

December 2016 www.tnmagazine.org

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Holiday Gift Guide

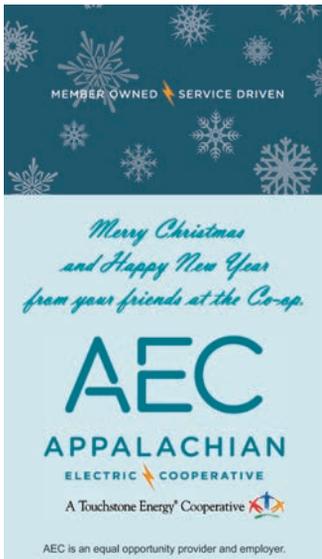
History for Kids: *Pioneer Alex Stewart*

Tennessee's Pipe Organ Craftsmen

Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

Book Review: *Land Grants on the Elk*

Recipes That Stick Together



AEC's business offices will close at noon on Friday, December 23, and reopen at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 27. The Co-op will also be closed on Monday, January 2. We look forward to many opportunities to serve you in 2017.



If your phone rings, be ready! Our partners at Touchstone Energy will be conducting a random telephone survey of AEC members during the months of December, January and February. It'll take a little time to complete, but the results of "The Cooperative Difference" survey are very important. We draw from the perspectives of our members to design programs and service options that meet the needs of those we serve. And your feedback on our performance works like a report card to help us know how to improve. Thanks for taking time to weigh in. We appreciate your participation and value your feedback.

AEC's greatest strength — bar none

Your Cooperative has many assets. Over the years, we've made wise investments in various facilities and systems that work hard and improve reliability. For example, we have a physical plant (things like wires, poles, transformers, substations, etc.) worth about \$125 million. Our debt-to-equity ratio — you might think of it in terms of how much "ownership" you have of your house — is excellent. We have a technologically advanced SCADA system that allows us to remotely monitor and control substations, breakers, voltage regulators and other field equipment. Our members can be proud of these resources and strengths. Our lives are better in so many ways because of the return realized in terms of reliability, affordability, efficiency, safety and much more.



Greg Williams
AEC General Manager

I'm proud, too. As your General Manager, I have a unique appreciation for what we are able to access and draw from on behalf of those we serve. But there is one asset that is worth more than *all the others*. It's indispensable to our work. It is flexible, diverse, powerful, and with each passing year it increases in value and performance. I'm referring to the employees of AEC.

The men and women who report to work here each and every day — and more than a few nights — are the single most important factor in defining who we are and how we serve our members. There are many local companies with more employees and many cooperatives with a larger workforce. But I'm here to tell you that none have folks working for them who are more dedicated to fulfilling their organization's mission than are the

Snapshot: AEC's workforce

Number of employees	100
Average age	46
County of residence	
Jefferson	56%
Grainger	26%
Hamblen	13%
Sevier/other counties	5%
Length of AEC service	
Fewer than 5 years	20%
5-20 years	57%
More than 20 years	23%
Total hours worked in FY 2016	168,000
Overtime hours worked in FY 2016	12,600

men and women who take care of business here at AEC.

Each day, I have the opportunity to observe how our employees interact with our members and how they handle all the various situations that arise. Some issues are complex, while others are simple — but they are all unique and require attention to detail and a commitment to quality.

That's where our folks really seem to *shine*. They understand that they work for our members, and they appreciate what an honor that is. In most cases, our employees are AEC members, too! That's just one more reason they are motivated to achieve excellence. They are continually aware that we're not in business to make a profit but rather to be of service to our members. They *get* it. (For a closer look at just a few of the talented and dedicated folks who make up the AEC workforce, I hope you'll check out the individual profiles on pages 22 and 23.)

At the Co-op's recent annual meeting, I marveled at the way in which our employees embraced the chance to interact with our members. Not merely to "meet and greet" but to actually *connect* with those we serve — talking about the issues and listening to members' concerns. Our employees want to know what's on your mind, and so do I. It helps us do a better job for you, and that's our number one goal. As we say around here, "Because you're not just a utility customer. You're a Co-op member."

At the end of the day, it really does matter how we handled a complaint, how we built a new service, how we set or read a meter, how we took a payment, how we designed a new substation or engineered a transmission line, how we rendered a bill, how we maintained our trucks, how we shared information on our website, how we stocked our warehouse or simply how we answered a member's question.

Want to know more about what makes us who we are here at the Co-op? Just look around. If you take a look at the shopper next to you at the grocery store check-out line, the person sitting on the pew in front of you at church, the coach of your kid's Little League team, the person you see picking up litter along the lake shoreline or the neighbor who never sees your car go by without waving, you're liable to spot AEC employees. They are highly skilled and trained professionals, and I so appreciate who they are and the contributions they make. In the office or out in the field, they come to work and do what they do best: adding value to our Cooperative and living out our mission.

At this special time of year, I would like to extend my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our members, our Directors and especially to our workforce. The next time you happen to see an AEC employee, I hope you'll take a moment and share a word of thanks for a job well done.



Here at your Co-op, our work never ends. Unlike many businesses or commercial operations, AEC never closes for a "snow day." Sort of like emergency response personnel, our employees are always on duty and standing by to answer the call. Weekends, holidays and summer vacation: the fact is, somebody has to be here to help keep the lights on. And these men and women are proud to be the ones to do it.

Working for the members

AEC employees talk about what they do and why they do it

Johnny Watkins, AEC member from Talbott

Years of Co-op service: 7

Title: Storeroom Clerk

Job involves: Pulling materials on a “pick list,” loading them onto a cart and making sure line crews have what they need to accomplish the day’s work.

Requisitioning materials to maintain stores. Unloading delivery trucks and stocking warehouse shelves. Moving materials with a forklift. Maintaining the pole yard. Delivering materials to crews in the field. Completing paperwork for items received. Coming in to provide assistance to crews involved in restoring power after storms. Assisting in annual inventory of approximately \$1.5 million in materials stored in AEC’s warehouse.

Best part of the job: “Mornings when the line crews get ready to go out and evenings when they come in. We carry on with each other and have a big time. They may be coming to me to re-stock their truck stores or whatever. But we’ll talk and joke and kid each other while we work.”

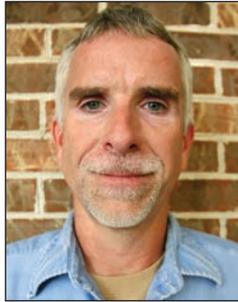
How what he does ultimately serves Co-op members and makes their lives better: “If my department doesn’t have the proper materials ready, then it takes longer to get the lights back on or put up that new electric service. AEC members are my neighbors and friends. I want to do my very best for them, and it takes all of us working together to make that happen.”

Joyce Hodge, AEC member from Grainger County

Years of Co-op service: 46

Title: Assistant to the Director of Office Services

Job involves: Verifying that residential bills are correct before they go out. Making sure that address changes are made and that each member is being billed at the correct rate. Checking to see that information on work orders is correct before they are sent to the Co-op’s Accounting Department. Corresponding with members on billing-related issues and handling any adjustments. Writing letters to



members dealing with meter access issues.

Job satisfaction comes from: “Taking pride in my work and in the company I work for. Everybody here cares about our members and realizes that we work for them. I spent 25 years in the Service Department before I took this position, and the relationships I built with members, building contractors and electricians will be with me the rest of my life. People will see me out somewhere and mention our interaction — even if it happened years ago. I helped them, and they remember that.”

How what she does ultimately serves Co-op members and makes their lives better: “I think about it in terms of my own experience. I want to know that I’m paying for exactly the amount of electricity I use. So if it’s important to me to have that assurance, I know that it’s important to our members, too. Meeting their needs is our top priority, and it’s why we’re in business. Service is what we’re all about.”

Heather Letterman, AEC member from Jefferson City

Years of Co-op service: 9

Title: Engineering Clerk



Job involves: Entering data to generate a variety of monthly reports on topics such as pole-pulling to Tennessee One-Call to daily service orders. Processing personnel and vehicle time sheets for Engineering & Operations. Filing work order drawings. Completing paperwork for testing reclosers. Handling

notifications for pole attachment transfers. Ordering office supplies. Making pole tags for city street lights. Inspecting fire extinguishers and restocking first-aid kits. Filling in on the switchboard as needed.

What it means to work for AEC: “As a full-time working parent of a special-needs child, I could not have asked for better support from my employer. Everyone here has been extremely understanding of my need for flexibility. Knowing that you are valued not just for your contributions but as a person is incredibly meaningful. It makes you want to do your best.”

How what she does ultimately serves Co-op members and makes their lives better: “My work is definitely



‘behind the scenes,’ but it’s just as important as jobs that involve interaction with members. Those of us in support positions (and there are many throughout AEC) are aware that our role is to help keep our departments on track by making sure that our co-workers can easily find the files they need or transfer data from the reports we’ve pulled together. Ultimately, that keeps the Co-op running smoothly and performing effectively on behalf of our members.”

Jeremy Loveday, AEC member from Jefferson City

Years of Co-op service: 12

Title: Journeyman Lineman

Job involves: Hooking up new overhead and underground electric service. Restoring power after outages. Changing out poles.



Building power lines. Tasks related to substation maintenance. Replacing switches and transformers. Educating members through safety demonstrations.

Job satisfaction comes from:

“When our line crews get to a job site, everybody knows what to do and just does it. We take a

lot of pride in doing it right so we don’t have to go back and fix what we should have done the first time we were there. There are lots of times I might be out driving with my family somewhere in our service area, look up alongside the road and point out the work we’ve done. When I tell my little boy, ‘We built that line,’ it means something.”

How what he does ultimately serves Co-op members and makes their lives better: “It’s all about getting their lights on and keeping ’em on. Our members really need the electricity we provide. When we go out in the rain, wind, snow, ice or in zero-degree temperatures, every AEC lineman is thinking about the people in those dark or cold houses and how much they’re depending on us.”

John Turner, AEC member from New Market

Years of Co-op service: 17

Title: Metering Supervisor

Job involves: From the equipment associated with the smallest residential user to that of the largest commercial member, making sure Co-op meters are accurate. Testing new meters prior to installation and existing meters if a problem is



suspected. Installing metering equipment for commercial/industrial members and reading the “power route.” Overseeing three-phase meters to make sure there are no communication issues. Verifying the accuracy of substation meters so that AEC is charged fairly for the electricity we purchase from TVA. Ordering metering equipment such as seals, meter rings, current/voltage transformers, etc.

Biggest job-related challenge: “The sheer number of meters we’re responsible for is staggering: more than 45,000 at last count. Our crew is mindful of the fact that the consequences are not insignificant if something should go wrong, so we are really hyper-focused on ensuring accuracy.”

How what he does ultimately serves Co-op members and makes their lives better: “A former co-worker of mine always described our department as ‘the cash register of the Co-op.’ It’s a point of pride with us to be able to say that AEC members are billed for only what they use — not a penny more, not a penny less. Fairness matters just as much to the Co-op as it does to the people we serve.”

Kristina Noe, AEC member from Rutledge

Years of Co-op service: 1

Title: Customer Service Representative

Job involves: Setting up new accounts/memberships, completing service orders to turn on power or to turn off power.

Issuing electrical permits for renovations or new construction. Handling requests for security lights. Answering trouble calls when there’s an outage. Signing members up for Co-op FlexPay.

Best part of the job: “Helping people. It’s a big responsibility



to be in the Service Department because we’re the first contact people have with the Co-op. Their interaction with us can determine what they think of AEC, sometimes for a long time to come. I love to do whatever I can to help put a smile on their faces.”

How what she does ultimately serves Co-op members and makes their lives better: “Here’s an example. Let’s say someone’s just moved here — maybe from out of state. That’s a stressful time with lots of things to figure out. I want to make sure their experience with AEC is a good one. Our department is committed to the idea that obtaining new service — or transferring existing service, for that matter — is easy and fast. We’re going to do whatever we can to make that person remembers that he or she was treated well at the Co-op.”

Here in Co-op Country

Antiques by the barn-full

By Becky Burks, AEC Communications Coordinator



You might want to stop by if you happen to be in the market for a pale blue salt-glazed soap dish in the shape of a cat's face, a hay trolley, a 1938 Ohio license plate, a sow-belly cabinet, a Stanley Sweetheart wooden level, a United Mine Workers Journal from 1959, a Purina chicken feeder, a rural mailbox dated 1900, a pie safe, a driving map of Paris from 1956, a shoe last, a Delta bicycle light or one dozen Johnson's folding cardboard goose decoys — eight regular and four feeding.

All these things and much more are on display — and for sale — at a big barn in Rutledge (properly known as “Country Shed Antiques”) owned and operated by Doris Hixon.

A lifelong Grainger County resident, Hixon got into the antiques business in a roundabout way. She and husband David acquired a dozen acres and a barn (the land was originally part of the McCoy estate) back in the early 1980s. In 1996, she opened a gift shop in the front of the barn — basically three rooms filled with handmade crafts.

Hixon explains how the emphasis shifted from handcrafts to antiques: “Jim Looney approached me about putting some old pieces in my gift shop on consignment. It didn't take long for me to notice that the items were selling — even young people were buying these antiques. Then David and I started going to auctions and coming home with a truckload when we found some

good deals. He'd ask around to see if folks had any antiques for sale, and the word spread. Then people started bringing items here to see if we'd be

interested in buying them. The crafts fell by the wayside, and the antiques just sort of took over!”

But not just *any* antiques. You won't find examples of Baroque, Rococo or Louis XVI furnishings under the tin roof. Hixon's taste runs almost exclusively to what's referred to as “primitives:” loosely defined as early American farm household items/furniture — in this case, with a healthy dose of farm implements and tools sprinkled in.

The rustic barn space — including a loft — makes the perfect setting for well-worn pieces that have a special kind of charm all their own. Hixon is careful to display each item to its best advantage, thereby avoiding the ultra-cluttered appearance that characterizes some antiques shops. She gives her pieces the space they need to be seen by customers and enjoys finding items that work well with each other.



Hixon says she finds inspiration in how hard women had to work back in those days — to put food on the table, to take care of the children, to keep the family clothed.

Country Shed Antiques
1662 Highway 11W South, Rutledge
Hours: Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Weekdays by appointment;
call 865.209.1103

Referring to her efforts to create this visual harmony, she explains that “the piece shows the cabinet off, but the cabinet also does something for the piece.” Strategically placed lamps are scattered throughout the space, creating a warm glow that invites browsing.

Hixon didn’t come by the know-how needed to run a successful antiques business without a lot of hard work, and she cautions others about thinking they can jump right in and get rich: “If you love it, then go for it — and don’t give up. You’ll have some lean times, especially at first, but if you treat people right, you’ll get some regular customers.” She thoroughly enjoys talking to people and has had visitors from many parts of the U.S. and as far away as France.

She says one of the best parts of the business is the satisfaction she gets from cleaning up a newly acquired piece — taking something old and overlooked or neglected and “showing it some love.” Her approach involves making it look as good as it can without losing the original character. She tries hard to preserve the patina of age, the unique characteristics that help tell the story of how the item has been used.

Speaking of stories, that’s one of the advantages of buying antiques directly from the collector: Hixon can tell you at least a little something about almost all of the pieces she’s acquired. Even if the provenance is unknown, her appreciation for these primitives is easy to see. “It’s a feeling of respect for a way of life,” she says. “They had to make do with what they had, and they had to make things last. It’s especially touching to find an item that has undergone what was obviously a homemade repair. Nothing was discarded or wasted, and the ingenuity of these people was remarkable.”



If it was used out in the field or in the barn, look for it up on the second floor.

the first to admit. “I chanced upon a piece of Craftsman-style Roseville pottery for \$15,” she recalls. “Wasn’t sure what I had until I did some research, but it turned out to be a rare piece worth at least \$2,000! Of course, there were also some ‘deals’ where I ended up having to take quite a bit less than what I originally paid for an item, but that’s the way it goes sometimes.”

One of the hardest skills she had to learn to master was that of negotiating a price. “I had to get used to dealing,” she says, “but once I caught on, I realized that’s just part of the fun. I always try to sell at a fair price.” Hixon is also happy to help customers find items that she might not have on hand. “Just call me, and I’ll see if I can locate a source for it,” she says. “It’s a thrill to be a part of the hunt for a treasure; people get so excited, and I really share in their satisfaction when they find what they’re looking for.”

And if you should find yourself hankering after, let’s say, a wooden crate marked “CCC” that originally held tea from Ceylon (before it became known as “Sri Lanka”) destined for the men and boys working in one of the Civilian Conservation Corps camps back in the 1930s, well, chances are pretty good that Hixon can fix you right up.

The interior of a pie safe is enhanced by a display of vintage linens and household utensils.



“Primitives just appeal to me,” says Hixon. “I’m the type of person who will make curtains from feed sacks and turn colanders into light fixtures.”



This holiday season (or all year long), it's the perfect gift for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list

You can *Subscribe* to Co-op Community Solar; for a one-time, up-front cost of \$125 per panel, you are able to reap the benefits of solar generation without having to install a solar

array on your property. You can also *Support Solar*; by making a contribution to the program, you can help ensure the future viability of renewable energy resources. But this time of year offers the ideal opportunity to *Share Solar*.

You can gift the subscription of solar generation to any AEC member or any nonprofit organization, church or educational institution served by the Cooperative. A *Share Solar* subscription in honor or in memory of someone is a meaningful gift that conveys a lasting legacy of respect for the environment.

If a special teacher has made an impact on you, your child or your grandchild, consider a *Share Solar* subscription for his or her school. When a fellow church member passes away, your place of worship will benefit from a memorial *Share Solar* subscription for many years to come. Got an animal-lover on your list? Give a subscription to a Humane Society or an animal shelter

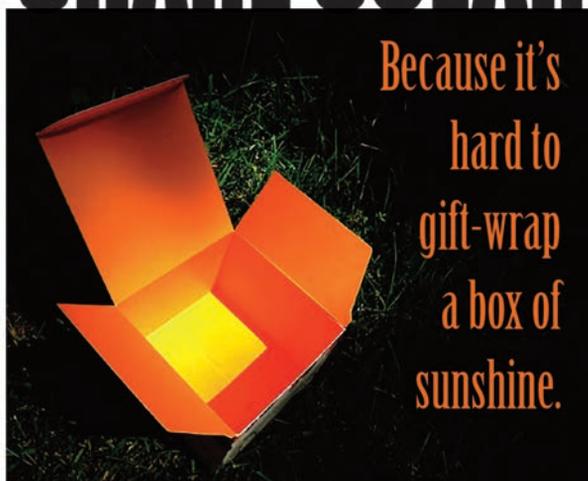
located within our service area. If you believe in the good work of Habitat for Humanity, the Boys' and Girls' Club, the Rural Medical Clinic or any other nonprofits within our service area, let them know by gifting them with

subscriptions. Or maybe you know someone who already "has everything." Solve your gift-giving dilemma by presenting a *Share Solar* subscription. It's a gift they'll always remember, and it's available to any individual who obtains electric service from AEC. If you give someone a *Share Solar* subscription and they move out of our service area in the future, they can designate another AEC member or nonprofit organization to receive their remaining bill credits.

It's truly a "gift that keeps on giving." Unlike a soon-to-be obsolete digital device or

a decorative object that does little more than gather dust on a shelf, a *Share Solar* subscription given in honor or memory of someone before the end of 2016 will pay dividends — in the form of monthly electric bill credits — for the next 20 years! Want to learn more? Visit aecoop.org or call 865-475-2032, extension 1175, to learn how to give a gift that gives back.

SHARE SOLAR



When winter winds blow, you'll be ready.



Many energy efficiency projects are easy, inexpensive, and add up to real savings on your electric bill. With a little guidance from your Co-op and some elbow grease, you can tackle these improvements on your own.

During the months of December, January, and February, experts from AEC will be leading free do-it-yourself workshops throughout the communities we serve, helping homeowners with the information and tools they need to winterize their homes. We'll cover everything from lighting to insulation to caulking and weather stripping. You'll engage in hands-on demonstrations to learn the skills you need and we'll send you home with some supplies to get you started. Plus, every participant will receive a \$10 Home Depot gift card as part of an energy efficiency kit valued at \$40. Watch your newspaper or visit www.aecoop.org for a schedule of dates, locations, and times.

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Recipes That Stick Together

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Todd Hesson,
District Operations Supervisor
Springfield office

Nicky Roberts,
District Operations Supervisor

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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.

Giving back is the co-op way

As some of you might know, cooperatives across the globe adhere to the same Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all our decisions — from how we run the co-op to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for Community is the seventh principle, and it is one that all CEMC employees value year-round. But during the holiday season, concern for community seems especially important.

Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back. Each fall, CEMC holds a community food drive to assist needy families in our area. Coordinated through local elementary schools, the food drive brings in thousands of nonperishable food items for distribution through local community-assistance agencies. CEMC employees also hold an in-house food drive in conjunction with the community food drive each year.

Our winter clothing drive is another way CEMC lends a helping hand to those in need in our community. If you visit our offices during the holidays, you will see “Trees of Giving” that serve as collection points for coats, hats, gloves and other cold-weather clothing items. These donations, too, are distributed by local assistance

agencies that know where the greatest needs are.

CEMC members help us give back, too. Through the Project Help program, members can choose to pay an additional \$1 or more on their electric bills each month to help pay the utility bills of the elderly, disabled and/or those who are not economically self-sufficient right here in our community. Last year, CEMC members contributed more than \$45,000 to the Project



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

Help fund.

So many families go without on a daily basis and struggle to make ends meet. This struggle can be especially hard during the holiday season.

There are many ways you can give back to the community that go beyond dollar donations. Take some time to go through your closets and find clothes that

no longer fit or have lost their use. Bag those items up and take them to your local Salvation Army, Goodwill or church clothing drive. Volunteer for a local food or toy drive, deliver meals to the sick and the elderly or simply make a meal for a neighbor in need.

No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community. So take the time to give back this holiday season. You'll be glad you did.

“No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community.”



The offices of Cumberland
Electric Membership Corporation
will be closed for the Christmas
and New Year's holidays on Friday
and Monday, Dec. 23 and 26,
and Monday, Jan. 2.

In the event of an emergency,
call 1-800-987-2362, and
CEMC personnel will respond.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from CEMC.*

Employees recognized for years of service

Each quarter, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation recognizes employees who have reached milestones in their cooperative careers. These employees receive service

awards as tokens of appreciation for their service not only to the cooperative but to their communities as well. Pictured, along with their years of service, are those who celebrated anniversaries in the past year.



Receiving service awards for the fourth quarter of 2015 are, from left, **Anthony Copeland**, Gallatin serviceman, 10 years; **Jared Hesson**, Gallatin lineman, 10 years; **Scott Biter**, Clarksville meterman collector, 15 years; **Chris Davis**, administration division manager, 30 years; and **Randy Holt**, who recently retired as operations division manager with 36 years of service. Not pictured are **Heather Christy**, Springfield customer account representative, five years; **Steve Wofford**, Clarksville District engineer, 15 years; and **Preston Murphey**, Springfield serviceman, 20 years.



Receiving service awards for the first quarter of 2016 are, from left, **Greg Meek**, Clarksville District working foreman, 20 years; **Brandon Weaver**, Ashland City District lineman, 10 years; **Bubba Staggs**, Ashland City District meterman collector, 15 years; **Charlie Williams**, bush hog operator assistant, five years; **Tim Balthrop**, Ashland City District meter reader, 30 years; **Josh Jones**, Clarksville District second period apprentice lineman, five years; **Steve Borens**, Dover District working foreman, 20 years; **Jordan Griffy**, system control technician, five years; and **Donnie Burkhardt**, Dover District working foreman, 10 years. Not pictured is **Don Downard**, Springfield District meter reader, 15 years.



Receiving service awards for the second quarter of 2016 are, from left, **Allen Powell**, Springfield District engineer, 40 years; **Pam Dabbs**, Dover customer account representative, 20 years; **Stephen Fitzhugh**, Dover lineman, 10 years; **Josh Gill**, Ashland City District operations supervisor, 15 years; and **Jay Kesler**, IT systems engineer, five years. Not pictured are **Dean Bertram**, construction crew lineman, 20 years; **Tim Black**, Clarksville District storeroom clerk, 20 years; **Vicki Bostain**, general accounting and records clerk, 15 years; **Gary Peterson**, substation technician, 20 years; and **Danny Smith**, substation technician, 20 years.



Receiving service awards for the third quarter of 2016 are, from left, **Steven Highers**, Ashland City lineman, 20 years; **Matt Greene**, construction crew lineman, 15 years; **Justin Frazier**, construction crew lineman, five years; **Ricky Cooksey**, substation technician, 20 years; **Dean Bertram**, construction crew lineman, 20 years; **John Dowell**, Gallatin meterman collector, 35 years; **Dawn Beck**, engineering assistant, 10 years; **Jimmy Smith**, Dover lineman, 15 years; **Angie Adkins**, supervisor of general accounting, 20 years; **Daniel Pearson**, Gallatin working foreman, 10 years; **Brad Badacour**, Gallatin working foreman, 15 years; **Chris Morris**, Clarksville working foreman, 15 years; **Jimmy Ratzer**, vehicle maintenance mechanic, 10 years; and **David Abernathy**, operations division manager, 20 years.

CEMC joins efforts to restore power in Hurricane Matthew aftermath



From left, **Clint Marshall**, Dover serviceman; **Stephen Fitzhugh**, Dover lineman; **John Quick**, construction crew lineman; **Dean Bertram**, construction crew lineman; **Brandon Hix**, construction crew working foreman; **Bryan Barrow**, construction crew general foreman; **Justin Frazier**, construction crew lineman; **Gordon White**, construction crew lineman; **Trey Hoover**, construction crew working foreman; **Henry Odom**, Ashland City lineman; and **John Wilson**, Ashland City lineman, gather at the Construction Office in Coopertown before departing for Keystone Heights in Northern Florida to assist Clay Electric Cooperative on Oct. 7. They joined more than 80 volunteers from Tennessee co-ops to restore power to those affected by Hurricane Matthew in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. CEMC lineworkers worked in Keystone Heights until Oct. 10. They were then routed to Four County Electric Membership Corporation in Elizabethtown, North Carolina, where they spent an additional three days working to restore power.

Members rewarded for annual meeting surveys

Six members who attended the annual meeting of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation in September and completed surveys regarding their experiences were randomly selected to receive electric bill credits as a token of the co-op's appreciation for their input.

Congratulations to Donnie Groves of Orlinda, Sandra Berrang of Springfield, Larry Templeton of Springfield, Donald Lewis of White House, Loree Thompson of Cottontown and Keith Neidermeier of Hendersonville. Each received a \$50 bill credit.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons: holiday gatherings, houseguests and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source:
TogetherWeSave.com

Tips for a safe and happy holiday season

The holidays are upon us. For many, that means more celebrations with friends and family, travel, decorations, cooking and shopping. Because Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation wants you to stay safe during the holidays, here are a few tips to consider as you gear up for the season.

We can't guarantee that the hustle and bustle of the season won't leave you with a few frayed nerves, but we can certainly help you avoid frayed wires.

Inspect your seasonal items

Many of us have treasured holiday mementos that we bring out of storage and proudly display every year. The holidays are also a time when we dust off specialized cooking gadgets that allow us to prepare our favorite seasonal treats. These items are often handed down through generations and might lack modern safety features.

Take a few moments to carefully inspect all your holiday items to ensure everything is in safe, working order. A few things to look out for include:

- Brittle insulation on wires
- Rodent damage to wires
- Chafed or frayed wires, especially at stress points
- Worn switches with the potential to short circuit
- Corroded metal parts
- Broken legs, unstable bases and other tip-over hazards

Extension cords are temporary

When you asked your teacher for an extension on your term paper, it was a one-time thing, right? The same holds true for extension cords. They are designed for temporary use and are to never be used as a permanent or long-term solution.

Never defeat safety devices

There are reasons why some devices have fuses, some plugs have three prongs instead of two and one prong is wider than the other on two-prong outlets. When those safety features get in the way of your grand holiday décor plans, you might be tempted to tamper with or defeat those features. Don't do it! If your plugs won't fit together, that means they're not designed to work together. Rather than tampering with a safety feature, find a safe solution.

Look up and live

When working outside with a ladder, be mindful of the location of overhead power lines. Always carry your ladder so that it is parallel to the ground. Before placing your ladder in an upright position, look around to ensure you are a safe distance from any power lines.

Beware of power lines through trees

Over time, tree branches can grow around power lines running along the street and to your home. If those branches come in contact with power lines, they can



Check to make sure connections are secure and cords are not worn or frayed. Source: Underwriters Laboratories (UL)

become energized, too. If your holiday plans call for stringing lights through trees, this can create a safety hazard. If you notice tree limbs that are too close to electric lines, contact CEMC at 1-800-987-2362.

Stay away from your service connection

The overhead wire bringing power from the utility pole to your house is dangerous. Treat this line the same way you'd treat any other power line on CEMC's system. Maintain a safe distance — even if that means a small gap in the perfect gingerbread house outline of lights. If you must perform work close to your service entrance, contact CEMC first.

Read the fine print

If you take a few minutes to read and understand the specifications and limitations of your lights and other electrified holiday decorations, you can save yourself a great deal of work and frustration in the long run. For example, the tag at the end of an extension cord will tell you if it's rated for outdoor use, whether it will remain flexible in cold temperatures and how much energy it can safely handle. Similarly, holiday lights will tell you how many strings can be safely linked together.

Don't forget about the kids ... and pets

If you have small children, you've probably spent a great deal of time making sure every square inch of your home is childproof. Every cabinet is locked, and every outlet is covered. But sometimes the joy of celebrating the holidays with our little ones makes us a little less vigilant about electrical safety. Make sure your holiday décor receives the same level of safety scrutiny you apply to all of the permanent items in your home. Curious and mischievous pets can present similar challenges. Make sure Fluffy isn't nibbling on all those extra wires or using your tree as her personal back-scratcher or jungle gym.

Digital devices impact energy use

By Tom Tate

Ah, the Digital Age. We have gadgets galore, the ability to manage our homes in new and innovative ways, brilliant images and captivating sounds of modern entertainment options and, of course, the internet. Clearly, digital devices reign supreme. Yet these cool new capabilities come with a couple of pitfalls: vampire loads and the issue of “technology reincarnation.”

Over the course of the Digital Age, electricity use has continued to increase. Families have multiple televisions. Computer prices have plummeted, meaning many homes now have multiple computers. Everyone in the family needs a cell phone. Gaming consoles and set-top cable/satellite boxes satisfy our desire for entertainment.

Major appliances aside, most digital devices do not use 120-volt power, which is the standard voltage of a home outlet. They actually use a lot less. So, trying to plug your brand new smartphone directly into an outlet is going to lead to a fried device and lots of tears from someone. This is why low-voltage devices come with a power adapter. These “wall warts,” as some term them, take the 120-volt electricity supplied by Cumberland Electric Cooperative Association and convert it to, say, 5 volts. Unfortunately, most folks leave their adapters plugged in to make recharging easier. The problem with this approach is that the seemingly innocuous wall wart uses power even when it isn’t charging a device.

This invisible energy consumption is often called “vampire load.” Studies show that 5 to 10 percent of the average home’s energy use is from vampire loads. The only way to stop this is to unplug the power adapter when it is not in use or employ smart power strips, which look like the typical power strip but with a twist — only one socket gets power all the time. When the device or appliance connected to the live outlet turns on and starts using power, the remaining sockets receive power, too. This is perfect for entertainment systems, computer setups and a variety of other situations.

Technological advances have steadily increased energy efficiency and reduced purchase prices. This seems like a



good thing. Unfortunately, when replacing a product at the end of its life, the tendency is to go bigger or continue to use the old technology. This is the second, “reincarnation” issue I noted.

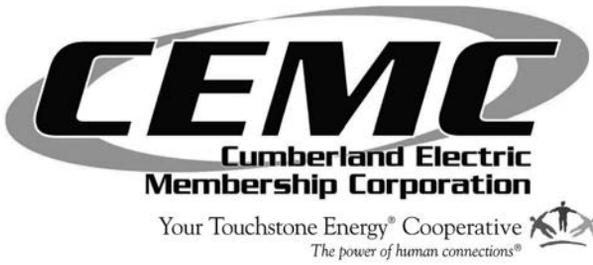
For example, flat-screen television prices have plummeted as technology has evolved — and so has the amount of electricity they use. Consumers wander into the big-box store and are dazzled by walls of giant, brilliant televisions. What they used to pay for the paltry 32-inch model now might net them a 50-inch giant. And who doesn’t want to see their

favorite show or sports event in near-lifesize? But if you spring for the bigger TV, you won’t benefit from the increased energy efficiency of the newer technology. The bigger model uses as much juice as the older, smaller TV, which likely ends up in another room (reincarnated in another setting), still using power.

Or refrigerators: These are the showpieces of the evolution of smart appliances. Many new models include touchscreens and cameras; they communicate over the internet while keeping food cold and making ice. Yet what often happens is the old refrigerator ends up in the basement or garage, reincarnated as a dedicated beverage unit or overflow.

I’ll offer a couple of words of advice to help you avoid — or at least reduce — the effects of vampire loads and technology reincarnation. Invest in smart power strips or make a point to use outlets where you can conveniently unplug power adapters when not in use. Don’t oversize your replacement appliances and entertainment gear unless family needs dictate the larger capacities. And recycle the replaced appliances and equipment to stem technology reincarnation. You will enjoy the Digital Age for a lot less.

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.



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Sparta office
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Smithville office
Phone: 615-597-5626

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Phone: 931-946-7575

AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

You're in good company with co-ops

Neighbors helping neighbors to create a better world

A fair question people often ask is, "What's in it for me?" This makes sense, as we all need to act in our own self-interest every now and then. The cool thing about co-ops is that we answer that question with, "This is what's in it for *we!*"

When the market refuses to offer a good or service or does so at a high price, co-ops step in to fill the void. Cooperatives identify members of the community who have the same self-interests and bring them together to make a cooperative decision.

Some 76 years ago, when Caney Fork Electric Cooperative got started, the folks in our community shared at least one self-interest — they wanted electricity. In fact, many Americans who lived in rural parts of the country needed electricity, which is why electric cooperatives were formed. Individuals acted in their own self-interest, but that self-interest led to the community and economic development of the rural areas in which they lived. Today, rural electric co-ops serve more than 42 million people in 47 states.

It is good to know that your friends and neighbors are also your co-owners of Caney Fork Electric. People coming together to meet a particular need is at the heart of every kind of co-op. Local credit unions bring financial services to people who banks don't want to serve. In urban

areas and college communities, housing co-ops offer people safe, reliable and affordable places to live. Many agricultural co-ops started as a way to get their products to market, whether it was oranges (Sunkist), dairy goods (Land O'Lakes), grapes (Welch's), organic milk (Organic Valley) or any of the hundreds of other food products that co-ops bring to our table every day.

Many people who owned small businesses realized they, too, had a common self-interest: stay in business. So they formed purchasing co-ops like Ace

Hardware and True Value so they could compete with big-box stores like Home Depot and Lowe's.

Today, it is estimated that more than 40 percent of all residents in the U.S. are members of at least one co-op. Worldwide, well over a billion people are counted as co-op members.

So every time you turn on (or off) the lights, it can serve as a reminder that as a co-op member, you are in good company with your local neighbors — and with people all around the world.



Bill Rogers
General Manager,
Caney Fork
Electric Cooperative

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons: holiday gatherings, houseguests and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

Plan to attend CFEC's Christmas Open Houses

Make plans to attend one of Caney Fork Electric Cooperative's Christmas Open House events. A Christmas Open House is scheduled for each cooperative office. CFEC Communications Coordinator Angel Wood has assembled a collection of special holiday recipes and compiled them into the latest edition of the cooperative's annual recipe book.

The open house at each location runs from 3 to 6 p.m. The festive events are scheduled for these dates:

McMinnville — Monday, Dec. 5
920 Smithville Highway

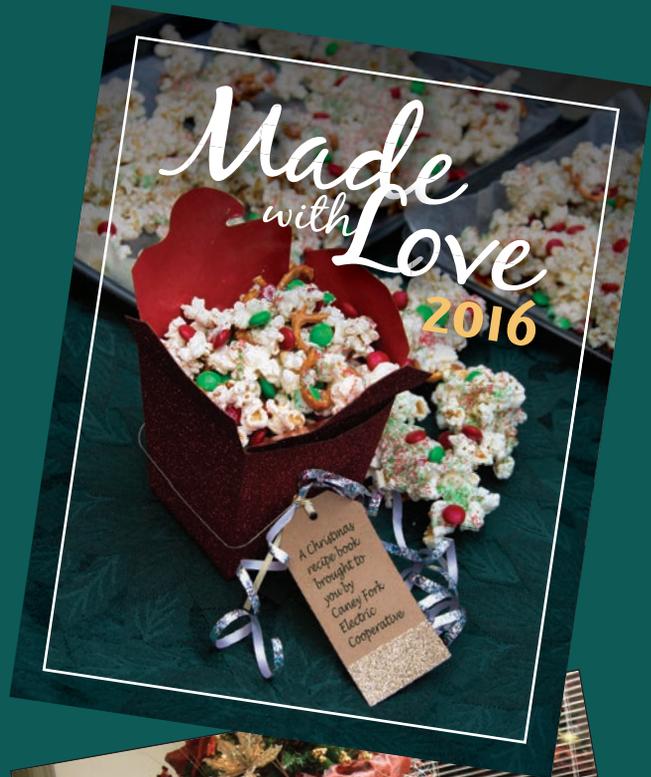
Smithville — Tuesday, Dec. 6
580 E. Broad St.

Sparta — Thursday, Dec. 8
498 W. Bockman Way

Spencer — Friday, Dec. 9
430 Spring St.

Each attendee will receive a free recipe book compliments of Caney Fork Electric Cooperative. Refreshments will be served, and attendees can register for door prizes at each event. (Books and refreshments available while supplies last.)

Please plan to join us for our Christmas Open House. Call your local CFEC office for more information.



Highlights from the CFEC 2016 annual meeting



DOOR PRIZE WINNERS:

Simmons, Arla Jean
 Roberts, Jessie
 Holder, Linda
 Gillespie, Christie
 Sparkman, Charles
 Bickford, Carolyn J.
 Vandagriff, David
 Baker, Shirley
 Myers, Carol
 Mooneyham, Harriet
 Martin, Retta
 Cantrell, Jeff
 Beshearse, Nell
 Miller, Pamela
 Bouldin, Donnie

Slaughter, Peggy J.
 Vaughn, Muriel
 Lowman, Paul
 Woodlee, Sarah
 Kirby, Willie
 Whiles, George
 Johnson, Matthew
 Newby, J. C.
 Hollingsworth, Donald
 King, Penny E.
 Ward, Mollie
 Webster, Marsha
 Knudson, Jean Ann
 McCorkle, Georgia
 Cantrell, Brenda

Shelton, Elizabeth
 Judkins, Doris
 Hopkins, Margaret
 Wood, Jurrel
 Adcock, Hillary
 Seal, Danielle
 Adcock, Billy
 Delong, Thelma
 Watson, Larry
 Young, Ray
 Watson, Kenneth
 Eisler, James
 Deel, Bonnie
 Kilburn, Carla
 England, John

Palmer, Ralph
 Redmon, Judy
 Craig, Bobby
 Cantrell, Linda R.
 Hester, Doris
 Bond, Amy
 Jones, Melba
 Wall, Sandra
 Caldwell, Terry
 Carlock, Russell E.
 Stubblefield, Sandra
 Brown, Jamie
 Harrison, Norris
 Johnson, Walter



CFEC active in school events

Many Fork Electric Cooperative representatives recently spent two days with third-graders from DeKalb and Warren counties at Farm Day events.

Each year, third-grade students attending Farm Days enjoy hayrides and/or educational stations such as CFEC's "Power Town" display, where they learn to play it safe around electricity — whether on the farm or at school.

DeKalb County Farm Day is held at the farm of Jimmy and Fran Hendon, while students from Warren County spend their Farm Day at the Warren County Fairgrounds.

CFEC representatives were also on hand at Eastside Elementary's Career on Wheels Day to answer questions and talk with the students about the day-to-day duties at the cooperative.



Empty house? Leave the heat on anyway

Think twice before you shut the heat off in a vacation home or even your own home's attic or guest rooms. You might be trying to save money and conserve energy, but you could be setting yourself up for the wet mess caused by a burst plumbing pipe or sprinkler system.

When the water inside your pipes freezes, it puts great pressure on its container — including metal and plastic

pipes. When that happens, the pipes can leak or explode, causing flooding and plenty of property damage.

To keep your pipes from freezing, don't expose them to freezing temperatures. Keep the thermostat at 55 degrees or higher in all areas of your home. In parts of your house without heat, like exterior walls and attics, add insulation around pipes to keep them warm all winter long.

Four ways to waste energy this winter

What are the biggest mistakes homeowners make when it comes to energy use? Here are four major ones, according to Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories:

- 1. Buying big.** Many homes have furnaces and air conditioners that are way too big. Sales reps often try to sell big units because they cost more. But an oversized unit wastes energy and will cost you more in the long run on heating and cooling bills than a smaller one that is properly sized for your home and your family's lifestyle.
- 2. Overlooking leaks.** When you replace your heating and air-conditioning system, get your ducts checked for leaks. Even the most-efficient, most-expensive system

won't perform at peak if heated or conditioned air is escaping through the ducts.

- 3. Under-insulating.** Heat rises, so it makes sense to insulate your home's attic. But it's equally important to insulate floors over a basement or crawl space as well as your walls and windows. Conditioned air can leak out of your home from almost any uninsulated space.
- 4. Skipping fans.** Ceiling fans and portable fans can help circulate heated or conditioned air, which gives your home's HVAC system a break — and allows you to turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Fans use little electricity but can make a big difference in how comfortable you feel in the room where one is running.

*Caney Fork Electric Cooperative
will be closed Friday, Dec. 23
and Monday, Dec. 26,
in observance of Christmas.
Have a safe and happy
holiday season!*



Water Heater Program benefits cooperative members

Caney Fork Electric Cooperative is helping members improve their quality of life by offering the water heater program. Members may qualify for a \$100 credit toward the purchase price of a new, high-efficiency electric water heater if obtained from an approved retailer listed below.

To qualify for the credit, you must install an electric water heater with a 0.93 efficiency rating or higher and at least a 12-year warranty.

Caney Fork Electric Cooperative also offers 12-month, no-interest financing for your new electric water heater. The payments can be added to your electric bill each month.

Approved retailers are:

McMinnville: Colonial Building Supply

Smithville: B&G Supply
Ace Hardware of DeKalb County

Sparta: Savage True Value



Stuff your stockings with energy-saving lightbulbs

Here's a bright idea for your holiday stockings: Stuff them with light-emitting diodes (LEDs) or compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). LEDs use up to 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent lightbulbs and can last for 10 years or longer. CFLs use two-thirds less energy than traditional bulbs and can last 10 times longer.

Both kinds of energy-efficient lightbulbs use a lower wattage to produce the same amount of light.

Most incandescent bulbs are banned from stores by now. But if you still have some burning in lamps or overhead light fixtures, now is a good time to change them.

Using less energy for lighting means a lower energy bill for you — and more money to spend on stocking-stuffers!

It's unlikely that your little ones have asked Santa for a gift of energy savings. Offer it as a gag gift, and take the opportunity to teach your children about how the new lightbulbs can reduce energy use — and make the kiddos proud to be doing their part to help the environment.



And surprise them with a fun, new bedroom lamp that burns the funny-looking, twisted lightbulbs — or an LED light that is built right into the fixture and never needs changing.

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Patrick Jordan, Director of Operations
Steve Oden, Director of Member Services
Shelia Orrell, Director of Financial Services
David Young, Director of District Services

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After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 388-3482

Decherd Office

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

Lewisburg Office

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

Lynchburg Office

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Sewanee Office

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AS I SEE IT

Michael's Viewpoint

Please sign up for Project Help this Christmas

The countdown to Christmas has begun. Across southern Middle Tennessee, families are busy decorating, baking and buying gifts. Outdoor holiday lighting twinkles at night, wrapped presents have begun to appear under Christmas trees and small children are in awe of red-garbed Santa Claus figures in yards and stores.

Christmas parties, church choir recitals, nativity plays and family get-togethers crowd the social calendar. This is the season to celebrate, after all.

We revisit the old holiday TV shows and movies from our childhood while eagerly awaiting new Christmas-themed theater releases. Radio stations play holiday songs, and we sing along while driving to complete our errands.

The pressure to finish holiday shopping mounts as deadlines for mailing or shipping gifts approach. There is pleasure, however, in finding just the right present for a special person — and hoping he or she finds one for you.

The anticipation and excitement build, leading to that magic moment, midnight on Dec. 24, when the grand day arrives, and all our planning comes to fruition. We want it to be the best Christmas ever, without worry or strife and full of love, kindness and generosity.

Among the many things I've learned in my years as an employee at Duck River Electric Membership Corporation is that Middle Tennessee residents care about their neighbors. There is a spirit of sharing here that bridges age, gender, race, education and household income.

Often, a happy Christmas for those less fortunate means food on the table, medicine for sickness and a warm house. Those are great gifts when you are struggling.

I am confident that various human services agencies, charitable organizations and churches will help many living in poverty this holiday season. Even with generous community giving, however, the dollars will be stretched because the need is tremendous.

In the past year, DREMC members and employees donated more than \$43,000 to Project Help, a program that encourages folks to add a dollar or two to their electric bills or drop a donation into a bucket at

one of our offices.

I am proud to say that all money collected through Project Help goes back into the counties where it originated to help the elderly and disabled pay their electric bills. DREMC does not decide who receives assistance; we simply serve as the mechanism for collecting the money and getting it to caring partners — Good Samaritan and other community agencies — for distribution.

DREMC members who support Project Help by adding a donation to their monthly electric bills ensure that their neighbors in need of assistance get it year-round — but especially during the Christmas season.

If you haven't signed up to be a Project Help contributor, please do so today by contacting your local DREMC office. Your gift might be small, but when thousands of fellow co-op members join together in this effort of generosity, Christmas will become a brighter, warmer time for those whose need is greatest.

On behalf of the Duck River EMC employee family and board of directors, I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Michael Watson
Duck River EMC
President/CEO

DREMC Dispatch welcomes new employee



CorrieAnn Hickerson

CorrieAnn Hickerson joined Duck River Electric Membership Corporation's Dispatch Center on Oct.17.

A Bedford County native, Hickerson grew up in the Unionville area and attended Dyersburg Junior College on a softball scholarship. Hickerson was employed with Red Rover Daycare/Preschool and Randstad Staffing Solutions prior to joining DREMC.

Hobbies for Hickerson include spending time with her daughter, Lily, and coaching in the Unionville Youth Baseball/Softball League.

