

November 2016

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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Matthew's Mess
Co-ops Send Help

Saving
Sumner's
Antebellum
Carriage
House

History for Kids:
'Prophet of
Oak Ridge'

Pecans
A Taste of Fall



VERS

Chickasaw Electric Cooperative

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CEC PowerUp app

This November, let your voice be heard

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline — with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 percent to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! In Fayette County, we saw a voter turnout of 36 percent.

Some speculate that the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as he or she has been in the past. And who can blame us, really? Oftentimes, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand the issues themselves or enough about the candidates' stances on them. But we can change this.

Here at Chickasaw Electric Cooperative, we want to see an increase in civic engagement in our rural communities. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Co-ops

Vote, a nonpartisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November. By visiting vote.coop, you can learn

about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

The future of rural communities depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of discussion this election season. Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband at home. Quick access to

information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make a major health decision. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural

Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.



General Manager
John Collins,
Chickasaw Electric Cooperative



TVA, CEC rate adjustments

On Aug. 25, the Tennessee Valley Authority board of directors approved a wholesale rate increase to take effect Oct. 1. TVA will increase effective retail rates by 1.5 percent, or about \$1.50 more per month for the average Valley resident using 1,000 kilowatt-hours. TVA has also committed to trim another \$104 million in its operating costs beyond the \$600 million that TVA has already cut over the past three years.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power distributors serving more than 9 million people in parts of seven

Southeastern states. TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving virtually all of its revenues from sales of electricity.

Chickasaw Electric Cooperative will also increase retail rates just under 1 percent, or about \$1.42 per month for the average CEC residential member. Since 2010, CEC has increased retail rates by 2.5 percent, well below the inflation rate of around 10 percent.

As a member of CEC, you will continue to have the lowest rates of any Tennessee electric cooperative and the second-lowest rates of any TVA electric cooperative.

CEC newest employees



Jacob Upchurch joined CEC's Right of Way Department in August. Single, he lives in Mason and is the fourth child of 12. In his spare time, he enjoys obstacle course racing and basketball.



Adam Howard also joined the Right of Way Department in August. He lives in Collierville with his wife, Caitlyn. In his spare time, he enjoys working on trucks and playing with his dogs.



Bradley Phillips joined the Right of Way Department in September. He lives in Somerville and in his spare time enjoys hunting and fishing.



Christy Sprayberry joined CEC's Member Service Department in September. She lives in Moscow and has three children: Kyle, 21; Chelsea, 20; and Tyler, 14. In her spare time, she enjoys riding four-wheelers and working in flower beds.

CEC holds 76th annual meeting

On Tuesday, Sept 20, Chickasaw Electric Cooperative held the annual meeting of our members at Warren Community Church in Somerville. Each member in attendance went home with a bag full of freebies, including LED lightbulbs, pens, notepads and energy-saving tips. Hamburgers and hot dogs were also served at the event. Door prize winners included Frank Owens, winning a Samsung wireless soundbar; Willie Mae Hester, Keurig coffee maker; Mary Parks, grill; and Bendarious Richardson, sportsman cooler.

The business meeting featured a slideshow presentation, and the members were addressed by Chickasaw Electric Cooperative General Manager John Collins and Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association Vice President of Government Affairs Mike Knotts.

In this year's director election, June Walker, District 2; Phil Burrows, District 5; Jimmy Morrison, District 6; and Bill Rhea, District 10, were elected to serve three-year terms on the board.



CEC General Manager John Collins addresses the CEC members.



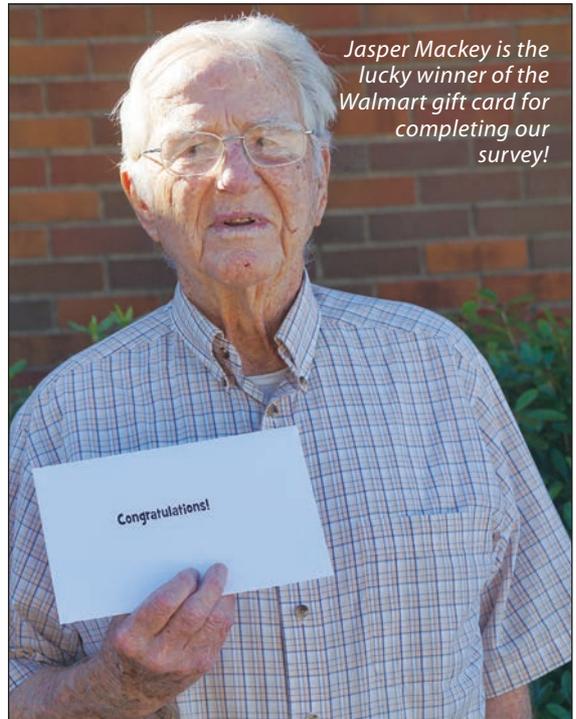
Members wait for the 76th annual meeting to start.



CEC board President, Royce Reeves welcomes members to the 76th annual meeting.



TECA's Mike Knotts talks about the critical need for rural broadband.



Jasper Mackey is the lucky winner of the Walmart gift card for completing our survey!



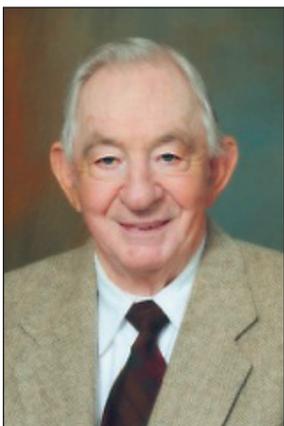
Members register for the meeting.



Left: Fayette County Election Administrator Warren Adams works hard to register new voters. Right: CEC employees Zach Wadley, left, and Jeremy Kee tell members how to report outages and demonstrate our free mobile app, CECPOWERUP.



Elected or re-elected board members



June Walker, District 2, Re-elected



Phil Burrows, District 5, Elected



Jimmy Morrison, District 6, Re-elected



Bill Rhea, District 10 Re-elected

Register for Bank Draft for chance to win \$50 gift card

Award will be \$100 gift card if winner is also enrolled in E-Bill

Bank Draft allows you to make automatic monthly electric bill payments by electronically transferring funds from your bank to your account at Chickasaw Electric.

With Bank Draft, you'll continue to receive an electric bill each month. Your account will be drafted approximately five days before your due date. We send a draft to your bank in the amount of your bill. All you have to do is adjust your checkbook.

Bank Draft is offered to all Chickasaw Electric members who have a checking or savings account with a financial entity that is a member of the Automated Clearinghouse Association.



We have multiple ways for you to sign up:

1. Visit us online at chickasaw.coop. Click on "My Account," "Payments" and then "Pay by Bank Draft."
2. Call our Member Service Department. Employees are equipped to sign you up over the phone for your convenience.
3. Sign the back of your bill, and send a voided check with this month's payment.

After submitting your application, please allow time for processing. You'll need to continue payment of your electric bill by check, cash or credit or debit card until you receive a Chickasaw Electric bill marked "TO BE PAID BY DRAFT."

*If you sign up by **Wednesday, Dec. 7**, the name on your account will be added to a random drawing for a \$50 gift card. If the winner receives his or her bill via E-Bill, the prize will be a \$100 gift card!*

You've got mail

Chickasaw Electric Cooperative's electronic billing (e-billing) is a fast, easy way for you to view your monthly electric bill from your email account. Saving paper helps us hold billing costs down and is good for our environment.

With e-billing, you will receive a link to your bill in your email inbox. It is easy to read and has the appearance of a traditional bill. By clicking on a link to a secure website, you can access



historical billing information and your payment history.

When you participate in e-billing, you can choose the payment option that suits you best — credit card, debit card, e-check or automatic withdrawals from a checking or savings account.

For more information about e-billing, contact our office, and one of our member service representatives will help you. Or visit us online at chickasaw.coop.

The CEC offices will be closed on these dates:

Thursday, Nov. 24

Friday, Nov. 25

Friday, Dec. 23

Monday, Dec. 26

Monday, Jan. 2

The CEC board and employees would like to wish you a very happy and safe holiday season!

Employees celebrate CEC anniversaries

Chris Parker	28 years
Bruce Davidson	19 years
Brett Bartholomew	14 years
Andrea Kee	10 years
John Collins	7 years
Chris McGowan	6 years
Cedric White	6 years
Bryan Rose	5 years
Scott Munchow	2 years
AJ Beshires	1 year
Terry Nicholson	1 year

10 ways to lower home energy bills when it's cold out

Want to save money on your energy bills this winter — without spending a lot to make it happen? Here are 10 low- or no-cost changes you can make:

1. Use your home's ceiling fans to make rooms feel warmer. Most people think fans are just for summer, but ceiling fans running slowly in reverse will circulate the heat that rises toward the ceiling.
2. Add weather stripping or caulk around windows and doors. Light a match or a stick of incense and hold it near the window frame. If the smoke sways, that means the window is leaking air. Caulking can significantly reduce heat loss.
3. Rearrange your furniture. Sofas and rugs that are blocking vents can cause uneven heating. Locate your most frequently used furniture near interior walls; it's colder to sit near exterior walls, especially those with windows.
4. Install a "smart" thermostat that lets you program it or adjust the heat even after you've left the house. There's no need to heat your home at the same level when it's empty as when your family is home. Turning back your thermostat by 10-15 degrees for eight hours a day can save up to 15 percent on your heating bill.
5. Keep the shades wide open during daylight hours. The sun heats your home for free all day. Close the curtains at night to keep heat in.

Cotton Festival survey winner

Virginia Boswell is the lucky winner of a Walmart gift card for completing a survey at our booth!



Insulate Your Electric Water Heater Tank

MATERIALS:

- Water heater blanket
- Scissors
- Duct tape

STEPS:

1. Turn off the electric water heater at the breaker panel.
2. Measure the height of the water heater, and cut the blanket to fit, if necessary.
3. Leave the top of the water heater unwrapped.
4. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and temporarily tape it in place. Position the blanket so that the ends do not come together over the access panels on the side of the tank.
5. Mark the areas, then cut holes where controls are located. For electric water heaters, there will be two panels on the side of the tank. Mark the area where the pressure-relief valve and pipe are located. This will be a pipe that protrudes from the side of the water heater.
6. Adhere the blanket. Be careful to line up the cut-out areas, and then tape the blanket permanently in place.
7. Turn the water heater back on.

Cover the whole tank except temperature and pressure (T&P) valve and drain.

Safety Note: Don't set the thermostat warmer than 130 degrees on the electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket — the wiring may overheat.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

6. Check the seams and joints of your ductwork for leaks. Repair any leaks with a duct-sealing compound for even and efficient heating.
7. Pull on a sweater and keep the thermostat at a lower temperature. You could save at least 1 percent per degree on your electric bill.
8. Run your clothes dryer and dishwasher after dark. They produce heat that can keep your home warm at the coldest time of the day.
9. Install compact fluorescent bulbs or LED lights in the fixtures you use the most. These bulbs use far less energy than incandescent bulbs.
10. Limit your hot water use. Running the hot water when it's not needed sends the energy used to heat it down the drain. Wash clothes in cold water, and take shorter showers.

Help keep our lineworkers safe

What do yard sale signs, basketball hoops, deer stands, satellite dishes and birdhouses have in common? They're often found illegally attached to utility poles. But this isn't only a crime of inconvenience.

Safety issues caused by unapproved pole attachments place the lives of lineworkers and the public in peril.

It may seem innocent, but a small nail partially driven into a pole can have deadly results around high-voltage electricity.

Chickasaw Electric Cooperative line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst of conditions. Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards for our line personnel. Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples or barbed wire can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making lineworkers vulnerable to electrocution.

Lineworkers with electric co-ops have reported poles used as a community bulletin boards, satellite mounts and even support legs for deer stands, lights and carports.



Not only do these attachments put line crews at risk, anyone illegally placing these items on poles comes dangerously close to energized power lines with thousands of volts of energy pulsing overhead. It's always wise to keep any structure at least 15 feet away from utility poles.

Unauthorized pole attachments violate the national Electrical Safety Code, the accepted manual containing guidelines for safe electrical engineering standards. Utilities strictly

follow this code that reads, "Signs, posters, notices and other attachments shall not be placed on supporting structures without concurrence of the owner (the utility is the owner the pole). Supporting structures should be kept free from other climbing hazards such as tacks, nails and vines not properly trimmed."

Please help keep our lineworkers — and our community — safe. Don't attach any of these unauthorized and dangerous items to utility poles. Fixtures not belonging to the cooperative or another utility will be removed by co-op line personnel; the co-op is not responsible for any losses if an item is damaged or destroyed during removal.

Local Spotlight

The Troxel Company, founded in 1898, offers the best value in tubing and fabricated products, including assembled goods and components, roll forms, stampings, powder-coated tubular components and mill-length and cut-to-length tubing. Troxel has a reputation for the highest product quality and lowest conversion cost in the industry.

Historical highlights

From 1915 until 1980, the company was the largest bicycle seat manufacturer in the U.S., producing more than 30,000 seats per day at its peak.

In the early 1960s, Troxel diversified into steel tubing and moved from its home in Elyria, Ohio, to Moscow, Tennessee.

Troxel originated the banana bicycle seat.

In the 1970s, Troxel added plastic injection molding to its product offerings and became a contract manufacturer of juvenile products for Fisher-Price, Playskool, Kolcraft, Safety 1st and Gerry Baby Products.

In 1998, Troxel exited the juvenile products market and refocused its resources solely on steel tubing and tube fabrication.

In 2005, Troxel acquired the Flexible Flyer swingset product lines and began operations in West Point, Mississippi. It later moved these operations to its Moscow location.

Troxel began producing tubing for automotive seating systems in 2008. Today, products include components for vehicles produced by General Motors, Ford, Toyota, Honda, Chrysler, Fiat, Hyundai, Mercedes and Kia.



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 **VERS**

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Gallatin office

Travis Akins,
District Operations Supervisor

Portland/White House offices

Todd Hesson,
District Operations Supervisor

Springfield office

Nicky Roberts,
District Operations Supervisor

CEMC Board of Directors

Tommy G. Whittaker,
Sumner Co., President

Wesley H. Aymett,
Cheatham Co., Vice President

Shela K. Williams,
At Large, Secretary-Treasurer

K. Jean Beauchamp, Robertson Co.,
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Stephen E. Douglass, Stewart Co.

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Michael A. Mason, Robertson Co.

C. David Morgan, Montgomery Co.

Edward L. Oliver, Montgomery Co.

Joe H. Whitaker, Sumner Co.

Mission Statement

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

AS I SEE IT *Manager's Viewpoint*

General manager addresses membership

These are the remarks made by Jim Coode, general manager of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, at the cooperative's annual meeting Sept. 17 at White House Heritage High School.

By attending this annual meeting, you have concluded part of the democratic process of re-electing three incumbent directors. That is an important part of being a member of the cooperative. You do have a say in the direction of this co-op. Your directors do more than just attend a board meeting every month. They do extensive travel, spending time away from their families and away from their regular jobs, learning about issues that affect the cooperative. It sure makes my job and the management of this co-op a lot easier.

I would like to talk about some of CEMC's capital expenditures during the year. We spent about \$2.5 million installing fiber last year. We are now about two-thirds of the way complete with that project. The fiber will give us a backbone throughout our five-county system, allowing us to communicate with our substations, down-line devices and offices. At this time, we can only use it for Cumberland Electric use, but if laws change at some point in the future, there may be other options for us.

We spend close to \$4 million each year clearing our rights of way. It has to be done. We know everyone likes his or her trees — so do I — but it's an important aspect of our business, and trees are the No. 1 contributor to outages.

We have system improvements we work on every year. This year, we spent about \$1.7 million on those improvements. We rebuilt the Adams substation in the previous fiscal year. But we made considerable upgrades in the circuitry around Cedar Hill and Adams in north Robertson County. I hope anybody here from the Cedar Hill/Adams area has recognized that. We have good right of way there. It was time for some improvements.



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

CEMC is an important part of the communities we serve. The co-op pays ad valorem taxes based on our installed plant in the different counties and cities of our service area. Montgomery County receives the most, not because of our electric plant, but because of the buildings we have in Montgomery County.

Some other business that your board of directors and management at Cumberland Electric do every year is lobby on your behalf and at times on behalf of the Tennessee Valley Authority as well. We haven't had too many issues at the state level in a couple of years. That may change at any time, but we do lobby in Nashville every year along with our statewide organization, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, and then, of course, in Washington, D.C. Most recently, we've been trying to lobby

(Continued on page 26)

Incumbents retain seats on CEMC board

Three seats on Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's board of directors were filled by incumbents during the cooperative's annual meeting Sept. 17 at White House Heritage High School. Each director ran unopposed and was re-elected by voice acclamation during the business session of the meeting.

Wesley H. Aymett of Ashland City will serve his fifth term as director for Cheatham County, Dr. K. Jean Beauchamp of Coopertown will serve her second term as director for South Robertson County and C. David Morgan of Cunningham will serve his fifth term as director for South Montgomery County. Aymett currently serves as vice president of the board, and Beauchamp is assistant secretary-treasurer.



Wesley H. Aymett



Dr. K. Jean Beauchamp



C. David Morgan

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, to allow employees to enjoy Thanksgiving with their families. CEMC personnel will be available in the event of an emergency by calling 1-800-987-2362.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving from your friends at CEMC.



Annual meeting prize winners

Congratulations to all the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation members who won prizes at this year's annual meeting! In addition to the major door prize winners featured on these pages, 19 members were awarded bill credits valued between \$50 and \$250. The lucky winners are:

\$250 winners — Virginia Lane, Springfield; and Joseph Randolph, Ashland City.

\$100 winners — Kenneth Haneline, Springfield; Dale Schantz, Clarksville; Bettina Jones, Springfield;

Jay Linville, Portland; and Gale Andrews, Springfield.

\$50 winners — David Clark, Ashland City; Eugene Melton, Springfield; Martha Wix, Portland; Cindy Wymer, Springfield; and Mark Ledbetter, Gallatin.

Bill credits of \$100 were also awarded to these members who attended early registration Sept. 16 at CEMC's district offices: Don Ford, Clarksville; Pamela Ramsey, Springfield; Mack Reed, Portland; Thomas Cox, Gallatin; Victoria Finney, Ashland City; Charles Carman, Dover; and Marvin Winnett, White House.



Member Services Manager Seth Roberts presents Karen Houser of Portland with the grand prize certificate entitling her to a \$1,000 Lowe's gift card.



Beverly Moorefield of Greenbrier won the Backyard Fun Package.



The Gatlinburg Retreat was awarded to Lanny Wilkinson of Cottontown.



Winner of the Home Entertainment Package was Darrel Lyle of Greenbrier.



Souk Luangnikone of Portland claimed the Local Tourist Package.



The Pick Tennessee Package went to Gwendolyn Lundy of Ashland City.



Winners of \$500 scholarships are, in no particular order, Fernando Garza, Pleasant View; Katina Martin, Cross Plains; Jerry Meadows, Cottontown; Ronald Maupin, White House; Patricia Creasy, Cottontown; and Lorne Jacobson, Cross Plains.



Youth Corner Prize Winners — Bicycles: Blake Lee, Jaylan Brick, Lesette Stekman, and Marc Luangnikone. American Eagle gift cards: Samantha Benton and Mark Ledbetter. McDonalds, American Eagle and Amazon gift cards: Grace Kuchenbecker. "The Peanuts Movie:" Allison Borkowski.

Not pictured is Michael Finn of Hendersonville, winner of the Outdoor Package.

Pole-testing conducted in CEMC service area

Osmose Utilities Service Inc., a contractor working for Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, will be working to inspect, test and treat wood utility poles within the cooperative's service area. Workers are expected to be present for the next several months.

The purpose of the program is to inspect and treat the poles on a cyclical basis. CEMC hopes to prolong the life of existing poles by applying decay-preventing treatments

and replacing those that are no longer safe enough to leave in its plant.

Osmose workers can be identified by the hard hats and brightly colored safety vests they wear. They will also carry laminated ID badges, and their vehicles will be marked with magnetic signs. Members who have concerns about the legitimacy of workers on their property are encouraged to contact CEMC at 800-987-2362 for more information.

Annual financial statement

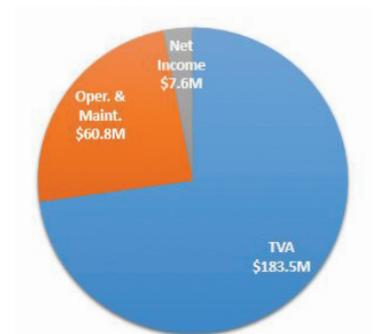
Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation maintains healthy financial condition

The following information was distributed to those who attended the annual meeting of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation Sept. 17 in White House. It is published here for the benefit of those members who were not in attendance.

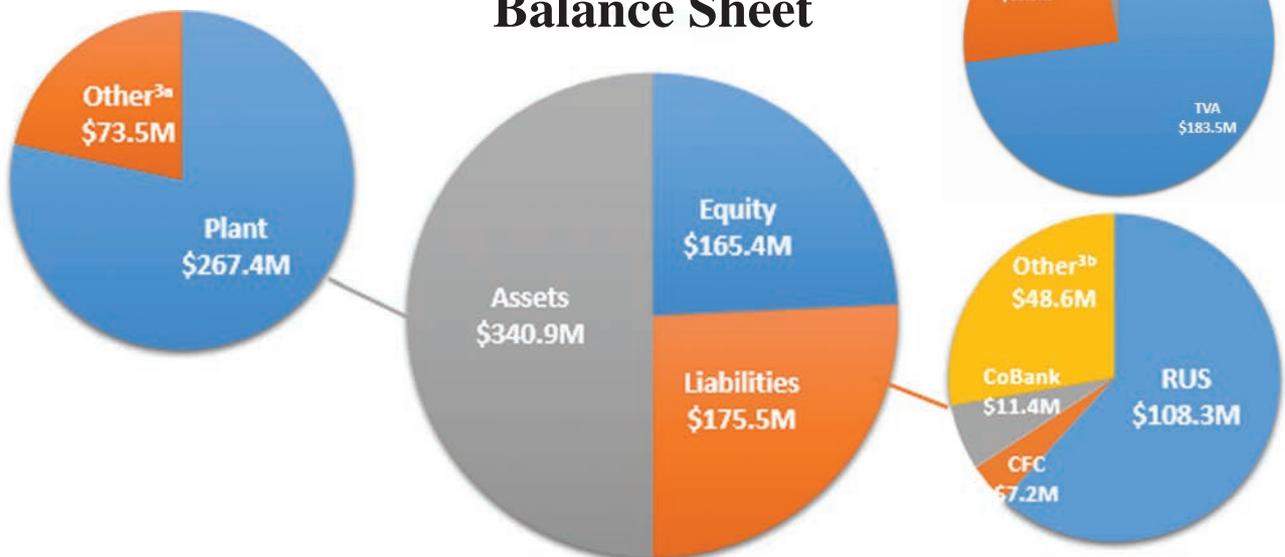
In millions

Operating Revenue	\$251.2
TVA Power Cost	(\$183.5)
Operating Income¹	\$67.7
Operations	(\$29.6)
Maintenance	(\$10.7)
Depreciation	(\$15.4)
Interest	(\$5.1)
Total Operations and Maintenance	(\$60.8)
Other Income	\$0.7
Net Income²	\$7.6

Revenue Distribution



Balance Sheet



¹ Operating Revenue includes electric sales revenue, late payment revenue, pole attachment rentals and service charge revenue.

² CEMC is a 501(c)(12) not-for-profit organization. Net income received is thereby reinvested in the electric system to improve and maintain reliability.

³ Other:

^{3a} Other Assets primarily consist of amounts due us, cash on hand, inventory and prepayments.

^{3b} Other Liabilities primarily consist of our amounts due others, member deposits and postretirement benefits.

CEMC lineman lights State Fair midway



Robin Conover, editor of *The Tennessee Magazine*, and CEMC lineman James Crowder stand with the ceremonial switch thrown on behalf of Tennessee's electric cooperatives in opening the 2016 Tennessee State Fair.

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation lineman James Crowder had the honor of flipping the ceremonial switch to light the midway at the 2016 Tennessee State Fair on Friday, Sept. 9. Crowder, who works in CEMC's Ashland City district, is also a veteran who served in the United States Marine Corps.

Attendees of the opening ceremony heard from legislators and elected officials, including Nashville Mayor Megan Berry and Robin Conover, editor of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

"Like the fair, electric cooperatives have a tradition of service and innovation," said Conover. "Our local cooperatives are leaders in their communities and are constantly working to find new and creative ways to better serve their members. Tennessee's electric co-ops make a significant impact on the state's rural counties and small towns. We serve more than 2.5 million Tennesseans, and our service areas cover 71 percent of the state. We provide jobs for 2,600 employees and pay more than \$63 million in taxes. We also keep the lights on 99.96 percent of the time



Crowder lights the midway during the State Fair opening ceremony.

and invest about \$10 million each month in infrastructure. Clearly, we believe each small town and community plays its own vital role in the fabric of Tennessee."

General manager's address

(Continued from page 20)

for aspects of the Clean Power Plan. Maybe some of you have heard of it. We don't know that it's completely defined yet. I think it is scheduled for the latter part of this month (September) in the D.C. Appellate Court, and we'll find out what the final parameters are. But TVA has a plan for the state of Tennessee should it go into effect just the way it is written today. The plan was devised by the Environmental Protection Agency.

I think everyone is interested in the rates, so I wanted to share some information with you. The national average for residential electric rates is 12.67 cents per kilowatt-hour. The average for the state of Tennessee is 10.27 cents per kWh. Cumberland Electric's rate is 8.9 cents per kWh. We're not the cheapest in the state, and we're not the most expensive. Reliability does come at a price.

Unfortunately, outages do occur from time to time. I mentioned earlier that trees are the No. 1 enemy of power lines. This past summer — and I know I'm getting into the previous fiscal year here, but I need to talk about this — Montgomery County had record rainfall for the month of July. In August, we did not set a record, but we did experience 6 inches of rainfall where the average is 3 inches. So it has really exacerbated the vegetation growth for this year. That's where the \$4 million for right of way goes. We need permission, but we need to cut these trees out. It's for your benefit.

During the first week of July, our system was hit by a strong multiple-storm event. During one of those storms, our system incurred almost 20,000 lightning strikes in about an hour. Other storms followed. Some of you may remember what kind of outages we had during that time. I can tell you our linemen were totally exhausted by the time they got through those three storms. Lightning storms like those destroy a lot of equipment.

Straight-line winds are also a problem. We've been fairly fortunate the past year with this. You can't design a system to withstand 70 mph winds; we wouldn't be able to pay for it.

I almost hate to mention them, but the bad thing about ice storms — and we've skirted those in the past couple of years — is that our linemen will put up one or two spans, then they will leave, and another tree will fall on the line and knock it back down again. We haven't had a bad ice storm since 1994, but we have dodged a few bullets.

Automobile accidents are another source of outages. You may wonder why your power goes out on a clear

night with no weather issues and nothing going on. This is often the result of an automobile crash.

Animals are also responsible for a number of outages. In Stewart County, we have a real problem with ospreys, which are a protected species, causing outages. They like to build nests on double-armed structures that we have on the distribution system. We have a few things we can do about it. We can provide them a structure nearby that has no energized conductors, and sometimes that works. To my knowledge, we've only had this happen one time, and it was last year, but we had an eagle in Land Between the Lakes that contacted a 13,000-volt line. Needless to say, that did him in.

Squirrels are notorious for causing outages. They would be OK if they would just run up and down the wires, but they don't. They get on the transformers, electrocuting themselves and knocking out your lights.

Last year we had a raccoon get into our Kirkwood substation in Montgomery County — it's strictly industrial and has more load on it than any other substation — and he lit the place up.

Earlier this spring, we had an outage in the Orlinda area. It took an hour, maybe an hour and a half, until we could find what took that transmission line out. Turns out a chicken snake hunting for a bird or eggs caused the problem.

Working for a cooperative is a rewarding experience. Any young man or woman who isn't sure he or she wants to go to college and prefers to work outside should consider line work. As long as the safety rules are followed, line work is a safe job. Thirty years from now, we're still going to need linemen.

I want to close by saying co-ops are an asset to the community — it's a real benefit to have one in the community. An investor-owned utility is concerned about a return on investment. Not so with a co-op. We need enough margin to maintain equity and reliability. We have some obligations. We have an obligation to keep you safe and also to keep our employees safe. We have an obligation to keep a reliable system, which does come at a financial cost, and we have an obligation to make the rates reasonable. We also have an obligation to make your life better in these communities. And I'd like to think that our employees treat you as if you did have a choice.

I appreciate your attention today. Thank you.



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November 2016

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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

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History for Kids:
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Pecans
A Taste of Fall



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AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Companies that care

Ownership of the company matters

Studies have shown that communities where homeowners occupy the majority of houses are more successful academically, are more physically fit and have a stronger sense of community. While owning a home may not be possible or desirable for everyone, ownership does matter. It just seems to make sense that we treat things we own with greater care.

Chances are you probably don't think too often about your ownership role with your electric cooperative. Every member of Caney Fork Electric Cooperative can take pride in the fact that you are an owner of your electric co-op. While at times it may seem easy to take electricity for granted, CFEC is working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to make sure you, the member-owners of the co-op, are well taken care when it comes to your electricity needs.

Locally based cooperatives believe this special bond and obligation to be an integral part of the community. Caney Fork Electric Cooperative understands that

you can't sell electricity to a business that has closed its doors or to people who have left the community because there aren't enough local opportunities. Electricity is a critical need, but it takes more than poles, wires and kilowatt-hours to make a community.

We are owners of our co-op, and in a real sense, we are owners of our community. Our community is strong. Think about how much greater it can be when we work cooperatively to tackle our challenges. If we act like owners on a consistent basis, we will put even more care and attention into our

community, and we will look locally for solutions. Finding local answers can help keep money — and people — right here in our community.

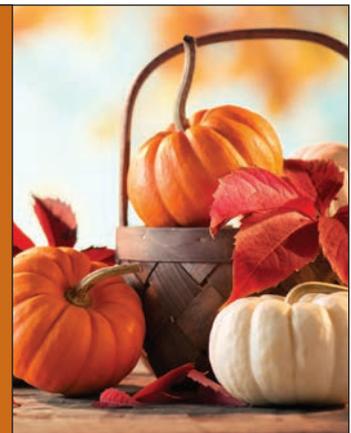
We all have a role to play. As your local electric cooperative, we promise to do our part for the community. If you have thoughts about how we can do a better job, please contact us at 931-473-3116 or 888-505-3030. You are the owners of the co-op, and we welcome your active participation.



Bill Rogers
General Manager,
Caney Fork
Electric Cooperative

Caney Fork Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, for Thanksgiving.

As always, dispatchers will be on duty to take your emergency calls. Have a happy Thanksgiving holiday!



This November, let your voice be heard

By Meghaan Evans

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline — with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 percent to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! In Tennessee, we saw a voter turnout of 31.89 percent.

Some speculate that the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as he or she has been in the past. And who can blame us really? Oftentimes, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand the issues themselves or enough about the candidates' stances on them. But we can change this.

Caney Fork Electric Cooperative wants to see an increase in civic engagement in our rural communities. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November. By visiting vote.coop,

you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

The future of rural communities depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of discussion this election season. Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make a major health decision. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.

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.

Is your fridge ready for Thanksgiving?

If Thanksgiving is at your house this year, your family members aren't the only ones who will be stuffed — so will your refrigerator. Is it up to the task? In fact, if your fridge is more than a decade old, it might not be. Today's models — those bearing the Energy Star label, at least — use at least 15 percent less energy than current federal standards require, and 40 percent less than models made in the early 2000s, according to the Department of Energy.

Yet more than 60 million households have refrigerators that are more than 10 years old, DOE says. By replacing your fridge with a new, energy-efficient model, you could save up to \$300 in electricity charges over its lifetime.

When shopping for a new refrigerator or freezer, read the EnergyGuide label. It tells you how many kilowatt-hours of electricity the unit will consume over a year of operation. The smaller the number, the better. Look for

refrigerators that have a freezer on the bottom or the top, as side-by-side designs consume more energy. Chest freezers are typically better insulated than upright models.

Whether you're buying a new fridge this year or not, follow these tips for more efficient use around the holidays:

- Brush or vacuum your refrigerator's coils regularly to improve efficiency by as much as 30 percent.
- Keeping your refrigerator full shouldn't be hard this time of year, and doing so will help your unit better retain the cold. If you have trouble keeping it stocked, fill the extra space with bottles or containers of water.
- If your milk is frosty in the morning, reduce the refrigerator's temperature. Refrigerators should be set between 36 degrees and 40 degrees. Freezers should stay between zero and 5 degrees.
- Put a dollar bill in the door's seal to see if it is airtight. If the dollar slips out easily, so will cold air.

10 ways to lower home energy bills when it's cold out

Want to save money on your energy bills this winter — without spending a lot to make it happen? Here are 10 low- or no-cost changes you can make:

1. Use your home's ceiling fans to make the rooms feel warmer. Most people think fans are just for summer, but ceiling fans running slowly in reverse will circulate the heat that rises toward the ceiling.
2. Add weather stripping or caulk around windows and doors. Light a match or a stick of incense and hold it near the window frame. If the smoke sways, that means the window is leaking air. Caulking can significantly reduce heat loss.
3. Rearrange your furniture. Sofas and rugs that are blocking vents can cause uneven heating. Locate your most frequently used furniture near interior walls; it's colder to sit near exterior walls, especially those with windows.
4. Install a "smart" thermostat that lets you program it or adjust the heat even after you've left the house. There's no need to heat your home at the same level when it's empty as when your family is home. Turning back your thermostat by 10-15 degrees for eight hours a day can save up to 15 percent on your heating bill.
5. Keep the shades wide open during daylight hours. The sun heats your home for free all day. Close the curtains at night to keep heat in.
6. Check the seams and joints of your ductwork for leaks. Repair any leaks with a duct-sealing compound for even and efficient heating.
7. Pull on a sweater and keep the thermostat at a lower temperature. You could save at least 1 percent per degree on your electric bill.
8. Run your clothes dryer and dishwasher after dark. They produce heat that can keep your home warm at the coldest time of the day.
9. Install compact fluorescent bulbs or LED lights in the fixtures you use the most. These bulbs use far less energy than incandescent bulbs.
10. Limit hot water use. Running the hot water when it's not needed sends the energy used to heat it down the drain. Wash clothes in cold water, and take shorter showers.

Insulate Your Electric Water Heater Tank

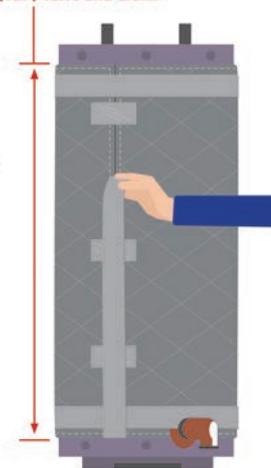
MATERIALS:

- Water heater blanket
- Scissors
- Duct tape

STEPS:

1. Turn off the electric water heater at the breaker panel.
2. Measure the height of the water heater, and cut the blanket to fit, if necessary.
3. Leave the top of the water heater unwrapped.
4. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and temporarily tape it in place. Position the blanket so that the ends do not come together over the access panels on the side of the tank.
5. Mark the areas, then cut holes where controls are located. For electric water heaters, there will be two panels on the side of the tank. Mark the area where the pressure-relief valve and pipe are located. This will be a pipe that protrudes from the side of the water heater.
6. Adhere the blanket. Be careful to line up the cut-out areas, and then tape the blanket permanently in place.
7. Turn the water heater back on.

Cover the whole tank except temperature and pressure (T&P) valve and drain.



Safety Note: Don't set the thermostat warmer than 130 degrees on the electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket — the wiring may overheat.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Wash dishes once, not twice

You can save water and energy simply by using your dishwasher the way the manufacturer intended — you won't have to wash the dishes twice.

Here are five often-ignored best practices:

1. Stop washing your dishes before loading them into the dishwasher. Instead, scrape leftover food from plates and bowls, rinse dishes and then load them into the dishwasher.
2. Place dishes, glasses and flatware in the dishwasher compartments designed for them. If you do, the machine will clean them properly the first time. A tip: Load sharp knives with their tips down.
3. Don't jam dishes in. Leave enough space between plates and bowls to allow the water to circulate freely. Likewise, don't let a large bowl or lid block the water spray so it can't reach the inside of other dishes and glasses.
4. Select the "hot water" setting to remove dried-on food. Water of at least 130 degrees thoroughly dissolves the dishwashing soap and sanitizes the dishes.
5. If your home has "hard" water, use twice as much soap plus a rinsing agent.

Full house? Save energy anyway

Expecting a crowd for Thanksgiving dinner? A house full of guests means you'll be using more energy than usual. Keep it under control with these tips:

- Lower the heat a couple of degrees before company arrives. You'll be using the stove and oven all day, so the house will be warmer than usual anyway. Plus, people generate heat, so a cooler house will feel more comfortable.
- Keep an eye on the refrigerator and freezer so you'll know the doors are snugly closed. Doors that aren't tightly sealed will send cold air into the kitchen.
- Wait until the leftovers cool off a bit before placing them in the refrigerator. The appliance has to work harder to cool hot food than to keep cool food cold.
- Place lids on pots and pans as you use them for cooking. The lids keep heat in, so food cooks quicker.
- Heat up whatever you can in the microwave instead of on the stovetop or oven. Microwaves use about half the energy as your oven.
- Fill your oven with as many different dishes as you can fit, and cook them all at once. As long as the recipes don't call for temperatures that vary by more than 25 degrees, everything should cook or bake evenly.

Weatherproof your house to stay warm

Weatherproofing is an inexpensive way to save money on your energy bills during the winter. Even the tiniest gaps around windows, doors, light fixtures, electrical outlets and air ducts can slowly let your home's heated air escape to the outdoors. That can add up to substantial heat loss.

