thin coating of the orange marmalade on each slice and top with a dollop of the sour cream.

Baked French Toast

Yield: 8 servings

1¼ cups firmly packed light brown sugar
 8 tablespoons unsalted butter
 4 tablespoons maple syrup, divided
 1 large loaf soft French bread, cut in 1-inch slices with crusts removed

1½ cups half-and-half
 5 eggs
 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 2 tablespoons powdered sugar

Grease a 13-by-9-inch baking dish and set aside.

In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the brown sugar, butter and 2 tablespoons of the syrup. Stir until the sugar completely dissolves. Transfer to the prepared baking dish. Arrange the bread slices in a single layer on top, pushing the slices tightly together.

In a mixing bowl, whisk together the half-and-half, eggs, vanilla extract, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Pour evenly over the bread. Cover and refrigerate overnight or for at least 6 hours.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Meanwhile, let the casserole stand uncovered at room temperature for 15 minutes. Bake 35-40 minutes or until golden-brown. Serve hot with a sprinkling of the powdered sugar and the remaining syrup.

Cinnamon Cream French Toast

Yield: 2 servings

½ cup heavy whipping cream
 ½ cup mascarpone, room temperature
 2 tablespoons sugar
 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
 2 eggs
 ⅓ cup milk
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 4 thick slices day-old French bread
 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
 Maple syrup

(Continued on page 28)



Toast

(Continued from page 27)

In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat the whipping cream at high speed until it holds stiff peaks. Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, whisk together the mascarpone and sugar. Gently fold the mascarpone and vanilla into the whipped cream.

In a shallow bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk and cinnamon. Dip the bread into the milk mixture, flipping once to evenly coat. Place the butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the bread and fry 2-3 minutes or until golden-brown. Flip and repeat on the other side. Serve warm with a dollop of the cream and maple syrup.

Brown Sugar Pear or Apple variation: For an impressive additional or alternative topping, peel and thinly

slice a medium pear or apple. Place it in a large skillet over medium heat with 1 tablespoon unsalted butter and 1 tablespoon of brown sugar. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 6-7 minutes. Set aside to cool while making the French toast as directed above.

Blueberry Lemon French Toast Casserole

Yield: 8 servings

12 slices French bread (1 baguette)

8 eggs

1 cup milk

½ cup maple syrup

1 teaspoon lemon extract

½ heaping teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 cup fresh blueberries

½ cup slivered almonds

2 tablespoons brown sugar

Blueberry syrup, optional

Grease a 13-by-9-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Place 6 of the bread slices in the bottom of the dish.

In a mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk, syrup, lemon extract and cinnamon. Pour half over the bread slices. Top with half of the blueberries. Repeat the layers of bread, milk mixture and blueberries. Top with the almonds and sprinkle evenly with the brown sugar.

Cover and refrigerate overnight. Remove from the refrigerator and preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Uncover and bake 55 minutes. Let rest 5 minutes before serving warm with blueberry syrup, if desired.

Raspberry or Blackberry variation: Substitute fresh or frozen raspberries or blackberries for the blueberries. Then substitute almond extract for the lemon and top it off with maple syrup instead of blueberry.

Almanac of Events

(Continued from page 25)

March 21 • St. Francis of Assisi Spring Craft Show, 1489 Donelson Parkway, Dover. 931-627-0534

March 21 • Nashville Doll and Bear Show 2015, Nashville Airport Marriott, Nashville. 803-783-8049

March 21 • Jenkins Cumberland Presbyterian Church 35th Annual Barbecue, Silent Auction and Bake Sale, Jenkins Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Nolensville. 615-776-2339

March 21-22 • Waterfalls Weekend, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville. 423-881-5708

March 22 • Music at Grace Concert Series: Concert Chorale of Nashville, Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville. 931-647-6750 or office@glctn.org

March 22 • Bach and Friends in Concert, Wright Music Building, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro. 615-898-2493 or www.mtsmusic.com

March 24-27 • Over the Rainbow Consignment Sale, Gladeville Community Center, Gladeville. 615-337-5672 or www.overtherainbowcs.com

March 27-Dec. 31, 2016 • “Dylan, Cash, and the Nashville Cats,” Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville. 615-416-2001 or countrymusicalloffame.org

March 28 • Quilt Show, Mathews Memorial Methodist Church, Madison. 615-417-1879 or paulajweller@gmail.com