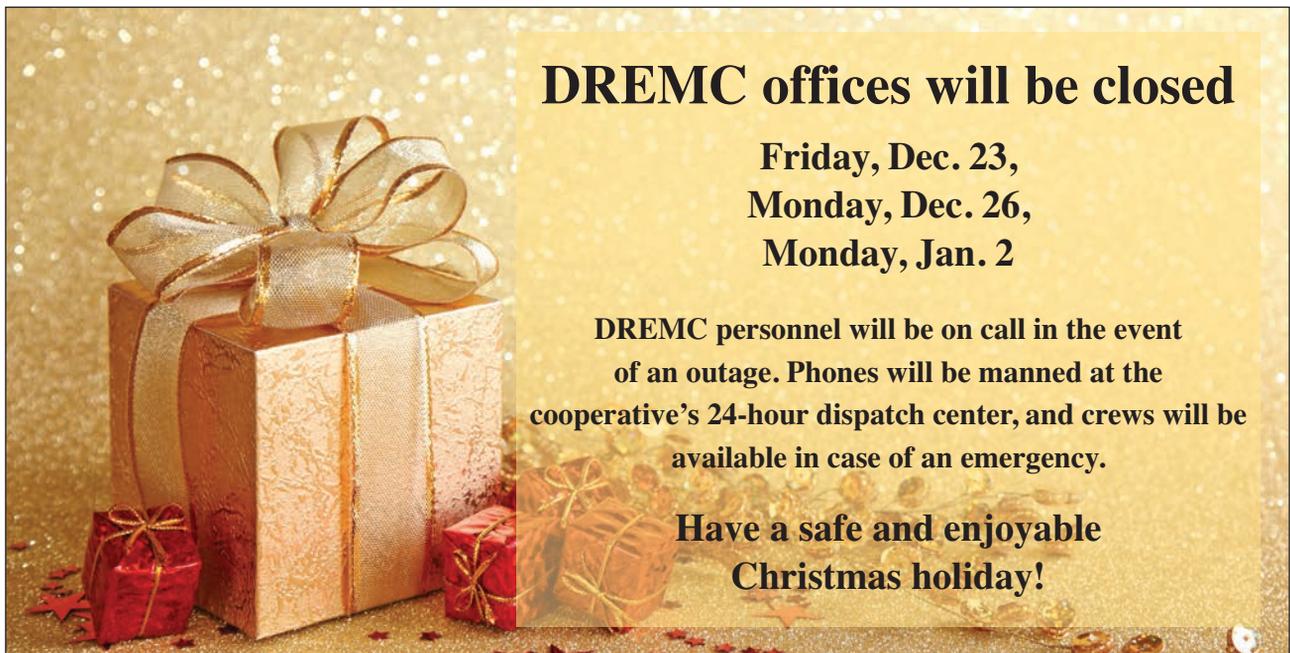
DREMC is proud to welcome her to the 24-hour dispatch staff that mans phones 24 hours a day, seven days a week for your electrical emergencies.

It's coming, and it's cool: DREMC's new website!

The countdown has started for the debut of a redesigned Duck River EMC website.

Launch date is scheduled this month for the new www.dremc.com, according to Connie Potts, DREMC consumer information specialist, who says work on the new site started in the spring. It has been redesigned with greater functionality in mind as the electric co-op moves closer to allowing members to conduct most of their business online.

"It's also much more graphic and colorful in design," she adds. "We use photos of employees, local attractions and landscapes to convey a sense of southern Middle Tennessee and the communities we serve."



DREMC offices will be closed

**Friday, Dec. 23,
Monday, Dec. 26,
Monday, Jan. 2**

DREMC personnel will be on call in the event of an outage. Phones will be manned at the cooperative's 24-hour dispatch center, and crews will be available in case of an emergency.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday!

DREMC answers the call to the swamp



DREMC crew members pose with their counterparts from Clay EC. From left are Michael Millraney, David Ladner, Scott McGill, Rob Edde, Clay EC employees, Brad Vincent, Kevin Burlison, Heath Nave, Matt Keele, Chad Anderson and Matt Swan.

Last month, Duck River EMC linemen answered the call for help to restore power in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, a category 3 storm that scraped the Atlantic Coast of Florida after causing death and destruction in the Caribbean.

Eight line workers and two supervisors loaded up eight trucks and hit the road, destined for northern Florida's Clay Electric Cooperative, which serves approximately 170,000 members.

DREMC's workers were part of an overall mutual aid effort coordinated by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association to help co-ops in Florida and South Carolina recover from the hurricane.

After helping Clay Electric get its power restored, work was far from over as our men moved up the East Coast to aid Santee Electric Cooperative in South Carolina. This is the second time that DREMC has sent crews to aid Santee

in power restoration. In February 2014, Winter Storm Pax struck a crippling blow to the South Carolina co-op's lines and poles.

"We had our souls satisfied with an outpouring of thanks," said Decherd District Operations Supervisor Rob Edde. "The group was constantly showered with cookies, food, drinks, handshakes, thank-you notes — and prayer sessions were held in the hotel by a local church group.

"We were happy to be able to put smiles on faces as people could

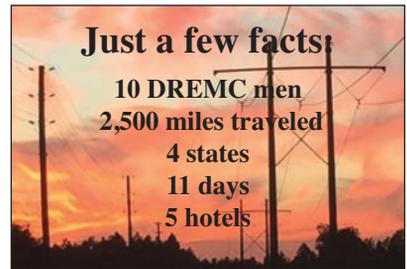
turn their lights back on and begin the journey of rebuilding and returning to a normal life."

While assessing the damage with one of the locals,

Edde and his crew found themselves at the home of an elderly lady where a tree had fallen and taken her transformer pole to the ground. Miraculously, the house was untouched — not even a shingle missing. The crew soon learned that the lady was in failing health and depended on oxygen and electric-assist chairs and beds. As a result, she had been transported to a local hospital until power could be restored.

It was clear in that instance that Santee Electric Cooperative enabled her to have the independence she needed to live and worship. Without it, there was nothing else that could keep her in her home.

"We are proud of our linemen for volunteering to help sister electric cooperatives through times of trouble," said DREMC CEO and President Michael Watson. "One of the Cooperative Principles is the willingness to help fellow electric co-ops. During the ice storms of 2015, Duck River received outside aid in power restoration. In the same spirit, we stand ready to help whenever our crews are needed."



Scott McGill wades in a swamp, staying on the lookout for alligators and snakes.



The DREMC crews begin a long day as they did each day — with a prayer.



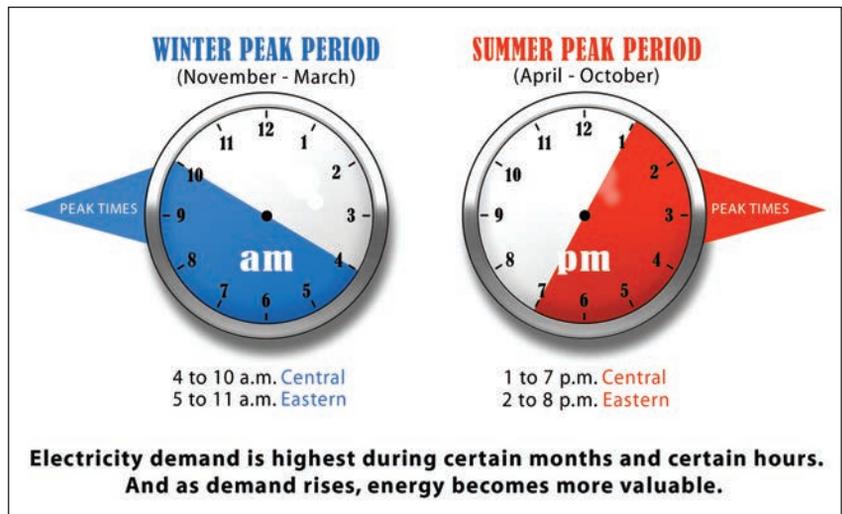
Left: Lineman Heath Nave works on a transformer from the bucket. At the height of the storm, approximately 73,000 Clay Electric Cooperative members were without power. Right: As daylight breaks, Nave in the bucket and Brad Vincent on the pole are busy hanging new equipment.

Winter rates begin in December

December, January, February and March are included in the Tennessee Valley Authority's winter rate structure. During these months, per-kilowatt-hour charges are slightly higher than during the fall and spring months.

TVA's cost to produce electricity increases as demand during the cold winter months rises and requires peak production of power. Duck River Electric Membership Corporation passes on these wholesale rate fluctuations, both up and down, to our members.

DREMC is available to assist members with energy-efficiency initiatives. You can visit www.dremc.com for energy-saving tips and to learn about our eScore program, which allows members to make energy-efficiency upgrades and



receive rebates or special loans. Rebates are available for most upgrades.

Call 931-680-5883 for more information on these programs.

The amazing, never-before seen ...

by Claire Sellers

The year was 1942. Scents of a cedar tree wafted through the house. A big Christmas dinner was prepared on the wood-burning stove, and cheerful voices filled the McNeese home in the Odd Fellows Hall community.

Little did the McNeese family know that after this Christmas, the holidays would never be the same.

Ladye McNeese Sellers was one of 15 children who grew up in the rolling hills of Giles County. She remembers the days before electricity and recalls the last Christmas her family cooked over a wood stove and decorated their tree without lights.

In 1943, everything changed. The McNeese home received electricity from Duck River Electric Membership Corporation. It might not have been a merrier Christmas, but it was certainly brighter and less labor-intensive for all involved in celebration preparations.

The McNeese siblings, in particular, marveled at the electrically lighted decorations that glowed and twinkled.

“Electricity changed the way we lived,” says Ladye. “I remember the first time we decorated our tree with Christmas lights and how much easier cooking was for my Mama.”

Ladye’s family owned a country store in the Odd Fellows Hall community. The store provided grocery items, fresh meats and canned goods.

“We grew up in a time of hardship,” says Ladye. “Our neighbors and friends often couldn’t pay for the food they needed for their families, so they exchanged hens for groceries. We had a pen for the chickens under the storeroom.”

Christmas was a time of happiness and fellowship. Ladye recalls the entire family gathering around their big dining room table for



the holiday meal.

“We always had chicken and dressing, green beans, sweet potatoes with marshmallows, potato salad and coleslaw,” says Ladye. “My Mama and sisters would cook all week preparing our Christmas meal.”

Imagine a Christmas tree without lights.

“Before we had electricity, we decorated the tree with tinsel, roping and anything we could find around the house or the store. When we got electricity, we always decorated the tree with great big lights. I don’t think you can get those kind of lights anymore.”

Ladye remembers Santa bringing her and her siblings each an orange, apple, candy, big raisins (not like the ones you see today) and one toy.

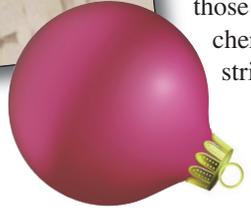
“We had cane chairs with our names on them, and Santa would find our names. Our gifts would be in the chairs on Christmas morning.”

After leaving for Lipscomb University in Nashville in 1950 and graduating in 1954 with an education degree, Ladye spent her career teaching at Head Start in Maury County. She and her husband, Allen Sellers, lived on a farm in Maury County, raising beef cattle, pigs and tobacco.

Ladye has been a DREMC member her entire life.

“As I grew up and started my own family, I looked back on my childhood and realized how blessed I truly was. I didn’t have to start a fire before preparing a meal or warm water (on the stove) for my children to bathe. Electricity is something I don’t take for granted.”

Indeed, the electrification of rural America positively changed millions of lives. Like Ladye McNeese Sellers, those who remember “when the lights came on” also cherish the special recollection of when electricity lit up strings of glass bulbs on the Christmas tree.



Electrified Christmas!

Christmas safety and savings during the holidays

by Claire Sellers

Christmas is meant for making memories with those you love. Duck River Electric Membership Corporation has been powering holiday moments for more than 80 years. Follow these tips to ensure a safer and more energy-efficient season of celebration:

If you are purchasing a live tree this holiday season, make sure to check for freshness. A fresh tree will stay green longer and won't dry out as quickly. A dried-out tree can become a fire hazard, so check the water in your tree's stand daily.

Place your tree at least 3 feet away from heat sources. Keep the 3-foot separation in mind when hanging stockings, too.

Remember not to overload electrical outlets.

If you are a candle-lover and have children, consider purchasing battery-operated candles instead of traditional ones to avoid open-flame hazards.

Remember to avoid putting lights and decorations on the lower limbs of your Christmas trees if there are small children in the house. Also, don't allow your children to play with cords, lights or electrical decorations.

History of electric Christmas lights

1882 – Edward Johnson, an associate of Thomas Edison, becomes the first person to decorate a Christmas tree with colored electric lights.

1895 – President Grover Cleveland unveils the first electrically lit Christmas tree in the White House.

Late 1900s – Electric Christmas tree lights are mass-produced.

World War II – Fear of enemy air raids (blackout rules) and a shortage of materials due to the war effort impact the Christmas tree light industry. But in 1945, Americans again embrace the iconic symbol of the holidays: strings of electric lights on trees, houses and stores.

1960s – Traditional Christmas tree lights compete with new-fangled aluminum Christmas trees, illuminated by colored light wheels.

1970s – Mini-lights become the rage. The small bulbs with plastic bases have cheaper price tags and use less electricity.

Today – LED (light-emitting diode) Christmas tree lights are the choice of holiday decorators who want energy efficiency and longer bulb life.

Looking forward to the next 80 years

by Claire Sellers

We hope you enjoyed celebrating 80 years of light with Duck River EMC in 2016. More than 80 years later, we continue the legacy of lighting homes, farms, businesses and industries of southern Middle Tennessee.

As this year comes to a close, remember that DREMC is still committed to providing reliable, affordable electricity, the highest level of member care and unparalleled service to the communities in our service area.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

DREMC committed to grassroots advocacy

Duck River EMC hosted a “Meet the Candidates” event at the Lewisburg District office in October that turned out to be quite successful. Office-seekers for county and state offices met and mingled with potential voters for three hours while a lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and dessert was served.

Marshall County candidates from trustee hopefuls to those standing for state House of Representatives and Senate offices talked with co-op members, employees and directors. The informal format was perfect for one-on-one campaigning.

Opponents took turns canvassing the crowd and passing out cards. It was a come-and-go affair, but many who attended stayed the entire time.

“We did not want the candidates to be under any pressure to give speeches,” said Steve Oden, DREMC director of member services. “The day was geared toward letting people get to know those running for public office by meeting them personally.



“Timmy Terry and his staff at Lewisburg did a great job setting up this event. Our hats are off to them. Meet the Candidates was successful because of their hard work.”

Pat Garrett and Steven Hopkins handled grilling duties. Other employees manned the serving tables, and Holly Key worked on getting pledges to participate in the election process at a table highlighting the bipartisan Co-ops Vote campaign.

Duck River Electric Membership Corporation privacy notice

Your privacy is a priority for Duck River EMC. You can be assured that the cooperative does not sell or trade any member information we maintain at the co-op with other companies such as telemarketing firms. We are committed to protecting your privacy each and every day.

Only DREMC employees are permitted access to your account information in order to perform their jobs on your behalf. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to protect personal and account infor-

mation. As part of our identity-theft policy, we established the Identity Theft Prevention Protection Committee, which meets as needed to discuss our business procedures and practices to ensure we maintain comprehensive safeguards to protect personal and account information.

We have third-party arrangements with vendors that provide the cooperative with expertise within our industry. For example, one of these companies maintains the utility-billing software that produces your

electric bill each month. This company has access to 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 DREMC for the protection of member information. If you have any questions about the policy and how it is implemented, please contact your local DREMC office or Shelia Orrell, privacy officer, at 931-680-5860.



Stay Connected



Visit our social media outlets to get the latest on energy tips, program updates, important community events and outage information.

Duck River Electric Membership Corporation



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

DREMC wishes everyone a Happy Holiday season. Please see page 21 for scheduled closings. Remember that DREMC's dispatch center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week to receive your calls about outages and electrical emergencies.



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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

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Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

Book Review: *Land Grants on the Elk*

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Spirit of GIVING

Family traditions. Holiday feasts. Community events. Christmas programs. These are all things in which we participate during the holiday season, but perhaps the one thing that best draws us together as neighbors and as a community during the holiday season is the spirit of giving.

Like anyone else, Fayetteville Public Utilities and our employees take this time of year to reach out to those who need a little extra help during the holidays and share with others the goodness that we have been blessed to receive.

There are many worthy charitable organizations and fundraising drives during the holiday season, and I hope you have one that's important to you. Each year, FPU and our employees sponsor and assist with several charitable organizations, one of which is the local Good Samaritan Association of Lincoln County.

In 1989, FPU (then Fayetteville Electric System) partnered with Good Samaritan to offer a program called Project Help. This program helps local residents who receive Social Security or disability income and are unable to pay for their heating costs during winter months. Project Help is supported by monthly donations of a dollar or more from FPU customers and employees and with one-time donations from local clubs, organizations and individuals. Together, we are able to make sure

that those in need stay warm during the winter.

Last year, from October through the end of March, Project Help was able to assist qualifying applicants with nearly \$10,500 in heating costs during a time when they needed extra financial help.

Assistance from Project Help not only applies to FPU electric and natural gas bills but also goes to help purchase propane, wood and other qualifying heating sources.

Giving to Project Help and knowing that you're helping a family stay warm

this winter is as much of a comfort to those who give as it is to those it helps.

The holiday season certainly prompts many to give. Maybe you purchase gifts for children in need. Maybe you drop a few dollars in the Salvation Army's bucket or give of your time to visit with those who need a friend. Whatever you do in the spirit of giving, like FPU, do it because you care and because you are grateful for the opportunity to share your blessings with someone else.

Gandhi once said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." One way we can all serve others this holiday season is to give — and give generously — to programs like Project Help, the Harvest of Hope Food Drive, the Fayetteville/Lincoln County Toy Drive and other worthy charitable organizations that put others above self.



Britt Dye
CEO/General Manager

'They want to work'

Michael Jordan was one of — if not the — greatest professional basketball players in the history of the sport. Under his leadership, the Chicago Bulls won six league titles. During the championship runs, when a game was on the line in the closing seconds, his teams had a particular strategy: “Get the ball to Michael; everybody get out of the way.” He rarely failed to deliver.

Not everyone wants the pressure or the challenge of having to deliver when the stakes are high. Not everyone can handle it. The mark of a champion, in any sport or vocation, is someone who wants the ball in his or her hands when the game is on the line. It needs to be someone who can do the job, someone who enjoys it and is confident in his or her abilities, someone who remains calm under pressure.

More than 100 employees from Tennessee-based electric cooperatives answered the call for help in Florida and the Carolinas following Hurricane Matthew. All of them knew the work would be tough and the conditions challenging. One cooperative in North Carolina that needed assistance told me there was a good chance the men might have to sleep in their trucks because no hotel rooms were available. When I told the assisting co-op about that possibility, the crews remained more than willing to go and help.

Another thing about champions: They know the value of teamwork. A quote attributed to Jordan was, “Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships.”

This was a team effort — across the board. Moving crews long distances requires coordination among all parties involved — from travel plans to having the proper tools and equipment. The cooperatives that provided assistance sent crews of dedicated linemen anxious to help with storm recovery, and each crew member knew the responsibilities. The individual linemen making up the crews also knew they could depend on their co-workers and their equipment.

And their work had to be done safely. The work they perform is unforgiving — mistakes can be deadly. Crews have to plan their work and follow all safety rules, especially when working in disaster conditions. Not only are they working in unfamiliar territory, but some homes may be using emergency generators, which, if installed incorrectly, present an electrocution danger to line crews.

Doing strenuous work for 12 to 16 hours per day and being hundreds of miles from home take a toll both physically and mentally. As driven as these linemen are to get the lights back on, they also want to return safely to their homes and families. That's one aspect of disaster assistance on which we keep a close watch.

During crew transfers, I had an email exchange with Britt Dye, CEO of Fayetteville Public Utilities. His crews were a long way from home and had been working for several days. They were finishing restoration at Clay Electric Cooperative in Florida. Knowing that help was needed in North Carolina, I checked with Britt to see if his crews were rested and able to travel. His response: “They want to work!”

Within the hour, the crews were on the road to assist cooperative members at South River Electric Membership Corporation in the Tar Heel State. That's how linemen say, “Give me the ball.”

Please note: This article written by David Callis, general manager of Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, appeared in the November 2016 issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*. Only minor changes have been made to the original story in order to fit FPU's magazine format and publication schedule. Since Fayetteville Public Utilities' customers did not receive this issue as we only publish the magazine bi-monthly, we wanted to share his story with our readers because it highlights the mentality and work ethic of our electric crews.



David Callis
General Manager,
Tennessee Electric
Cooperative
Association

New plant raises the

Fayetteville Public Utilities' new Water Treatment Plant is in full operation and is meeting its expectations of producing higher volumes of drinking water while also raising the bar for water quality.

"With its state-of-the-art membrane filtration system, fiber-connected water tank monitoring system and automation for chemical feeds, the new plant has brought local water treatment and drinking water production to where it needs to be to serve our community for decades to follow," says FPU CEO and General Manager Britt Dye.

The new water plant began in late 2014 at the Eldad Road location in front of the previous treatment plant. During construction, the existing plant continued to produce drinking water for FPU customers. After months of construction, plant operators were able to transfer operations to the new plant temporarily for testing purposes and to check overall operations.

Dye welcomed guests to the facility on Oct. 18 for an open house reception and tour of the facility.

FPU's new water plant is currently producing a little over 4 million gallons of water per day and is equipped to accommodate upgrades to filter and produce 6 million and eventually up to 8 million gallons per day as needed.

"With the future of our community in mind, we have constructed a water plant to serve customer growth and to continue meeting the ever-increasing water quality testing requirements through the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation," says Dye.



The plant features many upgrades to streamline the water treatment and production processes like redundant trains for the flocculation and sedimentation processes, which allow for maintenance and cleaning without a plant shutdown, as was necessary at the previous water plant.

The new water plant includes a state-of-the-art SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system, designed using fiber optic cable for secure and reliable connectivity, that provides vital plant operation information for water tank storage levels, instrumentation, automatic chemical feeds and overall plant monitoring.

The plant also includes new laboratory and water testing areas to check raw, settled, processed and deionized water samples daily.

"The membrane filters are the cornerstone of FPU's new Water Treatment Plant," says FPU's David Posey, water plant supervisor. "Our new membrane filters are designed to remove bacteria and some viruses."

The membrane filters consist of thousands of noodle-like fibers with a 0.02 micron (micrometer) pore size. In comparison, the average human hair is 100 microns. There are more than 10,000 of these fibers per module of the membrane system, and each contains 600 square feet of surface area.

"When I came on the board nine years ago, water treatment was certainly a priority," says FPU Board Chairman Janine Wilson. "I commend all who have had a part in contributing to this facility and the improvements it has made in our community."

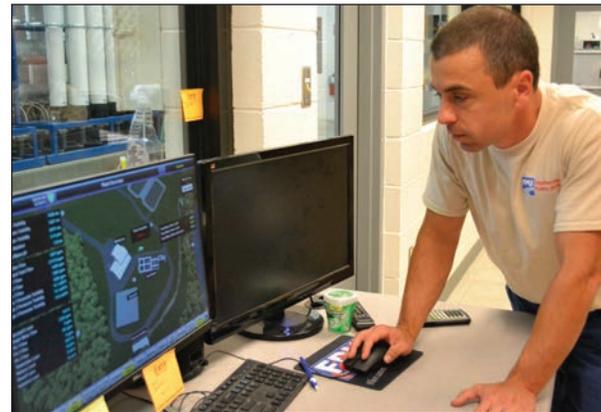


bar for water quality



“ ... the new plant has brought local water treatment and drinking water production to where it needs to be to serve our community for decades to follow. ”

— Britt Dye



Opposite page, helping commemorate the FPU Water Treatment Plant's completion are local officials along with FPU staff and the board of directors. From left are, seated, FPU board members Glenn Oldham, Micky Lawson, William Hurd, Michael Whisenant, Russ Dixon and Paul Richardson. Standing: Mayor Jon Law, Sen. Jim Tracy, Rep. Pat Marsh, FPU CEO and General Manager Britt Dye, FPU Board Chairman Janine Wilson, former Mayor John Ed Underwood, Doug Shelton of the Rural Utilities Service, Dudney Fox of Trestles LLC and David Posey. The photos above show various stages of the water treatment and plant operation. First, after water travels through the flocculation and sedimentation basins and particles are removed, water enters the equalization basin, ready for filtration. The noodle-like fibers inside each membrane filter remove impurities from the water. The plant's SCADA system monitors water flow, tank levels and overall plant operation, providing more accurate information for Posey and other plant operators.

High school juniors compete for trip to D.C.

High school juniors have a chance to win a weeklong tour of our nation's capital on the annual Washington Youth Tour in June. The Youth Tour is sponsored by Fayetteville Public Utilities and 22 other rural electric systems in Tennessee. Junior class students enrolled at local public and private schools and those who are home-schooled are invited to participate in the FPU writing contest.

"This is a unique opportunity for high school students," says FPU CEO and General Manager Britt Dye. "The Washington Youth Tour offers students a tour of our nation's capital, thousands of dollars in scholarships and a chance to network with other young leaders from across the nation."

To be eligible to participate, students must be a junior in high school and must live in FPU's service area.

Presentations are currently underway at the local public and private high schools; home-schooled students and/or their parents should contact Gina Warren at FPU at 931-433-1522 for writing contest materials, guidelines and details about the youth program.

This year, students are writing short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives: Going Beyond the Wires," focusing on how rural electric systems strengthen their communities and improve lives across the area by providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

"The writing contest gives students more creative freedom than the rigid guidelines of an essay," says Warren, FPU's public information specialist. "This year's theme encourages students to understand that FPU does

more than simply keep the lights on. We help recruit businesses, help customers operate their homes and businesses more efficiently and prepare students to be tomorrow's leaders."

Three high school juniors will be selected as winners of

the writing contest and will be awarded the trip to Washington, D.C., as part of the annual Washington Youth Tour. Three other students will be named as alternates for the trip and will attend the tour in the event one of the winners is unable to participate.

In addition to winning the trip to D.C., the Lincoln County student who pens the best short story will participate on a

statewide level for college scholarships. If his or her paper wins in the state contest, it could mean a scholarship valued up to \$3,000.

As part of the overall Washington Youth Tour program, students are also encouraged to stay connected and engaged with their local electric companies across the state. By doing so, the 2017 Youth Tour participants who qualify will have a chance at receiving a \$10,000 scholarship.

The Washington Youth Tour is an annual event sponsored nationally by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Tennessee sends approximately 130 students annually for the event, and about 1,500 students from across the nation participate in the Washington Youth Tour each year. The 2017 Washington Youth Tour will be held June 9-15.



This semester's Lincoln County High School junior English classes are ready to begin writing their stories for a chance to tour Washington, D.C., in the summer of 2017.



Fayetteville Public Utilities will be closed on the dates listed below in observance of the upcoming holidays. Please note that some of the holidays fall on weekends, so FPU will be closed on the previous or following days of the week. If you need to report a leak or outage, please call FPU at 931-433-1522. Dispatchers and service crews will be available during the holidays to assist you.

Christmas Eve (closed on Dec. 23)

Christmas Day (closed on Dec. 26)

New Year's Day (closed on Jan. 2)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (closed on Jan. 16)

The guiding hand of progress

As your hometown utility provider, Fayetteville Public Utilities is guided by an appointed board of directors that represents our city and county's best interests when making important decisions related to FPU and our community. Being a member of FPU's board is an incredibly important position in our community. A director's decisions will impact issues such as service rates, rights of way and work plans for all utility departments. The position of board member holds great responsibility and requires these men and women to understand our community's needs while they serve our customers' best interests.

It is important for us to have strong directors on our board, which enacts policies that help our community grow and keep Fayetteville and Lincoln County competitive.

FPU's board members strive for excellence, and in doing so, they either have completed or are working to complete a rigid training program through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) that prepares individuals for his or her role as a utility director.

"The NRECA board training program is offered by the electric industry, but a majority of the training can be easily applied to govern all FPU utility departments," says FPU CEO and General Manager Britt Dye. "This training further equips our board members with the knowledge they need as leaders in today's utility industry."

The first step of director training is the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate program, which focuses on understanding the electric utility business and a board member's duties and liabilities. It also includes training sessions for strategic planning, financial decision-making and overall utility and board operations.

The second level of board member training is the Board Leadership Certificate program, offering courses on board governance and how it incorporates the purpose and value of the utility business model, bylaws, policy development, ethics and political engagement. Directors also learn about technology, risk



*Janine Wilson
Chairman*



*William Hurd
Vice-Chairman*



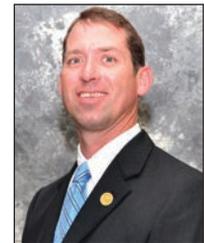
*Glenn Oldham
Secretary/Treasurer*



*Russ Dixon
Member*



*Micky Lawson
Member*



*Paul Richardson
Member*



*Michael Whisenant
Member*



*Jon Law, Mayor
Ex-Officio*

management and communications, which are everyday concerns for a utility.

The Director Gold Certificate is the final hallmark of an established board director. It recognizes directors who have earned their first two certificates and are committed to continuing their education throughout their tenure on the board.

"The FPU Board of Directors is a driving force behind our utility's progress," says Dye. "Our board is an important part of this utility, and we appreciate our directors' leadership and support of the many construction and service expansion projects FPU has accomplished as we continue to improve the products and services we offer to our customers."

The board of directors is mission-minded and stands behind FPU's mission with guiding hands to exceed customer expectations with safe, reliable, affordable utility services.

HARVEST OF HOPE FOOD DRIVE

Fayetteville Public Utilities invites you to join us in donating canned and nonperishable food items to the annual Harvest of Hope Food Drive. The food drive benefits the Good Samaritan Association of Lincoln County by stocking its food bank for the fall and winter months when some in our community find themselves applying for food assistance to help make ends meet.

Items needed in the food drive include:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| peanut butter | crackers |
| oats and cereals | canned soup |
| dry noodles | dry beans |
| any canned vegetables, fruits and meats | |

FPU will be accepting donations through Dec. 31. You can bring your food donations to the FPU office at 408 W. College St. during regular office hours: Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Please join us in giving, and let's help feed our neighbors in need!



Follow us on Twitter!

Follow Fayetteville Public Utilities on Twitter to keep informed of news and details relating to FPU and your utility services. Find us at FPUTN.

WARM UP to natural gas

Nothing is more relaxing than sitting by a fireplace on a cold winter night. Natural gas fireplaces give you the elegance and charm of the traditional fireplace without having to worry about firewood. No more buying or chopping wood, keeping it safely stored, and no more messy chimney cleanup. FPU's line of natural gas fireplaces represents some of the best names in the industry, and they're all backed by a worry-free warranty.

Natural gas heating provides clean, quiet, odorless heat for only pennies an hour. It burns clean with a 99 percent heat efficiency — and without a chimney. Since no outside venting is required, you eliminate heat loss and cold air drafts.

FPU's natural gas heating equipment operates without electricity, so it's the perfect alternative for emergency heat during power outages.



Our complete natural gas heating systems include a zero-clearance firebox, high-efficiency vent-free gas logs and concealed controls.

Choose from remote-control and thermostatic units. You can also select from fireplace models that feature brick liners in standard or herringbone patterns.



With a natural gas fireplace from FPU, you get the most economical and convenient way to add the beauty and warmth of a fireplace to your home.

Visit FPU today and choose your perfect gas fireplace for the winter!

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

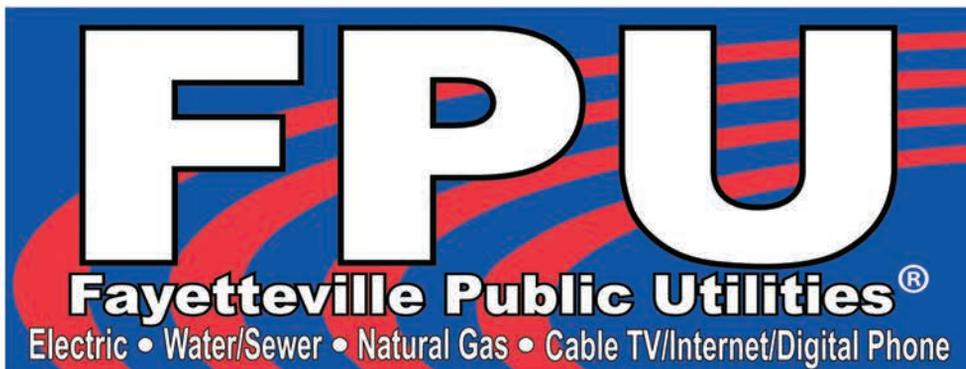
Seal out the cold

There's a chill in the air — but hopefully not indoors! Is your home properly sealed for air leaks? Read energy expert Patrick Keegan's column on page 27 for more information.



This Christmas, take a pause from our busy lives.
Be thankful for the gift of life.
Celebrate love with our families.
Most importantly, remember
to share our blessings.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from



408 College Street, West • Fayetteville, TN • 931-433-1522

December 2016 www.tnmagazine.org

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Holiday Gift Guide

History for Kids: *Pioneer Alex Stewart*

Tennessee's Pipe Organ Craftsmen

Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

Book Review: *Land Grants on the Elk*

Recipes That Stick Together

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

Mary Blake, Office Manager

Trenisa Anderson, Cashier

Jay Burress, Operating Line
Superintendent

E.W. Baggett, Journeyman Lineman

Johnny Biggs, Journeyman Lineman

Morgan Bowser, Apprentice
Lineman

Jimmy Buckner, Apprentice
Lineman

Kathy Cherry, Head Cashier

Kevin Fair, Work Order Clerk

Rosalind Green, Member Services
Representative

Kenneth Hankins Jr., Groundman

Bubba Humphreys, Line Foreman

Cody Hutchison, Apprentice Lineman

Madison Laster, Apprentice Lineman

Kelly Mayo, Accounting Clerk

Ross Norrid, Equipment Operator

Chad Paris, Journeyman Lineman

Nelda Kay Ray, General
Accounting Clerk

Keven Reece, Utility Person

Holly Saliba, Cashier/Receptionist

Tyler Selph, Journeyman Lineman

Brad Stafford, Apprentice Lineman

Andrea Tims, Billing Clerk

Stephen Turnbo, Apprentice Lineman

Brian Vaughn, IT Supervisor

Molly Weatherly, Cashier

Chance Williams, Apprentice
Lineman

Donald Williams, Meter Tech/
Collections

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AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

You're in good company with co-ops

Neighbors helping neighbors to create a better world

A fair question people often ask is, "What's in it for me?" This makes sense as we all need to act in our own self-interest every now and then. The cool thing about co-ops is we answer that question with, "This is what's in it for *we!*"

When the market refuses to offer a good or service or does so at a high price, co-ops step in to fill the void. Cooperatives identify members of the community who have the same self-interests and bring them together to make a cooperative decision.

More than 75 years ago, when Forked Deer Electric Cooperative got started, the folks in our community shared at least one self-interest — they wanted electricity. In fact, many Americans who lived in rural parts of the country at that time needed electricity, which is why electric cooperatives were formed. Individuals acted in their own self-interest, but that self-interest led to the community and economic development of the rural areas in which they lived. Today, rural electric co-ops serve more than 42 million people in 47 states.

It is good to know that your friends and neighbors are also your co-owners of FDEC. People coming together to meet a particular need is

at the heart of every kind of co-op. Local credit unions bring financial services to people banks don't want

to serve. In urban areas and college communities, housing co-ops offer people safe, reliable and affordable places to live. Many agricultural co-ops started as a way to get their products to market, whether it was oranges (Sunkist), dairy goods (Land O'Lakes), grapes (Welch's), organic milk

(Organic Valley) or any of the hundreds of other food products that co-ops bring to our table every day.

Many people who owned small businesses realized they, too, had a common self-interest: stay in business. So they formed purchasing co-ops like Ace Hardware and True Value so they could compete with big-box stores like Home Depot and Lowe's.

Today, it is estimated that more than 40 percent of all residents in the U.S. are members of at least one co-op. Worldwide, well over a billion people are counted as co-op members.

So every time you turn on (or off) the lights, it can serve as a reminder that as a co-op member, you are in good company with your local neighbors — and with people all around the world.



Jeff Newman
General Manager,
Forked Deer
Electric Cooperative

Empty house? Leave the heat on anyway

Think twice before you shut the heat off in a vacation home or even your own home's attic or guest rooms. You might be trying to save money and conserve energy, but you could be setting yourself up for the wet mess caused by a burst plumbing pipe or sprinkler system.

When the water inside your pipes freezes, it puts great pressure on its container — including metal and plastic

pipes. When that happens, the pipes can leak or explode, causing flooding and plenty of property damage.

To keep your pipes from freezing, don't expose them to freezing temperatures. Keep the thermostat at 55 degrees or higher in all areas of your home. In parts of your house without heat, like exterior walls and attics, add insulation around pipes to keep them warm all winter long.

Four ways to waste energy this winter

What are the biggest mistakes homeowners make when it comes to energy use? Here are four major ones, according to

Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories:

- 1. Buying big.** Many homes have furnaces and air conditioners that are way too big. Sales reps often try to sell big units because they cost more. But an oversized unit wastes energy and will cost you more in the long run on heating and cooling bills than a smaller one that is properly sized for your home and your family's lifestyle.
- 2. Overlooking leaks.** When you replace your heating and air-conditioning system, get your ducts checked for leaks. Even the most-efficient, most-expensive system won't perform at peak if

heated or conditioned air is escaping through the ducts.

- 3. Under-insulating.** Heat rises, so it makes sense to insulate your home's attic. But it's equally important to insulate floors over a basement or crawl space as well as your walls and windows. Conditioned air can leak out of your home from almost any uninsulated space.
- 4. Skipping fans.** Ceiling fans and portable fans can help circulate heated or conditioned air, which gives your home's HVAC system a break — and allows you to turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Fans use little electricity but can make a big difference in how comfortable you feel in the room where one is running.

Forked Deer Electric Cooperative

will be closed Friday, Dec. 23;

Monday, Dec. 26;

and Monday, Jan. 2,

in observance of the Christmas

and New Year's holidays.



Avoiding the energy rush

Time of use matters

By Anne Prince

Did you know that *when* you use electricity often matters as much as *how much* electricity you consume?

It's no surprise that electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand, and electric co-ops must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy demands of their members during times of highest energy use, also known as "on-peak hours." In the early morning when people often start their day and during the evening when folks return to their homes after work are common times for on-peak hours. To reduce peak energy demand and save money, many electric co-ops have created a time-of-use rate program to encourage electricity use during off-peak hours — when energy is less expensive to provide. Similar to saving money by attending a matinee, you can keep more money in your wallet simply by using electricity during an off-peak time period.

Using less on-peak power means lower costs for the co-op — and, ultimately, lower rates for members.

Electric rates based on time of use offer consumers the ability to lower their electricity costs without reducing

the amount of electricity used. By performing some of your daily chores like running the dishwasher or doing laundry during off-peak hours, you can save on your utility bill. In a similar vein, plug electronic equipment such as computers, printers, TVs and power tools into power strips, then turn the strips off during peak hours.

You can also put technology to work for you. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your heating-and-cooling system syncs with the off-peak rate periods. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way.

Saving energy can be simple. Remember: By shifting your energy use to off-peak times, you have the power to save on your monthly energy bill. To learn more about why time of use matters, watch a short video at tinyurl.com/TOUmatters.

Anne Prince 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 co-ops.

Stuff your stockings with energy-saving lightbulbs

Here's a bright idea for your holiday stockings: Stuff them with light-emitting diodes (LEDs) or compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). LEDs use up to 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent lightbulbs and can last 10 years or longer. CFLs use two-thirds less energy than traditional bulbs and can last 10 times longer.

Both kinds of energy-efficient lightbulbs use a lower wattage to produce the same amount of light.

Most incandescent bulbs are banned from stores by now. But if you still have some burning in lamps or overhead light fixtures, now is a good time to change them.

Using less energy for lighting means a lower energy bill for you — and more money to spend on stocking-stuffers!

It's unlikely that your little ones have asked Santa for a gift of energy savings. Offer it as a gag gift, and take the opportunity to teach your children about how the new lightbulbs can reduce energy use — and make the kiddos proud to be doing their part to help the environment.



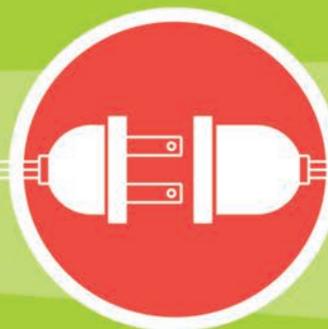
Surprise them, too, with a fun, new bedroom lamp that burns the funny-looking, twisted lightbulbs — or an LED light that is built right into the fixture and never needs changing.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy-efficient than incandescent bulbs.

Connect each strand to test holiday lights before hanging them.



Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.

Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.



Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using clips to keep the bulbs upright.

Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

When the lightbulb goes off

How inventors get ideas — and why that's just the beginning

By Paul Wesslund

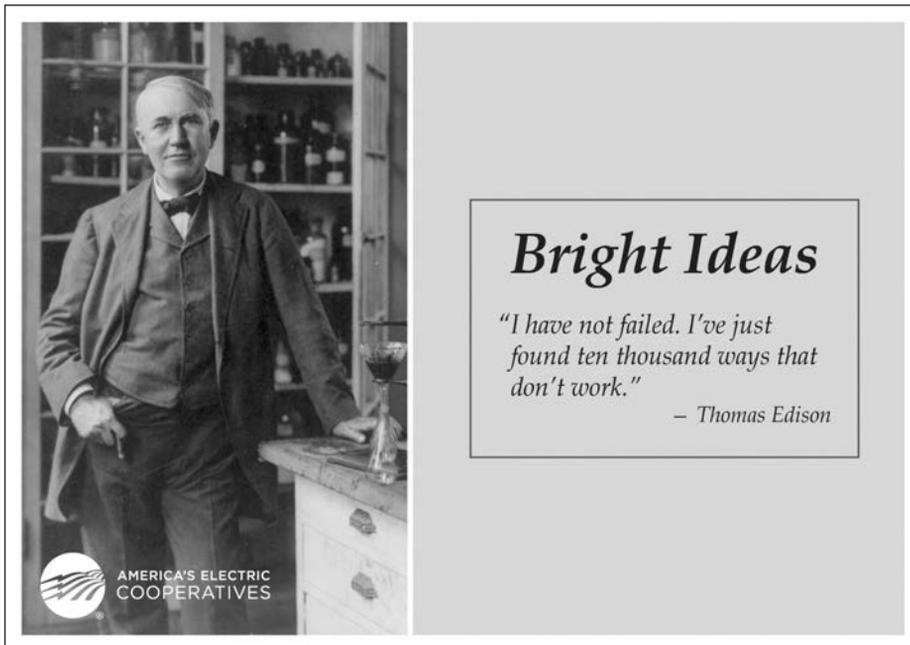
If you're in search of a holiday gift for your favorite energy buff, consider the new novel by award-winning screenwriter Graham Moore.

Moore tells the story of the legal, technical and public relations battle between Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse in the late 1800s that gave us the electric system we use today.

"The Last Days of Night," fiction based on fact, gives an entertaining look at the fight between Westinghouse's system of alternating current (AC) and Edison's plan to use direct current (DC) to power America.

But the book is also about the process of invention and how ideas become reality. Each chapter starts with a quotation from a noted inventor. As we prepare for a new year with new possibilities, let's take a look at some of the creative quotes shared in "The Last Days of Night:"

- "I have not failed. I've just found ten thousand ways that don't work." — Thomas Edison
- "... half of what separates the successful entrepreneurs from the unsuccessful ones is pure perseverance." — Steve Jobs



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons: holiday gatherings, houseguests and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

- "High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation." — Charles F. Kettering, inventor of the electrical starter
- "Headlines, in a way, are what mislead you, because bad news is a headline and gradual improvement is not." — Bill Gates
- "You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else." — Albert Einstein
- "We often miss opportunity because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work." — Thomas Edison
- "Technology is nothing. What's important is that you have a faith in people, that they're basically good and smart, and if you give them tools, they'll do wonderful things with them." — Steve Jobs

I hope these quotes inspire you as they did me. Moore's "The Last Days of Night" is available for purchase through most major book retailers. It's a great gift idea for any energy buff — or any creative genius, for that matter.

Paul Wesslund 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.

Digital devices impact energy use

By Tom Tate

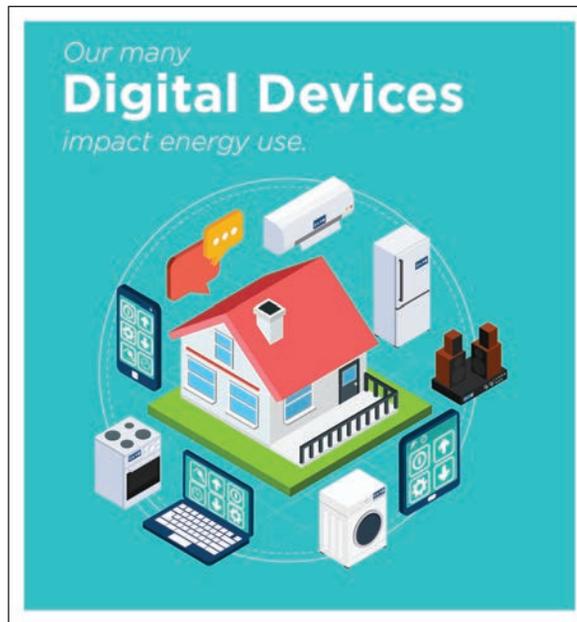
Ah, the Digital Age. We have gadgets galore, the ability to manage our homes in new and innovative ways, brilliant images and captivating sounds of modern entertainment options and, of course, the internet. Clearly, digital devices reign supreme. Yet these cool new capabilities come with a couple of pitfalls: vampire loads and the issue of “technology reincarnation.”

Over the course of the Digital Age, electricity use has continued to increase. Families have multiple televisions. Computer prices have plummeted, meaning many homes now have multiple computers. Everyone in the family needs a cell phone. Gaming consoles and set-top cable/satellite boxes satisfy our desire for entertainment.

Major appliances aside, most digital devices do not use 120-volt power, which is the standard voltage of a home outlet. They actually use a lot less. So, trying to plug your brand new smartphone directly into an outlet is going to lead to a fried device and lots of tears from someone. This is why low-voltage devices come with a power adapter. These “wall warts,” as some term them, take the 120-volt electricity supplied by Forked Deer Electric Cooperative and convert it to, say, 5 volts. Unfortunately, most folks leave their adapters plugged in to make recharging easier. The problem with this approach is that the seemingly innocuous wall wart uses power even when it isn’t charging a device.

This invisible energy consumption is often called “vampire load.” Studies show that 5 to 10 percent of the average home’s energy use is from vampire loads. The only way to stop this is to unplug the power adapter when it is not in use or employ smart power strips, which look like the typical power strip but with a twist — only one socket gets power all the time. When the device or appliance connected to the live outlet turns on and starts using power, the remaining sockets receive power, too. This is perfect for entertainment systems, computer setups and a variety of other situations.

Technological advances have steadily increased energy efficiency and reduced purchase prices. This seems like a



good thing. Unfortunately, when replacing a product at the end of its life, the tendency is to go bigger or continue to use the old technology. This is the second, “reincarnation” issue I noted.

For example, flat-screen television prices have plummeted as technology has evolved — and so has the amount of electricity they use. Consumers wander into the big-box store and are dazzled by walls of giant, brilliant televisions. What they used to pay for the paltry 32-inch model now might net them a 50-inch giant. And who doesn’t want to see their

favorite show or sports event in near-lifesize? But if you spring for the bigger TV, you won’t benefit from the increased energy efficiency of the newer technology. The bigger model uses as much juice as the older, smaller TV, which likely ends up in another room (reincarnated in another setting), still using power.

Or refrigerators: These are the showpieces of the evolution of smart appliances. Many new models include touchscreens and cameras; they communicate over the internet while keeping food cold and making ice. Yet what often happens is the old refrigerator ends up in the basement or garage, reincarnated as a dedicated beverage unit or overflow.

I’ll offer a couple of words of advice to help you avoid — or at least reduce — the effects of vampire loads and technology reincarnation. Invest in smart power strips or make a point to use outlets where you can conveniently unplug power adapters when not in use. Don’t oversize your replacement appliances and entertainment gear unless family needs dictate the larger capacities. And recycle the replaced appliances and equipment to stem technology reincarnation. You will enjoy the Digital Age for a lot less.

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.