Here's how to avoid leaks:

- Caulk throughout the house wherever walls meet floors or door frames and between the outside of the window frame and the siding. Choose caulk designed for the surface you're caulking, and try a higher-quality caulk, which will last longer.
- Apply weather-stripping to all exterior doors and windows. Weather stripping is a thin piece of material that seals the gap between where the door or window meets the jamb. Self-stick foam pieces are quick and easy to apply.
- Replace worn door sweeps on exterior doors to help prevent heat loss under the door.
- Seal windows with thin plastic sheets using an insulator kit. Shrinking the plastic film with a hair dryer ensures a smooth and tight seal.

Decorate safely

Homeowners have started decorating their homes for Christmas earlier and earlier — often before Thanksgiving. If you're ready to start hanging lights, take safety precautions. Nearly three people per hour are treated in hospital emergency rooms for decorating-related injuries during every holiday season, according to the National Safety Council.

Here are 10 ways to keep yourself safe if you have decorating duty this season:

1. Inspect last year's lights before using them again this holiday season. Discard any with frayed or exposed wires, loose connections or broken sockets.
2. Some holiday plants, including some varieties of poinsettias, can be harmful to children and pets. Keep them out of your home — or at least out of reach. And keep the number for the Poison Control Center handy: 800-222-1222.
3. Decorate the tree with kids in mind. Place breakable ornaments and those with metal hooks near the top of the tree, where little ones can't reach them.
4. Use sturdy ladders when decorating outdoors. Indoors, climb step ladders instead of onto chairs, which aren't designed to support someone in the standing position.
5. Don't hide extension cords under rugs or furniture. They can overheat and catch on fire. And when you take the tree down, unplug extension cords. They're not designed for permanent use.

Busting the myths about advanced metering

By Tom Tate

By now, most Americans have likely heard of the “smart grid.” This phrase is being used to describe the computerization of America’s electrical infrastructure to improve the reliability, efficiency, resiliency and security of the electric grid.

A key component of the smart grid is an advanced metering infrastructure, also known as AMI in the utility world. AMI systems utilize digital meters as well as computer technology to measure electric use at homes and businesses more precisely than was possible with analog meters. The digital meters communicate via radio or the existing power lines and have been loosely termed “advanced meters.” AMI benefits electric co-op members with greater accuracy in billing, faster outage restoration, operational savings versus manual meter reading and detailed data that you and your co-op can use to much more accurately manage electric use.

Unfortunately, a number of myths concerning advanced meters have developed over the years. These myths can be classified into three categories: privacy concerns, security and health effects. Let’s take a look at each, starting with privacy.

Caney Fork Electric Cooperative takes great pains to keep your information private — and that information includes the details of your electric use. The only people who see that data are co-op employees and you. Your co-op will not release this information to anyone else without your specific permission. The myths are that the data collected can tell when you are home or away and exactly what you are doing when you are there and that this data is being given to the government. Naturally, the data will show when you are home because for most families, energy consumption is higher then. But having said that, the current advanced meter cannot identify what activities are taking place down to the specific appliance in use. This myth is simply unfounded.

What about the myth that these meters actually make the electric grid less secure by providing an avenue for hackers to break into systems through the advanced

meter and wreak havoc? While hackers continually attempt to break into electric systems, their focus is at higher levels in the operation. Hacking a meter is unlikely for a variety of reasons. Hackers like to work remotely via the internet, and advanced meters don’t offer that option. A hacker must be near a radio-based advanced meter to catch the weak communication signal and break the proprietary communication protocol. The hacker must then remain nearby for extended periods of time to collect the short bursts of data sent. Therefore, advanced meters are an unlikely and unprofitable target for hackers.

Finally, there are the myths surrounding advanced meters and ill effects on health. These concerns state that having the radio-based advanced meter is the equivalent to having a cell tower attached to the side of your home. Again, this is unfounded. First, these meters communicate intermittently for as few as five minutes a day. These devices are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, and their output is well below the levels this federal agency sets. As one doctor observed, the radio waves emitted are more like those of a cordless phone or wireless router. Radio waves emitted by advanced meters are much weaker and less frequent than other sources we use on a daily basis.

We will all benefit from the continued development of America’s smart grid and can rest easy with the knowledge that the rumors surrounding radio-based advanced meters don’t hold water.

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.



Advanced meters benefit electric co-op members with greater accuracy in billing, faster outage restoration, operational savings versus manual meter reading and detailed data that you and your co-op can use to much more accurately manage electric use.

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.



CFEC, TVA program helps members improve energy efficiency

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

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

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

Here's how it works:

- Homeowners will need to have an eScore evaluation performed on the home before upgrades are made. This service is free to all Caney Fork Electric Cooperative members.



- Sign up for an eScore evaluation by visiting www.2eScore.com or calling Caney Fork Electric Cooperative at 931-473-3116 or toll-free at 1-888-505-3030.
- A certified CFEC energy adviser will visit and evaluate the home to provide an eScore report.

- Get an updated eScore evaluation of the home AND a quality-assurance inspection on the work performed by the Quality Contractor Network.

An eScore evaluation includes a detailed eScore report, containing:

- An eScore card, which ranks the home from 1 to 10 (10 being the best).
- A customized list of recommended energy-efficiency upgrades that can be made over time to help a home score a 10.
- A list of rebates for all qualified energy-efficiency upgrades.

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

For additional information and program details and restrictions, please visit www.2eScore.com or call Caney Fork Electric Cooperative at 931-473-3116 or toll-free at 1-888-505-3030. See table at left for approved upgrades and available rebates.

Caney Fork Electric eScore Participant Rebate Schedule

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

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

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

Please Register Through
The eScore Customer Portal At:
www.2escore.com

If You Have Any Additional Questions Please Contact
Caney Fork Electric
1-888-505-3030

November 2016

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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

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AS I SEE IT

Michael's Viewpoint

Your vote is like a shout; don't be quiet Nov. 8

We are only days away from a presidential election that will decide the direction of our nation through 2020 and beyond. The major candidates, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, have engaged in campaigns quite unlike anything we have ever seen.

Whether you've laughed or groaned at their political antics, personal attacks, allegations of misconduct or their flaws, slips and misstatements, the fact remains that one will become the most powerful leader in the free world.

This column is not an endorsement of either candidate. However, it is critically important that you exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

The democratic process does not guarantee us perfect leadership. It does give every U.S. citizen a stake in the future of our nation. That's important — even if we feel turned off by the ugly and strident campaigns waged by both candidates.

At the end of the day, people who stay at home and don't cast their ballots ensure that indifference rules.

Election-day participation means every voter, regardless of party or politics, has the right to hold the winner accountable. We don't walk away because our candidate lost.

The act of voting itself is a statement of basic activism to which candidates, pollsters and political gurus pay attention. Think of a vote as a shout, a loud and echoing statement that says, "We are here! Our votes count! You must listen!"

This is why Duck River Electric Membership Corporation has joined more than 500 electric co-ops across the nation in a campaign called

Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan initiative of America's electric cooperatives. It is a voter-mobilization campaign with a very specific purpose: Boost the political clout of rural America. In the latter half of the 20th century, rural voters were known for their high turnout ... but no more. In the 2012 presidential election, the rural vote declined 18.3 percent.

Politicians and special interests take note of such trends. They also understand the current composition of Congress: More than 80% of lawmakers have no rural constituents.

In a 2013 speech that was intended as a wakeup call for rural leaders, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said, "Rural America, with a shrinking population, is becoming less and less relevant to the politics of this country — and we better recognize that, and we better begin to reverse it."

Co-ops Vote is our collective shout. Whether our votes are for Hillary or "The Donald," we want elected officials to know that rural America matters, our issues matter, our future matters.

Join me by making a pledge to vote on Nov. 8. Go to www.vote.coop for more information.



Michael Watson
Duck River EMC
President/CEO



WWW.VOTE.COOP

DREMC sees rural broadband as major issue

This is a digital age and becoming more so by the day. Commerce is digital. Education is digital. Health care is increasingly digital. Yet a state-sponsored survey conducted this year in Tennessee showed that more than 54 percent of households are connected at internet speeds too slow to meet the Federal Communications Commission definition of “broadband.”

The problem is more acute in rural areas. In fact, many parts of the Duck River Electric Membership Corporation service area are either unserved or underserved when it comes to broadband connectivity. This is not simply a situation affecting how fast Internet games download.

“Broadband is essential to the economic strength of rural communities,” says U.S.

Secretary of Agriculture Tim Vilsack. “It improves access to education and quality health care, and it leads to new jobs and business opportunities. Broadband is part of everyday life in most of America and vital for economic success in the 21st Century. Rural America cannot be left out.”

Rural leaders see the lack of broadband in the same terms as access to central station power in the 1930s, when electric cooperatives were created to bring light to a dark countryside.

Tennessee state law currently prevents electric co-ops like DREMC from providing internet to homes, farms and businesses. However, electric co-ops can build, own and operate fiber-optic infrastructure for purposes related to their core business.

DREMC is currently evaluating the construction of a fiber-optic loop to improve digital communication among offices, substations and critical points on the system. No

decision has been made, but such a project could include “dark” fiber (excess capacity) for use by communities, institutions or even retail broadband providers.

To collect information about connectivity speeds, reliability and cost of service, DREMC has launched a broadband feasibility study. This is the first step in a detailed examination of possible roles for DREMC in

helping improve access to broadband for its members.

Magellan Advisors, a consulting firm with experience in rural broadband projects, has been retained to aid with the study.

Stakeholder meetings have been held, and surveys — one for residential internet users and the other for businesses — are posted on the co-op’s website, www.dremc.com, through mid-November.

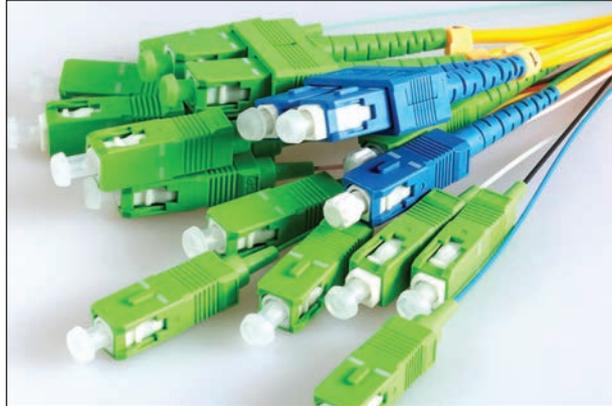
“This data collection and analysis is a first but very important step,” says DREMC President and CEO Michael Watson.

“Duck River EMC needs greater digital communication capability. A fiber-optic loop has been proposed to connect all offices and substations, including the co-op’s emergency operations center. This project could also provide capacity for community purposes.”

He likens the connectivity situation today with what happened during the electrification of rural America:

“Co-ops found ways to build power distribution systems at lower cost, using a nonprofit business model based on member ownership, local control, innovation and dedication to community. We believe the same cooperative principles might be applied today to solve the broadband connectivity problem in rural Tennessee.”

Go to www.dremc.com to take the broadband survey!



**DREMC offices will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 24, and
Friday, Nov 25,
for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

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 Thanksgiving holiday.



'Wizards' improve energy efficiency of family's home



More than 25 Duck River EMC employees volunteered their Saturday morning on Oct. 1 to weatherize a family's rural home near Tullahoma. In the fifth Weatherization Wizards project undertaken since the program began, the DREMC team caulked, insulated, replaced lightbulbs, repaired and weather-stripped storm doors and installed a new high-efficiency heat pump and ducting.

Stroup's Accurate Refrigeration of Tullahoma provided the heat pump at cost.

Matt Pihs, an HVAC technician and husband of DREMC cashier Shelby Pihs, helped oversee installation. The homeowners, Mr. and Mrs. Cory Phelps, and their children were amazed such a large contingent of volunteers showed up.

The work was completed before noon.

Weatherization Wizards is an employee-driven effort that seeks to help improve home energy efficiency and comfort. The group tries to undertake five or six projects per year.



77 years of service to the cooperative recognized

Danny Anderson retired at the end of September, completing 38 years of service in Duck River EMC's Manchester District.

Anderson grew up in Manchester and graduated from Coffee County High School. He was employed with a local furniture store and the Manchester Water & Sewerage Department before joining DREMC in 1978 as a first-year meter reader. He also served as a collector/service aide.

"When I started reading meters, we would have to write the readings in log books and subtract the use in our head," he said. "Technology has certainly made that job a lot easier and more accurate."

Anderson shared that he and his fellow employees would leave notes for each other — such as "it bites," referring to an electric fence, or "mean dog" — regarding reading meters at certain locations, alerting co-workers to obstacles that would interfere with getting their readings.

"I was only bitten by a dog once in my 38 years of reading meters, and I think those are pretty good odds," he said.

Anderson has many fond memories of talking to members. "Sometimes people just needed to talk, and I was there to listen."

Most members were very appreciative, and he enjoyed his share of cookies and vegetables over the years from grateful cooks and gardeners.

"I have enjoyed working with the members and my fellow employees in the office," said Anderson. "It has



been a good journey, and I have been truly blessed to have a job this good."

Retirement plans include spending more time with his family, especially his six grandchildren, and enjoying his pastoring duties at area churches.

Karen Mason also retired at the end of September, bringing to an end her 39-year career with the cooperative.

Mason grew up in Decherd and graduated from Franklin County High School. She received her business degree from Middle Tennessee State University.

Mason joined the cooperative's Decherd District in 1977 as a part-time office assistant and assumed the role of full-time assistant cashier in 1977.

In 2000, Mason transferred to the Headquarters Accounting Department as a data processing operations assistant, a job she held until her retirement.

"I enjoyed working with the public during my time at the Decherd District, but by moving to Headquarters, I was able to better understand how all departments and districts work together for the betterment of our members," said Mason.

Accounting relating to prepay accounts, renewable energy, billing and ACH drafts were among her responsibilities along with answering questions from other districts.

"I am so happy I will not have to set an alarm to wake me each morning," said Mason.

She also looks forward to spending more time with family, her husband, John, and traveling.

DREMC appreciates the dedication of both of these employees and wish them many happy years of retirement.



Last year for Throneberry's 'Holiday Foods'

A tradition since 1974 sponsored by Duck River EMC and featuring Ann Throneberry will come full circle next month when the 42-year run of delicious baking, cooking, party planning and gifting ideas comes to an end.

Throneberry says this will be the last year of Holiday Foods. A DREMC retiree herself, she will draw the popular program to a close in order to spend more time

This year's theme is "Closing the Christmas Circle."

with her family, especially granddaughter Harper.

Tens of thousands of DREMC members and guests have followed Holiday Foods since its inception. The loyalty of her audience is into second and third generations today.

"I am so grateful to those who've attended my presentations over the years," she says. "They are special, indeed."



Ann Throneberry

The first Holiday Foods theme was "Old-Fashioned Christmas Specialties." Every year since, there has been a new and unique theme, ranging from "Heavenly Holidays" to "Twinkling Lights and Edible Delights."

The final theme is "Closing the Christmas Circle: 42 years of Holiday Foods."

The programs — nine in all repeated in Shelbyville, Lynchburg, Winchester, Manchester, Chapel Hill, Columbia,

Lewisburg and Pulaski — provide recipes and advice on preparing holiday foods to delight family and friends.

All the dishes, which are featured in a cookbook free to attendees, are prepared by Throneberry and displayed in a lush setting of seasonal decorations.

Few understand the massive amount of work that goes into each Holiday Foods presentation.

Assisted by the Member Service Department's Helen Blanton, Throneberry starts pulling her program together in July and August. September and October are hectic months when the cookbook recipes are edited, work with the printer starts and the finishing touches are put on the program.

What appears so seamless to the audience is in reality the product of hundreds of hours of planning and preparation.

"I've so enjoyed doing Holiday Foods over the years," Throneberry reflects. "This has been such a big part of my life. Of course, it would not have happened without the support of my family. And Helen has always made sure we stayed on deadline with the cookbook!"

Holiday Foods fans actually collect the cookbooks. Some have the entire series.

"It will be bittersweet telling my audiences goodbye," Throneberry says. "I love Christmas, and I love to cook and give food as gifts. I set out to share this love with others. In turn, they gave me so much love back. I am blessed."

See the Holiday Foods schedule at left for the date and time of the presentation in your area.

Bedford County

Tuesday, Nov. 1
10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
DREMC Auditorium
Shelbyville

Moore County

Thursday, Nov. 3
10 a.m.
Lynchburg Masonic Lodge
Lynchburg

Franklin County

Friday, Nov. 4
10 a.m.
Agricultural Extension
Service Office
Winchester

Coffee County

Monday, Nov. 7
10 a.m.
Manchester-Coffee County
Conference Center
Manchester

Marshall County

Monday, Nov. 7
6:30 p.m.
Chapel Hill United
Methodist Church
Chapel Hill

Marshall County

Thursday, Nov. 10
10 a.m.
Church Street
Church of Christ
Lewisburg

Giles County

Monday, Nov. 14
10 a.m.
Pulaski Recreation Center
Pulaski

Maury County

Tuesday, Nov. 15
6:30 p.m.
Highland Church of Christ
Columbia

DREMC welcomes new employees



Chase Cares

Chase Cares joined Duck River Electric Membership Corporation's Decherd District on Sept. 26 as an apprentice lineman.

A Bedford County native, Cares graduated from Shelbyville Central High School. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marines and served as an infantry team leader and later advanced to infantry squad leader.

Cares was previously employed with DREMC's Shelbyville District earlier this year and left his position to attend the Southeast Lineman Training Center in Trenton, Georgia.

Cares enjoys visiting the gym, fishing and golfing.

The Decherd District is proud to welcome Cares to the team and believe his previous cooperative experience and training will make him an great asset.



Sheena Rob

Sheena Rob joined Duck River Electric Membership Corporation's Manchester District on Sept. 29 as a cashier.

Rob grew up in Manchester, attending Coffee County High School and receiving her bachelor's degree in business from Middle Tennessee State University. She was previously employed with Ascend Federal Credit Union and the Manchester City School System in the Teaching Assistant Program.

Prior to joining DREMC full time, she worked with the cooperative through Randstad Staffing Solutions.

Hobbies for Rob include working in the yard, scrapbooking, cooking, reading and spending time with her husband, Pete, as well as walking her dog, Lucky. Sheena and Pete have two sons, Adam and Alan, who are attending Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville.

The Manchester District is proud to add Rob to the front office to assist members.



Lisa Hobby

Lisa Hobby joined Duck River Electric Membership Corporation's Lewisburg District on Oct. 3 as a cashier.

Hobby grew up in Corinth, Mississippi, and attended Corinth High School. She graduated from North East Mississippi Community College and attended Mississippi State University.

Previous employers include the National Bridle Shop and H&S Pharmacy, where she worked in customer service.

Prior to joining DREMC full time, she worked for the cooperative through Ledford Employee Exchange.

Hobby says she enjoys spending time with family and friends and traveling to competitive archery meets with her son, Hunter, who attends Middle Tennessee State University and is affiliated with Mathews Pro Staff. She also enjoys watching football with husband Charlie.

The Lewisburg District is happy to add Hobby to its staff.

Like Like Father Son

DREMC members own Co-op Connections Card Program-supporting business Lewisburg Paint Store

Story and photographs by Claire Sellers

Paint swatches showing hundreds of Benjamin Moore color varieties line the walls at Lewisburg Paint Store, which offers paint, custom framing and a selection of hardware products. Owners Kevin and Kenneth Stacey opened their doors in 2001 after each was caught in Lewisburg's industrial downsizing.

Too young to retire, Kenneth Stacey, a member of Duck River Electric Membership Corporation's board of directors since 2002, didn't let an obstacle get in his way. He and his son, Kevin, decided to take a risk and open a business.

"I enjoy the challenge of running a family business in a small town," says Kenneth. "I like being able to see our customers and stay in the loop of what's going on in our community."

The Staceys also have what they say is Middle Tennessee's largest collection of artist David Wright's paintings for sale. Kenneth's fondness for David Wright's



Lewisburg Paint Store has the largest collection of David Wright prints for sale in Middle Tennessee.



Lewisburg Paint Store owners Kevin, left, and Kenneth Stacey participate in DREMC's Co-op Connections Card Program.

collection originated from his interest in the Civil War era. Wright is a premier artist of the American frontier, and his paintings depict historical subjects with researched detail.

"I couldn't do this without Kevin," says Kenneth of the father-and-son business. "He is the expert on the paint as well as the custom framing aspect."

Looking for a Christmas present? Lewisburg Paint Store also offers a variety of pocket knives for the collector.

Lewisburg Paint Store is located at 730 Finley Beech Road in Lewisburg and is open from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

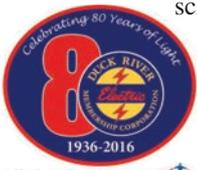
Visit www.lewisburgpaint.com or call 931-359-2858 for more information.

Lewisburg Paint Store is a member of the DREMC Co-op Connections Card Program and offers 10 percent off a custom-framed picture or print.

The DREMC Co-op Connections Card program, designed for cooperative members, has local and pharmacy discounts. Visit www.dremc.com or contact your local DREMC office for a complete business listing. Be sure to use your DREMC Co-op Connections Card when you shop for loved ones this holiday season.

Duck River Electric Membership Corporation

Get Ready for 2016 Holiday Foods! This month, retired DREMC home energy specialist Ann Throneberry will return for her highly anticipated Holiday Foods programs. A schedule can be found on page 24 of this publication. Please join us for these special presentations. As always, there is no admission fee, and no reservations are necessary.



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November 2016

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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Matthew's Mess
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Saving
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History for Kids:
'Prophet of
Oak Ridge'

Pecans
A Taste of Fall



VERS

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

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Joe Smith

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AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Companies that care

Ownership of the company matters

Studies have shown that communities where homeowners occupy the majority of houses are more successful academically, are more physically fit and have a stronger sense of community. While owning a home may not be possible or desirable for everyone, ownership does matter. It just seems to make sense that we treat things we own with greater care.

Chances are you probably don't think too often about your ownership role with your electric cooperative. Every member of Forked Deer Electric Cooperative can take pride in the fact that you are an owner of your electric co-op. While at times it may seem easy to take electricity for granted, FDEC is working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to make sure you, the members of the co-op, are well taken care of when it comes to your electricity needs.

Locally based cooperatives believe this special bond and obligation to be an integral part of the community. FDEC understands that you can't sell electricity to a business that has closed its doors or to people who have left the community because there are not enough local opportunities. Electricity is a

critical need, but it takes more than poles, wires and kilowatt-hours to make a community.

We are owners of our co-op, and in a real sense, we are owners of our community. Our community is strong. Think about how much greater it can be when we work cooperatively to tackle our challenges. If we act like owners on a consistent basis, we will put even more care and attention into our community, and we will look locally for solutions.

Finding local answers can help keep money — and people — right here in our community.

We all have a role to play. As your local electric cooperative, we promise to do our part for the community. If you have thoughts about how we can do a better job, please contact Forked Deer Electric Cooperative. You are the owners of the co-op, and we welcome your active participation.



Jeff Newman
General Manager,
Forked Deer
Electric Cooperative

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home — typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov

This November, let your voice be heard

By Meghaan Evans

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline — with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 percent to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! In Tennessee, we saw a voter turnout of 31.89 percent.

Some speculate that the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as he or she has been in the past. And who can blame us really? Oftentimes, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand the issues themselves or enough about the candidates' stances on them. But we can change this.

Forked Deer Electric Cooperative wants to see an increase in civic engagement in our rural communities. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November. By visiting

vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

The future of rural communities depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of discussion this election season. Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make a major health decision. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.

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.

Is your fridge ready for Thanksgiving?

If Thanksgiving is at your house this year, your family members aren't the only ones who will be stuffed — so will your refrigerator. Is it up to the task? In fact, if your fridge is more than a decade old, it might not be. Today's models — those bearing the Energy Star label, at least — use at least 15 percent less energy than current federal standards require, and 40 percent less than models made in the early 2000s, according to the Department of Energy.

Yet, DOE says, more than 60 million households have refrigerators that are more than 10 years old. By replacing your fridge with a new, energy-efficient model, you could save up to \$300 in electricity charges over its lifetime.

When shopping for a new refrigerator or freezer, read the EnergyGuide label. It tells you how many kilowatt-hours of electricity the unit will consume over a year of operation. The smaller the number, the better. Look for

refrigerators that have a freezer on the bottom or the top, as side-by-side designs consume more energy. Chest freezers are typically better insulated than upright models.

Whether you're buying a new fridge this year or not, follow these tips for more efficient use around the holidays:

- Brush or vacuum your refrigerator's coils regularly to improve efficiency by as much as 30 percent.
- Keeping your refrigerator full shouldn't be hard this time of year, and doing so will help your unit better retain the cold. If you have trouble keeping it stocked, fill the extra space with bottles or containers of water.
- If your milk is frosty in the morning, reduce the refrigerator's temperature. Refrigerators should be set between 36 degrees and 40 degrees. Freezers should stay between zero and 5 degrees.
- Put a dollar bill in the door's seal to see if it is airtight. If the dollar slips out easily, so will cold air.

Predicting the future of nuclear power

Some forecasts see growth, others not so much.

By Paul Wesslund

If you want to take a big risk, try predicting the future of nuclear power, which generates about 20 percent of the electricity in the country. Currently in the U.S., 100 nuclear reactors operate at 60 plants in 30 states.

There are reasons to think nuclear generation should grow dramatically — nuclear reactors run reliably 24-7 and produce none of the greenhouse gases that are linked to climate change. There are also reasons to be surprised it's allowed to produce as big a share of our electricity as it does — radioactivity and using nuclear fuel are complicated and dangerous, and the engineering and security needed to keep nuclear power safe and reliable can be expensive.

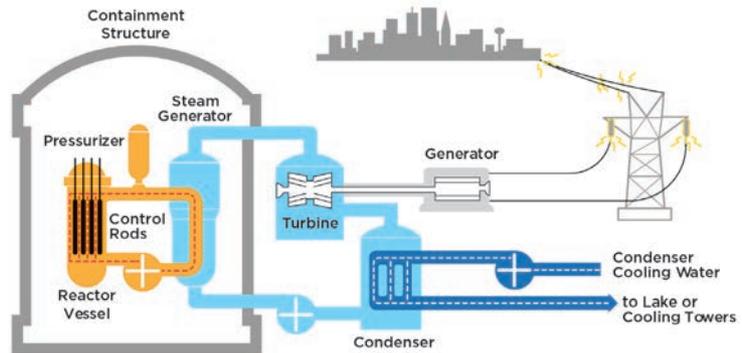
The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration predicts that nuclear power will be producing a slightly smaller share of electricity in the U.S. through the year 2040. In the rest of the world, nuclear capacity is expected to double.

On the other hand, a major financial analysis firm says that slight drop in U.S. nuclear power could change. Fitch Ratings said last year that federal climate change rules and support for new, more efficient technologies "could slow the decline in nuclear power generation."

Dale Bradshaw, an expert on electric generation and distribution who works with electric co-ops, sees reasons to expect an increase in nuclear power. Bradshaw, CEO of Electrivation LLC and a consultant to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, says a main block to the growth of nuclear power is the current relatively low costs of natural gas, wind and solar. He notes that natural gas prices have started to rise and that renewable energy subsidies are set to expire in a few years. He also says research into advanced nuclear reactors will lead to large improvements in safety and efficiency.

One sign of that innovation came this year when the Tennessee Valley Authority applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for permission to explore "small

How Nuclear Energy Works



A nuclear power plant works by splitting the atoms of small amounts of uranium fuel, which produces enough energy to heat a liquid into steam that turns a turbine that generates electricity. In a pressurized water reactor, the most commonly used kind of reactor, nuclear fuel heats a liquid in the core of the reactor, where an assembly of rods that absorb radioactivity control the reaction. The reactor is housed in a specially designed containment building. The heated liquid carries heat to a steam generator, where the vaporized liquid turns a turbine that generates electricity.

Note: This graphic displays a pressurized water reactor (PWR), the most common type of nuclear system.

Source: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

modular reactor units" that would be easier and less expensive to build and operate.

In June 2016, TVA connected a new nuclear unit to the power grid, making it the first new reactor to come online since 1996, and four additional new units are coming online over the next five years.

The future of nuclear energy will depend on a variety of factors. But today, nuclear energy remains reliable and affordable and an important component of our nation's fuel mix.

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.

Know what's below

Dial 811 before you dig

Spring is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece, but in many parts of the country, planting shrubs in early fall gives the plants a head start at establishing roots in the season's cool, moist soil. Perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those cool autumn evenings. If any of your fall projects require digging — such as planting trees or shrubs or setting posts — remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities such as buried electric, gas and water lines can be a shovel thrust away from turning a fall project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local "one-call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "call-before-you-dig" services, many don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common

Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: The 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a nonprofit organization of more than 400 electric cooperative members and many other groups that share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency. CGA is a member-driven association of 1,500 individuals, organizations and

sponsors in every facet of the underground utility industry. Established in 2000, CGA is committed to saving lives and preventing damage to underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices. CGA has established itself as the leading organization in an effort to reduce damages to underground facilities in North America through shared responsibility among all stakeholders.



**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.
Visit call811.com for more information.



Busting the myths about advanced metering

By Tom Tate

By now, most Americans have likely heard of the “smart grid.” This phrase is being used to describe the computerization of America’s electrical infrastructure to improve the reliability, efficiency, resiliency and security of the electric grid.

A key component of the smart grid is an advanced metering infrastructure, also known as AMI in the utility world. AMI systems utilize digital meters as well as computer technology to measure electric use at homes and businesses more precisely than was possible with analog meters. The digital meters communicate via radio or the existing power lines and have been loosely termed “advanced meters.” AMI benefits electric co-op members with greater accuracy in billing, faster outage restoration, operational savings versus manual meter reading and detailed data that you and your co-op can use to much more accurately manage electric use.

Unfortunately, a number of myths concerning advanced meters have developed over the years. These myths can be classified into three categories: privacy concerns, security and health effects. Let’s take a look at each, starting with privacy.

Forked Deer Electric Cooperative takes great pains to keep your information private — and that information includes the details of your electric use. The only people who see that data are co-op employees and you. Your co-op will not release this information to anyone else without your specific permission. The myths are that the data collected can tell when you are home or away and exactly what you are doing when you are there and that this data is being given to the government. Naturally, the data will show when you are home because for most families, energy consumption is higher then. But having said that, the current advanced meter cannot identify what activities are taking place down to the specific appliance in use. This myth is simply unfounded.

What about the myth that these meters actually make the electric grid less secure by providing an avenue for hackers to break into systems through the advanced

meter and wreak havoc? While hackers continually attempt to break into electric systems, their focus is at higher levels in the operation. Hacking a meter is unlikely for a variety of reasons. Hackers like to work remotely via the internet, and advanced meters don’t offer that option. A hacker must be near a radio-based advanced meter to catch the weak communication signal and break the proprietary communication protocol. The hacker must then remain nearby for extended periods of time to collect the short bursts of data sent. Therefore, advanced meters are an unlikely and unprofitable target for hackers.

Finally, there are the myths surrounding advanced meters and ill effects on health. These concerns state that having the radio-based advanced meter is the equivalent to having a cell tower attached to the side of your home. Again, this is unfounded. First, these meters communicate intermittently for as few as five minutes a day. These devices are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, and their output is well below the levels this federal agency sets. As one doctor observed, the radio waves emitted are more like those of a cordless phone or wireless router. Radio waves emitted by advanced meters are much weaker and less frequent than other sources we use on a daily basis.

We will all benefit from the continued development of America’s smart grid and can rest easy with the knowledge that the rumors surrounding radio-based advanced meters don’t hold water.

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.



Advanced meters benefit electric co-op members with greater accuracy in billing, faster outage restoration, operational savings versus manual meter reading and detailed data that you and your co-op can use to much more accurately manage electric use.

10 ways to lower home energy bills when it's cold out

Want to save money on your energy bills this winter — without spending a lot to make it happen? Here are

10 low- or no-cost changes you can make:

1. Use your home's ceiling fans to make the rooms feel warmer. Most people think fans are just for summer, but ceiling fans running slowly in reverse will circulate the heat that rises toward the ceiling.
2. Add weather stripping or caulk around windows and doors. Light a match or a stick of incense and hold it near the window frame. If the smoke sways, that means the window is leaking air. Caulking can significantly reduce heat loss.
3. Rearrange your furniture. Sofas and rugs that are blocking vents can cause uneven heating. Locate your most frequently used furniture near interior walls; it's colder to sit near exterior walls, especially those with windows.
4. Install a "smart" thermostat that lets you program it or adjust the heat even after you've left the house. There's no need to heat your home at the same level when it's empty as when your family is home. Turning back your thermostat by 10-15 degrees for eight hours a day can save up to 15 percent on your heating bill.
5. Keep the shades wide open during daylight hours. The sun heats your home for free all day. Close the curtains at night to keep heat in.
6. Check the seams and joints of your ductwork for leaks. Repair any leaks with a duct-sealing compound for even and efficient heating.
7. Pull on a sweater and keep the thermostat at a lower temperature. You could save at least 1 percent per degree on your electric bill.

Insulate Your Electric Water Heater Tank

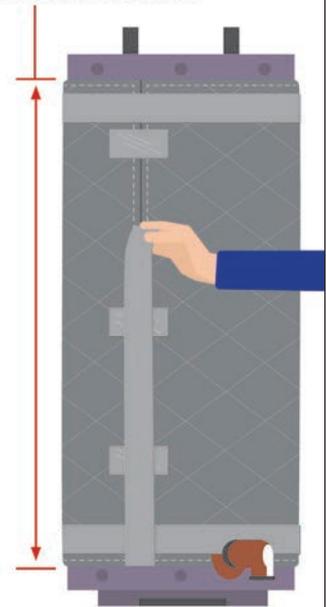
MATERIALS:

- Water heater blanket
- Scissors
- Duct tape

STEPS:

1. Turn off the electric water heater at the breaker panel.
2. Measure the height of the water heater, and cut the blanket to fit, if necessary.
3. Leave the top of the water heater unwrapped.
4. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and temporarily tape it in place. Position the blanket so that the ends do not come together over the access panels on the side of the tank.
5. Mark the areas, then cut holes where controls are located. For electric water heaters, there will be two panels on the side of the tank. Mark the area where the pressure-relief valve and pipe are located. This will be a pipe that protrudes from the side of the water heater.
6. Adhere the blanket. Be careful to line up the cut-out areas, and then tape the blanket permanently in place.
7. Turn the water heater back on.

Cover the whole tank except temperature and pressure (T&P) valve and drain.



Safety Note: Don't set the thermostat warmer than 130 degrees on the electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket — the wiring may overheat.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

8. Run your clothes dryer and dishwasher after dark. They produce heat that can keep your home warm at the coldest time of the day.
9. Install compact fluorescent bulbs or LED lights in the fixtures you use the most. These bulbs use far less energy than incandescent bulbs.
10. Limit your hot water use. Running the hot water when it's not needed sends the energy used to heat it down the drain. Wash clothes in cold water, and take shorter showers.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

FALL COLORING SHEET



Energy
Explorers



November 2016

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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Matthew's Mess
Co-ops Send Help

Saving
Sumner's
Antebellum
Carriage
House

History for Kids:
'Prophet of
Oak Ridge'

Pecans
A Taste of Fall



 **VERS**

This November, let your voice be heard

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline — with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 percent to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! In Tennessee, it was 31.89 percent.

Some speculate that the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as he or she has been in the past. And who can blame us really? Oftentimes, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand the issues themselves or enough about the candidates' stances on them. But we can change this.

Here at Gibson Electric Membership Corporation, we want to see an increase in civic engagement in our rural communities. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November. By visiting vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

The future of rural communities depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of discussion this election season. Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make a major health decision. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.



*Dan Rodemaker
President and CEO
Gibson EMC*

Happy Thanksgiving!

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation will be closed
Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25,
so employees can enjoy Thanksgiving with their families.
As always, staff will be available to answer your calls
and respond to problems if needed.



Protect your home with Surge Alert

Surge Alert helps protect appliances and electronics from power surges. This equipment lease program incorporates a two-stage protection network — a meter base suppressor to help protect the motors and compressors on your large appliances, plus plug-in units of your choice to protect sensitive electronic equipment.

What are power surges?

Power surges are sudden, powerful increases in voltage that can damage or destroy household appliances and electronic equipment.

Where do surges come from?

Lightning is an obvious cause of power surges, but surges also are caused by birds and animals coming into contact with power lines, road accidents involving utility poles or even a handyman next door using power equipment.

Most surges, however, are caused by equipment inside your home such as a heating and cooling unit, vacuum cleaner or even refrigerator as it operates or turns on.

Not all surges occur on electric power lines. They also occur over cable television and telephone lines. Therefore, any equipment hooked up to an outside source is susceptible.

What equipment is threatened?

Unfortunately, the most expensive electronics in your home are the most vulnerable. Common household items include refrigerators, washing machines, personal computers, modems, printers, stereo equipment, televisions, DVD players, video game systems, telephones, answering machines, microwave ovens, garage door openers and security system controllers.

How can I get Surge Alert protection?

Contact your local Gibson EMC member service center for more information or to request equipment installation.

What does it cost to get Surge Alert protection?

It costs just \$4.99 per month for the meter base suppressor and an additional \$1 per month for each plug-in point-of-use unit of your choice.

There also is a one-time installation fee of \$29.99.

If the Surge Alert components are damaged while protecting your home, the Surge Alert components will be replaced at no cost.

Gibson EMC board of trustees nomination, election procedure

The Gibson Electric Membership Corporation board of trustees has the duty of appointing a Nominations Committee at least 90 days before the proposed date of the first district meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected. The committee will consist of three to 11 members representing the geographical area served by the cooperative.

The committee will prepare at the co-op's corporate office a list of nominations for trustees at least 40 days before the meeting. Other nominations signed by 50 or more members also can be made. These must be made at least 30 days before the district meeting and must be posted with the committee's nominations.

The term of an elected trustee is three years, and trustees serve on a rotational basis. A trustee whose term expires will be elected by secret written ballot by the members in such district present in person by a plurality of votes cast. Drawing by lots will resolve any tie.

If you have questions about the election process, call your local member service center and ask for extension 1411.