East Tennessee

Now-Feb. 15 • “Singin’ in the Rain,” Jonesborough Repertory Theatre, Jonesborough. 423-753-1010 or jonesboroughtheatre.com

Feb. 6 • 20th Annual Ocoee Story Fest, Museum Center at Five Points, Cleveland. 423-479-7887 or tennesseetellers.org

Feb. 14-15 • Colonial Skills and Trades: Militia Muster at Fort Watauga, Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area, Elizabethton. 423-543-5808 or sycamoreshoalstn.org

Feb. 18-22 • Saddle Up, throughout Pigeon Forge. 800-251-9100 or mypigeonforge.com/saddleup

Feb. 19-22 • Smoky Mountain Snow Down: A Winter Heritage Festival, Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center, Townsend. 800-525-6834 or smokymountains.org

Feb. 21 • 10th Annual Antique Appraisal Fair and Show, Greeneville High School, Greeneville. 423-638-4111 or greenevilleantiqueappraisalfair.com

Feb. 21 • Ranch Rodeo, 1615 Pavilion Drive, White Pine. 423-585-2663 or facebook.com/wscagclub

March 18-21 • A Mountain Quiltfest, LeConte Center At Pigeon Forge, Pigeon Forge. 800-251-9100 or mountainquiltfest.com

March 20-21 • Speed Show, 1615 Pavilion Drive, White Pine. 423-585-2663 or facebook.com/wscagclub

March 20-22 • 2015 Carousel Fine Craft Show, Kingsport Farmer’s Market, Kingsport. 423-392-8414 or engagekingsport.com

March 21-April 20 • Dollywood’s Festival of the Nations, Dollywood, Pigeon Forge. 800-DOLLYWOOD or dollywood.com

March 28 • Overmountain Weavers Guild Fibers Show and Sale, Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area, Elizabethton. 423-543-5808 or sycamoreshoalstn.org





The most affordable mobile medical alert works anywhere, even in the shower.

While most medical alert devices don't work outside your home, the new GreatCall® Splash is powered by the nation's most dependable wireless network, so it works whenever, wherever you need it. And, with its waterproof design, you can even take it with you in the shower.

In any emergency, just press the button to speak immediately with a 5Star® Medical Alert Agent, 24/7. The Agent will confirm your location using patented GPS technology, evaluate your situation and get you the help you need.

At only \$14⁹⁹ per month, 5Star Medical Alert Service on the Splash saves you over \$200 per year in monthly fees compared to other medical alert services, making it the most affordable on the market.

Select the GreatCall GoPlan™ and get 5Star Medical Alert Service plus unlimited access to nurses and doctors. You'll also get the GreatCall Link™ app, free. Link connects you to your family and friends so they can stay updated and in the know about your health and safety, while you maintain your independence.

Service starts at

\$14⁹⁹
month

No contracts
No cancellation fees
No equipment to install

Call **1-866-219-9262** today
or visit us at **greatcall.com**

Buy today and get a FREE Lanyard, a \$15 value!

With activation by 3/31/15.