WINTER WORD SEARCH



Find these words hidden in the puzzle below:

BRRR

CHILLY

HOT CHOCOLATE

ICE SKATE

ICICLE

MITTENS

SCARF

SNOWFLAKE

SNOWMAN

WINTER

R	I	L	U	J	M	Q	T	G	S	R	I	R	P	S
Q	D	C	X	G	C	S	N	O	E	Q	W	E	R	N
N	N	Z	I	R	V	I	T	T	D	H	M	O	W	E
K	A	X	R	C	J	N	N	W	F	O	X	P	T	T
I	K	M	X	R	L	I	K	A	D	T	S	H	A	T
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D	W	F	O	L	I	X	I	X	B	L	O	R	O	Y

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Holiday Gift Guide

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Tennessee's Pipe Organ Craftsmen

Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

Book Review: *Land Grants on the Elk*

Recipes That Stick Together

Merry Christmas



Troy Member Service Center: Above, from left are Bret Taylor, Mitzi Bruner, Michael Atkins, Trent Cary, James Morton, Lois Milligan, James Hutchison, Robert Woodruff and Rodney McMackin Jr. Not pictured are Jimmy Williams and Stacey Nicks.

Hickman Member Service Center: Below, from left are Rex Coffey, Jimmy Allen, Kendall Byassee, Tina Slayden, Bob Nerren and Travis Bayco. Not pictured are Jackie Curlin and Josh West.



Tiptonville Member Service Center: Mark Perry, Adam Cary, Ashalee Young, Mills and Russell Hopper.



Gibson EMC
Member
Your Touchstone

to you and yours!

Member service centers
Friday, Dec. 23, and
for Christmas and
for New Year's.

be ready to respond
emergency.



Trenton Member Service Center: Above, from left are, front row, Eugene Stephens, Josh Ferrell, Rachel Cates, Kristin Crihfield and Donny Thomas; second row, Landon Spencer, Payton Featherston, Russell Coker, Jim Patton, Kerry Kuykendall and P.J. Haskins; back row, J.J. Whitwell, Will Minton, Jonathan Minton, Kirk Lowrance and Jeff Milam. Not pictured is Greg Bryant.



Alamo Member Service Center: Below, from left are Jeff Fox, Jamie Moore, John Spence, Sherry Kirkwood, Tim Rowland, Anita Green, Danny Riggsbee, Daniel Hazlewood and Jonathan Petty.

Above, from left are Charles Lamb, Teddy Ross, Angela Lindsey, Jason



**Electric
Ship Corporation**
Energy® Cooperative 



Board of Trustees, Attorney and President and CEO: Above, from left are, seated, Attorney Jim Ryal, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Bob McCurdy, Secretary-Treasurer Keith Heglar, Vice Chairman Don Leathers and Chairman Steve Sanders; standing, Keith Forrester, Rana Buchanan, Richard Skiles, Joan Mouser, Tony Bargery, Larry Hicks, President and CEO Dan Rodamaker and Wray Pulliam. Unavailable for photo is David Kimbell.

Corporate Operations: Below, from left are, front row, Matt Prater, Eddie Bell, Philip Jewell and Barry Smith; second row, David Haste, Billy Porter, Daniel Goode and Gary Laster; back row, Harry Elliott, Randy Dotson, Mark Greene and Don Humphreys.





Corporate Accounting, Human Resources, Communications and Office of the President and CEO: Above, from left are, front row, Wanda Redmond, Nancy West, Anita Jones, and Julie Grogan; second row, Myra Moore, Jenni Lynn Rachels and Kathy Bobbitt; back row, Richard BeDen and Rita Alexander.

Corporate Member Care, Engineering and IT: Below, from left are, front row, Mitzie Privitt, Sandy Smith, Cynthia McClure, Teresa Burkett, Suzanne Pigg and Justin Weaver; second row, Amy Lomax, Bobby Cotham, Kerry Watson, Debbie Weatherford and Ward Morgan; back row, Emily Sullivan and Robin McCaig. Not pictured are Darbin Ousley, Quenton Mitchell, Charles Phillips, LaFonda Johnson, Jeff Boyd, Judy Cutler, David Barnes, Mike Davis and Stacey Duncan.



Giving back is the co-op way

Cooperatives across the globe adhere to the same Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all of our decisions — from how we run the co-op to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for Community is the seventh principle, and it is one that Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's board and employees adhere to year-round and especially during the holiday season.

Gibson EMC has a strong history of giving back. We care about our members and our communities. That's why Gibson EMC sponsors youth programs and awards scholarships. It's why we dedicate personnel and resources to economic and community development. It's why our board members and employees volunteer their time to charities and community groups. I'm especially proud of our employees' ongoing contributions to our communities' food

pantries; since 2009, employees have donated 3,689 pounds of nonperishable items during the Christmas season.

Throughout the year, but especially now, we all need to look for ways we can show concern for others in our communities. Inviting a lonely person to dinner, buying a gift for a needy child or contributing to your local food pantry are ways we all can make a meaningful difference in others' lives. Joy truly does come from giving, and I wish you lots of joy this Christmas season!



Dan Rodamaker
President and CEO
Gibson EMC

Empty house? Leave heat on anyway

Think twice before you shut the heat off in a vacation home or even your own home's attic or guest rooms. You might be trying to save money and conserve energy, but you could be setting yourself up for the wet mess caused by a burst plumbing pipe or sprinkler system.

When the water inside your pipes freezes, it puts great pressure on its container — including metal and plastic pipes. When that happens, the pipes can leak or explode, causing flooding and plenty of property damage.

To keep your pipes from freezing, don't expose them to freezing temperatures. Keep the thermostat at 55 degrees or higher in all areas of your home and vacation home. In parts of your house without heat like exterior walls and attics, add insulation around pipes to keep them warm all winter long.

We've got the perfect gift

From the person who has it all to someone who needs just a little assistance, a Gibson Electric Membership Corporation gift certificate is a smart choice for a Christmas gift. The recipient can use the gift certificate just like cash to pay for electricity and other Gibson EMC services. (However, the gift certificate is not negotiable for cash.) The gift certificate is available in any amount. We'll customize it to fit your needs. Contact your local Gibson EMC member service center today to give the gift of electricity.



We appreciate our members!

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation thanks those of you who attended our October Member Appreciation Events. We enjoyed the opportunity to express our appreciation for your business and support.



Members enjoy fellowship at the Trenton Member Service Center.



Energy Services Assistant Cynthia McClure visits with future members in Troy.



Members in Tiptonville pick up barbecue and beef brisket lunches.



Member Service Representatives Sherry Kirkwood, right, and Anita Green register members for door prizes in Alamo.



Gibson EMC President and CEO Dan Rodamaker answers member questions in Hickman.

Don't fall for scammers' tricks

Call us instead

It is hard for most of us to imagine tricking someone and then stealing money, but, unfortunately, scammers are preying on Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's members.

"We want you to know what you should do if someone calls you claiming to be from Gibson EMC so you won't become a scam victim," says Gibson EMC President and CEO Dan Rodamaker.

In our area, the scams involving Gibson EMC go like this: A Gibson EMC member receives an unsolicited phone call from an individual who falsely claims to be a Gibson EMC representative. The scammer warns that Gibson EMC will disconnect the member's electric service if the member fails to make a payment — usually within a short timeframe.

Scammers have even duplicated the Gibson EMC Interactive Voice Response system so that when members call back phone numbers provided by a scammer, it sounds like a legitimate Gibson EMC phone number. Some of these criminals also use caller ID spoofing to replicate Gibson EMC's member service number.

These red flags indicate scam activity:

- The thief becomes angry and tells the member his or her account is past due and service will be disconnected if a large payment isn't made — usually within less than an hour.
- The thief instructs the member to purchase a prepaid debit or credit card — widely available at retail stores — then call him or her back to supposedly make a payment to Gibson EMC.
- The scammer asks the member for the prepaid card's receipt number and PIN number, which grants instant access to the card's funds.



How to protect yourself

- Gibson EMC never asks or requires a member with a delinquent account to purchase a prepaid debit card to avoid disconnection.
- Members can make payments online, with our mobile app, by phone, using automatic bank draft, through the mail or in person.
- Members with delinquent accounts receive an advance disconnection notification by mail — never a single notification one hour before disconnection.
- If you suspect someone is trying to scam you, hang up, call the local police and then call Gibson EMC. Never dial the phone number the scammers provide.

"It's unfortunate that we must be skeptical," says Rodamaker, "but we want our members to be aware so they aren't victimized. If you get a call like this, please just hang up and call your local Gibson EMC member service center. We can check your account and put your mind at ease."

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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Holiday Gift Guide

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Tennessee's Pipe Organ Craftsmen

Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

Book Review: *Land Grants on the Elk*

Recipes That Stick Together

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

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423-235-6811

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

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Daniel Boyd

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

Giving back is the co-op way

As some of you might know, cooperatives across the globe adhere to the same Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all our decisions — from how we run the co-op to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for Community is the seventh principle, and it is one that all employees of Holston Electric Cooperative value year-round. But during the holiday season, concern for community seems especially important.

Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back. From the Cherokee Lake Power Cleanup to raising funds for our local United Way and the 16 agencies it represents, Holston Electric Cooperative has concern for the members we serve.

Holston Electric Cooperative members help us give back, too. Through the Project Help program, members can contribute any amount to assist the elderly, handicapped and those in economic crisis in meeting their energy requirements. By giving a dollar or \$10, money contributed through monthly electric bills helps eligible candidates receive assistance with their winter heating bills once a year.

And 100 percent of the funds collected is distributed to qualified

applicants by Project Help's board of directors. This program helps those in need right here in our own community. Members interested in participating can visit any branch of



James B. Sandlin
General Manager,
Holston Electric
Cooperative

Holston Electric Cooperative or return the voucher on the next page with their bill payments.

So many families go without on a daily basis and struggle to make ends meet. This struggle can be especially hard during the holiday season. Every member of Holston Electric Cooperative has

faced tough times and knows what it means to need the help of others. When we all work together for the greater good, the entire community benefits.

There are many ways you can give back to the community that go beyond dollar donations. Take some time to go through your closets and find clothes that no longer fit or have lost their use. Bag those items up and take them to your local Salvation Army, Goodwill or church clothing drive. Volunteer for a local food or toy drive, deliver meals to the sick and the elderly or simply make a meal for a neighbor in need.

No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community. So take the time to give back this holiday season. You'll be glad you did.

You're in good company with co-ops

Neighbors helping neighbors to create a better world

By Adam Schwartz

A fair question people often ask is, “What’s in it for me?” This makes sense as we all need to act in our own self-interest every now and then. The cool thing about co-ops is we answer that question with, “This is what’s in it for *we!*”

When the market refuses to offer a good or service or does so at a high price, co-ops step in to fill the void. Cooperatives identify members of the community who have the same self-interests and bring them together to make a cooperative decision.

More than 75 years ago, when Holston Electric Cooperative got started, the folks in our community shared at least one self-interest — they wanted electricity. In fact, many Americans who lived in rural parts of the country at that time needed electricity, which is why electric cooperatives were formed. Individuals acted in their own self-interest, but that self-interest led to the community and economic development of the rural areas in which they lived. Today, rural electric co-ops serve more than 42 million people in 47 states.

It is good to know that your friends and neighbors are also your co-owners of Holston Electric

Cooperative. People coming together to meet a particular need is at the heart of every kind of co-op. Local credit unions bring financial services to people banks don’t want to serve. In urban areas and college communities, housing co-ops offer people safe, reliable and affordable places to live. Many agricultural co-ops started as a way to get their products to market, whether it was oranges (Sunkist), dairy goods (Land O’Lakes), grapes (Welch’s), organic milk (Organic Valley) or any of the hundreds of other food products that co-ops bring to our table every day.

Many people who owned small businesses realized they, too, had a common self-interest: stay in business. So they formed purchasing co-ops like Ace Hardware and True Value so they could compete with big-box stores like Home Depot and Lowe’s.

Today, it is estimated that more than 40 percent of all residents in the U.S. are members of at least one co-op. Worldwide, well over a billion people are counted as co-op members.

So every time you turn on (or off) the lights, it can serve as a reminder that as a co-op member, you are in good company with your local neighbors — and with people all around the world.

<i>Holston Electric Cooperative account number</i>	

<i>Name (as it appears on your electric bill — please print)</i>	

<i>Address</i>	

<i>Telephone number</i>	

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
_____	_____

Please add the following amount to my monthly electric bill for Project HELP.

___ \$1

___ More than \$1

(Please specify amount)

Project HELP —
Neighbors helping neighbors

Holston Electric Cooperative's 76th annual meeting really rocked

The 76th annual meeting of Holston Electric Cooperative was held at the co-op's main office in Rogersville on Tuesday, Oct. 11. Cooperative members gathered to register and enjoy entertainment provided by local legends, the Odds and Ends. Barbecue dinners were served by Hawkins County 4-H Club members and leaders. For those craving dessert, Sweet Smuckers Doughnuts really hit the spot. The little ones also enjoyed Party Bounce Inflatables and S.S. Clowners.

At 7 p.m., Holston Electric Board President Gordell Ely welcomed the members, introduced special guests and called the business session to order. General Manager James B. Sandlin recognized the newest board member, Jerry Horner, who was nominated to represent District 3 and complete the term after the former seat holder resigned. Also recognized were high school students Saianne Bryant, Kierra Bullion, Allison Evans, Devon Gill, Gia Hodges and Olivia Snodgrass, who were among Tennessee's large delegation for this year's Washington Youth Tour. Rick Dinkins, Hawkins County Sheriff's Office chaplain, offered the invocation. Gill then led members in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Cherokee High School students Rose Holland and Abigail Robertson performed a beautiful rendition of our national anthem.

Sandlin began his annual address with an update on the current state of the cooperative. While urging the Tennessee Valley Authority to keep electricity prices low and reliability high, Sandlin informed the members of the history of average outage minutes.



Holston Electric Cooperative General Manager Jimmy Sandlin addresses members during the 76th annual meeting.

With an extremely low minutes-per-customer rate, Sandlin expressed his desire to be even more proactive in reducing those numbers.

General information updates were presented by Chris Quillen, customer service manager of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Northeast District, and David Callis, executive vice president and general manager of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association.

Larry Boyd, HEC board counsel, provided the Proof of Notice of the meeting and announced that 390 members had registered, constituting a quorum. He also provided minutes of the last meeting, read the

Treasurer's Report and announced the election of two candidates running without opposition:

District 6 — Phil Barrett

District 7 — Mark Derrick

In door-prize drawings that ended the evening, Jim Sells, Robert Swain, Tom Sloan, Bryan Sanders and David Horton of Rogersville and Glen Day of Surgoinsville won \$50 account credits. The \$100 account credits were awarded to Anthony Horne of Surgoinsville, John Lee of Bulls Gap, Deanna Cobb of Whitesburg and Betty Anne Gainey of Rogersville. John Seymore of Surgoinsville won a \$250 account credit, and Larry Fields of Rogersville drove home the grand prize — a used 2008 Ford F-150 truck.

Following the annual meeting, the board members convened briefly for a reorganizational meeting at which officers were elected. Jeff Ringley was selected as president, Phil Barrett as vice president and Brent Price as secretary-treasurer.



Holston Electric Cooperative General Manager Jimmy Sandlin, left, presents Larry Fields with a 2008 Ford F-150 four-wheel-drive truck.



Gordell Ely, right, presents Lynn Parker with a plaque to commemorate his years of service as a board member for District 7.



A large annual meeting crowd packs the Holston Electric Cooperative headquarters in Rogersville to listen to rock music performed by the Odds and Ends Reunion Band.

Holston Electric Cooperative will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, for the Christmas holidays and Monday, Jan. 2, for New Year's.

Should you have an electrical emergency, please call 272-8821.

Co-op personnel will be on call and ready to respond. Holston EC employees and directors wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Empty house? Leave the heat on anyway

Think twice before you shut the heat off in a vacation home or even your own home's attic or guest rooms. You might be trying to save money and conserve energy, but you could be setting yourself up for the wet mess caused by a burst plumbing pipe or sprinkler system.

When the water inside your pipes freezes, it puts great pressure on its container — including metal and plastic pipes. When that happens, the pipes can leak or explode, causing flooding and plenty of property damage.

To keep your pipes from freezing, don't expose them to freezing temperatures. Keep the thermostat at 55 degrees or higher in all areas of your home. In parts of your house without heat, like



exterior walls and attics, add insulation around pipes to keep them warm all winter long.

Stuff your stockings with energy-saving lightbulbs

Here's a bright idea for your holiday stockings: Stuff them with light-emitting diodes (LEDs) or compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). LEDs use up to 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent lightbulbs and can last 10 years or longer. CFLs use

two-thirds less energy than traditional bulbs and can last 10 times longer.

Both kinds of energy-efficient lightbulbs use a lower wattage to produce the same amount of light.

Most incandescent bulbs are banned from stores by now, but if you still have some burning in lamps or overhead light fixtures, this is a good time to change them.

Using less energy for lighting means a lower energy bill for you — and more money to spend on stocking-stuffers!

It's unlikely that your little ones have asked Santa for a gift of energy savings. Offer it as a gag gift, and take the opportunity to teach your children about how the new lightbulbs can reduce energy use — and make the kiddos proud to be doing their part to help the environment.

Surprise them, too, with a fun, new bedroom lamp that burns the funny-looking, twisted lightbulbs — or an LED light that is built right into the fixture and never needs changing.



Holston Electric Cooperative

Fiscal years ending June 30, 2016 and 2015

		2016	2015
Financial Position	Electric Plant	\$101,211,799	\$95,655,515
	Less: Depreciation Reserve	(45,559,634)	(43,544,336)
	Total Electric Plant	55,652,165	52,111,179
	Working Funds	6,367,993	6,117,033
	Other Investments	8,057,072	9,527,367
	Accounts Receivable	4,059,476	4,494,199
	Materials and Supplies	824,471	763,923
	Prepayments	3,822,855	4,293,501
	Other Current Assets	2,500,663	521,491
	Receivables - TVA Conservation Loans	2,253,807	2,375,523
	Deferred Debits	1,225,681	1,471,781
	TOTAL ASSETS	\$84,764,183	\$81,675,997
	Membership Fees	\$147,165	\$146,495
	Net Earnings to Date	66,650,047	62,661,620
	TOTAL EQUITIES	\$66,797,212	\$62,808,115
	Borrowed from RUS, CFC, & Other	\$1,557,832	\$1,679,517
	Advance from TVA - Conservation Loans	2,296,935	2,419,027
Accounts Payable	9,112,167	9,950,163	
Current and Accrued Liabilities	4,345,014	4,084,380	
Deferred Credits & Non-Current Liabilities	655,023	734,795	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$17,966,971	\$18,867,882	
TOTAL EQUITIES & LIABILITIES	\$84,764,183	\$81,675,997	

Operations	Operating Revenues	\$72,188,057	\$74,943,170
	Less: TVA Purchased Power	(56,535,244)	(60,225,960)
	Net Operating Revenue	\$15,652,813	\$14,717,210
	Expenses:		
	Operations, Maintenance, Etc.	8,740,770	8,116,878
	Depreciation	3,308,448	3,260,317
	Taxes	1,081,943	1,037,801
	Interest	493,692	599,747
	Total Deductions	\$13,624,853	\$13,014,743
	Revenue Less Expenses	\$2,027,960	\$1,702,467
	Extraordinary Items		156,000
	* NET INCOME	\$2,027,960	\$1,858,467

Financial Statements audited
by Jackson Thornton,
Montgomery, AL

* This \$2,027,960 was used during the year to build new lines, increase the capacity of old lines and reduce long term debt.

Prepare your trees for winter storms

Unfortunately, Holston Electric Cooperative knows impending winter weather and trees simply don't mix. As soon as frozen precipitation begins to fall, HEC goes on high alert. While December may feel like an unlikely time to discuss your foliage, trees can be badly damaged during severe winter storms. Trees are biologically engineered to adjust to most of the things Mother Nature dishes up. Sometimes, however, trees are not able to compensate, and a failure occurs. By identifying problems and dealing with them before winter storms occur, some emergencies can be avoided.

If you have concerns about trees on your private property, the International Society of Arboriculture suggests inspecting trees for defects and weakness in branches that otherwise may go unnoticed. Large trees are an extremely valuable asset to both the individual property owner and the community. An investment in pruning or inspection can help prevent damage from wind, snow or ice and help preserve those irreplaceable older trees that add so much to the character of the landscape.

Preventive maintenance such as strategic pruning to prevent branch failure is a good idea for the trees and the people who live around them. Trees that are pruned regularly should be more resistant to storm damage as a result of the removal of structurally weak branches, decreased surface area of lateral branches and decreased wind resistance. Trees that have their canopies covered with ivy may not be able to withstand the additional wind or snow load caused by the extra leaf area of the vines. Removal of invasive vines is important to the health of your trees.

Trees that have structural defects may incur storm damage from snow, ice or wind. Some defects to look for are:

Dead wood — Dead trees and large, dead branches are unpredictable. Dead wood is brittle and cannot bend in the wind like a living tree or branch. Branches that are already broken off and hanging in the tree should receive prompt attention.

Cracks — A crack is a deep split in the tree that extends through the bark and into the wood of the



tree. Cracks are indicators of potential branch or tree failure.

Decay — A hollow tree can be prone to failure, but presence of decay does not necessarily indicate that the tree is hazardous. Trees usually decay from the inside, forming a cavity. At the same time, new wood is added to the outside of the tree as it grows. If the outer shell is sound, the tree may be relatively safe. Evaluating the safety of a decaying tree is best left to a trained arborist.

Root problems — Trees with damaged roots may blow over in wind storms. Have your tree checked if more than half of the roots have been crushed or cut, if the tree is starting to lean and soil is “pushing up” around the base of the tree on the side opposite the lean or if decay is present in the buttress roots or base of the tree.

Poor tree composition — An example of this would be a tree with a weak branch attachment, a large branch that is out of proportion with the rest of the tree or a tree that leans excessively. Not all leaning trees are hazardous, but if you're concerned about a particular tree, it should be examined by a professional arborist. Weak branch attachments (typically, these are narrow “forks” in the tree) are also best evaluated by a professional arborist.

Keep your trees healthy by caring for them all year long. Proper watering, mulching, fertilizing and pruning will help them be assets to your property and the community for years to come.

December 2016 www.tnmagazine.org

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Holiday Gift Guide

History for Kids: *Pioneer Alex Stewart*

Tennessee's Pipe Organ Craftsmen

Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

Book Review: *Land Grants on the Elk*

Recipes That Stick Together



*Celebrating 75 Years
1941-2016*

Mountain Electric Cooperative

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Roan Mountain, Tenn., office

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Roan Mountain, TN 37687
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Office Hours

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

General Manager

Joe Thacker

Board of Directors

President —

George Lowe (District 2)

Vice President —

David Ellis (District 8)

Secretary/Treasurer —

W.O. Hampton (District 7)

Joe Atwood (District 1)

Ross Dowell (District 3)

R. Bruce Lacey (District 5)

Harry Smith (District 4)

Ronnie Townson (District 6)

AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

You're in good company with co-ops

Neighbors helping neighbors to create a better world

A fair question people often ask is, "What's in it for me?" This makes sense as we all need to act in our own self-interest every now and then. The cool thing about co-ops is we answer that question with, "This is what's in it for *we!*"

When the market refuses to offer a good or service or does so at a high price, co-ops step in to fill the void. Cooperatives identify members of the community who have the same self-interests and bring them together to make a cooperative decision.

Some 75 years ago, when Mountain Electric Cooperative got started, the folks in our community shared at least one self-interest — they wanted electricity. In fact, many Americans who lived in rural parts of the country at that time needed electricity, which is why electric cooperatives were formed. Individuals acted in their own self-interest, but that self-interest led to the community and economic development of the rural areas in which they lived. Today, rural electric co-ops serve more than 42 million people in 47 states.

It is good to know that your friends and neighbors are also your co-owners of MEC. People coming together to meet a particular need is at the heart of every kind of co-op. Local credit unions bring financial services to people banks don't want to serve. In urban areas and

college communities, housing co-ops offer people safe, reliable and affordable places to live. Many agricultural co-ops started as a way to get their products to market, whether it was oranges (Sunkist), dairy goods (Land O'Lakes), grapes (Welch's), organic milk (Organic Valley) or any of the hundreds of other food products that co-ops bring to our table every day.

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Joe Thacker

General Manager,
Mountain Electric
Cooperative

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



An average household dedicates about 5 percent of its energy budget to lighting. Switching to energy-efficient lighting is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bills. By replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating, you can save \$75 each year.

Source: energy.gov

Win a free trip to Washington, D.C., in June

High school juniors who live in the MEC service area are eligible for the trip of a lifetime as part of the 2017 Washington Youth Tour, all you have to do is write a short story describing how local electric cooperatives go “beyond the wires” in strengthening their rural communities, improving lives across their service areas and providing safe, reliable, affordable energy. It’s true: 900 words could change your life! For more information, visit youthtour.tnelectric.org, contact Sally Snyder at 423-727-1811 or email ssnyder@mountainelectric.com.



Write a short story describing how local electric co-ops go “beyond the wires,” strengthening their rural communities, improving lives across their service areas and providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.



From left, Haley Carroll, Avery County High School; Montana Woodard, Johnson County High; and Malkam Davis, Cloudland High, pose in front of the Washington Monument during last year’s Washington Youth Tour.

Stuff your stockings with energy-saving lightbulbs

Here’s a bright idea for your holiday stockings: Stuff them with light-emitting diodes (LEDs) or compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). LEDs use up to 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent lightbulbs and can last 10 years or longer. CFLs use two-thirds less energy than traditional bulbs and can last 10 times longer.

Both kinds of energy-efficient lightbulbs use a lower wattage to produce the same amount of light.

Most incandescent bulbs are banned from stores by now. But if you still have some burning in lamps or overhead light fixtures, now is a good time to change them.

Using less energy for lighting means a lower energy bill for you — and more money to spend on stocking-stuffers!

It’s unlikely that your little ones have asked Santa for a gift of energy savings. Offer it as a gag gift, and take the opportunity to teach your children about how the new lightbulbs can reduce energy use — and make the kiddos proud to be doing their part to help the environment.

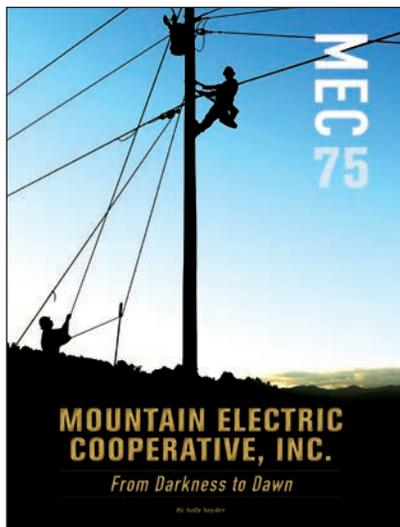


Surprise them, too, with a fun, new bedroom lamp that burns the funny-looking, twisted lightbulbs — or an LED light that is built right into the fixture and never needs changing.

Looking for a Christmas gift?

Do you need to buy a gift for someone who loves history or who seems to already have everything? Mountain Electric can help you out. In honor of its 75th anniversary, MEC published a history book titled “From Darkness to Dawn.” The book is available at all three offices for \$10 plus tax.

MEC is also selling toy line trucks for \$4. Proceeds from the sale of the toy trucks will go to the Operation Pocket Change fund. These toys are great stocking-stuffers, so come by our office to buy yours today!



Empty house? Leave the heat on anyway

Think twice before you shut the heat off in a vacation home or even your own home’s attic or guest rooms. You might be trying to save money and conserve energy, but you could be setting yourself up for the wet mess caused by a burst plumbing pipe or sprinkler system.

When the water inside your pipes freezes, it puts great pressure on its container — including metal and plastic

pipes. When that happens, the pipes can leak or explode, causing flooding and plenty of property damage.

To keep your pipes from freezing, don’t expose them to freezing temperatures. Keep the thermostat at 55 degrees or higher in all areas of your home. In parts of your house without heat, like exterior walls and attics, add insulation around pipes to keep them warm all winter long.

Four ways to waste energy this winter

What are the biggest mistakes homeowners make when it comes to energy use? Here are four major ones, according to Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories:

- 1. Buying big.** Many homes have furnaces and air conditioners that are way too big. Sales reps often try to sell big units because they cost more. But an oversized unit wastes energy and will cost you more in the long run on heating and cooling bills than a smaller one that is properly sized for your home and your family’s lifestyle.
- 2. Overlooking leaks.** When you replace your heating and air-conditioning system, get your ducts checked for leaks. Even the most-efficient, most-expensive system won’t perform at peak if

heated or conditioned air is escaping through the ducts.

- 3. Under-insulating.** Heat rises, so it makes sense to insulate your home’s attic. But it’s equally important to insulate floors over a basement or crawl space as well as your walls and windows. Conditioned air can leak out of your home from almost any uninsulated space.
- 4. Skipping fans.** Ceiling fans and portable fans can help circulate heated or conditioned air, which gives your home’s HVAC system a break — and allows you to turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Fans use little electricity but can make a big difference in how comfortable you feel in the room where one is running.

Mountain Electric lends a helping hand

Two MEC crews left on Oct. 9, bound for Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. But this trip would be anything but a vacation. These men left their families behind to go help a fellow electric utility, Santee Cooper, after Hurricane Matthew tore through its service area, leaving 135,000 of 170,000 customers without power. They worked 12-hour days — and sometimes much longer — for six days straight.



From left are David Smith, Austin Phipps, Chris Hughes and Rick Courtner. (Cody Bryant and Dirk Simcox are not pictured.)

Linemen have a certain mindset when faced with a storm recovery effort. They often work until they're forced to go rest for a few hours. Their determination to get the power back on as quickly and safely as possible keeps them going.

Next time you see linemen, thank them for their dedication and hard work in keeping your electricity flowing.



From left are JD Houtsma, Stephen Davis, Roger Har- rald, Todd Grindstaff and Rodney Buchanan. (Michael Styles is not pictured.)

Calendar of events

Mountain City, Tennessee

Dec. 1-31 • Annual Festival of Trees at the Welcome Center
Dec. 2 at 5 p.m. • Annual Christmas Tree-Lighting Ceremony on the courthouse lawn
Dec. 3 at 5 p.m. • Mountain City Christmas Parade
Dec. 10 from 1 to 5 p.m. • The Rotary Club Tour of Homes
For more information on these events, call 423-727-5800.

Heritage Hall (Mountain City)

Dec. 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. • “A Good Old-Fashioned Big Family Christmas. Tickets: \$7 for adults and \$5 for youth
Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. • Johnson County High School Band Concert
Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. • Johnson County Middle School Christmas Concert
Dec. 15-17 at 7 p.m. • Living Christmas Tree
For tickets or more information, call 423-727-7444.

Newland, North Carolina

Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m. • Christmas Parade
Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. • Tree-Lighting Ceremonies at Newland Town Square

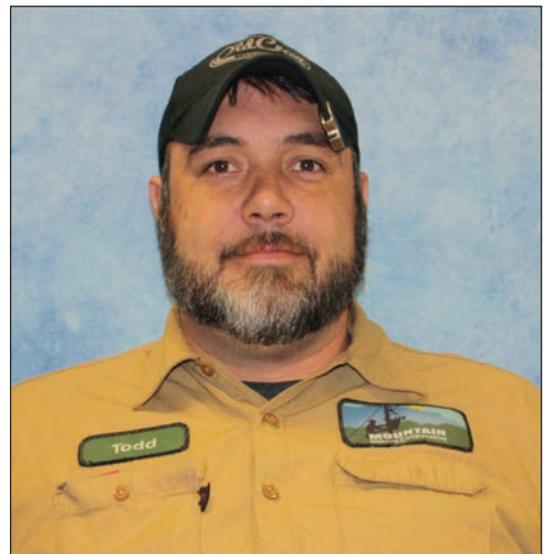
Sugar Mountain, North Carolina

Dec. 9-11 • Sugarfest on Sugar Mountain

Beech Mountain, North Carolina

Dec. 23 • Yule Log Bonfire and Hayride

Employee anniversary



Todd Markland celebrates 10 years with Mountain Electric Cooperative this month. Todd began his career as a meter reader, later receiving promotions to line clearance, underground inspector, serviceman and collector. MEC congratulates Todd on his accomplishments!



WINTER WORD SEARCH



**Energy
Explorers**



Find these words hidden in the puzzle below:

BRRR

CHILLY

HOT CHOCOLATE

ICE SKATE

ICICLE

MITTENS

SCARF

SNOWFLAKE

SNOWMAN

WINTER

R	I	L	U	J	M	Q	T	G	S	R	I	R	P	S
Q	D	C	X	G	C	S	N	O	E	Q	W	E	R	N
N	N	Z	I	R	V	I	T	T	D	H	M	O	W	E
K	A	X	R	C	J	N	N	W	F	O	X	P	T	T
I	K	M	X	R	L	I	K	A	D	T	S	H	A	T
C	B	A	W	H	W	E	W	S	I	C	C	V	D	I
T	P	S	D	O	M	Q	N	U	G	H	A	F	H	M
Q	K	U	Z	V	N	O	N	M	V	O	R	O	O	X
F	U	G	C	A	W	S	J	L	X	C	F	U	U	L
R	O	Q	T	F	C	F	Y	D	K	O	G	E	Q	B
R	L	W	L	D	P	W	L	A	E	L	K	D	R	G
E	T	A	K	S	E	C	I	B	G	A	J	R	W	R
R	K	B	U	C	H	I	L	L	Y	T	R	E	V	X
E	L	T	M	F	F	O	Y	I	K	E	Q	X	A	A
D	W	F	O	L	I	X	I	X	B	L	O	R	O	Y

Retirees catch up at breakfast

In early October, Mountain Electric Cooperative invited its retirees to get together to celebrate another year of a healthy and happy retirement. MEC first hosted the breakfast in 2010 and it's been a popular annual tradition ever since, according to Sally Snyder, director of member services.

"It's one of my favorite events of the year," said Snyder. "Getting to see the retirees talk with each other is so nice. If you think about it, the people you work with every day for 30-plus years become a second family to you. So, basically, the breakfast could be called a 'family reunion.' Great times were had by all, and there was a great turnout as well."



Retirees talk with each other while waiting for breakfast to be served.



Retiree Helen Braden with her husband, Clarence.



Retiree Howard Hicks and his friend, Betty, smile for the camera.

OPC update for October

Operation Pocket Change funded \$10,775 in grants for the month of October. Grants were awarded to:

Individual hardship, house fire	\$2,500
Kids First of Johnson County: hats and gloves for underprivileged children in Johnson County.	\$500
Friends of Forge Creek Community Center: expenses for renovations	\$7,775

From our MEC family to yours, we wish you the

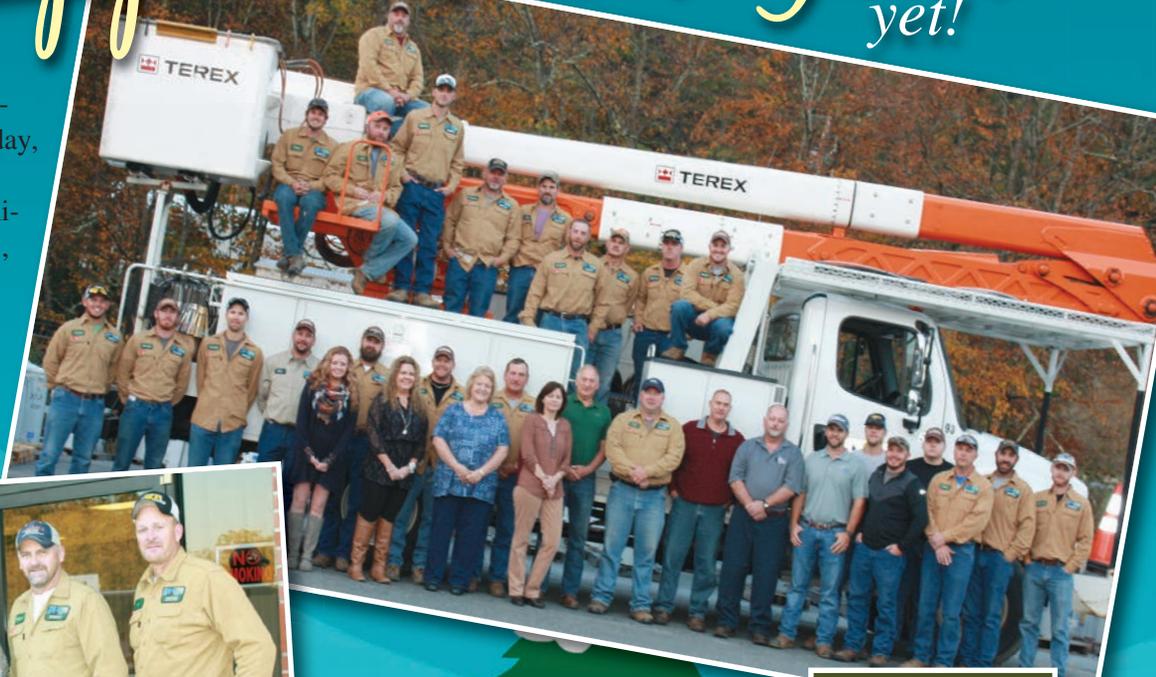
Merriest Christmas



Mountain City office

and Happiest New Year yet!

MEC will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, to celebrate Christmas with our families and Monday, Jan. 2, 2017, for the New Year's Day holiday. Have a safe and happy holiday season!



Newland office



Roan Mountain office

December 2016 www.tnmagazine.org

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Holiday Gift Guide

History for Kids: *Pioneer Alex Stewart*

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Recipes That Stick Together

Keith Carnahan, President and CEO
MLEC Office Hours —
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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
in Watt's Up on
mlec.com

- Stuffed Stockings and Energy-Saving Bulbs
- Avoiding the Energy Rush
- Energy Word Search



Like

or



Follow

Merry Christmas
from MLEC!

That's a wrap!

Listen closely, and you can hear sleigh bells. Santa and his helpers are hurriedly preparing for their big day, and families are getting ready for Christmas fun and fellowship. In some ways, it reminds me of Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative's member nights.

Just like those who make the long trek to be with family during the holidays, MLEC's annual meetings take place across the many miles of our service territory. They've been taking place each October for the past 77 years.

Another similarity is the stories of old and milestone celebrations. Everyone is proud to share family news with anyone who will listen. MLEC feels the same about your cooperative. So, grab a seat, and let's reminisce about the 2016 MLEC Member Nights and Annual Meeting.

Service awards were presented to Humphreys County Director Reed Dreaden (40 years) and Hickman County Director Wayne Qualls (20 years). Lewis County's Dr. Jeff Peery and Bill Webb were honored for achieving Director Gold status through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Also, you re-elected Andy Porch of Humphreys County to serve another four-year term on the MLEC board of directors.

Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association Executive Vice President and General Manager David Callis was our annual meeting special guest. He congratulated those in attendance

for taking an active role in their local electric co-op and encouraged them to participate in other elections as well to make sure rural voices are heard.

A video shown at each meeting highlighted MLEC's key values: nonprofit and member-owned; safe, affordable, reliable electricity;

commitment to community; and pairing innovation and technology to meet members' evolving needs. Other activities included the introduction of poster contest winners and Washington Youth Tour delegates.

All told, some 1,100 people participated in the member nights that ran Oct. 11-20. While we had no Christmas packages ready to bestow, MLEC did give away door prizes.

Winners took home certificates for \$100 of free electricity and Grand Ole Opry and Nashville Predators prize packages.

Like wrapping and sending home one of Aunt Geraldine's fried pies with everyone who comes over at Christmas, no one went home empty handed. Everyone who attended was given an MLEC umbrella.

With that, MLEC member nights were wrapped and packed away for another year. And, oddly enough, Christmas decorations won't be far behind.

From everyone at MLEC, we wish you a Merry Christmas and thank you for the opportunity to serve you, share in your lives and be your cooperative!



Lisa and Keith Carnahan
President and CEO,
Meriwether Lewis Electric
Cooperative



1. Andy Porch addresses members after being re-elected to the MLEC board.
2. Humphreys County World War II veterans were recognized during MLEC's annual meeting on Oct. 20. From left are, seated, Lowell Hailey, Roscoe Patrick, Mac Flowers, Bill Harvey and Eldridge Patrick. Standing: O.B. Bath, Rob Jones, Edward Brigham and Dr. Walker. Not pictured: Louie H. Abrams.
3. Vice President of Employee and Member Services Miranda McCaleb, left, with scholarship winner Hope Kelley of Lewis County.
4. MLEC President and CEO Keith Carnahan, left, with award recipient Reed Dreaden.
5. Perry County's Vicky Morris and Mandy Hamm help members register for door prizes.
6. Carnahan congratulates Bill Webb, left, and Dr. Jeff Peery on their NRECA awards.
7. Energy Specialist Nathan Wagner talks about lighting with a Houston County student.
8. Houston County District Manager Jeff Rye gets help handing out door prizes.
9. Carnahan with Hickman County Director Wayne Qualls.

Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative POSTER CONTEST

This year's Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative Poster Contest theme was #MLECEverydaySafe. Students from all five of MLEC's counties submitted hundreds of posters to be judged. Each county had a first-, second- and third-place winner as well as honorable mention winners for the K-2 and 3-5 grade divisions. First-place winners won \$25 and a bicycle; second place received \$25; third place, \$20; and

Hickman K-2



Front from left – Caden Johnston, third place; Jagger Lawson, first place; and Kylie Carder, second place. Back from left – Honorable mention winners Kylee Litton, Josai McCoy, Evan Plunkett, Julian Balboa and Kyra Brackman. Not pictured: Honorable mention winners Kylon Seale and Lelon Gilbert.

Houston K-2



From left – Lorelei Reeves, honorable mention; Calie Hearndon, third place; Summer Veliz, first place; Austin Smith, second place; and Nathalia Fowlkes, honorable mention.

Humphreys



Front from left – Cobie Turner, honorable mention; Burcham, first place; and [unclear], second place. Back from left – Honorable mention winners Mady Maraman, Olivia Kilpatrick, Allie Martin, and [unclear] Scribner. Not pictured: Honorable mention winners Brayden Kelley and [unclear].

Hickman 3-5



Front from left – Natasha Stone, third place; Zoie Chilton, second place; and Nola Kate Bentley, first place. Back from left – Honorable mention winners Summer Merritt, Jazmyn Yeager, Zackery Yeager, Paradise Fowlkes, Ashley Shelton and Peter Clemons. Not pictured: Honorable mention winner Jordan Harrison.

Houston 3-5



Front from left – Kylee Smith, second place; Jaira Castellano, first place; and Annie Villarreal, third place. Back from left – Honorable mention winners Harleigh Singleton, Mary Mills, Abby Gill, Callie Herron and Brandon Smith. Not pictured: Honorable mention winner Zoee Poche.

Humphreys



Front from left – Wesley Turner, honorable mention; Bates, second place; and [unclear], first place. Back from left – Honorable mention winners Trinity Hux, Joshua Leona, [unclear], Faith Young, Nathaniel Anderson, and [unclear] Melton. Not pictured: Honorable mention winners Brookelynn Curtis and [unclear].

#MLECEverydaySafe

honorably mentioned, received \$10. Special recognition goes to Kylie Carroll, a Lewis County student, who was MLEC's overall poster contest winner. She won a \$100 gift card along with her other prizes. Congratulations to all students who participated in the 2016 poster contest! MLEC is proud to offer opportunities for area students.

Greys K-2



Turpin, third place; Randall Levi Jackson, second place; honorable mention winners Shelby Broadwater, Ingram and Wyatt honorable mention winners and Eden Whitlow.

Lewis K-2



Front from left – Taya Tiller, third place; Lexi Hinson, first place; and Andolyn Carroll, second place. Back from left – Honorable mention winners Lilly Swinea, Anna Burney, Bailey White, Trace Turner, Elli Carroll and Paisley Kellog. Not pictured: Honorable mention winner Mya Whitehead.

Perry K-2



Front from left – Jay King, second place; Sasha Moore, first place; and Tyler Choate, third place. Back from left – Honorable mention winners Daisy Loveless, Jonathan Carter, Landon Warren, Bell Warren, Hayvon Denton and Claire Richardson. Not pictured: Honorable mention winner Shaycie Rosson.

Greys 3-5



Turpin, first place; Isabella Julia Raines, third place. Honorable mention winners and Abigail Harrington, Anderson and Keely honorable mention winner

Lewis 3-5



Front from left – Ashlee Wilson, honorable mention; Miley Bates, third place; Kylie Carroll, first place and MLEC's overall five-county service area winner; Adilyn Miller, second place; and Paisley Arnold, honorable mention. Back from left – Honorable mention winners Emily Bates, Emmy Carroll, Preston Tripp, Eli Whittenberg and Breslin Baxter.

Perry 3-5



Front from left – Lane Rotgers, first place; Anderson Qualls, second place; and Treston DePriest, third place. Back from left – Honorable mention winners Charly Ingram, Macy Young, Allyisa Garner, Juliana Gray, Zariyana Jones and Trenton Donegan. Not pictured: Honorable mention winner Colton Pevahouse.

Christmas safety from MLEC



Lighting the neighborhood? Connect properly. Any more than three incandescent light strands strung together may trip a breaker or start a fire. However, the U.S. Department of Energy says you can safely connect up to 25 LED light strands without overloading electrical outlets.

— Jason Graves, MLEC Lewis County District Manager

Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

— Allison Stewart, MLEC Humphreys County Customer Service Representative



Check your lights. Damaged lights can cause electrical shock or even a fire, so look them over before you plug them in. Check for cracked cords, loose connections, damaged sockets and loose or bare wires.

— Kevin "Cheese" Daniel, MLEC Electrical Technician

Never nail or staple electric cords to walls or baseboards. You don't want to end up injured like Clark Griswold in "Christmas Vacation!"

— Lee Ann Coen, MLEC General Accountant — Plant



Remember, when using space heaters, keep them clear of any flammable materials like rugs, drapes or curtains, bed spreads, blankets, etc.

— Gene Hale, MLEC Safety Coordinator

Ways to Save with Wagner

Tips to save energy this holiday

Kee the “Energy Grinch” from stealing your power and energy dollars this December! Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons — holiday gatherings, houseguests, shorter days and longer nights. But like a personal shopper, Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative is here to help our member-owners by being a source of power and information on ways to save.

From the first guest arriving on your doorstep to the last dish washed and put away, there are things you can do to keep that “Energy Grinch” at bay:

- In addition to being the “heart of your home,” your kitchen could pump savings back into your wallet. Consider using small appliances like a slow-cooker, toaster oven or microwave. These small appliances are smart, energy-saving alternatives, typically using about half the energy of a conventional stove-top or oven.

- When it’s time to clean up, rinse your dishes in cold water instead of hot before putting them in the dishwasher. An even better idea? Extend your fellowship time (and maybe get a little help) by washing and drying dishes by hand. Save energy and burn calories! That puts you on the “nice” list!

- If you like to decorate, consider LED lights. They last longer, are safer and use less energy than traditional incandescent light strings. If your older light strands don’t need replacing just yet, help them be their most energy-efficient by using a timer so they don’t burn all night.

- Rechargeable batteries (and chargers) and compact fluorescent bulbs may not be at the top of anyone’s list, but they make great stocking-stuffers, and the savings will surely be appreciated.

- In addition to Lego blocks and dolls, electronics are always welcome Christmas gifts. Before you buy, MLEC reminds you to look for the Energy Star logo. Products achieving this designation use less energy, so they cost less to operate.

“With Christmas upon us, we’re all looking to save where we can. MLEC is here to help by reminding you of simple, no-cost things that add up to unexpected savings.”



For more information, contact:

MLEC Energy Specialist

Nathan Wagner

Phone: 931-729-7257

Email: nathan.wagner@mlec.com

- Home improvements are typically one of the last things on your mind during the holidays. However, if you decide to forgo a gift under the tree for one that keeps on giving like new insulation or a heat pump, remember that MLEC is here to help with advice and rebates.