Mark your calendar for Gibson EMC's 81st annual members' meeting to be held the evening of Thursday, April 6, 2017, at Hickman County Elementary School in Clinton, Kentucky. We will provide more details in upcoming issues of this magazine.

PROJECT CARE: MEALS ON WHEELS

Photos by Beverly Laughlin

Thanksgiving Day is a wonderful time for families and friends to enjoy a meal and partake in yearly traditions. For some in Gibson County, their tradition is atypical. In Bradford, the revving of motorcycle engines and the aroma of Thanksgiving meals go together just as naturally as pumpkin pie and Cool Whip.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary that the Gibson County Office on Aging will be hosting Project Care: Meals on Wheels. The program began in 1991 when Clarice Smith provided 80 seniors in the area with traditional Thanksgiving meals. The program has now grown into a community effort distributing more than 350 meals a year.

Pam Dethloff, director of the Gibson County Office on Aging, begins planning for the event months in advance. Her preparations include obtaining food donations, coordinating ladies to bake pies, asking Bradford Elementary students to decorate cards, securing community leaders for packing the meals and contacting volunteers and motorcycle clubs to help deliver the food to seniors and shut-ins across Gibson County.

“The day before Thanksgiving will be a really fun day with the packaging of the pies, cranberry sauce and cards,” says Dethloff.

As the day dawns on Thanksgiving morning, all of her other prepara-

“We usually have volunteers calling us to see how they can help,” says Hooker. “Each year the project continues to get bigger and better.”

One of the most meaningful parts of the day for seniors is knowing

that people care enough to give of their time to provide a meal for them. Among volunteers will be state, county and local leaders who will don Pilgrim hats and Native American headdresses as they form an assembly line to package the meals. A friendly competition will take place among “Pilgrims” and “Native Americans” to see



Motorcycles are ready for volunteer riders to deliver Thanksgiving meals to seniors and shut-ins throughout Gibson County.

rations will come together. While the chrome pots and pans are being filled with turkey and dressing, creamed potatoes, peas and rolls, the chrome of the motorcycles will be flashing in the sunlight as the bikers line the parking lot at the Bradford Fire Department in preparation for the meals to be delivered.

In planning the event, Dethloff is assisted by Mary Hooker, an employee at the Gibson County Office on Aging. Hooker, who has the task of listing seniors who will receive the meals, says the numbers of recipients and volunteers alike have increased over the years.

which group is faster in completing its work.

“Each Thanksgiving morning for the past several years, I have gathered with friends in Gibson County to pack meals for homebound senior citizens,” said U.S. Rep. Stephen Fincher. “I have enjoyed serving this community that is so dear to my heart and am reminded each year of the blessings I have received and the importance of giving back. At a time when it is so easy to get caught up in the busyness of life, I cherish the opportunity to participate in our great state’s tradition of volunteerism.”



Pam Dethloff, director of the Gibson County Office on Aging, praises the support of the many volunteers. Behind her are state, county and city leaders donning Pilgrim and Native American headwear as they prepare to package Thanksgiving meals.

After the assembly line, meals will be loaded into vehicles for delivery, and the bikers will take their places as escorts in front of the vehicles. As the motorcycles take to the streets, most spectators will automatically think they are headed to a bike rally when in actuality the bikers are on a mission with a purpose. Upon reaching their destination, they will retrieve the meals from the vehicles and deliver them to the doors.

Travis Davison is a biker who also serves as minister at the Yorkville Presbyterian Church. He is one of the many who consider Project Care: Meals on Wheels a Thanksgiving Day tradition. When asked why he enjoys delivering the meals, he replied, "There are a lot of charitable causes in our community, but some of those charities help people who live far away. By delivering the meals to our seniors, we are actually showing people in our local community that we care about them."

He also noted that inclement weather does not stop the bikers from delivering the meals: "When the weather is bad outside, it makes delivering the meals on the motorcycle that much better, and it seems like I am really giving more of myself to the project."

"Those who are privileged to deliver the meals are always blessed more than the recipients of the meals," he added.

Sallie Coffman of Trenton shared how the program has impacted her holiday: "Seeing the bikers roll up on their motorcycles is fascinating. They are doing such a

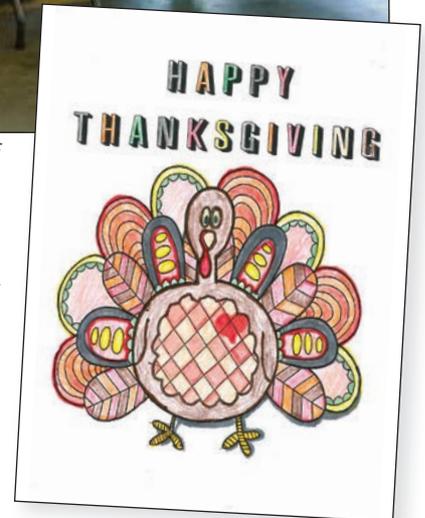
good deed, and it is an honor to have a meal delivered by them.

The food delivered is always delicious, and being the recipient of the meals on Thanksgiving can make the sun shine even if it is raining outside."

Malidean Hensley of Bradford worked at the event in her younger years and now, at the age of 94, is a grateful recipient. "It was truly amazing to see the volunteers come together to package and deliver the meals," she said. "It is such a wonderful thing to include the leaders of our county and state and other volunteers. The food is just like home-cooking, and the cards the children make are so pretty."

"Our goal is not only to get the food delivered," says Dethloff, "but to make the public aware of the senior citizens' needs. By working together, we can make a difference in our community."

If you would like to be a part of Project Care: Meals on Wheels this year, contact Pam Dethloff at 731-742-2536. You can make a donation, volunteer to help or place yourself or someone you know on the list for a meal to be delivered.



Bradford Elementary School students decorate cards that are delivered with Thanksgiving meals.

Gibson EMC discourages tankless water heaters

Units could result in higher electricity costs

These days, comfort and convenience are big factors in the choices consumers make for their homes — whether it's new construction or remodeling.

Nowhere is this decision more important than in the selection of a water heater.

Water heaters are among the top users of electricity in the typical home. They have come a long way from the inefficient appliances of years past. The modern water heater is superinsulated and can keep you in hot water for hours, even if the power goes out.

Not so with the new “tankless” water heaters. Also referred to as instant or on-demand, these water heaters are being recommended by some contractors trying to make the most of every inch in today's homes. Many consumers don't realize that these water heaters have the potential to drive up electric rates for every co-op member.

Here's why: Electricity cannot be stored. It has to be generated at the exact time it is used. When someone flips on a light switch, turns up the heat, plugs in a stereo or turns on the TV, power flows at the speed of light across a network of wires from the power plant to the home. When more demand is placed on the system, more generating units have to kick in to keep up.

Typically, the peak times for electricity use are in the morning when people are getting ready for work and school and in the evening when they are cooking and cleaning. At these times, energy use dramatically increases.

A tank-type water heater can keep water hot for many hours. If it is turned off for an hour or more, you probably won't even notice. Members with tank-type electric water heaters can install their own timers that shut the water heater off during the day. Savings are possible by letting the switch shut off the water heater when it won't be needed. Additional savings can be realized by lowering the setting to under 120 degrees and adding an extra insulating cover to the outside.

The tankless water heater does not offer these efficiencies. In fact, these water heaters have the potential to drive demand for electricity to much higher levels. Tankless water heaters heat water as it moves through the pipes instead of storing it. Imagine if an entire subdivision of these

devices kicks on in the morning when demand for electricity is already at its highest.

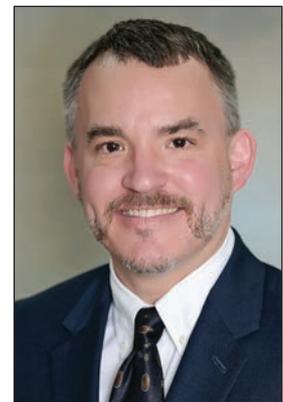
Gibson EMC designs and sizes equipment based on average kilowatt-hour use. Unfortunately, tankless water heaters require larger, more expensive transformers. If Gibson EMC is not informed, the member and neighboring members may experience service problems in the

form of voltage dips and dimming lights. Similarly, the Tennessee Valley Authority, Gibson EMC's wholesale power supplier, also designs and builds its generation and transmission system to meet demand. If large numbers of members install tankless water heaters, there will be tremendous cost to the co-op in the demand portion of our wholesale power bill. If the demand exceeds TVA's generation capacity, then TVA has to either build additional generation or purchase the required electricity on the open market. Both options are expensive for all of our members.

Tank-type water heaters can supply enough hot water to run multiple hot water appliances or showers at the same time — provided you buy a unit with sufficient tank size for your family. Tankless water heaters, on the other hand, have large dropoffs in water temperature as the water flow through them increases. The elements in tankless water heaters warm the water to an adjustable maximum temperature. As the incoming water temperature drops or as the volume of water moving through the heater increases, the temperature of the heated water will correspondingly decrease.

“When it comes to water heating, the new generation of tank-type water heaters offer a much better value,” said Gibson EMC Vice President of Member Care Kerry Watson.

In the long run, all members of electric cooperatives will benefit from these savings from efficient tank-type water heaters. If you are in the market for a new water heater, contact your local Gibson EMC member service center for information about our 36-month, zero-percent financing program.



*VP of Member Care
Kerry Watson*

Know what's below

Dial 811 before you dig

November is a great time to plant or transplant shrubs and trees as long as the ground is not frozen. Or you may want to tackle an outdoor project like building a deck. What they have in common is digging. If any of your fall projects require digging, remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities such as buried electric, gas and water lines can be a shovel thrust away from turning a fall project into a disaster. If you don't call and you damage facilities, you are potentially responsible for repair costs. In addition, you could be seriously injured.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local "one-call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "Call Before You Dig" services, many don't take advantage of the service. A national

survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting their digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

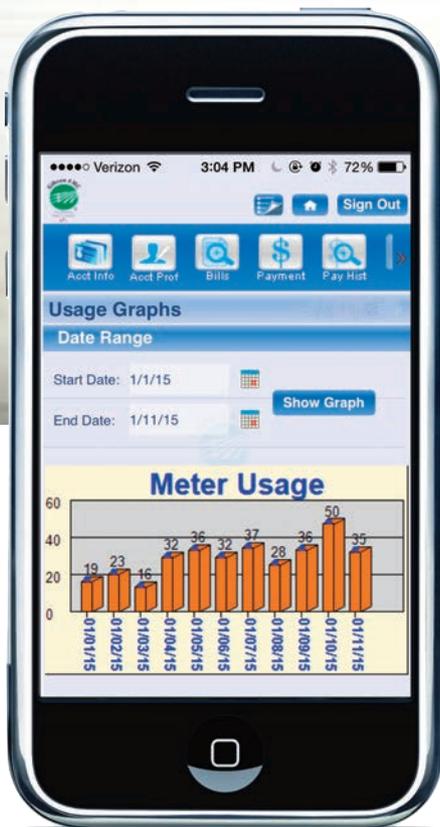
Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Calling 811 for a locate is something you should take seriously. We do. Gibson Electric Membership Corporation also is required to call before digging. Typically, we must allow three days for underground utilities to mark their facilities. In emergency situations, we are required to wait two hours before digging.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: The 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.



CONNECT
 TO YOUR HOME'S ENERGY.
DISCONNECT
from
EVERYTHING ELSE.



Apple App Store



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Download our app today!

Gibson Electric Membership Corporation's app provides secure and easy one-touch access to view your bill, make payments, report outages, analyze your energy use, schedule alerts, receive push notifications and view real-time outage information. Search for "Gibson EMC" or scan a QR code above to download the free app.



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A Taste of Fall



 **VERS**

Holston Electric Cooperative

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

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

423-272-8821
423-235-6811

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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James B. Sandlin

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Mark Derrick, District 7

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Jerry Horner, District 3

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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

This November, let your voice be heard

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles.

Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline — with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 percent to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! In Tennessee, we saw voter turnout of 34.64 percent and 36.2 percent in Hawkins and Hamblen counties, respectively.

Some speculate that the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as he or she has been in the past. And who can blame us really? Oftentimes, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand the issues themselves or enough about the candidates' stances on them. But we can change this.

Holston Electric Cooperative wants to see an increase in civic engagement in our rural communities. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op

staff and members through Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter

turnout at the polls this November. By visiting vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

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percent of rural Americans have broadband at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make a major health decision. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.



James B. Sandlin
General Manager,
Holston Electric
Cooperative

Weatherproof your house to stay warm

Weatherproofing is an inexpensive way to save money on your energy bills during the winter. Even the tiniest gaps around windows, doors, light fixtures, electrical outlets and air ducts can slowly let your home's heated air escape to the outdoors. That



can add up to substantial heat loss.

Here's how to avoid leaks:

- Caulk throughout the house wherever walls meet floors or door frames and between the outside of the window frame and the siding. Choose caulk designed for the surface you're caulking, and try a higher-quality caulk, which will last longer.
- Apply weather-stripping to all exterior doors and windows. Weather stripping is a thin piece of material that seals the gap between where the door or window meets the jamb. Self-stick foam pieces are quick and easy to apply.
- Replace worn door sweeps on exterior doors to help prevent heat loss under the door.
- Seal windows with thin plastic sheets using an insulator kit. Shrinking the plastic film with a hair dryer ensures a smooth and tight seal.

Is your fridge ready for Thanksgiving?

If Thanksgiving is at your house this year, your family members aren't the only ones who will be stuffed — so will your refrigerator. Is it up to the task? In fact, if your fridge is more than a decade old, it might not be. Today's models — those bearing the Energy Star label, at least — use at least 15 percent less energy than current federal standards require, and 40 percent less than models made in the early 2000s, according to the Department of Energy.

Yet more than 60 million households have refrigerators that are more than 10 years old, DOE says. By replacing your fridge with a new, energy-efficient model, you could save up to \$300 in electricity charges over its lifetime.

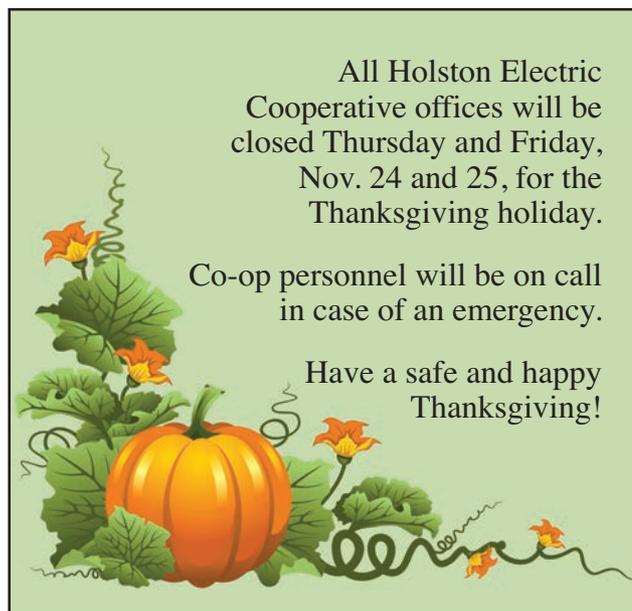
When shopping for a new refrigerator or freezer, read the EnergyGuide label. It tells you how many kilowatt-hours of electricity the unit will consume over a year of operation. The smaller the number, the better. Look for refrigerators that have a freezer on the bottom or the top, as side-by-side designs consume more energy. Chest freezers are typically better insulated than upright models.

Whether you're buying a new fridge this year or not, follow these tips for more efficient use around the holidays:

- Brush or vacuum your refrigerator's coils regularly to improve efficiency by as much as 30 percent.
- Keeping your refrigerator full shouldn't be hard this time of year, and doing so will help your unit better retain the cold. If you have trouble keeping it stocked, fill the extra

space with bottles or containers of water.

- If your milk is frosty in the morning, reduce the refrigerator's temperature. Refrigerators should be set between 36 degrees and 40 degrees. Freezers should stay between zero and 5 degrees.
- Put a dollar bill in the door's seal to see if it is airtight. If the dollar slips out easily, so will cold air.



All Holston Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24 and 25, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Co-op personnel will be on call in case of an emergency.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Meet the new Holston EC employees

Engineering aide Donaven Cook and accounting clerk Leslie Jones

Donaven Cook joined the Engineering Department at Holston Electric Cooperative in August after completing an internship.

Cook, son of Donald and Vanette Singleton Cook, is a graduate of Cherokee High School. The Mooresburg resident also attended Walters State Community College, receiving an associate of applied science degree in drafting and design.

In his spare time, Cook enjoys hunting and fishing. He is engaged to marry Cayleigh Washburn in December.

Leslie Jones became a member of the Finance Department in September. With 16 years of experience in accounts payable and receivable and an associate of applied science degree in business management and accounting from Walters State Community College, she brings a strong skill set to HEC.



Donaven Cook, left, joined HEC in August as an engineering aide. Leslie Jones brings 16 years of accounting experience to Holston Electric.

Leslie is the wife of Adam Jones and the mother of two: Kaleigh and Fletcher. Her hobbies include sewing, reading and gardening.

Holston Electric Cooperative extends a warm welcome to each of our newest employees.

Wash dishes once, not twice

You can save water and energy simply by using your dishwasher the way the manufacturer intended — you won't have to wash the dishes twice. Here are five often-ignored best practices:

1. Stop washing your dishes before loading them into the dishwasher. Instead, scrape leftover food from plates and bowls, rinse dishes and then load them into the dishwasher.
2. Place dishes, glasses and flatware in the dishwasher compartments designed for them. If you do, the machine



will clean them properly the first time. A tip: Load sharp knives with their tips down.

3. Don't jam dishes in. Leave enough space between plates and bowls to allow the water to circulate freely. Likewise, don't let a large bowl or lid block the water spray so it can't reach the inside of other dishes and glasses.
4. Select the "hot water" setting to remove dried-on food. Water of at least 130 degrees thoroughly dissolves the dishwashing soap and sanitizes the dishes.
5. If your home has "hard" water, use twice as much soap plus a rinsing agent.

Employees receive service awards at HEC annual cookout

Sixteen employees were recently recognized at a cookout for their years of service at Holston EC. Those celebrating anniversaries were James Sandlin, Breianna Scalf, and Nate Stubblefield, one year; Steve Pittman and Ashley Smith, five years; Jarrod Bachman, Dustin Fugate, Brian Jarnagin, Josh LaRoy and Evan McMillian, 10 years; Shannon Foster, Jaymie Goins and Renee Odom, 15 years; Sheila Fobber, 25 years; Chris Couch, 30 years; and Arthur Davenport, 50 years.

More than 210 years of knowledge and experience are combined in these employees in departments throughout the cooperative — management, customer service, information-technology, service, operations and engineering.

At the annual cookout, HEC employees also celebrated a seven-year record with no lost-time accidents. Job Training and Safety Coordinator Scott Price noted,



From left, employees gathered to celebrate years of service are Chris Couch, Nate Stubblefield, Josh LaRoy, Evan McMillian, Jaymie Goins, Arthur Davenport, Sheila Fobber, Dustin Fugate, Shannon Foster, Jarrod Bachman, Renee Odom, Brian Jarnagin, Ashley Smith, Steve Pittman, Breianna Scalf and Jimmy Sandlin.

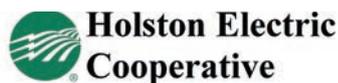
“Holston Electric Cooperative really has something to celebrate. Our crews have a dangerous job, and each day without an injury means every single employee is taking the appropriate measures to put safety first. When employees and directors gather each year that Holston EC records no lost-time accidents, it is a time to give thanks.”

HEC fee changes

Beginning Nov, 15,

The following fees will be modified:

Collection visits	\$25
Reconnection for nonpayment charges	\$50
<i>Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</i>	
After-hours reconnection/collection charges	\$75
<i>Monday-Friday, 4:30 p.m. to midnight</i>	



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home — typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov

Know what's below

Dial 811 before you dig

Spring is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece, but in many parts of the country, planting shrubs in early fall gives the plants a head start at establishing roots in the season's cool, moist soil. Perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those cool autumn evenings. If any of your fall projects require digging — such as planting trees or shrubs, or setting posts — remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities such as buried electric, gas and water lines can be a shovel thrust away from turning a fall project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local "one-call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "call-before-you-dig" services, the majority doesn't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common

Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: The 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a nonprofit organization of more than 400 electric cooperative members and many other groups that share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency. CGA is a member-driven association of 1,500 individuals, organizations and

sponsors in every facet of the underground utility industry. Established in 2000, CGA is committed to saving lives and preventing damage to underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices. CGA has established itself as the leading organization in an effort to reduce damages to underground facilities in North America through shared responsibility among all stakeholders.

**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.
Visit call811.com for more information.

811
Know what's below. Call before you dig.

U.S. Department of Energy
American Society of Safety Engineers
JOHN DEERE
TRAVELERS
Common Ground Alliance

10 ways to lower home energy bills when it's cold out

Want to save money on your energy bills this winter — without spending a lot to make it happen? Here are

10 low- or no-cost changes you can make:

1. Use your home's ceiling fans to make the rooms feel warmer. Most people think fans are just for summer, but ceiling fans running slowly in reverse will circulate the heat that rises toward the ceiling.
2. Add weather stripping or caulk around windows and doors. Light a match or a stick of incense and hold it near the window frame. If the smoke sways, that means the window is leaking air. Caulking can significantly reduce heat loss.
3. Rearrange your furniture. Sofas and rugs that are blocking vents can cause uneven heating. Locate your most frequently used furniture near interior walls; it's colder to sit near exterior walls, especially those with windows.
4. Install a "smart" thermostat that lets you program it or adjust the heat even after you've left the house. There's no need to heat your home at the same level when it's empty as when your family is home. Turning back your thermostat by 10-15 degrees for eight hours a day can save up to 15 percent on your heating bill.
5. Keep the shades wide open during daylight hours. The sun heats your home for free all day. Close the curtains at night to keep heat in.
6. Check the seams and joints of your ductwork for leaks. Repair any leaks with a duct-sealing compound for even and efficient heating.
7. Pull on a sweater and keep the thermostat at a lower temperature. You could save at least 1 percent per degree on your electric bill.

Insulate Your Electric Water Heater Tank

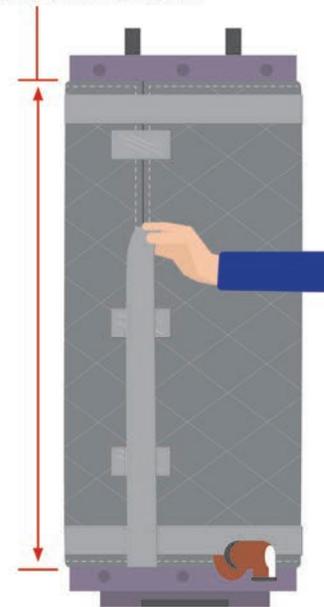
MATERIALS:

- Water heater blanket
- Scissors
- Duct tape

STEPS:

1. Turn off the electric water heater at the breaker panel.
2. Measure the height of the water heater, and cut the blanket to fit, if necessary.
3. Leave the top of the water heater unwrapped.
4. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and temporarily tape it in place. Position the blanket so that the ends do not come together over the access panels on the side of the tank.
5. Mark the areas, then cut holes where controls are located. For electric water heaters, there will be two panels on the side of the tank. Mark the area where the pressure-relief valve and pipe are located. This will be a pipe that protrudes from the side of the water heater.
6. Adhere the blanket. Be careful to line up the cut-out areas, and then tape the blanket permanently in place.
7. Turn the water heater back on.

Cover the whole tank except temperature and pressure (T&P) valve and drain.



Safety Note: Don't set the thermostat warmer than 130 degrees on the electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket — the wiring may overheat.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

8. Run your clothes dryer and dishwasher after dark. They produce heat that can keep your home warm at the coldest time of the day.
9. Install compact fluorescent bulbs or LED lights in the fixtures you use the most. These bulbs use far less energy than incandescent bulbs.
10. Limit your hot water use. Running the hot water when it's not needed sends the energy used to heat it down the drain. Wash clothes in cold water, and take shorter showers.

Don't stay in the dark

The purpose of residential outdoor lighting is threefold. First, it adds beauty and dimension to a home. Second, it helps residents safely navigate the landscape and perimeter of the home, allowing them to identify obstructions and potential hazards such as changes in elevation. Third, it must provide security by discouraging trespassers.

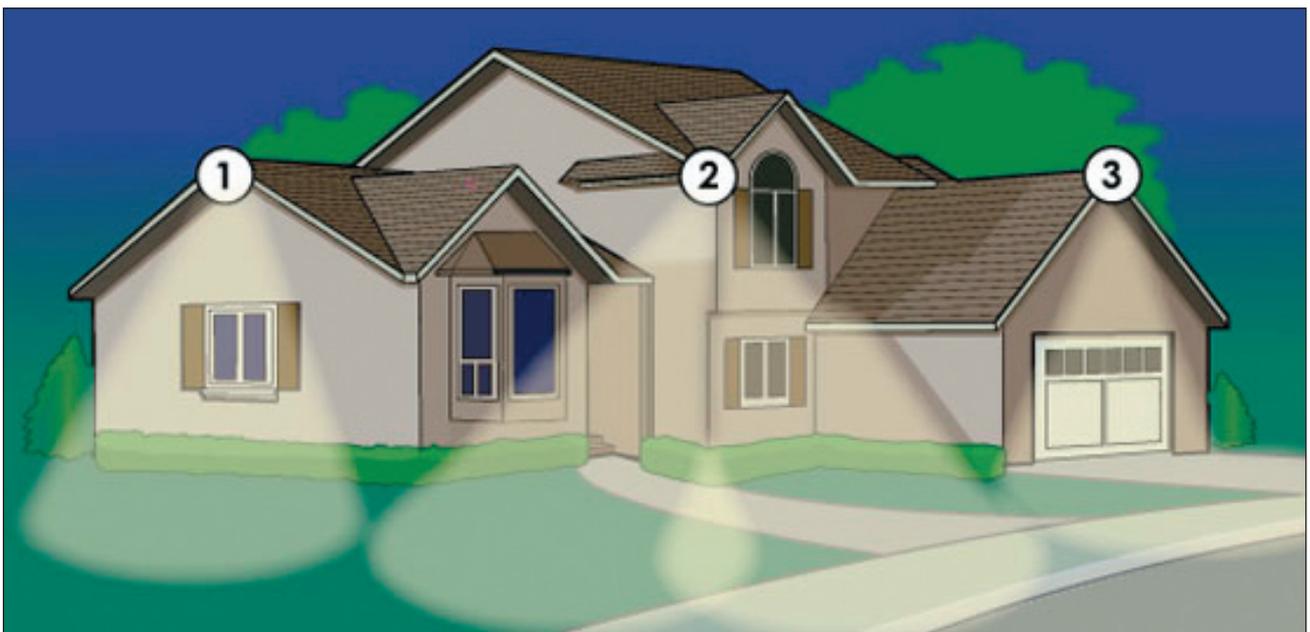
Outdoor lighting can be utilized to accentuate the architecture of a house. During the winter months, nothing feels warmer and more inviting than a well-illuminated exterior. As guests exit their cars and amble along the sidewalk, a security light will highlight features — such as garden ornaments and statues — of the property. A simply painted front door will suddenly become a radiant entrance to a nice evening with friends. Moreover, visitors, feeling welcomed by the cheerful glow, will be impressed by the ambiance your home conveys.

Furthermore, everyone has at some point shuffled desperately in the dark attempting to unlock the front door. However, an outdoor security light makes such fumbling a thing of the past. Suddenly, finding your keys, retrieving the mail or walking the dog will become easier and safer. No more stumbling up the front steps or worrying about company accidentally tripping on their way back to their vehicles. Security lights aren't just for the front lawn,

though. They brighten backyards, patios, fire pit areas and paths to barns for safer travels at night.

Lighting is also an integral part of an effective home security system. Outdoor security lighting discourages would-be intruders from targeting your home by increasing the risk of being caught. A Washington Post article found that burglars search for homes that appear to be unoccupied. Lighting adds an element of surprise and establishes an occupancy pattern that deters intruders from targeting a home in the first place. Residents who use outdoor lighting as part of their security plan significantly decrease their chances of being burglarized. However, you don't have to light your home like a Christmas tree to feel safe. Over-illumination can draw unwanted attention to valuable items in your home. In fact, the best lighting design allows physical detection and facial recognition, minimizes hiding spots and increases your sense of safety. That's why Holston Electric Cooperative provides several security lighting options to its members.

Whether it is a metal halide or decorative security light you are seeking, Holston EC has you covered. For a small monthly fee, members can enhance the appearance of their home, ensure safer maneuvering and boost the security of their residence. Call 423-272-8821 or come by any Holston EC office to receive more information on security lighting.



Outdoor lighting may deter intruders from targeting and burglarizing a home.

November 2016

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Mountain Electric Cooperative

604 S. Church St.
Mountain City, TN 37683
423-727-1800
www.mountainelectric.com

Newland, N.C., office

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

Roan Mountain, Tenn., office

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

Office Hours

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

General Manager

Joe Thacker

Board of Directors

President —

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

This November, let your voice be heard

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline — with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 percent to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! In Tennessee and North Carolina, we saw a voter turnout of 32 percent and 36 percent, respectively.

Some speculate that the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as he or she has been in the past. And who can blame us really? Oftentimes, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand the issues themselves or enough about the candidates' stances on them. But we can change this.

Mountain Electric Cooperative wants to see an increase in civic engagement in our rural communities. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November. By visiting vote.coop, you

can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

The future of rural communities depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of discussion this election season. Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make a major health decision. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.



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

MEC announces new hires, promotion



Eden Stout has been hired as a customer service representative at the Mountain City office. Employed part-time at MEC for more than three years in the Customer Service Department, Eden has an associate's degree in management and has plans to obtain her bachelor's degree in business as well. She lives in Mountain City with her husband, Dusty.



Brian Day has been hired as a journeyman lineman at the Mountain City office. He has 11 years of experience in line work and lives in Mountain City with his wife, April, and two children, Kirsten and Grayson.



Mollie Ingle, hired as a customer service representative at the Mountain City office, has more than five years' experience in customer service and is currently enrolled at Milligan College. Mollie resides in Butler with her husband, Cody, and two children, Cooper and Hadley.



Wade Calhoun has been hired as the mechanic at the Newland office. Wade has a large fleet of trucks to maintain and many years of experience to accomplish the task. Wade resides in Newland with his wife, Joielle, and two children, Kristopher and Karlie.



Promotion: MEC congratulates **David Manuel** on his recent promotion to meterman at the Mountain City office. David has worked for MEC for seven years in the Customer Service Department.

Is your fridge ready for Thanksgiving?

If Thanksgiving is at your house this year, your family members aren't the only ones who will be stuffed — so will your refrigerator. Is it up to the task? In fact, if your fridge is more than a decade old, it might not be. Today's models — those bearing the Energy Star label, at least — use at least 15 percent less energy than current federal standards require and 40 percent less than models made in the early 2000s, according to the Department of Energy.

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- Refrigerators should be set between 36 degrees and 40 degrees. Freezers should stay between zero and 5 degrees.
- Put a dollar bill in the door's seal to see if it is airtight. If the dollar slips out easily, so will cold air.

Field inventory project notice

This notification is to inform all Mountain Electric Cooperative customers of a field inventory project. Mountain Electric will be conducting a complete system field inventory over the next 10 to 12 months. Contractors from Davey Resource Group will be creating maps of all overhead and underground power lines. In order to do this, they will be looking at all electric services from the transformers to the meter bases.

The contractors will have several crews working on this project. All contractor vehicles will have



Mountain Electric magnetic signs on both sides for verification. There will also be ATVs with tags on the front of them with MEC's logo. If you have recently installed a locked gate or chain to your property, please contact MEC with access keys or codes. Access will be needed through the locked gate or chain to complete this project.

The field inventory project began in October 2016 and should be completed by October 2017. Should you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact Brad Rawls or Richard Grubb at 423-727-1800.



November calendar of events

Mountain City, Tennessee

Nov. 18-19 • Johnson County Arts Council Christmas Craft Show at the National Guard Armory from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 423-291-9029.

Heritage Hall

Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. • Barter Theatre's Play "Winter Wheat."

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, \$10 for youth

Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. • Veteran's Day Program

Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. • The Kruger Brothers. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$23 at the door, \$10 for youth

Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. • Barter Players "Frosty." Tickets: \$5 per person, reserved seating.

For more information or tickets, call 423-727-7444.

Newland, North Carolina

Nov. 21-Dec. 1 • Christmas Wreath Contest

Nov. 26 • Festival of Trees

For more information, call 800-972-2183.

OPC update

Operation Pocket Change grants funded in September totaled \$746.50.

Recipients were:

Newland Elementary School — Girls on the Run partial scholarships and nutritious snacks \$500

Individual medical hardship \$246.50



Lineman's youth day

Today's youth will be our future workforce. This is why Mountain Electric is active in our communities and schools, promoting electric safety and careers in the electric utility industry.

In September, MEC held a youth day at the Newland and Mountain City office locations. The day was filled with hands-on activities like bucket truck rides, pole-climbing and guidance while operating heavy-duty equipment. High school students also watched live safety demonstrations that presented them real-life scenarios about the dangers of electricity.

"This is the second time we've held this event, and I think it's one of my favorite days of the year at MEC," said Sally Snyder, MEC director of member services. "Watching the students interact with the employees and learn about the electric utility trade is very rewarding. If you want to know the truth about it, the employees have just as much fun or more.

"We can't thank Cloudland, Avery and Johnson County high schools enough for allowing their students to participate in this event. We look forward to many more events like this for years to come."



Above, a Johnson County High School student practices climbing a pole. Left, lineman Shane Heaton demonstrates the dangers of a ladder making contact with a power line.

Weatherproof your house to stay warm

Weatherproofing is an inexpensive way to save money on your energy bills during the winter. Even the tiniest gaps around windows, doors, light fixtures, electrical outlets and air ducts can slowly let your home's heated air escape to the outdoors. That can add up to substantial heat loss.

Here's how to avoid leaks:

- Caulk throughout the house wherever walls meet floors or door frames and between the outside of the window frame and the siding. Choose caulk designed for the surface you're caulking, and try a higher-quality caulk, which will last longer.
- Apply weather-stripping to all exterior doors and windows. Weather stripping is a thin piece of material that seals the gap between where the door or window meets the jamb. Self-stick foam pieces are quick and easy to apply.
- Replace worn door sweeps on exterior doors to help prevent heat loss under the door.
- Seal windows with thin plastic sheets, using an insulator kit. Shrinking the plastic film with a hair dryer ensures a smooth and tight seal.

Highlights from MEC's 75th annual meeting

Cloudland Elementary School in Roan Mountain was the location for Mountain Electric Cooperative's annual business meeting. This year's event on Saturday, Sept. 24, was extra-special since Mountain Electric turned 75 years old in April! To celebrate this momentous occasion, MEC welcomed special guest speaker Bill Johnson, Tennessee Valley Authority CEO and president, and each household received a special 75th anniversary history book in honor of this special time. As always, a health fair was offered to MEC members, and they could even get flu shots! Special thanks go to Allison Foster with the Carter County Health Department for coordinating a wonderful and successful health fair. Attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch made by Highlander Barbecue of Roan Mountain, and musical entertainment was provided by The Johnson Brothers.

The business meeting, called to order by MEC Board President Bruce Lacey, was followed by an update on the cooperative by General Manager Joe Thacker. Mike Knotts from the Tennessee Electric



Dale Benfield helps distribute door prizes to members.

Cooperative Association was another guest speaker. He and TVA's Johnson emphasized the importance of voting in the upcoming presidential election in November.

"No matter who you choose to vote for, let your voice be heard," Knotts said. "A nonpartisan website, www.vote.coop, has been created to help voters learn more about each candidate. I encourage each of you to go to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 8."

Following the meeting, MEC board members elected George Lowe as board president, David Ellis as vice president and W.O. Hampton as secretary/treasurer.

MEC would like to extend special thanks to everyone who made this year's annual meeting a success. We especially want to recognize Cloudland Elementary School Principal Becky Rolston, Debbie Townson and school staff for allowing us to use their facility and for their being on hand to assist. We also appreciate all of the health fair partici-



*Board President
George Lowe*



*Vice President
David Ellis*



*Secretary/Treasurer
W.O. Hampton*

pants for their willingness to come to the fair. This year's meeting was a great success, and, as always, MEC strives to fulfill our members' needs for affordable electricity, utility-related services and community support.



Above, MEC General Manager Joe Thacker, left, receives a plaque from TVA CEO and President Bill Johnson recognizing the co-op's 75th anniversary.

Left, members wait in line for the delicious lunch provided by Highlander Barbeque.



Representative Timothy Hill helps caterers serve the meal to MEC members.



Line foreman Vann Johnson talks with members during the high-voltage safety demonstration about the dangers of electricity and the different scenarios that can happen.



Members listen to Board President Bruce Lacey during the business meeting.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

FALL COLORING SHEET



Energy
Explorers



November 2016

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House

History for Kids:
'Prophet of
Oak Ridge'

Pecans
A Taste of Fall



Keith Carnahan, President and CEO

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

Hickman Office

Dwight Bates, District Manager

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

Houston Office

Jeff Rye, District Manager

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

Humphreys Office

Carl Brazzle, District Manager

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

Lewis Office

Jason Graves, District Manager

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

Perry Office

Derle Hill, District Manager

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

Featured this month
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- *Savings with a Full House*
- *Safe Holiday Decorating*
- *10 Ways to Lower Home Energy Use*



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**Happy Thanksgiving
from MLEC!**

MLEC cares

“Little is much when the heart is in it,” is more than a phrase we use in teaching our children to be kind. I learned a long time ago that there is power in our words, especially when they lead to action.

When you read “providing more than energy to the members we serve,” it isn’t just the co-op tag line; it’s the co-op way of life. MLEC and its employees put their hearts into what they do and strive to make a difference in the little things.

MLEC cares about the community. The co-op and its employees alike take active roles in our hometowns. Employees serve as coaches and mentors and serve on city councils. MLEC supports local chambers of commerce, economic and community development groups, businesses and schools with time and resources.