Get help at home
or on the go, 24/7

Speak immediately with
5Star Medical Alert Agents

Patented GPS
confirms your location

Nationwide
Coverage

Waterproof design
works in the shower

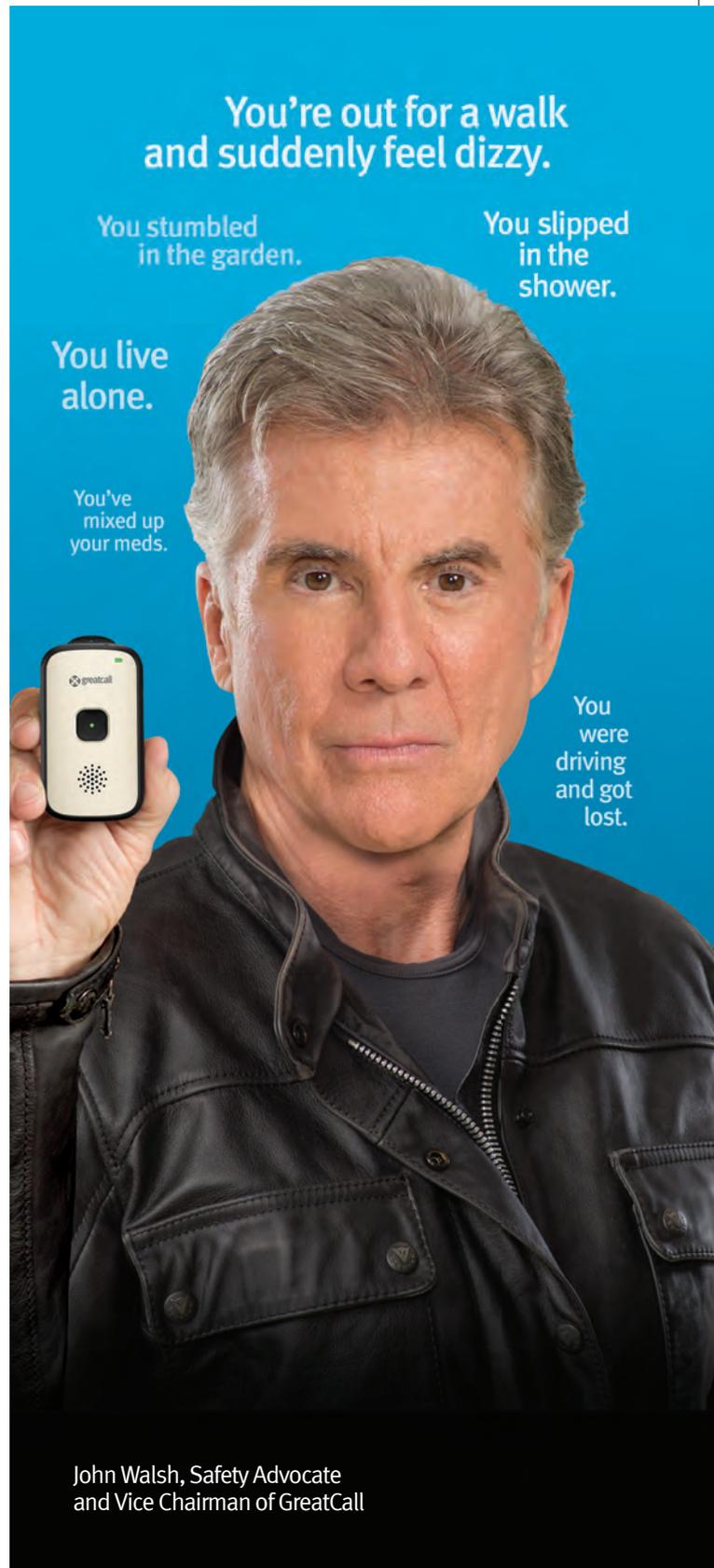
First month FREE
with purchase from:



sears

Walmart
Pharmacy

Free lanyard offer applies to new lines of service only, while supplies last. \$200 savings calculation was determined by averaging the PERS market leaders' monthly fees (not all the PERS have the same features). 5Star service is available with the purchase of the GreatCall Splash and a one-time set-up fee of \$35. Valid credit or debit card required for monthly service. Urgent Care, with FONEMED®, is not a substitute for dialing 9-1-1 and should not be used in a case of emergency. FONEMED's registered nurses and contracted physicians through MDLIVE offer advice regarding healthcare decisions, may prescribe certain medications and make diagnoses. We are not liable for any act or omission, including negligence, of any FONEMED employee or contractor. The GreatCall Splash is rated IPX7, and can be submerged in up to 3 feet of water for up to 30 minutes. GreatCall is not a healthcare provider and does not provide healthcare services. Seek the advice of your physician if you have any questions about medical treatment. 5Star or 9-1-1 calls can only be made when cellular service is available. 5Star service will be able to track an approximate location when your device is turned on, but we cannot guarantee an exact location. Monthly service fee does not include government taxes or assessment surcharges. Prices and fees are subject to change. GreatCall®, 5Star®, GreatCall GoPlan™ and GreatCall Link™ are trademarks of GreatCall, Inc. registered and/or pending in the United States and other countries. Copyright ©2015 GreatCall, Inc.



John Walsh, Safety Advocate
and Vice Chairman of GreatCall

MARKETPLACE

Products and services from our neighbors in Tennessee and across the country

Arco Steel Buildings
1-800-241-8339



40 x 60 x 10	\$11,200
50 x 75 x 12	\$15,800
60 x 100 x 12	\$22,800
100 x 75 x 12 w/column	\$29,500
20 x 100 x 8'6" Mini Warehouse	\$8,400

All sizes available!
www.arcosteel.com

35  **Years**
Arco Building Systems, Inc.