Whatever the holidays hold, MLEC reminds its members that little changes add up to big savings. Turn lights off when you leave the room. Don’t leave the water running while shaving or brushing your teeth. Unplug phone chargers when not in use. Follow these little “tried and true” lessons, and the “Energy Grinch” will be staying away while Santa comes to visit this holiday season.

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AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE
ELECTRICITY**

**PAIRING INNOVATION
& TECHNOLOGY**

**COMMITTED TO
COMMUNITY**

**PROVIDING MORE
THAN ENERGY TO
THE MEMBERS
WE SERVE**



Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative

MLEC wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May you be blessed with family in your home, safe travels and good health this holiday season. Visit www.mlec.com to learn more about MLEC, your source for safe, affordable, reliable electricity.



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December 2016 www.tnmagazine.org

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Holiday Gift Guide

History for Kids: *Pioneer Alex Stewart*

Tennessee's Pipe Organ Craftsmen

Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

Book Review: *Land Grants on the Elk*

Recipes That Stick Together

Thankful to serve you, the members

It is the season of giving and thanksgiving, and I'd like to take the opportunity of this month's writing to do just that.

We are eager to give you more in 2017. Starting in January, you'll have the opportunity to purchase solar power. I can't wait to share more details on what we call cooperative solar. As we continue to build out our technologies — from our new advanced metering infrastructure to soon-to-come new technology infrastructure — we look forward to giving you tools to better understand and manage your energy use. That's in addition to higher levels of satisfaction these capabilities generally bring — from better outage response to greater accuracy to costs savings.

Most fundamentally, we are eager to give you higher levels of service and to promote higher levels of engagement. Our vision is all about this. In other words, strategic decisions made by your staff and your elected board of directors are based on raising your level of satisfaction. We survey regularly, and our member satisfaction ranks very, very strong. But we want to be absolutely

world-class in this area.

I'll sincerely say that we should all be thankful for our electric cooperative — from its rich history to what it does for all of us today. Our electric rates are 20 percent lower than the national average, and our service reliability statistics are among the best in the nation. We work continuously to improve your safety and that of our employees, and we are pushing ourselves to deliver outstanding member service in all of our interactions with you. I hope you understand that this is *your* cooperative. You have part ownership and a voice. And you can help us continue to improve. We'll stub our toe from time to time, so let us know. You can make suggestions that can improve our service to all of our members. Feel free to reach out by calling us at 1-877-777-9020 or stopping by your local office.



Chris Jones
President,
Middle Tennessee
Electric
Membership
Corporation

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve you and all our members. I am thankful for the team we have in place to serve you. We are all thankful to have our jobs, and the better we understand that our jobs exist because of the opportunity to serve you, the better off we all are. When you see that lived out by one of our team members, feel free to pass along a word of encouragement. A positive word from a member goes a long way!

I am thankful for directors who sincerely care about the members they represent. I work for them directly, and it is an honor to do so. I can tell you they put in a lot of time and effort every month in serving you.

There is too little space here to express my thanks adequately for these things ... and even more so for my family and all that the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays seek to represent.

Allow me to wish you and yours the happiest of holidays, a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year.

Do you have change on your bill? Round it up through ...

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CARVING UP FUN AT THE CO-OP

In what has grown to be a yearly tradition, Middle Tennessee Electric held its pumpkin-carving contest this October. The contest, hosted through MTEMC's Facebook page, prompted more than 50 entries for which more than 600 votes were cast. This year, in addition to the traditional top three places, there was another category to celebrate the cooperative's 80th anniversary.



Chrystal Campbell of Wilson County carved the winning 80th anniversary celebration pumpkin in this year's contest.



Second Place: Kevin Sunday of Rutherford County received 100 votes for his pumpkin titled "It's close to midnight."

Winning pumpkins in both categories were voted on by people who viewed the page, and creators of the winning entries received gift cards to Amazon — \$50 for first, \$30 for second and \$20 for third. One winner took home an \$80 Amazon gift card for the 80th anniversary pumpkin.

For more contests, check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MiddleTennesseeElectric.

**NOTE: All pumpkin entries were submitted by residents of MTEMC's four-county service territory and voted on by the public. The nature of the submissions is in no way an endorsement of any political party.*



First Place: Mason Russell of Rutherford County won first place with his "Trumpkin," receiving 201 votes.



Third Place: Josh Davis of Rutherford County received 55 votes for his "Make America Great Again" pumpkins.

Planting roots in local schools

Middle Tennessee Electric is set to resume the TreeWise program at local schools across Williamson, Rutherford, Cannon and Wilson counties. Beginning in February, students will begin to learn about the importance of planting trees.

“We want to continue on the successes of this program,” said Talley Floyd, vegetation management supervisor for MTEMC. “Stressing the importance of properly placing trees away from power lines and encouraging students to preserve them not only teaches them about the environment but also teaches them how to make a difference.”

Throughout February, students will learn more about trees from MTEMC arborists through in-class activities and discussions that focus on transporting, planting and caring for trees.

“As in past years, each student will receive a folder with information on vegetation management around power lines and the important role trees play in our environment,” said Floyd.

Highlighted during the discussions are a history of trees and tree fossils, the creation and celebration of Arbor Day and some of the valuable things trees provide such as shade, oxygen, food, wood and paper products.

“By the end of the day, students will have a better understanding of trees, but they will also have a better understanding of why MTEMC encourages planting certain trees around power lines and outside the right of way,” Floyd added.



Students are also given saplings to take home and plant with their families.

“It’s a fun family project,” said Floyd. “Students get to pass along the knowledge they learned in class while they are planting trees that can last for years.”

For details on the TreeWise program, call 877-414-7685 or email VegetationManagement@mtmc.com.

MTEMC to hand out 10 scholarships in 2017

Middle Tennessee Electric’s SharingChange program will fund 10 scholarships for \$2,000 for students in the cooperative’s service area again this year.

“We’re excited about the success of this program and look forward to seeing these funds put toward such a deserving cause again this year,” SharingChange Board Chairman Doretha Wright said. “The scholarship program enhances the education outreach of our SharingChange initiative.”

To receive a scholarship, candidates must be MTEMC members or children of MTEMC members and use the scholarship monies to attend two- or four-year accredited colleges or trade schools in Tennessee.

Anyone interested must fill out an application and complete a one-page essay on how the scholarship funds will benefit his or her personal goals. The essay should be typed and double-spaced on white paper. Essays will

Restrictions

Recipients must be MTEMC members or dependents of MTEMC members. Scholarship funds must be used to attend a Tennessee two- or four-year accredited college or trade school.

Deadline

Submit scholarship essays and applications by Wednesday, March 15. Scholarship winners will be notified July 20-24.

be judged by a group of volunteer teachers from the Middle Tennessee Electric service area.

“One of the cooperative’s seven principles is a commitment to education,” MTEMC Community Relations Coordinator Jay Sanders said. “This is just another way we contribute to our membership and assist with our education outreach.”

Scholarship applicants will be judged on a point system that includes a financial needs assessment, current grade-point average, involvement in community service, leadership roles and an essay score. At least one of the 10 scholarships will be awarded in

each district.

The deadline for submitting scholarship essays and applications is Wednesday, March 15. This year’s scholarship winners will be announced in July.

For more information on the scholarships, contact Jay Sanders at 615-494-1065 or visit www.mtmc.com.

13 to 1, MTE crews tackle Matthew

In the November edition of *The Tennessee Magazine*, crews from cooperatives across the state were highlighted for their help in the Southeast after Hurricane Matthew left thousands without power.

Middle Tennessee Electric sent three line crews and a mobile mechanic — 13 men total — to assist with efforts at Clay Electric Cooperative in Keystone Heights, Florida.

Your MTEMC crews joined a team of nearly 800 utility and construction workers to restore power to more than 73,000 members over three days.

Here's a glimpse of the team preparing to leave and the work they did while they were away, bringing to those in need the same level of outstanding member service you experience every day.



Jessie Cunningham is interviewed by Samantha Singer of Fox17 News the morning the team left for Florida.



Clint Newman operates the hydraulics as Jessie Cunningham helps guide a tree off a line in the swamps of Florida during Hurricane Matthew restoration efforts.



MTEMC President and CEO Chris Jones, center, prays with the 13 men before they start their trek to storm-torn Clay EC.



Luke Flory, left, and Jackson Harmon work to repair a de-energized line.

**Florida photos courtesy of Robin Conover*



From left are Jerry Fishburn, Jackson Harmon, Kirk Harris, Clint Newman, Dan Bonds, Terence Floyd, Chris Gossett, Luke Flory, Scott Goodman, Andrew Johnston, Jimmy Grant, Jessie Cunningham and Bodie Davis.



Tips for keeping Christmas safe

Part of the mission of Middle Tennessee Electric is to ensure safety, but that message doesn't stop with electricity. The holidays are typically a time to reflect and be thankful, and doing it safely is important.

Here are some general tips aimed at helping you stay safe this holiday season:

Christmas lights

When it comes to Christmas lights, both indoor and outdoor, there are a variety of options. Strings of LED bulbs are becoming more affordable and ultimately help you save on your monthly electric bill; however, traditional bulbs are still inexpensive and the choice of many members.

As you decorate this year, here are some things to remember:

- Use only UL-approved lights.

- Make sure tree lights are securely fastened.

- Look over the strings of lights for damaged sockets and wires.



- Do not use indoor lights outdoors or outdoor lights indoors.

- One of the most common problems is overloading extension cords. Do not connect more than the approved number of sets of lights to one cord.

- Bulbs should not come in contact with tree needles or branches.

- Turn off decorative lights when you leave or go to bed.

- Remove outdoor lighting as soon as the season is over. They are not designed for prolonged exposure to the elements.

- Never use a lit candle near a tree or decorations, even if the tree is artificial.

The Christmas tree

Live tree ... artificial tree, which to choose? Each type has positives and negatives, so it boils down to personal preference. As you make your decision and find the perfect place to set it up this year, keep these things in mind:

- The fresher, the safer with live trees. Check by examining needles. When you bend them between your fingers, they shouldn't break. You can't depend on the tree's color; some are sprayed green.

- Choose artificial trees made of fire-resistant material that will not easily catch fire.

Middle Tennessee Electric's offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2.

- To maintain your live tree's freshness, cut off about two inches from the trunk and place the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand.

- Keep the tree away from fireplaces, portable heaters, wall heaters and other heat sources.

- Keep watering your tree (a 6-foot tree will use a gallon of water every two days).

- Mix a commercial preservative with the water.

- Leave the tree outside until you are ready to decorate it.

- Dispose of the tree when significant amounts of needles begin to fall off.

- If you choose an artificial tree, ensure it bears the UL label.

Ornaments

Ornaments are beautiful but can cause injuries during this season. When you decorate:

- Avoid placing small or breakable ornaments on lower branches where children or pets might knock them off.

- Remember that among the list of injuries related to Christmas decorations each year, children swallowing small ornaments and cuts from broken ornaments are among the most frequent.

Have a safe, happy holiday season, and for some energy tips, visit www.mtemc.com.

SharingChange Spotlight



Remember to sign back up to make a difference! Visit www.SharingChange.org today!

OCTOBER GRANTS

Children's Museum Corporation of Rutherford County

Multicounty - \$3,000

Pastoral Counseling Centers

Multicounty - \$3,000

Dream Catchers Therapy

Multicounty - \$2,250

Kids Battle Diabetes

Multicounty - \$5,000

Southeastern Young Adult Book Festival

Multicounty - \$3,000

AGAPE

Multicounty - \$2,500

Kymari House

Multicounty - \$3,000

Father & Son Sports Inc.

Multicounty - \$5,000

STARS

Multicounty - \$3,000

TOTAL GRANTS:

\$29,750



Kymari House

Kymari House is a nonprofit organization founded to provide services in Middle Tennessee to ensure that children can maintain a positive bond with absent parents during times of conflict in a safe, child-friendly environment. "At Kymari House, we believe there is nothing more precious than family and that no one is more important than children," says Tonya Hobbs, executive director and co-founder of Kymari House.

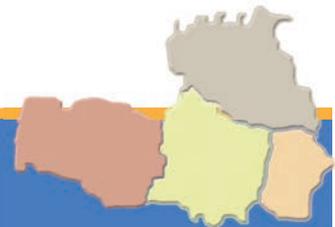
SharingChange is a foundation created by Middle Tennessee EMC's board of directors for the sole purpose of giving back to the communities served by the cooperative. Funds granted by the foundation come directly from members and are then used in the county where they are collected.

"Concern for Community," the Seventh Cooperative Principle, focuses on members' needs while helping develop the communities served.

Since 2003, MTEMC's charitable foundations have distributed more than \$9 million to more than 580 organizations in our communities. For more information, visit our website at www.SharingChange.org.

** SharingChange is a voluntary program, and members have the option to discontinue participation at any time.*

October grants by county



WILLIAMSON

\$12,970

Beginning balance \$8,704.81

Incoming \$3,883.19

Funds Available \$12,588.00

Ending balance* -\$382.00

WILSON

\$6,795

Beginning balance \$113,688.29

Incoming \$2,806.82

Funds Available \$116,495.11

Ending balance* \$109,700.11

RUTHERFORD

\$9,385

Beginning balance \$17,233.97

Incoming \$3,544.51

Funds Available \$20,778.48

Ending balance* \$11,393.48

CANNON

\$600

Beginning balance \$1,390.24

Incoming \$388.42

Funds Available \$1,778.66

Ending balance* \$1,178.66

** Ending balance is awaiting future grant applications.*

KIM IS DOING THE EASIEST GOOD THING SHE WILL EVER DO.

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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

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Tennessee's Pipe Organ Craftsmen

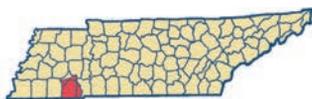
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**These seven pages
contain local news
and information
for members of
Pickwick Electric
Cooperative.**

You're in good company with co-ops

Neighbors helping neighbors to create a better world

A fair question people often ask is, "What's in it for me?" This makes sense as we all need to act in our

own self-interest every now and then. The cool thing about co-ops is we answer that question with, "This is what's in it for *we!*"

When the market refuses to offer a good or service or does so at a high price, co-ops step in to fill the void. Cooperatives identify members of the community who have the same self-interests and bring them together to make a cooperative decision.

More than 80 years ago, when Pickwick Electric Cooperative got started, the folks in our community shared at least one self-interest — they wanted electricity. In fact, many Americans who lived in rural parts of the country at that time needed electricity, which is why electric cooperatives were formed. Individuals acted in their own self-interest, but that self-interest led to the community and economic development of the rural areas in which they lived. Today, rural electric co-ops serve more than 42 million people in 47 states.

It is good to know that your friends and neighbors are also your co-owners of Pickwick Electric Cooperative. People coming together

to meet a particular need is at the heart of every kind of co-op. Local credit unions bring financial services to people banks don't want to serve.



John Bowers

*President,
Pickwick Electric
Cooperative*

jbowers@pickwick-electric.com

In urban areas and college communities, housing co-ops offer people safe, reliable and affordable places to live. Many agricultural co-ops started as a way to get their products to market, whether it was oranges (Sunkist), dairy goods (Land O'Lakes), grapes (Welch's), organic milk (Organic Valley) or any of the hundreds of other food

products that co-ops bring to our table every day.

Many people who owned small businesses realized they, too, had a common self-interest: stay in business. So they formed purchasing co-ops like Ace Hardware and True Value so they could compete with big-box stores like Home Depot and Lowe's.

Today, it is estimated that more than 40 percent of all residents in the U.S. are members of at least one co-op. Worldwide, well over a billion people are counted as co-op members.

So every time you turn on (or off) the lights, it can serve as a reminder that as a co-op member, you are in good company with your local neighbors — and with people all around the world.

PEC employees receive service awards

Congratulations to 14 employees who received service awards during 2016 for their combined 205 years of service.



*Bill Jackson
50 years*



*David Sims
40 years*



*Wes Ashe
15 years*



*Lori Perry
15 years*



*Kevin Roy
15 years*



*Josh Coats
10 years*



*Tim Jones
10 years*



*Adam Mitchell
10 years*



*Angie Robinson
10 years*



*Justin Shirley
10 years*



*Wes Dotson
5 years*



*Michael Graber
5 years*



*Justin Huckabee
5 years*



*Blake Jones
5 years*

Bundle up for winter storms

By Abby Berry

Are you ready for winter's cold grasp? Snow and ice are inevitable when dealing with winter storms, but being prepared can make a world of difference. Pickwick Electric Cooperative recommends these tips to help you prepare for wintery blasts:

Winterize your home

Winter storms wreak havoc on your home. By winterizing your living space, you'll be prepared for extreme cold and hazardous conditions.

- Remember to maintain and inspect heating equipment and chimneys every year to ensure they're working safely and properly.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to make the most of your heating system.
- Freezing temperatures often cause water pipes to burst. Remember to insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic. Allow faucets to drip during extreme cold to avoid frozen pipes.
- Consider installing storm windows for better insulation. You can also cover windows with plastic (from the inside) to keep the cold out.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows where the home's fire extinguisher is located and how to use it properly. House fires occur more frequently during winter months because people tend to use alternative heating methods that may not be safe.

Prepare a winter survival kit

Severe winter storms often bring heavy accumulations of ice and snow, which can lead to downed power lines and extended outages. Pickwick Electric Cooperative crews will work hard to restore power, but having a winter survival kit on hand is a smart idea.



- Food: Store food that does not require cooking such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand. Ready.gov recommends 5 gallons per person.
- Medication: Be sure to refill all prescriptions in the event of a major power outage.
- Identification: Keep handy all forms of identification such as driver's licenses, photo IDs and Social Security cards. Bank account information and insurance policies are also good to have on hand.
- Other items: First aid kit, blankets, flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.

Stay warm and safe

Plan for an alternate heating source should an outage occur. A fireplace, propane space heater or wood-burning stove would be sufficient. Fuel and wood-burning heating sources must always be vented, and make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. Always practice extreme caution when using alternate heating sources.

If you decide to use a portable generator during an outage, make sure it is placed outside the home for proper ventilation. Be careful not to overload the generator. Use appropriate extension cords that can handle the electric load.

Follow these tips, and your family will stay warm in the event of a power outage. For more information on preparing for winter storms, visit www.ready.gov.

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

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Wishing our members all the joys of Christmas and happiness throughout the new year

*The PEC office will be closed
Friday, Dec. 23, Monday, Dec. 26,
and Monday, Jan. 2.*



Pros and cons of heat pump water heaters

By Tom Tate

The water heater is a major consumer of electricity in today's home. Because of how electric water heaters work — using electric resistance elements — these units max out in efficiency at about 96 percent. As the government and industry seek ways to reduce energy use and the resulting carbon emissions, they have turned their attention to the electric water heater. After a lengthy study, the Department of Energy issued rules governing the efficiency of electric water heaters. The rules, which went into effect in 2015, resulted in a jump in efficiency requirements for larger residential electric water heaters. Enter the heat pump water heater (HPWH).

Heat pumps have been in use for general home heating and cooling since their invention in the 1940s by Robert C. Webber. When the oil embargo of the 1970s brought the need for improved efficiency to the forefront, heat pumps became an important source of increased energy efficiency in the heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) arena.

Heat pumps operate by using compressors, refrigerant, heat exchangers and the difference in outside air temperature versus indoor temps to produce heating and cooling for homes and businesses. These units historically have been most successful in areas with moderate winter temperatures, although advances in technology are making use in colder climates more feasible.

So, how does an HPWH function, and what are its advantages and disadvantages? In short, the HPWH

absorbs heat from the surrounding air, using it to heat water within the tank. Because the HPWH uses heat pump technology, it can be up to 2.5 times more efficient than a traditional resistance electric water heater. This means it will cost you less to produce hot water for your home and reduce carbon emissions.

The tables below detail the key advantages and disadvantages of the HPWH. As with heat pumps for general space-conditioning, the HPWH will provide greater year-round savings in moderate climates.

Like any new application of a technology, HPWHs will benefit from steady improvements over time. They are undeniably more efficient than electric resistance water heaters and will pay for themselves in a reasonable amount of time (two to three years or so). However, they may not be the right choice in every situation and climate. If your water heater is more than 10 years old, you should be looking at a replacement anyway to avoid the risk of water damage should the tank fail. Take the time to weigh the pros and cons of the HPWH as a replacement. If it is right for you, an HPWH is a choice that will pay dividends on your budget and in contributing to a reduction in carbon emissions.

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.

PROS

OF HEAT PUMP WATER HEATERS (HPWH)

- Efficiency can be as much as 2.5 times higher than an electric resistance alternative
- Cool surrounding space in the summer, making the area more comfortable
- Use waste heat from the central furnace during winter months
- May qualify for incentive money
- Can save \$330 annually for a family of four, depending on water use and electricity rates

CONS

OF HEAT PUMP WATER HEATERS (HPWH)

- Cost about twice as much as electric resistance water heaters
- The compressor will make a noticeable noise. Insulating the mechanical room can reduce the sound, but doing so reduces the amount of warm air for the unit's use
- Make the heating system work harder during winter months because it generates cold air while operating
- Physical size of an HPWH can be greater than an electric resistance alternative
- Require additional space for air flow (1,000 cubic feet) and a condensation drain or pump
- Slow recovery may be a problem when demand for water is high

PEC partners with TVA to provide engineering, technical assistance

Pickwick Electric Cooperative, in partnership with Tennessee Valley Authority, offers engineering and technical assistance to our commercial and industrial members through the Comprehensive Services Program, which covers all areas of energy use and includes these services:

- **Energy audits** — A general survey of energy use in a facility is taken, and metering and recommendations are given to correct for low power factor.
- **Demand-side management** — You'll receive monitoring and testing of electrical systems and recommendations related to managing peak demand, energy management opportunities, process and facility improvements.
- **HVAC** — Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning studies examine the sizing of HVAC equipment, offer heating-and-cooling system comparisons, investigate problems with existing systems and provide recommendations for improvement.
- **Infrared scans** — Scans are performed on electrical equipment such as transformers, breakers and bus and conductor connections for hot spots as well as scans for facility heating and cooling loss.
- **Ultrasonic testing** — this technology can locate compressed air leaks caused by vibration, holes in hoses, loose joints and cracks.
- **Lighting** — Studies provide recommendations for the design of lighting systems in

such places as sports fields, roadways, parking lots and commercial and industrial plants.



- **Metering** — We install temporary metering equipment to gather data on facility electrical use.
- **Power factor grounding/lightning** — We perform a grounding study, grounding testing and lightning-protection recommendations.

- **Power Quality** — Studies address voltage problems originating inside or outside the facility that adversely affect the end-user.
- **Water heating** — Studies explore heat-pump water-heater applications, standard energy-efficient water heaters and cost comparisons of electric versus fossil-fuel systems.
- **Wiring and electrical distribution equipment** — Studies analyze the facility's distribution system, including the sizing of wiring and equipment, and provide recommendations for system improvement.

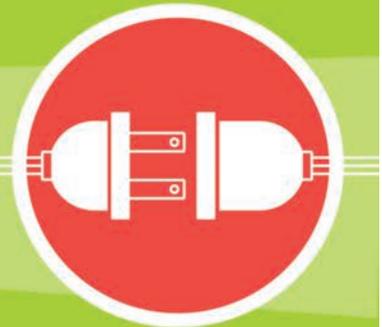
These services are offered at no cost to our commercial and industrial members. Also available to these members is the EnergyRight Solutions for Business and Industry program that gives financial assistance, incentives for improvements and energy advice. For more information on either of these programs, contact Kevin Roy, PEC energy advisor, at 731-434-0568 or Beverly Lambert, HR/communications coordinator, at 731-434-0567. Or visit www.energyright.com.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy-efficient than incandescent bulbs.

Connect each strand to test holiday lights before hanging them.



Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.

Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.



Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using clips to keep the bulbs upright.

Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.



December 2016 www.tnmagazine.org

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Holiday Gift Guide

History for Kids: *Pioneer Alex Stewart*

Tennessee's Pipe Organ Craftsmen

Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

Book Review: *Land Grants on the Elk*

Recipes That Stick Together



Plateau Electric Cooperative

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Oneida, TN 37841

CEO/General Manager

Dave Cross

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Oneida Office

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Wartburg Office

Phone: 346-3699

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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

A few days with Momma

A couple of months back, during the school's fall break, my niece,

Allison, and her daughters went on vacation to North Carolina. The pertinent fact here is that my niece lives with my 85-year-old mom. Early in the planning process for Allison's vacation, it was agreed that my sister, Judy, and I would each keep

Momma at our respective homes for a few days. That way, it wouldn't require either of us to take a full week's vacation, and it would also allow the two of us to enjoy some quality time with Momma outside of busy Sunday dinners and other brief visits.

As the appointed time approached, Judy and I had agreed that I would keep Momma first, from Friday until Tuesday, and that we would both take Momma on a train ride up at the historic Stearns mine on the "hand-off" day.

I haven't mentioned yet that Momma wasn't entirely happy with any of these arrangements. She saw no need to go anywhere and was completely convinced that she'd be fine right there at her home by herself. Unfortunately for Momma, we dis-

agreed with her as she's grown pretty feeble and is also very forgetful. She reminded us that the Bible says that when you're old, "They will carry you where you don't want to go." We agreed with her on that.



Dave Cross
CEO,
Plateau Electric
Cooperative

To say that Momma's few days at my home were a blessing would be an understatement. Dad and she would come over to Scott County for visits regularly when he was still living, but since Dad's death in 1999, we primarily visited Momma in Clarkrange. Momma thoroughly enjoyed being in church with us that weekend, and while our church family has to endure an inadequate song leader, my Momma was especially pleased to hear her baby lead the congregational singing.

It was also great to be able to just spend some good quality time with Momma, preparing coffee for the two of us and generally enjoying each other's fellowship. Momma was, however, constantly asking about going home.

When Tuesday rolled around, Judy and her husband, Reed, came over from Jamestown, and we all headed up to Stearns. It had been a few years since I had

been on the train ride/mine excursion, but the weather was fantastic, and with Halloween nearing, the train ride was decorated with assorted goblins and ghouls. Momma thought it was great. There's a lot to be said for just hanging out together and enjoying each other's fellowship, but it's special to do something more memorable than just hanging out. After our train excursion, we ate at the Dairy Bar in Whitley City, Kentucky, and that just topped off the day.

Now, as I've mentioned Momma wasn't very happy at all at the prospect of staying at my home, and she was especially happy to leave, but we had a great time for those few days and made some good memories.

As we enter this Christmas season, let's all enjoy our families and the many blessings God has given us. And if you've been blessed with a Godly mother, be especially thankful for her.

Dave

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 a special meeting held June 9, the board approved a resolution and signed loan documents pertaining to the refinancing of approximately \$4 million of U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Utilities Service debt through National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, which will result in savings of \$573,400 in interest over the remaining life of the debt.

At the June regular board meeting, the board approved implementation of a pilot project through Central Service Association for an Outage Management System (OMS) that will improve available information during outages and assist in the efficient dispatching of crews. The board reviewed the improved workers' compensation experience modification factor, which reflected on the cooperative's excellent safety record. The board discussed the progress being made on the new Morgan County pole yard. Engineer Joel McCartt gave a status update on the digitized mapping project.

At the July regular board meeting, PEC CEO Dave Cross discussed with the board the management staff's recommendations for improving access into the new Morgan County pole yard. The board was given an update on the Pioneer Health bankruptcy, approved the sale of surplus equipment, reviewed the normal monthly financial reports and heard a review

of the cooperative's safety program. An update was also given on the digitized mapping project.

At the August regular board meeting, the board accepted the low bid submitted on the purchase of a replacement of Truck No. 24. The board was given information on the state of Tennessee's plans for improved energy efficiency and conservation. Directors then heard an update on the digitized mapping project.

At the September regular board meeting, the board heard from Frank McDaniel of Brown, Jake and McDaniel CPAs, who reviewed the independent audit for the year ending June 30, 2016. He reported that the accounting staff had done an excellent job and that there were no audit findings. Cross reported on the sale of surplus equipment through govdeals.com. The board heard a review of the July financial report and the safety report, and an update was given on the digitized mapping project.

At the October regular board meeting, the board met at the Wartburg office to review the progress on the new Morgan County pole yard. Cross reported that the cooperative had sent two crews (10 men) to Berkeley Electric Cooperative in South Carolina for storm restoration efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. The board heard a review of the August financial report and the safety report and was updated on the digitized mapping project.

At a special meeting held Nov. 1, the board discussed a potential grant through the Appalachian Regional Commission that could potentially be utilized to update the cooperative's aging automated metering infrastructure (AMI).

Christmas greetings

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year

Plateau Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Friday and Monday, Dec. 23 and 26, for the Christmas holiday. Our office will also be closed on Monday, Jan. 2, for New Year's. In the event of an outage, PEC will have stand-by crews on call 24 hours a day to restore service. If you experience an outage, please call 423-569-8591 for Scott County residents or 423-346-3699 for Morgan County residents.



Christmas greetings from the board of PEC. From left are, seated, Secretary Bill Hall, President Jim Litton, Vice President Tim Freels and Treasurer Mark Kline. Standing: CEO Dave Cross, Steve Lambert, Harry Gosnell, Lee Armstrong, Vic Davis, Brian Boyatt and Sid Seals, attorney.



From left are Kim Slaven, Jacob Billingsley, Bobbie Davis, Brittany Hamby, April Chitwood, Brian Strunk, Joel McCartt, Ryan Keeton, Amber Pemberton, Michele Murley, Louedia Collette, Jilleen Newport. Seated-Betty Phillips, Tammy Duncan and Patricia Laxton. Not pictured is Jeff Watson.



From left are Joey Zachary, Bryon Foster, Keith Crabtree, Richard Sexton, Jake Lowe, Anthony Overton, Billy Young, Randy Shoemaker, Bill Miller, Randy Byrd, Arnie Deweese, Adam Chambers, Jonathan Orick, Ronnie Morgan, Eli Crowley and Shane Phillips.



From left are Mike Nance, Trevor Hurtt, John Guinn, Angie Byrd, Casey Fritts, Nick Hurley, Trudi Dyer, Jack Gunter, Benny Buchanan and Alfred Branim.



Joined by CEO Dave Cross, standing, are, from left, Tyler Newman, Curtis Jeffers and Gary Foster.

Best of Tennessee



Karen Darnell of Wartburg is presented a grand prize gift basket by Plateau Electric Cooperative Director of Communications Jacob Billingsley. Karen submitted a Best of Tennessee Readers' Choice Awards entry and was selected from a drawing of all those who suggested the best food, attractions, and accommodations our state has to offer. Karen received a gift basket filled with various farm-direct, locally made artisan foods from Pick Tennessee Products. Thank you, Karen, for your participation, and congratulations on winning!

PEC stresses safety to elementary students

Fifth-grade students from Scott County schools and Oneida Elementary attended the Soil Conservation Safety Day at the Oneida City Park. Students were educated in various activities from electrical safety to farm safety and how to prevent accidents and injuries, fitting with one of the Seven Cooperative Principles: Education, Training and Information.

"This was a great opportunity to speak to all of our fifth-grade students in Scott County and remind them of the potential dangers that are involved with electricity on a daily basis," said Director of Communications Jacob Billingsley. "We pride ourselves on safety at PEC, and we want to be certain that all our employees keep that in the front of their mind at all times."

Special thanks go to the Scott County Soil Conservation District for planning and coordinating this event.



Jacob Billingsley teaches fifth-graders about electrical safety at the Soil Conservation Safety Day.

PEC provides help in storm's aftermath

As homeowners and business owners from Florida to North Carolina braced themselves for the destruction that was sure to follow Hurricane Matthew, Plateau Electric Cooperative, along with many other neighboring electric utilities, stood ready to aid in the restoration of power to the storm-damaged areas. PEC crews headed out Friday, Oct. 7, traveling to South Carolina to aid Berkley Electric Cooperative near Charleston. Once an assessment was conducted of what needed to be repaired, crews began the task of repairing downed lines and restoring power to the local area.

“We are very fortunate to not have to deal with severe storms such as hurricanes, but we are happy to help our neighbors,” said PEC CEO Dave Cross. “In a time like this, being able to restore the power to these communities and speed up the repair and restoration process are critical.”

Crews from PEC worked for one week alongside 400-plus workers from five different states and 12



Plateau Electric Cooperative's crew prepares to depart to offer assistance to co-ops impacted by Hurricane Matthew. From left are Jake Lowe, John Guinn, Anthony Overton, Joey Zachary, Tyler Newman, Ronnie Morgan, Bryon Foster, Nick Hurley, Mike Nance, Adam Chambers and Dave Cross.

neighboring cooperatives to restore power to local residents.

“This was one of the larger cooperatives we have assisted with storm repair,” said Bryon Foster, PEC journeyman lineman/foreman. “Most of the outages were caused by downed pine trees. It was good working with those at Berkeley Electric Cooperative. All those who were helping were treated with respect, and the mutual aid was appreciated. During our time there, we built a good working relationship, and we

know that those at Berkeley will help us when the time comes to return the favor. That cooperation among cooperatives is the beauty of the co-op model.”

At the height of the storm, approximately 75,000 outages were reported. In seven days, 135 poles were replaced and power was restored to all those outages caused by Hurricane Matthew.



This machine, fitted with a bucket and digger derrick, is used in wet conditions and can travel on soft terrain. It can set poles and work on utility lines in extremely wet conditions.

And then there was light ...

Cordelia Boswell and her uncle, Delbert Litton, lived a good portion of their lives without electricity. But that all changed in early October. Both have lived in Oneida for their whole lives and gone without some of the “necessities” that we expect to have on a daily basis. They heat with a wood stove, and that’s also how they dry their clothes and heat their water.

However, they haven’t completely lived without lights, using a generator to power lights in the house and a single light in a nearby shed.

Cordelia says she is looking forward to having a refrigerator and a TV now that she has the capability. She admits, too, that the main reason for getting electricity at this point in her life was because Delbert has had some health issues that may require the use of oxygen in the future.



Cordelia Boswell and Delbert Litton stand outside home that just recently had electric service installed.

From the front of her house, it is no more than 300 feet to the nearest utility pole. It has been that close for so long, but now Cordelia has power in her home!

Deweese attains certification

Arnie Deweese has successfully completed the Substation Maintenance course through the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVPPA). A 34-year veteran of the electric utility industry, Arnie has acquired a wealth of knowledge over his career at Plateau Electric Cooperative. He began cutting rights of way as part of the labor crew before becoming a meter reader, staking engineer, foreman, service man and journeyman lineman. Now his responsibilities include all aspects of the electric grid from Tennessee Valley Authority transmission to PEC distribution of power.

Congratulations, Arnie!



Arnie Deweese, right, receives from PEC CEO Dave Cross his Certificate of Completion of the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association's Substation Maintenance program.

Digital devices impact energy use

By Tom Tate

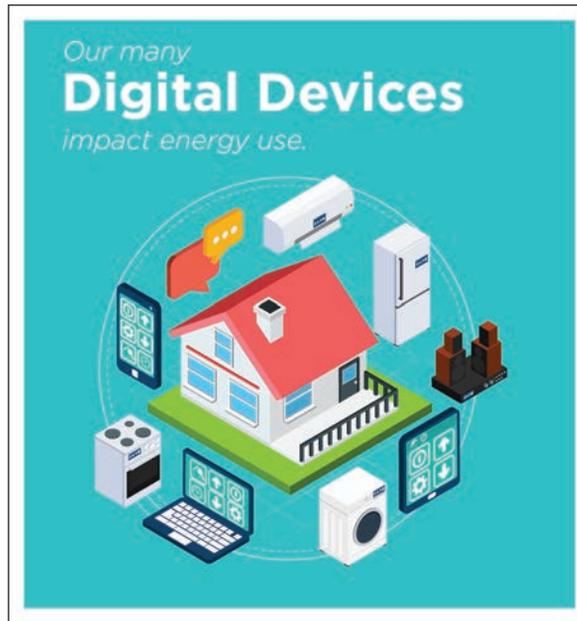
Ah, the Digital Age. We have gadgets galore, the ability to manage our homes in new and innovative ways, brilliant images and captivating sounds of modern entertainment options and, of course, the internet. Clearly, digital devices reign supreme. Yet these cool new capabilities come with a couple of pitfalls: vampire loads and the issue of “technology reincarnation.”

Over the course of the Digital Age, electricity use has continued to increase. Families have multiple televisions. Computer prices have plummeted, meaning many homes now have multiple computers. Everyone in the family needs a cell phone. Gaming consoles and set-top cable/satellite boxes satisfy our desire for entertainment.

Major appliances aside, most digital devices do not use 120-volt power, which is the standard voltage of a home outlet. They actually use a lot less. So, trying to plug your brand new smartphone directly into an outlet is going to lead to a fried device and lots of tears from someone. This is why low-voltage devices come with a power adapter. These “wall warts,” as some term them, take the 120-volt electricity supplied by Plateau Electric Cooperative and convert it to, say, 5 volts. Unfortunately, most folks leave their adapters plugged in to make recharging easier. The problem with this approach is that the seemingly innocuous wall wart uses power even when it isn’t charging a device.

This invisible energy consumption is often called “vampire load.” Studies show that 5 to 10 percent of the average home’s energy use is from vampire loads. The only way to stop this is to unplug the power adapter when it is not in use or employ smart power strips, which look like the typical power strip but with a twist — only one socket gets power all the time. When the device or appliance connected to the live outlet turns on and starts using power, the remaining sockets receive power, too. This is perfect for entertainment systems, computer setups and a variety of other situations.

Technological advances have steadily increased energy efficiency and reduced purchase prices. This seems like a



good thing. Unfortunately, when replacing a product at the end of its life, the tendency is to go bigger or continue to use the old technology. This is the second, “reincarnation” issue I noted.

For example, flat-screen television prices have plummeted as technology has evolved — and so has the amount of electricity they use. Consumers wander into the big-box store and are dazzled by walls of giant, brilliant televisions. What they used to pay for the paltry 32-inch model now might net them a 50-inch giant. And who doesn’t want to see their

favorite show or sports event in near-lifesize? But if you spring for the bigger TV, you won’t benefit from the increased energy efficiency of the newer technology. The bigger model uses as much juice as the older, smaller TV, which likely ends up in another room (reincarnated in another setting), still using power.

Or refrigerators: These are the showpieces of the evolution of smart appliances. Many new models include touchscreens and cameras; they communicate over the internet while keeping food cold and making ice. Yet what often happens is the old refrigerator ends up in the basement or garage, reincarnated as a dedicated beverage unit or overflow.

I’ll offer a couple of words of advice to help you avoid — or at least reduce — the effects of vampire loads and technology reincarnation. Invest in smart power strips or make a point to use outlets where you can conveniently unplug power adapters when not in use. Don’t oversize your replacement appliances and entertainment gear unless family needs dictate the larger capacities. And recycle the replaced appliances and equipment to stem technology reincarnation. You will enjoy the Digital Age for a lot less.

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.

December 2016 www.tnmagazine.org

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Holiday Gift Guide

History for Kids: *Pioneer Alex Stewart*

Tennessee's Pipe Organ Craftsmen

Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

Book Review: *Land Grants on the Elk*

Recipes That Stick Together

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.

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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

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AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Wishing you joy at Christmas

As the Christmas season begins, we look forward to gathering with our families and friends and enjoying the fun, festivities and fellowship this time of year brings. We look around us and realize how much our families and our circle of friends have grown over the years, and we want to spend as much time as possible sharing this very special time of year.

It seems to get more difficult every year, though, to just relax and appreciate the beauty of Christmas and celebrate this joyous season. It's a time when we would like the message of peace and goodwill to be spread far and wide, but that is increasingly harder to do, even in our quiet little corner of the world. Remember Thanksgiving? This holiday

is almost passed over by an earlier and earlier start of the Christmas rush. The stores were already being stocked with Christmas decorations in October, so the whirlwind of shopping began then.

This year, we resolve to step back, remind ourselves of what's really important in our lives, remember how very fortunate we are and not forget those who are less fortunate. This year, let's slow down and enjoy the simple,

precious things in life and allow the true message of Christmas to fill our lives with joy and peace.

From our family to your family, we sincerely wish you a joyous holiday season and peace, good health, happiness and prosperity in the coming year.

— Randell W. Meyers



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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons: holiday gatherings, houseguests and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

*In observance of the upcoming holidays,
our offices will be closed on these days:*

*Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, for Christmas
and Monday, Jan. 2, for New Year's.*

*As always, cooperative dispatchers will be on
duty to take your emergency calls during the
holidays. Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's
board of directors, management and
employees would like to wish you and
your family a joyous and
safe holiday season!*



Title VI Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability. Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested on the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by:

1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Ave.
Washington, DC, 20250-9410;
2. fax: 202-690-7442; or
3. email: program.intake@usda.gov

Time of use matters

By Anne Prince

Did you know that *when* you use electricity often matters as much as *how much* electricity you consume? It's no surprise that electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand, and electric co-ops must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy demands of their members during times of highest energy use, also known as "on-peak hours."

In the early morning when people often start their day and during the evening when folks return to their homes after work are common times for on-peak hours. Using less on-peak power means lower costs for the co-op, which, ultimately, means keeping rates low for members.

By performing some of your daily chores like running the dishwasher or doing laundry during off-peak hours, you can help "beat the peak." In a similar

vein, plug electronic equipment such as computers, printers, TVs and power tools into power strips, then turn the strips off during peak hours. You can also put technology to work for you. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your heating-and-cooling system syncs with the off-peak rate periods. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way.

Saving energy can be simple. Remember: By shifting your energy use to off-peak times, you can help make the difference.

Anne Prince 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 co-ops.

Stuff your stockings with energy-saving lightbulbs

Here's a bright idea for your holiday stockings: Stuff them with light-emitting diodes (LEDs) or compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). LEDs use up to 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent lightbulbs and can last 10 years or longer. CFLs use two-thirds less energy than traditional bulbs and can last 10 times longer.

Both kinds of energy-efficient lightbulbs use a lower wattage to produce the same amount of light.

Most incandescent bulbs are banned from stores by now, but if you still have some burning in lamps or overhead light fixtures, now is a good time to change them.

Using less energy for lighting means a lower energy bill for you — and more money to spend on stocking-stuffers!

It's unlikely that your little ones have asked Santa for a gift of energy savings. Offer it as a gag gift, and take the opportunity to teach your children about how the new lightbulbs can reduce energy use —



and make the kiddos proud to be doing their part to help the environment.

Surprise them, too, with a fun, new bedroom lamp that burns the funny-looking, twisted lightbulbs — or an LED light that is built right into the fixture and never needs changing.

Digital devices impact energy use

By Tom Tate

Ah, the Digital Age. We have gadgets galore, the ability to manage our homes in new and innovative ways, brilliant images and captivating sounds of modern entertainment options and, of course, the internet. Clearly, digital devices reign supreme. Yet these cool new capabilities come with a couple of pitfalls: vampire loads and the issue of “technology reincarnation.”

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Keep your information safe online

By Allison Goldberg

Keeping your personal information secure online might seem like a difficult task thanks in part to nearly constant news of breaches, bugs and hacks. Luckily, there are steps you can take to increase your online security and decrease the likelihood that a malicious hacker will steal your private data.

Be skeptical

Bring to your experiences online the same skepticism you'd bring in the brick-and-mortar world.

- You wouldn't provide your credit card number, Social Security number and mother's maiden name to a stranger on the street. Don't do it online. Only provide it to trusted sources on secure sites. Look for "https" in the website address or a padlock symbol in the address bar of your Web browser.
- If you receive an email purporting to be from a known entity like your bank or credit card provider asking you to click through to log-in to your account, instead go directly to the site by typing the URL into the address bar. You can also call the number on your card or visit the official website to inquire about the email.
- Use a credit card with consumer protections to shop online instead of your debit card, which would give a thief direct access to your checking or savings account. Try to use only one card for all your online purchases to further reduce risk exposure.

Don't overshare

Social media can be a fun way to share our lives, yet some things people post publically can compromise safety.

- Your birthdate is key information to accessing many accounts. If you want to share your birthday online, consider not sharing the year.
- Your mother's maiden name, your favorite pet, the street on which you grew up and even your favorite sports teams can be used to answer challenge questions to access various accounts. Keep this information shared with friends only, if possible, or pick nonfactual responses to use consistently in response to security challenge questions. "Favorite pet? Abraham Lincoln."
- Consider not using your full legal name on public social media accounts.

Arm yourself

It will be more difficult to keep your information secure online if your computer, tablet, smartphone, browser and home network are vulnerable.

- Secure your wireless network — and all your devices — with strong passcodes that use a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols. Some security experts suggest creating a sentence with personal meaning from which you can create an acronym. Change your passwords once every six months.
- Only use public wireless networks that are secure. If you must use an unsecured network, do not conduct financial transactions such as accessing your bank account.
- Make sure your operating system and browsers run with the latest updates and security patches.
- Use security software on your computers, and run regular scans.
- To keep digital documents safe, you can encrypt your computer, your tablet and even your phone. Alternatively, keep important or sensitive documents like medical records and tax returns on an external hard drive that isn't connected to the Internet; plug into it only when you must access those documents.
- Keep information safe offline, too. Securely shred any bills, financial statements, prescription labels, health information, receipts and similar documents that you do not need or want to keep. The personal information in these paper documents could compromise your identity both online and off. Consider opting-out of pre-approved credit offers that, if they fell in the wrong hands, could allow someone to apply for credit in your name. Go to www.optoutprescreen.com or call 800-5-OPTOUT.

Reduce, reuse, recycle and redact!

Before donating your old electronics to charity or taking them to your local e-recycler, delete all data. Instructions and apps exist to walk you through wiping your electronics clean of all traces of you, and it's an important part of keeping your personal correspondence and online identity out of the hands of strangers, ill-intentioned or otherwise.

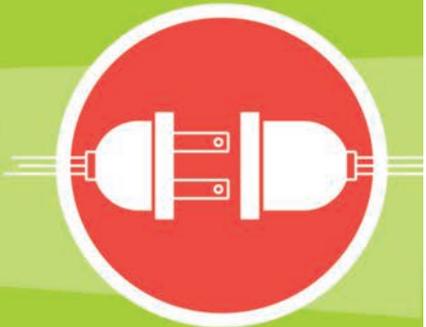
Allison Goldberg writes and edits employee benefits-related materials for the Insurance & Financial Services Department of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy-efficient than incandescent bulbs.

Connect each strand to test holiday lights before hanging them.



Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.

Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.



Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using clips to keep the bulbs upright.

Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.



WINTER WORD SEARCH



**Energy
Explorers**



Find these words hidden in the puzzle below:

BRRR

CHILLY

HOT CHOCOLATE

ICE SKATE

ICICLE

MITTENS

SCARF

SNOWFLAKE

SNOWMAN

WINTER

R	I	L	U	J	M	Q	T	G	S	R	I	R	P	S
Q	D	C	X	G	C	S	N	O	E	Q	W	E	R	N
N	N	Z	I	R	V	I	T	T	D	H	M	O	W	E
K	A	X	R	C	J	N	N	W	F	O	X	P	T	T
I	K	M	X	R	L	I	K	A	D	T	S	H	A	T
C	B	A	W	H	W	E	W	S	I	C	C	V	D	I
T	P	S	D	O	M	Q	N	U	G	H	A	F	H	M
Q	K	U	Z	V	N	O	N	M	V	O	R	O	O	X
F	U	G	C	A	W	S	J	L	X	C	F	U	U	L
R	O	Q	T	F	C	F	Y	D	K	O	G	E	Q	B
R	L	W	L	D	P	W	L	A	E	L	K	D	R	G
E	T	A	K	S	E	C	I	B	G	A	J	R	W	R
R	K	B	U	C	H	I	L	L	Y	T	R	E	V	X
E	L	T	M	F	F	O	Y	I	K	E	Q	X	A	A
D	W	F	O	L	I	X	I	X	B	L	O	R	O	Y

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Connect with us at
stemc.com or on



MERRY CHRISTMAS

As your Christmas tree twinkles with lights
And the porch light shines for relatives ...
As you sing along with carols on the radio
And snuggle up to a holiday movie classic ...
As the turkey roasts in the oven
And your home is nice and warm ...