MLEC cares about helping you save energy. This calendar year alone, our members have received \$45,000 in rebates for insulation, heat pumps, doors and windows. Through the popular eScore™ evaluation and self-audit programs, we estimate that members have saved more than 267,000 kilowatt-hours. Little changes equal big savings.

MLEC cares about keeping the lights on at the lowest price possible. Everyone from the bucket to the boardroom and from the engineering table to the front counter is committed to this goal. To quote Perry County’s lead lineworker, Mike Hickerson, “It doesn’t matter if it’s a big or a small outage, in the middle of the night or

during supper. We get up and go.” The same work ethic applies to those crunching the numbers to keep prices affordable.

And finally, there is MLEC Cares, a voluntary employee program. Through payroll deductions, food drives and volunteering, MLEC Cares gives employees an opportunity to make an even more personal commitment to building our communities.

Each pay period, MLEC employees give to an MLEC Cares fund for their county. The funds go to help neighbors in need each December. Past recipients have received help with utilities, Christmas angel trees and meals. The MLEC Cares team conducted a food drive in September (learn more on page 25), and more drives are planned for

2017. Also, nothing can replace giving of one’s self like the Erin employees who volunteered to work the Houston County fair.

I’m blessed to be part of an organization and group of people who combine their efforts to make a big impact on those around them. It really is a happy Thanksgiving because I’m happy and thankful for the giving of those around me.

As you step into November, remember www.vote.coop, and show your care for our rural areas by voting on the 8th. Pause, reflect and honor our veterans on the 11th, and enjoy time with your family on the 25th. They may be little moments, but when the heart is in them, oh, what a difference they make.

Happy November, everyone!



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

Carve out time for safety this holiday season

It's that time of year again: Halloween is over, and Thanksgiving is upon us. Before you know it, Christmas will be right around the corner. Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative knows the latter two holidays bring with them much love, giving and time spent with family, but they also seem to bring about the much-dreaded stress — trying to figure out what gifts to buy loved ones, deciding whether to stay home this year and planning the many meals. You will undoubtedly be pushed this holiday season.

However, MLEC reminds you to carve time out of your busy schedule to follow the safety rules. No potholder can save you when you push safety awareness to the side table. Did you know that the leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking and that cooking fires are the No. 1 cause of home fires and home injuries? We care about those we serve and strive to share safety messages with our members. With this in mind, MLEC has some safety tips to keep the fires at bay and remind you what to do in case one starts.

Before and while cooking:

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, be sure to check your food regularly, and remain in the kitchen while it's cooking.
- Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stove top.
- If you're cooking with oil, remember to heat the oil slowly to the temperature you need for frying or sautéing.
- If you see wisps of smoke or the oil smells, immediately turn off the burner and carefully remove the pan from the burner. Smoke is a danger sign that the oil is too hot.
- Be alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the oven or stove top.

In case of fire:

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 911 or the local emergency number after you leave.
- If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and that you have a clear way to escape.
- When you're cooking, keep a lid nearby to smother a small grease fire by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the stove top, and leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled. *Never throw water or use a fire extinguisher on the fire!*
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

ATTENTION: HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Be sure to keep a lookout! Meriwether Lewis will be coming to your high school this fall or in the spring to talk to you about the Washington Youth Tour Short Story and Scholarship Contest. Remember: It's **never** too early to start thinking about your college education, and MLEC is here to help because we care about our future members!

GRANT DEADLINE: NOV. 16

More than just an energy provider for all those overhead projectors, computers and lights, Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative strives to support our schools in other ways as well. One is our Adopt-A-School grant program, which makes \$1,000 available annually in each of our five counties to educators looking to fund special projects. Since the program started in 1991, more than \$127,000 has been granted to area schools.

Grant monies help purchase classroom equipment, books and supplies; fund new programs; and more. All educators in counties served by MLEC are eligible to apply. Applications (available from MLEC) are due Wednesday, **Nov. 16**. Send applications to MLEC Member Services, P.O. Box 240, Centerville, TN 37033.



Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative

ORNAMENT CONTEST

Who can participate:

Three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. *(Children of MLEC employees and board members are not eligible.)*

How to enter:

Check www.mlec.com or your local office for an official entry form. **Submit entries to MLEC by Tuesday, Nov. 15, to be eligible for judging.**

What you can win:

The first-place winner in each division for each county will win a \$50 gift card and be invited to an awards banquet in December. Winners attending the banquet will be entered in a grand-prize drawing. The grand prize is a surprise entertainment package the whole family can enjoy *(estimated value: \$400)*.

Contest rules:

- Ornaments can be no larger than 5 inches tall or wide.
- Only one ornament per student.
- Place entry in a gallon-size, zip-top bag.
(MLEC is not responsible for damaged ornaments).
- Complete an official identification tag, and securely tape it to your bag. If a tag is not available, required information can be handwritten. However, entries with incomplete information will not be judged.
- **Ornaments must be submitted to the local MLEC office by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15. (Entries will not be picked up at local schools.)**

To learn more about MLEC's Ornament Contest or to download an entry form, visit www.mlec.com. You can also contact Vanessa Clayborn at 931-729-7232, or email her at vanessa.clayborn@mlec.com.

Paying tribute

Electric cooperatives were born of a need for change — to bring power and energy to our rural hometowns and countrysides, to make a difference in the lives of those they serve. This was made possible in part by the freedoms of our great country and those who paved the way.

Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative encourages its members of all ages to pause and give honor to the brave men and women who have given their lives to serve our country. Without their sacrifice and that of their families, we would not enjoy the freedoms we all too often take for granted.

Many of our hometowns and schools will take time to present some type of event in honor of those who have served. Check with your local chamber of commerce for details on how you can participate in your community.

Our prayers and gratitude are with all veterans and families of those who have served our country in the armed forces. We pause with honor and respect on Nov. 11, Veterans Day 2016.

*MLEC offices will be closed
Friday, Nov. 11,
in honor of Veterans Day
and Thursday and Friday,
Nov. 24 and 25,
for Thanksgiving.*

Ways to Save with Wagner

Water heaters

Ah, November! Hopefully, we will get to enjoy some cooler days and nights before winter's frigid temperatures sweep in. But, there is no time like the present to "button up" your home and get it ready for winter. Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative is here to help our members by being a source of information on ways to save — and rebates to boot!

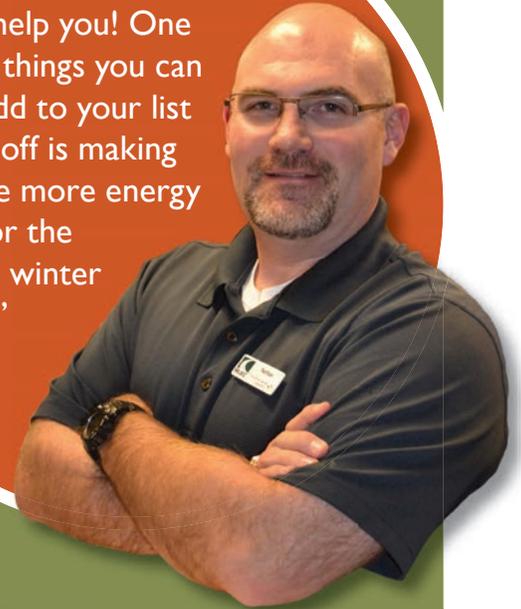
One thing that often gets overlooked with a quick survey around your home for energy savings is your water heater. Maybe it's because the water heater is out of sight and out of mind, but this is one place you can save energy and energy dollars with little effort and cost.

- Install low-flow showerheads.
- Insulate exposed hot water lines.
- Drain 1-2 gallons from the bottom of the water heater each year to reduce sediment buildup.
- Fix dripping faucets.
- Don't let the water run while you are shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Set your water heater temperature at 120 degrees.
- Install a water-heater wrap. That's right! Insulation isn't just for your walls and attic. Putting an insulated blanket around your water heater saves energy, too! They are inexpensive to buy, easy to install and can help you save on water heating costs.

If your water heater is an older, less-efficient model and needs to be replaced, shopping for a new one might be your next step. When you get to the store, remember to look for the yellow Energy Guide label. The lower the energy use number is, the better! The more efficient models have an energy factor of 0.93 or above.

Plus, MLEC offers rebates up to \$400 when you purchase a new electric water heater.

"MLEC is here to help you! One of the things you can either add to your list or check off is making your home more energy efficient for the upcoming winter months."



*For more information, contact
MLEC Energy Specialist
Nathan Wagner*

Phone: 931-729-7257

Email: nathan.wagner@mlec.com

***Up to \$750 for
attic insulation!***

November is also a good time to add insulation to your attic, and MLEC's Home Insulation Program is here to help. Receive up to \$750 in rebates when you follow MLEC and eScore program requirements. Call MLEC for details.

MLEC cares ...

... by offering Project Help

The winter months are the toughest part of the year for many people. And during these times, unexpected difficulties can arise, making the winter not just tough but scary as well.

Project Help is an emergency assistance fund sponsored by Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative member-owners through voluntary contributions. It was created as a way for MLEC and its member-owners to do their part to ensure no one is without electricity during the year's coldest months. It is not intended to be an ongoing source of extra income but a *temporary* help to be used for paying electric bills.

Since the program's beginning more than a decade ago, MLEC members have donated thousands of dollars to help their neighbors make it through the cold winter months. You can donate \$1 or however much you would like each month, and it will be added to your electric bill. Or, you can just make a one-time donation. That's all it takes to help someone or a family in need.

Meriwether Lewis does not distribute the funds; local community action agencies determine eligibility. The local agencies are:

South Central Human Resources Agency:

- Hickman County, 931-729-5921
- Lewis County, 931-796-4825
- Perry County, 931-589-6316

Highland Rim Community Action Agency:

- Humphreys County, 931-296 4098
- Houston County, 931-289-4101



The money collected throughout the year is distributed beginning in December. Funds stay in the county from which they are collected. To give to Project Help, contact your local office or email power@mlec.com.

... by employees giving to the community

Caring for the community comes naturally to an electric co-op; it's in our DNA. Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative embraces this trait and encourages its employees to do the same. MLEC Cares is a voluntary initiative whereby employees strive to make a difference in the communities we serve.

Each December, funds given voluntarily by employees throughout the year are donated to local families in need to help with Christmas, utilities and other needs.

Recently, the MLEC Cares team held its first food drive and collected 300 pounds of food. At right, MLEC Customer Service Representative Vicky Morris, left, delivers the donation to Sue Holder representing the Perry County food bank.

MLEC is proud of its employees and their willingness to provide more than just energy to the members we serve.



'Tis the season to shop and save!

Co-op Connections participating businesses

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and Christmas will be here before you know it. If you realize you haven't started your holiday shopping, never fear! Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative is always looking for different ways to provide value to our members and our communities.

One way is through our Co-op Connections Card Program. It relieves some stress when it comes to holiday buying — whether in person or online — by helping you save both money and time. If your schedule is too crunched to visit the store, head to www.connections.coop, and start saving! The Cash Back Mall lets you earn — yep, you guessed it — cash back on your online purchases. Plus, Co-op Connections has partnered with Coupons.com to bring you savings on groceries, discounts on top brands and promotional codes for online shopping.

MLEC's Co-op Connections Card program also allows you to support local businesses. Below is a complete list of participating businesses serving Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lewis and Perry counties. Happy shopping this holiday season!



Accents by Bonnie

Erin - 10 percent off total purchase *offer for cash and carry items only

All Occasion Printing

New Johnsonville - 15 percent off total purchase

B&H Dairy Bar

Linden - 10 percent off entire purchase *offer not valid with other offers

Bell's Florist & More

Erin - 10 percent off on any nontobacco product or service

Breece's Cafe

Centerville - Free drink with \$10 purchase (before taxes)

Buffalo River Ceramics

Linden - 15 percent off all purchases of ceramics or supplies

Buffalo River Services Inc.

Hohenwald - 5 percent off private pay services (day and supported living)

Butterfly Garden

Linden - 5 percent off purchase

D Butler's Air Duct Cleaning Service

Hampshire - 10 percent off air duct cleaning

David's Place Family Restaurant

Waverly - Free drink with the purchase of an entree

Four Seasons Outdoors & Sports

Centerville - 10 percent off any in-store purchase (excluding firearms)

General Assembly Academy/Early Learning Center

Hohenwald - 10 percent off daycare, certain home-school services and monthly tuition at the Academy

Hens & Hogs BBQ

Linden - \$1 off any meal

Hickman Veterinary Hospital

Centerville - 10 percent off all heartworm, tick disease and fecal testing

High Forest Health Group

Hohenwald - Sliding fee discounts for office visit paid at the time of service

Hohenwald Animal Hospital

Hohenwald - 10 percent off three- or six-pack of Frontline or Advantix

Janet's Flower Fashions

Hohenwald - 10 percent off purchase

Jen's Steak and Seafood

Waverly - \$1 off any meal

Jesse's Locksmith Shop

Hohenwald - 10 percent off purchase

Jones Cedar Mill

Linden - \$1 per foot with 5 percent off *larger discounts for larger orders

Life Source of Centerville

Centerville - 10 percent off supplements and \$75 consultation, examination, X-rays and report of findings

Olive Branch Natural Soap Company

Hohenwald - 10 percent off entire order. Use code MLEC10OFF for online checkout

Owen's Corner Mart

Centerville - \$1 off combo meal of sandwich, 20-ounce drink and any bag of chips

Papa KayJoe's BBQ

Two locations in Hickman County - Free drink with purchase of a pork plate

Remember When

Centerville - 10 percent off item of choice in-store

SkyWay Lanes and Pizza

Waverly - Free shoes

Total HVAC

Serving Nashville Metro and surrounding counties - 10 percent off any service call and up to \$500 off any new HVAC install

Town Crier Gift Shop

Centerville - 10 percent off total sale *offer cannot be combined with another discount

Vince's Heating and Cooling

Hohenwald - 10 percent off service work

War Ink Graphics

Centerville - 10 percent off

Waverly Cafe

Waverly - \$1 off any salad



Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative

MLEC is thankful to serve our rural hometowns with safe, affordable, reliable electricity. We wish everyone a blessed and happy Thanksgiving!



SAVE A BUNDLE
 DISH TV Service + High-Speed Internet | Internet prices starting at: **\$14.95**
Restrictions apply. Subject to availability.

Finally, a Skinny Bundle!



Start with **50+** popular channels **plus** your choice of first **Channel Pack INCLUDED!**

\$39.99

Per Month



... and many more!

GUARANTEED FOR 2 YEARS

All offers require credit qualification, 24-month commitment with early termination fee and eAutoPay.

Pick your perfect TV lineup, add more **Channel Packs** for only **\$10/mo.** each

<p>Action Channel Pack</p> <p>... and many more!</p>	<p>Variety Channel Pack \$6!</p> <p>... and many more!</p>	<p>Kids Channel Pack</p> <p>... and many more!</p>	<p>News Channel Pack</p> <p>... and many more!</p>	<p>Locals Channel Pack</p> <p>... and many more!</p>
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FREE **HBO** **CINEMAX**
FREE **SHOWTIME** **STARZ**
FREE **HD** for life

FOR 3 MONTHS. Offer subject to change based on premium channel availability. Not available with certain packages. Regular monthly prices apply after 3 months unless you call to cancel.

FOR A LIMITED TIME! Add the new **Hopper 3** for only **\$10/mo.** more. Watch and record up to **16 shows** at once. Hopper upgrade fee may apply.

All offers require credit qualification, 24-month commitment with early termination fee and eAutoPay.

CALL NOW 1-844-317-5849

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November 2016

www.tnmagazine.org

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Matthew's Mess
Co-ops Send Help

Saving
Sumner's
Antebellum
Carriage
House

History for Kids:
'Prophet of
Oak Ridge'

Pecans
A Taste of Fall



Advanced metering rollout update

In late 2015, Middle Tennessee Electric began a grid modernization effort to improve service to our members and lay a foundation for an innovative future. The first phase meant exchanging meters across our system. We expected this process to take about a year and a half, and I am happy to say we'll be done with phase one this month.

The advanced meters bring numerous improvements — some almost immediately and some yet to come — to the way we provide electricity. The new meters allow us to respond to outages quicker and more precisely than before, and that will only improve over time. The new meters provide us the ability to roll a truck to the specific site of an outage rather than a general area, a capability we simply didn't have before.

Completion of the first phase of the rollout also paves the way for more member-helping programs and features we are excited to make available next year. Among those features is an updated portal where you, the member, will be able to view your daily energy consumption and make informed decisions

to help reduce the amount of energy you're using ... ultimately saving you money.

As a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative, we exist solely to serve our members, and that is why we started this project: to benefit our members. We want to provide you with better information about your electric account so you can make informed decisions regarding your energy consumption.

Over the last 18 months, we have talked to many members, some who were excited about the new technology and a few who were not. It has given us the opportunity to attempt to work through any concerns members had. The employees who work for you at MTEMC are ready to answer your questions about the new meters, benefits of this new technology and what's coming next.

I will say again as I did from the start: We are keeping three promises relative to this project — we've



Chris Jones
President,
Middle Tennessee
Electric
Membership
Corporation

done our homework, the technology is safe and we will protect our members' data. Like you, we are members, homeowners, family members and business people, so you can be sure these promises are ones we are focused on keeping.

We've taken our time to research this technology and observed implementations by other utilities, learning many lessons. The technologies we selected and deployed are

safe and tested by your cooperative and independent agencies. In doing so, we are ensuring your data is safe. We have always protected our members' information, and this technology does not and will not impact that ongoing commitment.

I'm proud to say this effort touches positively on all four elements of our mission to provide you affordable, reliable, safe electricity and outstanding member service. Another of our key technological foundations has been laid. We will continue to build upon it to serve you better.

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

shar^{ing}change
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

A Middle Tennessee Electric Charitable Foundation

It's the easiest good thing you'll ever do!

MTEMC launches podcast

Middle Tennessee Electric is constantly looking at new ways to provide information to its members and the communities it serves about things going on at the co-op.

The newest channel through which members will be able to get information is a blog and podcast.

“As a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, we exist solely to serve our members,” said Chris Jones, MTEMC president and CEO. “We are hoping these new avenues of communication help us better engage with members and further provide information.”

The new venture, aptly called “unMetered,” will cover topics like electrical safety and energy efficiency and also will be a platform where our commitment to our communities can be show-



cased and members can get to know more about the leadership of the cooperative.

“Eighty years ago, we brought power to the underserved areas of Middle Tennessee,” said Jones. “Then, communication was much different, but now we have the ability to quickly provide informa-

tion that is important to employees and members.”

The podcast, both audio and video versions, will be available through most podcast services, such as iTunes, Google Play, and Amazon. Additionally, members can find the blog at www.mtemc.com/unMetered.

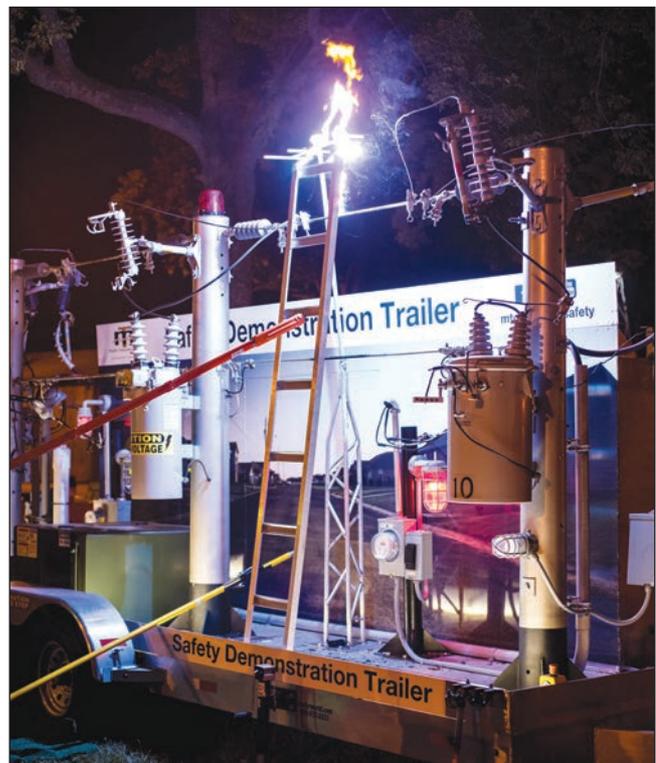
Buzzing about safety

The mission of Middle Tennessee Electric is to provide affordable, reliable, safe electricity and outstanding member service. safety is a key component of that mission and is something MTEMC takes seriously. With more than 11,000 miles of electric lines, we make it a priority to educate the communities we serve about power line safety.

A team of Middle Tennessee Electric employees constructed a high-voltage electrical safety demonstration trailer to be used at local events to better educate our communities about the need to respect electricity.

The 30-minute demonstration shows the dangers of objects coming in contact with energized lines, improperly connected generators, electrical arc flash and faults and other hazardous situations. The electrical safety education program is available during local and community events and to our first-responders and emergency management personnel.

To learn more about the safety demonstration trailer or to schedule a presentation, visit www.mtemc.com/Safety.



Middle Tennessee Electric demonstrates electrical safety at the Wilson County Fair this summer.

High school writing contest changing lives

Each summer, Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation sends 15 rising high school seniors to spend a week exploring Washington, D.C., learning about government and cooperatives and developing their leadership skills. This opportunity is made possible thanks to a partnership with area high schools and English teachers.

As juniors, students are selected for the trip by writing winning short stories that explain how co-ops provide communities with much more than electricity. Youth Tour delegates also have the opportunity to win a share of \$16,000 in scholarships from MTEMC and Tennessee's electric cooperatives.

"We recognize how important it is to prepare the next generation of rural leaders," says Jay Sanders, MTEMC community relations coordinator. "We could not do this without the support we receive from area schools and teachers."

Matt Marlatt, a local teacher in the MTEMC service territory, agrees with Sanders.

Middle Tennessee Electric employees are currently in schools making presentations about the Washington Youth Tour Creative Writing and Scholarship Contest.

Encourage high school juniors you know to participate. They could be 900 words away from the trip of a lifetime.

"The writing contest affords the students great opportunities — not only for scholarship money but also the opportunity to see a lot of Washington, D.C., and our national treasures and monuments," said Marlatt. "More than anything, they get the opportunity to meet other students and build on their leadership potential."

Middle Tennessee Electric employees are currently in schools

making presentations about the Washington Youth Tour Creative Writing and Scholarship Contest. Encourage high school juniors you know to participate. They could be 900 words away from the trip of a lifetime.

More information on the Washington Youth Tour can be found online at our website, www.mtemc.com.

900 WORDS CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING

**TENNESSEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
CREATIVE WRITING AND SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

High school juniors can win a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation's capital, win thousands of dollars in scholarships and have a chance to network with other young leaders from across the nation. **It only takes 900 words.**

Co-op collecting food for locals

As part of the Seven Cooperative Principles, “Concern for Community” is a high priority for Middle Tennessee Electric, especially during the holiday season.

This year, each Middle Tennessee Electric office has teamed up with local nonprofit organizations to help members who are in need.

Each of the MTEMC offices will serve as a drop-off point for canned food from Nov. 1 through Dec. 9. At the conclusion of the food drive, the donations will be distributed to different community agencies in time for Christmas.

“This is a great way for our members to team up with our employees to make a difference locally,” said Chris Jones, MTEMC president and CEO. “When members stop in to pay bills or sign up for service, they can easily drop off their donations in the boxes and be assured someone in the area will eat a little better this holiday season.”

If you would like to participate, drop off your nonperishable food items at your local MTEMC office.



Middle Tennessee Electric employees sort food at the Smyrna-LaVergne Food Bank during the United Way Days of Action campaign in 2015. The food bank is one of the organizations receiving donations from this year's drive.

Once collected, the co-op will deliver the goods to these organizations:

- Williamson County: Graceworks Ministries
- Wilson County: Senior Citizens Awareness Network (SCAN)

- Cannon County: Cannon County SAVE
- Rutherford County: Smyrna-LaVergne Food Bank
- Rutherford County: Eagleville Food Bank

Winter is around the corner; is your home ready?

As the temperatures cool off and the days get shorter, now is the time to make sure your home is ready for winter. Here are a few low-cost, energy-saving tips to help you conserve energy this season:

- Set your thermostat to the lowest comfortable temperature. Even a 1-degree change can save you money.
- Replace your old, used light bulbs with new, compact fluorescent or LED bulbs. The new bulbs can last more than 10 times longer and use a fraction of the energy traditional bulbs use.

- Open your curtains or blinds on the sunny side of your house during the day, but keep them closed at night. The natural heat from the sun will help to heat your home and cause your heating unit to run less.
- Caulk around your windows, doors and any other openings. Heat can easily escape through walls and areas where sealants may be cracked, so by recaulking, you're saving money.

For more information and ways to conserve energy, check

out our website at www.mtemc.com.

**Conserve energy
now, save money
this fall**

MTEMC, United Way huddle up

Employees from Middle Tennessee Electric participated in the United Way's Hometown Huddle, which refurbished 17 school playgrounds and common areas in Rutherford County.

The MTEMC volunteers worked at Westside Elementary in Readyville, laying mulch, fixing playground equipment and making the area safe.

The Hometown Huddle was designed to bring awareness and impact to United Way's priority issues of healthy eating, physical activity and supporting healthy choices.



From left, Jay Sanders, Tammy Parrott, BJ Bobo, Malissa Mayfield, Melissa Fielder, Chris Solomon, Cathy Mitchell, Lexi Estes, Missy Glasscock and Ryan Tenpenny help at Westside Elementary in Readyville as part of the Hometown Huddle.

Don't be a victim, be aware of scams

Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation officials are continuing to warn members about a number of scam phone calls in which fraudulent callers, posing as employees of Middle Tennessee Electric, are contacting members and claiming that their accounts are past due and subject to cutoff.

"We have started to receive a number of calls again from members who are concerned about scam calls that are affecting them," said MTEMC Communications Coordinator Josh Clendenen. "The callers have been posing as co-op employees and are instructing members to get prepaid credit or debit cards to pay their bills over the phone."

MTEMC urges members who are unsure whether a caller is from the cooperative to hang up and call our member services line at 1-877-777-9020 to speak to an employee in our contact center. In the event a member's account is past due, he or she would receive an automated phone call notifying him or her of the past-due nature of the account. MTEMC employees will never ask for personal account or payment information unless the member initiates the call. In addition, MTEMC will never show up at a member's home or business and ask to collect payment. If someone claiming to be an MTEMC employee asks for payment at your home or business, please contact the authorities immediately.

WANTED FOR FRAUD

Fraudulent callers are posing as employees of Middle Tennessee Electric and calling businesses and individuals claiming their account is past due and subject to cut-off. Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation officials warn all members to be aware of scam phone calls.

DON'T BE A VICTIM

MTEMC employees will never ask for a member's personal account or payment information unless the member initiates the call. MTEMC will never show up at your home or business to collect payment.

Call our member services line at 1-877-777-9020 if you're unsure if a caller is from the cooperative.

Like us on Facebook, and share our posts about the scam.

MTEMC members can pay their bills through bank draft, online, by phone at 1-877-777-9020, by mail and in person.

"If a member receives one of these calls, we encourage him or her to give no information, hang up and notify the authorities," said Clendenen. "If you would like to know the status of your account, you can log on to your account through our website or call our member services line where an employee will give you the most up-to-date account information."

SharingChange Spotlight



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



Sherry's Run

Sherry's Run is a nonprofit organization that provides financial assistance 52 weeks a year to cancer patients like Jacob Will, above, in Wilson County and surrounding communities. "Jacob's sweet smile and infectious spirit have truly inspired me!" said Tonyia Stockton, director of patient assistance for Sherry's Run. "Donations to SharingChange make it possible for us to serve precious families like Jacob's!"

SEPTEMBER GRANTS

Cannon County SAVE

Cannon County - \$2,500

ABLES Recreation Association Inc.

Rutherford County - \$7,000

Road Runners Club of America

Rutherford County - \$4,764

Farm Animal Care Coalition of TN

Rutherford County - \$3,000

Generation for Creation

Rutherford County - \$3,600

Community Outreach Ministries

Williamson County - \$3,363

Jobs for Tennessee Graduates

Williamson County - \$9,855

Sherry's Run Inc.

Wilson County - \$10,000

15th Judicial District

Child Advocacy Center

Wilson County - \$3,000

TOTAL GRANTS:

\$47,082.00

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.*

September grants by county



WILLIAMSON

\$13,218

Beginning balance \$18,137.93

Incoming \$3,784.88

Funds Available \$21,922.81

Ending balance* \$8,704.81

WILSON

\$13,000

Beginning balance \$123,977.54

Incoming \$2,710.75

Funds Available \$126,688.29

Ending balance* \$113,688.29

RUTHERFORD

\$18,364

Beginning balance \$32,230.07

Incoming \$3,367.90

Funds Available \$35,597.97

Ending balance* \$17,233.97

CANNON

\$2,500

Beginning balance \$3,504.17

Incoming \$386.07

Funds Available \$3,890.24

Ending balance* \$1,390.24

**Ending balance is awaiting future grant applications.*

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

You can, too. For pennies a month, you can support hundreds of local, nonprofit organizations through SharingChange and Middle Tennessee Electric.



LOCAL

GIVING TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS SERVING YOUR COMMUNITIES.

100%

EVERY PENNY OF THE MONEY RAISED IS GIVEN OUT IN GRANTS.

550+

OVER 550 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE RECEIVED GRANTS.

Join now at SharingChange.org



Middle Tennessee Electric
Membership Corporation
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Middle Tennessee Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

dish

SAVE A BUNDLE
 DISH TV Service + High-Speed Internet | Internet prices starting at: **\$14⁹⁵**
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Start with **50+** popular channels **plus** your choice of first **Channel Pack INCLUDED!**

\$39⁹⁹

Per Month



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All offers require credit qualification, 24-month commitment with early termination fee and eAutoPay.

Pick your perfect TV lineup, add more **Channel Packs** for only **\$10/mo.** each

<p>Action Channel Pack</p> <p>... and many more!</p>	<p>Variety Channel Pack ^{\$6!}</p> <p>... and many more!</p>	<p>Kids Channel Pack</p> <p>... and many more!</p>	<p>News Channel Pack</p> <p>... and many more!</p>	<p>Locals Channel Pack</p> <p>... and many more!</p>
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November 2016

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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Matthew's Mess
Co-ops Send Help

Saving
Sumner's
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Carriage
House

History for Kids:
'Prophet of
Oak Ridge'

Pecans
A Taste of Fall



VERS

Pickwick Electric
Cooperative



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



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

*Phone Numbers:
731-645-3411
731-632-3333
1-800-372-8258*

*Outage Hotline:
1-866-260-4025*

*Web site:
www.pickwickec.com*

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

This November, let your voice be heard

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline — with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 percent to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! In Tennessee, we saw a voter turnout of 31.89 percent, and in McNairy County, it was 30.16 percent.

Some speculate that the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as he or she has been in the past. And who can blame us, really? Oftentimes, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand the issues themselves or enough about the candidates' stances on them. But we can change this.

Pickwick Electric Cooperative wants to see an increase in civic engagement in our rural communities. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through

Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November.

By visiting vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

The future of rural communities depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of discussion this election season.

Just 55 percent of rural Americans have

broadband at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make a major health decision. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.



John Bowers

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

2016 annual meeting enjoyed by all

Pickwick Electric Cooperative's 81st annual membership meeting was held Thursday, Sept. 8, at McNairy Central High School. A total of 525 members registered for the meeting with an estimated crowd of 625 in attendance.

Southern Harmony Quartet provided the entertainment again this year. Many thanks go to coach Steve Hickman and the McNairy Central tennis team for grilling and serving hot dogs. PEC members enjoyed chips, soft drinks and Moon Pies as well. Terry Scott provided our younger members with their favorite

balloon characters, while Mrs. Scott offered face-painting.

Among those in attendance were representatives of the McNairy County Election Commission, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and the Tennessee Valley Authority as well as PEC's Washington Youth Tour participants. PEC President John Bowers addressed the crowd, spoke of the many changes the cooperative continues to experience and expressed his gratitude to the members for their continued support of the cooperative.



Busting the myths about advanced metering

By Tom Tate

By now, most Americans have likely heard of the “smart grid.” This phrase is being used to describe the computerization of America’s electrical infrastructure to improve the reliability, efficiency, resiliency and security of the electric grid.

A key component of the smart grid is an advanced metering infrastructure, also known as AMI in the utility world. AMI systems utilize digital meters as well as computer technology to more precisely measure electric use at homes and businesses than was possible with analog meters. The digital meters communicate via radio or the existing power lines and have been loosely termed “advanced meters.” AMI benefits electric co-op members with greater accuracy in billing, faster outage restoration, operational savings versus manual meter reading and detailed data that you and your co-op can use to much more accurately manage electric use.

Unfortunately, a number of myths concerning advanced meters have developed over the years. These myths can be classified into three categories: privacy concerns, security and health effects. Let’s take a look at each, starting with privacy.

Pickwick Electric Cooperative takes great pains to keep your information private — and that information includes the details of your electric use. The only people who see that data are co-op employees and you. Your co-op will not release this information to anyone else without your specific permission. The myths are that the data collected can tell when you are home or away and exactly what you are doing when you are there and that this data is being given to the government. Naturally, the data will show when you are home because for most families, energy consumption is higher then. But having said that, the current advanced meter cannot identify what activities are taking place down to the specific appliance in use. This myth is simply unfounded.

What about the myth that these meters actually make the electric grid less secure by providing an avenue for hackers to break into systems through the advanced

meter and wreak havoc? While hackers continually attempt to break into electric systems, their focus is at higher levels in the operation. Hacking a meter is unlikely for a variety of reasons. Hackers like to work remotely via the internet, and advanced meters don’t offer that option. A hacker must be near a radio-based advanced meter to catch the weak communication signal and break the proprietary communication protocol. The hacker must then remain nearby for extended periods of time to collect the short bursts of data sent. Therefore, advanced meters are an unlikely and unprofitable target for hackers.

Finally, there are the myths surrounding advanced meters and ill effects on health. These concerns state that having the radio-based advanced meter is the equivalent to having a cell tower attached to the side of your home. Again, this is unfounded. First, these meters communicate intermittently for as few as five minutes a day. These devices are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, and their output is well below the levels this federal agency sets. As one doctor observed, the radio waves emitted are more like those of a cordless phone or wireless router. Radio waves emitted by advanced meters are much weaker and less frequent than other sources we use on a daily basis.

We will all benefit from the continued development of America’s smart grid and can rest easy with the knowledge that the rumors surrounding radio-based advanced meters don’t hold water.

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.



Advanced meters benefit electric co-op members with greater accuracy in billing, faster outage restoration, operational savings versus manual meter reading and detailed data that you and your co-op can use to much more accurately manage electric use.

Know what's below

Dial 811 before you dig

Spring is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece, but in many parts of the country, planting shrubs in early fall gives the plants a head start at establishing roots in the season's cool, moist soil. Perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those cool autumn evenings. If any of your fall projects require digging — such as planting trees or shrubs or setting posts — remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities such as buried electric, gas and water lines can be a shovel thrust away from turning a fall project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local "one-call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "call-before-you-dig" services, many don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common

Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: The 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a nonprofit organization of more than 400 electric cooperative members and many other groups that share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency. CGA is a member-driven association of 1,500 individuals, organizations and

sponsors in every facet of the underground utility industry. Established in 2000, CGA is committed to saving lives and preventing damage to underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices. CGA has established itself as the leading organization in an effort to reduce damages to underground facilities in North America through shared responsibility among all stakeholders.



**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.
Visit call811.com for more information.



Wash dishes once, not twice

You can save water and energy simply by using your dishwasher the way the manufacturer intended — you won't have to wash dishes twice.

Here are five often-ignored best practices:

1. Stop washing your dishes before loading them into the dishwasher. Instead, scrape leftover food from plates and bowls, rinse dishes and then load them into the dishwasher.
2. Place dishes, glasses and flatware in the dishwasher compartments designed for them. If you do, the machine will clean them properly the first time. A tip: Load sharp knives with their tips down.
3. Don't jam dishes in. Leave enough space between plates and bowls to allow the water to circulate freely. Likewise,

don't let a large bowl or lid block the water spray so it can't reach the inside of other dishes and glasses.



4. Select the "hot water" setting to remove dried-on food. Water of at least 130 degrees thoroughly dissolves the dishwashing soap and sanitizes the dishes.
5. If your home has "hard" water, use twice as much soap plus a rinsing agent.

Full house? Save energy anyway

Expecting a crowd for Thanksgiving dinner? A house full of guests means you'll be using more energy than usual. Keep it under control with these tips:

- Lower the heat a couple of degrees before company arrives. You'll be using the stove and oven all day, so the house will be warmer than usual anyway. Plus, people generate heat, so a cooler house will feel more comfortable.
- Keep an eye on the refrigerator and freezer so you'll know the doors are snugly closed. Doors that aren't tightly sealed will send cold air into the kitchen.
- Wait until the leftovers cool off a bit before placing them in the refrigerator. The appliance has to work harder to cool hot food than to keep cool food cold.
- Place lids on pots and pans as you use them for cooking. The lids keep heat in, so food cooks quicker.
- Heat up whatever you can in the microwave instead of on the stovetop or oven. Microwaves use about half the energy as your oven.
- Fill your oven with as many different dishes as you can fit, and cook them all at once. As long as the recipes don't call for temperatures that vary by more than 25 degrees, everything should cook or bake evenly.



PEC directors earn Director Gold Certificates

Pickwick Electric Cooperative directors John Roberts and Shawn Smith recently completed the Director Gold training and received their certificates and lapel pins on Thursday, Sept. 8.

Director Gold is a new certificate program sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) geared toward directors who are committed to continuing their education. To earn Director Gold, directors must first complete the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) programs plus three additional credits from the BLC courses.

The CCD curriculum consists of five courses designed to provide essential knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors. The CCD Certificate is earned by attending all five required courses and successfully completing a learning assessment for each.