(Buildings not as shown above) (FOB plant-local codes may affect prices)

NATIONAL BARN COMPANY
\$8,795
30X50X10
Painted Enclosed
Built Price

HORSE BARNS • GARAGES • STORAGE BUILDINGS • HAY BARNS



Building shown
\$18,738 Built Price
30x60x12
w/15' open shed

- Fully Insured
- #1 Metal
- 4/12 roof pitch
- Engineered trusses
- Custom Sizes Available
- Local Codes & Freight May Affect Price

Ask about our do-it-yourself materials kits.

1-888-427-BARN (2276)
www.nationalbarn.com

THIS IS WHAT A HEART ATTACK FEELS LIKE TO A WOMAN.

(BREAKING OUT IN A COLD SWEAT)



MOBILE HOME OWNERS: ROOF KING

Mobile Home Super Insulated Roof Over Systems
40 Year Warranty
Factory Direct From Roof King
800-276-0176

 www.roofking.net
 Since 1982

MORRISON SUPERIOR QUALITY PRE-CAST CONCRETE TANK & VAULT



Pre-cast Steel Reinforced Concrete Storm Shelter

Complies with F.E.M.A. National Recommended Standards

1-800-404-9898
www.mtandv.com

STEEL MOBILE HOME ROOFING

Insurance Credit
Expert Installation
Stop Leaks
Lower Electric Bill
Increase Home Value
Energy Star Certified
Lifetime Warranty



  ASK ABOUT ENERGY STAR

PERMA-ROOF
from **Southern Builders**



Since 1983
roofover.com
800.633.8969

REACH MORE THAN
ONE MILLION
TENNESSEE READERS
EACH MONTH



THE **TENNESSEE** MAGAZINE

Other Heart Attack Symptoms to Watch Out For:

Chest pain, discomfort, pressure or squeezing, like there's a ton of weight on you • Shortness of breath

- Nausea • Light-headedness or sudden dizziness • Unusual upper body pain, or discomfort in one or both arms, back, shoulder, neck, jaw or upper part of the stomach
- Unusual fatigue

If you experience any one of these symptoms, don't make excuses for them. Make the Call. Don't Miss a Beat.

To learn more, visit
WomensHealth.gov/HeartAttack



MARKETPLACE

Products and services from our neighbors in Tennessee and across the country

ADVANTAGE STEEL BUILDINGS



Quality Buildings at Affordable Prices

30' x 50' x 10'	\$7,126
40' x 60' x 12'	\$10,287
50' x 75' x 14'	\$15,196
80' x 20' x 16'	\$36,874

Minis - 30' x 100' with 20 10' x 15' units - \$14,740

1.877.657.8335
www.advantagesteelbuildings.com

MANUFACTURED HOME INSURANCE

- Replacement Cost Coverage
- Comprehensive/All Risk
- Nation's Largest MH Insurer
- Most Coverage Available for the Money
- Competitive Rates for Older Homes
- Payment Plans Available
- Licensed in TN & KY

Call for a Free Quote
1-877-589-1904 or 615-230-1904
www.charlietaylorhomes.com
CHARLIE TAYLOR INSURANCE AGENCY
1326 Hwy 109 So. • Gallatin, TN 37066

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

Premier Building Systems, Inc.

"Steel Buildings Any Size"



30 x 40 x 10	\$7,499
40 x 60 x 10	\$10,899
50 x 80 x 10	\$14,999

*Agriculture
*Commercial
*Industrial
*Mini Storages

Local codes may affect prices.
1.800.882.5150
www.Premierbuildings.com

MOBILE HOME ROOFING SOLUTIONS

STRICKLAND CONSTRUCTION (SINCE 1992)



Lifetime Warranty
Professionally Installed
#1 Steel Products
3" Insulation Reduces Utility Cost
12" Overhang

Call Toll Free for a Free Quote & Brochure
877-839-6449
MOBILEHOMEROOFINGSOLUTIONS.COM

Blitz Builders

Where quality is affordable!

800-628-1324 www.blitzbuilders.com



Helping build Tennessee since 1982.
Garages * Storage * Workshops * Metal Roofing
Residential * Agricultural * Commercial
Ask about our current specials!

RENEGADE STEEL BUILDINGS, INC.