We'll be here, 24 hours a day,
Seven days a week, providing the
Electricity that helps make holidays
Special, safe and warm.



*From our families to yours ... Merry Christmas from
Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation.*



Blast from the Past

It has been a tradition among Southwest Tennessee Electric employees to share their favorite Christmas recipes in each December issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*. This year, to honor our 80th anniversary, we have decided to go back to some of our past issues and select a few recipes that were published in the magazine years ago. We hope you have enjoyed the recipes from our past issues and look forward to sharing more Christmas recipes in the future.

Deer Roll-Ups

- Deer steak, tenderized
- Dale's seasoning
- Onion
- Jalapeno pickled strips
- Banana peppers (optional)
- Bacon (Wright's preferred) cut in halves
- Toothpicks and/or metal skewers

Marinate steaks in seasoning for about 30 minutes. Cut steaks in strips about 2 inches wide by 3 inches long. Wrap steak strips around a piece of onion and jalapeno and/or banana pepper strips. Wrap in bacon and secure with a toothpick or place on a metal skewer. Grill until golden brown (caution: watch for grease fires). Remove toothpick or take off skewers and enjoy.

December 2007 issue
Submitted by Chris Fisher, lineman
in the Covington STEMC office

Golden Rum Cake

- 1 cup chopped pecans and walnuts
 - 1 box yellow cake mix
 - 1 small box vanilla instant pudding
 - 4 eggs
 - 1/2 cup cold water
 - 1/2 cup vegetable oil
 - 1/2 cup rum
- Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease and flour 12-cup Bundt pan. (You also can use 2 small Bundt pans.) Sprinkle nuts in bottom of pan. Mix all cake ingredients together. Pour batter over nuts. Bake 1 hour, checking after 50 minutes, especially if you use small pans.

Glaze:

- 1 stick butter
 - 1/2 cup water
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 1/2 cup rum
- Melt butter in sauce pan. Stir in water and sugar. Boil 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in rum. Before removing cake from pan, take a toothpick and punch holes in cake. Spoon glaze slowly over the cake until it is all absorbed. Let set in pan for 15-20 minutes. Remove from pan. This cake freezes well.

December 1994 issue
Submitted by Peggy Portis, a retired
employee of STEMC

Oyster Casserole

- 2 pints oysters
- 3/4 to 1 stick butter or oleo
- 1 1/2 cups saltine cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup milk
- Liquid from oysters

Drain oysters, reserve liquid, Grease a 2 1/2 quart round casserole with butter. Layer casserole dish starting with a layer of cracker crumbs and ending with cracker crumbs. Dot each layer of oysters with butter. Warm oyster liquid and 1/2 cup milk. Pour over casserole up to the top of cracker crumbs. Bake in preheated oven at 325 degrees for 25 minutes. Casserole will be very moist.

December 2001 issue
In memory of STEMC employee,
Lisa Biggs, 11-24-2011

When the lightbulb goes off

How inventors get ideas — and why that's just the beginning

By Paul Wesslund

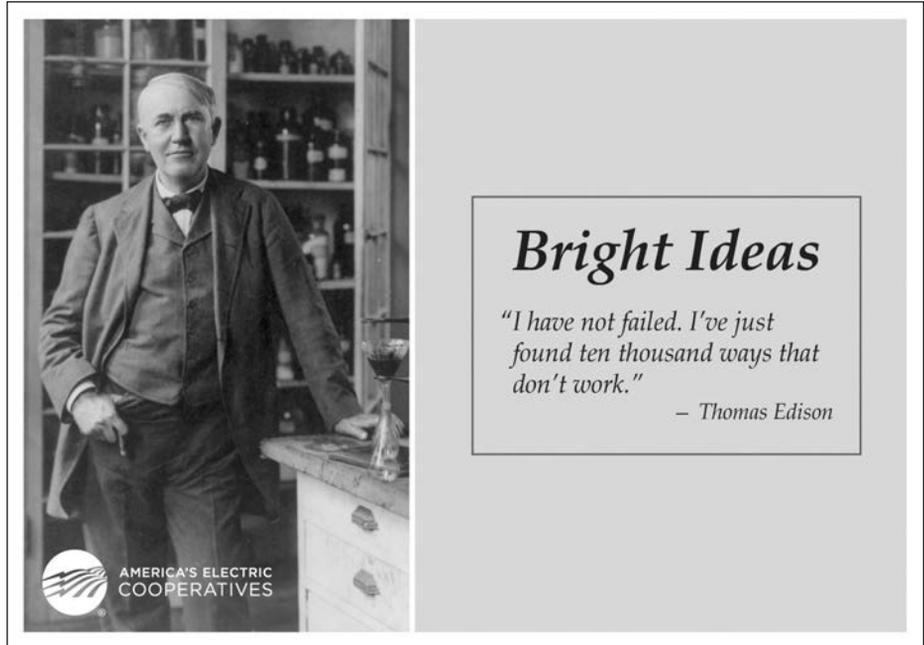
If you're in search of a holiday gift for your favorite energy buff, consider the new novel by award-winning screenwriter Graham Moore.

Moore tells the story of the legal, technical and public relations battle between Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse in the late 1800s that gave us the electric system we use today.

"The Last Days of Night," fiction based on fact, gives an entertaining look at the fight between Westinghouse's system of alternating current (AC) and Edison's plan to use direct current (DC) to power America.

But the book is also about the process of invention and how ideas become reality. Each chapter starts with a quotation from a noted inventor. As we prepare for a new year with new possibilities, let's take a look at some of the creative quotes shared in "The Last Days of Night:"

- "I have not failed. I've just found ten thousand ways that don't work." — Thomas Edison
- "... half of what separates the successful entrepreneurs from the unsuccessful ones is pure perseverance." — Steve Jobs



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons: holiday gatherings, houseguests and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

- "High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation." — Charles F. Kettering, inventor of the electrical starter
- "Headlines, in a way, are what mislead you, because bad news is a headline and gradual improvement is not." — Bill Gates
- "You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else." — Albert Einstein
- "We often miss opportunity because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work." — Thomas Edison
- "Technology is nothing. What's important is that you have a faith in people, that they're basically good and smart, and if you give them tools, they'll do wonderful things with them." — Steve Jobs

I hope these quotes inspire you as they did me. Moore's "The Last Days of Night" is available for purchase through most major book retailers. It's a great gift idea for any energy buff — or any creative genius, for that matter.

Paul Wesslund 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.

EnergyRight® Solutions for Business/Industry

Save money. Save energy. Start now.



Congratulations to White Oak Stave Company, which recently purchased new energy-efficient blowers for its Medon manufacturing facility. Above, STEMC's Tina Morris, right, presents Denise White with the incentive check.



STEMC's Marilyn Means, center, presents an incentive check to plant manager Mart Rowe, left, and controller Cindy Smith following Henderson Stamping and Production's recent purchase of energy-efficient electric forklifts. Maintenance manager Mickey Powers sits on one of the new pieces of equipment.



The EnergyRight Solutions for Business/Industry program is a partnership between the Tennessee Valley Authority and Southwest Tennessee Electric. For more information on how your company can improve energy efficiency and earn rebates, contact Phillip Mullins at Southwest at 731-585-0502 or pmullins@stemc.com. You can also visit www.energyright.com.



Our offices
will be closed
Monday,
Dec. 26, 2016,
and
Monday,
Jan. 2, 2017.

'Tis the season of giving

Project Help

The cooperative way of business is special because co-ops are owned by the consumers they serve and guided by a set of seven principles that reflect the best interests of those consumers.

Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation has always applied our seven principles to our communities. Cooperative Principle No. 7 is **Concern for Community:**

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies accepted by the members.



Project Help is a way the cooperative can help fellow members in the community who are struggling and in need. All donations go to local agencies that provide people with financial assistance during emergencies.

You can donate to Project Help by adding a small amount to your monthly electric bill for as many months as you choose. With the holiday season approaching, this is a good way to give back to your community. Ask for a donation form by contacting your local STEMC office.

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Most incandescent bulbs are banned from stores by now. But if you still have some burning in lamps or overhead light fixtures, now is a good time to change them.

Using less energy for lighting means a lower energy bill for you — and more money to spend on stocking-stuffers!

It's unlikely that your little ones have asked Santa for a gift of energy savings. Offer it as a gag gift, and take the opportunity to teach your children about how the new lightbulbs can reduce energy use — and make the kiddos proud to be doing their part to help the environment.



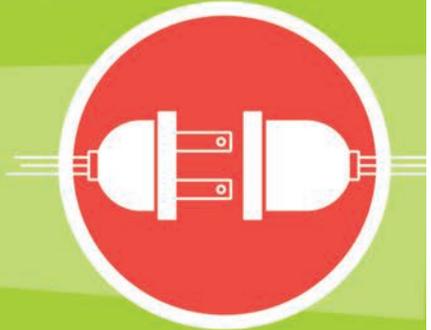
Surprise them, too, with a fun, new bedroom lamp that burns the funny-looking, twisted lightbulbs — or an LED light that is built right into the fixture and never needs changing.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy-efficient than incandescent bulbs.

Connect each strand to test holiday lights before hanging them.



Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.

Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.



Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using clips to keep the bulbs upright.

Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

November riddle — clue No. 2

In our November issue, a riddle was posted. A \$100 bill credit will be issued to the member who solves the riddle. As of the time of printing this issue, the riddle has not been solved. We are giving you another clue to help you solve the riddle.

Past issues of *The Tennessee Magazine* can be viewed at www.stemc.com.

**In the middle of the state,
You'll see "Sunrise at the Lake."
From an October "Point of View,"
You will find clue No. 2.**

Send answers to Tina Morris at tmorris@stemc.com or mail to 1009 E. Main St., Brownsville, TN 38012.

All you want for Christmas is ... a good heating contractor?

Fed up with technicians who don't show up on time or don't know what they're doing when they arrive? Having trouble trusting your contractors because you've been burned by too many in the past? Afraid you're being overcharged for a big purchase like a new heating and cooling system?

Here are five ways to find a good HVAC contractor:

- 1. Do your homework.** Know which kinds of licenses and insurance the state requires for the specialists you need to hire. Also, learn about your HVAC system; the more you know, the more you can tell potential contractors.
- 2. Ask your friends.** If someone you trust trusts a certain contractor, you might, too.
- 3. Check them out.** Always call the contractor's references. If the tech can't provide any, find a different tech.
- 4. Take your time.** Don't rush your decision when hiring. And then, don't rush the contractors when they come over to give you an estimate. To make a fair evaluation, an HVAC contractor needs to spend some time inspecting the system you already have; checking out your ducts, windows and insulation; and asking you questions about your family's needs.
- 5. Get it in writing.** Ask for written, itemized estimates. Then, compare each contractor's bid for cost, energy efficiency and warranties. The lowest price isn't always the best deal. Before work starts or money changes hands, sign the contract, and insist that the contractor sign it, too.

Southwest News — December 1956

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK

SHOP Early

Make It an Electrical Christmas This Year ...

With Gifts Like These

LIVE BETTER... Electrically

©, NIBCA, 1956

GIVE ELECTRICAL GIFTS THIS CHRISTMAS

Give Yourself BETTER LIVING THE YEAR 'ROUND Electrically

Play Santa Claus to yourself this Christmas. Instead of spending your hard-earned money for "knick-knacks" and "doo-dads", buy the electrical appliances you need and enjoy better living the year around. Give yourself convenience, comfort and more time for the things you really want to do. For lasting satisfaction and enjoyment, there are no finer gifts "to the family from the family" than time-saving, work-saving, money-saving electrical appliances.

Electrical Gifts	
For Farm Production	For the Home
Water Pumps	Lighting Fixtures
Brooders	Ranges
Milking Machines	Refrigerators
Milk Coolers	Cheese
Blenders	Clothes Driers
Concrete Mixers	Blankets
Unloaders	Pasteurizers
Barb Cleaners	Fans
Chain Motors	Selsas
Hay Finishers	Clocks
Air Compressors	Clothes Washers
Portable Drills	Coffee Makers
Conveyors	Flat Irons
Floodlights	Food Mixers
Incubators	Ironing Machines
Fanily Lighting	Portable Heaters
Water Warmers	Radios
Animal Clippers	Razors
Water Heaters	Boosters
Dairy Sterilizers	Sewing Machines
Paint Sprayers	Toasters
Tool Grinders	Vacuum Cleaners
Feed Grinders	Waffle Irons
Corn Shellers	Running Water
Ventilating	Water Heaters
Food Mixers	Water Softeners
Food Freezers	Dishwashers

December 2016 www.tnmagazine.org

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Holiday Gift Guide

History for Kids: *Pioneer Alex Stewart*

Tennessee's Pipe Organ Craftsmen

Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

Book Review: *Land Grants on the Elk*

Recipes That Stick Together

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Toll-free — 800-923-2203

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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,
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Telephone — 931-592-2511

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**SVEC Holiday
Food Drive**

Bring in six nonperishable
food items and receive a
free gift, while supplies last.



AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Giving back is the co-op way

This year, we have been celebrating the “cooperative difference” and all of the things that make this area “Co-op Strong.” As some of you might know, cooperatives across the globe adhere to the same Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all of our decisions — from how we run the co-op to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for Community is the seventh principle, and it is one that all employees of Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative value year-round. But during the upcoming holiday season, concern for community seems especially important.



Mike Partin
SVEC CEO

Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back. SVEC is certainly proud of the programs our employees have been involved in this year and in the past 77 years of service to our communities.

It was announced that the **SVEC Relay for Life team** from Marion County has raised and turned in more than \$17,000 for the American Cancer Society’s fight against cancer in the past year. Most of that total was raised during the 2015 Relay for Life Christmas Auction. What better way to celebrate the Christmas season than supporting the fight against cancer? Our team members are already gearing up for the 2016 Relay for Life Auction to be held Thursday, Dec. 15 at our South Pittsburg office.

But the Relay for Life Auction isn’t our only holiday program giving back to the community. Our annual **Food Drive and Angel Tree programs** kicked off Nov. 1. Each SVEC member who donates six nonperishable food items or \$5 will receive, while supplies last, a gift in appreciation for the donation. All the food and money donated will be given to the food bank in the

county where it was collected. While they are visiting their local SVEC offices, members can also pick up an “angel” with the name of a child or a nursing home resident whose family may not be able to provide gifts this Christmas. We ask that the gifts be returned by Monday, Dec. 5, to ensure they can be delivered in plenty of time for Christmas. What a great way to brighten someone’s Christmas morning.

Giving back isn’t just for the holiday season. SVEC members help us give back all year long through the **SVECares program**. Participating members allow SVEC to round up their electric bills to the next dollar with the extra change going toward helping those in need right

here in our community. Since the program began in 2000, SVEC members have donated and put back into our communities more than \$2 million to assist those in need and help fund organizations that contribute to improving the quality of life in the SVEC service area.

So many families go without and struggle to make ends meet on a daily basis. This struggle can be especially hard during the holiday season.

There are many ways you can give back to the community that go beyond dollar donations. Take some time to go through your closets and find clothes that no longer fit or have lost their use. Bag those items up and take them to your local Salvation Army, Goodwill or church clothing drive. Volunteer for a local food or toy drive, deliver meals to the sick and the elderly or simply make a meal for a neighbor in need.

No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community, making it “Co-op Strong.” So take the time to give back during the upcoming holiday season. Share your blessings, and share the joy. You’ll be glad you did.

For more information on SVEC’s holiday programs and SVECares, visit www.svalleyec.com.



Merry Christmas



Your Marion County SVEC friends and family

And best wishes for a safe and happy New Year!



Your Sequatchie County SVEC friends and family



Your Grundy County SVEC friends and family



Your Bledsoe County SVEC friends and family



Your SV Propane friends and family

*All SVEC offices will be closed
Friday, Dec. 23,
Monday, Dec. 26,
and Monday, Jan. 2,
for Christmas and New Year's.
In case of outage or emergency,
please call 1-888-421-7832.*

Fall Creek Falls State Park

The perfect gift for everyone on your list!

Every year around this time, people struggle with what to give loved ones who seemingly have everything they could want or need. The perfect answer may just be a visit to Fall Creek Falls State Park, the “jewel” of the Tennessee State Park System as well as the largest. It is also one of the most-visited parks in the South with more than 1 million visitors per year.

“Fall Creek Falls is a ‘destination’ park,” stated Park Superintendent Jacob Young. “When you come all the way out here, this is most likely where you were headed. You are coming to spend more than just an hour or so.”

When asked what brings so many people to the park in rural Van Buren County, Young quickly answered, “For the beauty of the natural surroundings,” almost as quickly as the Inn’s restaurant manager, Zonda Holloway, claimed, “For the food!” John Fonville, manager of the Inn, said, “For the cabins.”

The truth is, with such a wide variety of recreational offerings, Fall Creek Falls State Park truly has “something for everyone.”

The great outdoors

The No. 1 attraction at the park is the park’s namesake waterfall. Spectacular Fall Creek Falls is the highest waterfall east of the Rockies. But there are other falls in the park as well — Piney Falls, Cane Creek Falls and Cane Creek Cascades. Though not as tall as Fall Creek Falls, they are quite beautiful and impressive. Many people come just to see the falls, not realizing the vast recreational opportunities available on the more than 26,000 acres, most of which are wild and undeveloped.

For the outdoor enthusiast, this vast natural area provides a number of activities for both the adventurous and the more conservative to explore and enjoy. Among them are camping, hiking, rock-climbing, repelling, zip lining, caving, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, paddle-boating, birding, golfing at one of the finest courses in the state and swimming in a newly renovated, heated swimming pool. “We also have some of the best swimming holes around,” said Young.

The Inn, cabins and restaurant

Those looking for a more laid-back vacation will enjoy spending time in the comfort of the Inn, which overlooks the lake or in one of the more private cabins. The lakeside Fisherman Cabins — one-story, three-bedroom or two-story, two-bedroom units — feature decks that are right over the water, wood-burning fireplaces

and full kitchens. The one-story, two-bedroom Landside Cabins are tucked in the woods where you may spot deer and other wildlife from the deck. They, too, feature full kitchens and boast gas fireplaces.

Those looking for a great dining experience will not want to miss the Fall Creek Falls Restaurant’s Friday night surf-and-turf buffet with fish and seafood as well as prime rib, barbecue ribs and more. Saturday’s special is “Crazy Chicken” night that features a full buffet of chicken cooked every way imaginable — from fried chicken to hot wings and homemade chicken pot pie. However, you’ll find a great dining experience every day with a breakfast, lunch and dinner buffet featuring a variety of entrees and side dishes, a salad bar and homemade desserts and breads — all at an affordable price.

Special events

Throughout the year are a number of special weekend events for park visitors with varying interests.

Coming up soon — Dec. 2-4 — is Christmas on the Mountain, a weekend of holiday music, handmade crafts and children’s activities to get you into the spirit of the season. Then start the New Year off right with the Winter Waterfall Tour, which includes the falls in the park and in other nearby parks and natural areas.

During the dark of the moon each month, the park hosts star-gazing weekends with astronomers from Vanderbilt University’s Dyer Observatory, the Cumberland Astronomical Society and the Astronomy in the Park Society. The weekends feature talks and discus-

sions on astronomy, constellations



Unique, handmade gifts and a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Claus are highlights of the annual Christmas on the Mountain Festival.



and lunar lore. If weather permits, visitors can also get a look at the night sky through a powerful telescope. The free events are aimed at both beginning stargazers and experienced astronomers.

Fall Creek Falls, fortunate to be in the path of the total solar eclipse on Aug. 21, 2017, will host special events for viewing the natural phenomenon as well.

Each September, the park hosts the Mountaineer Festival celebrating the old-time crafts, music and skills of the people who settled in the Cumberland Mountains.

Another unique event is the annual Wild Foods Day in October. Hikes are held through the natural areas to identify edible plants in the woods and demonstrations are presented on preparing breads and wild meats, but the highlight of the day is the Wild Foods Feast.

Environmental education programs are conducted year-round in the nature center for small groups visiting the park, and more organized programs are available for school groups. The park has been named a "Certified Green Hospitality" facility and conducts the most successful recycling program in the state. "We actually make money on the program," said Park Superintendent Young.

Packages for everyone on your list

If you are looking for the perfect gift for your loved one consider one of the Inn and Restaurant's packages. Designed for a number of occasions, packages include special pricing for rooms and meals during the park's weekend events. Also available are honeymoon and anniversary packages as well as backpacking, waterfall tour and golfing packages available year-round. There is even a wedding package for those who would like to get married at the park!

The park is busiest in July with vacationers visiting the falls and swimming holes and in October for the glorious fall color. But each season at the park presents its own unique beauty and wonder.

"Winter is the slowest season at the park," stated Fonville. "But it's my favorite. Some people prefer to come in the winter when they can enjoy the quiet peace of the lake and woods without the crowds or to play in the snow. The temperature here year-round is about 7 degrees colder than in the Valley, so we are more likely to get snow. The state and county are good about keeping the roads open to the park, but we have to close the road to the falls when it gets icy."

If you are not sure which of the activities the people on your gift list would enjoy most, the Tennessee State Park System now offers gift cards that can be used in any park.

Purchase your gift cards online at tnstateparks.com or at any state park.

Economic impact

Fall Creek Falls State Park, with 104 full-time employees and 179 during peak season, is one of the largest employers in the rural Van Buren and Bledsoe County area. With \$6 million in revenue annually, the local tax base is highly dependent upon the success of the park and its hospitality division. And the park is doing well, according to Fonville: "This is the busiest I've seen it in the past 10 years. Advertising is better now. Using social media and the website, we are reaching new audiences

and the economy, and the gas prices of the past few years have people vacationing closer to home. Our central location near Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga helps a lot, too.

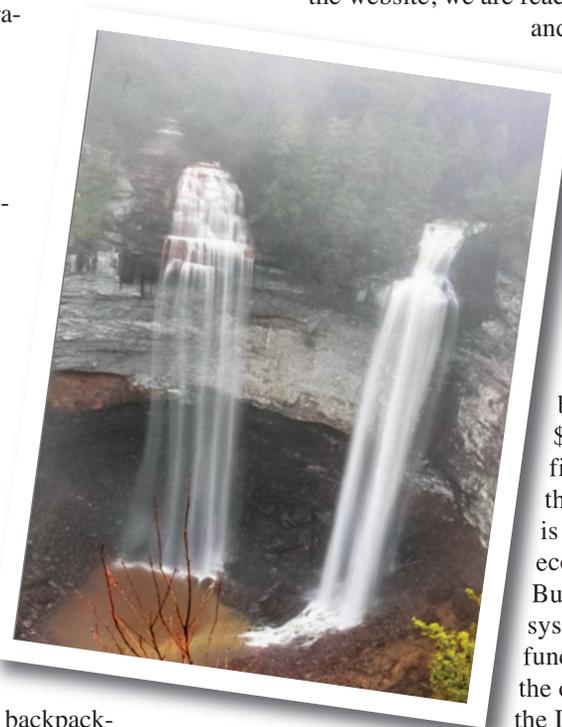
"We have already brought in more than \$2 million in just the first four months of the fiscal year, which is great for the local economy. The Van Buren County school system is pretty much funded by revenue from the occupancy tax from the Inn, cabins and campgrounds. And every dollar

brought in is multiplied 15 to 18 times when our employees spend their paychecks in the area and our visitors spend additional money to buy gas and visit other nearby attractions."

The state has appropriated funds in the past few years for renovation of park facilities. Improvements have been completed on the swimming pool, Village Green buildings and about half of the very popular Fisherman Cabins. The Recreation Hall and Park Office are due to be redone in the next phase, and plans for upgrading the Inn, which opened in the early 1970s, are under discussion.

"Like any business," Fonville said, "we have challenges ahead, but we take them one step at a time. Our staff is like family, and we want to take care of them the best we can."

Successful enterprises such as Fall Creek Falls State Park that are looking out for their employees, the environment and the local economy are what make our area "Co-op Strong."



SVEC Senior Expos — 18 years of information, services and fun!

In 1999, Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative began a new tradition of service with the first Senior Expo — a health and information fair for those SVEC members 55 and older and their caregivers. The idea was to bring together the senior population with local businesses and organizations offering information, products and services to meet their unique needs. The crowds, the services offered and the numbers of vendors have grown over the years, and while celebrating the 18th annual series of Senior Expos this year, SVEC served a total of nearly 400 seniors and their caregivers in the four events.

The 2016 Senior Expos held Oct. 11-12 in Sequatchie and Bledsoe counties and Oct. 18-19 in Marion and Grundy counties were a part of SVEC's celebration of National Cooperative Month and a demonstration of our commitment to community.

Nearly 90 different local health-care providers, businesses and agencies offered area seniors 55 and older access to a number of valuable medical services and information free of charge — an average of more than 30 businesses and organizations exhibited at each event.

Each expo featured free cholesterol and blood sugar screenings offered by Erlanger Bledsoe in Sequatchie and Bledsoe counties and by Parkridge West Hospital in Marion and Grundy counties. Flu shots were provided by representatives from Rite Aid, Fred's and CVS pharmacies. Blood pressure screenings were conducted by local healthcare providers, and some locations offered vision and other screenings.

In keeping with October's Breast Cancer Awareness initiative, a representative from Memorial Hospital's Mary Ellen Locher Breast Health Center was on hand to discuss the



Free health screenings and valuable information of interest to those 55 and older were available at all four of the SVEC sponsored Senior Expos held in October.

importance of early detection in the prevention of breast cancer and to provide scheduling information for the Memorial mobile coach visit to each of the counties in early 2017.

The schedule is as follows:

Jan. 18 — Marion County Health Department, Jasper

Jan. 31 — First Southern Baptist Church, Pikeville

Feb. 8 — Sequatchie County Senior Center, Dunlap

March 15 — Grundy County EMS office, Coalmont

For more information on the dates and locations in your area or to schedule an appointment, call the Mary Ellen Locher Breast Center at 423-495-4040.

This year's informational sessions included several very helpful topics such as Medicare, CHOICES in long-term health care common legal questions.

Participants were served a light breakfast sponsored by SVEC and a

delicious lunch of soup, sandwiches, cookies and soft drinks donated by SVEC and local restaurants.

A drawing for several very nice door prizes donated by the exhibitors concluded each morning's activities.

"SVEC is very proud to have sponsored and coordinated these events," stated SVEC President/CEO Mike Partin. "Not only do our Senior Expos provide valuable information and health services for our members, they also give our local businesses and human resources agencies the opportunity to showcase the products and services that are available locally. By letting people know that they can find the services they need close to home, we promote economic growth in our service area rather than sending business to the larger cities."

Working together to provide needed services and information for our senior population helps make us "Co-op Strong."



SVEC teams up to beat cancer

There is hardly anyone who hasn't been touched by cancer in some way. Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative and its employees and members have been working together in the fight for a cure since the first Relay for Life walk in Marion County in 2002.

In those 14 years, the SVEC team of employees and family and friends in Marion, Grundy, Sequatchie and Bledsoe counties have raised well in excess of \$100,000 to support the American Cancer Association's efforts to find a cure for cancer.

This kind of fundraising success is not the result of donations by the members of the co-op's Relay for Life teams alone. It takes the support of the business community and individual members who also donate items to the annual SVEC Relay for Life Christmas Silent Auction and Soup-er Luncheon and those who come out to bid on and purchase the donated items and services. It takes the co-op employees and their family members and friends from across our system volunteering for other fundraising activities

such as the SVEC booth at the National Cornbread Festival where donations are accepted for Relay for Life in return for samples of SVEC's famous Salsa Cornbread.

The battle against cancer has also been supported by the generosity of SVEC members who donate the spare change between their actual SVEC electric bill and the "rounded-up" amount to the **SVECares program** each month. Since the program began in 2000, tens of thousands of dollars each year has been granted to individual SVEC members undergoing treatment for cancer. In addition, a combined total of nearly \$27,000 in grants has been made to organizations that provide support to individuals — the Multi-County Cancer Support Group, Sequatchie County Cancer Support Group and the American Cancer Society.

If you would like to add your support to the efforts, make a donation to one of these organizations, get involved in your local Relay for Life and, if you aren't currently participating in the **SVECares program**,

contact your local SVEC office and ask to be added. Consider donating items to the SVEC Relay for Life Christmas Auction, and join us for a great meal and lots of fun in bidding on all the great items and services that have been donated. It is a great way to do your Christmas shopping while also supporting research that may give the gift of life to someone you love.

The 2016 auction will be held at the SVEC South

Pittsburg office at 512 S. Cedar Ave. The auction items will be on display beginning Tuesday, Dec. 13, in the community room. Bids can be placed through the end of the luncheon and auction, which takes place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15.

Teaming up to help each other in times of trouble: It's another quality that makes our area "Co-op Strong."



The annual SVEC Relay for Life Christmas Auction is a great place to find quality Christmas gifts while also contributing to the American Cancer Society's fight to end cancer. Join us Thursday, Dec. 15, at the SVEC office in South Pittsburg.

SVEC to conduct telephone survey on member satisfaction

Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative frequently warns our members to be cautious of telephone calls claiming to be from SVEC. In December, however, SVEC, in conjunction with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), will be conducting a telephone survey, calling some of our members and asking them to participate by answering a series of questions. The purpose of the survey is to measure our members' satisfaction with the service they receive from their electric cooperative and to gauge their interest in possible new services.

Callers will identify themselves, saying they're conducting the survey on behalf of SVEC and NRECA. They will **NOT** ask for payment of any kind or any personal or financial account information such as Social Security or bank account numbers.

Information gained from this survey will help SVEC make informed decisions relating to your SVEC service. We ask that you please participate and provide your honest opinions if you're called to be a part of this survey. Your thoughts and opinions are very important to our planning process. If you receive a phone call at any time that you believe to be a scam, please hang up and call your local SVEC office to report it.

SVEC Co-op Strong trivia contest

One Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative member who correctly answers the trivia question below will be awarded a gift certificate for dinner and a night's stay for two at the Fall Creek Falls Inn and Restaurant. The answer will be found by reading the SVEC section.

Send the answer by postcard or email (no phone calls, please). Mail entries to SVEC — Co-op Strong Trivia; P.O. Box 31, South Pittsburg, TN 37380 or email entries to memberservices@svalleyec.com. Please remember to include your name and contact information on your entry. Entries must be postmarked or received via email by Tuesday, Jan. 3. One winner selected from a random drawing of the correct entries will be named in the SVEC section of the February issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

Thank you to all those who entered the October contest. The correct answer to the question, "In what year did the Cookie Jar Cafe Open?" is **"2002."** Congratulations to Shirley Williams of Monteagle whose correct answer was drawn, earning her a \$50 Cookie Jar Cafe gift card and a pumpkin-shaped cookie jar filled with homemade cookies.



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Visit www.svalleyec.com for details.
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*November Co-op Strong trivia question:
What natural phenomenon occurring
Aug. 21, 2017,
will be visible from Fall Creek Falls State Park?*



Correctly answer the trivia question at left, and you could win dinner and a night's stay at Fall Creek Falls State Park Inn and Restaurant. Above, Restaurant Manager Zonda Holloway holds a gift certificate for a buffet dinner for two.

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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

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Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

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Website: www.tcemc.org

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270-864-3871

Celina Office
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P.O. Box 369
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205 East St.
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270-432-4242

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P.O. Box 67, Hartsville, TN 37074
615-374-2986

Scottsville Office
Blanton Calvert, Operations Superintendent
620 Veterans Memorial Highway
P.O. Box 479, Scottsville, KY 42164
270-237-4418

Tompkinsville Office
Mike Davis, Operations Superintendent
919 N. Main
P.O. Box 278, Tompkinsville, KY 42167
270-487-6761

Westmoreland Office
Blanton Calvert, Operations Superintendent
Austin Peay Highway
P.O. Box 178, Westmoreland, TN 37186
615-644-2221

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AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

'The Spirit of Christmas'

Turn on the television news, and it seems almost every story is negative — filled with reports of vandalism, violence and protest. Many politicians, journalists and even athletes appear to be focused on how we are different instead of looking for areas/issues where we can unite. The fact is, as Americans, we are the most blessed people in the world. We need to work together to assist those in need regardless of race, religion or national origin. Although these concerns are very real, perhaps they provide even more reason to stop and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

The following poem, "The Spirit of Christmas," by an unknown author expresses the meaning behind sending a Christmas card. I believe, regardless of whether you send any Christmas cards, the greatest blessing of the holiday season is the treasure of true friendship.



Paul Thompson
Executive Vice
President and
General Manager,
Tri-County Electric

*I have a list of people I know
All written in a book
And every year at Christmastime
I go and take a look*

*So when I send a Christmas card
That is addressed to you
It's because you're on that list
Of folk I'm indebted to*

*And that is when I realize
That those names are a part
Not of the book they're written in
But of my very heart*

*And you are one of many folk who
In times past I've met
And happen to be one of those
I don't want to forget*

*For each name stands for someone
Who has crossed my path some time
And in that meeting they've become
A treasured friend of mine*

*And whether I have known you for
Many years or few
In some way you have a part in
Shaping things I do*

*And once you've met some people
The years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word
Or a friendly face*

*This, the spirit of Christmas, that
Forever and ever endures
May it leave it richest blessing
In the hearts of you and yours.*

Thank you for allowing Tri-County Electric to not only provide your electric service but also to be a part of your community. The board of directors, management and employees of Tri-County Electric wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season!

Tri-County Electric participates in 4-H Electric Camp



Bobby Crowder at 4-H Electric Camp

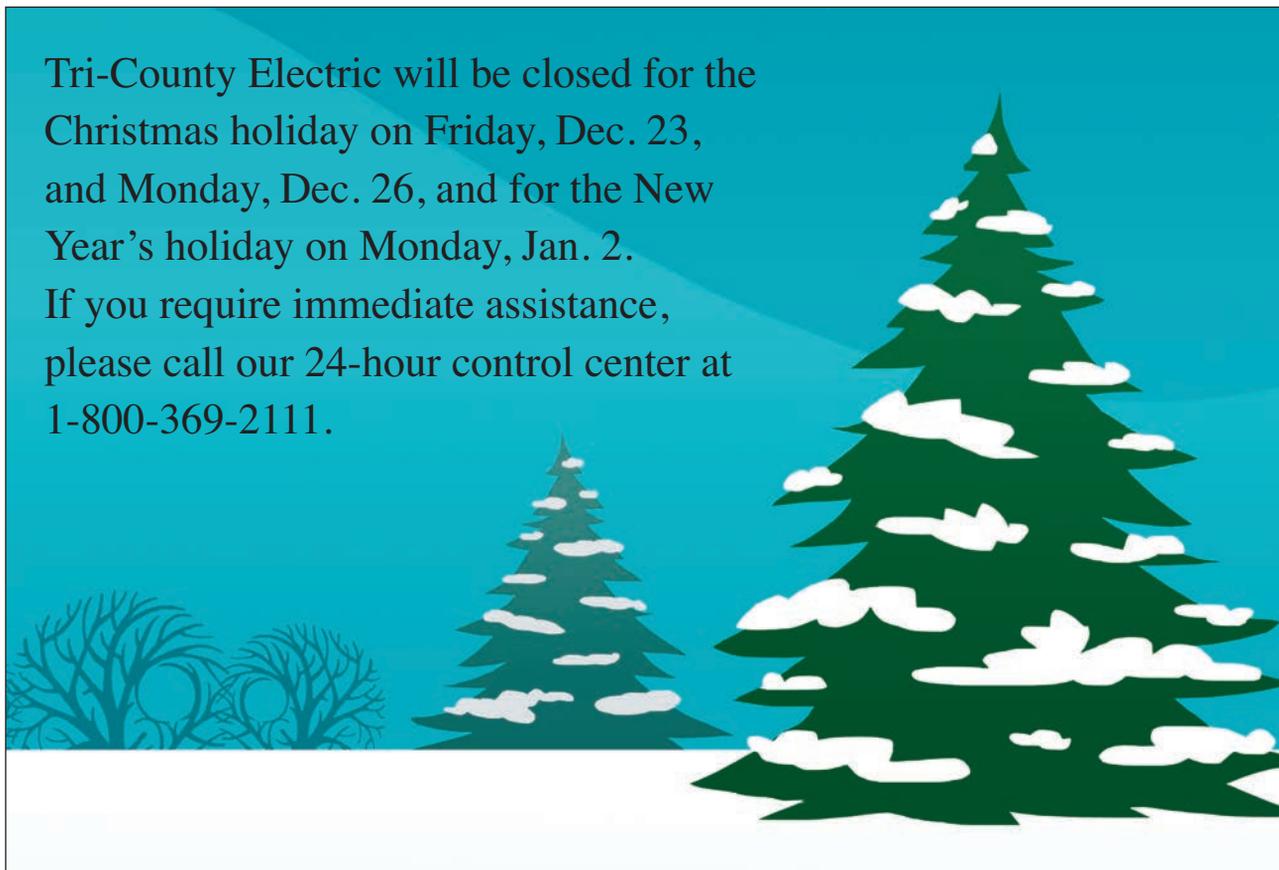
Enthusiastic 4-H'ers traveled to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville this summer to attend the 2016 4-H Electric Camp. The annual event brings hundreds of seventh- and eighth-grade students from across the state to the UT campus to learn about electricity.

Bobby Crowder represented Tri-County Electric as an instructor in the fun-filled, hands-on learning centers that taught students about energy, electricity and basic sciences. Also helping as a camp assistant was Zachary Goad, grandson of Tri-County Electric director Ray Goad.

4-H Electric Camp is made possible through a unique partnership of UT Extension, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and its member cooperatives like Tri-County Electric, systems of the Tennessee Municipal Power Association, the Tennessee Valley Authority and other industry donors.

Tri-County Electric will be closed for the Christmas holiday on Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, and for the New Year's holiday on Monday, Jan. 2.

If you require immediate assistance, please call our 24-hour control center at 1-800-369-2111.



Project WET



Garon West, son of Tri-County Electric Lafayette District employee Chad and Leslie West, looks for fossils at Project WET.

Tri-County Electric is committed to providing environmental education to the youth in our community by participating in Project WET, an international, interdisciplinary water science and education program for formal and nonformal educators of local elementary school students. Tri-County Electric Marketing Assistant Tracy Roark represented the co-op at the Project WET event, which took place in September at the local Red Boiling Springs park.

In Tennessee, the mission of Project WET is to help communities provide water education to their students with the goal of reducing nonpoint source pollution and improving water quality. Students from Red Boiling Springs, Lafayette and Westside elementary schools participated in interactive learning stations covering the hydrological cycle, properties of water, water conservation and the aquatic wildlife found in Tennessee streams.

Tri-County Electric joins Nestle Waters and Austin Peay State University as contributors to this annual event.

Four ways to waste energy this winter

What are the biggest mistakes homeowners make when it comes to energy use? Here are four major ones, according to Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories:

- 1. Buying big.** Many homes have furnaces and air conditioners that are way too big. Sales reps often try to sell big units because they cost more. But an oversized unit wastes energy and will cost you more in the long run on heating and cooling bills than a smaller one that is properly sized for your home and your family's lifestyle.
- 2. Overlooking leaks.** When you replace your heating and air-conditioning system, get your ducts checked for leaks. Even the most-efficient, most-expensive system won't perform at peak if

heated or conditioned air is escaping through the ducts.

- 3. Under-insulating.** Heat rises, so it makes sense to insulate your home's attic. But it's equally important to insulate floors over a basement or crawl space as well as your walls and windows. Conditioned air can leak out of your home from almost any uninsulated space.
- 4. Skipping fans.** Ceiling fans and portable fans can help circulate heated or conditioned air, which gives your home's HVAC system a break — and allows you to turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Fans use little electricity but can make a big difference in how comfortable you feel in the room where one is running.

When the lightbulb goes off

How inventors get ideas — and why that's just the beginning

By Paul Wesslund

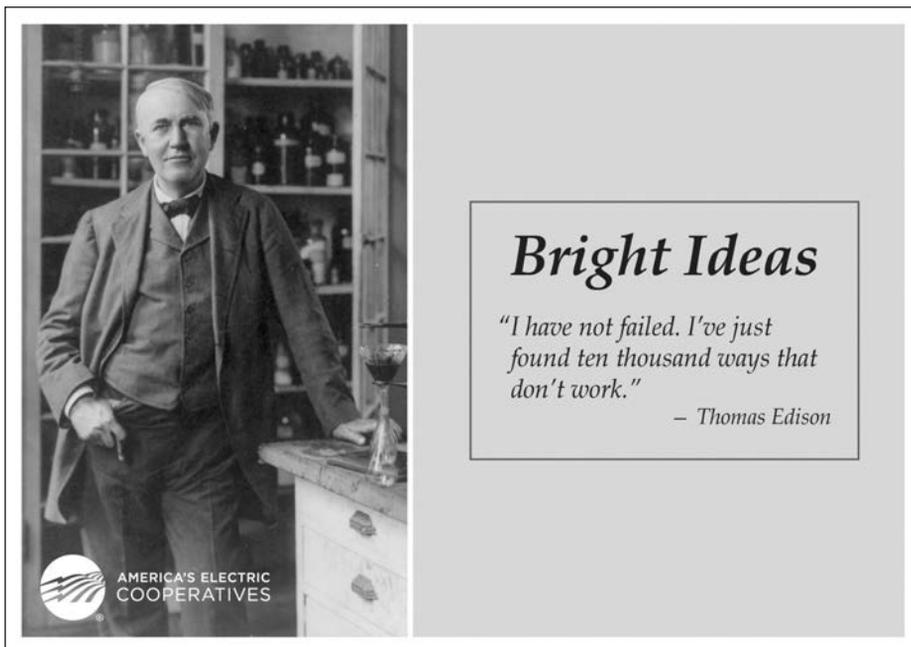
If you're in search of a holiday gift for your favorite energy buff, consider the new novel by award-winning screenwriter Graham Moore.

Moore tells the story of the legal, technical and public relations battle between Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse in the late 1800s that gave us the electric system we use today.

"The Last Days of Night," fiction based on fact, gives an entertaining look at the fight between Westinghouse's system of alternating current (AC) and Edison's plan to use direct current (DC) to power America.

But the book is also about the process of invention and how ideas become reality. Each chapter starts with a quotation from a noted inventor. As we prepare for a new year with new possibilities, let's take a look at some of the creative quotes shared in "The Last Days of Night:"

- "I have not failed. I've just found ten thousand ways that don't work." — Thomas Edison
- "... half of what separates the successful entrepreneurs from the unsuccessful ones is pure perseverance." — Steve Jobs



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons: holiday gatherings, houseguests and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

- "High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation." — Charles F. Kettering, inventor of the electrical starter
- "Headlines, in a way, are what mislead you, because bad news is a headline and gradual improvement is not." — Bill Gates
- "You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else." — Albert Einstein
- "We often miss opportunity because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work." — Thomas Edison
- "Technology is nothing. What's important is that you have a faith in people, that they're basically good and smart, and if you give them tools, they'll do wonderful things with them." — Steve Jobs

I hope these quotes inspire you as they did me. Moore's "The Last Days of Night" is available for purchase through most major book retailers. It's a great gift idea for any energy buff — or any creative genius, for that matter.

Paul Wesslund 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.

Stuff your stockings with energy-saving lightbulbs

Here's a bright idea for your holiday stockings: Stuff them with light-emitting diodes (LEDs) or compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). LEDs use up to 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent lightbulbs and can last 10 years or longer. CFLs use two-thirds less energy than traditional bulbs and can last 10 times longer.

Both kinds of energy-efficient lightbulbs use a lower wattage to produce the same amount of light.

Most incandescent bulbs are banned from stores by now. But if you still have some burning in lamps or overhead light fixtures, now is a good time to change them.

Using less energy for lighting means a lower energy bill for you — and more money to spend on stocking-stuffers!

It's unlikely that your little ones have asked Santa for a gift of energy savings. Offer it as a gag gift, and take the opportunity to teach your children about how the new lightbulbs can reduce energy use — and make



the kiddos proud to be doing their part to help the environment.

Surprise them, too, with a fun, new bedroom lamp that burns the funny-looking, twisted lightbulbs — or an LED light that is built right into the fixture and never needs changing.

Empty house? Leave the heat on anyway

Think twice before you shut the heat off in a vacation home or even your own home's attic or guest rooms. You might be trying to save money and conserve energy, but you could be setting yourself up for the wet mess caused by a burst plumbing pipe or sprinkler system.

When the water inside your pipes freezes, it puts great pressure on its container — including metal and plastic pipes. When that



happens, the pipes can leak or explode, causing flooding and plenty of property damage.

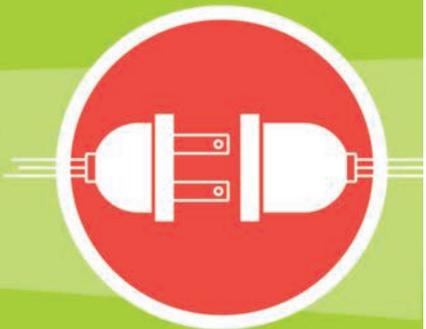
To keep your pipes from freezing, don't expose them to freezing temperatures. Keep the thermostat at 55 degrees or higher in all areas of your home. In parts of your house without heat, like exterior walls and attics, add insulation around pipes to keep them warm all winter long.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy-efficient than incandescent bulbs.

Connect each strand to test holiday lights before hanging them.



Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.

Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.



Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using clips to keep the bulbs upright.

Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



WINTER WORD SEARCH



**Energy
Explorers**



Find these words hidden in the puzzle below:

BRRR

CHILLY

HOT CHOCOLATE

ICE SKATE

ICICLE

MITTENS

SCARF

SNOWFLAKE

SNOWMAN

WINTER

R	I	L	U	J	M	Q	T	G	S	R	I	R	P	S
Q	D	C	X	G	C	S	N	O	E	Q	W	E	R	N
N	N	Z	I	R	V	I	T	T	D	H	M	O	W	E
K	A	X	R	C	J	N	N	W	F	O	X	P	T	T
I	K	M	X	R	L	I	K	A	D	T	S	H	A	T
C	B	A	W	H	W	E	W	S	I	C	C	V	D	I
T	P	S	D	O	M	Q	N	U	G	H	A	F	H	M
Q	K	U	Z	V	N	O	N	M	V	O	R	O	O	X
F	U	G	C	A	W	S	J	L	X	C	F	U	U	L
R	O	Q	T	F	C	F	Y	D	K	O	G	E	Q	B
R	L	W	L	D	P	W	L	A	E	L	K	D	R	G
E	T	A	K	S	E	C	I	B	G	A	J	R	W	R
R	K	B	U	C	H	I	L	L	Y	T	R	E	V	X
E	L	T	M	F	F	O	Y	I	K	E	Q	X	A	A
D	W	F	O	L	I	X	I	X	B	L	O	R	O	Y

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Holiday Gift Guide

History for Kids: *Pioneer Alex Stewart*

Tennessee's Pipe Organ Craftsmen

Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

Book Review: *Land Grants on the Elk*

Recipes That Stick Together

Upper
Cumberland
Electric
Membership
Corporation

UCEMC
Board of Directors
Jackson County

Jim Brown
Mark K. Brown

Overton County
Glenn Honeycutt
James W. West

Putnam County
Joe Mullins
Alan Pippin

Smith County
Mike Scudder
Morris (Moose) Tyree II
C.D. "Digger" Poindexter

Holiday closings

Christmas
Friday, Dec. 23
Monday, Dec. 26

New Year's
Monday, Jan. 2

AS I SEE IT

UCEMC linemen respond to Andrew's devastation

Cooperative Principle No. 6: Cooperation Among Cooperatives

To many, an electric cooperative like Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation provides electricity, builds power lines and restores electric service. Its duties reach far beyond that each and every day. But, when a disaster causes major power outages at home or several hundred miles away, electric cooperative line workers volunteer to go to the "war zone" to assist.