The Board Leadership Certificate is the next step in advancing the knowledge and experience



PEC President John Bowers, center, congratulates directors John Roberts, left, and Shawn Smith for completing the Director Gold Certificate program.

directors need to govern their boards effectively. This designation can be attained by earning the CCD and then completing a total of 10 credit hours of classroom study. The courses are taught by NRECA instructors.

PEC extends congratulations to Roberts and Smith for successfully completing these board certification programs.

VETERANS DAY

**Honoring All Who Served
We Thank You For Our Freedom!**

PEC would like to honor our veterans. Present and retired employees, directors and attorney who served in the armed forces are Terry Abernathy, Bobby Barnes, Jerry Burks, Jimmy Dickey, Larry Gage, Clyde Garrison, Harold Finley, Joe Gortney, Leslie Gwin, Tim Jones, John Mitchell, Layne Moffett, Terry Pearson, Glen Plunk, Maynard Smith, Joe Thomas, Jackie Weaver and Robert Williams.





AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

FALL COLORING SHEET



Energy
Explorers



November 2016

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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Matthew's Mess
Co-ops Send Help

Saving
Sumner's
Antebellum
Carriage
House

History for Kids:
'Prophet of
Oak Ridge'

Pecans
A Taste of Fall



VERS

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative

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

Randell W. Meyers,
General Manager/CEO
JoAnn Dillingham,
Director of Accounting
and Finance
Gary Hatfield,
Director of Special Projects
Charles "Bo" Goodin,
Assistant General Manager
Ronnie Williams,
Tazewell Area Supervisor
Jason Stapleton,
Jonesville Area Supervisor
Joey Southern,
Sneedville Area Supervisor

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

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

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

Sneedville office:
All inquiries: 423-733-2207

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

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Dale McNeil
Allen Parkey
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Mikel Sharp
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Dr. John Short

AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

2016 annual meeting highlights

Each year, we look forward to sharing the special annual meeting day that is set aside to fellowship with our members. On a gorgeous Saturday in mid-September filled with sunshine and warm temperatures, the cooperative's customers, board of directors, employees and guests representing the Tennessee Valley Authority and our Virginia and Tennessee statewide electric cooperative associations gathered at Thomas Walker High School in Ewing, Virginia, for the annual membership meeting.

Throughout the day, lots of folks took advantage of the free health services and other activities that were available. Blood pressure checks and glucose testing were administered by medical students of the DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine, supervised by Dr. Allison Yow. Informational tables for our members were provided by Dan Hunsucker, health educator based at the Scott County, Virginia, Health Department; Jerry Stapleton with the Lee

County Sheriff's Department; and Christy Cagle-Brooks with TVA.

Throughout the day, children met

Louie the Lightning Bug and enjoyed creative face-painting done by cooperative employees Karen Estes and Shirlene Hall. Folks enjoyed taking rides in the cooperative's bucket trucks for a great aerial view of the area. Everyone enjoyed the delicious lunch prepared by the ladies employed as cooks at the school and gospel music provided by Living Water. All cooperative members present at the annual meeting were eligible to win

many terrific door prizes.

During the morning session, the cooperative's director of accounting and finance, Jo Ann Dillingham, presented the annual financial report. Additional reports regarding the operations of the cooperative during the past year were given by myself and each of our department heads, and all cooperative employees were introduced to the membership.

Highlights of my report to the membership follow:



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

In observance of the upcoming holidays, our offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Day; Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26, Christmas holiday; and Monday, Jan. 2, New Year's holiday. As always, cooperative dispatchers will be on duty to take your emergency calls during the holidays. Powell Valley Electric Cooperative board of directors, management and employees would like to wish you and your family a joyous and safe holiday season!



As I do each year, I'd like to give you a progress report to let you know how your cooperative stands today. **Our main focus is still the same: keep rates low and the lights burning.**

It's been another year of progress for the co-op. As Jo Ann reported, your cooperative is in sound financial condition. We have accomplished this by keeping very careful control over every aspect of the co-op's business, and every day we look at ways to keep costs down.

We carefully evaluate every purchase to ensure we are getting the best price for our supplies. We work to keep our operations costs down and curb costs without cutting corners. If we can keep our costs down, that means a savings for our customers as well.

Another effort we make to control our power costs is to try to lower our demand charge. We pay our monthly power bill to TVA partly based on peak demand — the single hour



each month that our demand for power is at its highest — so we carefully monitor peaks and lower those as much as we can. **And you can help with this.** We are putting articles in our magazines to inform you of how and when you can lower your use and help us beat the peak.

To fill you in a little on changing times and new challenges ahead, we had negative kilowatt-hour sales the past year. For years, we encouraged and promoted using electricity freely. A couple of years ago at our annual meeting, I mentioned that although we definitely see the need for energy conservation and wise use of energy, I wasn't sure how negative kilowatt-hour sales would impact the co-op.

Well, that day is here. This past year we sold fewer kilowatt-hours than the previous year, even though we gained customers. We will have to see how this turns out and how we will compensate for lost sales. TVA experienced negative kilowatt-hour sales also, and TVA thinks it is a trend expected to last for the next few years.

Of course, one purpose of efficiency is so fewer power plants will have to be built, which will keep costs down. But

Continued on page 22



Geneva Lynch, 95 years young, recognized as the oldest person present.



Youngest person present, 4-year-old September Brooks.



Free health fair

Annual meeting

Continued from page 21

now that it is here, we will see what kind of impact it will have and the effect it will have on rates.

To further control costs, we keep our line losses down by sizing transformers and using the right wire size for each location. Controlling line losses lowers our costs.

We've become even more efficient over the years. We provide the same services and operate with fewer employees. Today we serve 573 customers per employee.



ages, we can transfer load, and we can detect problems early and prevent outages.

We have one of the most modern and reliable systems in the valley and utilize the latest technology to help improve service and keep rates low. This is why we enjoy some of the lowest rates in the valley. Electricity is still a pretty good bargain.



I've kept you up-to-date on our special projects over the years. We and the community have benefited from one in particular: the fiber project. This project brought needed broadband to the area and will provide a huge quality-of-life benefit to our customers.

Providing reliable service is our goal. Today the cooperative provides service to about 31,500 customers in eight Tennessee and Virginia counties in a service area that encompasses more than 1,100 square miles, with nearly nine customers per mile of line. We have a tremendous amount of territory to cover to assure that necessary maintenance is properly carried out to all the cooperative's facilities and more than 3,500 miles of line. That's more than the distance from here to California. A great number of our lines span through the most rugged, mountainous terrain you can imagine, and sometimes just reaching sections of our service area is a challenge in itself.

In mentioning the fiber project, we continue to benefit from installing down-line devices, which continuously help us monitor and control problems on our system. During out-

We were delighted to have with us several special guests at this year's annual meeting. Visiting from the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives were Richard Johnstone, president/CEO; Bill Sherrod, vice president of communications/public relations; and Board Chairman Larry Howdyshell.

We were also happy to have David Callis, general manager of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. Your cooperative is a member of the Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives with headquarters in Richmond and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, headquartered in Nashville.

We were very pleased to have with us from the Tennessee Valley Authority Robbie Ansary, Knoxville customer service manager, and Christy Cagle-Brooks, northeast district customer relations.

One of the most enjoyable moments of the annual meeting is recognizing the youngest and oldest people present. The youngest person this year was 4-year-old September Brooks, daughter of Robert and Carol Brooks of Tazewell. The prize for the oldest cooperative member present was given to Geneva Lynch of Tazewell, who is 95 years young.

During the business session, presided over by Board President Roger Ball, incumbent directors Allen Parkey, representing District 4; Dr. John Short, District 5; and Gary Russell, District 9, were re-elected to the board of directors without opposition. During the reorganizational meeting of the board, officers re-elected were Roger Ball, presi-



More great prizes!!!

dent; David Kindle, vice president; and Judith Robertson, secretary-treasurer.

It really was a special day for all of us, and, as always, we thoroughly enjoyed the chance to visit with so many of the cooperative's members! I consider it a privilege to get reacquainted with those who faithfully attend every year and meeting those who are attending for the first time. Thank you all for coming and making this year's annual meeting another successful one.

— Randell W. Meyers



Robby Whitaker won the grand prize, a 50-inch Sanyo LED TV.



Music by Living Water!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home — typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov

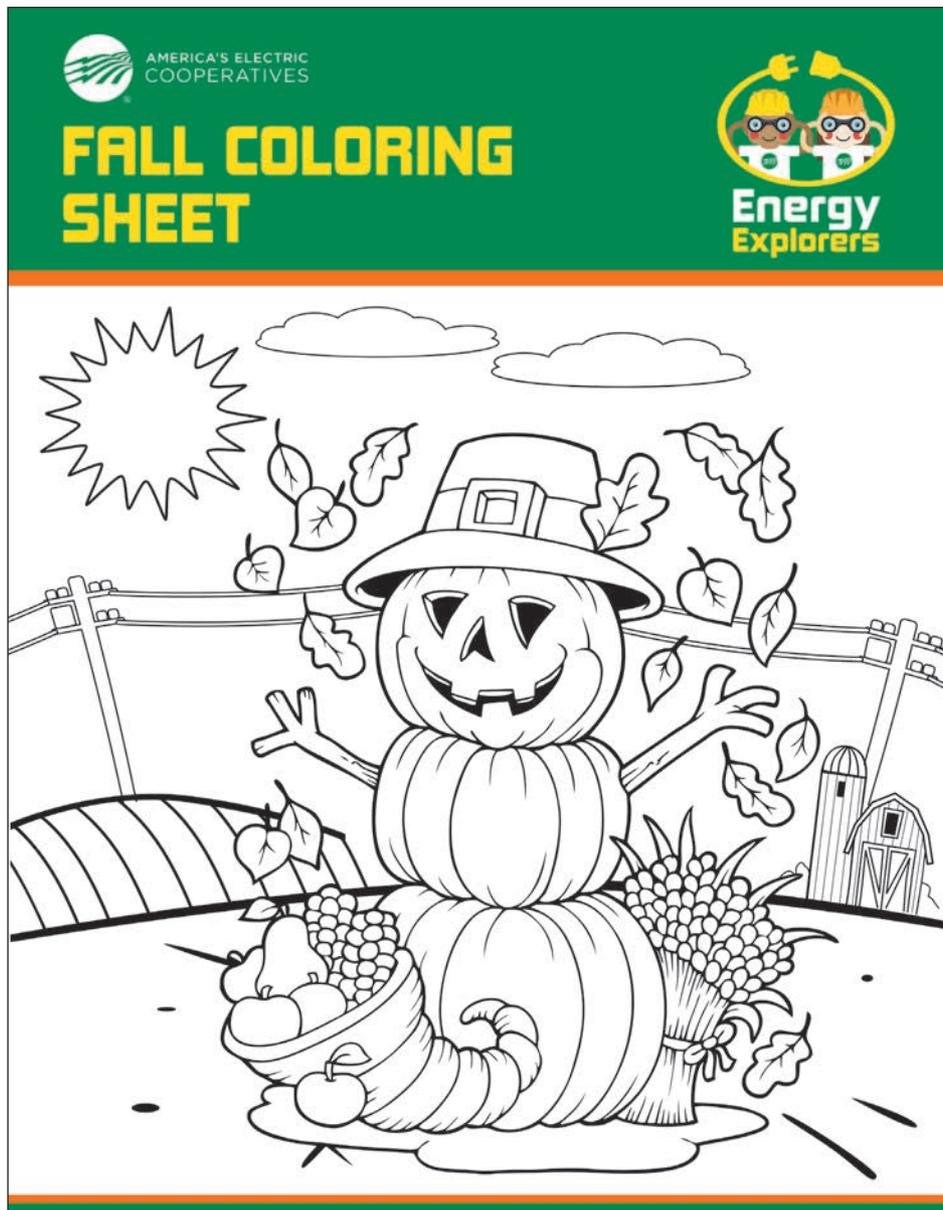
Winter peak

Every month of the calendar year has a peak hour. Demand charges set during the 60-minute period influence the wholesale power bill. This is why we want to share with you information about the winter peak months.

The winter peak period begins in November and continues through March, so we want to offer tips for these months. Winter peaks are most likely to occur during the morning hours between 6 and 9 a.m. when you are getting ready for school and work. There are several things we can do to lower the peak that will not change our way of life.

Here are a few ways to Beat the Peak

1. Dial down the heat. Adjust your home's thermostat down a degree or two between 6 and 9 a.m. After these peak hours, set your thermostat back to its normal setting.
2. Delay use of appliances. Postpone certain household chores that involve major appliances like washing machines, clothes dryers and dishwashers. Wait until after 9 a.m. to do laundry or wash dishes.
3. Flip the switch. Turn off all unnecessary lights during peak hours.



High school, home-schooled seniors can apply now for 2017 VMDAEC Education Scholarships

Any high school or home-schooled senior graduating in 2016 whose parents or guardians are consumer-members of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative and whose primary residence is served by the cooperative is eligible to apply now for a \$1,000 scholarship. Applications are due **Friday, Feb. 10, 2017**.

Scholarships are awarded by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) Education Scholarship Foundation Board. An applicant must be entering his or her first semester at a college or technical/trade school in the fall of 2017. Scholarships must be used toward tuition, student fees, room and board or textbooks.

The foundation selects scholarship recipients based on a combination of weighted criteria: financial need at 40 percent; academic achievement, 40 percent; and personal statement, 20 percent. Recipients will be notified no later than **May 31, 2017**.

Application steps

Application deadline: Friday, Feb. 10, 2017

STEP 1. Access the Education Scholarship Guidelines and Application Form under the Community Resources tab at www.vmdaec.com or from the Cooperative Living website, www.co-opliving.com/community/scholarship.htm.

STEP 2. Complete the VMDAEC Education Scholarship Application form using a computer. If there is no access to a computer, the form can be handwritten. Do not leave any sections blank. Failure to provide requested information will result in disqualification.

STEP 3. Compile all documents listed below to provide with the application in electronic format, if

possible. Do not send any of these documents separately, and use this sequence (from front to back):

1. Copy of a **recent electric cooperative bill** for primary residence
2. **Personal statement**
3. Copy of a **preliminary official high school or home school transcript**. If it is school policy, the transcript can be mailed to P. O. Box 2340, Glen Allen, VA 23058-2340 in a separate envelope.
4. Copy of **standardized test scores** (SAT and/or ACT), if taken
5. **Recommendation letter** written by someone not related to applicant

STEP 4. Upload the required documents or email them in PDF format to the VMDAEC Education Scholarship Selection Committee at foundation@vmdaec.com no later than **Friday, Feb. 10, 2017**.

In 2016, the VMDAEC Education Scholarship Foundation received more than 200 applications from students in areas served by 15 electric cooperatives in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. From these, the foundation board selected 50 recipients. Over the past 15 years, 573 students have received VMDAEC Education Scholarships.

Founded in 1944, VMDAEC is the trade association for Powell Valley Electric Cooperative and the 14 other not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives serving the Mid-Atlantic region. It is based in Glen Allen, Virginia, and provides safety and employee training, governmental relations and legislative and communications services, including the publishing of Cooperative Living magazine, for its member co-ops.

For more information, visit www.vmdaec.com or contact Nina Jacobs, Manager of Administrative Services, at njacobs@vmdaec.com or 804-968-4084.

This November, let your voice be heard

By Meghaan Evans

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline — with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 percent to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! In Tennessee, we saw a voter turnout of 31.89 percent.

Some speculate that the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as he or she has been in the past. And who can blame us really? Oftentimes, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand the issues themselves or enough about the candidates' stances on them. But we can change this.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative wants to see an increase in civic engagement in our rural communities. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November. By visiting

vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

The future of rural communities depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of discussion this election season. Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make a major health decision. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.

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.

Is your fridge ready for Thanksgiving?

If Thanksgiving is at your house this year, your family members aren't the only ones who will be stuffed — so will your refrigerator. Is it up to the task? In fact, if your fridge is more than a decade old, it might not be. Today's models — those bearing the Energy Star label, at least — use at least 15 percent less energy than current federal standards require, and 40 percent less than models made in the early 2000s, according to the Department of Energy.

Yet, DOE says, more than 60 million households have refrigerators that are more than 10 years old. By replacing your fridge with a new, energy-efficient model, you could save up to \$300 in electricity charges over its lifetime.

When shopping for a new refrigerator or freezer, read the EnergyGuide label. It tells you how many kilowatt-hours of electricity the unit will consume over a year of operation. The smaller the number, the better. Look for

refrigerators that have a freezer on the bottom or the top, as side-by-side designs consume more energy. Chest freezers are typically better insulated than upright models.

Whether you're buying a new fridge this year or not, follow these tips for more efficient use around the holidays:

- Brush or vacuum your refrigerator's coils regularly to improve efficiency by as much as 30 percent.
- Keeping your refrigerator full shouldn't be hard this time of year, and doing so will help your unit better retain the cold. If you have trouble keeping it stocked, fill the extra space with bottles or containers of water.
- If your milk is frosty in the morning, reduce the refrigerator's temperature. Refrigerators should be set between 36 degrees and 40 degrees. Freezers should stay between zero and 5 degrees.
- Put a dollar bill in the door's seal to see if it is airtight. If the dollar slips out easily, so will cold air.

November 2016

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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

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AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Busting the myths about advanced metering

I would like to share with you this very helpful article by Tom Tate of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association on new meter technology. Hopefully, it will dispel any misunderstandings about this innovation.

Most Americans have likely heard of the “smart grid.” This phrase is being used to describe the computerization of America’s electrical infrastructure to improve the reliability, efficiency, resiliency and security of the electric grid.

A key component of the smart grid is an advanced metering infrastructure, also known as AMI in the utility world. AMI systems utilize digital meters as well as computer technology to measure electric use at homes and businesses more precisely than was possible with analog meters. The digital meters communicate via radio or the existing power lines and have been loosely termed “advanced meters.” AMI benefits electric co-op members with greater accuracy in billing, faster outage restoration, operational savings versus manual meter reading and detailed data that you and your co-op can use to much more accurately manage electric use.

Unfortunately, a number of myths concerning advanced meters have developed over the years. These myths can be classified into three categories: privacy concerns, security and health effects. Let’s take a look at each, starting with privacy.

Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation takes great pains to keep your information private

— and that information includes the details of your electric use. The only people who see that data are co-op employees and you. Your co-op will not release this information to anyone else without your specific permission. The myths are that the data collected can tell when you are home or away and exactly what you are doing when you are there and that this data is being given to the government. Naturally, the data will show when you are home because for most families, energy consumption is higher then.



Kevin Murphy
President,
Southwest Tennessee Electric
Membership Corporation

But having said that, the current advanced meter cannot identify what activities are taking place down to the specific appliance in use. This myth is simply unfounded.

What about the myth that these meters actually make the electric grid less secure by providing an avenue for hackers to break into systems through the advanced meter and wreak havoc? While hackers continually attempt to break into electric systems, their focus is at higher levels in the operation. Hacking a meter is unlikely for a variety of reasons. Hackers like to work remotely via the internet, and advanced meters don’t offer that option. A hacker must be near a radio-based advanced meter to catch the weak communication signal and break the proprietary communication protocol. The hacker must then remain nearby for extended periods of time to collect the short bursts of data sent. Therefore, advanced meters are an unlikely and unprofitable target for hackers.

Finally, there are the myths surrounding advanced meters and ill effects on health. These concerns state that having the radio-based advanced meter is the equivalent to having a cell tower attached to the side of your home. Again, this is unfounded. First, these meters communicate intermittently for as few as five minutes a day. These devices are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, and their output is well below the levels this federal agency sets. As one doctor observed, the radio waves emitted are more like those of a cordless phone or wireless router. Radio waves emitted by advanced meters are much weaker and less frequent than other sources we use on a daily basis.

We will all benefit from the continued development of America's smart grid and can rest easy with the knowledge that the rumors surrounding radio-based advanced meters don't hold water.



Advanced meters benefit electric co-op members with greater accuracy in billing, faster outage restoration, operational savings versus manual meter reading and detailed data that you and your co-op can use to much more accurately manage electric use.



Southwest Tennessee EMC will host a community meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Madison County Fire Department, 3156 Christmasville Road, Jackson. Join us for an energy-efficiency presentation, snacks and door prizes. One lucky member will win a **\$50** bill credit!



Your Southwest Tennessee EMC president is required to travel a good bit with his job. He tries to get a little exercise along the way to stay healthy enough to be able to see some grandchildren in the future. On his travels in the great state of Tennessee, he recently came across a location that he would like to challenge you to find.

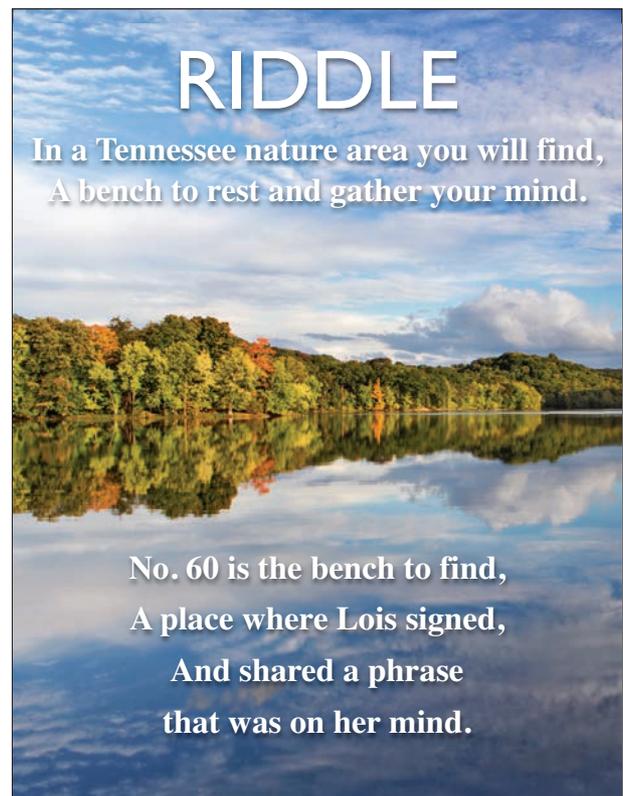
You can win a \$100 bill credit on your STEMC electric bill. Read the riddle below, and send in your entry naming the Tennessee nature area and the phrase in the riddle. The winner will be drawn Nov. 20. Send the answer along with your name, address and phone number to Tina Morris at STEMC.

Email tmorris@stemc.com

Or mail to:

1009 E. Main St.

Brownsville, TN 38012



'I Have an Idea'

A day in the life of an exceptional young man

By Billy Gordon, *STEMC Vice President of Engineering*,
and Tina Morris, *Communications and Community Outreach Specialist*

Most 15-year-old boys have no interest in power transformers, reclosers or electrical substations. Very few follow the powerlines as they ride down the road, wondering where they lead and how they work. Nor does your average teenager sit at the lunch table discussing Maxwell's equations or his intricate curiosity about nuclear fusion. Noah Caldwell is neither "most" nor "average." "Exceptional" is much more fitting.

Noah's mother, Shannon Leach, says Noah starts out almost every morning saying, "I have an idea." The ideas Noah usually has involve electricity. So, Southwest Tennessee EMC also had an idea: Let's spend the day with Noah. Let's share with Noah what we do and how it is done. What started out as a great idea turned into a great blessing for everyone involved.

STEMC's day with Noah began with a tour of the Dispatch Center in Brownsville. Accompanied by his mother and nurse, Noah was introduced to the various technologies available to STEMC employees to carry out the mission of the cooperative. From outage management software to the digital radio system, from camera surveillance to SCADA controls of power system devices, Noah got a feel for what it's like to carry out the daily operations of the company.

After a detailed explanation of how the various systems work and integrate, Noah was asked by Vice President of

At right, Noah Caldwell, left, and STEMC Vice President of Engineering Billy Gordon review substation construction

plans. Below, they tour the co-op's newest substation in Jackson. At bottom, the recloser Noah programmed is ready to be installed on STEMC's system.

Operations Phillip Mullins, "Are you ready to run it now?" "I wish!" Noah replied.

The board room was his next stop, where Vice President of Engineering Billy Gordon gave Noah an in-depth class on power system protection and recent innovations that have helped increase service reliability.

Following a brief lesson about time-current curves and power system coordination, Noah was given his turn at programming a recloser. After some

"open" and "close" commands were successfully executed with a click of Noah's mouse, identification stickers were placed on the recloser, and out the door it went for installation.

Even electrical engineers have to take a break for lunch, so everyone headed off to the Olive Garden for some Italian food, Noah's favorite. Even during lunch, the focus of the conversation revolved around various topics like alternating current theory, potential turbine efficiency improvements to the Tennessee Valley Authority's hydroelectric generation process and different programming languages such as JavaScript and HTML5.

The real highlight of the trip, though, had to be a visit to STEMC's newest substation that's being constructed on Watlington Road in south Jackson. As co-op engineers and their perceptive young protégé toured the substation, Noah reviewed construction drawings, inspected the 161,000-volt transformer and operated distribution breakers.

We at STEMC would like to thank Noah for coming to share a special day with us. It is our sincere hope, Noah, that you never give up on your ideas. Continue to follow your dreams just as you first followed the power lines; you never know where they will take you.



Another *Blast* from the *Past*



Taken from Southwest
Tennessee EMC's 1952 Annual
Report

'I'm No Hero'

World War II memories of Wayne Bayles, U.S. Army, retired commanding officer of Co. L, 359th Infantry

By Tina Morris, STEM Communications and Community Outreach Specialist

When asked about doing an interview for *The Tennessee Magazine*, World War II veteran Wayne Warren Bayles Sr. said, "It would be an honor." When I delved into the definition of the word honor — "the privilege of being associated with or receiving a favor from a respected person" — I realized that the honor was all mine.

The very first words out of Bayles' mouth as he greeted me in the driveway of his home were, "There's one thing I want you to know: I was scared." As I entered, he continued on his mission to convey to me that he considered himself to be no one particularly special: "It wasn't because I was brave. I'm no hero. I did what had to be done."

Bayles was born in Jackson on Sept. 4, 1922. His family moved around a bit before settling back in Jackson when Wayne was in 11th grade. He graduated from Jackson High School, and as a 17-year-old, enlisted in the Tennessee National Guard on Jan. 2, 1940.

"I lied about my age," Bayles said in explaining how he enlisted, and in July 1940, he was in the midst of a three-week Guard maneuver in Mississippi and Louisiana. "I crawled around all those stumps and snakes and everything down there in Louisiana, and I said to myself, 'Man, this Army ain't no place for me!' So when we got back home, on my birthday, I went down to the Post Office and was sitting on the steps, waiting for the Navy recruiter to come. He came walking by and said, 'Are you waiting for me?' I said, 'Yes,' and he asked me what I wanted. I told him I wanted to join the Navy."

After finding out that the birthday boy was already enlisted in the National Guard, the recruiter refused to make Bayles a Navy recruit, knowing that in a few short days, the Tennessee National Guard would be federalized for one year. Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Act, the first peacetime draft, on Sept. 16, 1940.



Wayne Bayles is proud of his experiences in the U.S. Army during World War II and has used a tape recorder to archive his memories of service.

Bayles' one year of active duty turned into five. It took him to places across the globe and into situations where an 18-year-old boy would become a man and his character revealed. Active duty carried Bayles to many places that most people have only heard of, read about in textbooks or seen on the History Channel. But, to this veteran, places such as Normandy, the Mosell River and Omaha Beach were — and are — all very real.

"I am one who never discussed military service with my family," Bayles said. "But some years ago, some of my family started to ask questions. So I began keeping a little tape recorder beside me in the car, and when a thought crossed my mind, I would talk to myself and record it."

Following are a few excerpts from these tapes, which have since been transcribed to paper.

"I've been asked a lot of times, especially by kids, 'Mr. Wayne, did you ever kill anybody?' Well, that is a hard question to answer because I'm against killing, and I was in the Army, and (enemies) were going to try to kill me if I didn't kill them. I did shoot several times at people

individually, but that wasn't my job. I was a platoon leader and a company commander, and my troops did kill a lot of people. But I personally can't say that I know for sure that I ever killed anyone."

On the other hand, Mr. Wayne does recall two different occasions where he was involved in saving lives:

"This little incident happened about mid-January after the (Battle of the) Bulge had slowed down and we had headed back toward the Siegfried Line area to a little town called Habscheid. I'm not sure if it is in Belgium or Germany, but it was right on the border. I remember seeing the 'dragon teeth' on the tank trap that was part of the Siegfried Line. I was executive officer of K Company, and we had moved into this little town and cleaned out everybody. We didn't have to fight to get in because there was hardly anybody there, just a few civilians left. During the night, some boys in one of the platoons called me up and said, 'Lieutenant, there is a pregnant lady in this house down in the basement, and she is screaming and hollering and about to drive us crazy. She is going to have a baby, and we don't know what to do. It scares us; we don't like it. You have to do something about it.' (Laughs) I said, 'OK. I'll call the doctor.'

"I called the battalion aide station. We had a Jewish doctor there. He was a nice fellow, but he didn't care much for the Germans. I understand that now. I told him we had this situation of the German woman up there, and we didn't know what to do. He got in the jeep. You would have to see the roads to understand the situation. The roads were awful: about knee-deep in mud. It was really bad. It took him a long time to get there. We showed him the house. He went down into the basement, checked the lady and said it was going to be four or five days yet, no problem. He got back in his jeep and went back to the aide station. The next day, the boys called me up again and said, 'Lieutenant, you have to do something. That woman is screaming and hollering and about to drive us crazy. You have to do something!'

"Well, I had a new uniform change and a clean shave; I had a watch with a sweep second hand on it and didn't have anything else to do. I remembered the doctor said it was going to be four or five days, so I jokingly told the fellows, 'I'll come up there and do that job myself.' I went up and went to the basement, and, sure enough, she was carrying on something fierce. Her husband was standing there beside the bed with her. I took her arm and checked

"So I started to work. I said, 'Go call that doctor. Get him back up here as soon as you can.' I rolled up my sleeves, and the baby was ready to come, I could tell that."

her pulse, looking at my new watch with the sweep second hand on it, and I realized something was going on. I realized this woman needed some help. Only one sergeant stayed with me. When they saw what was going on, the others ran. I mean they got out of that building and left. This one sergeant said, 'Well, Lieutenant, we're the only ones left. I'll help you with whatever we need to do.'

"So I started to work. I said, 'Go call that doctor. Get him back up here as soon as you can.' I rolled up my sleeves, and the baby was ready to come, I could tell that. I didn't know what I was doing. I knew a little bit, but as the baby came, I could see that the umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck, and I knew that wasn't good. I knew it wasn't supposed to be that way. I started pulling on it trying to turn the little fellow's head just a little bit, trying to keep the pressure off his throat.

"Finally, the baby was safe. The mother calmed down a little bit, and maybe an hour later, the doctor finally got up there. He checked the baby over and said he was OK. That's the last (delivery) I hope I ever have to have anything to do with! We left the next day, and three or four days later I headed back to the division rear to pick up the payroll, and I stopped back in to see if things were alright. The lady was up cleaning house and the little baby was over in his crib, crying, so apparently he did all right. They told me they named him Peter Wayne."

But he says he's no hero ...

Mr. Wayne also shared this story: "In my opinion, one of the most important positions on an infantry battalion staff was the battalion S2, or the intelligence officer. He was supposed to keep you up-to-date on what was going on, especially friendly troops and, more importantly, the enemy, where he was and what he was doing. If the intelligence

officer is a good one, he is worth his weight in gold. We had one. His name was Arthur Drake. He had been born in Germany and stayed in Germany until he was 16. But because of the fact that he was Jewish, he left Germany. He spoke the language fluently, but not only that, the most important thing was he thought like they did, and that helped us out so many times. He was one of my favorite people in the whole battalion. He was funny and comical. This incident I'm thinking about happened around the first part of April 1945. I saw (Drake) again



Continued on page 26

'I'm No Hero' (continued)

in the Pentagon in 1972. He was a full colonel. I was a civilian at that time. I had gone with my boss up to the chief of signal office for a meeting, and this colonel looked over at me, threw up his hand and told everybody in the crowd, 'That man saved my life!' I didn't believe that, but I'll tell you what happened:

"Patton had us going day and night, and we were really tired. At that time, I was commanding Company L, 359th Infantry. We had finally moved into a little town and gotten it all cleared out, posted our guards around the building, and the rest of us were going to try to get some sleep. I had just fallen asleep when the radio operator woke me up. He said, 'Lieutenant, they want you on the radio.' So I got on the radio, and it was Drake. He had started up to join the battalion with his staff of three or four people. They had run into a German patrol, and over the radio he said he was completely surrounded. He was begging people to come and get him. He was calling Capt. Evans, who kept saying, 'I can't hear you, Drake, I can't hear.'

"Well, I heard perfectly clear and knew what he wanted. It wasn't really my place to go, but, finally, I saw that no one else was going to go, so I said 'OK, Drake, I know about where you are. I'll come and get you myself.' Well, because my people were so tired, I didn't feel I could ask anybody to do it. So I put the radio on my back and got a couple of guys to go with me. We were going to sneak down there and see what we could find out. It was about half a mile, I guess, to the checkpoint that (Drake) had given me, so I knew about where to find him. I expected to run into Germans all along



the road. We kept going very slowly, feeling our way along, sticking in the ditch as much as we could. Finally, I heard somebody talking in English. I listened carefully and recognized Drake's accent. He was talking to somebody else on the radio. We had found him. Somehow or another, the Germans around him had left without seeing him. They weren't in our way, so I got him out of that one and got him back to our battalion. He was really happy, and he remembered that in 1972 when I ran into him again. He still appreciated it. I was sure one tired man, but I couldn't ask anybody else to do it. I did it myself."

But he says he's no hero ...

Now, in 2016, Mr. Wayne Bayles really doesn't want to brag about all the medals he won, including the Purple Heart, Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Combat Infantry Badge. He most assuredly does not want to be known as a hero. Yet, he does want to share his experiences, which are unimaginable to those of us with no frame of reference. These experiences shaped his character into the humble and unassuming 94-year-old gentleman he is today. Perhaps, if we listen with open ears and open hearts, we can gain a deeper respect for our veterans. Perhaps, we might celebrate this Nov. 11 — Veterans Day — with more reverence and hold our military in higher esteem. Quite possibly, we might find ourselves with a deeper love and patriotism for our country. Maybe we can even find the courage and character to stand up for the principles that men like Wayne Bayles fought to protect.

More memories of Wayne Bayles can be found online at www.90thdivisionassoc.org/History/PS/Memoirs/Wayne%20Bayles%20359%20L%2090.pdf.

In honor of all our veterans,
the Southwest Tennessee Electric
Membership Corporation
offices will be closed on
Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11.



November 2016

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AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

This November, let your voice be heard

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles.

Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline — with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 percent to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! According to the New York Times, just 9 percent of America selected Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton as the presidential nominees. Most of the nation stayed home and chose not to vote.

Some speculate the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as he or she has been in the past. And who can blame us, really? Oftentimes, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand enough about the issues themselves or candidates' stances. But we can change this.

Here at Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative, we want to see civic engagement in our rural communities increase. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we

want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

CO-OP
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STRONG

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November. By visiting vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.



Mike Partin
SVEC CEO

The future of rural economies depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of

discussion this election season. Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make a major health decision. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.

Making rural voices heard in government is what helps keep our area Co-op Strong!

SVEC Spotlight on Safety

Know what's below — Call 811 before you dig!

Although spring is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece, in many parts of the country, planting shrubs in early fall gives the plants a head start at establishing roots in the season's cool, moist soil. Perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those cool autumn evenings. If any of your fall projects require digging — such as planting trees or shrubs or setting posts — remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities such as buried electric, gas and water lines can be a shovel thrust away from turning a fall project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local "one-call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be

marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then digging can safely begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "call-before-you-dig" services, many don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals. CGA data also show that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: The 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of



SVEC's Andy Nunley shows the danger of digging without calling 811 to locate underground electric lines. To schedule a high-voltage safety demonstration at your school, business or event, contact your local SVEC office.

having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.

Join SVEC in sharing the joy of the season!



Stop by your local SVEC office and pick up an angel. Return your gifts to the office by Dec. 5, and share the joy of Christmas with those less fortunate.

Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative members and employees — who are also members — have a long history of coming together in tough times to help each other out. This "neighbors helping neighbors" attitude has always been a strength of our closely knit communities.

Following our commitment to give back to the community, SVEC will continue our annual **Angel Tree** and **Holiday Food Drive** programs.

Angels with the names of local children and/or home residents will be available in each of our offices in November. We ask that members

take a name and purchase an age-appropriate gift and/or clothing item for the individual and return the gift unwrapped and in a gift bag to the local office by Dec. 5 to ensure delivery before Christmas.

The annual **Holiday Food Drive** will also be held November through December to supplement the local food banks during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Members who either bring in six nonperishable food items or give \$5 to be contributed to the local food bank will receive, while supplies last, a gift in appreciation of their donation.

Sequatchie Cove Farm — Building the community with food

In a time when the number of American farms continues to decline, it is rare to see people from urban areas giving up their jobs and lives in the city to move to the farm. But that is how the story of Sequatchie Cove Farm began.

About 25 years ago, Chattanooga residents Bill and Miriam Keener began looking for farmland. They found their new home, their paradise, in beautiful Coppinger Cove near the town of Sequatchie in Marion County. The peaceful farm is nestled among the mountains that form the Sequatchie Valley and bordered by the Little Sequatchie River.