All Sizes Available
25 Yr. Warranty

30x40x10

Starting at \$8,400*

Includes: 10x8 Commercial Roll Up Door & One 3070 Walk Door
*Freight Not Included

renegadebuildings.com
877.363.4233

J.C. POLE BARN



30x50x10 with sliding door and 36 inch service door

\$8,500

270-776-7869 | jcpolebarns.com

WALT'S BUILDINGS, INC.

"Quality... built to last"



- Residential, Agriculture, Commercial • Fully insured
- Garages, Barns, Horse Stables, Equipment & General Storage
- Custom Sizes & many options Available
- All colors by "Valspar" with a 40 year warranty

Contact us today for a FREE ESTIMATE
866-294-8716 (toll free) • 615-666-9258
615-666-9974 (fax)
Email: waltsbuildings@nctc.com
www.walts-buildings.com

WORLDWIDE STEEL BUILDINGS

protect what matters

looks like **mother nature** finally met her match.

30x40 starting at \$7,914



50 YEAR STRUCTURAL WARRANTY

CALL NOW FOR CURRENT SPECIALS
800-825-0316

Visit our website at WorldwideSteelBuildings.com for more information.

Keep your child safe.

More than 60,000 young children end up in emergency rooms every year because they got into medicines while their parent or caregiver was not looking.

Always put **every** medicine and vitamin up and away **every** time you use it. Also, program your poison control center's number in your phone: 800.222.1222.

To learn more, visit UpandAway.org

In partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Put your medicines **up & away** and out of sight™

KENTUCKY STEEL BUILDINGS PANEL & SUPPLY

1-800-955-2765

FREE CATALOG! Pricing Guide America's Best Value



www.KySteel.com



COMMUNITY CORNER *What our neighbors are up to*

Find the Tennessee flag

We have hidden somewhere in this magazine the icon from the Tennessee flag like the one pictured here. It could be larger or smaller than this, and it could be in black and white or any color. If you find it, send us a postcard or email us with the page number where it's located. Include your name, address, phone number and electric cooperative. One entry per person. Three winners will be chosen from a random drawing, and each will receive \$20.

Note that the icon we hide will not be on an actual flag or historical marker, will not appear on pages 16-20 and will not be placed in any ads. This month's flag will not appear on this page (that would just be too easy). Good luck!

Send **POSTCARDS ONLY** (no phone calls, please) to: **The Tennessee Magazine, Find the Flag, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224.** Or email entries to flag@tnelectric.org. Entries must be postmarked by Monday, March 2. Winners will be published in the April issue of **The Tennessee Magazine**.

December's Flag Spotters

Thanks for the postcards and emails again this month identifying the correct location of the flag, which was found in the window display on **page 13**.

Winners are drawn randomly from each month's entries. December's lucky flag spotters are:
Adron Barton, Trenton, Gibson EMC
Kennard Ritchey, Murfreesboro, Middle Tenn. EMC
Larry Freshcorn, Tellico Plains, Fort Loudoun EC



Artist's Palette Assignment for February

Artist's Palette for February — You decide what to draw or paint. No more topics. It's up to you. Good luck!

Three age categories: 1 to 9, 10 to 14 and 15 to 18 years old. Each group will have first-, second- and third-place winners.

Media: Drawing or painting on 8½-by-11-inch **unlined** paper. We encourage the use of color.

Entry: Send your original art to: *The Tennessee Magazine*, Artist's Palette — **February**, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224. *(Please make sure you include the month on the outside of the envelope!)*

Deadline: Art must be postmarked by Monday, March 2.

Include: Your name, age, address, phone number and electric cooperative. **Leaving anything out will result**

in disqualification. Artwork will not be returned **unless** you include a self-addressed, **stamped** envelope with your submission. **Each entry needs its own SASE, please.** Siblings must enter separately with their own envelopes. **Attention, teachers:** You may send multiple entries in one envelope along with one SASE with sufficient postage.

Winners will be published in the April issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*. First place wins \$50, second place wins \$30 and third place wins \$20. Winners are eligible to enter again after six months. Winners will receive their checks, artwork and a certificate of placement within 30 days of publication.