I am sure you recall watching the media's minute-by-minute coverage of Hurricane Matthew as it slammed the East Coast with destructive winds and torrential rain, causing major power outages.

In the days leading up to the Hurricane's landfall, planning for power restoration was already underway. Daily phone conferences among cooperative statewide associations and other utility groups were being conducted to systematically plan and coordinate a massive staging of utility lineworkers and equipment necessary to restore electric service as quickly and safely as possible. Cooperatives from Tennessee were designated to assist North and South Carolina as well as Florida in the restoration effort. UCEMC responded to the request from Florida, and on Friday, Oct. 7, we deployed 17 volunteer linemen and approximately 10 pieces of

equipment to Clay Electric Cooperative in Keystone Heights, Florida, joining more than 80 other electric cooperative employees from Tennessee dispatched to assist the hardest-hit areas of the Southeast.

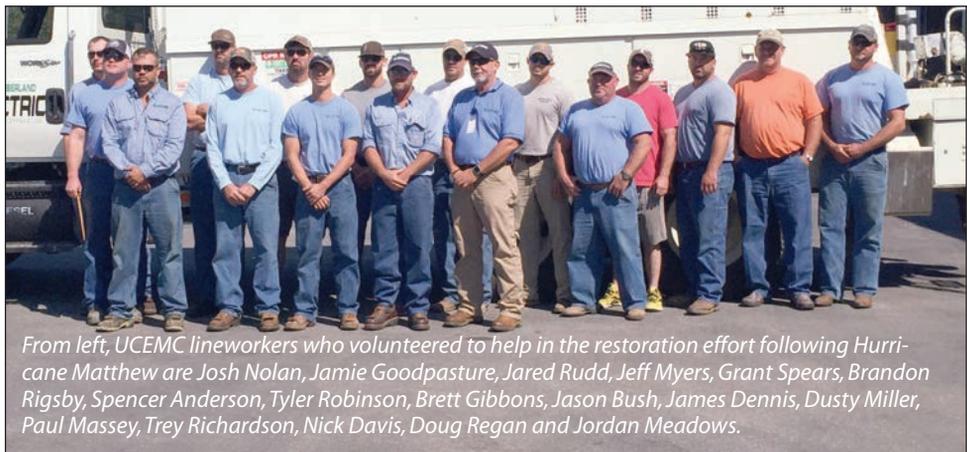
In the leadup to a severe weather event, cooperatives from the affected states are preparing logistically for the arrival of the weather as well as the army of electrical lineworkers readying to leave their respective co-ops to assist. Among the most difficult tasks are finding places to house the visiting line crews and making sure they are adequately fed.

Once on the scene, the process of restoration can begin only after damage assessments have been conducted and crews are able to gain access to damaged areas.

Restoring electric service in a disaster-stricken area becomes dangerous and time-consuming. Days can be spent clearing downed trees, limbs and debris to get the material and equipment on site to begin restoration. But, through every step in restoring power, the first priority is the safety of all lineworkers and the public. Lineworkers who volunteer are acutely aware that they are placing themselves in some very hazardous conditions; therefore, ensuring safety is vital at every turn. In addition to the hard work and hazardous condi-



Jimmy Gregory
General Manager
Upper Cumberland
EMC



From left, UCEMC linemen who volunteered to help in the restoration effort following Hurricane Matthew are Josh Nolan, Jamie Goodpasture, Jared Rudd, Jeff Myers, Grant Spears, Brandon Rigsby, Spencer Anderson, Tyler Robinson, Brett Gibbons, Jason Bush, James Dennis, Dusty Miller, Paul Massey, Trey Richardson, Nick Davis, Doug Regan and Jordan Meadows.

tions, our lineworkers are also volunteering to leave their families for days or even weeks at a time in order to assist those in desperate need of electric service.

Electric cooperatives are essentially a nationwide family that is ready to help their sister cooperatives to aid their members in time of trouble.

Electric cooperatives abide by the Seven Cooperative Principles. Considering the recent devastation from Hurricane Matthew, I would like to focus on Cooperative Principle No. 6, which emphatically states that cooperatives help each other. Hurricane Matthew carved a destructive path along the East Coast. People died, homes and businesses were destroyed and thousands of jobs were lost. Hundreds of thousands of residents were without electricity, a major necessity to sustain life and property.

The electric cooperatives came together to assist because cooperatives cooperate with each other. And because of the cooperative effort, electricity was restored, and those within the hurricane's path are restructuring their communities, their businesses, their homes and, most importantly, their lives.

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures. The communities hit by the hurricane were hundreds of miles away, yet UCEMC and many other electric cooperatives responded. Should a disaster strike our area, you can rest assured that UCEMC and many other electric cooperatives will be working to restore your electricity as quickly and safely as possible. That is what UCEMC is about: cooperatives working together for the good of the people. Should UCEMC experience a major disaster situation, you can also rest assured that the army of electric cooperative personnel like that traveling south and east after Hurricane Matthew will be headed to assist us in our time of need.

UCEMC applauds our employees who are always willing to volunteer to leave their families to assist our sister cooperatives' members — no matter where, how hazardous the situation or how severe the damage. They work long, hard days, always keeping the victims of the disaster at the highest priority and doing so with a positive attitude in regards to the work they are responsible to accomplish.

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Wall Insulation	10

UCEMCCares member contributions now exceed **\$630,000**

REMINDER: UCEMCCares contributions are TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

Putnam County



Manna's Hana Board Member Paul Adell (with horse M and M) and his wife, Bobbie (with Lady), executive director, stand with three of their horses. Black, on the left, is now in his late 30s and will soon retire. Those with special needs have found Manna's Hana a place of love.

Manna's Hana Riding Center Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, is an equine program designed to help meet specific goals of special needs students. Founded by Bobbie and Paul Abell in 2011, the facility accommodates students using wheelchairs and walkers. A **UCEMCCares** grant helped buy a needed ramp to assist those requiring physical assistance. The grant also provides a scholarship for single parents facing financial struggles so their children can participate.

"The seed for the program was planted after I saw a 4-year-old boy take his first steps after riding a horse," Bobbie said. The Manna's Hana program is designed to aid those with special needs to make accomplishments and meet specific goals. Activities consist of grooming, exercises, riding skills, games and horse care. Among statistical improvements reported from parents are: physical, 64 percent; muscle strength, 36 percent; hand-eye coordination, 40 percent; dexterity, 52 percent; cognitive, 60 percent; and emotional, 67 percent.

If you have someone with special needs or would like to volunteer, donate to this great program or receive additional information, call 931-537-6322.

Jackson County

The Jackson County Historical Museum's growing historical inventory means the museum needs added shelves and display cases. A **UCEMCCares** grant is helping meet that need.

"The museum was organized in the late 1970s," said Museum President John R. Fox. "It is one of the oldest museums in the Upper Cumberland area."

Unique items displayed from bygone days include a replica of Fort Blount and artifacts from the Cumberland River's steamboat days.

"The last steamboat came through Gainesboro in the late 1930s," Fox said.

Throughout the exhibits, one can see Civil War memorabilia, antiquated medical instruments once used by local physicians and an old moonshine still that supported a family in Jackson County.

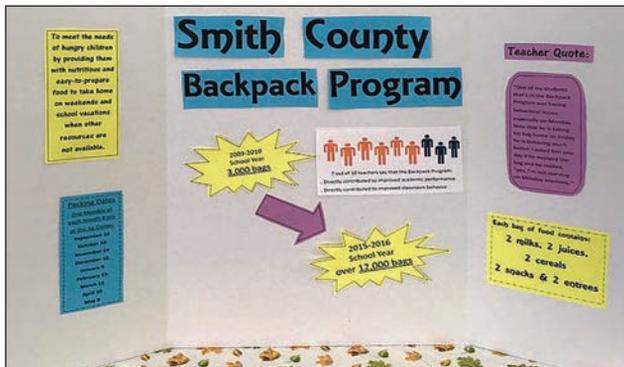
The museum is in a former Methodist church building that dates to 1898. "After the new church was built across the street, the old church became the home of the Jackson County Sentinel, which operated there until the late 1960s," Fox said. Later, the building was purchased by Fred Lucas Hale Jr. and given to the town.

The museum is open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday.



The Jackson County Historical Museum is a dedicated effort to continue the preservation of Jackson County's rich history. To continue its growth, all historical donations are greatly appreciated.

Smith County



The Smith County Backpack Program's mission is to meet the needs of hungry children by providing nutritious and easy-to-prepare food to take home on weekends and during school holidays when other resources are not available. In 2009-2010, the program provided 3,000 meals. For 2015-2016, the number of backpack meals increased to more than 12,000.

The Smith County Backpack Program is a nonprofit initiative that feeds school-aged children Pre K-12 in the county school system who are in need. It provides meals by sending home food each week in students' backpacks to get them through the weekend until they return to school. The program runs strictly on donations and fundraising.

A **UCEMCCares** grant assists the program in purchasing food and materials. With the generous help of local volunteers, more than 1,000 bags of food are packed once monthly.

Additionally, the Backpack Program offers summer distribution as well as educational materials, toothbrushes and, most of all, hope for those in need. Each backpack contains entrees, breakfast cereal, shelf-stable milk, juice, applesauce and snacks.

This is an ongoing program that hopefully will continue through the help of community supporters. To keep the Backpack Program in operation, organizers are constantly in search of fundraiser suggestions and grant opportunities.

Overton County



About 300 fourth-graders attend the Overton County Progressive Agriculture Safety Day in May. Students visit nine safety stations throughout the day.

The Overton County Progressive Agriculture Safety Day is held at the Overton County Fairgrounds in May. All fourth-graders from the county attend. The program is approaching its 20th year.

The students visit nine safety stations: ATV, fire, first aid, tractor, animal, boat, power tool, firearms and electric. UCEMCCares has conducted the electrical safety exhibit since the first program.

The Progressive Agriculture Day received a grant from **UCEMCCares** to purchase bike helmets for each student. The helmets help protect bikers from head injuries and fatalities. Head injuries and blunt-force trauma from falls and collisions are the cause of 65 percent of all bicycle deaths. At Agriculture Safety Day, students are taught proper use of these helmets. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Division, wearing a bike helmet can reduce the risk of sustaining a brain injury or head trauma by 85 to 88 percent in the event of a crash.

The Overton County Progressive Agriculture Safety Day is a proven success in teaching safety to children and protecting them from accidents.

Here are four ways to waste energy this winter

From the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories

- 1. Buy big.** Many homes have furnaces and air conditioners that are way too big. An oversized unit wastes energy and will cost you more in the long run on heating and cooling bills than a smaller one that is properly sized for your home and your family's lifestyle.
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- 4. Skip fans.** Ceiling fans and portable fans can help circulate heated or air-conditioned air, which gives your home's HVAC system a break — and allows you to turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Fans use little electricity but can make a big difference in how comfortable you feel in the room where one is running.

UCEMC holds 78th annual meeting



Above, members attending UCEMC's 78th annual Meeting listen to General Manager Jimmy Gregory as he explains the sound financial condition of their cooperative. They were informed of UCEMC's involvement in major industrial growth and future jobs. Other highlights included drawings for great prizes and a delicious fish fry. Below, from left, Washington Youth Tour students Ellie Gantenbein, Gabby Mancini, Megan Lee and Destiny Williams, here with UCEMC Executive Secretary Cynthia Draper, volunteer to assist throughout the day and earn credit for a possible \$10,000 educational scholarship through the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association.

Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's 78th Annual meeting of members was held at the Smith County Community Agricultural Center on Saturday, Sept. 10, with 288 registered members in attendance.

UCEMC General Manager Jimmy Gregory addressed the group, explaining UCEMC's sound financial condition and elaborating on the cooperative's partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority and Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association (MTIDA) in successfully promoting and expanding new industry within UCEMC's area.

The 1.5-million-square-foot Academy Sport Distribution Center in Cookeville was energized in December 2015. The center's future projections are to exceed 700 employees. Extended hours of research and study by UCEMC involving both the planning and construction phases were instrumental in making this 5 Megawatt facility a reality.

UCEMC is constantly working with TVA, MTIDA and other economic and community development organizations to enhance the economic growth throughout our service area. Most recently, UCEMC worked with Smith and Overton County officials and development agencies to assist with Select Tennessee Property Evaluations. This is a process where the state of Tennessee evaluates selected sites within



a county to assess suitability for future industrial development. One area of great importance is the capacity for the required electric power at each site.

Following the business meeting, registered members were eligible for the drawing of many quality door prizes, including cash, TVs, a chest-type freezer and other wonderful items. No one went away hungry because a tasty fish fry with dessert immediately followed.

After lunch, many attendees went outdoors to watch the impressive high-voltage safety demonstration conducted by UCEMC linemen.

UCEMC thanks members at Appreciation Days



A long line continues to flow through UCEMC's Smith County Member Appreciation Day festivities.



Members attending UCEMC's Jackson County Member Appreciation Day enjoy a great meal.



UCEMC employees demonstrate their cooking skills and provide an impressive outdoor electrical safety program for the members attending the Smith and Jackson County Member Appreciation Day events.



Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation held its fall Member Appreciation Day for Smith County on Friday, Sept. 16, and the Jackson County Member Appreciation Day on Thursday, Sept. 22. Many members turned out to enjoy delicious meals with desserts and watch live outdoor safety demonstrations.

The electrical safety demonstration made members aware that many power outages are caused by squirrels jumping on transformers. The group saw the dangers associated with digging into an underground power line, a limb falling on a line and power lines striking a vehicle. The exhibit also showed the distance electricity can jump to reach anything grounded.

Steve Johnson

... our employee in the spotlight

Twelve-year employee Steve Johnson, staking technician in the Carthage District, was hired by UCEMC in December 2004. His background includes 25 years of underground surveying at the Pasminco Zinc Mine in Gordonsville, a mine that has extended to approximately 2,000 feet in depth.

Born in Cookeville, Johnson is the son of the late Lelon Johnson, a former UCEMC general manager, and the late Madge Johnson Tramel. He is a graduate of Smith County High School and Volunteer State Community College.

His wife, Stephanie Massey Johnson, daughter of Mary and the late David Massey of the



Photo by Carl F. Ledbetter

"I enjoy working with UCEMC's members, and the employees are a great group to be around."

— Steve Johnson

Defeated Creek community of Smith County, is program director of extended learning for the Smith County School System. They are parents of Dr. Lauren Johnson, who graduated with her doctor of pharmacy degree from Samford University in May 2016, and Adam Johnson, who graduated from Tennessee Tech University with an agricultural engineering degree in May 2015.

The Johnsons reside in the Tanglewood community of Smith County. In addition to Steve's devoted work practices, he is an avid golfer and hunter.

UCEMC thanks Steve for his dedicated work ethic. He is recognized as an asset to the cooperative.

Livingston Academy Career Fair

Livingston Academy held a Career Fair on Tuesday, Oct. 4, in the school gym. More than 900 students participated in this day of career activities.

Many students took advantage of the open door to employment by visiting booths highlighting job opportunities and careers.

Eager students asked questions about educational requirements for their fields of interest. To some, this day provided an opportunity for a new turn in life where they could realize their full potential for successful futures.

UCEMC was one of 35 exhibitors on hand to discuss and encourage the students to pursue their educations after their high school graduation.



Very interesting — It was helpful — Made me think about my career — Taught me a lot — Interested in college now

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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Holiday Gift Guide

History for Kids: *Pioneer Alex Stewart*

Tennessee's Pipe Organ Craftsmen

Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

Book Review: *Land Grants on the Elk*

Recipes That Stick Together

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AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

You're in good company with co-ops

Neighbors helping neighbors to create a better world

A fair question people often ask is, "What's in it for me?" This makes sense as we all need to act in our own self-interest every now and then. The cool thing about co-ops is we answer that question with, "This is what's in it for **we!**"

When the market refuses to offer a good or service or does so at a high price, co-ops step in to fill the void. Cooperatives identify members of the community who have the same self-interests and bring them together to make a cooperative decision.

Nearly 80 years ago, when Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative got started, the folks in our community shared at least one self-interest — they wanted electricity. In fact, many Americans who lived in rural parts of the country at that time needed electricity, which is why electric cooperatives were formed. Individuals acted in their own self-interest, but that self-interest led to the community and economic development of the rural areas in which they lived.

Today, rural electric co-ops serve more than 42 million people in 47 states.

It is good to know that your friends and neighbors are also your co-owners of TVEC. People coming together to meet a particular need is at the heart of every kind of co-op. Local credit unions bring financial services to people banks don't want to serve. In urban areas and college

communities, housing co-ops offer people safe, reliable and affordable places to live. Many agricultural co-ops started as a way to get their products to market, whether it was oranges (Sunkist), dairy goods (Land O'Lakes), grapes (Welch's), organic milk (Organic Valley) or any of the hundreds of other food products that co-ops bring to our table every day.

Many people who owned small businesses realized they, too, had a common self-interest: stay in business. So they formed purchasing co-ops like Ace Hardware and True Value so they could compete with big-box stores like Home Depot and Lowe's.

Today, it is estimated that more than 40 percent of all residents in the U.S. are members of at least one co-op. Worldwide, well over a billion people are counted as co-op members.

So every time you turn on (or off) the lights, it can serve as a reminder that as a co-op member, you are in good company with your local neighbors — and with people all around the world.



Gerald Taylor
General Manager,
Tennessee Valley
Electric Cooperative

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons: holiday gatherings, houseguests and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

Giving back is the co-op way

By Meghaan Evans

As some of you might know, cooperatives across the globe adhere to the same Seven Cooperative Principles that guide all our decisions — from how we run the co-op to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for community is the seventh principle, and it is one that all employees of Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative value year-round. But during the holiday season, concern for community seems especially important.

Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back. TVEC proudly supports local community services such as Toys for Tots, Relay for Life and Country Christmas along with helping deliver meals provided by local ministerial associations to families.

So many families go without on a daily basis and struggle to make ends meet. This struggle can be especially hard during the holiday season.

There are many ways beyond dollar donations that you can give back to the community. Take some time to go through your closets and find clothes that no longer fit or have lost their use. Bag those items up and take them to your local Salvation Army, Goodwill or church clothing drive. Volunteer for a local food or toy drive, deliver meals to the sick and elderly or simply make a meal for a neighbor in need.

No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community. So take the time to give back this holiday season. You'll be glad you did.

Meghaan Evans 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.

Empty house? Leave the heat on anyway

Think twice before you shut the heat off in a vacation home or even your own home's attic or guest rooms. You might be trying to save money and conserve energy, but you could be setting yourself up for the wet mess caused by a burst plumbing pipe or sprinkler system.

When the water inside your pipes freezes, it puts great pressure on its container — including metal and plastic

pipes. When that happens, the pipes can leak or explode, causing flooding and plenty of property damage.

To keep your pipes from freezing, don't expose them to freezing temperatures. Keep the thermostat at 55 degrees or higher in all areas of your home. In parts of your house without heat, like exterior walls and attics, add insulation around pipes to keep them warm all winter long.

Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative

will be closed Friday, Dec. 23;

Monday, Dec. 26;

and Monday, Jan. 2,

*in observance of the Christmas
and New Year's holidays.*



Digital devices impact energy use

By Tom Tate

Ah, the Digital Age. We have gadgets galore, the ability to manage our homes in new and innovative ways, brilliant images and captivating sounds of modern entertainment options and, of course, the internet. Clearly, digital devices reign supreme. Yet these cool new capabilities come with a couple of pitfalls: vampire loads and the issue of “technology reincarnation.”

Over the course of the Digital Age, electricity use has continued to increase. Families have multiple televisions. Computer prices have plummeted, meaning many homes now have multiple computers. Everyone in the family needs a cell phone. Gaming consoles and set-top cable/satellite boxes satisfy our desire for entertainment.

Major appliances aside, most digital devices do not use 120-volt power, which is the standard voltage of a home outlet. They actually use a lot less. So, trying to plug your brand new smartphone directly into an outlet is going to lead to a fried device and lots of tears from someone. This is why low-voltage devices come with a power adapter. These “wall warts,” as some term them, take the 120-volt electricity supplied by Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative and convert it to, say, 5 volts. Unfortunately, most folks leave their adapters plugged in to make recharging easier. The problem with this approach is that the seemingly innocuous wall wart uses power even when it isn’t charging a device.

This invisible energy consumption is often called “vampire load.” Studies show that 5 to 10 percent of the average home’s energy use is from vampire loads. The only way to stop this is to unplug the power adapter when it is not in use or employ smart power strips, which look like the typical power strip but with a twist — only one socket gets power all the time. When the device or appliance connected to the live outlet turns on and starts using power, the remaining sockets receive power, too. This is perfect for entertainment systems, computer setups and a variety of other situations.

Technological advances have steadily increased energy efficiency and reduced purchase prices. This seems like a



good thing. Unfortunately, when replacing a product at the end of its life, the tendency is to go bigger or continue to use the old technology. This is the second, “reincarnation” issue I noted.

For example, flat-screen television prices have plummeted as technology has evolved — and so has the amount of electricity they use. Consumers wander into the big-box store and are dazzled by walls of giant, brilliant televisions. What they used to pay for the paltry 32-inch model now might net them a 50-inch giant. And who doesn’t want to see their

favorite show or sports event in near-lifesize? But if you spring for the bigger TV, you won’t benefit from the increased energy efficiency of the newer technology. The bigger model uses as much juice as the older, smaller TV, which likely ends up in another room (reincarnated in another setting), still using power.

Or refrigerators: These are the showpieces of the evolution of smart appliances. Many new models include touchscreens and cameras; they communicate over the internet while keeping food cold and making ice. Yet what often happens is the old refrigerator ends up in the basement or garage, reincarnated as a dedicated beverage unit or overflow.

I’ll offer a couple of words of advice to help you avoid — or at least reduce — the effects of vampire loads and technology reincarnation. Invest in smart power strips or make a point to use outlets where you can conveniently unplug power adapters when not in use. Don’t oversize your replacement appliances and entertainment gear unless family needs dictate the larger capacities. And recycle the replaced appliances and equipment to stem technology reincarnation. You will enjoy the Digital Age for a lot less.

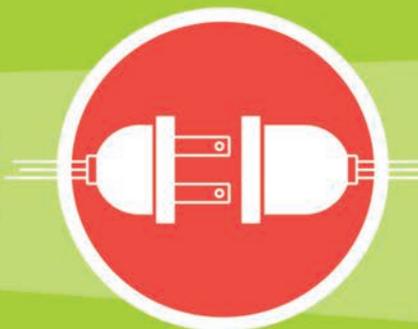
Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy-efficient than incandescent bulbs.

Connect each strand to test holiday lights before hanging them.



Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.

Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.



Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using clips to keep the bulbs upright.

Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.

The consumer-centric utility

By Jan Ahlen

In recent years, the electric utility industry has been undergoing a shift. At the epicenter of that movement is technology: the emergence of affordable solar panels, high-capacity batteries, electric vehicles, internet-connected devices and other technical innovations. The ways we generate, transmit, buy, sell, store, use and think about electricity are changing.

Consumers of electricity are changing as well. Now more than ever, they want some measure of control over their energy use and energy choices.

In response to these changes, a new kind of electricity supplier is emerging. This “consumer-centric utility” pursues its traditional mission — providing safe, affordable, reliable and clean electric service — while enabling access to new products and services that satisfy consumers’ evolving expectations. In truth, there’s never been a better time to be a user of electricity.

Consumer-centric utility defined

A consumer-centric utility integrates and optimizes a pool of resources on behalf of consumers. Resources can be traditional generational assets or distributed energy resources (demand-response programs; energy-efficiency programs; and distributed generation, including wind and solar; and storage capacity). Unlike traditional utilities, consumer-centric utilities empower consumers with new services such as community solar programs designed to meet local conditions and satisfy consumer preferences. As consumers demand new products and services, the flexible consumer-centric utility will be positioned to meet the needs of individuals and the system as a whole.

Empowerment

To deliver new and better energy service, the consumer-centric utility takes a long-term view. It leverages economies of scale, scope and integration. Investment in a two-way metering system, for example, enables consumers to control energy use and access new services while reducing costs for the system as a whole.

A broad understanding of the system allows consumer-centric utilities to appreciate how all the pieces of a complex system fit together. Such a utility might have the insight to invest in sensor technology, for example, in places with a high penetration of solar energy. Consumer-centric utilities also join with third-party providers of distributed energy resources to optimize systems and improve energy service for consumers. Deployment of advanced metering

infrastructure systems, smart inverters and electronic sensors provides data that can improve system performance.

Consumer-focused utilities embrace innovation

Let’s take a look at how electric co-ops across the country are empowering consumers.

- CoServ Electric in Texas created financial incentives that encouraged members to enroll in a Nest smart thermostat program. The initiative reduced overall energy use during peak summer hours when electricity is expensive and saved money for consumers.
- Vermont Electric Cooperative made several strategic investments over a 14-year period, installing an integrated electronic mapping system, a two-way meter platform, an integrated outage management system and an upgraded control and data acquisition system. The utility cut outages in half and positioned itself to provide new services to consumers.
- North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, a generation and transmission cooperative (G&T), has collaborated with its distribution co-ops to improve consumers’ experience. Among the advantages of the arrangement, the G&T can more easily pilot new technologies such as internet-connected thermostats that benefit consumers.

Community solutions

Interest in solar energy has grown dramatically, but only a fraction of U.S. households have rooftops that are suitable for installing solar panels. Consumer-centric utilities have responded by developing community solar programs that are accessible to all members and are more cost-efficient than rooftop solar. For example, Okanogan County Electric Cooperative in eastern Washington built a subscription community solar system in 2010 that quickly sold out, prompting the co-op to expand to two systems. Many other cooperatives are following the same trend.

In a world of change, the future is bright for flexible, consumer-focused electric cooperatives. Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative is proud to be a consumer-centric utility.

Jan Ahlen 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.

Avoiding the energy rush

Time of use matters

By Anne Prince

Did you know that *when* you use electricity often matters as much as *how much* electricity you consume?

It's no surprise that electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand, and electric co-ops must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy demands of their members during times of highest energy use, also known as "on-peak hours." In the early morning when people often start their day and during the evening when folks return to their homes after work are common times for on-peak hours. To reduce peak energy demand and save money, many electric co-ops have created a time-of-use rate program to encourage electricity use during off-peak hours — when energy is less expensive to provide. Similar to saving money by attending a matinee, you can keep more money in your wallet simply by using electricity during an off-peak time period.

Using less on-peak power means lower costs for the co-op — and, ultimately, lower rates for members.

Electric rates based on time of use offer consumers the ability to lower their electricity costs without

reducing the amount of electricity used. By performing some of your daily chores like running the dishwasher or doing laundry during off-peak hours, you can save on your utility bill. In a similar vein, plug electronic equipment such as computers, printers, TVs and power tools into power strips, then turn the strips off during peak hours.

You can also put technology to work for you. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your heating-and-cooling system syncs with the off-peak rate periods. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way.

Saving energy can be simple. Remember: By shifting your energy use to off-peak times, you have the power to save on your monthly energy bill. To learn more about why time of use matters, watch a short video at tinyurl.com/TOUmatters.

Anne Prince 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 co-ops.

Four ways to waste energy this winter

What are the biggest mistakes homeowners make when it comes to energy use? Here are four major ones, according to Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories:

- 1. Buying big.** Many homes have furnaces and air conditioners that are way too big. Sales reps often try to sell big units because they cost more. But an oversized unit wastes energy and will cost you more in the long run on heating and cooling bills than a smaller one that is properly sized for your home and your family's lifestyle.
- 2. Overlooking leaks.** When you replace your heating and air-conditioning system, get your ducts checked for leaks. Even the most-efficient, most-expensive system won't perform at peak if

heated or conditioned air is escaping through the ducts.

- 3. Under-insulating.** Heat rises, so it makes sense to insulate your home's attic. But it's equally important to insulate floors over a basement or crawl space as well as your walls and windows. Conditioned air can leak out of your home from almost any uninsulated space.
- 4. Skipping fans.** Ceiling fans and portable fans can help circulate heated or conditioned air, which gives your home's HVAC system a break — and allows you to turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Fans use little electricity but can make a big difference in how comfortable you feel in the room where one is running.



WINTER WORD SEARCH

**Energy
Explorers**



Find these words hidden in the puzzle below:

BRRR

CHILLY

HOT CHOCOLATE

ICE SKATE

ICICLE

MITTENS

SCARF

SNOWFLAKE

SNOWMAN

WINTER

R	I	L	U	J	M	Q	T	G	S	R	I	R	P	S
Q	D	C	X	G	C	S	N	O	E	Q	W	E	R	N
N	N	Z	I	R	V	I	T	T	D	H	M	O	W	E
K	A	X	R	C	J	N	N	W	F	O	X	P	T	T
I	K	M	X	R	L	I	K	A	D	T	S	H	A	T
C	B	A	W	H	W	E	W	S	I	C	C	V	D	I
T	P	S	D	O	M	Q	N	U	G	H	A	F	H	M
Q	K	U	Z	V	N	O	N	M	V	O	R	O	O	X
F	U	G	C	A	W	S	J	L	X	C	F	U	U	L
R	O	Q	T	F	C	F	Y	D	K	O	G	E	Q	B
R	L	W	L	D	P	W	L	A	E	L	K	D	R	G
E	T	A	K	S	E	C	I	B	G	A	J	R	W	R
R	K	B	U	C	H	I	L	L	Y	T	R	E	V	X
E	L	T	M	F	F	O	Y	I	K	E	Q	X	A	A
D	W	F	O	L	I	X	I	X	B	L	O	R	O	Y

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Recipes That Stick Together



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**Tri-State EMC wishes everyone a
Merry Christmas and a Happy and
Prosperous New Year!**



Tri-State EMC will be closed
on the following holidays:

★ Friday, Dec. 23, 2016

★ Monday, Dec. 26, 2016

★ Monday, Jan. 2, 2017



If you experience a power
outage or require emergency service
at any time, please call 706-492-3251.

Local student awarded Cooperative Youth Ambassador Scholarship

Megan Lewis, a graduate of Copper Basin High School, was awarded the \$10,000 Cooperative Youth Ambassador Scholarship from Tri-State EMC and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA) on July 14.

Lewis was a 2015 delegate on the Washington Youth Tour, an annual leadership and education event sponsored by the state's electric cooperatives. In the year following the tour, delegates who remained engaged with their sponsoring cooperatives and completed certain community service requirements were eligible for the scholarship. Lewis' name was randomly selected from among the 70 delegates from across the state who met the requirements.

"I just want to first of all thank God and express my gratitude to Tri-State EMC and TECA," Lewis said. "I



Megan Lewis, center, joins Copper Basin High School Counselor Karen Cribbs and Tri-State EMC Human Resources Manager Chris Hulseley at the co-op office.

want to express how grateful I am to (TSEMC Youth Tour chaperones) Chris and Kelly Hulseley. I also want to thank my best friends, Kelli Moss and Chelsey Quintrell, for being such a great support system. Going on the Washington Youth Tour and being awarded this scholarship have changed my life. I hope to be a huge impact on this community and change the world one person at a time. The world needs people to be a light, and I hope I can accomplish just that."

"The Youth Tour and the Cooperative Youth Ambassador program are great opportunities to help students learn about public policy, cooperatives and leadership," says Chris Hulseley, Tri-State EMC human resources manager. "TSEMC is proud to help prepare the tri-state area's next generation of leaders, and we are excited to see the impact Megan will have on our community."

Attending Cleveland State Community College to obtain an associate's degree in social work, Lewis plans to continue her education at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to earn a bachelor's in social work. She then hopes to earn her master's and doctorate degrees.

Megan Lewis and Tri-State EMC Human Resources Manager Chris Hulseley attend the TSEMC 2016 annual meeting in September.



Lateral tree-pruning prevents tree-utility conflicts

Trees are prized possessions. They give needed shade in summer, help clear the air of pollutants, provide a home for wildlife and please the eye with their foliage and blossoms.

While trees help make our area beautiful, they are also a leading cause of power outages. Here are a few effective ways Tri-State EMC works with customers to balance protecting trees with providing safe, reliable utility service.

Most effective method

TSEMC and its contractors are encouraged to use the lateral-pruning method recommended by the National Arbor Day Foundation, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and National Arborist Association. Lateral-pruning removes branches where they meet the closest lateral branch that is at least one-third the diameter of the original branch outside the minimum clearance zone and is growing away from the electric line. (If there is no lateral branch to which to prune, however, the limb must be removed at the tree's trunk.) That leaves a healthier tree with no stub to decay and prevents the growth of weak sprouts.

Proper pruning may mean removing branches beyond the minimum clearance distance determined by TSEMC. If the closest proper-size lateral branch is farther away than the minimum clearance, the extra pruning is healthier for the tree.

In the past, trees were commonly pruned by topping or “rounding over.” Research shows, however, that this encourages wood decay in the large remaining stubs and promotes unhealthy sprouting around the stubs.

The sprouts from “rounding over” also grow much faster than normal growth. As an example, silver maples normally grow about 2 feet per year. Sprouts induced by “rounding over,” however, average more than 6 feet per year. The sprouts also grow faster than their attachment to the stub, creating weak branches that are more likely to break than normal growth.

By directing growth away from electric lines, **lateral-pruning** results in less future pruning. This method reduces



the visual impact and the cost of pruning. *Holding pruning costs down helps save customers money in the long run.*

Regular trimming, pruning help keep your lights on

Tri-State EMC's right-of-way program plays an important role in keeping members' lights on. Tree growth adjacent to and in close proximity of the distribution right of way poses a threat to system reliability.

“It's our responsibility to provide reliable electric service to our members,” says Right-of-Way Manager Keith Thomas. “One of the most important elements in meeting this goal is an appropriate vegetation-management program, which includes tree-trimming and pruning as well as ground-clearing and mowing.”

Tri-State EMC owns and maintains miles of overhead line, and the cooperative strives to remove any and all vegetation that obstructs or threatens its distribution infrastructure. “A small limb, just like a large tree, can cause a large outage,” Thomas says. “The difference in the two is how long it takes to restore service. We have a very good maintenance program in place, which keeps our system reliable.”

At times, due to storms or other causes, trees adjacent to or outside the cooperative's right of way will fall, causing outages that affect our members. TSEMC is **NOT** responsible for the cleanup or removal of trees or debris resulting from these situations. If a tree falls onto a road or on private property, crews will move it only if necessary to gain access to cooperative-owned facilities. *The focus for crews re-*

sponding to outages is to restore service quickly and safely. It is the member's responsibility to remove limbs and debris that remain.

Members should contact Tri-State EMC concerning dead trees, leaning trees or tree limbs that could come in contact with the distribution system.

Power line-friendly trees and shrubs

One of the most frequent mistakes homeowners make when planting trees is failing to consider nearby power lines. It's an easy mistake to make.

Visualizing the impact of a mature tree is difficult when you are looking at a sapling. As a result, many yards have trees growing too close to power lines. Because falling branches from trees like these all too often cause power outages, they face frequent, sometimes unattractive, trimming. That's why it is so important to plant the right tree in the right place, especially when they're near utility lines.

Trees and shrubs on the following list are suitable for planting under power lines at the front and sides of houses.

(Trees should never exceed 10-15 feet in height near and under power lines.) Refer to this list when planting or replacing trees and shrubs under power lines so that future generations can enjoy trees safe from unsightly trimming.

- Flowering dogwood
- Flowering crabapple
- Eastern redbud
- Mountain laurel
- Rhododendron
- Ivy
- Wild azalea

Safe digging is NO accident

Always call one of the following numbers to have underground utilities located before you dig:

Georgia:	811 or 800-282-7411
Tennessee:	811 or 800-351-1111
North Carolina:	811 or 800-632-4949

Electric water heater rebate available

Tri-State EMC offers a \$50 rebate with proof of purchase for a new electric water heater of 40 gallons or larger capacity. Just bring in a copy of the receipt, along

with the EF (efficiency factor), a number between 0.85 and 0.96 found on the label on the tank or on the box in which the water heater was shipped.



You have the power ... to track your energy use

Have you ever wondered how much electricity you use each day? Do you wonder why your electric bill varies from month to month? Tri-State EMC offers a FREE, powerful tool to help you manage your energy use and have more control over your electric bill.

MyUsage.com is a free power awareness program that helps you save money by keeping you more aware of the energy you consume every day. Because participants can monitor electricity use daily rather than waiting to see their energy use on monthly bills, Tri-State EMC members report using less energy each day. By tracking your energy use on a regular basis, you can use energy more efficiently, which is better for the environment and your wallet.

All Tri-State EMC members can sign up for this free service, whether they receive monthly bills or are PrePay

members. When you sign up, you can view your daily use online, receive alerts by email and customize them so you know when consumption goes over the limits you set.

To start tracking your use today, visit www.tsemc.net and click the "View My Usage" link. From there, follow these quick and easy steps:

- Click the link to set up an account with MyUsage.com
- Select your state
- Select your utility provider (Tri-State EMC)
- Enter your email address in the

"Usage Monitor" account section. (You will receive a validation code.)

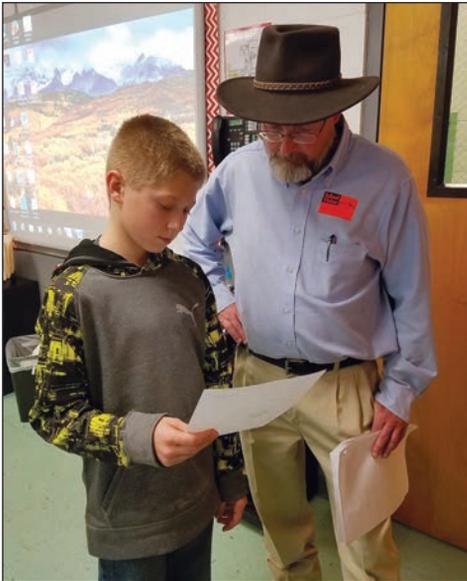
- You will be prompted to enter the validation code and select a password. Then enter your account number and meter number (both can be found on your electric bill).

If you have any questions, contact our customer care representatives at 706-492-3251.



Lewis assists with STEM Day

Tri-state Electric Membership Corporation IT Manager David Lewis recently volunteered at Fannin County Middle School's first STEM Day. He helped teach the students about how wind energy is harnessed and generated.



Above left, Tri-State EMC IT manager David Lewis works with FCMS sixth-grade student Jake Phillips at STEM Day. Above right, Lewis joins, from left, Autumn Miller, Tia Adcox (kneeling) Jackson Keown at the educational event.

Middle school receives help through Operation RoundUP

Fannin County Middle School was recently awarded a grant for \$509.72 from the Tri-State EMC Operation RoundUP program. The funds helped sixth-grade reading classes purchase 70 novels as well as additional supplies, including teacher guides and audio materials for special education classes.



Attending the presentation of TSEMC Operation Roundup Funds to Fannin County Middle School are, from left, teacher Kelly Hulsey, Morgan Lariscy, Bryce Ware, Erin Jones, Emilee Thomas, Cole Pittman, Principal Keith Nuckolls, Zoe Putnam, teacher Linda Nave and RoundUP Chairman Glenn Harbison.

The differences between overhead and underground power lines

By Tom Tate

There are two methods of installing the power lines that carry electricity to your home: overhead and underground. Tri-State Electric Membership Corporation members sometimes ask why we use one versus the other or, more to the point, why all power lines are not installed using the underground construction method. Isn't one method better than the other? These are great questions, and the answer is that each method has its place.

Overhead line construction starts with the setting of utility poles, which can be set in nearly any type of terrain. In the case of heavy rock, special equipment is used to auger out the hole. If placement occurs in boggy or wet terrain, many techniques are available to set poles securely. Once the poles are in place, wires can be strung and then equipment — like transformers, fuses and reclosers — are installed. Power can now flow.

Underground line construction requires digging a trench that is deep enough to keep the lines well away from surface activities. Next, wires are laid in the trench directly or placed in conduits for protection. The trench is filled in, and the surface is restored to its original condition. Padmount transformers and additional equipment are installed as needed, and the system is then ready to deliver electricity. Where the terrain is extremely rocky, underground lines may not be an option.

Determining if power lines should be overhead or underground boils down to what is best for the situation. Underground lines might be ideal in situations where there is a desire to keep the poles and wires out of sight such as in a residential neighborhood, park or historical area. There are many cities and towns that construct only underground lines for a variety of reasons.

Overhead systems work well when appearance is not a major concern. Examples include extremely long line distances across country, where the voltages are higher than the limitations set for underground lines.

The ultimate mix of underground and overhead construction used by TSEMC provides you, our members, with the highest possible quality of service at the lowest possible price. Cost, appearance, reliability, maintenance and future upgrades will drive which is the better approach — overhead or underground.

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.

OVERHEAD & UNDERGROUND POWER LINES
THE PROS AND CONS

OVERHEAD

PROS

- Lower cost
- Quicker construction
- Easier to spot damage and faults
- Less expensive to repair and upgrade
- Can be built in any terrain
- Any voltage can be placed overhead

CONS

- Susceptible to wind, ice and snow
- More vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right of way trimming
- Vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines
- Susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less attractive

UNDERGROUND

PROS

- Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches
- Does not interfere with views
- No right of way (tree trimming) required
- Less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Not impacted by wind, ice and snow
- Less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines

CONS

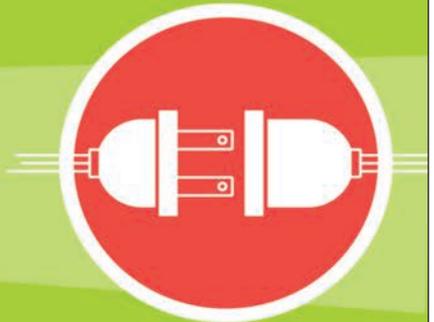
- More expensive to build
- Susceptible to flooding
- Difficult to locate faults
- Expensive to repair
- Fed by overhead lines at some point, making the lines vulnerable to outages and interruptions
- Limitations on voltages that can be buried underground
- Can be vulnerable to dig-ins

HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy-efficient than incandescent bulbs.

Connect each strand to test holiday lights before hanging them.



Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.

Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.



Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using clips to keep the bulbs upright.

Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

December 2016 www.tnmagazine.org

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Holiday Gift Guide

History for Kids: *Pioneer Alex Stewart*

Tennessee's Pipe Organ Craftsmen

Shutterbug: *Enter Your Pet's Pic*

Book Review: *Land Grants on the Elk*

Recipes That Stick Together



 THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE
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Clay County, Kentucky, did not have clean drinking water. But it did have a group of engineering, nursing, and architecture students from the University of Tennessee, who found a solution.

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Volunteers
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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A snowy walk through Fall Creek Falls State Park reveals a beautiful winter scene. Brave winter's bite to experience Tennessee. See our Almanac of Events on page 30 for ideas. Photograph by Robin Conover

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Buzzards' Roost at Fall Creek Falls State Park awaits the sun's warming, melting rays. Photograph by Robin Conover

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TENNESSEE TODAY *Manager's Viewpoint*

Tennessee history — for our kids

Each month in *The Tennessee Magazine*, we feature a history lesson. Bill Carey, “the Tennessee History Guy,” provides readers a unique glimpse into our state’s past. More often than not, the column brings to light interesting historical tidbits that most of us didn’t know about. It’s consistently among the greatest conversation-starters for the magazine, generating letters each month from appreciative readers.

It is important to learn more of our past. History helps us understand change and see how our current society came to be. It creates educated, well-rounded adults. Studying history puts the present into perspective.

Though his articles in the magazine are for all ages, Bill’s “day job” is operating Tennessee History for Kids. Most public school pupils in the state have no Tennessee history or civics textbook, even though students in about half of the grades are required to learn parts of the subject every school year.

Because of this, it is important that students have a place to go for information on our state’s rich history.

Tennessee History for Kids was established in November 2004 to improve this situation. Today, the organization provides email alerts, posters, videos, training resources for teachers and Tennessee history “textbooklets” for students to use in class. About 8,000 teachers use Tennessee History for Kids.

Current events are important, but so is history. Is it more important for students to know the location of the nearest Pokemon stop or the significance of

Cornelia Fort, tent cities, Highlander, William Blount, the Donelson Party, Thomas “Big Foot” Spencer, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Cumberland Homesteads and Tennessee’s Civil War battlefields?

These topics could soon disappear from the state’s requirements. A few months ago, the Tennessee Board of Education began evaluating changes in the state’s history standards slated to take effect in 2019. By some measures, the proposal would effectively delete about 90 percent of Tennessee history topics and names from the state’s curriculum for kindergarten through 12th grade.

Students could no longer learn that the word Tennessee comes from a Cherokee word, “Tanasi.” They could no longer learn why Tennessee is known as the Volunteer State.

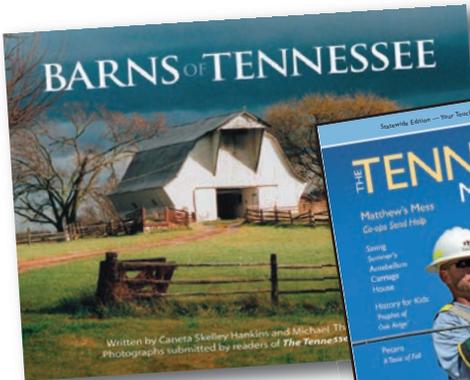
Removing a standard does not mean a specific topic will be axed from being taught in the classroom — but the topic will have to fight for limited time and resources.

The state review of social studies standards is ongoing. I urge you to get involved and provide feedback to the committee considering the changes. Go to www.tnhistoryforkids.org to learn more. While you’re there, I encourage you to note the work that Tennessee History for Kids accomplishes and the feedback from our state’s teachers. ■



David Callis
General Manager,
Tennessee Electric
Cooperative
Association

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2017 Calendar

The beautiful scenery of Tennessee is captured by Robin Conover, editor of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

“The Barns of Tennessee”

This 160-page hard-bound book highlights more than 350 images of Tennessee barns, with most photos taken by readers of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

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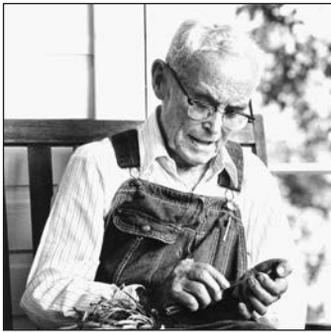
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Just another day at the office



Stewart's memories

Page 16

Bill Carey reflects on the life of Alex Stewart, described as "a man from pioneer America."

Almanac of Events

Page 30 and tnmagazine.org

Festive events and other special happenings abound across Tennessee this month.



50 Years Ago ...

Page 35 and tnmagazine.org

Take a quick peek inside the December 1966 installment of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

Our e-Newsletter

tnmagazine.org/enewsletter

Visit us online and subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter to receive the latest stories, contests, recipes and more.

As a lifelong lover of aviation, my eyes peer to the sky just about any time I hear the sound of a plane overhead. And much like I could with cars in my early teenage years, I can usually identify the make and model of what goes overhead. Unfortunately, the C-130 cargo planes that are so distinctive to my ear don't cross the Middle Tennessee sky the way they used to. They were moved to other bases across the country a few years back.

So while I love to watch, listen to, smell and fly airplanes, I recognize that most people don't put quite as much thought into it as I do. The only aviation stories that really get the public's attention are when disasters occur. But the more than 100,000 scheduled airline flights that begin and end safely every single day don't receive a second thought. These flights are crewed by hardworking folks like my friends Steve Wise and Craig Barronton who simply want to do their jobs well and go home to their families. Unsung heroes, you might call them.