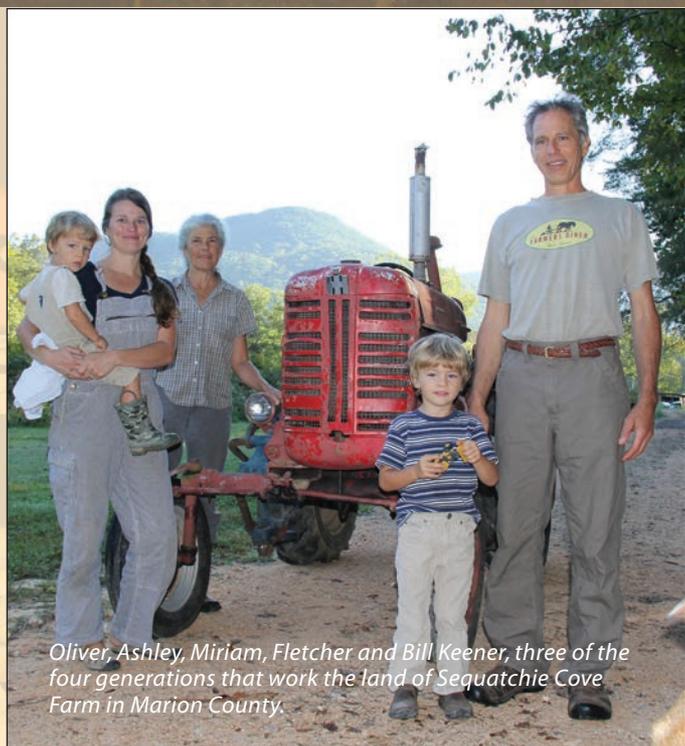
The land that had been in the Coppinger family for several generations was on the market when the Keeners were looking to buy; however, it was a much larger parcel than they were prepared to purchase. Fortunately, at about the same time, Miriam's parents, Jim and Emily Wright, were thinking about retirement and looking for a place in the country as well, and a multi-generational farm was established. Now, 20-plus years later, four generations are working the land. And just as their vegetables and animals grow and change, so have their family and the farm.

Early days

Jim and Emily were the first to build a home on the land. A retired engineer, Jim designed the home they built themselves. He's also the farm's engineer, and he and Emily take care of the chickens and the egg business.

Bill and Miriam began working on the farm while still employed in Chattanooga, building their home and gradually transitioning their family to the site. Their children, Ann and Kelsey, now adults, grew up on the farm. Kelsey and his wife, Ashley, live there today with their small children, Fletcher and Oliver. Besides helping with the vegetables and animals, Kelsey has started his own very successful farm-fencing business. Ann and her husband, Mike Mayo, owned and operated the Farmer's Daughter Restaurant in Chattanooga for two and a half years, serving food from the farm before recently selling the business.

In the early days, Miriam, with a degree in horticulture from the University of Kentucky and several years of experience working with native plants at Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center, began Dancing Fern Nursery, which was a very successful source of local native plants for many years. Bill took a love for Shiitake mushrooms and began growing them on a large scale while building the vegetable gardens and livestock operations.



Oliver, Ashley, Miriam, Fletcher and Bill Keener, three of the four generations that work the land of Sequatchie Cove Farm in Marion County.

“When we began farming, the whole grass-fed beef and organic movement was just getting started,” said Bill Keener. “For us, farming is all about connecting with the community — working directly with the consumer and letting people know where their food comes from. We do not want to have such a large-scale commercial operation that it wouldn't have a place for the older family members or the children on the farm. It is very much a family-oriented business.”

Organic vegetables

A CSA (community-supported agriculture) program was among the Keeners' first ventures. This type of agricultural marketing involves the consumer purchasing a subscription or membership in the CSA program. In return, the subscriber receives a box of fresh, locally grown, seasonal food each week directly from the farmer. Sequatchie Cove Farm had a thriving CSA business with about 100 members for more than 10 years.

However, as the farm began to diversify, adding a creamery and focusing more on raising livestock for the meat market, the Keeners reduced the amount of acreage in vegetables and discontinued the CSA program. They now sell their farm products mainly at the trading post on the farm and at the Chattanooga Main Street Farmers Market.

Sequatchie Cove Creamery

“The idea for the Sequatchie Cove Creamery came about because Nathan Arnold, who was working for us in vegetable production, wanted to learn to make cheese,” said Bill.

“He studied up on it and then went to France, Switzerland and Vermont to learn the process. We built the creamery about 10 years ago, and it has become very successful. We have won many prestigious awards for our cheese.

“The creamery became so successful and time-consuming that we could not keep up with the rest of the farm work. So we sold the creamery business to Nathan and his wife, Padgett. Nathan continues to make the cheese, and Padgett does the marketing and works with the customers. They also hire about four local workers for the creamery. They purchase the milk from us, so the cheese is still made from our farm products. The creamery uses the curds to make cheese, and then the whey, which contains a lot of protein and other nutrients, is fed to our baby animals — nothing goes to waste.



Amelia displays a wheel of the Creamery's award-winning Coppinger Cheese.

“Our goal going into the cheese business was to produce a cheese with the unique flavor of the Sequatchie Valley. Milk gets its flavor from the food the cows eat. Our cows are all grass-fed, consuming only the grasses and fresh spring water from the farm. The grasses are grown in soil that has been enriched with compost produced here from sawdust and shavings from the nearby handle factory and with wood chips from the Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative right-of-way clearing program. These organic waste products are mixed with other animal and vegetable matter for a rich organic soil supplement that produces healthy, nutrient-rich grass for our animals and, in turn, flavorful, nutrient-rich meat, eggs and cheeses for our customers. We also use the compost for growing our vegetables.”

Grass-fed and heritage livestock

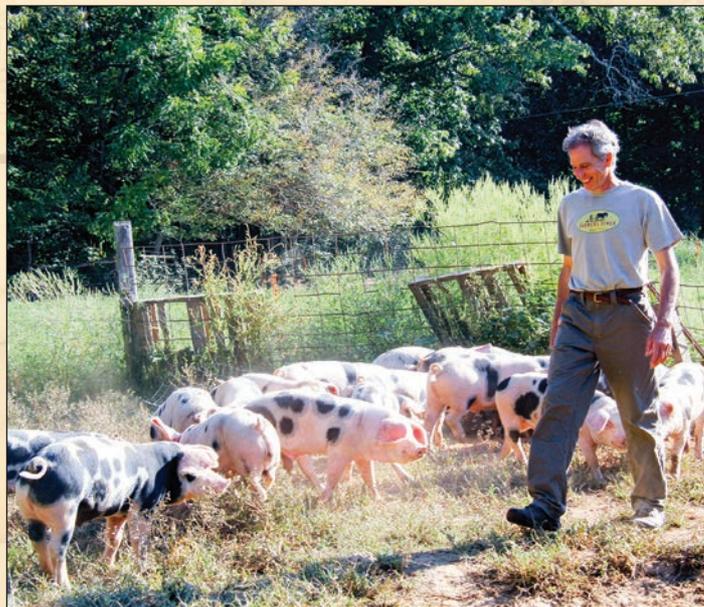
In addition to the vegetables and cheese, the farm also raises chickens for its egg business, beef cattle, lambs and Gloucestershire old spot pigs.

“I have always been interested in rare breeds of pigs,” said Bill. “The old breeds have a distinct flavor. I believe they have a superior flavor because of the intermuscular fat and the food they eat — persimmons, walnuts, acorns. The old breeds are named after the geographical regions where they were bred and raised, and we want to develop a Sequatchie breed for meat with a unique flavor developed from the local food and water.

“All of our meat is processed locally at H&P Meats in New Hope. We are very lucky to have such an outstanding meat processor so close by. Many farmers have to drive two to three hours to get beef, pork and lamb processed as there are fewer and fewer local processing plants due to the ever-growing regulations to pass U.S. Department of Agriculture certification the labor-intense nature of the business.”

Through all of the many endeavors of Sequatchie Cove Farm, Keener emphasizes, “Our focus is on building our local community with food. Everyone eats food every day. Food has value and should cost money, but it should be reasonable for everyone. The cost of food has a huge impact on the local economy. If we spend our dollars on food that is grown locally, those dollars will get recycled something like 17 times in our community. When local people buy food from me, I have money to pay H&P for processing. Pete (Westmoreland) has money to pay his workers who then have money to spend at other businesses in the community. The local economy is strengthened, and everyone is better off. That is how to build a community with food — by buying local rather than buying everything shipped here from other countries.”

Local, family-owned businesses working for a viable, healthy economy and community make our area “Co-op Strong!”



Bill Keener checks on his heritage breed, Gloucestershire old spot pigs.

Sequatchie Valley Honor Guard

Saluting brothers in arms



Members of the Sequatchie Valley Honor Guard prepare to deliver a 21-gun salute to honor a local U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War during his burial service in Dunlap.

Every American military veteran deserves full military honors upon burial, regardless of rank. This is the belief of Chris Reyes and Stan Brown, two Vietnam veterans who founded the Sequatchie Valley Honor Guard and the approximately 50 other area veterans who make up the guard.

“We founded the guard in July of 2010 to honor the service of veterans and their families in Marion, Sequatchie and parts of Grundy counties in Tennessee as well as those in Dade County, Georgia, and Jackson County, Alabama. “We went to the local Veterans of Foreign Wars meetings and recruited anyone who was interested. We have members from all five branches of the military. Most of us are Vietnam-era vets. We’re all in our 60s and 70s — our oldest member is 78 — but we do have a few younger Desert Storm veterans as well.

“Our primary goal is to provide full military honors for the burial service of any area veterans. That consists of a 21-gun salute, a flag-folding ceremony, presentation of the flag to the family and the playing of ‘Taps.’ The family is also presented with a set of three highly polished rifle shells engraved with the veteran’s name, date of birth, branch of the military, dates of military service and date of death. These three shells representing God, country and service are tucked into the folded flag presented to the family.”

After the founding of the organization in July of 2010, the guard performed its first ceremony in the fall of that same

year. The all-volunteer group had little money when first organized, and members paid for uniforms and travel expenses out of their own pockets.



The Honor Guard also performs flag ceremonies at local schools and public events such as the SVEC Annual Meeting, pictured here.



Gary Light shows the folded flag to Donnie Michaels for inspection before presentation to the family.

The group soon found funding from area city and county governments, local funeral homes and other businesses. The group also has received funding from Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative's **SVECares program**. SVECares is funded by the generous SVEC members who allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the next dollar each month, donating the "small change" to make a big impact on our communities.

The Honor Guard is now able to provide its members with uniforms, which are about \$300 each and has acquired two buses and two vans to transport 16 to 18 men and their equipment to each funeral.

Sequatchie County purchased the first bus, Covenant Trucking Company donated a van and the guard purchased the other two vehicles with donated funds.

"Our biggest expense is keeping the vehicles running, purchasing fuel and keeping them insured," said Bill Ford, secretary/treasurer for the group. With the guard generally performing more than 100 funerals a year, fuel and vehicle maintenance costs to keep members on the road are substantial.

The organization is led by a set of officers and six board members: Alan Penney, president; Ray Stephens, vice president; Bill Ford, secretary/treasurer; and board members Joe Pryor (who also serves as bugler), Mike Wilson, Larry Billingsley, Gary Light, Skip Rogers and Chris Reyes, who serves as coordinator for the military honors ceremonies and school programs. Susan Collins is the unofficial historian and photographer. Reyes is quick to state that the women are the back-

bone of the group, saying they have "a lot of great women" involved in the operation of the guard.

The city of Kimball has given the guard a place to meet in its municipal building, and the Marion County Sheriff's Department and Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church house most of the vehicles.

The group is currently one of the largest honor guards in existence. Though the majority are from Marion County, where the group formed, there are members from all five counties the group serves.

"You just don't see a lot of these groups around," said Reyes. "We don't cover Bledsoe County because their VFW group provides the service for that area, but we cover the rest of the Sequatchie Valley. We have a couple of ministers in our group, and when needed, one of them

conducts the funeral as well. We sometimes serve as pall bearers or stand watch over the casket — whatever the family needs us to do. Sometimes with our older World War II veterans, there are more of us at the funeral than anyone else. We just want to make sure that every veteran receives the honor he or she deserves whether their rank was private or general, whether they are rich or poor. They served our country and should be honored and remembered."

If you would like to make a donation to assist the group in continuing their great work, you can send your tax-deductible contribution to:

The Sequatchie Valley
Honor Guard
P.O. Box 786
Jasper, TN 37347

For more information on the SVECares program, visit www.svalleyec.com.

Co-op Strong Trivia Contest

One Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative member who correctly answers the trivia question below will be awarded a \$75 gift certificate good for Sequatchie Cove Farm products. 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. Entries must be post-marked or received via email by Wednesday, Nov. 30. One winner selected from a random drawing of the correct entries will be named in SVEC's section of the January issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

For more information on Sequatchie Cove Farm and Sequatchie Cove Creamery and the hours of operation for its Trading Post, visit www.sequatchiecovefarm.com.



Correctly answer the trivia question at left, and you could win a gift certificate for Sequatchie Cove Farm products.

November Co-op Strong trivia question:

What rare breed of pigs does the Keener family raise at Sequatchie Cove Farm?

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AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Companies that care

Ownership of the company matters

Studies have shown that communities where homeowners occupy the majority of houses are more successful academically, are more physically fit and have a stronger sense of community. While owning a home may not be possible or desirable for everyone, ownership does matter. It just seems to make sense that we treat things we own with greater care.

Chances are you probably don't think too often about your ownership role with your electric cooperative. Every member of Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative can take pride in the fact that you are an owner of your electric co-op. While at times it may seem easy to take electricity for granted, TVEC is working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to make sure you, the member-owners of the co-op, are well taken care of when it comes to your electricity needs.

Locally based cooperatives believe this special bond and obligation to be an integral part of the community. TVEC understands that you can't sell electricity to a business that has closed its doors or to people who have left the community because there are not enough local opportunities. Electricity is a critical need, but it takes more than poles, wires and kilowatt-hours to make a community.

TVEC is actively involved in economic development in Hardin and

Wayne counties. We support the Savannah Industrial Development Corporation, Wayne County Joint Economic and Community Development Board and chambers of commerce in Wayne and Hardin counties. We are also the conduit for local businesses to apply for economic development loans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Over the years, industries, businesses, hospitals and community colleges in our area have benefited from economic development loans obtained either from TVEC or through the cooperative.

We are owners of our co-op, and in a real sense, we are owners of our community. Our community is strong. Think about how much greater it can be when we work cooperatively to tackle our challenges. If we act like owners on a consistent basis, we will put even more care and attention into our community, and we will look locally for solutions. Finding local answers can help keep money — and people — right here in our community.

We all have a role to play. As your local electric cooperative, we promise to do our part for the community. If you have thoughts about how we can do a better job, please contact Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative. You are the owners of the co-op, and we welcome your active participation.



Gerald Taylor
General Manager,
Tennessee Valley
Electric Cooperative

This November, let your voice be heard

By Meghaan Evans

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline — with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 percent to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! In Tennessee, we saw a voter turnout of 31.89 percent.

Some speculate that the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as he or she has been in the past. And who can blame us really? Oftentimes, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand the issues themselves or enough about the candidates' stances on them. But we can change this.

Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative wants to see an increase in civic engagement in our rural communities. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November. By visiting

vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

The future of rural communities depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of discussion this election season. Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make a major health decision. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.

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.

Is your fridge ready for Thanksgiving?

If Thanksgiving is at your house this year, your family members aren't the only ones who will be stuffed — so will your refrigerator. Is it up to the task? In fact, if your fridge is more than a decade old, it might not be. Today's models — those bearing the Energy Star label, at least — use at least 15 percent less energy than current federal standards require, and 40 percent less than models made in the early 2000s, according to the Department of Energy.

Yet, DOE says, more than 60 million households have refrigerators that are more than 10 years old. By replacing your fridge with a new, energy-efficient model, you could save up to \$300 in electricity charges over its lifetime.

When shopping for a new refrigerator or freezer, read the EnergyGuide label. It tells you how many kilowatt-hours of electricity the unit will consume over a year of operation. The smaller the number, the better. Look for

refrigerators that have a freezer on the bottom or the top, as side-by-side designs consume more energy. Chest freezers are typically better insulated than upright models.

Whether you're buying a new fridge this year or not, follow these tips for more efficient use around the holidays:

- Brush or vacuum your refrigerator's coils regularly to improve efficiency by as much as 30 percent.
- Keeping your refrigerator full shouldn't be hard this time of year, and doing so will help your unit better retain the cold. If you have trouble keeping it stocked, fill the extra space with bottles or containers of water.
- If your milk is frosty in the morning, reduce the refrigerator's temperature. Refrigerators should be set between 36 degrees and 40 degrees. Freezers should stay between zero and 5 degrees.
- Put a dollar bill in the door's seal to see if it is airtight. If the dollar slips out easily, so will cold air.

TVEC holds 77th annual membership meeting

Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative held its 77th annual membership meeting Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Hardin County High School Auditorium. This year's meeting drew some 250 registered members and their families — an estimated crowd of more than 400 people.

Refreshments were served during registration, and LED bulbs were given to each voter. Drawings for larger prizes, including a 55-inch television grand prize, followed the meeting.

Special thanks go to Washington Youth Tour participants Taylor Clayton, Deja Dixon and Taylor Daniel for their assistance at this year's meeting.

TVEC also thanks our members for their attendance at the annual meeting and invite every member to next year's event.



A member registers and receives her gift of LED lightbulbs at one of the registration tables.



The registration process moves quickly as members have multiple tables at which to register.



TVEC employees serve refreshments to the members prior to the business meeting.



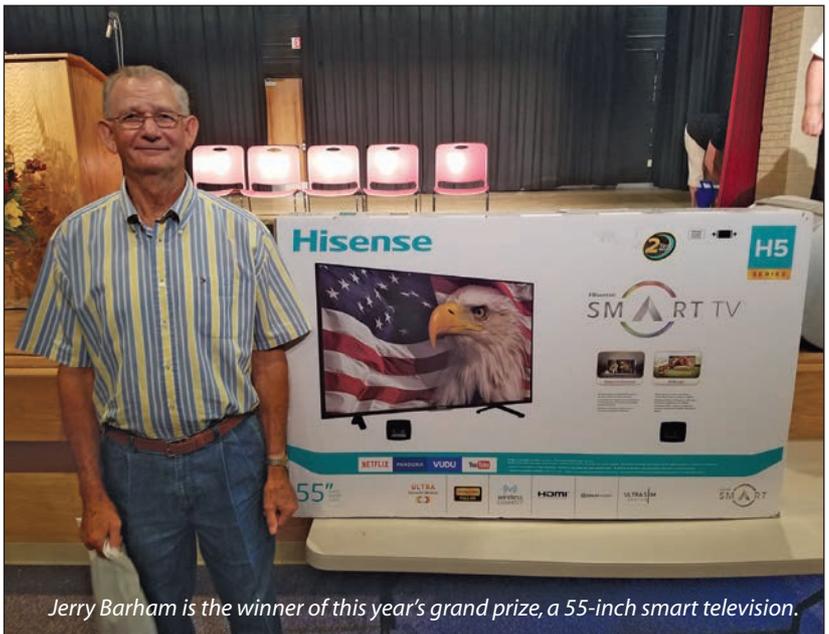
Members enjoy a meal before the business session.



TVEC General Manager Gerald L. Taylor Jr., addresses the membership with his annual manager's speech, keeping them informed on issues that the cooperative and its members face.



Entertainment for this year's meeting is provided by The Crusaders, a Southern gospel music quartet made up of Leon Stanfield, Jimmy Shelby, Sonny Southerland and Tony Gray. They were joined this year by TVEC's own Tony Polk.



Jerry Barham is the winner of this year's grand prize, a 55-inch smart television.

10 ways to lower home energy bills when it's cold out

Want to save money on your energy bills this winter — without spending a lot to make it happen? Here are 10 low- or no-cost changes you can make:

1. Use your home's ceiling fans to make the rooms feel warmer. Most people think fans are just for summer, but ceiling fans running slowly in reverse will circulate the heat that rises toward the ceiling.
2. Add weather stripping or caulk around windows and doors. Light a match or a stick of incense and hold it near the window frame. If the smoke sways, that means the window is leaking air. Caulking can significantly reduce heat loss.
3. Rearrange your furniture. Sofas and rugs that are blocking vents can cause uneven heating. Locate your most frequently used furniture near interior walls; it's colder to sit near exterior walls, especially those with windows.
4. Install a "smart" thermostat that lets you program it or adjust the heat even after you've left the house. There's no need to heat your home at the same level when it's empty as when your family is home. Turning back your thermostat by 10-15 degrees for eight hours a day can save up to 15 percent on your heating bill.
5. Keep the shades wide open during daylight hours. The sun heats your home for free all day. Close the curtains at night to keep heat in.
6. Check the seams and joints of your ductwork for leaks. Repair any leaks with a duct-sealing compound for even and efficient heating.
7. Pull on a sweater and keep the thermostat at a lower temperature. You could save at least 1 percent per degree on your electric bill.
8. Run your clothes dryer and dishwasher after dark. They produce heat that can keep your home warm at the coldest time of the day.
9. Install compact fluorescent bulbs or LED lights in the fixtures you use the most. These bulbs use far less energy than incandescent bulbs.
10. Limit hot water use. Running the hot water when it's not needed sends the energy used to heat it down the drain. Wash clothes in cold water, and take shorter showers.

Insulate Your Electric Water Heater Tank

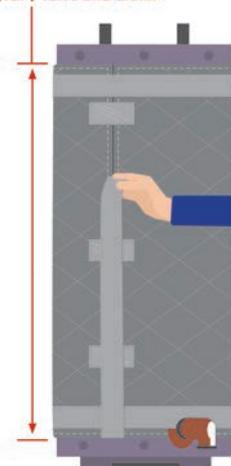
MATERIALS:

- Water heater blanket
- Scissors
- Duct tape

STEPS:

1. Turn off the electric water heater at the breaker panel.
2. Measure the height of the water heater, and cut the blanket to fit, if necessary.
3. Leave the top of the water heater unwrapped.
4. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and temporarily tape it in place. Position the blanket so that the ends do not come together over the access panels on the side of the tank.
5. Mark the areas, then cut holes where controls are located. For electric water heaters, there will be two panels on the side of the tank. Mark the area where the pressure-relief valve and pipe are located. This will be a pipe that protrudes from the side of the water heater.
6. Adhere the blanket. Be careful to line up the cut-out areas, and then tape the blanket permanently in place.
7. Turn the water heater back on.

Cover the whole tank except temperature and pressure (T&P) valve and drain.



Safety Note: Don't set the thermostat warmer than 130 degrees on the electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket — the wiring may overheat.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Wash dishes once, not twice

You can save water and energy simply by using your dishwasher the way the manufacturer intended — you won't have to wash the dishes twice.

Here are five often-ignored best practices:

1. Stop washing your dishes before loading them into the dishwasher. Instead, scrape leftover food from plates and bowls, rinse dishes and then load them into the dishwasher.
2. Place dishes, glasses and flatware in the dishwasher compartments designed for them. If you do, the machine will clean them properly the first time. A tip: Load sharp knives with their tips down.
3. Don't jam dishes in. Leave enough space between plates and bowls to allow the water to circulate freely. Likewise, don't let a large bowl or lid block the water spray so it can't reach the inside of other dishes and glasses.
4. Select the "hot water" setting to remove dried-on food. Water of at least 130 degrees thoroughly dissolves the dishwashing soap and sanitizes the dishes.
5. If your home has "hard" water, use twice as much soap plus a rinsing agent.

Busting the myths about advanced metering

By Tom Tate

By now, most Americans have likely heard of the “smart grid.” This phrase is being used to describe the computerization of America’s electrical infrastructure to improve the reliability, efficiency, resiliency and security of the electric grid.

A key component of the smart grid is an advanced metering infrastructure, also known as AMI in the utility world. AMI systems utilize digital meters as well as computer technology to measure electric use at homes and businesses more precisely than was possible with analog meters. The digital meters communicate via radio or the existing power lines and have been loosely termed “advanced meters.” AMI benefits electric co-op members with greater accuracy in billing, faster outage restoration, operational savings versus manual meter reading and detailed data that you and your co-op can use to much more accurately manage electric use.

Unfortunately, a number of myths concerning advanced meters have developed over the years. These myths can be classified into three categories: privacy concerns, security and health effects. Let’s take a look at each, starting with privacy.

Tennessee Valley Electric Cooperative takes great pains to keep your information private — and that information includes the details of your electric use. The only people who see that data are co-op employees and you. Your co-op will not release this information to anyone else without your specific permission. The myths are that the data collected can tell when you are home or away and exactly what you are doing when you are there and that this data is being given to the government. Naturally, the data will show when you are home because for most families, energy consumption is higher then. But having said that, the current advanced meter cannot identify what activities are taking place down to the specific appliance in use. This myth is simply unfounded.

What about the myth that these meters actually make the electric grid less secure by providing an avenue for hackers to break into systems through the advanced

meter and wreak havoc? While hackers continually attempt to break into electric systems, their focus is at higher levels in the operation. Hacking a meter is unlikely for a variety of reasons. Hackers like to work remotely via the internet, and advanced meters don’t offer that option. A hacker must be near a radio-based advanced meter to catch the weak communication signal and break the proprietary communication protocol. The hacker must then remain nearby for extended periods of time to collect the short bursts of data sent. Therefore, advanced meters are an unlikely and unprofitable target for hackers.

Finally, there are the myths surrounding advanced meters and ill effects on health. These concerns state that having the radio-based advanced meter is the equivalent to having a cell tower attached to the side of your home. Again, this is unfounded. First, these meters communicate intermittently for as few as five minutes a day. These devices are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, and their output is well below the levels this federal agency sets. As one doctor observed, the radio waves emitted are more like those of a cordless phone or wireless router. Radio waves emitted by advanced meters are much weaker and less frequent than other sources we use on a daily basis.

We will all benefit from the continued development of America’s smart grid and can rest easy with the knowledge that the rumors surrounding radio-based advanced meters don’t hold water.

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.



Advanced meters benefit electric co-op members with greater accuracy in billing, faster outage restoration, operational savings versus manual meter reading and detailed data that you and your co-op can use to much more accurately manage electric use.

Full house? Save energy anyway

Expecting a crowd for Thanksgiving dinner? A house full of guests means you'll be using more energy than usual. Keep it under control with these tips:

- Lower the heat a couple of degrees before company arrives. You'll be using the stove and oven all day, so the house will be warmer than usual anyway. Plus, people generate heat, so a cooler house will feel more comfortable.
- Keep an eye on the refrigerator and freezer so you'll know the doors are snugly closed. Doors that aren't tightly sealed will send cold air into the kitchen.
- Wait until the leftovers cool off a bit before placing them in the refrigerator. The appliance has to work harder to cool hot food than to keep cool food cold.
- Place lids on pots and pans as you use them for cooking. The lids keep heat in, so food cooks quicker.
- Heat up whatever you can in the microwave instead of on the stovetop or oven. Microwaves use about half the energy as your oven.
- Fill your oven with as many different dishes as you can fit, and cook them all at once. As long as the recipes don't call for temperatures that vary by more than 25 degrees, everything should cook or bake evenly.

Weatherproof your house to stay warm

Weatherproofing is an inexpensive way to save money on your energy bills during the winter. Even the tiniest gaps around windows, doors, light fixtures, electrical outlets and air ducts can slowly let your home's heated air escape to the outdoors. That can add up to substantial heat loss.

Here's how to avoid leaks:

- Caulk throughout the house wherever walls meet floors or door frames and between the outside of the window frame and the siding. Choose caulk designed for the surface you're caulking, and try a higher-quality caulk, which will last longer.
- Apply weather-stripping to all exterior doors and windows. Weather stripping is a thin piece of material that seals the gap between where the door or window meets the jamb. Self-stick foam pieces are quick and easy to apply.
- Replace worn door sweeps on exterior doors to help prevent heat loss under the door.
- Seal windows with thin plastic sheets using an insulator kit. Shrinking the plastic film with a hair dryer ensures a smooth and tight seal.

Decorate safely

Homeowners have started decorating their homes for Christmas earlier and earlier — often before Thanksgiving. If you're ready to start hanging lights, take safety precautions. Nearly three people per hour are treated in hospital emergency rooms for decorating-related injuries during every holiday season, according to the National Safety Council.

Here are 10 ways to keep yourself safe if you have decorating duty this season:

1. Inspect last year's lights before using them again this holiday season. Discard any with frayed or exposed wires, loose connections or broken sockets.
2. Some holiday plants, including some varieties of poinsettias, can be harmful to children and pets. Keep them out of your home — or at least out of reach. And keep the number for the Poison Control Center handy: 800-222-1222.
3. Decorate the tree with kids in mind. Place breakable ornaments and those with metal hooks near the top of the tree, where little ones can't reach them.
4. Use sturdy ladders when decorating outdoors. Indoors, climb step ladders instead of onto chairs, which aren't designed to support someone in the standing position.
5. Don't hide extension cords under rugs or furniture. They can overheat and catch on fire. And when you take the tree down, unplug extension cords. They're not designed for permanent use.

November 2016

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THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Matthew's Mess
Co-ops Send Help

Saving
Sumner's
Antebellum
Carriage
House

History for Kids:
'Prophet of
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Pecans
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While Tennesseans were planning fall break or kicking back to watch football in early October, electric cooperative linemen were packing their bags to answer a call for help from co-ops cleaning up after Hurricane Matthew. *by Robin Conover*

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The recent addition of historic Stonewall, an Antebellum home in Gallatin, and its surrounding property to the Sumner County Museum was made possible by a very generous donation. *by Robin Conover*



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Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation lineman/serviceman Jimmy Grant works on Clay Electric Co-operative lines in Palatka, Florida, after Hurricane Matthew roared along the Atlantic Coast. See page 8 for more about Tennessee co-op line crews assisting in storm restoration. Photograph by Robin Conover

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Readers' antiques and flea-market finds are appraised. *by Connie Sue Davenport*

THIS PAGE

Light dimly streams through an original window in the attic of an 1840s-era carriage house at the historic Stonewall property in Gallatin. See page 12 to learn how John Garrott's generous gift will allow the Sumner County Museum to expand while protecting the historic landmarks. Photograph by Robin Conover

The Tennessee Magazine

Communication for
Electric Cooperative Consumers

Volume 59, No. 11

ISSN 0492-746x

Official publication of the
Tennessee Electric
Cooperative Association.
Executive, editorial and
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The Tennessee Magazine, Vol. 59, No. 11 (ISSN 0492-746x) is published and distributed monthly to communicate electrical use and safety, economic development and educational and community interests of more than 1 million Tennessee families and businesses who own, operate and control the tax-paying, business-managed, locally owned electrical distribution and service systems of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, 2964 Sidco Drive, Nashville, TN 37204-3715 (executive and editorial offices). Copyright 2016. Periodicals postage paid at Nashville, Tennessee, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER:

Please send address corrections to

The Tennessee Magazine,

P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224.



Subscriber Services: To order a subscription or change your address, write to *The Tennessee Magazine*, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224. Cost of subscription for members of participating electric cooperatives is \$2.94 per year (24.5 cents per month), plus periodicals postage paid from equity accruing to the member. For nonmembers, a subscription is \$15 per year or \$30 for three years. Single copy, \$2.50.

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National advertising representative: National Country Market; 611 S. Congress Ave., Suite 504, Austin, TX 78704. Phone: 800-626-1181. Website: www.nationalcountrymarket.com.

TENNESSEE TODAY *Manager's Viewpoint*

'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.

On this month's magazine cover, Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation's Jimmy Grant is one of more than 100 Tennessee co-op linemen deployed to Florida and the Carolinas to assist with recovery efforts following Hurricane Matthew. Every co-op employee who answered the call for help was a volunteer (no pun intended) who 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.

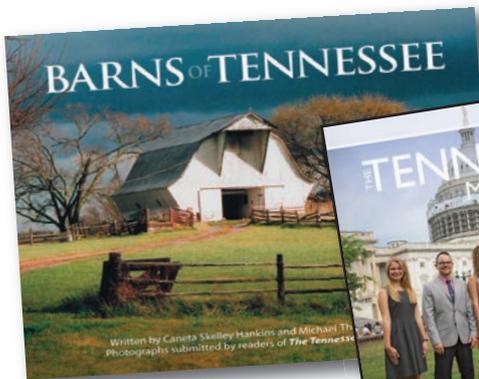
During crew transfers, I had an email exchange with Britt Dye, CEO of Fayetteville Public Utilities. His crews were a long way from home and had been working for several days. They were finishing restoration at Clay Electric in Florida. Knowing that help was needed in North Carolina, I checked with Britt 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 EMC in the Tar Heel State. That's how linemen say, “Give me the ball.” ■



David Callis
General Manager,
Tennessee Electric
Cooperative
Association

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Co-ops Respond

Page 8

Electric cooperatives help the Atlantic Coast dig out from Hurricane Matthew's wrath.



'Prophet of Oak Ridge'

Page 16

Bill Carey discovers a man whose visions foretold of big things in store for Anderson County.

Almanac of Events

Page 30 and tnmagazine.org

Fall and holiday festivals — as well as other types of special events — abound across Tennessee.

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CO-OP CONCERNS

Manager's Viewpoint

Gratitude is not optional

Like many of you, my house has begun its fall transformation. Outside, leaves are beginning to fall. Inside, earth-toned decorations fill the space from my front door all the way to the bathroom counter. But like all too many of us, I probably mutter under my breath a curt complaint when I have to move a miniature pumpkin decoration out of the way to open a cabinet or find a ribbon-wrapped horn-of-plenty is plopped atop of my copy of *Golf Digest* on the coffee table.

Why should I complain? Well, I shouldn't. I am blessed beyond measure and beyond any semblance of what I deserve. Sometimes my pastor likes to mention that folks in the 1 percent should be thankful for the relative ease in which their life is enjoyed. This is not an attempt to start up class warfare in the pews, however. What he always goes on to explain is that if you aren't actively worrying about how to feed yourself at your next meal, chances are you're considered wealthy on a worldwide basis. That's because more than half of the world's population lives on less than \$2 per day.

That really hit home with me. So I'm writing a list of things for which I am grateful. I hope you will find something meaningful in my list. Even better, consider writing your own. You might be surprised by just how blessed you really are.

- Fall is such a beautiful time in our state, and I try not to ignore the natural splendor that surrounds me every day. I love waterfalls, so I'm grateful to have recently enjoyed a hike to Cummins Falls with my family and some good friends.
- Working for great people makes me excited to get up each day. Work is an impor-

tant part of our lives and comes in many different flavors. Spending this large part of my life helping your co-op serve the rural and suburban communities of our state makes my work especially rewarding.



Mike Knotts
Vice President of
Government Affairs

- The laughter of my children seems to make all my stress just disappear.
- I'm grateful for leaders who, by their unselfish devotion to those they lead, inspire me to be better. The photo below is just the latest example from my work life. Read more inspiring stories on page 8 about how your neighbors helped those in need after Hurricane Matthew.
- I'm even more thankful for the men in the blue shirts in that

photo who risk their lives every day just to do their job. Electric linemen don't get the respect or recognition they deserve.

- Long Ya Chen, welcome to the USA! I can't wait to be a part of your life. What a difference 7,000 miles has made for you, Ya-Ya.
- We enjoy freedom from fear. The news is filled with disturbing images of war. Yet, in this country, we bear no burden of armed conflict inside our borders. Instead, our neighbors are among our nation's best friends. ■



Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation President Chris Jones prays with linemen as they prepare to depart to assist in rebuilding lines damaged during Hurricane Matthew. Photograph courtesy of Julie Edwards, WKRN.

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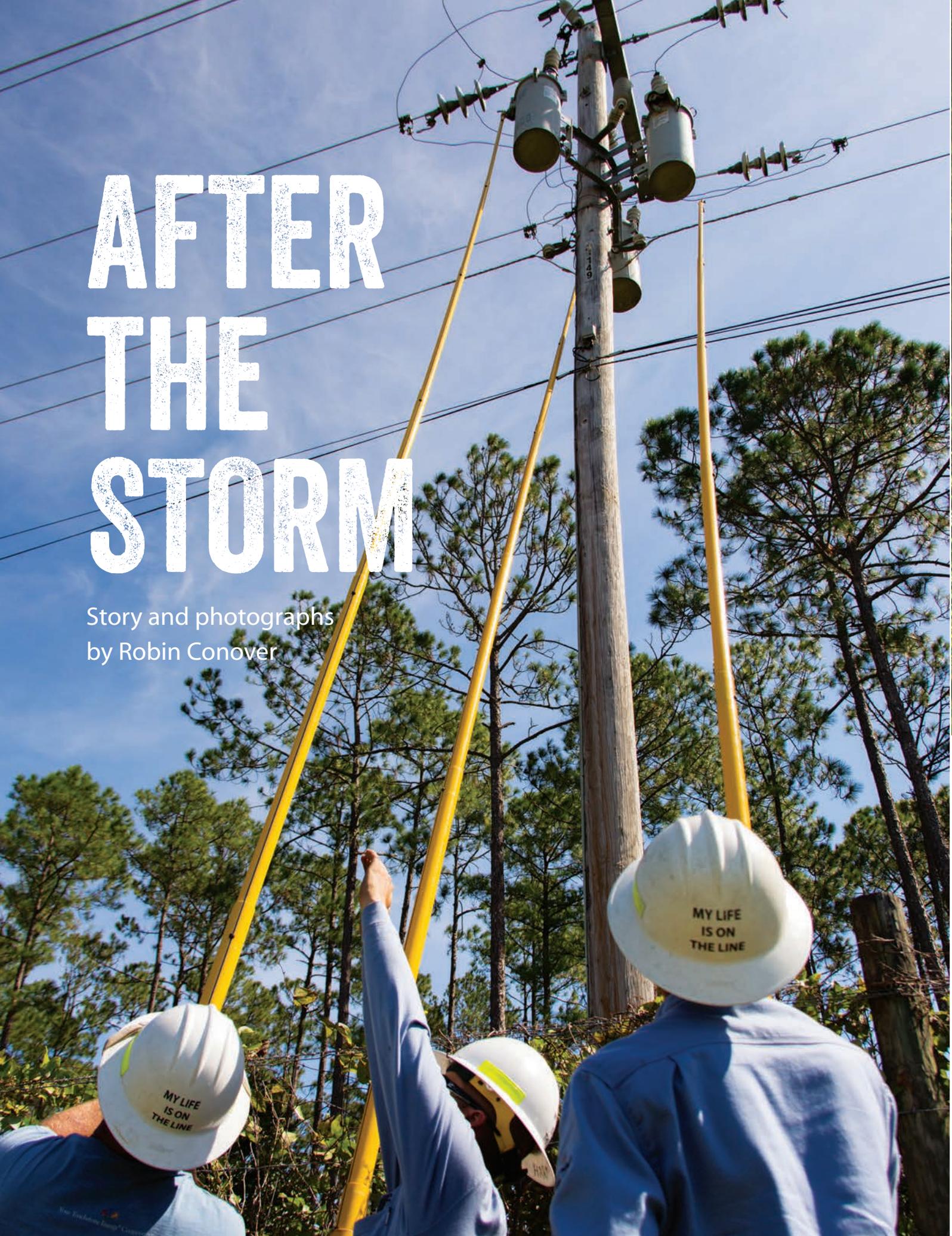
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AFTER THE STORM

Story and photographs
by Robin Conover





Clockwise from opposite page, Middle Tennessee EMC linemen help to restore power to Clay Electric Cooperative members in Palatka, Florida. Linemen use hot sticks to re-energize three transformers. Jerry Fishburn and Luke Flory manually pull wire back up to Kirk Harris in the bucket. Terence Floyd works to free a line torn down by a falling tree.