Artist's Palette *December Winners*



Madelynn Brotherton



Esther Gorber

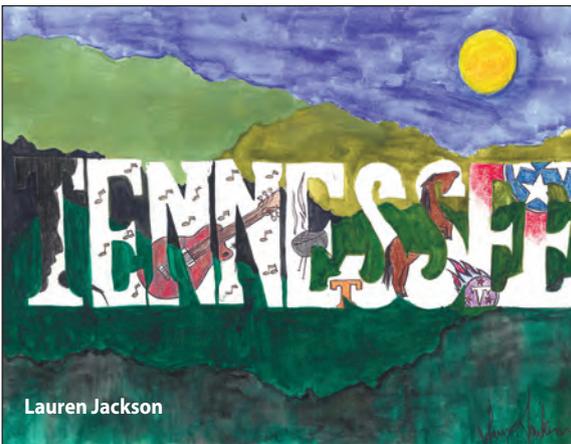


Melanie Wells

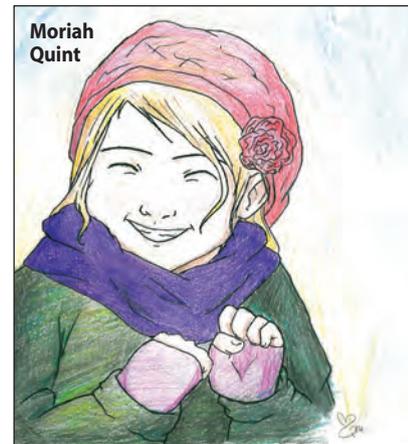
WINNERS, 15-18 AGE GROUP: **First place:** Madelynn Brotherton, age 17, Southwest Tennessee EMC; **Second place:** Esther Gorber, age 17, Meriwether Lewis EC; **Third place:** Melanie Wells, age 17, Middle Tennessee EMC



Katelyn Helberg



Lauren Jackson



Moriah Quint

WINNERS, 10-14 AGE GROUP: **First place:** Katelyn Helberg, age 12, Middle Tennessee EMC; **Second place:** Lauren Jackson, age 13, Nashville Electric Service; **Third place:** Moriah Quint, age 13, Middle Tennessee EMC



Madalene Sisemore



Elizabeth Beasley



Penelope Groves

WINNERS, 1-9 AGE GROUP: **First place:** Madalene Sisemore, age 9, Cumberland EMC; **Second place:** Elizabeth Beasley, age 9, Duck River EMC; **Third place:** Penelope Groves, age 9, Middle Tennessee EMC

IT'S JUST STUFF by antiques appraiser Connie Sue Davenport

Dear Connie,

These overalls were given to my wife by her father. He owned a feed/grocery store in the 1930s and '40s. These were samples of the Anvil Overall Company. They were displayed in the store for customers to see before placing an order. They are about 13 inches from bib to hem. They're in clean condition with no holes, stains or fading. All buttons and labels are in place. They've never been washed. Hope you can help with age and value.

James



Dear James,

Salesman's samples first generated orders for furniture- and gadget-makers in the mid- to late 1800s. Originally, salesmen would physically carry small representations of products by wagon, train or riverboat to potential buyers. As towns grew to support mercantile establishments like your father-in-law's, the same samples helped buyers see and touch the products available for order.

This pristine pair of Anvil Brand Overalls was made in the early 1930s. They had a colorful cardboard panel sewn onto the front that declared they were "supreme in comfort for wearing or working." A pair, including that panel, recently sold for \$250 on eBay. Washed and worn overalls, not as nice as your pair, with slightly rusted buttons are purchased by doll collectors for Buddy Lee (a big, boy doll) for \$25 to \$50.

Ms. Davenport,

My mother recently gave me a vintage hat (and box) she purchased at an antique auction. I have not been able to locate much information on it or the company that made it. The box says "Empire State Hats" and "Tops 'em all." It has the size marked on the outside of the box, style No. 688 and the color "gold." It is a fur hat with a



beautiful brooch-style pin, and the inside of the hat is beige felt material. It appears to be a "cloche"-styled hat.

Kathy, Paris

Kathy,

Banded, fur hats like yours from the 1960s sell at estate sales for \$8 to \$18. They aren't stored in hat boxes. The brooch, however, may have a tiny mark on the clasp that could increase the hat's value.

Empire State Hats made men's hats and is known for fancy fedoras. The box's built-in rings hold the hat securely in place and reduce the risk of crushing. Similar colorful round boxes sell for about \$15. I didn't see a top — that's important.



Ms. Davenport,

Can you please give us some idea of the worth of the attached item? The Jackson press (that's what his family called it) was originally purchased by my husband's great-grandparents. He is 78.

Gloria, Linden



Gloria,

A Jackson press made in the mid-1800s with chamfered doors and drawers, full turned pilasters, a flat bonnet and glazed glass doors can sell for \$5,000 to more than \$20,000.