The story of US Airways Flight 1549 is especially poignant. You probably remember the story of "The Miracle on the Hudson." After taking off from LaGuardia Airport in New York City, an A320 aircraft flew into a flock of birds and lost power in both engines. Within seconds, it became a 100,000-pound glider. With no other reasonable options to land at an airport, the pilots elected to make an emergency water landing in the Hudson River just west of Manhattan. Thanks to the skill and professionalism of the crew, all 155 souls on board survived without serious injury.

While the media heaped deserved praise upon the flight's captain, he resisted most of the accolades. Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger sat in the left seat of Flight 1549, and his entire life seemed to lead up to this moment. An experienced and skilled pilot, the right man was in the right place at the right time. And when the pressure was on, he

made the right decisions and preformed admirably. He had always been an unsung hero who suddenly became the most famous pilot in the world. When asked if he was a hero, Sully has consistently responded along the lines of "I don't feel like a hero; I was just a man doing his job." Even after years of acclaim and tributes since, including a movie in which he's portrayed by Tom Hanks, Sully's humility remains intact.

We could all learn a lot from Sully. In his book, "Highest Duty: My Search for What Really Matters," he emphasizes his years of hard work, training and experience flying airplanes.

He details the importance of attention to detail and selflessness in performing professionally. To summarize, he states:

"I flew thousands of flights in the last forty-two years, but my entire career is now being judged by how I performed on one of them. This has been a reminder to me: We need to try to *do the right thing every time*, to perform at our best, because we never know which moment of our lives we will be judged on." (emphasis added)

We trust our lives to airline pilots every time we travel on a commercial airliner. We also trust the collective future of our communities to our public leaders, church officers and people in other positions of trust who impact our lives. What if our politicians acted more like Capt. Sullenberger? What if we demanded the competence, humility and decency that Sully personifies in our elected officials? After this last election cycle, that may sound counterintuitive.

Thankfully, I do see these qualities in many of Tennessee's leaders. Agree or disagree with his policy decisions, Gov. Bill Haslam embodies these character traits better than any politician in a generation. And his vast popularity seems to bear out that the public appreciates this approach. However, I would challenge you that a better future first begins by demanding these qualities of ourselves. ■



Mike Knotts
Vice President of
Government Affairs

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Nationwide Coverage	YES	YES
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More minute plans available. Ask your Jitterbug expert for details.

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Good Pipes

This Shop in Ooltewah Makes Some of the World's Best Pipe Organs

Story by Ron Bell • Photographs courtesy Richards, Fowkes & Company



Most of us have experienced sitting in a hushed chapel as the sound of a pipe organ, rich and other-worldly, fills the air around us. For most of us, it's unforgettable. But for some of us, it's a life-changing event. Just ask the folks at Richards, Fowkes & Company who have been making some of the world's best pipe organs since 1988. And they do it all right here in Tennessee.

Based in Ooltewah — on Volunteer Energy Cooperative lines — Richards, Fowkes & Company has organs in Connecticut, Georgia, Tennessee, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Arizona, North Carolina, Texas, Ohio, Kansas and Michigan as well as London, England.

Bruce Fowkes, a native of Salt Lake City, Utah, became interested in the organ after attending a concert at the Mormon Tabernacle on Temple Square in downtown Salt Lake City. He studied organ at Brigham Young University and Utah State University, becoming an accomplished player. His first experience actually making organs came as an apprentice with the renowned Michael Bigelow & Company based in American Fork, Utah. He then traveled to London,



Craftsman Trent Buhr begins assembly of the many decorative pieces that'll give this organ its individuality.

where he saw countless historic English organs that were hundreds of years old. In 1983, he returned to the U.S. and worked with master organ builder Michael Bigelow of John Brombaugh & Associates, which is where he met Ralph Richards.

Bruce and wife Karla (also an organist and choirmaster in Chattanooga, where they live), have a 20-year-old son, Keaton, who also works in the family business.

Ralph Richards grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. At the

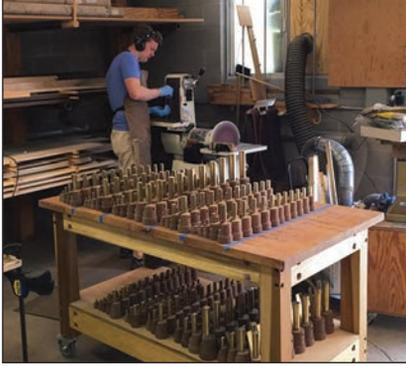
age of 15, he started organ lessons and went on to study organ at Oberlin College in Ohio. There, Ralph became friends with the folks at John Brombaugh & Associates and then located in Germantown, Ohio. After a short apprenticeship, he started his own company with another partner in Tacoma, Washington. After nine years with that company, Ralph began his partnership with Bruce Fowkes.

Currently, 15 employees produce one to two organs a year for the company. The parts are precisely tooled, and the handcrafted carvings are all done by staff and crew right here in Tennessee.

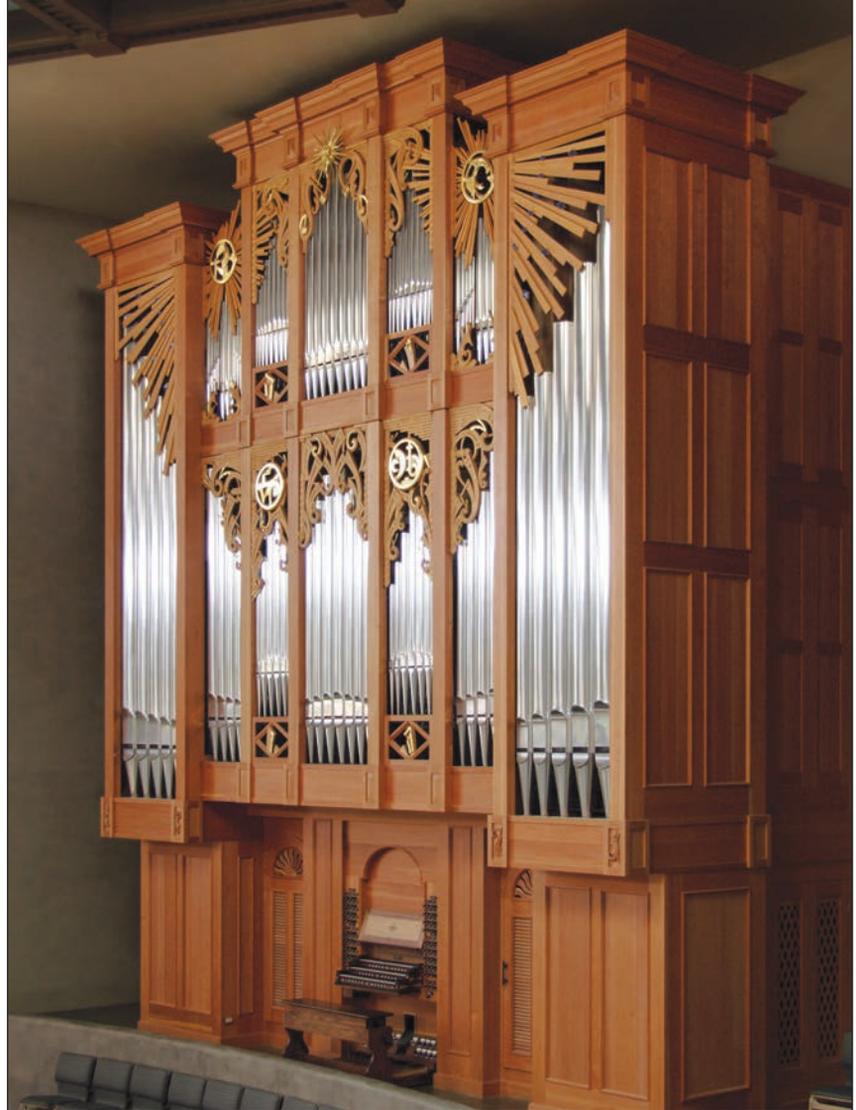
Operations Manager John Brown says Richards and Fowkes chose the Chattanooga area for "the ease with which we can procure all the materials we need and because the cost of living is so good. We love this area. It's a great place to raise a family and run a business."



Opposite page, the organ at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. The carvings on the organ have local and Biblical significance. Above, the sunflower is the Kansas state flower, the leaves are from the state cottonwood tree, wheat signifies bread and the grapes symbolize wine.



Above, each piece of the organ is carefully calibrated, not just for cosmetics and design but for sound quality, pitch and tone. Right, a Richards, Fowkes & Company organ at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale, Arizona. The case is made of waxed Douglas fir, and the design is beautifully inspired by elements of native Hopi art from the region.



Currently, the crew at Richards, Fowkes & Company are “all hands on deck” at an installation of its largest organ to date at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. When an organ is commissioned, weeks of meetings take place to discuss the wishes of the client to ensure just the right sound and look are attained. Plans are carefully crafted and pored over before construction begins.

Pipe organs produce sound by driving pressurized air through keyboard-selected pipes. Each pipe produces its own note attained by its depth, width and shape. Much like a chorus of singers who produce individual notes that together make chords, the organ player selects notes on the keyboard, selecting individual pipes. Most organs have multiple ranks of pipes that a player can select through the use of controls

called stops. Mastery of these stops is one of the things organists say divides the pros from the amateurs and, indeed, raises the complexity of organ-playing.

As you enjoy holiday choirs this Christmas season, take particular notice of these beautiful, hand-crafted inventions that give our sanctuaries the calming notion of another world far away from the stresses and pains of every day. ■



“Our goal is to build pipe organs of the highest artistic merit using traditional handcrafted organ-building techniques. By studying the great masterpiece organs of northern Europe, we have incorporated the organ-building techniques that were common in all of the great masters’ work into the production of modern instruments.”
 Richards, Fowkes & Co. Mission Statement, Bruce Fowkes, co-owner



The newly expanded shop in Ooltewah

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 bastions 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:
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Offices located in Lebanon,
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John M. Pino, O.D., Ph.D.



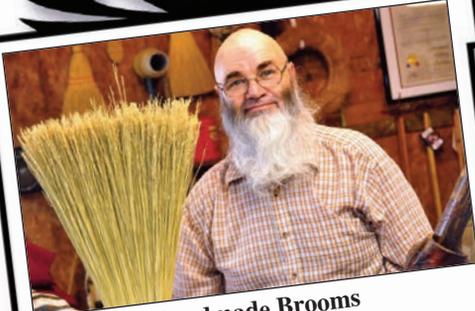
The Tennessee Holiday GIFT GUIDE



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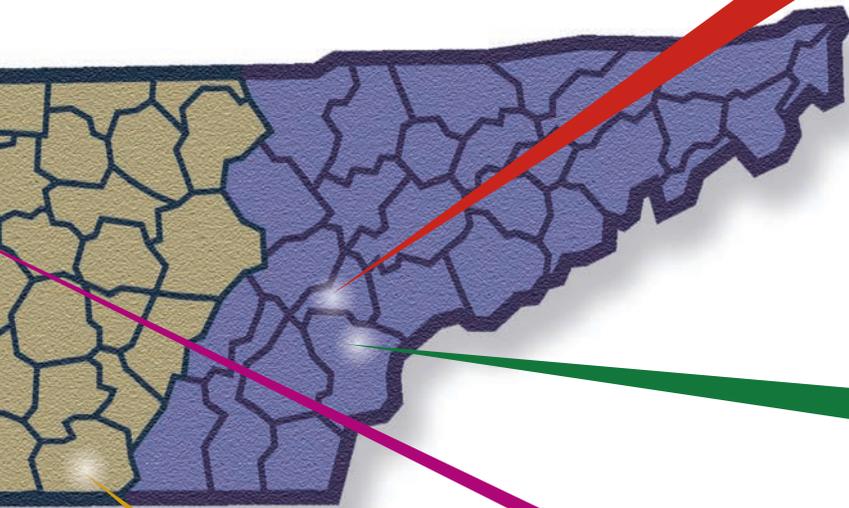
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Magazine's GUIDE

Tennessee-made products make perfect gifts for friends and family this Christmas season.



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Bedford Cancer Foundation gives financial aid to those fighting for their lives

Story by Trish Milburn

NEIGHBORS *helping* NEIGHBORS

Cancer. It's a word with so much power to change lives that we almost don't even want to utter it. And yet, according to the National Cancer Institute, nearly 40 percent of the population will develop some form of cancer at some point during their lives. Battling a life-threatening disease is bad enough when you're in a good financial situation so that you can just focus on treatment, beating the disease and recovery. But for those who aren't that fortunate, the stress of paying day-to-day bills just adds to an already extremely difficult situation. Recognizing there was a need to help people in these types of situations led to the formation of the Bedford Cancer Foundation (BCF) in January of 2010.



"They are a blessing," Michelle Sneed says of her neighbors at the Bedford Cancer Foundation

Through individual and corporate donations, the foundation gives aid to residents of Bedford County who are currently going through cancer treatment. This monetary aid comes in the form of payment of day-to-day bills such as rent and utilities or gift cards for food and gas.

"They are a blessing," says Michelle Sneed of Shelbyville, who has battled four different types of cancer since 2007 and is currently undergoing treatment for lung cancer.

Sneed, 56, says she found out about the Bedford Cancer Foundation while attending a Relay for Life event. She asked a woman there if she knew of any organizations that might offer a bit of help with her bills and was told about the foundation. When she contacted the BCF, they got back with her quickly, she says: "They stepped right in. They're so



Bedford Cancer Foundation representatives receive a check for the "Real Men Wear Pink" fundraiser from Shelbyville Times-Gazette Publisher Hugh Jones. From left are, front row, Hugh Jones, Connie Allen, Rebecca Jones and Kim Allison. In back, from left, are Times-Gazette reporter and foundation board member Jason Reynolds, Pam Ingraham, Carol Lackey, Iris Schumann, Cathy Mercer and Dr. Navid Monajjem. Photograph by Kay Adcock

nice, and the paperwork was simple."

Sneed says the foundation has been life-saving. It has been able to help her with bills, including taxes on her home, and with gas so she can travel back and forth to Nashville to see her doctor.

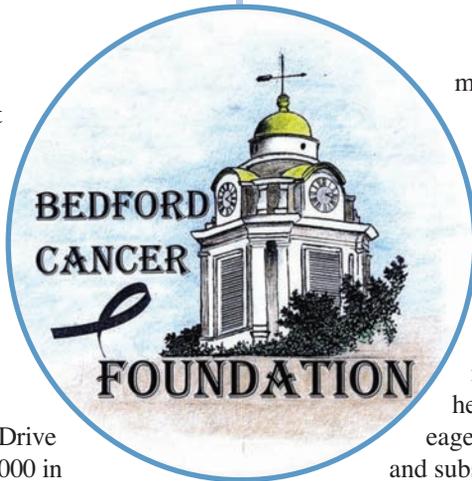
During its six-year existence, BCF has given out nearly \$180,000 in grants to more than 70 different recipients. So far this year — from January through October — it has given \$35,423.64 in grants to 18 individual recipients, the youngest 11 years old and the oldest 81.

According to Rebecca Jones, a member of the BCF's all-volunteer board of directors, the foundation typically holds two major fundraisers a year.

"Our Walking for Cancer Horse Show is usually held in April each year, and our Veterans Day 5K is held in November on the Saturday of the Veterans Parade," Jones says.

“We have held other fundraisers over the years, but currently these are the two that we have continued. In 2016, our horse show raised \$27,000.

“We are also fortunate to have very generous donors. The Bedford County Volunteer Fire Department holds an annual T-shirt sale in October for Breast Cancer Awareness and donates some of the proceeds to our organization. Ford Motor Company, partnering with our local Ford dealership, has allowed us to hold a ‘Drive for Your Community’ event that raised \$5,000 in 2015 and \$4,800 in 2016. Bedford Vision holds an annual style event and has donated the proceeds each year. We have just been blessed with all of our community support, not only from these organizations and many local businesses but also by private donors. The Bedford Cancer Foundation has



member of the BCF board. “Some of the stories are just gut-wrenching.”

Kim Allison joined the BCF board after losing her husband, Jim, former CEO of Duck River Electric Membership Corporation, to the disease.

“After hearing about how the organization helped pay living expenses of those battling cancer and that all the money stayed in Bedford County and helped our own community members, I was eager to join,” Allison says. “The diagnosis and subsequent treatment of cancer is such a devastating one to the patient and family. The thought of

having to worry over day-to-day living expenses in addition to dealing with the illness is just unimaginable to me. Yet I know from being on the board that there are so many people who, indeed, are having to deal with financial needs along with battling cancer.

“Also, the kindness friends and strangers unexpectedly exhibit during this overwhelming time is often the thing that gets you and your loved one through the day. Hopefully, our foundation’s ‘act of giving’ can provide emotional support along with the financial assistance the person needs. The absolute hardest thing about being on the board is hearing the heartbreaking stories of those seeking financial help.”

“Cancer can also affect an entire organization,” said DREMC President and CEO Michael Watson. “Throughout the late Jim Allison’s illness and brave fight against cancer, the employee family here at the cooperative and our board of directors were emotionally involved. There were highs and lows that we keenly felt. This is why the electric co-op is supportive of the efforts to help the patients and families of cancer victims.”

While the stories might be hard to hear, recipients of grants from the BCF are incredibly thankful for that helping hand.

“It’s a great foundation,” says Thomas Lynch, 63, of Shelbyville, who has stage 4 colon and liver cancer. “I don’t know what I’d do without them. They’ve done just about everything they could for me.” ■

Easing the Burden

To find out how to apply for help, how to donate or how you might start a similar organization in your local community, contact the Bedford Cancer Foundation through its website at bedfordcancerfoundation.org.



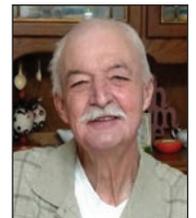
Friends and members of the Bedford Cancer Foundation participate year-round in activities to raise money and awareness. This group helped in a cleanup of U.S. 231 as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program. From left are: Rebecca Jones, Karen Inman, Corey Bates, Leanne Weaver, Emily Campbell, Elizabeth Weaver, Dr. Navid Monajjem, Connie Nixon-Allen, Pam Inman, Ralph Allen and Cathy Mercer. Photograph courtesy of Ralph Allen

many people who mail in individual contributions and/or memorials in lieu of the traditional flowers or gifts for a funeral, as it is a gift that keeps giving.”

The Bedford Cancer Foundation is a tax-exempt charitable organization that enables people to easily and effectively support and promote funding for charitable, research and educational projects that will save lives and diminish suffering from cancer. As a 501(c)(3) corporation, all contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

The foundation has no salaried employees, just its 16-member board that handles the applications, interviews and disbursement of funds to recipients.

“It has been so rewarding to know that we can and have helped people who are having such difficulties during life-threatening and life-ending times,” says Virginia Stewart, a



“It’s a great foundation,” says cancer survivor Thomas Lynch, “I don’t know what I would do without them.”

Alex Stewart's memories

Reflecting on life for Tennessee pioneers

Authors and columnists have a tendency to write about famous battles and famous people. We write about events we deem important.

I recently came across a book that made me aware of how much we all neglect the topic of day-to-day life. "Alex Stewart: Portrait of a Pioneer" was written 30 years ago by John Rice Irwin, founder of Clinton's Museum of Appalachia. Irwin was originally drawn to Stewart because of his incredible reputation as a cooper. Using hand tools, Stewart made everything from furniture to weapons to toys out of wood, demonstrating skill and craftsmanship that eventually led to his being recognized by the National Endowment of the Arts.

Along the way, Irwin began accumulating anecdotes from Stewart about what life was like in

remote and mountainous Hancock County in the early 1900s. "The more I talked with Alex, the more I realized I was talking with a man straight from pioneer America," Irwin wrote. "Indeed, the conditions from which he sprang were as stark, dramatic and unbelievable as the conditions 200 years earlier in more accessible parts of this country."

Stewart was born in the Newman's Ridge area near Sneedville in 1891 and lived there practically all his life (he died in 1985). "Alex Stewart: Portrait of a Pioneer" is a series of transcribed interviews with him. Here are a few of the tidbits about life in that part of the state that I gleaned from the book:

To feed his family, Stewart worked as a sharecropper, coal miner, railroad worker, logger, log rafter, medicine man, cooper and even well digger. "I've rolled in the bed many a night, studying how I was going to feed my family the next day," he said.

In Stewart's youth, there were no stores near his home, and almost no one had money anyway. People survived by hunting, fishing, gathering and harvesting whatever they



Alex Stewart uses a mallet and froe to split wood. Photograph by Robert Kollar, courtesy of the Museum of Appalachia

were able to grow in the woods or the small farms they created on the steep, rocky ground of Hancock County. As a result, things that seem like simple pleasures to us today — biscuits made out of flour, for example — were rare luxuries back then. "Ninety-five percent of the people never had biscuits," Stewart said. "They just had cornbread, three meals a day."

In Stewart's youth, one of the leading causes of death was parasitic worms. "They (worms) killed lots of children," Stewart said. "I've been to children's burials where they wasn't nothing in the world wrong with them but worms."

The Newman's Ridge area of Hancock County was so remote that there were no doctors. Any ailment — regardless of its severity — had to either run its course

or be treated with a natural remedy. Stewart goes into detail about the medicinal qualities of plants such as hemp, sarsaparilla, pine, boneset, goldenseal, wild cherry and angelica. "Back then, people didn't go off (to a doctor)," Stewart said. "They went to the woods and got their medicine and made it. And they wasn't nearly as much sickness and disease as it is today."

There were no churches near Newman's Ridge in the early 1900s. Rather than go once a week for a service lasting a few hours, Stewart's grandparents would walk 20 miles to church events that lasted for days. "Grandpap and Grandma would go over to Jonesville to camp-meetings at certain times of the year," Stewart recalled. "They'd stay there several days with one of his brothers."

Stewart's first schoolhouse had no furniture and no heating. His first teacher had no schoolbooks and no paper with which to teach. "I was the second boy in school that had a spelling book," he said. "There was several of us boys that studied out of that book, and the teacher, she borrowed it and taught from it."

For many poor families in Hancock County in that era, death from cold was a real possibility. “There was two or three women that froze to death right up here on top of this ridge,” Stewart said. “I remember like it was yesterday, when a woman and her two children froze to death. She lived in a little log house and had no bedcovers and no way to get wood for a fire. It come a real cold spell, and they just froze to death.”

Since so many people found and prepared their own foods, built and maintained their own homes and furniture, made their own clothes and had no electricity, idleness and leisure simply weren’t part of culture. Almost all social gatherings had to be structured around a task such as a corn-shucking or a cabin-building. Perhaps the best indicator of this is something Stewart recalled about his grandmother. “What a working woman she was,” he said. “She would never stop. You would never catch her idle. If you wanted to talk with her, she’d get her chair and her knitting or something and set down and knit as hard as she could. She’d be setting there seeding cotton or carding wool or doing something.”

In the early 1900s, when many people were buried in that part of Tennessee, “somebody would just pick up a rock and set it up (to mark the grave). They never thought of having any lettering cut on it. Ole Lou Trent was the first man I knowed of who had what you’d call a regular



Alex Stewart with his friend, “Roots” author Alex Haley. Photograph courtesy of the Museum of Appalachia

tombstone. They put up a rock at his grave and it had his name, his date of birth and all. Why, a lot of people would come down there just to look at that tombstone. They’d never seen one before.” This observation reminds us why we simply do not know where many Tennesseans were buried.

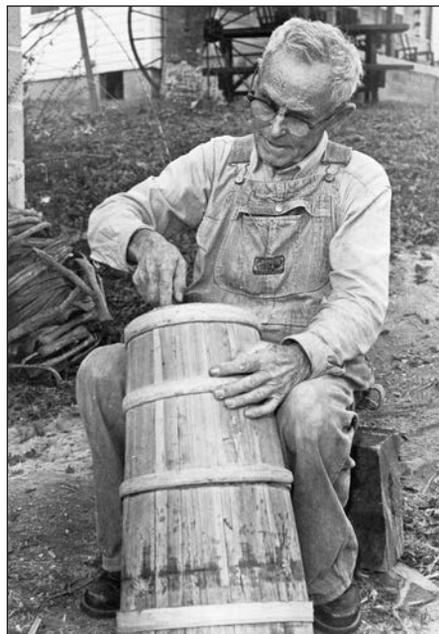
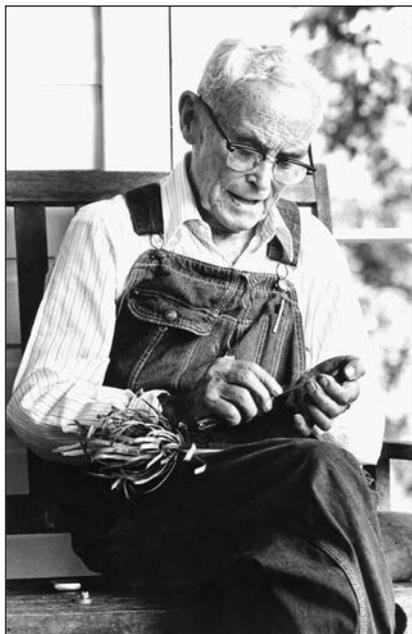
As the best-known cooper in the county, Stewart was often called upon to make coffins, a sad task that sometimes left indelible memories. “They was a Maxey boy come up to my place one time to get me to make a coffin for his twin babies,” Stewart recalled. “We went and got the lumber and I made an awful nice coffin. I made it wide at the shoulder and barely sloped it toward the feet. Made it look real good. I lined the outside with black cloth, and the inside with white cloth, and I got two cotton pillows for it. I’ve thought about that a lot — how them two twin babies looked laying there in that coffin side by side.”

Finally, in spite of what people want to believe, the traditions we now associate with Christmas were not part of the culture that Stewart experienced as a child. “The first Christmas tree ever I knowed of was put up by the Presbyterians who had come in here and built a church house down on Blackwater,” Stewart said. “I’s about 10

years old, and nobody had never seen such before.” And as for presents? “The first present I ever remember Pap getting us for Christmas was a little candy and an orange ... I saved that candy and took a little bite off it every once in a while. I don’t know how long it lasted me. And they didn’t have no decorations along back then. That come in later on.”

Alex Stewart died in 1985. Many of those who visit the Museum of Appalachia today regard some of the amazing wooden tools, furniture and toys as his main gift to the world.

I see him differently. The anecdotes, stories and wisdom of Alex Stewart should make us all realize how lucky we have it. To me, that’s a pretty great Christmas gift. ■



Alex Stewart was an internationally known craftsman who could make just about anything with wood. Photograph courtesy of the Museum of Appalachia

Shutterbug

Photography Contest

Pets certainly have a way of working themselves into our hearts. Large or small, inside or outside, they make life better. For this Shutterbug contest, try to capture your pet's personality in some doggone good photographs.

Dogs dressed as cats, cats dressed as dogs, pigs dressed as people; in fact, animals in any costume is not what we are looking for. Your photographs can — but do not have to — include people with your pet. They can be selfies or just photographs of your pet by itself.

Just keep in mind a few basics: Use natural light, make strong compositions and focus on interesting subject matter. Simple, straightforward images with defined subjects and strong lighting usually work well.

As you accept this challenge, please stay safe. We don't want any pets harmed or "embarrassed" in the name of the Shutterbug contest.

Contest rules

1. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers. For the purposes of this competition, you are considered a professional if you regularly sell your images or garner more than 50 percent of your income from photography.
2. Photographs must have been taken by you.
3. A photographer can enter no more than three photographs. There is no cost to enter.
4. A completed entry form (at right) must be attached to the back of **every** photograph entered. You can photocopy the form. Omitting any of this information can result in disqualification.
5. Extensive digital manipulation of photographs is prohibited. Limit the use of photo-editing software. Adjusting exposure, color balance, contrast and sharpness is allowed, but highly manipulating colors and content of images is not.
6. Employees of Tennessee's electric cooperatives and their immediate families are not eligible to win.
7. Please include the name of each recognizable person, if any other than yourself, in your photograph. It is the photographer's responsibility to have the subject's permission to enter his or her image in the contest. You must include the subject's name and contact information with your submission. Omitting any of this information can result in disqualification.
8. By entering the contest, photographers automatically give

Shutterbug Entry Form

Clip this form and tape it to the back of each "Pets" entry.

(Please check one)

Amateur _____ Professional _____

(Please check one)

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(17 and younger) (18 and older)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Entry title: _____

Location where the photograph was taken:

Any additional information: _____

PRINTS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

This entry form is also available on our website.

Go to www.tnmagazine.org for more information.

The Tennessee Magazine permission to publish the winning images in print and digital publications, social media and on websites.

Shutterbug assignment "Pets"

Submissions — mail prints or enter online

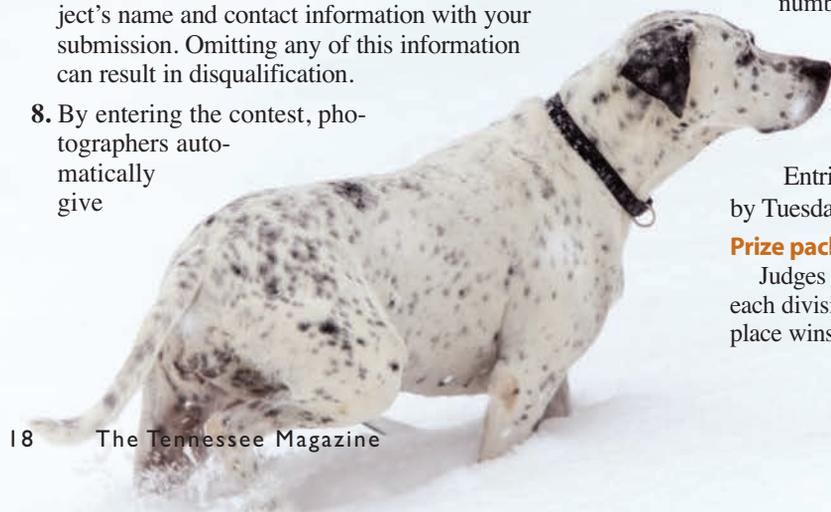
1. Photographs must be entered as unmounted, 5-by-7-inch or larger prints or submitted online at www.tnmagazine.org. Please don't mail your only print of a photo. Because of large numbers of entries, **prints will not be returned.**
2. Enter online or send entries to *The Tennessee Magazine*, Tennessee Pets Photo Contest, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224.

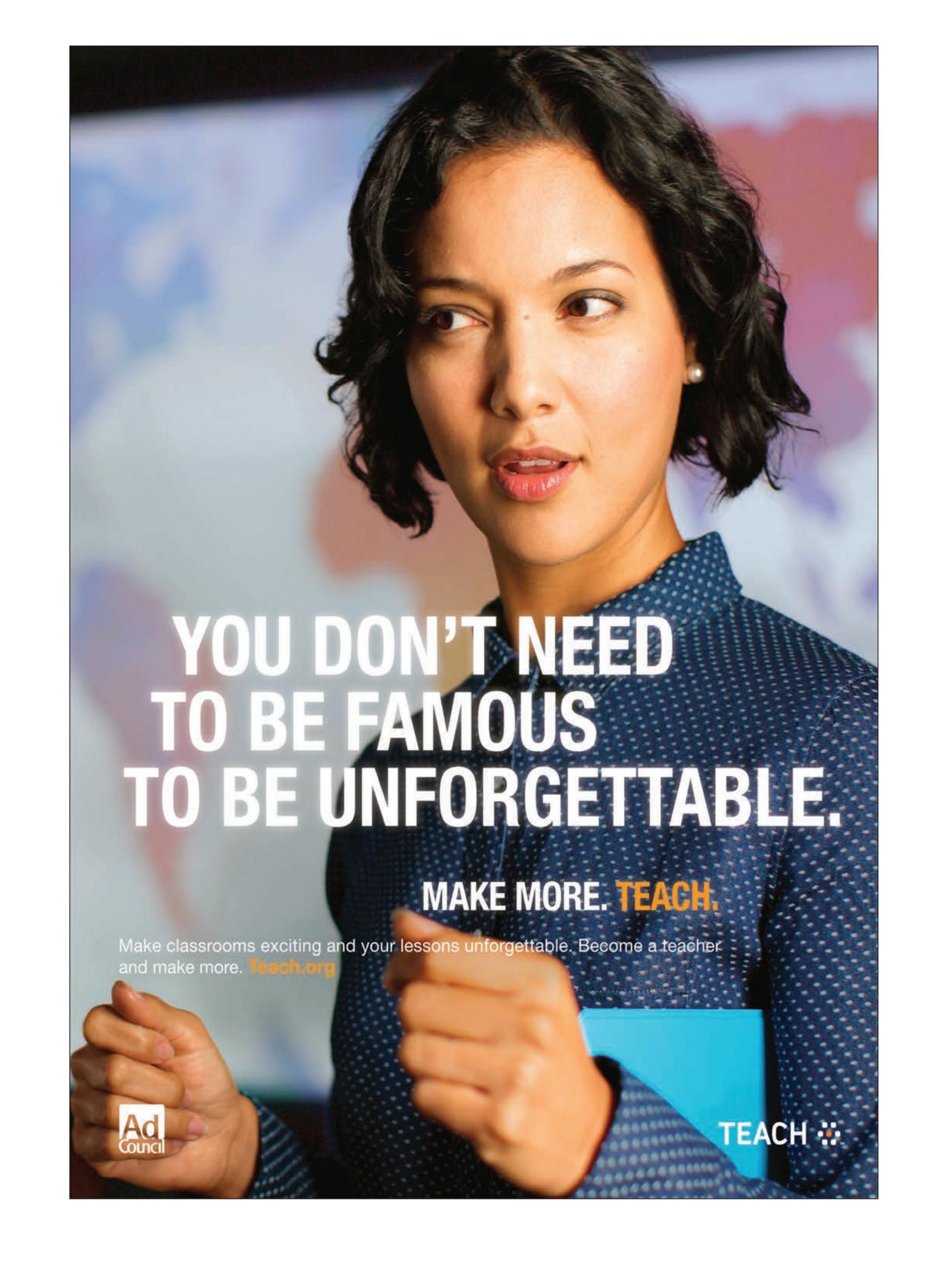
Deadline

Entries must be entered online by midnight or postmarked by Tuesday, Jan. 31. Winners will be published in the March issue.

Prize packages:

Judges will select a first-, second- and third-place winner in each division and age group. These prizes will be awarded: First place wins \$150, second place \$100 and third place \$50.





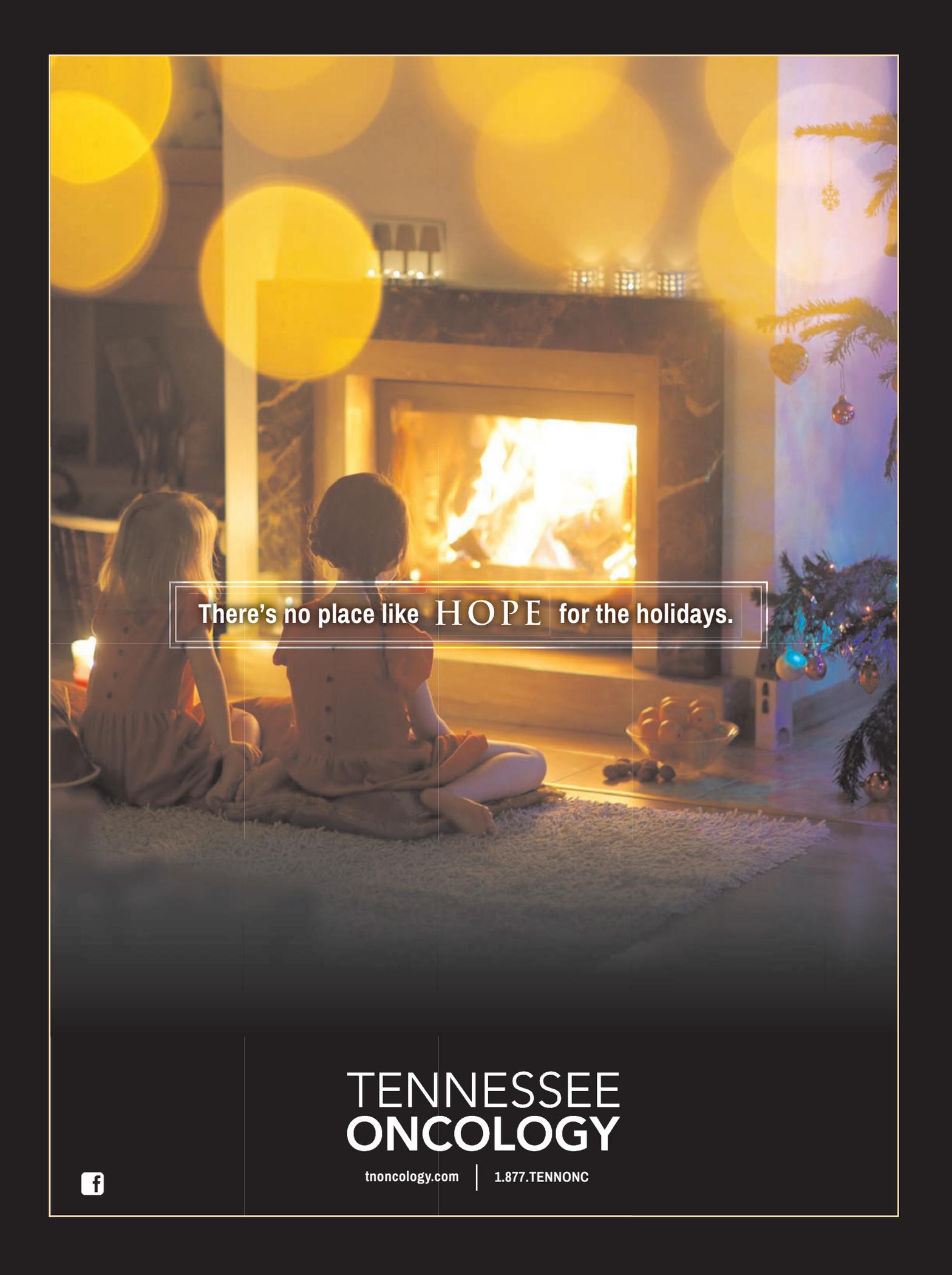
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You're in good company with co-ops

Neighbors helping neighbors to create a better world

By Adam Schwartz

A fair question people often ask is, “What’s in it for me?” This makes sense as we all need to act in our own self-interest every now and then. The cool thing about co-ops is we answer that question with, “This is what’s in it for *we!*”

When the market refuses to offer a good or service or does so at a high price, co-ops step in to fill the void. Cooperatives identify members of the community who have the same self-interests and bring them together to make a cooperative decision.

When the local electric cooperative got started, the folks in your community shared at least one self-interest — they wanted electricity. In fact, many Americans who lived in rural parts of the country at that time needed electricity, which is why electric cooperatives were formed. Individuals acted in their own self-interest, but that self-interest led to the community and economic development of the rural areas in which they lived. Today, rural electric co-ops serve more than 42 million people in 47 states.

It is good to know that your friends and neighbors are also co-owners of your cooperative. People coming together to meet a particular need is at the heart of every kind of co-op. Local credit unions bring financial services to people banks don’t want to serve. In urban areas and college communities, housing co-ops offer people safe,

reliable and affordable places to live. Many agricultural co-ops started as a way to get their products to market, whether it was oranges (Sunkist), dairy goods (Land O’Lakes), grapes (Welch’s), organic milk (Organic Valley) or any of the hundreds of other food products that co-ops bring to our table every day.

Many people who owned small businesses realized they, too, had a common self-interest: stay in business. So they formed purchasing co-ops like Ace Hardware and True Value so they could compete with big-box stores like Home Depot and Lowe’s.

Today, it is estimated that more than 40 percent of all residents in the U.S. are members of at least one co-op. Worldwide, well over a billion people are counted as co-op members.

So every time you turn on (or off) the lights, it can serve as a reminder that as a co-op member, you are in good company with your local neighbors — and with people all around the world.

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way, a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter — @adamcooperative — or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativeway.coop.

Empty house? Leave the heat on anyway

Think twice before you shut the heat off in a vacation home or even your own home’s attic or guest rooms. You might be trying to save money and conserve energy, but you could be setting yourself up for the wet mess caused by a burst plumbing pipe or sprinkler system.

When the water inside your pipes freezes, it puts great pressure on its container — including metal and plastic pipes. When that



happens, the pipes can leak or explode, causing flooding and plenty of property damage.

To keep your pipes from freezing, don’t expose them to freezing temperatures. Keep the thermostat at 55 degrees or higher in all areas of your home. In parts of your house without heat, like exterior walls and attics, add insulation around pipes to keep them warm all winter long.

The consumer-centric utility

By Jan Ahlen

In recent years, the electric utility industry has been undergoing a shift. At the epicenter of that movement is technology: the emergence of affordable solar panels, high-capacity batteries, electric vehicles, internet-connected devices and other technical innovations. The ways we generate, transmit, buy, sell, store, use and think about electricity are changing.

Consumers of electricity are changing as well. Now more than ever, they want some measure of control over their energy use and energy choices.

In response to these changes, a new kind of electricity supplier is emerging. This “consumer-centric utility” pursues its traditional mission — providing safe, affordable, reliable and clean electric service — while enabling access to new products and services that satisfy consumers’ evolving expectations. In truth, there’s never been a better time to be a user of electricity.

Consumer-centric utility defined

A consumer-centric utility integrates and optimizes a pool of resources on behalf of consumers. Resources can be traditional generational assets or distributed energy resources (demand-response programs; energy-efficiency programs; and distributed generation, including wind and solar; and storage capacity). Unlike traditional utilities, consumer-centric utilities empower consumers with new services such as community solar programs designed to meet local conditions and satisfy consumer preferences. As consumers demand new products and services, the flexible consumer-centric utility will be positioned to meet the needs of individuals and the system as a whole.

Empowerment

To deliver new and better energy service, the consumer-centric utility takes a long-term view. It leverages economies of scale, scope and integration. Investment in a two-way metering system, for example, enables consumers to control energy use and access new services while reducing costs for the system as a whole.

A broad understanding of the system allows consumer-centric utilities to appreciate how all the pieces of a complex system fit together. Such a utility might have the insight to invest in sensor technology, for example, in places with a high penetration of solar energy. Consumer-centric utilities also join with third-party providers of distributed energy resources to optimize systems and

improve energy service for consumers. Deployment of advanced metering infrastructure systems, smart inverters and electronic sensors provides data that can improve system performance.

Consumer-focused utilities embrace innovation

Let’s take a look at how electric co-ops across the country are empowering consumers.

- CoServ Electric in Texas created financial incentives that encouraged members to enroll in a Nest smart thermostat program. The initiative reduced overall energy use during peak summer hours when electricity is expensive and saved money for consumers.
- Vermont Electric Cooperative made several strategic investments over a 14-year period, installing an integrated electronic mapping system, a two-way meter platform, an integrated outage management system and an upgraded control and data acquisition system. The utility cut outages in half and positioned itself to provide new services to consumers.
- North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, a generation and transmission cooperative (G&T), has collaborated with its distribution co-ops to improve consumers’ experience. Among the advantages of the arrangement, the G&T can more easily pilot new technologies such as internet-connected thermostats that benefit consumers.

Community solutions

Interest in solar energy has grown dramatically, but only a fraction of U.S. households have rooftops that are suitable for installing solar panels. Consumer-centric utilities have responded by developing community solar programs that are accessible to all members and are more cost-efficient than rooftop solar. For example, Okanogan County Electric Cooperative in eastern Washington built a subscription community solar system in 2010 that quickly sold out, prompting the co-op to expand to two systems. Many other cooperatives are following the same trend.

In a world of change, the future is bright for flexible, consumer-focused electric cooperatives.

Jan Ahlen 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.

Avoiding the energy rush

Time of use matters

By Anne Prince

Did you know that *when* you use electricity often matters as much as *how much* electricity you consume?

It's no surprise that electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand, and electric co-ops must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy demands of their members during times of highest energy use, also known as "on-peak hours." In the early morning when people often start their day and during the evening when folks return to their homes after work are common times for on-peak hours. To reduce peak energy demand and save money, many electric co-ops have created a time-of-use rate program to encourage electricity use during off-peak hours — when energy is less expensive to provide. Similar to saving money by attending a matinee, you can keep more money in your wallet simply by using electricity during an off-peak time period.

Using less on-peak power means lower costs for the co-op — and, ultimately, lower rates for members.

Electric rates based on time of use offer consumers the ability to lower their electricity costs without reducing

the amount of electricity used. By performing some of your daily chores like running the dishwasher or doing laundry during off-peak hours, you can save on your utility bill. In a similar vein, plug electronic equipment such as computers, printers, TVs and power tools into power strips, then turn the strips off during peak hours.

You can also put technology to work for you. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings so your heating-and-cooling system syncs with the off-peak rate periods. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way.

Saving energy can be simple. Remember: By shifting your energy use to off-peak times, you have the power to save on your monthly energy bill. To learn more about why time of use matters, watch a short video at tinyurl.com/TOUmatters.

Anne Prince 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 co-ops.

Stuff your stockings with energy-saving lightbulbs

Here's a bright idea for your holiday stockings: Stuff them with light-emitting diodes (LEDs) or compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). LEDs use up to 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent lightbulbs and can last 10 years or longer. CFLs use two-thirds less energy than traditional bulbs and can last 10 times longer.

Both kinds of energy-efficient lightbulbs use a lower wattage to produce the same amount of light.

Most incandescent bulbs are banned from stores by now. But if you still have some burning in lamps or overhead light fixtures, now is a good time to change them.

Using less energy for lighting means a lower energy bill for you — and more money to spend on stocking-stuffers!

It's unlikely that your little ones have asked Santa for a gift of energy savings. Offer it as a gag gift, and take the opportunity to teach your children about how the new lightbulbs can reduce energy use — and make the kiddos proud to be doing their part to help the environment.



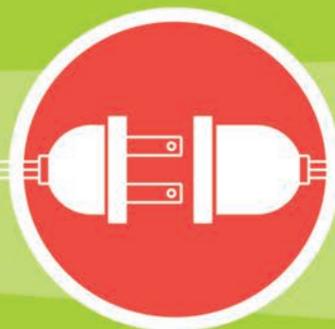
Surprise them, too, with a fun, new bedroom lamp that burns the funny-looking, twisted lightbulbs — or an LED light that is built right into the fixture and never needs changing.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy-efficient than incandescent bulbs.

Connect each strand to test holiday lights before hanging them.



Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.

Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.



Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using clips to keep the bulbs upright.

Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

When the lightbulb goes off

How inventors get ideas — and why that's just the beginning

By Paul Wesslund

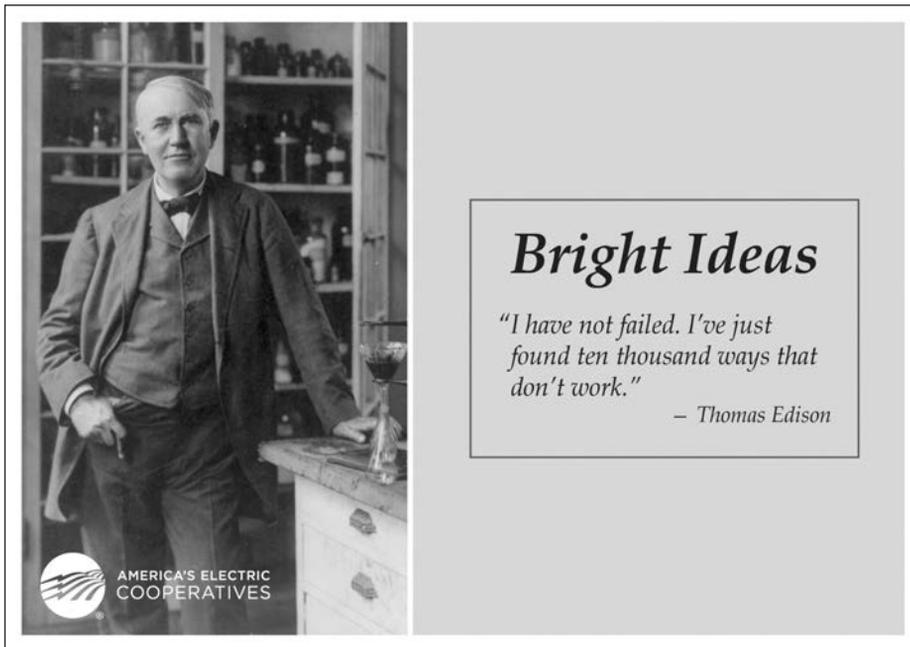
If you're in search of a holiday gift for your favorite energy buff, consider the new novel by award-winning screenwriter Graham Moore.