Tennessee's Electric Cooperatives answer the call to help co-ops rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew

During the first week of October, the “war rooms” of electric cooperatives along the Atlantic Coast began to buzz with activity as they tracked the path of Hurricane Matthew. The storm would grow to a Category 4 before tracking up the East Coast for hundreds of miles.

The powerful winds would be more than strong enough to devastate electric systems from Florida to Virginia. In its wake, Matthew left electric systems on the ground and hundreds of thousands without power. Entire towns were inundated with

contaminated floodwaters, making restoration efforts even more dangerous and difficult.

Matthew tore through Clay Electric Cooperative in Florida on Oct. 6 and 7, leaving 73,000 members in the dark. Fortunately, help was already on the way.

“With decades of storm recovery efforts under our belts, we have a great system of mutual aid in place to get crews where they need to be as quickly as possible,” says David Callis, executive vice president and general manager of the Tennessee



Clockwise from bottom left, Duck River EMC's Heath Nave helps restore power to Clay EC members in Florida. Middle Tennessee EMC's Jimmy Grant chainsaws a downed tree. Terence Floyd, Clint Newman and Jesse Cunningham of MTEMC use a boom to remove a fallen tree. Matt Howard and Andy Nunley of Sequachee Valley EC work from a canoe in South Carolina to restore power to Berkeley EMC members. (Photograph by Buddy Smith.) Troy Mitchell of Fayetteville Public Utilities and Cole Woods of Clay Electric Cooperative attach insulators to a new utility pole. (Photograph by Kathy Richardson.) Duck River EMC crew members pose with their counterparts from Clay EC. MTEMC's Jesse Cunningham works in a swamp near Palatka.

Electric Cooperative Association (TECA). "One of our founding principles is to help each other and in the electric cooperative world, we're all family."

During major storms, local cooperatives alert their statewide organizations as to what assistance they may need; then the statewide associations reach out to neighboring states and request help. In turn, those statewides then ask for volunteers from their cooperatives.

"What goes around comes around," says Todd Blocker, TECA vice president of member relations. "We know that by sending assistance to our neighboring states, they will do likewise one day when we need it."

Tennessee mustered about 20 crews with more than 100 men to assist in Florida and South Carolina.

Cooperatives answering the call were Appalachian EC, Cumberland EMC, Duck River EMC, Fayetteville Public Utilities, Middle Tennessee EMC, Mountain EC, North Georgia EMC, Plateau EC, Sequachee Valley EC and Upper Cumberland EMC.

"Being a lineman is a calling for these guys," says Blocker. "When bad weather comes in, they know it's time to go to work. They volunteer to leave their families to work very long days in difficult conditions. These crews truly embody the cooperative spirit as they work to get members back on-line as quickly and as safely as possible."



New Home for History

Sumner County
Museum's historic
opportunity

*Story and photographs
by Robin Conover*





Stonewall, above, and the Historic Carriage House Residence, below, will both be open to the public sometime next year as the newest acquisitions by the Sumner County Museum in Gallatin.

Standing in the morning window light, Allen Haynes, curator of the Sumner County Museum, pauses during a “behind-the-scenes tour” to describe how this historic brick building will become the museum’s new home next year. The story is one of everything coming full circle for a Gallatin resident and the museum he loves.

You see, it all began long ago when John Garrott developed a love of history, especially that of Sumner County. Throughout his life, he collected pieces that interested him and that had stories to tell. Eventually, Garrott’s collection grew to include thousands of items ranging from Native American artifacts to old cars and tools to glass negatives and photographs. Each represents a time gone by and was in danger of being lost.

Garrott and his friend, Robert Ramsey, a history buff and collector in his own right, decided their collections should be displayed for the public to see. Together, they founded the Sumner County Museum in 1970. A large, three-story, 9,500-square-foot building was constructed in the style of a carriage house behind Trousdale Place in Gallatin. Since that time, the building has served its mission well and houses an extensive array of artifacts.

About this same time, Garrott purchased Stonewall, an antebellum home and stately piece of Gallatin history, located just east of the museum on Main Street. The Car-



riage House Residence, an 1839 brick structure, was located on the adjoining property.

Fast forward a few years and these spaces bring the story full circle. “It all happened in just a few months,” says Haynes. “John started quietly talking about it to a few people and then just decided to do it.”

To assure that his historic home and surrounding property would be protected and open to the public, Garrott generously donated Stonewall and his workshop to the museum and helped facilitate the purchase of the Historic Carriage House Residence. That option quickly came to

THE TENNESSEE MAGAZINE

Statement of Ownership Management and Circulation published annually as required by the U.S. Postal Service

The Tennessee Magazine, periodicals #888333. Date: September 10, 2016. Frequency: monthly. Number of annual issues: 12. Subscription price: \$15/year. Mailing address: P.O. Box 100912, Davidson County, Nashville, TN 37224. Contact: Robin Conover. Phone: 615-367-9284. Publisher: Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, P.O. Box 100912, Davidson County, Nashville, TN 37224. Editor: Robin Conover. Managing Editor: Chris Kirk. Owner: Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, P.O. Box 100912, Davidson County, Nashville, TN 37224.

Average no. copies: 579,977. Paid or requested mail subscriptions: 576,727. Total paid circulation: 576,727. Free distribution by mail: 516. Total free distribution: 516. Total distribution: 577,243. Office use, leftovers and spoils: 2,734. Total: 579,977. Actual no. copies of single issues published nearest to filing date — Total no. copies: 642,597. Paid or requested mail subscriptions: 639,163. Total paid circulation: 639,163. Free distribution by mail: 508. Total free distribution: 508. Total distribution: 639,671. Office use, leftovers and spoils: 2,926. Total: 642,597.

I hereby certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Robin Conover, Editor.



A young John Garrott with his 1909 Hupmobile. This vehicle is on permanent display at the Sumner County Museum.

fruition as a fundraising effort yielded enough money for the museum to purchase the Carriage House property in March 2016.

The museum will relocate its offices and some displays to the new property, maintain the existing museum and add Stonewall as more of a living history exhibit for visitors.

“We have to approach this in phases as fundraising moves forward,” says Ryan Baker, director of the Sumner County Museum. “We will renovate the first floor of the Carriage House and then the second, which will include adding an elevator.”

New displays will track the extensive history of the distinctive, yellow-painted, brick structure that was originally built as a residence. Throughout its history, it housed offices for the Williamson and Adams Carriage Factory, was occupied by Union forces during the Civil War and served as offices for Simpson’s Planing Mill around the turn of the century. Most recently, the interior was divided into the Swaney Apartments.

“This is so exciting for us,” says board member Barbara Parker in describing the museum’s “newest” attraction. “It will give us so much more visibility right on Main Street. It will help tie the museums, historic



John Garrott in his beloved wood-working shop. Photograph by Allan Haynes

sites and downtown merchants together for our visitors.”

It seems as if this will complete a circle that Garrott might have dreamed of when he first opened the museum doors in 1975.

Sumner County Museum

For more information or to donate, visit sumnercountymuseum.org.

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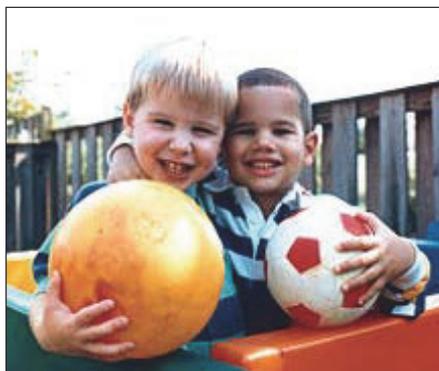


Gallatin

Eye Doctor Helps Tennessee Legally Blind To See

Tennessee

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

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John M. Pino, O.D., Ph.D.



'Prophet of Oak Ridge'

The story behind historic War Department letter

When you start researching the story behind a single document, you never know where it might lead.

I've learned this lesson many times since I began researching Tennessee history, and I just learned it again.

A few years ago, I visited the American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge. There is a section of it devoted to the process under which the area transformed from remote farmland to part of the Manhattan Project. In that section of the museum is a framed

letter similar to the ones property owners in the area would have received in 1942.

"The War Department intends to take possession of your farm December 1, 1942," begins the letter, which was written only three weeks before then. "It will be necessary for you to move, not later than that date."

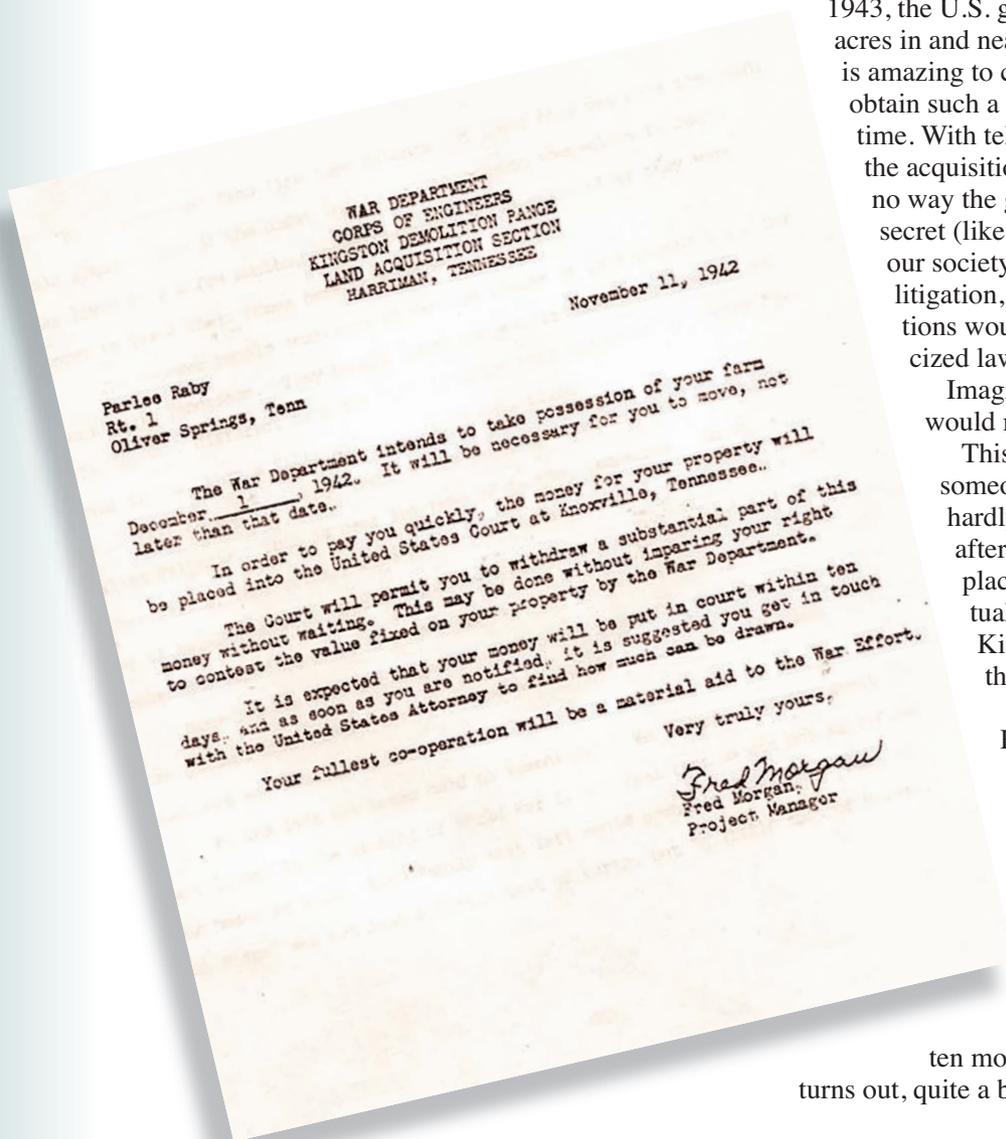
It is a form letter, similar to those that would have been received by everyone else who lived in that part of Anderson County. The first time I read it, I thought about how much times have changed. In 1942 and 1943, the U.S. government acquired about 60,000 acres in and near present-day Oak Ridge. Today, it is amazing to contemplate the government trying to obtain such a large area in such a short period of time. With television and the internet, news about the acquisitions would spread so fast that there is no way the government could possibly keep it a secret (like it did back then). With the emphasis our society now puts on individual rights and litigation, the cases involved in such acquisitions would drag on for years in well-publicized lawsuits.

Imagine how much money the lawyers would make today, I thought.

This particular letter was addressed to someone named Parlee Raby, something I hardly noticed the first time I read it. But after I photographed a copy of it and placed a copy of it on the Oak Ridge virtual tour on my Tennessee History for Kids website, I began to wonder about this.

Who was Parlee Raby, after all? How much land did she own? Was there a story behind her? And since there were about 3,000 property owners forced to relocate, why is this particular letter on the museum wall?

After a few phone calls, a lunch with Oak Ridge historian Ray Smith and a glance through a few history books, I have gotten most of my questions answered. As it turns out, quite a bit has been written in local Oak





Above, the U.S. government took possession of Paralee Raby's home and farm in rural Anderson County in December 1942. Opposite page, Raby was given this letter notifying her of the War Department's decision. Farmers across the area whose properties were needed for the Manhattan Project received similar form letters.

Ridge history forums about the circumstances surrounding the Raby land.

This isn't because of the size or nature of the farm itself or what became of the property. Paralee Raby — the government misspelled her first name — owned about 15 acres at the edge of the rural valley (historically known as Bear Creek Valley) in Anderson County. Those 15 acres weren't the site of any of the major structures used by the U.S. government during the Manhattan Project. It was part of the land north and east of the main factory plants in what became the city of Oak Ridge. After World War II, the land was sold back for private development, and it is now part of a residential subdivision.

The Paralee Raby acquisition is remembered because of its connection to one of Anderson County's legendary characters. Paralee Raby's farm, you see, had previously been owned by her stepfather, John Hendrix.

Here the story gets a little complicated. Hendrix was born in 1865, and he and his wife were typical small farmers in Anderson County at the turn of the 20th century. However, as the story goes, Hendrix's infant daughter died around 1900. His wife blamed him for the child's death. As a result, she left

him, took the rest of the kids with her and moved to Arkansas.

This series of events turned Hendrix into a broken man. He wandered into the woods and spent more than a month living alone, praying for long hours and sleeping on the ground. He probably would have died were it not for a local woman who helped care for him by feeding him chicken soup and bringing a quilt to cover him.

When Hendrix came back from his self-imposed isolation, he told everyone that during his long time alone, he had a vision. According to accounts, Hendrix said something along these lines:

"Bear Creek Valley someday will be filled with great buildings and factories, and they will help toward winning the greatest war that will ever be. Big engines will build big ditches, and thousands of people will be running to and fro. They will be building things, and there will be great noise and confusion, and the earth will shake. I've seen it; it's coming."

John Hendrix eventually remarried and through his second marriage had a stepdaughter named Paralee Raby. However, he remained a strange man, revered or feared by locals and apt to wander off for long excursions in the

*As the extent of
the Manhattan Project
became clearer
to them, they
remembered the
strange predictions
Hendrix had made
years before.*



At left, Paralee Raby and her daughter, Grace Raby Crawford (photo courtesy of Grace Raby Crawford). Below, John Hendrix's grave in Oak Ridge (Photo courtesy of Ray Smith).

woods. Eventually Hendrix fell ill with tuberculosis. Since his stepdaughter agreed to care for him in his old age, Hendrix ultimately deeded his 15-acre farm to her in gratitude.

John Hendrix died on June 2, 1915. At his request, he was buried on top of the hill overlooking the little farm he had given Paralee Raby and her husband, Perry. That area is now Hendrix Creek, a residential subdivision named for him.

After the government came and took their land, Paralee and Perry Raby moved to Hillvale, an unincorporated community near Norris. As the extent of the Manhattan Project became clearer to them, they remembered the strange predictions Hendrix had made years before. Once the United States dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, they were amazed. So was everyone else who had known and heard about John Hendrix.

Paralee Raby died in 1949, Perry in 1956. John Hendrix is now known as “The Prophet of Oak Ridge,” and his story is one that is proudly repeated often when visitors come to Oak Ridge.

Ray Smith, official historian for the Oak Ridge Laboratories, credits several people for

helping keep alive the story of the Rabys and John Hendrix. One is George Robinson, author of the 1950 book “The Oak Ridge Story.” Another is Ed Westcott, longtime Oak Ridge-area photographer who took a picture of John Hendrix’s grave in 1944.

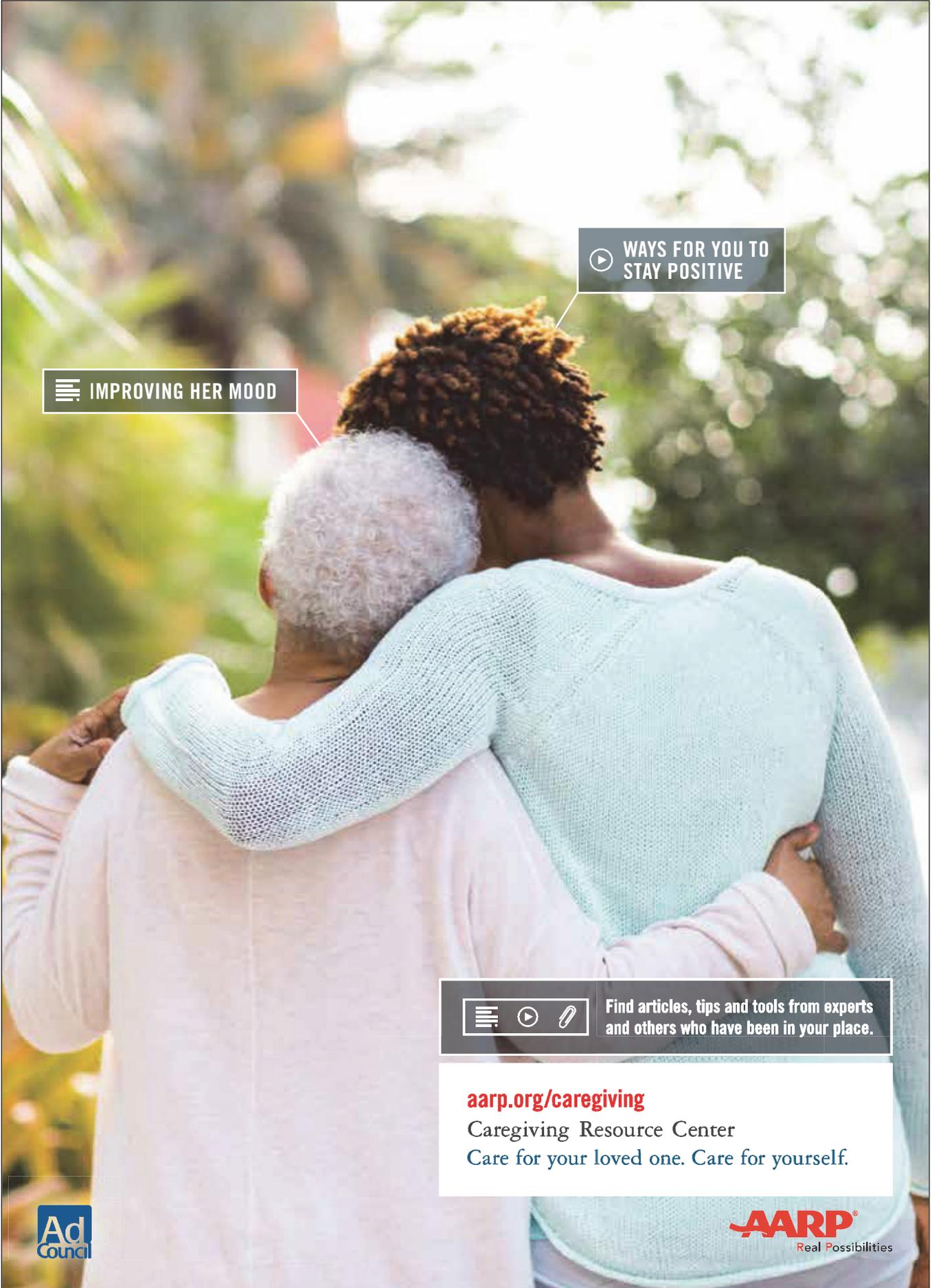
A third person who shed light on the story was Grace Raby Crawford, the adopted daughter of Perry and Paralee Raby. In a book she wrote called “Back of Oak Ridge” and which Ray Smith published as part of a larger book called “The John Hendrix Story” in 2009, Grace described her mother.

“Paralee’s house was not one of luxury but one of contentment and the love it takes to make a real home,” she wrote. “Paralee was a devoted wife and mother and also ‘loved her neighbor as herself.’ She went into the homes of her neighbors when there was sickness and cared for them, regardless of the type of illness or the weather.”

Ray Smith isn’t certain as to how it was that the Paralee Raby letter made its way to the wall of the American Museum of Science and Energy. But he feels fairly certain that it is because of the Rabys’ connection to John Hendrix, “Prophet of Oak Ridge.”

In any case, that’s the story behind one letter hanging on the wall of one Tennessee museum. There are hundreds of other museums in Tennessee with documents hanging on their walls. I encourage you to find one, put on your detective cap and start digging. ■





☰ IMPROVING HER MOOD

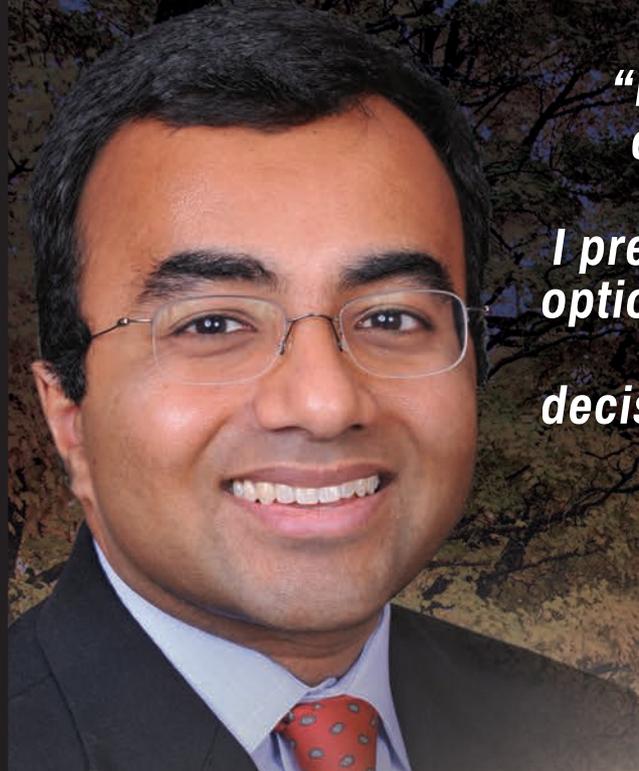
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- The Enchanted Forest Festival of Trees • Season of Light Planetarium Show
- Polar Express 3D • The Light Before Christmas 3D

Companies that care

Ownership of the company matters

By Adam Schwartz

Studies have shown that communities where homeowners occupy the majority of houses are more successful academically, are more physically fit and have a stronger sense of community. While owning a home may not be possible or desirable for everyone, ownership does matter. It just seems to make sense that we treat things we own with greater care.

Chances are you probably don't think too often about your ownership role with your electric cooperative. Every member of your local electric cooperative can take pride in the fact that he or she is an owner of the electric co-op. While at times it may seem easy to take electricity for granted, the cooperative is working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to make sure you, the member-owners of the co-op, are well taken care of when it comes to your electricity needs.

Locally based cooperatives believe this special bond and obligation to be an integral part of the community. The co-op understands that you can't sell electricity to a business that has closed its doors or to people who have left the community because there are not enough local opportunities. Electricity is a critical need, but it takes more than poles, wires and kilowatt-hours to make a community.

We are owners of our co-op, and in a real sense, we are owners of our community. Our community is strong. Think about how much greater it can be when we work cooperatively to tackle our challenges. If we act like owners on a consistent basis, we will put even more care and attention into our community, and we will look locally

for solutions. Finding local answers can help keep money — and people — right here in our community.

We all have a role to play. As your local electric cooperative, we promise to do our part for the community. If you have thoughts about how your cooperative can do a better job, give your local office a call. You are the owners of the co-op, and it welcomes your active participation.

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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home — typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov

Decorate safely

Homeowners have started decorating their homes for Christmas earlier and earlier — often before Thanksgiving. If you're ready to start hanging lights, take safety precautions. Nearly three people per hour are treated in hospital emergency rooms for decorating-related injuries during every holiday season, according to the National Safety Council.

Here are 10 ways to keep yourself safe if you have decorating duty this season:

1. Inspect last year's lights before using them again this holiday season. Discard any with frayed or exposed wires, loose connections or broken sockets.
2. Some holiday plants, including some varieties of poinsettias, can be harmful to children and pets.

Keep them out of your home — or at least out of reach. And keep the number for the Poison Control Center handy: 800-222-1222.

3. Decorate the tree with kids in mind. Place breakable ornaments and those with metal hooks near the top of the tree, where little ones can't reach them.
4. Use sturdy ladders when decorating outdoors. Indoors, climb step ladders instead of onto chairs, which aren't designed to support someone in the standing position.
5. Don't hide extension cords under rugs or furniture. They can overheat and catch on fire. And when you take the tree down, unplug extension cords. They're not designed for permanent use.

This November, let your voice be heard

By Meghaan Evans

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline — with the occasional uptick here and there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 percent to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout! In Tennessee, we saw a voter turnout of 31.89 percent.

Some speculate that the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as he or she has been in the past. And who can blame us really? Oftentimes, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand the issues themselves or enough about the candidates' stances on them. But we can change this.

Tennessee's electric cooperatives want to see an increase in civic engagement in our rural communities. Co-ops want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And they want you to know more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November. By visiting

vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

The future of rural communities depends on their ability to keep up with today's global economy, which is why access to broadband internet is a key topic of discussion this election season. Just 55 percent of rural Americans have broadband at home. Quick access to information is crucial in finding a job, getting a better education and even gathering the information needed to make a major health decision. But there is a barrier: expensive costs.

With the right state and federal policies, broadband technology can become available to all rural Americans, allowing families and businesses to communicate in new and faster ways.

Electric cooperatives are already committed to providing affordable electricity to our communities, so helping provide affordable broadband access is a natural next step.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.

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.

Is your fridge ready for Thanksgiving?

If Thanksgiving is at your house this year, your family members aren't the only ones who will be stuffed — so will your refrigerator. Is it up to the task? In fact, if your fridge is more than a decade old, it might not be. Today's models — those bearing the Energy Star label, at least — use at least 15 percent less energy than current federal standards require, and 40 percent less than models made in the early 2000s, according to the Department of Energy.

Yet, DOE says, more than 60 million households have refrigerators that are more than 10 years old. By replacing your fridge with a new, energy-efficient model, you could save up to \$300 in electricity charges over its lifetime.

When shopping for a new refrigerator or freezer, read the EnergyGuide label. It tells you how many kilowatt-hours of electricity the unit will consume over a year of operation. The smaller the number, the better. Look for

refrigerators that have a freezer on the bottom or the top, as side-by-side designs consume more energy. Chest freezers are typically better insulated than upright models.

Whether you're buying a new fridge this year or not, follow these tips for more efficient use around the holidays:

- Brush or vacuum your refrigerator's coils regularly to improve efficiency by as much as 30 percent.
- Keeping your refrigerator full shouldn't be hard this time of year, and doing so will help your unit better retain the cold. If you have trouble keeping it stocked, fill the extra space with bottles or containers of water.
- If your milk is frosty in the morning, reduce the refrigerator's temperature. Refrigerators should be set between 36 degrees and 40 degrees. Freezers should stay between zero and 5 degrees.
- Put a dollar bill in the door's seal to see if it is airtight. If the dollar slips out easily, so will cold air.

Predicting the future of nuclear power

Some forecasts see growth, others not so much.

By Paul Wesslund

If you want to take a big risk, try predicting the future of nuclear power, which generates about 20 percent of the electricity in the country. Currently in the U.S., 100 nuclear reactors operate at 60 plants in 30 states.

There are reasons to think nuclear generation should grow dramatically — nuclear reactors run reliably 24-7 and produce none of the greenhouse gases that are linked to climate change. There are also reasons to be surprised it's allowed to produce as big a share of our electricity as it does — radioactivity and using nuclear fuel are complicated and dangerous, and the engineering and security needed to keep nuclear power safe and reliable can be expensive.

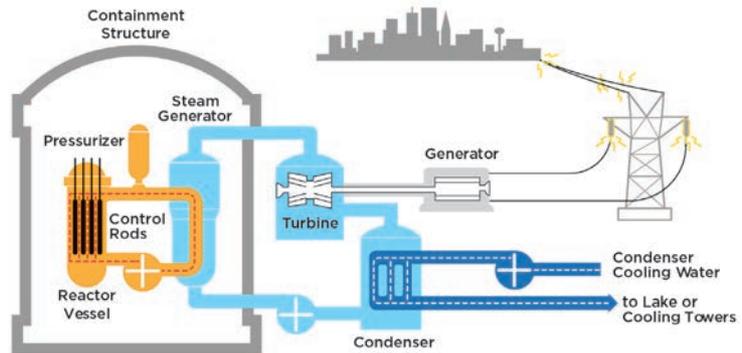
The U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration predicts that nuclear power will be producing a slightly smaller share of electricity in the U.S. through the year 2040. In the rest of the world, nuclear capacity is expected to double.

On the other hand, a major financial analysis firm says that slight drop in U.S. nuclear power could change. Fitch Ratings said last year that federal climate change rules and support for new, more efficient technologies "could slow the decline in nuclear power generation."

Dale Bradshaw, an expert on electric generation and distribution who works with electric co-ops, sees reasons to expect an increase in nuclear power. Bradshaw, CEO of Electrivation LLC and a consultant to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, says a main block to the growth of nuclear power is the current relatively low costs of natural gas, wind and solar. He notes that natural gas prices have started to rise and that renewable energy subsidies are set to expire in a few years. He also says research into advanced nuclear reactors will lead to large improvements in safety and efficiency.

One sign of that innovation came this year when the Tennessee Valley Authority applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for permission to explore "small

How Nuclear Energy Works



A nuclear power plant works by splitting the atoms of small amounts of uranium fuel, which produces enough energy to heat a liquid into steam that turns a turbine that generates electricity. In a pressurized water reactor, the most commonly used kind of reactor, nuclear fuel heats a liquid in the core of the reactor, where an assembly of rods that absorb radioactivity control the reaction. The reactor is housed in a specially designed containment building. The heated liquid carries heat to a steam generator, where the vaporized liquid turns a turbine that generates electricity.

Note: This graphic displays a pressurized water reactor (PWR), the most common type of nuclear system.

Source: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

modular reactor units" that would be easier and less expensive to build and operate.

In June 2016, TVA connected a new nuclear unit to the power grid, making it the first new reactor to come online since 1996, and four additional new units are coming online over the next five years.

The future of nuclear energy will depend on a variety of factors. But today, nuclear energy remains reliable and affordable and an important component of our nation's fuel mix.

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.

Know what's below

Dial 811 before you dig

Spring is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece, but in many parts of the country, planting shrubs in early fall gives the plants a head start at establishing roots in the season's cool, moist soil. Perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those cool autumn evenings. If any of your fall projects require digging — such as planting trees or shrubs or setting posts — remember to dial 811 first.

Underground utilities such as buried electric, gas and water lines can be a shovel thrust away from turning a fall project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local "one-call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "call-before-you-dig" services, many don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common

Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally mandated group of underground utility and damage prevention industry professionals. CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need: The 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com.

Safe Electricity is the safety outreach program of the Energy Education Council, a nonprofit organization of more than 400 electric cooperative members and many other groups that share the mission of educating the public about electrical safety and energy efficiency. CGA is a member-driven association of 1,500 individuals, organizations and

sponsors in every facet of the underground utility industry. Established in 2000, CGA is committed to saving lives and preventing damage to underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices. CGA has established itself as the leading organization in an effort to reduce damages to underground facilities in North America through shared responsibility among all stakeholders.



**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.
Visit call811.com for more information.



Busting the myths about advanced metering

By Tom Tate

By now, most Americans have likely heard of the “smart grid.” This phrase is being used to describe the computerization of America’s electrical infrastructure to improve the reliability, efficiency, resiliency and security of the electric grid.

A key component of the smart grid is an advanced metering infrastructure, also known as AMI in the utility world. AMI systems utilize digital meters as well as computer technology to measure electric use at homes and businesses more precisely than was possible with analog meters. The digital meters communicate via radio or the existing power lines and have been loosely termed “advanced meters.” AMI benefits electric co-op members with greater accuracy in billing, faster outage restoration, operational savings versus manual meter reading and detailed data that you and your co-op can use to much more accurately manage electric use.

Unfortunately, a number of myths concerning advanced meters have developed over the years. These myths can be classified into three categories: privacy concerns, security and health effects. Let’s take a look at each, starting with privacy.

Your local electric cooperative takes great pains to keep your information private — and that information includes the details of your electric use. The only people who see that data are co-op employees and you. Your co-op will not release this information to anyone else without your specific permission. The myths are that the data collected can tell when you are home or away and exactly what you are doing when you are there and that this data is being given to the government. Naturally, the data will show when you are home because for most families, energy consumption is higher then. But having said that, the current advanced meter cannot identify what activities are taking place down to the specific appliance in use. This myth is simply unfounded.

What about the myth that these meters actually make the electric grid less secure by providing an avenue for hackers to break into systems through the advanced

meter and wreak havoc? While hackers continually attempt to break into electric systems, their focus is at higher levels in the operation. Hacking a meter is unlikely for a variety of reasons. Hackers like to work remotely via the internet, and advanced meters don’t offer that option. A hacker must be near a radio-based advanced meter to catch the weak communication signal and break the proprietary communication protocol. The hacker must then remain nearby for extended periods of time to collect the short bursts of data sent. Therefore, advanced meters are an unlikely and unprofitable target for hackers.

Finally, there are the myths surrounding advanced meters and ill effects on health. These concerns state that having the radio-based advanced meter is the equivalent to having a cell tower attached to the side of your home. Again, this is unfounded. First, these meters communicate intermittently for as few as five minutes a day. These devices are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, and their output is well below the levels this federal agency sets. As one doctor observed, the radio waves emitted are more like those of a cordless phone or wireless router. Radio waves emitted by advanced meters are much weaker and less frequent than other sources we use on a daily basis.

We will all benefit from the continued development of America’s smart grid and can rest easy with the knowledge that the rumors surrounding radio-based advanced meters don’t hold water.

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.



Advanced meters benefit electric co-op members with greater accuracy in billing, faster outage restoration, operational savings versus manual meter reading and detailed data that you and your co-op can use to much more accurately manage electric use.

10 ways to lower home energy bills when it's cold out

Want to save money on your energy bills this winter — without spending a lot to make it happen? Here are

10 low- or no-cost changes you can make:

1. Use your home's ceiling fans to make the rooms feel warmer. Most people think fans are just for summer, but ceiling fans running slowly in reverse will circulate the heat that rises toward the ceiling.
2. Add weather stripping or caulk around windows and doors. Light a match or a stick of incense and hold it near the window frame. If the smoke sways, that means the window is leaking air. Caulking can significantly reduce heat loss.
3. Rearrange your furniture. Sofas and rugs that are blocking vents can cause uneven heating. Locate your most frequently used furniture near interior walls; it's colder to sit near exterior walls, especially those with windows.
4. Install a "smart" thermostat that lets you program it or adjust the heat even after you've left the house. There's no need to heat your home at the same level when it's empty as when your family is home. Turning back your thermostat by 10-15 degrees for eight hours a day can save up to 15 percent on your heating bill.
5. Keep the shades wide open during daylight hours. The sun heats your home for free all day. Close the curtains at night to keep heat in.
6. Check the seams and joints of your ductwork for leaks. Repair any leaks with a duct-sealing compound for even and efficient heating.
7. Pull on a sweater and keep the thermostat at a lower temperature. You could save at least 1 percent per degree on your electric bill.

Insulate Your Electric Water Heater Tank

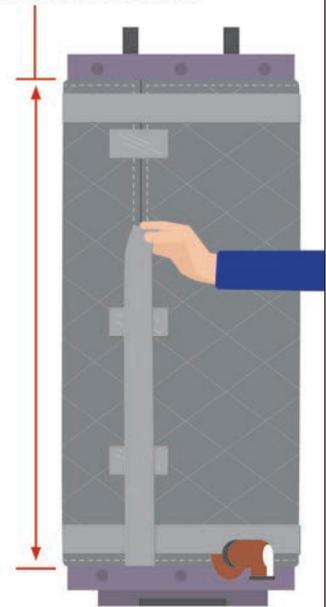
MATERIALS:

- Water heater blanket
- Scissors
- Duct tape

STEPS:

1. Turn off the electric water heater at the breaker panel.
2. Measure the height of the water heater, and cut the blanket to fit, if necessary.
3. Leave the top of the water heater unwrapped.
4. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and temporarily tape it in place. Position the blanket so that the ends do not come together over the access panels on the side of the tank.
5. Mark the areas, then cut holes where controls are located. For electric water heaters, there will be two panels on the side of the tank. Mark the area where the pressure-relief valve and pipe are located. This will be a pipe that protrudes from the side of the water heater.
6. Adhere the blanket. Be careful to line up the cut-out areas, and then tape the blanket permanently in place.
7. Turn the water heater back on.