The higher value is realized if the piece has its original finish, pulls, glass, hinges, shelves, locks and back panels and comes with a solid history and knowledge of the maker and his work.

Want to learn more about your antiques?



It's Just Stuff!

Send your inquiry with photos to the mailing address or email below. Only published appraisals are free. Private appraisals are available for a fee. Call 615-672-1992 for an appointment. No appraisals are given over the phone.

Connie Sue Davenport, P.O. Box 343,
White House, TN 37188

615-672-1992 • email: Treasures@ConnieSue.com

Connie Sue Davenport, ISA AM, offers antique appraisal events, private appraisals and estate sale consulting services to individuals, businesses and organizations. Sign up for "IT'S JUST STUFF," her FREE quarterly newsletter, at www.ConnieSue.com.

HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

How Does Harbor Freight Sell GREAT QUALITY Tools at the LOWEST Prices?

We have invested millions of dollars in our own state-of-the-art quality test labs and millions more in our factories, so our tools will go toe-to-toe with the top professional brands. And we can sell them for a fraction of the price because we cut out the middle man and pass the savings on to you. It's just that simple! Come visit one of our 550 Stores Nationwide.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

20% OFF

ANY SINGLE ITEM

LIMIT 1 - Save 20% on any one item purchased at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. *Cannot be used with other discount, coupon, gift cards, Inside Track Club membership, extended service plans or on any of the following: compressors, generators, tool storage or carts, welders, floor jacks, Towable Ride-On Trencher, Saw Mill (Item 61712/62366/67138), Predator Gas Power Items, open box items, in-store event or parking lot sale items. Not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with original receipt. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

FREE

WITH ANY PURCHASE

PITTSBURGH
1" x 25 FT. TAPE MEASURE

Item 69080 shown
ITEM 69080
69030/69031

\$6.99
VALUE

LIMIT 1 - Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one FREE GIFT coupon per customer per day.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

US* GENERAL PRO
26" 16 DRAWER ROLLER CABINET

• 1060 lb. Capacity
• 14,600 cu. in. of storage

Item 67831 shown
LOT NO. 67831/61609

\$319.99
REG. PRICE \$649.99

SAVE \$330



LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE
LOT NO. 68056/60706/62319

RAPID PUMP®
4 TON HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK

Item 68056 shown

\$109.99
REG. PRICE \$199.99

SAVE \$90



• Weighs 105 lbs.

LIMIT 3 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

STORM CAT
NEW
900 PEAK/700 RUNNING WATTS 2 HP (63 CC) 2 CYCLE GAS RECREATIONAL GENERATOR

Item 69381 shown
LOT NO. 66619
69381/60338/62472

\$99.99
REG. PRICE \$179.99

SAVE \$80



LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

LOT NO. 69039
Item 69039 shown
60727/62286

10 FT. x 17 FT. PORTABLE GARAGE

SAVE \$120

\$179.99
REG. PRICE \$299.99



LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

POWDER-FREE NITRILE GLOVES HARDY™
PACK OF 100

• 5 mil. thickness

Item 68498 shown
LOT NO. 68496
61363/97581

YOUR CHOICE!
\$6.49
REG. PRICE \$11.99

SAVE 45%

MEDIUM
LOT NO. 68496
61363/97581

LARGE
LOT NO. 68497/61360

X-LARGE
LOT NO. 68498/61359



LIMIT 6 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

NEW
2500 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL

Item 68146 shown
LOT NO. 68146
61258/61297/61840

\$49.99
REG. PRICE \$149.99

SAVE \$100



LIMIT 3 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

LOT NO. 67847
61454/61693

"The Perfect Compressor with Powerful, Quiet and Consistent Airflow... Plus we Love the Low Price!"
- Street Trucks Magazine

2.5 HP, 21 GALLON, 125 PSI VERTICAL AIR COMPRESSOR CENTRALPNEUMATIC

Item 67847 shown
REG. PRICE \$219.99

\$149.99

SAVE \$70



LIMIT 3 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

HaulMaster
TRIPLE BALL TRAILER HITCH

Item 94141 shown
LOT NO. 94141
69874
61320
61913
61914

\$19.99
REG. PRICE \$59.99

SAVE 66%



LIMIT 6 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH
40 PIECE 1/4" AND 3/8" DRIVE SOCKET SET

• SAE and Metric

Item 47902 shown
LOT NO. 47902
61328

\$3.99
REG. PRICE \$9.99

SAVE 60%



LIMIT 8 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

CHICAGO ELECTRIC WELDING
MIG-FLUX WELDING CART

Welder and accessories sold separately.