Moore tells the story of the legal, technical and public relations battle between Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse in the late 1800s that gave us the electric system we use today.

"The Last Days of Night," fiction based on fact, gives an entertaining look at the fight between Westinghouse's system of alternating current (AC) and Edison's plan to use direct current (DC) to power America.

But the book is also about the process of invention and how ideas become reality. Each chapter starts with a quotation from a noted inventor. As we prepare for a new year with new possibilities, let's take a look at some of the creative quotes shared in "The Last Days of Night:"

- "I have not failed. I've just found ten thousand ways that don't work." — Thomas Edison
- "... half of what separates the successful entrepreneurs from the unsuccessful ones is pure perseverance." — Steve Jobs



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons: holiday gatherings, houseguests and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

- "High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation." — Charles F. Kettering, inventor of the electrical starter
- "Headlines, in a way, are what mislead you, because bad news is a headline and gradual improvement is not." — Bill Gates
- "You have to learn the rules of the game. And then you have to play better than anyone else." — Albert Einstein
- "We often miss opportunity because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work." — Thomas Edison
- "Technology is nothing. What's important is that you have a faith in people, that they're basically good and smart, and if you give them tools, they'll do wonderful things with them." — Steve Jobs

I hope these quotes inspire you as they did me. Moore's "The Last Days of Night" is available for purchase through most major book retailers. It's a great gift idea for any energy buff — or any creative genius, for that matter.

Paul Wesslund 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.

Digital devices impact energy use

By Tom Tate

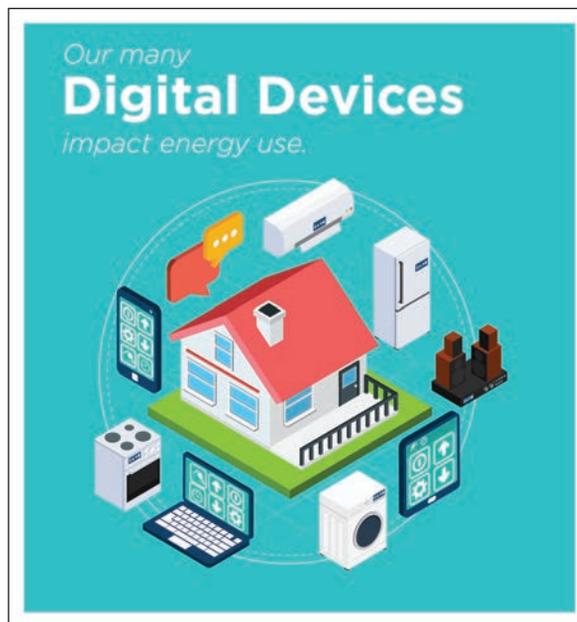
Ah, the Digital Age. We have gadgets galore, the ability to manage our homes in new and innovative ways, brilliant images and captivating sounds of modern entertainment options and, of course, the internet. Clearly, digital devices reign supreme. Yet these cool new capabilities come with a couple of pitfalls: vampire loads and the issue of “technology reincarnation.”

Over the course of the Digital Age, electricity use has continued to increase. Families have multiple televisions. Computer prices have plummeted, meaning many homes now have multiple computers. Everyone in the family needs a cell phone. Gaming consoles and set-top cable/satellite boxes satisfy our desire for entertainment.

Major appliances aside, most digital devices do not use 120-volt power, which is the standard voltage of a home outlet. They actually use a lot less. So, trying to plug your brand new smartphone directly into an outlet is going to lead to a fried device and lots of tears from someone. This is why low-voltage devices come with a power adapter. These “wall warts,” as some term them, take the 120-volt electricity supplied by your local electric cooperative and convert it to, say, 5 volts. Unfortunately, most folks leave their adapters plugged in to make recharging easier. The problem with this approach is that the seemingly innocuous wall wart uses power even when it isn’t charging a device.

This invisible energy consumption is often called “vampire load.” Studies show that 5 to 10 percent of the average home’s energy use is from vampire loads. The only way to stop this is to unplug the power adapter when it is not in use or employ smart power strips, which look like the typical power strip but with a twist — only one socket gets power all the time. When the device or appliance connected to the live outlet turns on and starts using power, the remaining sockets receive power, too. This is perfect for entertainment systems, computer setups and a variety of other situations.

Technological advances have steadily increased energy efficiency and reduced purchase prices. This seems like a



good thing. Unfortunately, when replacing a product at the end of its life, the tendency is to go bigger or continue to use the old technology. This is the second, “reincarnation” issue I noted.

For example, flat-screen television prices have plummeted as technology has evolved — and so has the amount of electricity they use. Consumers wander into the big-box store and are dazzled by walls of giant, brilliant televisions. What they used to pay for the paltry 32-inch model now might net them a 50-inch giant. And who doesn’t want to see their

favorite show or sports event in near-lifesize? But if you spring for the bigger TV, you won’t benefit from the increased energy efficiency of the newer technology. The bigger model uses as much juice as the older, smaller TV, which likely ends up in another room (reincarnated in another setting), still using power.

Or refrigerators: These are the showpieces of the evolution of smart appliances. Many new models include touchscreens and cameras; they communicate over the internet while keeping food cold and making ice. Yet what often happens is the old refrigerator ends up in the basement or garage, reincarnated as a dedicated beverage unit or overflow.

I’ll offer a couple of words of advice to help you avoid — or at least reduce — the effects of vampire loads and technology reincarnation. Invest in smart power strips or make a point to use outlets where you can conveniently unplug power adapters when not in use. Don’t oversize your replacement appliances and entertainment gear unless family needs dictate the larger capacities. And recycle the replaced appliances and equipment to stem technology reincarnation. You will enjoy the Digital Age for a lot less.

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.

WINTER WORD SEARCH



Find these words hidden in the puzzle below:

BRRR

CHILLY

HOT CHOCOLATE

ICE SKATE

ICICLE

MITTENS

SCARF

SNOWFLAKE

SNOWMAN

WINTER

R	I	L	U	J	M	Q	T	G	S	R	I	R	P	S
Q	D	C	X	G	C	S	N	O	E	Q	W	E	R	N
N	N	Z	I	R	V	I	T	T	D	H	M	O	W	E
K	A	X	R	C	J	N	N	W	F	O	X	P	T	T
I	K	M	X	R	L	I	K	A	D	T	S	H	A	T
C	B	A	W	H	W	E	W	S	I	C	C	V	D	I
T	P	S	D	O	M	Q	N	U	G	H	A	F	H	M
Q	K	U	Z	V	N	O	N	M	V	O	R	O	O	X
F	U	G	C	A	W	S	J	L	X	C	F	U	U	L
R	O	Q	T	F	C	F	Y	D	K	O	G	E	Q	B
R	L	W	L	D	P	W	L	A	E	L	K	D	R	G
E	T	A	K	S	E	C	I	B	G	A	J	R	W	R
R	K	B	U	C	H	I	L	L	Y	T	R	E	V	X
E	L	T	M	F	F	O	Y	I	K	E	Q	X	A	A
D	W	F	O	L	I	X	I	X	B	L	O	R	O	Y

Seal tight, ventilate right

Dear Pat: Now that winter is here, I'd like to make my home more comfortable by keeping cold air out. I'm planning to have a contractor inspect and seal air leaks. However, a neighbor mentioned that I could seal up my home too much and cause ventilation problems. Is this true? — Tricia

Dear Tricia: You're certainly on the right track. Sealing air leaks is usually one of the best energy-efficiency investments a homeowner can make. A typical home leaks, on average, about half of its air every hour, which is like having your kitchen window open all day, every day. Sealing air leaks can also eliminate drafts that keep your home from being cozy.

However, it is possible to seal up some homes so "tight" that they have little ventilation, which can contribute to indoor air quality problems or a build-up of moisture. The challenge is to achieve the best home performance and energy savings while maintaining air quality. The first step to take is to eliminate or reduce indoor air pollutants such as smoke or chemicals. Experts then recommend sealing air leaks as much as possible and installing mechanical ventilation as needed. Simple mechanical ventilation can be controlled and consistent as opposed to "natural" ventilation from air leaks, which can result in a home being too drafty in more extreme weather and not ventilated enough in milder weather.

The best way to inspect your home for air leaks is to hire a contractor or energy auditor who will conduct a blower-door test, which uses a powerful fan to measure the air infiltration rate. During the test, the contractor will be able to locate and seal air leaks. After sealing, the contractor can measure the resulting air infiltration rate and talk with you about any ventilation needs. There is no simple way to determine how much mechanical ventilation your home will need — it depends on a combination of factors, including the rate of airflow into your home, what kind of climate you live in, the layout and occupancy of your home and whether there are other indoor air quality concerns such as radon or combustion appliances like gas furnaces.

Mechanical ventilation systems allow for controlled air movement and a rate of ventilation in your home on

which you can depend, helping ensure good indoor air quality and appropriate levels of moisture. Generally, newer homes that have been sealed well and manufactured homes have the greatest need for mechanical ventilation.

There are two primary categories of mechanical ventilation. Many people are familiar with spot ventilation systems — these are the fans you find above your oven range, in your laundry room, in your bathroom and perhaps above a garage workshop. They focus on removing moist air and indoor air pollutants at the source. Generally, these fans only work when you turn them on, but you can install condensation sensors or humidistats so the fans will turn on whenever they sense a higher moisture content in the air.

Keep in mind that running these fans constantly can take too much heated or cooled air out of your home, increasing your energy bills.

Whole-house ventilation circulates air throughout the home and introduces the right amount of outside air. There are four categories of whole-house ventilation systems; determining which method is best for you will depend on your home's needs, your budget and your climate:

- Exhaust ventilation systems: Fans pull air out of your home, which increases infiltration from the outside either through air leaks or vents.
- Supply ventilation systems: Fans bring outside air into your home.
- Balanced ventilation systems: Both supply and exhaust fans circulate air into and out of the home.
- Energy recovery ventilation systems: Fans, combined with heat exchangers, modulate the temperature and humidity of incoming air into your home.

Talk with an energy auditor or home performance contractor about whether you need additional mechanical ventilation, and if so, which system would work best for your living space. ■

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Amy Wheelless of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on improving your home's energy efficiency, visit collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.



A home performance contractor can work with you to determine whether whole-house ventilation is needed. Photo credit: Weatherization Assistance Project Technical Assistance Center

Piecing Together the Past

New book helps Elk River genealogists and historians

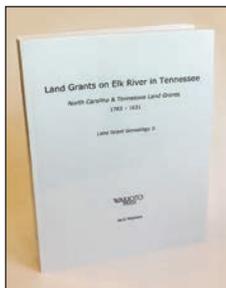
Story by Trish Milburn • Photographs by Robin Conover

When you are trying to get a clear picture of your family's history, it often involves tons of hours poring over information garnered from countless sources. But you do it because mankind has a need for connection, to know from where we came. It's exciting when you come across a new source of information or one that has already done some of that time-consuming work for you. Such a source is the new book "Land Grants on the Elk River in Tennessee: North Carolina and Tennessee Land Grants 1783-1831" by Jack Masters.

The book is the latest product of more than a decade of work that has produced a tremendous amount of compiled information for genealogists and historians. Masters previously worked with fellow amateur historians Doug Drake and Bill Puryear on historical atlases of great value to those tracing land grants in Middle Tennessee. This latest volume, however, Masters undertook alone because Drake has since passed away and Puryear's health has prevented him from taking part.

"This book came about in an effort to complete land grants from the Kentucky to Alabama lines," Masters says. "Prior work on the Cumberland and Duck rivers left only the Elk River in Middle Tennessee to be completed. 'Land Grants on the Elk River in Tennessee' includes Giles, Lincoln, Moore and Franklin counties as well as portions of Bedford, Coffee, Marshall and Grundy counties. With the addition of these counties, land grants and pioneer history in 30 counties have been completed in Middle Tennessee."

Unlike the previous coffee table book-style atlases, this latest work is a soft cover. It's so full of information and topographical maps that it comes in at a whopping 658 pages.



"Land Grants on the Elk River in Tennessee," at left, boasts more than 650 pages of information and topographical maps, a departure from the previous historical atlases compiled by author Jack Masters, above.



Masters says he began to think about putting together this book less than a month after the third volume, "The First Southwest: The Third Atlas of the Cumberland and Duck River Settlements," was completed.

"Many voiced the opinion that I should finish Middle Tennessee — and especially the Elk River where their families and interests were," he says.

Since Masters did all the work himself for this newest book, it took him longer to complete, about four and a half years. In the beginning, he worked four or five days a week on the project. But during the last half of the project, his days began about 3 a.m. and continued all day. Those long hours were spent poring over microfilm and talking with county historians.

Masters says the experience of working on "Land Grants on the Elk River in Tennessee" was similar to the earlier volumes. The biggest exception, however, was that because the early surveyors did a poor job placing North Carolina grants, Masters was forced to add the Tennessee land grants in order to determine how the grants fit.

"Tennessee land grants started after 1806 where the North Carolina grants were about 20 years earlier," he says. "By adding the Tennessee land grants, a higher percentage of the land was covered with land grants, however."

Despite the massive amount of work that is required to produce these important contributions to the historical and genealogical records, Masters says he continues to find the work gratifying.

"It's always nice to hear from purchasers of the books when they report that they were able to go to the actual place where their ancestors received land grants and actually walk on the same ground," he says. "With the maps provided, that makes this possible. One lady drank from the spring on her pioneer ancestors' land and felt an unbelievable connection. Many other folks were able to find helpful genealogy information to trace their ancestors in many parts of Tennessee."

Does Masters have plans to continue digging into the past to bring forth the collections of information to the present?

"Interesting question," he says. "I have told my wife that this is the last, but she has heard that before. One area of interest, however, is Tennessee land grants in Sumner County."

For more information, including how to order your own copy of "Land Grants on the Elk River in Tennessee," go to www.cumberlandpioneers.com/lgg5.html or contact Jack Masters at jmas09@comcast.net or 615-452-6382.

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Customer Rating

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CENTECH

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WOW SUPER COUPON

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West Tennessee

Dec. 1-30 • Let it Glow Lightshow, Discovery Park of America, Union City. 731-885-5455 or discoveryparkofamerica.com

Dec. 3 • Breakfast With Santa, Curve Community Center, Ripley. 731-836-1532

Dec. 3 • Celebrate Christmas Parade, Tree-Lighting and Visits With Santa, downtown Munford. 901-837-5972 or munford.com

Dec. 3 • David Johnson Chorus, Discovery Park of America, Union City. 731-885-5455 or discoveryparkofamerica.com

Dec. 3 • Santa in the Dino Hall, Discovery Park of America, Union City. 731-885-5455 or discoveryparkofamerica.com

Dec. 9-11 • “Miracle on 34th Street,” The Latta, Selmer. 731-645-2671 or www.artsinmcmairy.com

Dec. 10 • Golden Circle Opry, South Jackson Community Center Jackson. 731-425-8614 or southjacksoncenter@cityofjackson.net

Dec. 17 • Galaxy of Lights, Obion County Fairgrounds, Union City. 731-592-0621 or clynch22_86@hotmail.com

Dec. 17-18 • Live Nativity Presented by Turkey Creek Baptist Church, 110 School Drive, Savannah. 731-412-5009 or montecausey@att.net

Middle Tennessee

Now-Dec. 18 • “A Christmas Story,” Cumberland County Playhouse, Crossville. 931-484-5000 or ccplayhouse.com

Now-Dec. 22 • “A Sanders Family Christmas,” Cumberland County Playhouse, Crossville. 931-484-5000 or ccplayhouse.com

Now-Dec. 31 • Historic Granville 1930s Country Christmas, Festival of Trees, Decorated Historic Homes and Village and Antique Toy Show, throughout Granville. 931-653-4151 or granvilletn.com

Now-Dec. 31 • “Dylan, Cash, and the Nashville Cats: A New Music City,” Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville. 615-416-2001 or countrymusichalloffame.org

Now-Jan. 2, 2017 • Christmas on the Cumberland, McGregor Park, Clarksville. 931-645-7476 or cityofclarksville.com/events

Now-June 30, 2017 • “Alabama: Born Country,” Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville. 615-416-2001 or countrymusichalloffame.org

Now-July 31, 2017 • “Homegrown: Zac Brown Band,” Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville. 615-416-2001 or countrymusichalloffame.org

Nov. 28-Dec. 6 • Smyrna Public Library Annual Scholastic Half-Price Book Fair, Smyrna Public Library, Smyrna. 615-459-4884

Dec. 1-2 and 7-9 • Historic Granville Christmas Dinner Theatre — “A Mayberry Family Christmas,” Sutton General Store, Granville. 931-653-4151 or granvilletn.com

Dec. 1-18 • “A Totally Awesome Christmas Carol,” Gaslight Dinner Theatre, Dickson. 615-740-5600 or gaslightdinnertheatre.org

Dec. 2 • Ninth Annual Houston County Arts and Craft Show, Erin City Hall, Erin. 931-721-2631

Dec. 2 • Millersville Bluegrass Show and Jam, Millersville Community Center, Millersville. 615-429-6831 or millersvillebluegrass.com

Dec. 2-3 • Christmas on the Mountain, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Spencer. 423-881-5708 or tnstateparks.com/parks/about/fall-creek-falls

Dec. 2-3 • Seventh Annual Cowan Christmas Marketplace, Monterey Station, Cowan. 931-273-5827 or cowanparade.org

Dec. 2-11 • “Greater Tuna,” Fly Arts Center, Shelbyville. 931-684-8359 or flyartscenter.com

Dec. 2-11 • “The Twelve Dates of Christmas” by Ginna Hoben, Z. Alexander Looby Library and Theater, Nashville. 615-307-1438 or twtp.org

Dec. 3 • Christmas in Lynchburg, downtown Lynchburg. 931-759-4111 or lynchburgtn.com

Dec. 3 • Lighting of the Tower Old-Time Christmas Celebration, Edgar Evins State Park, Silver Point. 800-250-8619 or foesp.alturl.com

Dec. 3 • Third Annual Church Christmas Bazaar, Friendship Baptist Church, Manchester. 931-273-8574 or jennerbugmacc@yahoo.com

Dec. 3 • Christmas Treasures Craft Fair, Lascassas Elementary School, Lascassas. 615-394-2983 or lespto1415@gmail.com

Dec. 3 • Holiday Expo, Lakeshore Christian Church, Antioch. 615-330-1892 or lakeshorechristian.com

Dec. 3 • Craft Fair at The Bridge at Hickory Woods, The Bridge at Hickory Woods, Antioch. 615-280-6976 or bridgeathickorywoods.com

Dec. 3 • 52nd Annual Cowan Christmas Parade, downtown Cowan. 931-273-5827 or cowanparade.org

Dec. 3 • Portland Christmas Festival and Parade, downtown Portland. 615-325-9032 or portlandcofc.com

Dec. 3 • Oaklands Mansion Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes, Oaklands Mansion, Murfreesboro. 615-893-0022 or oaklandsmansion.org

Dec. 3 • Christmas Parade, downtown Clarksville. 931-645-7476 or cityofclarksville.com/events

Dec. 3 • Historic Lebanon’s Ninth Annual Historic Places Tour, throughout Lebanon. 615-547-9795 or historiclebanontn.org

Dec. 3 • 19th Annual Confederate Christmas Ball, Memorial Building, Columbia. 931-698-3876

Dec. 3 • “Rescue Christmas,” Grace Baptist Church, Manchester. 931-728-0785

Submit your events!

Email submissions to events@tnelectric.org or visit tnmagazine.org.

Dec. 3 • Christmas Market Art and Vendors Fair, American Legion Building, Sparta. 931-224-4871 or vetservice@blomand.net

Dec. 3-4 • Farm School Holiday Bazaar, The Farm Community Center and Solar School, Summertown. 931-964-2325 or solarInfo@thefarmschool.community

Dec. 3 and 10 • “T’was the Breakfast with Santa,” Gaslight Dinner Theatre, Dickson. 615-740-5600 or gaslightdinnertheatre.org

Dec. 3 and 10 • North Pole Express Excursion Trains with Santa to Lebanon, Tennessee Central Railway Museum, Nashville. 615-244-9001 or tcry.org

Dec. 3, 10 and 17 • Old-Fashioned Christmas, downtown Bell Buckle. 931-389-9663 or bellbucklechamber.com

Dec. 4 • Music at Grace Concert Series: A Celtic Christmas with Red River Breeze, Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville. 931-647-6750 or grace-lutheran-church.org

Dec. 5-10 • Annual Sewanee Senior Citizens Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale, 5 Ball Park Road, Sewanee. 931-598-9823 or jrollins@sewanee.edu

Dec. 5-11 • 41st Trees of Christmas, Ada Wright Center, Manchester. 931-394-2077 or vbramblett@msn.com

Dec. 8-10 • Annual 1930s Granville Country Christmas, throughout Granville. 931-653-4151 or granvilletn.com

Dec. 8-10 • Three Days of Christmas, Trousdale County Courthouse, Hartsville. 615-374-9243 or hartsvilletrousdale.com

Dec. 9 • Shelbyville Square Wine Walk, Shelbyville Courthouse Square, Shelbyville. 931-684-3115 or herjeweler@hotmail.com

Dec. 9-10 • “Elf Jr. the Musical,” The Arts Center of Cannon County, Woodbury. 615-563-2787 or www.artscenterofcc.com

Dec. 9-10 • Gallatin Coin and Currency Show, Gallatin Civic Center Gym, Gallatin. 615-451-5911

Dec. 9-11 • Third Annual Nativity Festival, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, McMinnville. 603-498-2041 or mcminnvillestake.pr@gmail.com

Dec. 9-11 • Live Nativity, 1125 College St., Portland. 615-325-6084

Dec. 9-11 and 16-18 • “It’s A Wonderful Life,” Springhouse Worship & Arts Center, Smyrna. 615-852-8499 or ticketsnashville.com

Dec. 10 • “The Nutcracker Suite,” Tims Ford State Park, Winchester. 931-962-1183 or tnstateparks.com/parks/about/tims-ford

Dec. 10 • A Celebration Christmas, 721 Whithorne St., Shelbyville. 205-966-0969 or twhnc.com

Dec. 10-11 • Earth Treasures Jewelry, Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show and Sale, Williamson County Ag Expo Park, Franklin. 615-885-5704 or mtgms.com/show.htm

Dec. 10-11 • Bethlehem Marketplace, Southeast Baptist Church, Murfreesboro. 615-896-0940 or sebbaptist.org

Dec. 10-11 • More than a Manger Bethlehem Marketplace, Chapman’s Chapel, Pelham. 931-273- 7330

Dec. 10-11 • Dickens of a Christmas, downtown Franklin. 615-591-8500 or historicfranklin.com

Dec. 11 • Christmas in Occupied Clarksville, Fort Defiance Interpretive Center, Clarksville. 931-645-7476 or cityofclarksville.com/events

Dec. 17 • “Christmas With Forever Abbey Road,” The Arts Center of Cannon County, Woodbury. 615-563-2787 or artscenterofcc.com

Dec. 24 • Christmas Eve on the Square, Lebanon Town Square, Lebanon. 615-426-9479

Dec. 31 • New Year’s Eve Dance at the Fly, Fly Arts Center, Shelbyville. 931-684-8359 or flyartscenter.com

Jan. 1, 2017 • New Years Day First Hike and Feast, Edgar Evins State Park, Silver Point. 931-858-2114 or foesp.alturl.com

Jan. 8, 2017 • Music at Grace Concert Series: Handel’s Messiah with Choir and Orchestra, Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville. 931-647-6750 or grace-lutheran-church.org

Jan. 14, 2017 • 10th Annual Author Signing, Coffee County Manchester Public Library, Manchester. 931-723-5143 or coffeecountylibrary.org

East Tennessee

Now-Feb. 28, 2017 • Sevierville’s Smoky Mountain Winterfest Celebration, throughout Sevierville. 888-738-4378 or visitsevierville.com

Nov. 27-Jan. 3, 2017 • Lamplight Christmas Wreath Exhibit, Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park, Elizabethton. 423-543-5808 or sycamoreshoalstn.org

Dec. 1-3 • Blount County Arts and Crafts Guild 12th Annual Santa Mouse Christmas House Holiday Sale, Maryville College Alumni Gym, Maryville. 865-983-4825 or blountartsandcrafts.com

Dec. 1-Jan. 3, 2017 • Winterfest Art Show, Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park, Elizabethton. 423-543-5808 or sycamoreshoalstn.org

Dec. 2-3 • Christmas at the Carter Mansion, Carter Mansion, Elizabethton. 423-543-5808 or sycamoreshoalstn.org

Dec. 2-3 • Gift Bazaar, American Legion, Rogersville. 423-293-0882 or rogartscouncil.org

Dec. 2-30 Gingerbread House Contest, Hale Springs Inn, Rogersville. 423-293-0882 or rogartscouncil.org

Dec. 3 • Christmas in the Country, Exchange Place, Kingsport. 423-288-6071 or exchangeplace.info

Dec. 3 • Candlelight Walk 2016, downtown Tellico Plains. 423-519-2267

Dec. 3-4 • Glenmore Mansion Christmas Tours, Glenmore Mansion, Jefferson City. 865-475-3270 or glenmoremansion.com

Dec. 5-24 • Christmas in Old Appalachia, Museum of Appalachia, Clinton. 865-494-7680 or museumofappalachia.org

Dec. 9-18 • “Believe! And Follow the Star,” Renaissance Center Theatre, Kingsport. 423-741-3282 or kingsporttheatre.org

Dec. 10 • Madisonville Kiwanis Annual Christmas Parade, downtown Madisonville. 423-884-3806

Dec. 15-17 • Living Christmas Tree, Heritage Hall Theatre, Mountain City. 423-727-7444 or heritagehalltheatre.org

Jan. 1, 2017 • 16th Annual Cumberland Gap Polar Bear Dip, 807 Llewellyn St., Cumberland Gap. 423-869-9993 or bicyclemuseum.net

holding the Holidays *Are you gellin'?* together



Chicken Salad "Pie"

Photograph by Robin Conover • Recipes compiled by Tammy Algood

Perhaps you have fond or not-so-fond memories of your Aunt Clara's gelatin salad from years past. The fact is, gelatin has a purpose: It creates and holds a shape, which makes it a perfect choice for foods to be transported, part of a table presentation or sit out for a while. So, what is old is new again. Gel out this holiday season!

Chicken Salad "Pie"

Yield: 8 servings

1 (8-ounce) can crushed pineapple
1 teaspoon unflavored gelatin
1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
1 cup mayonnaise
1 teaspoon curry powder
1 teaspoon onion salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper
6 cups cooked diced chicken
½ cup dried cranberries or cherries
1½ cups roasted chopped pecans
Chopped fresh parsley for garnish

Drain the pineapple into a small bowl and sprinkle with the gelatin. Let stand 1 minute to soften. Meanwhile, in the bowl of an electric mixer, combine the cream cheese, mayonnaise, curry powder, salt and pepper at medium speed until blended. Fold in the gelatin, chicken, pineapple and cranberries.

Transfer to a springform cake pan that has been greased and lined with parchment. Spread evenly, cover and refrigerate at least 8 hours or until set. To serve, invert onto a cake plate and gently press the chopped pecans into the side. Garnish with the parsley and serve.

Seafood Spread

Yield: 12 servings

3 tablespoons cold water
1 (0.25-ounce) envelope unflavored gelatin
1 (10.75-ounce) can condensed cream of shrimp soup
1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, cut in large dice
1 cup mayonnaise
2 (6-ounce) cans flaked crabmeat, drained
4 green onions, finely chopped
2 medium celery stalks, finely chopped
¼ teaspoon black pepper
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
½ teaspoon paprika

1 pound cooked salad shrimp, drained
Fresh parsley for garnish
Assorted crackers

Grease a 5-cup ring mold or a shrimp mold and set aside.

Place the water in a small glass bowl and sprinkle with the gelatin. Let stand undisturbed 1 minute, then microwave on high (uncovered) for 20 seconds. Stir well and let stand another minute.

Meanwhile, in a heavy saucepan, combine the undiluted soup, cream cheese and mayonnaise over medium heat. Stir in the gelatin and cook, stirring frequently, for 5-6 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in the crabmeat, onions, celery, black pepper, cayenne and paprika. Blend well. Transfer to the prepared ring mold and evenly spread the salad shrimp over the "top." Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours or until set. Unmold on a serving platter so the salad shrimp are on the bottom. Garnish with fresh parsley, and serve with assorted crackers.

Bourbon Panna Cotta

Yield: 4 servings

3 tablespoons plus 1¼ cups cold heavy cream, divided
1½ teaspoons unflavored gelatin
¼ cup sugar
¼ cup bourbon
⅛ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
Honey or sorghum for garnish

If you want to serve the dessert unmolded, very lightly grease 4 (1-cup) custard cups and set aside.

Place 3 tablespoons of the cream in a small bowl and sprinkle with the gelatin. Let stand undisturbed 10 minutes, then stir.

Meanwhile, in a heavy saucepan, combine the remaining cream, sugar and bourbon over medium-high heat. Bring to a boil, whisking frequently. Remove from the heat and whisk in the gelatin and extract, stirring 1 minute.

Evenly divide among the prepared custard cups. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 12 hours. To serve unmolded, gently loosen the sides from the cups with a paring knife and turn onto small serving plates, shaking vigorously to unmold. Drizzle with the honey or sorghum and serve. Otherwise,

drizzle each serving with a bit of honey or sorghum and serve.

Dried Cherry Marshmallows

Yield: 36 marshmallows

½ cup cold water
3 tablespoons unflavored gelatin
1½ cups granulated sugar
¾ cup light corn syrup
¼ cup honey
½ teaspoon red food coloring
1 (6-ounce) package dried sweet cherries, chopped
1 tablespoon plus ½ cup cornstarch, divided
½ cup powdered sugar

Place the cold water in a medium heat-proof glass bowl and sprinkle with gelatin. Let stand undisturbed 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, grease an 8-by-8-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Then line the sides and bottom with parchment paper and grease the paper. Set aside.

In a heavy saucepan over medium-high heat, combine the granulated sugar, corn syrup, and honey. Cook without stirring until the mixture reaches 250 degrees. Then remove from the heat and cool to 220 degrees.

In a small saucepan over high heat, bring ½ cup of water to a boil. Place the bowl of gelatin over the water and whisk until liquefied. Transfer to the bowl of an electric mixer, adding the food coloring and the cooled syrup. Beat on high speed 5-6 minutes or until the mixture holds stiff peaks.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, toss the cherries with 1 tablespoon of the cornstarch. Fold into the marshmallow mixture and transfer to the prepared pan. Smooth the top with a greased spatula. Let cool at room temperature 6 hours.

Combine the remaining cornstarch and powdered sugar. Sprinkle a flat surface with some of the mixture and remove the marshmallows from the pan. Discard the parchment paper. Dust more of the cornstarch mixture over the top and carefully rub the sides and edges of a slicing knife to coat. Cut the marshmallows into 36 even cubes. Toss the cut edges with the cornstarch mixture. Store in an airtight container.

Continued on page 34

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Taste of Tennessee

Continued from page 33

White Chocolate Mini Cheesecakes

Yield: 8 servings

- ½ teaspoon unflavored gelatin
- 2 tablespoons cold water
- 16 shortbread cookies, divided
- 2½ tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 4 (1-ounce) squares white chocolate, melted
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese
- ½ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¾ teaspoon pure vanilla or almond extract

Lightly grease 8 cups from a regular muffin tin and line completely with plastic wrap. Set aside. In a small bowl, sprinkle the gelatin over the cold water and let stand undisturbed 5 minutes. Meanwhile, in the bowl of a food processor, crush the cookies and set ¼ cup aside. Add the melted butter to the remaining cookies

and process until blended. Evenly divide the mixture among the muffin cups and press in the bottom to form a crust.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, blend together the melted chocolate, cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and extract. Add the gelatin and mix until smooth. Evenly divide among the muffin cups. Cover and chill overnight. To serve, unmold and place with the crust down on a serving plate. Garnish with the reserved crushed cookies.

Pick Tennessee spokesperson Tammy Algood develops recipes for The Tennessee Magazine featuring fresh Tennessee food products. 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. 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.



Watch us on the web



Tennessee's growing season ended with the first hard freeze. With few fresh herbs to pick, now is the time to transfer herbs you dried earlier this year into containers. Watch our video at www.tnmagazine.org to learn the best — and less-than-ideal — places to stash your herbs to maintain

their freshness and flavor through the winter.



To find farmers markets with winter hours and community-supported agriculture providers offering winter shares, visit www.PickTnProducts.org.

And keep all those emails coming to food@tnmagazine.org.

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in the **Tennessee** MAGAZINE

For more than 50 years, *The Tennessee Magazine* has been the official publication of our electric cooperatives, keeping member-owners informed about their co-op, showcasing the wonders of electric service and highlighting the special events around the state.

The contents page of this issue reads: "Beautifying our December Cover are Linda Vaughn of Rogersville, center, the new 'Miss Tennessee Electric Co-op' for 1966, 1st Alternate Linda Tuggle of Shop Springs, left, and 2nd Alternate Janice Faye Rhoten of Lynchburg."

While our fashions, appliances and recipes have significantly changed since 1958, our mission to entertain, educate and inform our readers has not. Here's a glimpse of what members 50 years ago saw in *The Tennessee Magazine*. View the entire December 1966 edition online at www.tnmagazine.org.

Little Jimmy Short, son of Mr. & Mrs. Walter Short, Franklin, is showing us how pleased he is to let his playmates use his electric blanket. He has already set the control, which you see on top of the blanket, to keep them comfortable. The electric blanket is engineered to keep you comfortable in either a cold or warm room, and is very easy to take care of.

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TECA'S ANNUAL MEETING

TECA Executive Manager J. C. Hundley delivers his annual report, listening attentively at left is Thomas Hutchison.

Outgoing President William Town, Manager of Holston Electric Co-op, Rogersville, presents award to newly elected President John Dullinger, Manager of Cumberland EMC, Clarksville, second is TECA Vice President Robert Bask, Trustee of Southwest Tennessee EMC, Knoxville.

A targeted but highly deserving recipient of a Plaque of Appreciation from TECA was Neil Caldwell (center), staff writer for the Nashville Tennessean and long-time supporter of cooperative rural electrification. Making the award was at cooperative rural electrification, President of the National Rural Electric: Paul Sewell (left), President of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Manager of Member-Owner Electric Co-ops, Knoxville. At right, second, is Robert Bask, TECA Vice President.

One of major addresses of meeting was delivered by Donald O. McBride, Director of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Here, Jim Ladas is showing how to use the electric shoe shine brush, which is one of the newest electric appliances. This would make a nice gift for the man "who has everything." Mr. Ladas lives at Castle Heights Ave. in Lebanon, and is shown here at John Hatcher's Clothing Store in Lebanon.

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 20-26 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 Friday, Dec. 30. Winners will be published in the February issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

October's Flag Spotters

Thanks for the postcards and emails again this month identifying the correct location of the flag, which was found on Underdog's chest on **page 35**.

Winners are drawn randomly from each month's entries. October's lucky flag spotters are:

Mary Alice Harris, Atoka, Southwest Tennessee EMC
Sanders Gammons, Hendersonville, Cumberland EMC
Denise Justice, Sneedville, Powell Valley EC



Artist's Palette Assignment for December

Artist's Palette for December — 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 — **December**, 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 Friday, Dec. 30.

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 February 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 three months. Winners will receive their checks, artwork and a certificate of placement within 30 days of publication.

Call for Entries Poet's Playground

Are you a poet at heart? If so, we would like to see your efforts in *The Tennessee Magazine's* monthly poetry contest. Please limit your poem to no more than 100 words. Your work must include a Tennessee theme. Winning poems will be printed in our February issue.

Subject: While the theme of your poem must include something Tennessee-related, including the word "Tennessee" is not required.

Age categories: The competition has six age divisions — 8 and younger, 9-13, 14-18, 19-22, 23-64 and 65 and older. Each group will have first-, second- and third-place winners. First place wins \$50 and will be printed in the magazine, second place wins \$30 and third place wins \$20. Poems capturing first-, second- and third-place honors will be published online at tnmagazine.org.

What to enter: A poem of 100 words or fewer pertaining to the theme. One entry per person, and please give your entry a title.

Deadline: Entry must be emailed or postmarked by Monday, Dec. 26.

Please note: By entering, you give *The Tennessee Magazine* permission to publish your work via print, online and social media.

Please enter online at tnmagazine.org or mail handwritten entries to: Poetry Contest, *The Tennessee Magazine*, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224. Please make sure to print your poem legibly. Please keep a copy of your poem as submissions received via mail will not be returned.

All entries must include the following information, or they will be disqualified: your name, age, mailing address, phone number and the name of your electric cooperative.

Artist's Palette *October Winners*



Alexis Cruz

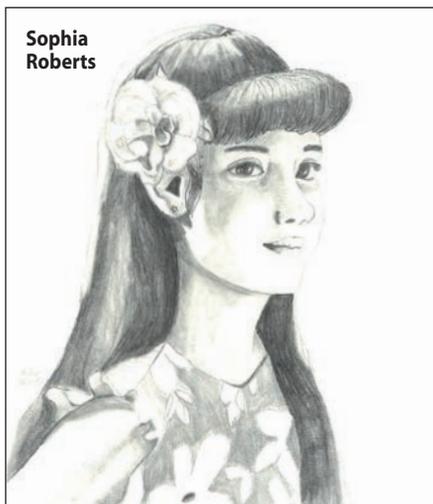


Eli Creasy

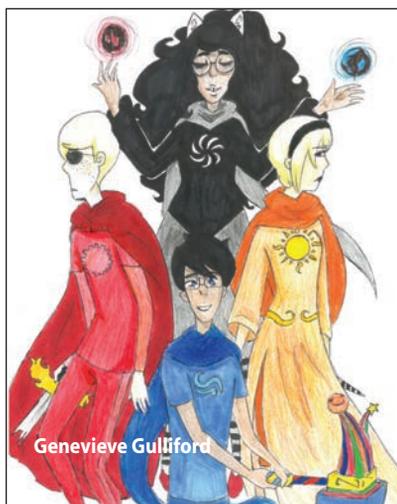


Ashley Marrison

WINNERS, 15-18 AGE GROUP: **First place:** Alexis Cruz, age 17, Upper Cumberland EMC; **Second place:** Eli Creasy, age 18, Cumberland EMC; **Third place:** Ashley Marrison, age 16, Middle Tennessee EMC



Sophia Roberts



Genevieve Gulliford



Encara Davis

WINNERS, 10-14 AGE GROUP: **First place:** Sophia Roberts, age 14, Middle Tennessee EMC; **Second place:** Genevieve Gulliford, age 13, Cumberland EMC; **Third place:** Encara Davis, age 11, Middle Tennessee EMC



Tiveria Smith



Ezra Peterson



Caroline Ensey

WINNERS, 1-9 AGE GROUP:

First place: Tiveria Smith, age 9, Meriwether Lewis EC;
Second place: Ezra Peterson, age 8, Middle Tennessee EMC;
Third place: Caroline Ensey, age 3, Middle Tennessee EMC

Poet's Playground

See page 36 for details on how to enter
The Tennessee Magazine's monthly poetry contest.

Age 8 and younger

Singing in Tennessee

When I look up at music
city
The people are dressed so
pretty.
I think of redbirds raccoons
and more
I want to go to the music
store
I like singing and songwriting
too.
I want to learn something
new.
I want to go to Music Row
so I can hear my songs on
the radio.
That is why I like
Tennessee.
So come and sing songs
with me!

— *Tristyn Burton*
Middle Tennessee EMC

Age 9-13

How Acne Helped Me

When the red bumps struck,
Loneliness struck
And with loneliness struck,
Sadness struck
and when sadness struck,
Thoughts struck,
And after thoughts struck,
Time struck,
and when time struck,
New friends struck,
And when new friends
struck,
Realization struck,
and when realization
struck,
I had real friends.

— *Reagan Honeycutt*
Sequachee Valley EC

Age 14-18

Nothing is as it Seems

As I awake today knowing
today will be a great day
I look out and see the iris
looking back at me
The iris gives a message by
rainbow
So you see many things are
not as they seem
Like Tennessee seems like
any other state
Yet the truth is that Tennessee
is not just a state
It is a symbol that when we
come together great things
will happen
Just like it's a messenger to us
Tennessee is a messenger to
the USA
The iris is part of many
flowers just as Tennessee
is a star in the flag.

— *Dolores Mendoza-McEwen*

Age 19-22

Grand Divisions

Three stars in unison,
three stars bequeathed,
upon the state in which we
meet.
Those imperious mountains
which humbles in the East
do only forge a single piece.
Cotton laden lowlands
once home to the king
are just a verse in the song
we sing.
Let us forget not the third –
the Athens, the heart, the
capitol

lie amongst the hills completing
us whole.

Three white stars we call
home
Three white stars, proud to
call our own.

— *Lita Cavallino*
Meriwether Lewis EC

Age 23-64

First Love: Gardens

A heaven gilded with okra /
sunshine
Planted in hands / alabaster
seeds
Youthful nurturing / butter-
cups
Christened / high-boned
heart
Sprouting from home /
laughter / ladies' fingers
Some of the seeds are still
inside me.

Soft grass between / between
toes of the eyes
That's how it felt growing up
to the wind

Whisking clouds with green
/ periphery
Fruitless dances / before
being cut down

Stripped one-too-many
gardens / milk-grass
Hardens into a stillness / a
bone

No more rising / no green
wind / a garden

Is a silence / being eaten
almost whole

— *Hunter Keough*
Pickwick EC

Age 65 and older

Tennessee River Run

A silver thread
Cutting a pathway
North
She rushes on
In and out of cities
Savannah, Clifton, Parsons
Scouring banks and sandbars
Scattering driftwood
Like brown bones
Twisting like a viper
Under bridges, over dams
Where fish are resting
Tall trees align themselves
Leaning over
Dropping their seeds
To be carried down stream
Making future forest
Men in swift boats
Ride her currents
Flinging lines or sinking nets
Harvesting her bounty
She is generous
With eddies and whitecaps
She is beautiful
Fog draped mornings
Her distant shores blend into
mist
Where the deer drink
She is necessary
Run river run
— *Millie Ungren*
Pickwick EC

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Ms. Davenport,

My wife and I ran across this little jewel at an estate sale we were conducting. It does not work and did not sell, so the owners gave it to us to clear the house. We have since taken it to almost all the local antique dealers, and nobody has any information on it.

It's very different in that it is a double-drop-leaf radio and record player but was also made to use as a table. I found a tag showing it is a Philco Model 53.

You seem to have sources nobody else does, so if you could shed some light, it would be very much appreciated.
John and Julia, Elizabethton

John and Julia,

Compactly situated inside a mahogany-finish table with radio station display on top and a turntable in the drawer, this little table was *the* entertainment center of 1953 when Philco introduced its Model 53-1790. The company suggested that lifting the leaves provided the

perfect place for one of its table model television sets.

The radio had five tubes and received AM radio and special services channels. Potential

buyers might be enthusiasts who collect and restore Philco radios or buyers who might refit the radio and repair the turntable. A nonworking table model Philco radio/record player sells online for around \$50.

Dear Connie Sue Davenport,

I inherited these tin cups from my grandmother. My great-grandparents were immigrants from Sweden. I was hoping you knew where and when these tin cups were made.

Shirley, Murfreesboro

Dear Shirley,

Before plastic and after glass (circa 1950), manufacturers introduced aluminum drinking glasses. Your tumblers are aluminum and most likely made under the name Sunburst or Bascal in Italy. Originally, the colors were more vibrant and shiny.

Like the use of plastic today, aluminum drinkware was favored for picnics, casual entertaining and camping. Pristine examples are offered for a couple of dollars each.



Dear Mrs. Davenport,

I would like to know more about the two platters I own as well as their value.

The turkey platter is 19 inches by 15 inches. The mark reads "Royal Staffordshire by Clarice Cliff Made in England." There's a hairline crack showing on the back.

The Baronial Hall platter is 17.5 inches by 10.75 inches. The mark, in a crest-shaped design, says "Baronial Halls TJ and J Mayer Long Port." It is in perfect condition.

Peggy, Cookeville



Dear Peggy,

Both platters are described as Staffordshire as they were made in that pottery- and platter-rich part of England. The official name of the turkey platter pattern is Tonquin Brown Turkey Center. The transfer was created by Clarice Cliff (1899-1972) after World War II. Although Cliff is best remembered for her art deco designs with bold colors on angular pottery, her home-on-the-farm patterns were popular after the war. An exact same platter recently sold on eBay for \$77. It is offered for retail at replacement sites for as much as \$350.

Made by TJ & J Mayer's, your blue transferware octagonal platter was made around 1860 at its Long Port, England, site. Mayer's pottery was recognized in 19th-century expositions and favored by royalty of the era.



Today, however, these large platters sell for \$35 to \$70 online. I found an exact match on LiveAuctioneers.com that sold for \$175 in 2005. Value is a moving target.

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The Tennessee Magazine wishes you a very happy Holiday Season!





Point of View

By Robin Conover

Photography gives you many gifts if you are willing to recognize and accept them. Catching that once-in-a-lifetime shot is a combination of honed skills, planning and, sometimes, just pure luck.

I would like to say this image of cardinals in the snow was a result of great skill and planning. Truthfully, though, it was neither. I was actually home sick with bronchitis on this particular day when I looked out to see a group of some 20 cardinals swarming around a feeder in my backyard.

What a gift to watch them for a few minutes and then realize this could be a really nice shot. Undeterred by the fact that I felt horrible, I piled on several layers of warm clothes and grabbed my camera, tripod and three rolls of Velvia slide film. As we all know, most snowfalls

don't last long in Tennessee, so I needed to get outside before the birds left and the snow melted (both were gone by afternoon).

My perch for the next hour would be a plastic milk crate on the hill just behind my house. Being up the hill gave me a higher perspective to shoot somewhat close to eye level with the birds. This allowed the background to be a hillside of blurred trees rather than a distracting white sky.

This image was shot nearly 15 years ago on Velvia. Shooting on film meant you had to figure out the exact exposure and hope you captured the moment. There was no preview screen to see what you were capturing and no endless number of images you could shoot on your media card. In film days, you pretty much got what you shot and couldn't significantly alter it.

*"Cardinals in Snow" by Robin Conover
Canon EOS, 70-200 mm, 2.8 L USM lens,
Velvia slide film, ISO 50,
f5.6 at 1/125 sec., Bogen tripod*

This particular image certainly required patience. I had only three rolls of 36-exposure film, and that was it. With an ASA of 50, Velvia required a slower shutter speed, but the trade-off would be a very sharp image with rich reds, both characteristics of the film.

The slower shutter speed worked out well. It was fast enough to catch the stationary birds and slow enough to show the motion of flight for the one cardinal on the left of the frame.

All told, I spent about an hour, shooting one image at a time and waiting for the cardinals to land in the best composition. The patient sitting in the freezing cold finally paid off when the two landed near the center of the frame. I thought I had the shot, but I had to wait another day to get the processed slides back. What a gift when I saw this image on the light table for the first time! ■



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Seal out the cold

There's a chill in the air — but hopefully not indoors! Is your home properly sealed for air leaks? Read energy expert Patrick Keegan's column on page 27 for more information.



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