Cover the whole tank except temperature and pressure (T&P) valve and drain.



Safety Note: Don't set the thermostat warmer than 130 degrees on the electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket — the wiring may overheat.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

8. Run your clothes dryer and dishwasher after dark. They produce heat that can keep your home warm at the coldest time of the day.
9. Install compact fluorescent bulbs or LED lights in the fixtures you use the most. These bulbs use far less energy than incandescent bulbs.
10. Limit your hot water use. Running the hot water when it's not needed sends the energy used to heat it down the drain. Wash clothes in cold water, and take shorter showers.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
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FALL COLORING SHEET



Energy
Explorers



Do you have an energy hog in your home?

Dear Pat: I'm trying to make my home as energy-efficient as possible. I recently installed a new heat pump and efficient water heater and increased the amount of insulation in my home. I also enlisted the help of a home energy auditor, and he didn't find much in the way of air leakage. However, my energy bills still seem higher than they should be. Can you point out other areas of the home that I might be overlooking? — Raymond



A swimming pool pump can be a significant source of electricity use — ENERGY STAR-certified pumps use far less energy. Photo credit: Vic Brincat

Dear Raymond: It sounds like you have made some solid investments with your focus on space and water heating, which are usually the major uses of energy in the home. Your energy auditor may be able to provide information about how your home's energy use compares to similar homes in the area.

Your electric co-op could also be a valuable source of information. Many co-ops use meters that can show detailed hourly energy use for members' homes. This information can sometimes help pinpoint a large energy-user. For example, you may be using more electricity on weekends, which would be an important clue to discovering what is driving up your energy costs.

Armed with whatever clues you can glean from your energy auditor or co-op, you are better able to search for an energy hog in your home. Here are some unconventional energy-users that could be adding to your bill:

Swimming pools and spas

Swimming pools and spas are nice amenities, but they can significantly contribute to your energy bill.

- Your pool pump keeps the water circulating through its filtering system and could be the most energy-intensive component of your pool. Older pool pumps run continuously on a single, high-speed setting, but this circulation is more than the typical residential pool needs. An ENERGY STAR-certified pool pump can be programmed to run at different speeds depending on your pool's needs — and can pay for itself in as little as two years.
- Pool heaters that run on natural gas or propane are the most common, but an electric heat pump water heater or a solar water heater could be a more cost-effective option. Remember to put a cover on the pool when it is not in use to keep your heater from working as hard.
- If you have a hot tub or spa that you occasionally use, consider turning it off when it's not in use. If you use your spa

frequently, use a cover with a high insulation value to keep the water warm.

Pump systems

Water pumps often run on electricity and can be found in many areas.

- If you have a larger property, you may have an irrigation system. Leaks here can greatly increase electricity use.
- If your home uses well water, you have a pump that helps bring the water to your home. A malfunctioning well pump may run continuously to try and maintain proper water pressure.
- Fountains make charming additions to your garden, but the pumps that run them use about as much energy as a small lamp. If you have multiple fountains, look into installing timers so the fountains only run part of the day.

Areas that aren't living spaces

You may have some energy hogs in your garage, outbuilding or basement. For example:

- Do you have a second working but inefficient refrigerator or freezer plugged in? Is it in use, or can you consolidate its contents into the fridge or freezer in your kitchen?
- Do you have a recreational space in an uninsulated part of your home like the garage or basement? Using space heaters or portable air conditioners in uninsulated spaces can definitely lead to higher bills.
- Do you have a block heater to help warm your vehicle on cold mornings? Plugging in your heater overnight will use far more electricity than needed — use a timer to start the block heater just a few hours before you need your vehicle.

Home business

If you run a business out of your home, a large energy-user could be contributing to your electric bill. Regularly using welding equipment, ceramic kilns or power carpentry tools can contribute significantly to your electric bill, as can equipment that supports home farming operations.

Look for energy hogs around your home, and try to limit their use if possible. Find more ways to be energy-efficient by contacting your local electric co-op. ■

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.

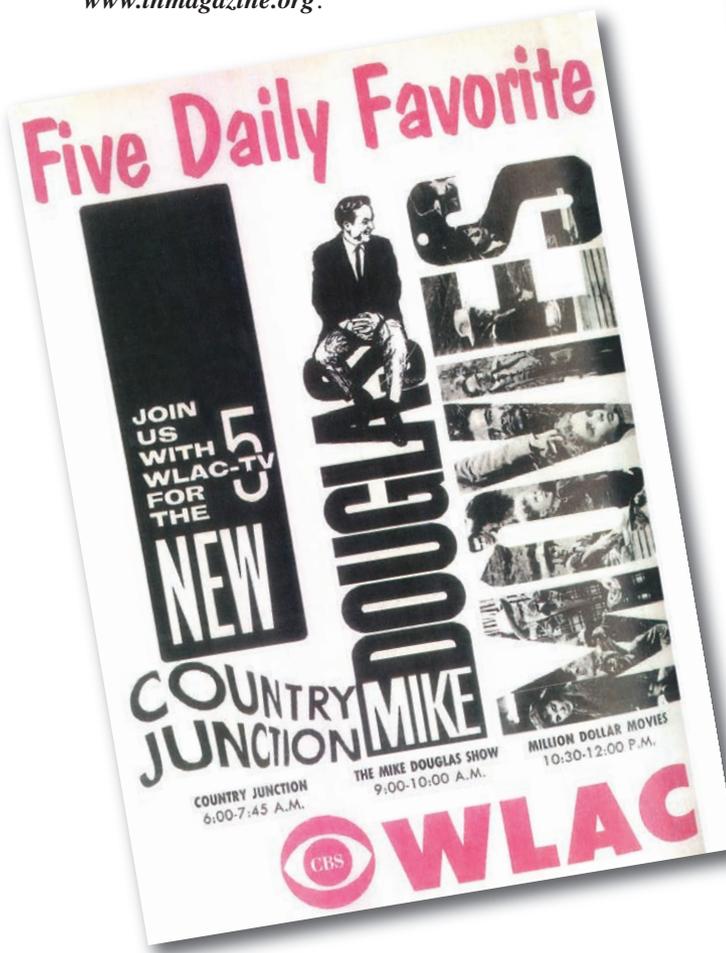
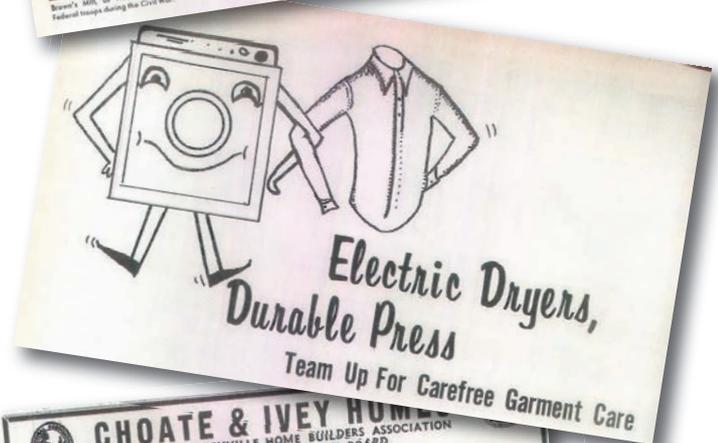
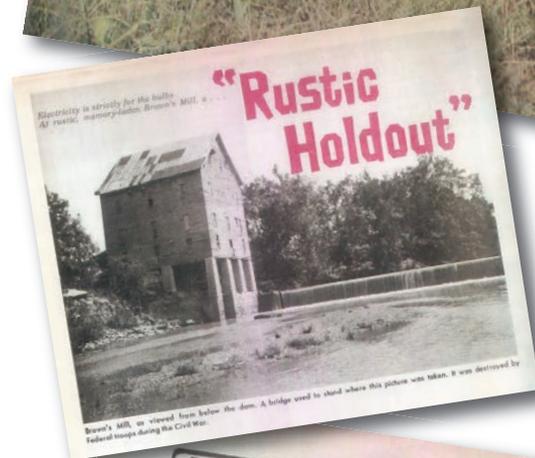
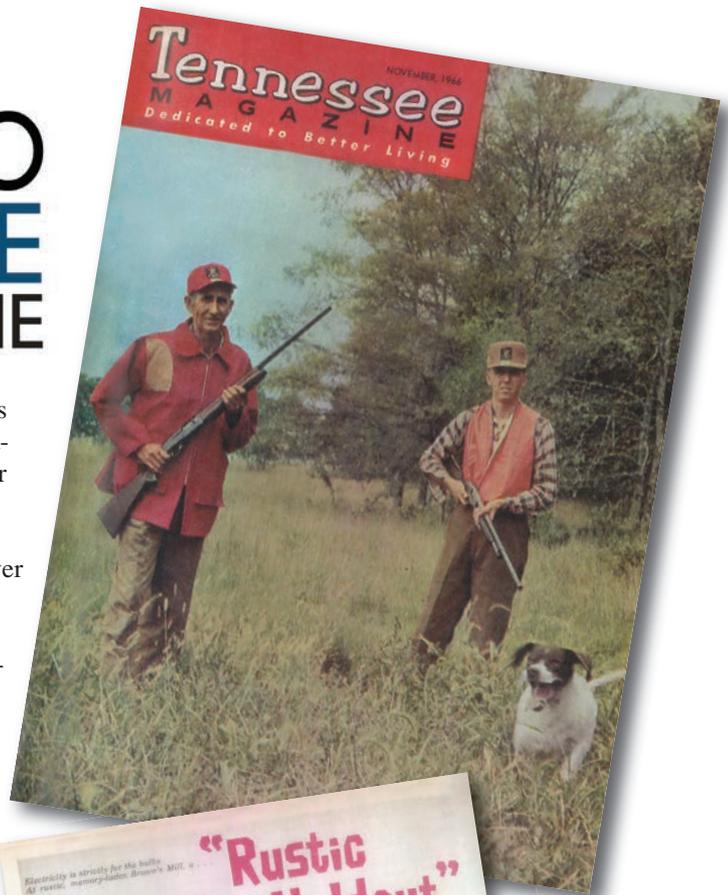
50 YEARS AGO

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.

Back in November 1966, readers were greeted on the cover by father-son hunting duo Ralph and Harris Florida, learned how electric clothes dryers were revolutionizing garment care and read Harris' article on Brown's Mill, "a water-powered grist mill using electricity only for a few lights."

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 November 1966 edition online at www.tnmagazine.org.



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West Tennessee

Nov. 4-6 • “Peter Pan,” The Latta, Selmer. 731-645-2671 or artsinmcairy.com

Nov. 5 • A Night of Southern Elegance Benefitting Fayette Cares, Ring Containers, Oakland. 901-465-3802, ext. 223, or aughtofsouthernelegance.com

Nov. 5 • Corinth Heritage Festival, Shiloh National Military Park, Shiloh. 731-689-5696 or www.nps.gov/shil

Nov. 5 • Artist Series for Kids: Paul Gauguin, Tipton County Museum, Covington. 901-476-0242

Nov. 5 • Seventh Annual 5K Run for the Paws, The Marty Community Center, Adamsville. 731-632-0391 or bebjo65@yahoo.com

Nov. 6 • Jus’ Bike Me Bikefest Honoring All Veterans, Jus’ Bike Me, Bradford. 731-742-2227 or jusbikeme@live.com

Nov. 12 • Golden Circle Opry, South Jackson Community Center, Jackson. 731-425-8614 or southjacksoncenter@cityofjackson.net

Nov. 12 • Holiday Bazaar, Somerville United Methodist Church, Somerville. 901-465-2627 or somervilleumc.org

Nov. 19 • History of the St. John’s Bible, Tipton County Museum, Covington. 901-476-0242

Dec. 3 • Breakfast with Santa, Curve Community Center, Ripley. 731-836-1532

Middle Tennessee

Nov. 4-5 • A Portland Country Christmas, Portland First Baptist Church, Portland. 615-325-2386

Nov. 4-5 • Cookeville Crazy Quilters Third Biennial Southern Charm Quilt Show, Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ, Cookeville. 931-319-5123 or cookevillecrazyquilters.com

Nov. 4-5 • Fifth Annual White Oak Women’s Exchange Quilt Show and Boutique, Waverly United Methodist Church, Waverly. 931-209-3337

Nov. 4-5 • Christmas Sampler, The Center, Springfield. 615-384-2658

Nov. 4 and 18 • Millersville Bluegrass Show and Jam, Millersville Community Center, Millersville. 615-429-6831 or millersvillebluegrass.com

Nov. 4-Dec. 18 • “A Christmas Story,” Cumberland County Playhouse, Crossville. 931-484-5000 or ccplayhouse.com

Nov. 5 • Holiday Bazaar, Hillsboro Community Center, Hillsboro. 931-596-2520 or lweaver03@bellsouth.net

Nov. 5 • Country Ham Breakfast to Benefit the Smyrna-LaVergne Food Bank, Sam Davis Masonic Lodge No. 661, Smyrna. 615-459-4576 or facebook.com/samdavis661

Nov. 5 • Battle of Johnsonville Civil War Days, Johnsonville State Historic Park, New Johnsonville. 931-535-2789 or bob.holliday@tn.gov

Nov. 5 • Mount Juliet Elementary School Fall Festival and Vendor Fair, Mount Juliet Elementary School, Mount Juliet. 615-758-5654 or mjep@yaho.com

Nov. 5 • Science Fiction and Fantasy Expo, Clarksville-Montgomery County Public Library, Clarksville. 931-648-8826 or www.clarksville.org

Nov. 5-6 • Sumner County Artists and Artisans Studio Tour, throughout Sumner County. kathylplourde86@gmail.com

Nov. 5-6 • Rusted Magnolia Hay and Holly Days, 1560 Cornersville Highway, Lewisburg. 931-652-7075

Nov. 6 • 20th Anniversary Toy Convoy and Show, Raiders Academy, Manchester. 931-857-3643

Nov. 7-12 • 2016 Wonderland of Trees, Three Star Mall, McMinnville. 931-212-4471 or caringheartsunited.com

Nov. 11 • Veterans Art Show Open House, Artisan Depot, Cowan. 931-967-0875 or fcaguild.wordpress.com

Nov. 11-12 • Foothills Crafts Christmas Arts and Crafts Festival, Manchester-Coffee County Conference Center, Manchester. 931-454-1090

Nov. 11-12 • “Beauty and the Beast,” Family of God at Woodmont Hills, Nashville. 615-295-1660

Nov. 11-13 • Christmas Open House, Hylabrook Antique Mall, Murfreesboro. 615-907-6066

Nov. 11-13 and 18-20 • “The Wizard of Oz,” Manchester Arts Center, Manchester. 931-570-4489 or millenniumrep.org

Nov. 12 • Excursion Train to Del-Monaco Winery, Tennessee Central Railway Museum, Nashville. 615-244-9001 or tcr.org

Nov. 12 • Hills and Hollers Half Marathon and 5K Run/Walk, Burwood Community Center, Thompson’s Station. 615-417-7190 or www.presenttroublesracing.com

Nov. 12 • Handmade Holidays, Wilma Rudolph Event Center, Clarksville. 931-645-7476 or cityofclarksville.com

Nov. 12 • Crossway Arts and Craft Festival, Crossway Baptist Church, Murfreesboro. 931-703-3568 or alexbelle79@yahoo.com

Nov. 12 • Young Filmmakers Festival, Renaissance Center, Dickson. 615-478-5083 or www.youngfilmmakersfestival.com

Nov. 12 • Third Annual Veterans Day Parade, Veterans Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System Alvin C. York Campus, Murfreesboro. 615-225-3786 or www.tennesseevalley.va.gov

Nov. 12-13 • Backpacking Trip, Fall Creek Falls State Park, Spencer. 423-881-5708 or tnstateparks.com/parks/about/fall-creek-falls

Nov. 12-13 • 26th Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Show and Kris Kringle Kar Klassic, Williamson County Ag Expo Park, Franklin. 615-790-5719, ext. 2044, or www.wcparksandrec.com

Nov. 12-13 • Holiday Open House and Appraisal, Antique Center I & II, Murfreesboro. 615-896-5188 or antiquecentersofmurfreesboro.com

Nov. 17 • Chuck Wagon Gang, Burt Baptist Church, Woodbury. 615-765-5685

Nov. 17-19 • “A Totally Awesome Christmas Carol,” Gaslight Dinner Theatre, Dickson. 615-740-5600 or www.gaslightdinnertheatre.org

Nov. 18 • Grand Ole Opry Star John Conlee in Concert, South Jackson Civic Center, Tullahoma. 800-965-9324 or www.johnconlee.com

Submit your events!

Email submissions to events@tnelectric.org or visit tnmagazine.org.

Nov. 18-19 • 39th Annual Tullahoma Kiwanis Craft Show, First United Methodist Church Family Activity Center Building, Tullahoma. 931-454-0661 or kiwaniskraftshow@gmail.com

Nov. 18-Dec. 22 • “A Sanders Family Christmas,” Cumberland County Playhouse, Crossville. 931-484-5000 or ccplayhouse.com

Nov. 19 • Cumberland Division Model Train Show and Division Meet, Tennessee Central Railway Museum, Nashville. 615-244-9001 or tcr.org

Nov. 19 • Lynchburg’s Holiday Kickoff and Annual Tour of Homes, downtown Lynchburg. 931-759-4111 or lynchburgtn.com

Nov. 19 • Annual Breakfast and Bazaar, First Presbyterian Church of Smyrna, Smyrna. 615-631-8948 or tnwlkr43@gmail.com

Nov. 19 • Holiday Marketplace, Stewarts Creek High School, Smyrna. 615-310-8679 or sparse@rcschools.net

Nov. 19 • Festival of Trees and Holiday Bazaar, Fly Arts Center, Shelbyville. 931-684-8359 or flyartscenter.com

Nov. 19 • Holiday Market and Hoedown, Hayshed Farms on Big Turnbull Creek, Kingston Springs. 615-337-1529 or facebook.com/hayshedfarms

Nov. 20 • Nashville Sweet Adelines, Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville. 931-647-6750 or grace-lutheran-church.org

Nov. 20 • “Symphony of Psalms,” Covenant Presbyterian Church, Nashville. 615-351-8077 or 615-383-6183

Nov. 24 • Borodash 2016, Middle Tennessee State University Soccer Field, Murfreesboro. 615-904-5573 or borodash.org

Nov. 26 • North Pole Express Excursion Train with Santa to Watertown, Tennessee Central Railway Museum, Nashville. 615-244-9001 or tcr.org

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. 2 • Ninth Annual Houston County Arts and Craft Show, Erin City Hall, Erin. 931-721-2631

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. 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 foeesp.alturl.com

Dec. 3 • “T’was the Breakfast with Santa,” Gaslight Dinner Theatre, Dickson. 615-740-5600 or gaslightdinnertheatre.org

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 • 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

Dec. 3-4 • Farm School Holiday Bazaar, The Farm Community Center and Solar School, Summertown. 931-964-2325 or solarInfo@thefarmschool.community

East Tennessee

Nov. 1-23 • Tennessee Watercolor Traveling Exhibition 2016, Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park, Elizabethton. 423-543-5808 or sycamoreshoalstn.org

Nov. 4-13 • “Into the Woods,” Renaissance Center Theatre, Kingsport. 423-741-3282 or kingsporttheatre.org

Nov. 5 • Eighth Annual Craft Bazaar, Pikeville United Methodist Church, Pikeville. 423-447-2951 or pumctnsec@bledsoe.net

Nov. 5-6 • Autumn Heritage Celebration: “A Walk in Their Boots: A Military Timeline,” Colonial Harvest Celebration and Fall Fibers Show, Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park, Elizabethton. 423-543-5808 or sycamoreshoalstn.org

Nov. 5 • Fall Bazaar/Craft Show, Alhambra Shrine Center, Chattanooga. 423-881-3152 or jimcooke1660@bledsoe.net

Nov. 11-13 • 37th Annual Christmas Connection Arts and Crafts Fair, Kingsport Civic Auditorium, Kingsport. 423-392-8414 or arts.kingsporttn.gov/cc

Nov. 12 • The Kruger Brothers, Heritage Hall Theatre, Mountain City. 423-727-7444 or heritagehalltheatre.org

Nov. 12 • Jasper Veterans Day Parade, Warrior Drive, Jasper. 423-309-0690

Nov. 12 • Christmas Craft Show, Rhea Central Elementary School, Dayton. 423-650-1388 or touchtheskyevents.com

Nov. 17-19 • “Sorry, Wrong Number,” Renaissance Center Theatre, Kingsport. 423-741-3282 or kingsporttheatre.org

Nov. 19 • Barter Players’ “Frosty,” Heritage Hall Theatre, Mountain City. 423-727-7444 or heritagehalltheatre.org

Nov. 26 • 20th Annual Christmas Parade, downtown Pikeville. 423-447-2791 or pikeville-bledsoe.com

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. 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. 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

Pecans

a Plenty



Southern Pecan Pesto, goat cheese and tomatoes on toast
Photograph by Robin Conover
Recipes compiled by Tammy Algood

It's nutty November! Other than your morning beverage, what doesn't benefit from the crunch of pecans? This popular cooking ingredient hits the market just in time for holiday baking. So squirrel away some pecans now to enjoy with these recipes all winter long.

Pecan Pound Cake

Yield: 12-15 servings

4 sticks (2 cups) unsalted butter, softened
1 (16-ounce) package light brown sugar
6 eggs
½ cup plus 3 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
4½ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
4 cups chopped pecans

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Grease and flour a 10-inch tube pan and set aside.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, beat the butter until creamy. Gradually add the sugar, beating well. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.

Combine the milk and extract. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and salt. Starting with the flour mixture, alternately add to the butter mixture with the milk. Use a low speed on the mixer and blend well after each addition. Fold in the pecans.

Transfer to the prepared pan and bake 1 hour and 30 minutes or until a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in the pan on a wire rack 12-15 minutes. Remove from the pan and allow to cool completely on the wire rack before slicing and serving.

Honey Pecan Catfish

Yield: 4 servings

1 cup vegetable oil
½ cup honey
½ cup chopped pecans
2 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
2 tablespoons cider vinegar

2 tablespoons hazelnut liqueur
1 teaspoon crushed red pepper
1 teaspoon ground allspice
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground cloves
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper
4 (8-ounce) catfish fillets

In a jar with a tight-fitting lid, combine the oil, honey, pecans, garlic, vinegar, liqueur, red pepper, allspice, cinnamon, cloves, salt and pepper. Shake to emulsify. Place the fillets in a shallow baking dish in a single layer. Pour the honey mixture over the fillets. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Grease a jellyroll pan with cooking spray. Place the fillets on the prepared pan. Bake 25 minutes or until the fish flakes in the center. Serve immediately.

Zesty Sorghum Pecans

Yield: 2 cups

2 tablespoons orange zest
1 tablespoon sorghum syrup
2 teaspoons olive oil
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon grated fresh ginger
Pinch of red pepper flakes
2¼ cups pecan halves

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a medium bowl, whisk together the zest, syrup, oil, salt, ginger and pepper flakes. Add the pecans and toss until all the pecans are evenly coated. Transfer to a greased jellyroll pan and spread in a single layer. Bake 10-12 minutes. Cool in the pan on a wire rack to room temperature. Loosen with a spatula and enjoy.

Southern Pecan Pesto

Yield: 2 cups

2 cups chopped pecans
2 garlic cloves, peeled
2 jalapeño peppers, halved and seeded
2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon coarse black pepper
¼ teaspoon white pepper
¼ teaspoon paprika
¼ cup peanut oil

Place the pecans, garlic, jalapeños, vinegar, salt, black pepper, white pep-

per and paprika in the bowl of a food processor. With the processor running, pour the oil through the chute until well blended. Use immediately or refrigerate and use within 2 days.

Chocolate Pecan Clusters

Yield: 14 candies

2 pounds pecan halves
2 pounds chopped milk chocolate

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Place the pecans on an ungreased jellyroll pan in a single layer. Roast 3-5 minutes or until the pecans begin to slightly brown. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool.

Meanwhile, place the chocolate in a double boiler over barely simmering water. Stir occasionally, and when melted, remove from the heat. Stir in the pecans and place a sheet of waxed paper on the jellyroll pan. With a tablespoon, drop mounds on the mixture onto waxed paper. Place on a wire rack to cool at least 30 minutes before removing and serving.

Note: Store leftovers in airtight containers.

White Chocolate Pecan Monster Cookies

Yield: 8-9 large cookies

1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon pure almond extract
1¼ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
Pinch of salt
2 cups old-fashioned oats (not instant)
1 cup chopped pecans
1 cup shredded coconut
1 cup white chocolate chips
1 cup dried cranberries

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line two cookie sheets with parchment and set aside. In the bowl of an electric mixer, cream the butter and sugar for 3 minutes. Add the eggs and extract, mixing well.

Continued on page 34

Taste of Tennessee

Continued from page 33

In a separate bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Fold into the butter mixture, then increase mixer speed to blend well. Fold in the oats, pecans, coconut, chocolate chips and cranberries.

Drop large, 3-inch mounds of dough onto the prepared cookie sheets. Bake 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Store in an airtight container.

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.



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It's turkey time



What would Thanksgiving be without turkey? There's a reason it is the most common entrée found on Thanksgiving tables in the U.S.: It's also the time of year when supplies peak. All across the state, you'll find plenty of options for pennies a pound. But that only saves you money if you shop smartly.

Start by looking at how many guests you'll be serving. If it's only a couple and you know all prefer certain cuts, there's no reason to purchase a whole bird. There are tenderloin, drumstick and breast options that can be tailored to fit the tastebuds of your company. Most people, however, will purchase a whole turkey, which is the least-expensive per-pound option. Like all meat and poultry, the more a turkey is cut, the more it will

cost, so the deals will be found with the whole birds.

Supplies and costs are easily covered, but set aside enough time when planning a perfect feast. The majority of whole turkeys are sold frozen. That means you'll need plenty of time for it to thaw. Always thaw in the refrigerator. The time it will take depends on the size of the bird you buy, but plan for one day for every 4 pounds. And if you end up with it thawed a bit early, that's OK! A thawed turkey can be kept in the refrigerator up to four days before cooking.

Enjoy a food-safe Thanksgiving! And to locate local fall produce or seasonal farm activities, visit www.picktnproducts.org.

We're enjoying hearing from our readers, so keep the emails coming to food@tnmagazine.org.

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Pick Tennessee Farm and Restaurant Alliance with
WCTE Upper Cumberland PBS.



Pick Tennessee



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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!

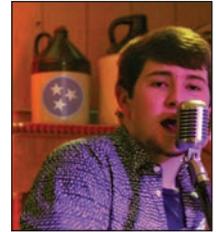
Send POSTCARDS ONLY (no phone calls, please) to: *The Tennessee Magazine*, Find the Flag, P.O. Box

100912, Nashville, TN 37224. Or email entries to flag@tnelectric.org. Entries must be postmarked by Thursday, Dec. 1. Winners will be published in the January issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

September's Flag Spotters

Thanks for the postcards and emails again this month identifying the correct location of the flag, which was found on the jug behind the singer on **page 8**.

Winners are drawn randomly from each month's entries. September's lucky flag spotters are:
Sally McLin, Olive Hill, Tennessee Valley EC
Linda Shier, Smyrna, Middle Tennessee EMC
Barbara Elkins, Lenoir City, Fort Loudoun EC



Artist's Palette Assignment for November

Artist's Palette for November — 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 — **November**, 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 Thursday, Dec. 1.

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 January 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 January 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, Nov. 28.

Please note: By entering, you give *The Tennessee Magazine* permission to publish your work via print, online and social media.

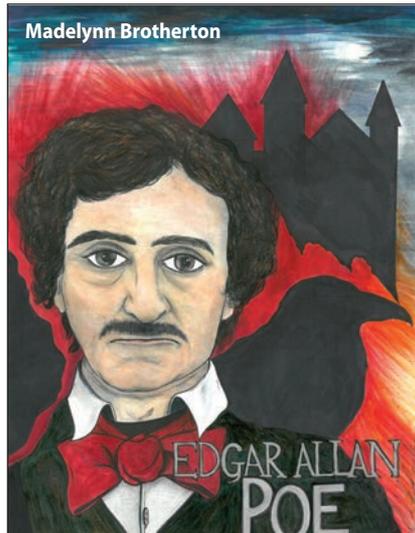
Please enter online at tnmagazine.org or mail handwritten entries to: Poetry Contest, *The Tennessee Magazine*, P.O. Box 100912, Nashville, TN 37224. Please make sure to print your poem legibly. Please keep a copy of your poem as submissions received via mail will not be returned.

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 *September Winners*



Kaylee McDermott



Madelynn Brotherton



Amber Byrd

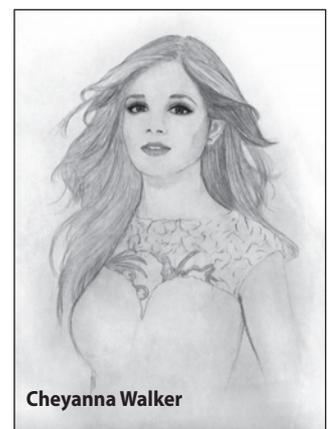
WINNERS, 15-18 AGE GROUP: **First place:** Kaylee McDermott, age 16, Middle Tennessee EMC; **Second place:** Madelynn Brotherton, age 18, Southwest Tennessee EMC; **Third place:** Amber Byrd, age 17, Southwest Tennessee EMC



Alex Bush



Lydia Diaz

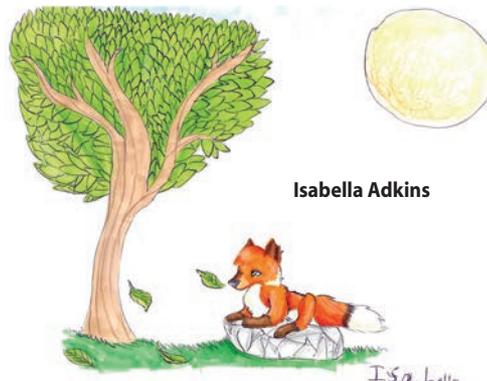


Cheyanna Walker

WINNERS, 10-14 AGE GROUP: **First place:** Alex Bush, age 14, Middle Tennessee EMC; **Second place:** Lydia Diaz, age 13, Upper Cumberland EMC; **Third place:** Cheyanna Walker, age 14, Middle Tennessee EMC



Taiyana King



Isabella Adkins

Isabella



Anna Lasher

WINNERS, 1-9 AGE GROUP: **First place:** Taiyana King, age 8, Middle Tennessee EMC; **Second place:** Isabella Adkins, age 7, Upper Cumberland EMC; **Third place:** Anna Lasher, age 7, 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

Kid

Tennessee is home
Tennessee is home
And a pretty place
Tennessee is the Batman
building
And horses on Broadway

Tennessee is love
And country stores
Tennessee is cabins
And mountains and more

Tennessee is cows and deer
And the Nashville zoo
Tennessee is good hospitals
And full of heroes too
(Like nurses and cops and
stuff!)

— Sander Croezen
Cumberland EMC

Age 9-13

Fall

Autumn paints a beautiful
light,
Across a leafy page.
It celebrates with bold
delight,
The ecstasy of age.

The leaves fall softly
through the air.
A drifting messenger.
It rides the breeze like a
fleet-footed mare,
A windswept harbinger.

It tells a tale of cold to
come,
Of Winter's icy might.
A tale enough to fill a
tome.
Best told 'round fires light.

Frosty billows round us fly
The waning breath of fall.
With an enchanting
goodbye,
Autumn shall die
Bidding farewell to us all.

— Luke Barnard
Gibson EMC

Age 14-18

Tennessee's Lullaby

I have seen the darkened
nights,
When shooting stars
streaked the sky
Snuggled close, looked up
high,
at those millions of twin-
kling lights.
The sparking glow of the
Milky Way,
high above where we lay.
The warmth of summer
wrapped around us,
And faded was the light of
dusk.

The rumble of traffic in the
distance,
The hum of crickets stayed
persistent.
Long grass rustled, in the
calm
The frogs joined in to
croak their song.
The cool wind blew a
whispering sigh,
This is Tennessee's lullaby.

— Hannah Brotherton
Southwest Tennessee EMC

Age 19-22

Lightning Storm

There is wrath in the sky
The lightning speaks,
While the thunder com-
mands silence.

The wind responds with a
resounding breath.
The trees tremble with
angst,
While the hill come alive.

Time passes with haste
The day succumbs to the
warmth of the sun,
While the sky returns to its
own shade of blue.

— Rory Gilson
Middle Tennessee EMC

Age 23-64

Bailiwick

First, the bullfrog
sweet signal of coming
summer and inevitable fall,
knowledge that the world is
still.

Next, the afternoon
herald of wonder and rest,
bringer of porch swings
and sunsets,
reminder of tomorrow and
yesterday.

Later the lake
solemn keeper of our
prizes,
our hooks, our lines, and
our sinkers.
Our enemy and our supply,
we wrestle
gladly.

Finally, the mountain
bearer of blessing to the
valley, protector of our
wind
and fields. We exalt in the
depths,
and rest in its height.

— Gabriel Seals
Sequachee Valley EC

Age 65 and older

Reflections of a Cumberland Cavern Guide

A place where time has
lost the race —
Where then matters not
when
Where becoming is
noncoming —
Only now lulls within earth
the carapace.
An hourglass of stone drips
liquid sand
And forms itself keeper of
the time,
For each drop solidifies in
a hoary rime.
In this way time moves not
its hand.

Crickets speck the ceiling
and walls,
White weed fungi fill
below stairway,
Errant seeds seek electric
light and stall.
Tourists come and go, stop
but do not stay,
A man photographs with
thoughts of capturing All.
All this an hour on stage of
play.

— Jim B. Smith
Middle Tennessee EMC

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Dear Connie Sue,

My great-aunt gifted me what I think is a marriage of three items.



The candelabra is 13 inches tall with a threaded dish in a nonthreaded hole, covered with a small glass cover that sets low into the dish. What do you think?
Bill Floyd



Dear Bill,

I think you have some of the parts to a Cambridge Glass nine-piece crystal centerpiece for vases, candles and bowls. It makes more sense if you turn the whole thing upside down. You may not have the correct base. The too-small serrated edge top isn't original.

There were three of the smooth-edge bowls like the one you have. They fit into the taper candle holders to hold fruit, nuts or seasonal decorations. The large vase actually pegged into a central socket on the top. And there was another attachment of three ring-shaped holders for small trumpet-shaped vases.



Combination pieces were popular in the 1940s when this Cambridge ARMS Epergne Candelabra was made

and marked with oval paper labels. Certainly parts and labels have washed away or broken in the last 75 years.

While researching the piece, I read a few complaints about unstable assembly. This may explain the missing parts. Bowls, vases and rings sell as spare parts for \$5 to \$15. A complete centerpiece sells for \$50 to \$85. You have a good start but especially need the base in order to move forward with your holiday decorating plans.

Dear Connie Sue,

I am sending pictures of a rather large vase that has been in my father-in-law's family for at least 80-100 years. The gold raised picture is George Washington. The photo with the bottle gives an idea of how large the vase is. There are no markings of any kind. Any information you could offer would be appreciated.

Diann

Dear Diann,

Made in Zanesville, Ohio, in the 1890s, this vase was produced by Peters and Reed Pottery Company. In addition to portraits of historical figures, the company used the same standard brown glazed pottery decorated with draping laurel and flowers. Various shapes were used, and many had unusually small openings and footed bases like your piece.



I saw the exact shape and face as a lamp base for sale at \$50. Similar pieces, not yet as lamps, are offered for \$12 to \$55.

Dear Connie Sue,

I really enjoy your part of *The Tennessee Magazine*. I always look to see the pictures of antiques. I know I will see something I have thrown away or sold for \$1 that's now worth hundreds!

I would love information on my checkerboard doll. It has a little damage on the hat.

Sandra, Rogersville



Dear Sandra,

Ralston CHEX cereal offered this cloth doll with a rubber head in 1965. He's "The Wizard of Oz" scarecrow! The blue straw hat may have thrown you off. Even slightly tattered, he sells for \$10 to \$22.

I think you had to accumulate box parts or "premiums" to send in and claim your doll. A comic page in the newspaper promoted the doll. In it, the scarecrow says, "This is the morning to reach for CHEX." The colorful ad is for sale online for \$15.

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Point of View

By Robin Conover

"Fall Light on Middle Prong Little River"
by Robin Conover

Canon EOS 6D; 24-70 mm, 2.8 L USM lens;
ISO 100; f22 at 1/3 second; Bogen tripod



I really do love digital photography. If I were still shooting with film, I might have never gotten my camera out of the truck and instead just observed this scene, wishing for more even lighting. That's because my favorite slide film, Velvia 50, could have never captured the range of light in this scene.

The tonal range from the deepest shadows to the lightest highlights would have simply been too wide for film to capture, and I would have passed up the opportunity. I would have had to sacrifice details in either the darkest or lightest parts of the image.

Digital photography allows me to capture a range closer to what the human eye can see. By being able to process RAW images in Photoshop, photographers can retain detail in the blackest blacks and the whitest whites — or, rather, the shadowed bank and the silky water areas of the image.

This photograph was taken later in the afternoon when the sun was filtering through the brilliant fall color but wasn't directly overhead where it would have washed out all the highlights in the water.

I used a circular polarizer to cut out glare on the surface of the water and allow for a slower shutter speed, which blurs water, rendering a silky effect of movement.

When using a slower shutter speed, a sturdy tripod and cable release are musts. Each will help eliminate camera movement as the shutter is released. Any movement captured during a slow exposure yields an image that's just not sharp!

Remember, when you are out shooting this fall, take only photographs — leave only footprints! ■



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If your electric bills seem higher than they should be, you may have an "energy hog" on your hands. Pool pumps, garden fountains and other similar energy-users can take a toll on your electric bill. Read energy expert Patrick Keegan's column on page 27 for more information.



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