Item 69340 shown
LOT NO. 69340/60790
90305/61316

\$34.99
REG. PRICE \$59.99

SAVE 41%



LIMIT 3 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS
RECIPROCATING SAW WITH ROTATING HANDLE

Item 65570 shown
LOT NO. 65570/61884
62370

\$2.99
REG. PRICE \$54.99

SAVE 60%



LIMIT 4 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

HaulMaster
1195 LB. CAPACITY 4 FT. x 8 FT. HEAVY DUTY FOLDABLE UTILITY TRAILER

Item 90154 shown
LOT NO. 90154/62170

\$259.99
REG. PRICE \$399.99

SAVE \$140

• DOT certified



LIMIT 5 - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 6/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

• 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed • No Hassle Return Policy • 550 Stores Nationwide
• Over 25 Million Satisfied Customers • Lifetime Warranty On All Hand Tools • HarborFreight.com 800-423-2567



SAVE A BUNDLE | DISH TV Service + High-Speed Internet For One Low Price Ask for details

DISH TV Service promotional prices start at

\$19.99
a month for 12 mo.
(Reg. price \$34.99 | mo.)
(Not eligible for Hopper or HD offer)

FREE

HOPPER
WHOLE-HOME
HD DVR UPGRADE



Available with qualifying packages.
Monthly fees apply: Hopper, \$12; Joey, \$7; Super Joey, \$10.

A \$102 Value!

**- OVER 45 -
FREE**

PREMIUM CHANNELS
for 3 months

Offer subject to change based on premium channel availability.
Regular monthly prices apply after promotional period.

FREE

HD
For Life®

Available with qualifying packages.
Autopay required.

All offers require 24-month commitment and credit qualification.

Next-day installation – including weekends!

Scheduled by InfinityDISH. Available in most areas. Ask for details.

CALL NOW

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

1-844-442-1716

WWW.INFINITYDISH.COM

WE ARE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • 8 AM - MIDNIGHT EST • SUNDAY 9 AM - MIDNIGHT EST • OFFER ONLY GOOD FOR NEW DISH SUBSCRIBERS

Limited Time!

\$25 Gift Card
With Activation

Courtesy of InfinityDISH, certain conditions apply



STARTING AT

\$14.95*

(subject to availability)

ASK ABOUT HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

All calls with InfinityDISH are monitored and recorded for quality assurance and training purposes. **Important Terms and Conditions: Promotional Offers:** Require activation of new qualifying DISH service. All prices, fees, charges, packages, programming, features, functionality and offers subject to change without notice. After 12-month promotional period, then-current monthly price applies and is subject to change. **ET:** If you cancel service during first 24 months, early termination fee of \$20 for each month remaining applies. **Additional Requirements: Hopper:** Monthly fees: Hopper, \$12; Joey, \$7; Super Joey, \$10. Recording hours vary: 2000 hours based on SD programming. **HD Free for Life:** Additional \$10/mo HD fee waived for life of current account; requires continuous enrollment in AutoPay with Paperless Billing. **Premium Channels:** Premium offer value is up to \$102; after 3 months then-current monthly prices apply and are subject to change. **Installation/Equipment Requirements:** Free Standard Professional Installation only. Leased equipment must be returned to DISH upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. Upfront and additional monthly fees may apply. **Miscellaneous:** Offers available for new and qualified former customers, and subject to terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer agreements. State reimbursement charges may apply. Additional restrictions and taxes may apply. **Offers end 6/10/15.** © 2015 DISH Network LLC. SHOWTIME is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company. STARZ and related channels and service marks are property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. ENCORE and related channels and service marks are the property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. Visit encoretv.com for air dates/times. Visa® gift card must be requested through your DISH Representative at time of purchase. \$25 Visa® gift card requires activation and \$2.95 shipping and handling fee. You will receive a claim voucher within 3-4 weeks and the voucher must be returned within 30 days. Your Visa® gift card will arrive in approximately 6-8 weeks. InfinityDISH charges a one-time \$49.99 non-refundable processing fee which is subject to change at any time without notice. Indiana CPD, Reg. No. T.S. R1903. *Certain restrictions apply. Based on the availability in your area.

